



HUMMIN'

www.pvsb-audubon.org

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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Sharing Nature With Children

By Jess Morton

From its first days, our Audubon chapter has had conservation and education as top priorities. Without conservation, the birds we know and love will disappear. Without education, there will be no future generation to carry on the conservation work done today. We look at birds regularly, as evidenced by the many bird walks our chapter hosts, but helping the folks who attend those walks understand the habitats the birds occupy, and what must be done to maintain those places, is also a part of what we do.

While my own February program on birding the many habitats of south Texas is more about the visual elements of birds, I had chances to do a little sharing nature with children in the parks there. The reviewing screen on the back of my camera is small, but it's big enough to draw a crowd of kids who want a closer look at what that colorful bird over there looks like. And it's not just the kids who want a closer look, either.

A few years ago, Richard Louv, in his excellent book *Last Child in the Woods*, designated "nature deficit disorder" as one to the greatest mental health problems in America. Children are no longer allowed outdoors. Yet those who are out in nature are healthier, happier and more well-adjusted than those who are cooped up all day by parents who fear the outdoors for their children.

Audubon cannot change that now deep-seated cultural mindset. However, we do provide a trusted alternative, and that is with the many bird walks we offer to the public free of charge every month. Bring a child—or yourself.



Third Tuesday Talks at Madrona Marsh

February 18th: Jess Morton with "Birding South Texas"

March 17th: Jeff Manker on "The Importance of Ornithangelism: Why we Must Fledge New Birders and How to Do it"

Audubon walk leaders are pleased to share nature with children, or with the child that is still within you!

"I think ornithology can save the world because I interact with young people who are on the cusp of figuring out who

they are and what they want to do. They can become conservation-minded citizens. I am convinced that high school ornithology is an excellent way to achieve that goal." So says, **Jeff Manker**, the speaker at our **Tuesday, March 17th** meeting. He spent 32 years in the classroom, teaching students about our natural world, eventually developing a year-long high school course in ornithology. A birder, Jeff has been an Antarctic guide and birded more than 40 countries. His is a program not to be missed!



From the President



Grants Support Conservation Work and Education

By David Quadhamer

Last February Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon awarded five \$1,000 grants. The recipients put the grant money to very good use supporting habitat restoration, monitoring and education. Thank you to our members who made an end of the year donation to our chapter to help fund our grant program and our other work.

The Audubon YES Club used their grant to purchase and install 200 host plants for the federally endangered Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly at the Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates. Volunteers started preparing the area for planting last August. They installed the plants starting in November. Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) staff

secured an additional grant that allowed the volunteers to install a total of 450 host plants and wildflowers. Restoration efforts were focused on the west side of the preserve where butterflies were released earlier in the year.

Cynthia Woo used her grant to purchase 176 plants to restore habitat at the White Point Nature Center for the California Gnatcatcher, a federally listed threatened species. The plants purchased included California sagebrush, California bush sunflower, ashy-leaf buckwheat, wishbone bush, purple sage and toyon. Her grant was matched with plants provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation, two Eagle Scouts and a Girl Scout.

Cynthia worked with numerous volunteers and PVPLC staff to prepare the area for planting. They put in the plants and mulched the area. The plants were watered

regularly to help them get established. Cynthia and the volunteers worked tirelessly through a total of fourteen volunteer days to complete this project.

Another grant supported the installation of 200 host and nectar plants for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly. The El Segundo Blue Butterfly is also federally listed as endangered. The plants were installed near Oceanfront Estates and at Pelican Cove Park. Volunteers have been working at the Oceanfront Estates adopt-a-plot site since 2016.

The PVPLC used one grant to purchase a spotting scope with a camera phone attachment. Volunteers used the spotting scope in the Cactus Wren monitoring program. Volunteers were able to observe the wrens at a distance, reducing potential observer disturbance, and to photo document their observations. Coastal Cactus



Greenville Elementary School flicker mural.

Photo: Plumias Audubon

Wrens are a California State Species of Special Concern.

Plumas Audubon Society (PAS) used their grant for a mural of two Northern Flickers at Greenville Elementary. The female, grasping the side of the roof, is approximately 5' x 7' and the male flying in, is approximately 8' x 8'. Signage for the mural, including the Maidu name Wlo loko for the Northern Flicker, cultural information, a description and field marks, will be added in the future.

The fifth-grade class is participating in a Year of the Bird program with Plumas Audubon as their partner. The Northern Flicker is the school mascot and it is also a culturally significant species for the Mountain Maidu. The Northern Flicker is also being incorporated into the climate change curriculum since it is considered moderately vulnerable to climate change.

Teresa Arrate, one of the artists, said "students were wowed by the new mural and expressed to teachers that they'd like to see more art on

their school." Students told the artists that they were familiar with the bird and were interested in becoming artists themselves. Staff at the school appreciated the opportunity this project gave to learn more about their school mascot.

We are looking forward to reviewing new grant applications this February. The goal of our grants is to support projects such as these. Grants are considered from three categories. 1) Scholarships to help support Palos Verdes/South Bay area birders, teachers, and others to attend conferences, classes, and workshops to study ornithology. 2) Research grants for collecting data on birds, birding, habitat conservation, and education. Preference is given to projects in Southern California, but national and international studies will be considered. 3) Specific projects from organizations that have missions similar to those of our chapter. This is the third year of our grant program and we hope to be able to continue to support projects like these and

the projects I wrote about. Our grant guidelines are posted on our website.

On a separate note, I would like to thank Vincent Lloyd for all the work that he put into organizing and then compiling the results of our Christmas Bird Count. I would also like to thank all the volunteers who went out and helped us count birds. CBCs are very important. They are used for scientific research and to make policy decisions. We have been able to document increases and decreases in some species in our count circle. You can read more about our CBC in this newsletter. We will, of course, be counting birds again in December and could use your help with the counting.

We have great speakers already lined up this year for our monthly presentations. You can find a list on our website at <www.pvsb-audubon.org>. If you have not joined us at a presentation or on a bird walk recently, please do so. They are free and are listed in the calendar in this newsletter and on the website.

Flicker

Now!

Falls the voice of a bird
calling from a sycamore.
Below, the ravine's dry bed fills,
its scattered leaves briefly stirred
in discourse with a drumming bill,
his, a riddle-tongued hunger
wound up too tight.

Now!

Uncoils in a rip
of flight, the wild loops dip
and rise with couplings that tie
limb to limb with crimson bows
each time his spread wings catch the sky.

Bright feathers spring open, flinging light,
and close!

by Jess Morton from *Shorelines*

Conservation Matters



By Jess Morton

Waste Water Recycling

As Auduboners may be aware, nearly three thousand acre-feet of waste water are discharged into the ocean every day from Los Angeles County's two main facilities in Carson and El Segundo. Thus the October 10, 2019, news release by the local water district, quoted below, is welcome. It shows that many agencies are collaborating in the hopes of alleviating one of southern California's most pressing environmental matters: where will we get enough water to meet future needs in the face of increasing populations, more industrialization, and climate changes that are likely to reduce the amount of water available from external sources in the very near future?

"In a major step toward the potential construction of one of the largest water recycling plants in the nation, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County were joined today by federal, state and local water leaders to celebrate the start of operations at the Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center. The 500,000-gallon-per-day demonstration facility takes

cleaned wastewater from the Sanitation Districts' Joint Water Pollution Control Plant and purifies it using an innovative process that could significantly improve efficiencies and reduce costs in water recycling.

"Over the next 15 months, Metropolitan will put this treatment process through rigorous testing to ensure the process effectively removes impurities and the resulting water meets the highest quality standards. The testing and other analyses will help the agencies determine whether to grow the facility to a full-scale plant that could potentially produce up to 150 million gallons of purified water daily – enough to serve more than 500,000 homes and industrial facilities. Construction on the \$17 million demonstration plant began in late 2017. While the water purification process being tested at the facility is based on proven technologies, it uses a new combination of treatment processes – starting with membrane bioreactors and followed by reverse osmosis, ultraviolet light and advanced oxidation – that could significantly increase efficiencies in treatment.

"There are certainly proven technologies to safely recycle water. But as we embark upon this major future investment, we need to explore how the process can be improved," Metropolitan General Manager Jeffrey Kightlinger said. 'Others around the globe are watching as well.'

In addition to gaining regulatory approval, the research facility will help confirm treatment costs, assess economic viability, and produce data to inform decisions for the future design, operation and optimization of a full-scale project. A later phase of testing will explore the potential of direct potable reuse, through raw water augmentation.

"The Regional Recycled Water Program is an ambitious project that requires the partnership of two large regional agencies with the right knowledge and expertise. We are thankful to be partnering with the Sanitation Districts,' Kightlinger added. As envisioned, the full-scale program, including associated distribution lines, would take about 11 years to construct, once approved. Purified water would be delivered through 60 miles of new pipelines to: four groundwater basins in Los Angeles and Orange counties for groundwater recharge and storage, industrial facilities, and, potentially, two of Metropolitan's existing water treatment plants for direct potable reuse."

Implementation of the full recycling facility would reduce the waste water discharged to the ocean from the plant by about 45%, an astounding savings for all concerned.



Nazca Booby, Galápagos, *Wikipedia Commons (Benjamin444)*

BIRDS OF THE PENINSULA

November–December 2019

by Vincent Lloyd

The rainy season began with a bang at the end of November with a series of storms. On the 28th, 2 inches of rain fell in the South Bay. After a couple of dry weeks, the rain returned the day after the Christmas Bird Count, bringing 4 more inches of rain in the last week of December. The outstanding rarity of the period was the Nazca Booby that Naresh Satyan spotted in Los Angeles Harbor on November 18, attracting birders from all over L.A. County. It is only the second confirmed record for the South Bay, the first having been seen in the summer of 2018. [One was seen flying by the breakwater on our 2002 CBC, but there was no photograph, so was entered only as a Masked Booby by the compiler--ed.]. The Nazca Booby is nearly identical to the Masked Booby, the adult having a white body with dark wings and face. It is distinguished by its pinkish-orange rather than yellow bill. For a century, it was considered a subspecies of the Masked Booby until in 1998 it was found that on Clipperton Island, Nazca Boobies and Masked Boobies don't interbreed. DNA studies confirmed that it was a different species. Birds of tropical oceans, boobies (the Blue-footed Booby, Brown Booby, Masked Booby, Nazca Booby and Red-footed Booby) have started to appear in our offshore waters over the last ten years, a sure sign that the ocean is warming.

Coming from the other direction is the Red-necked

Grebe that started hangin' out at Cabrillo Beach on November 18 and continued into the new year. These grebes, which are usually seen at sea, are fairly common in northern California, but rare south of Pt. Conception. The only other records for this century on eBird are the birds seen at Dockweiler Beach in 2010 and the one at Harbor Park in 2017. This grebe looks like a big, beefy Horned Grebe in winter. (In summer it sports the red neck.)

The first sighting in the South Bay since 2001 of the Brown-crested Flycatcher was identified from a photograph taken at South Coast Botanic Garden on Dec. 13. As of this writing, it is still there, but is frustratingly hard to spot (for a flycatcher). This bird breeds at Morongo Springs, only 100 miles to the east, so it is not altogether surprising to see it here (although it is supposed to go south to Mexico for winter), but Kimball Garrett thinks it is a different subspecies, perhaps from Texas or Mexico. You may know this bird by another name: the first edition of Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds listed it as the Mexican Crested Flycatcher, the second edition as Wied's Crested Flycatcher; yet its scientific name, *Myiarchus tyrannulus*, remained unchanged. It is similar to the Ash-throated Flycatcher, but its calls are quite different: as Peterson sagely wrote long ago, "To tell the two apart, one must have a keen ear." Speaking of which, the Ash-throated Flycatcher continues at

Madrona Marsh, having been seen nearly every month since 2014. It, too, ought to be in Mexico, but what old flycatcher wants to deal with the traffic on the 405? Other continuing flycatchers include the Tropical Kingbirds at Harbor Park and Entradero Park and the family of Vermillion Flycatchers at Columbia Park. Mark Rubke found a Hammond's Flycatcher found at Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach on Dec 9.

A twice-per-decade bird is the Harris's Sparrow which has taken up residence at a home on the top of the hill in Rolling Hills. This close relative of the White-crowned Sparrow breeds in the Canadian tundra and winters on the southern Great Plains. A White-throated Sparrow has been seen at the same location. Another rare sparrow is the Green-tailed Towhee found by John Thomlinson at Friendship Park on Dec. 16. Nearby in San Pedro, a Chukar, popped up, presumably an escapee. Chukars are partridges from Asia that have been introduced for the benefit of hunters, but have prospered in the deserts of the west. They breed in the

(BoP Continued on page 7)



Green-tailed Towhee Photo: John Thomlinson

2019 PV CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

by Vincent Lloyd

The 54th Palos Verdes Christmas Bird Count (CBC) was held on Sunday, December 22. An ominous weather forecast threatened the Count with spirit-dampening rain, but Nature shined on us and only a few sprinkles fell from the sky. In the afternoon, the Sun came out. As of this writing, the species count was 162, below average for the counts in this century. (Going back to the beginning of the Palos Verdes Count, the median species count is 164). Six additional species were seen during Count Week (the period three days before Count Day and three days afterward), including a Brown-crested Flycatcher, which appeared for the first time on the Count. A second new Count Week bird was the Chukar found by Bruce Biesman-Simmons on his back porch in San Pedro. The Chukar is a game bird introduced from southern Asia. It is established widely in dry areas of the west. I am told that this individual is most likely an escaped cage bird, but the nearest wild population is only 77 miles away in Apple Valley, so who knows, it might be a good idea to keep an eye out for this species. Look for a chunky quail-like grey bird with a conspicuous dark band around its white face and throat and a red bill.

The Palos Verdes CBC is one of 2500 in North and South America. Since the first CBC in December 1900, the Christmas Bird counts have compiled a valuable record of bird populations assessed

according to consistent protocols. The plan is to count as many of the birds in the count area that you can during a 24-hour period. The count area is a circle 15 miles in diameter. The PV Count Circle is centered on Palos Verdes Reservoir, near the corner of Palos Verdes Drive North and PV Drive East. The Count Circle goes as far east as the L.A. River, as far north as Alondra Park, and out into Catalina Channel to the south and Santa Monica Bay to the west.

An outstanding rarity was the American Oystercatcher, making its second appearance; its first time was only last year. The Red-necked Grebe at Cabrillo Beach has been seen only four times previously. The Tropical Kingbird wintering at Entradero Park, perhaps the same bird seen there last year, is only the fifth record on the Count. The Hammond's Flycatcher at Wilderness Park is the fourth on the Count. The Green-tailed Towhee at Friendship Park had been staked out before the count; it is only the fourth seen on the Count this century. The Summer Tanager at Malaga Dunes is a species seen only about every other year.

Many people commented on the low bird activity. Particularly striking was the low number of



CBC American Oystercatcher
Photo: Jess Morton

marine birds; for example, only 73 Black-vented Shearwaters were seen; last year there were 1135. Only 3 Bonaparte's Gulls have been reported; the median is 1200. No murrelets or auklets were seen. Yet a marine bird, Brandt's Cormorant, had the highest count for any species, with over 2150 individuals, even more than last year, also a high year.

The Count Circle is divided into 10 land areas plus the open ocean. Of the areas that have reported in, Area 5 (Torrance, Gardena and Carson) had the highest species count (92) while Area 6 (Wilmington and West Long Beach) had the highest number of individual birds counted (4061). Area 8 (Rolling Hills) had the only Hutton's Vireo. Area 4 (Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach) had the only Hermit Warbler. Area 1 (Harbor Park) had the only Least Bittern. Area 3 (Malaga Dunes) had the only Purple Finch. Area 10 (southwest Palos Verdes) had the only Cactus Wren, while Area 9 (south Palos Verdes) had the only Sora. It was a good year for raptors: we counted at least 3 Merlins, 5 Northern Harriers, 3 White-tailed Kites, 5 Ospreys, and 48 Red-tailed Hawks.

Thanks to the 50 eager observers who braved the fog to make the Count a success. Special thanks to Area Leaders Jess Morton, Ed Griffin, Ann and Eric Brooks, David Moody, David Ellsworth, Rusty Scalf, David Quadhamer and Charlie Keller. Special thanks goes to newcomer Christine Jacobs, who brought her whole family to the bird count!

The next PV CBC will be on Sunday, December 27, rain or shine. Hopefully shine!

(BoP Continued from page 5)

Mojave Desert as well as San Clemente Island.

At least two American Oystercatchers continue in the area, one at Royal Palms (perhaps the same bird that has been seen since 2018) and the other on the L.A. Harbor breakwater. A Solitary Sandpiper, an occasional migrant known for its propensity to poke around in the smallest pools and ditches, took refuge at the shrinking lake at South Coast Botanic Garden at the end of the year. True to its name, it was alone. Other unusual shorebirds included the Long-billed Curlews at Redondo Pier on Nov. 2 and Golden Shores on Dec. 22. A pair of Short-billed Dowitchers, first spotted by Tom Miko, were on the L.A. River at Willow the last couple weeks of the year. Wandering Tattlers appeared at Terreneau on Dec. 18 (Sara Boscoe) and Cabrillo Beach Youth Center (Ed Griffin) on the last day of the year. Wilson's Snipes were seen at Madrona Marsh, Harbor Park, Dominguez Channel, and Bixby Marsh. A Parasitic Jaeger visited L.A. Harbor in November, while a pair flew by Manhattan Beach on Nov. 10. A pair of Pomarine Jaegers were seen offshore during the CBC. David Ellsworth came upon a 1st-winter Laughing Gull at Cabrillo Beach on Nov. 9. On the periphery of our area, Jeff Boyd spotted an American Bittern at Dominguez Gap on Dec. 1; it refused to come out for the Long Beach CBC. Nearby, a Common Gallinule lingered in the L.A. River near Willow St during November and December — but not for the Palos Verdes CBC.

Dick Barth says to look out for the Black Scoters and White-winged Scoters among the Surf Scoters off Dockweiler Beach. Among other unusual ducks were the Common Merganser at Redondo Pier on Nov. 26 (Susan McCarty) and the Hooded Mergansers at Madrona Marsh and Henrietta Basin in December. A Wood Duck at seen at Harbor Park on Dec. 5 (Randy Harwood) was probably the duck spotted in Wilmington Drain five days later.

The juvenile Broad-winged Hawk that Mike Miller found at South Coast Botanic Garden on Nov. 29 may have been the same bird that was at Harbor Park on Oct. 17; oddly, those were the only sightings. At least five Northern Harriers were spotted during the CBC on Dec. 22; one was being chased by a White-tailed Kite at Wilmington Marina. Other kites continued at Harbor Park and Ohara Nursery in Carson.

The Pine Siskin is a goldfinch of the coniferous forest, but four of them dined at the feeder at Madrona Marsh for a few days in

early November. Another pair popped up at High Ridge Park on Dec. 24 (Angie Trumbo). Also at Madrona were a pair of Lawrence's Goldfinches on Nov. 16 (Andrew Newmark, Lindsay Willrick) and the continuing European Goldfinch and a Summer Tanager on Nov. 6. The Bobolink at Madrona was joined by a female Painted Bunting on Nov. 5.

An unusual Red-naped Sapsucker was found at Wilderness Park on Dec. 19. Seldom-seen passerines included the Loggerhead Shrike at White Point on Dec. 10, the Phainopepla in Lomita Dec. 15-22 (Manuel Duran), the Brown Creeper at Sand Dune Park through Nov. 19, and the Nashville Warbler spotted on the CBC by Kim Moore in Banning Park.

The author seeks reports from readers about unusual birds you see in our area (the area west of the Los Angeles River and south of the 105.) Send reports to stephenvincentlloyd@gmail.com.



White-tailed Kite

Photo: Kim Moore

ASK ALLEN

by Vincent Lloyd



Vincent: Allen, help me! I was at Bolsa Chica the other day, and came upon these strange dingy brown ducks. Were they some Asian vagrants?

Allen: Shame, shame, shame! Another sexist birder! You don't pay any attention to female ducks, do you?

Vincent: Well, male ducks are easier to identify. I just figure the female is the same species as the males it's with.

Allen: That strategy won't always work with scoters, because they like to hang out with ducks of their own sex, such as your group at Bolsa Chica, which were female and immature Surf Scoters.

Vincent: I know the male — it's an all-black duck with bright white patches on its nape and forehead and a multi-colored bill. I guess I haven't noticed the females. They're so plain, they just look like shapes out on the ocean.

Allen: Well, the drakes like them! But you have pointed out the big difficulty with scoters — they are usually seen at a distance out in the open water, where they are

constantly bobbing up and down.

There are three scoters in North America. The Black Scoter (closely similar to the Common Scoter of Europe), the White-winged Scoter (closely similar to the Velvet Scoter of Europe) and the Surf Scoter (a North American odd-ball). They breed in Alaska and Canada and winter along both the east and west coasts of the U.S.

Vincent: I've see Black Scoters and White-winged Scoters in northern California. The male Black Scoter is all black with a yellow knob on its bill. The White-Winged Scoter has a white inverted "comma" around its eye and — if I remember correctly — white

secondaries. They're pretty easy to identify, but I get confused by the females.

Allen: And the immature males, which resemble the adult females. They start to molt in late winter, so you will see many immature males with intermediate plumages. Here are some tips on separating them:

SURF IS THE DEFAULT OPTION

Black Scoters and White-winged Scoters are common in northern California, but this far south they are almost all Surfs.

SIZE IS A CLUE

White-winged Scoters are noticeably bigger than Surf



Scoters and Ruddy Ducks by Louis Agassiz Fuertes (Public Domain).

Scoters, and Black Scoters are a little smaller.

FEMALE BLACK SCOTERS ARE CHEEKY

Female Black Scoters have a light cheek that is sharply contrasted with the crown and nape. They are easy to identify even from a distance.

The tricky problem is distinguishing female and immature White-winged Scoters from Surf Scoters.

LOOK FOR WHITE IN THE WING

If the duck flies, the white secondaries of the White-winged Scoter are obvious.

When the bird is on the water, a thin white line in the wings is often visible, but sometimes it is concealed. So, if you see the white-line you can be sure it's a White-wing, but if you can't, it still might be.

NOTICE THE SHAPE OF THE HEAD AND THE BILL

The White-winged Scoter has a steeper forehead than

the Surf Scoter, giving the head and bill a concave appearance. Unfortunately, this trait seems to be more obvious on the males than the females. If you get a close look, the bills are diagnostic, regardless of sex or age. The Surf has a bill with a very thick base. The White-wing has feathering on the upper part of the bill, extending almost to the nostrils.

SEE SPOTS

Both the female Surf Scoter and female White-winged Scoter usually have two whitish spots on their face. This is why they look rather alike. There are, however, subtle differences. On the

Surf Scoter, the forward spot (near the lores) is compressed vertically, almost a vertical line; on the White-wing, the forward spot is round. On the Surf, the rearward spot is sharply demarcated from the crown and the cheek is a bit lighter, so that from a distance, the female Surf has a modest "capped" appearance (although not to the degree of a Black Scoter).

Putting all these things together, you should be able to identify most of the scoters you see — at least if they sit still! Try your hand at the Mystery Bird shown. See page 11 for the answer.



Mystery Bird.

Photographed by Melissa Loebel at Madrona Marsh.

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

Chapter Calendar

EVENTS

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.: PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Jess Morton will be our speaker for the night, presenting "Birding South Texas." Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the great speakers, latest local bird news and refreshments.

Tuesday March 17: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker for the night will be Jeff Manker with "Ornithangelism," on how to fledge new flocks of birders. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy great speakers, latest local bird news and refreshments.

FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders to explore the recently restored KMHRP and witness the birds return to this sanctuary in the middle of our metropolitan area. Meet in the parking lot closest to Anaheim and Vermont.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." This bird walk meets EVERY Tuesday at 8:30am. Join Audubon leader Tommye Hite and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at parking lot of Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 5: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.wbu.com/redondobeach and click on Birding with Bob.

Sunday, Feb. 9, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader David Quadhamer will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Saturday-Monday, Feb. 15-17, 8 a.m.: Weekend Field trip to the Colorado River, Cibola NWR, Salton Sea and Imperial Valley with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. See Feb. 2 for details.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit www.wbu.com/redondobeach.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magamma. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour the tide pools teaming with fascinating marine life. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Tuesday, Feb. 25, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Friday, Feb. 28, 8 a.m.: Field trip to the Point Mugu Naval Station with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Saturday, Feb. 29, 8 a.m.: Field trip to the Ventura Game Preserve with Eric and Ann Brooks and LA Audubon. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, March 1, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. See Feb. 2 for details.

Tuesday, March 3, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, March 4: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.wbu.com/redondobeach and click on Birding with Bob.

Sunday, March 8, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Feb. 9 for details.

Tuesday, March 10, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, March 11, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. Feb. 12 for details.

Wednesday-Friday, March 11-20: Super-duper Field trip to San Blas, Mexico with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, March 15, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. See Feb. 2 for details.

Sunday, March 15, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit www.wbu.com/redondobeach.

Tuesday, March 17, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente History Walk to Forrestal Nature Reserve. Walk through Coastal Sage Scrub habitat. Learn about the local geology. Includes a tour of the Discovery Room. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Tuesday, March 24, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

Saturday, March 28, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magamma. See Feb. 22 for details.

Tuesday, March 31, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Feb. 4 for details.

NOTE: PV/South Bay Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations are much appreciated to support programs of the chapter.

Answer to Mystery Bird:
Female Surf Scoter.

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage. Within the framework of National Audubon Society policies, we seek and implement ways to preserve indigenous flora and fauna, especially that of our local area, and provide educational services to the region's communities with respect to birds, wildlife, ecology and conservation.

Executive Officers

- President: David Quadhamer, 310 833-3095
- Vice-Pres.: Ann Dalkey
- Treasurer: Jess Morton, jmorton@igc.org
- Secretary: Vincent Lloyd, vincent@sabik.org
- Directors:** Paul Blieden, Tracy Drake,

Committees:

- Calendar: Evi Meyer, evimeyer@cox.net
- Christmas Bird Count and
- Field Trips: Ann and Eric Brooks, motmots@aol.com
- Hospitality: Alene Gardner,
alene.gardner@sbcglobal.net
- Hummin': Jess Morton, jmorton@igc.org
- Mailing List: Bob Shanman, wildbirdbob@gmail.com
- Programs: Jan Gardner, janet.gardner800@gmail.com
Bob Carr, Candy Groat
- Snowy Plover Survey and Tour de Torrance
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- Photos by the author unless stated otherwise.

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Please make checks to PV/SB Audubon and mail to: PO Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274

February 19th, “*Birding South Texas*” as part of the 2019 Lower Rio Grande Bird Festival will be the subject of a presentation by **Jess Morton**, with a look in at the many habitats of the south Texas coast and their wildlife.



March 17th, educator and world birder **Jeff Manker** presents “*The Importance of Ornithangelism: Why we Must Fledge New Birders and How to Do it*”



Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2582
Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274

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By Evi Meyer

