HUMMIN'

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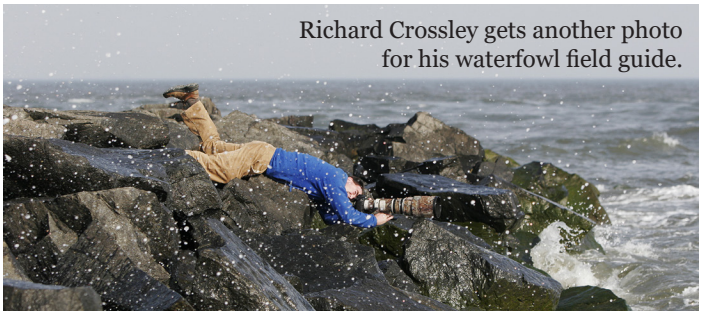
Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society Vol. XL #5 Aug./Sept. 2018

Crossley to Speak at Madrona Marsh

Wednesday, August 22nd, 7:30 PM.

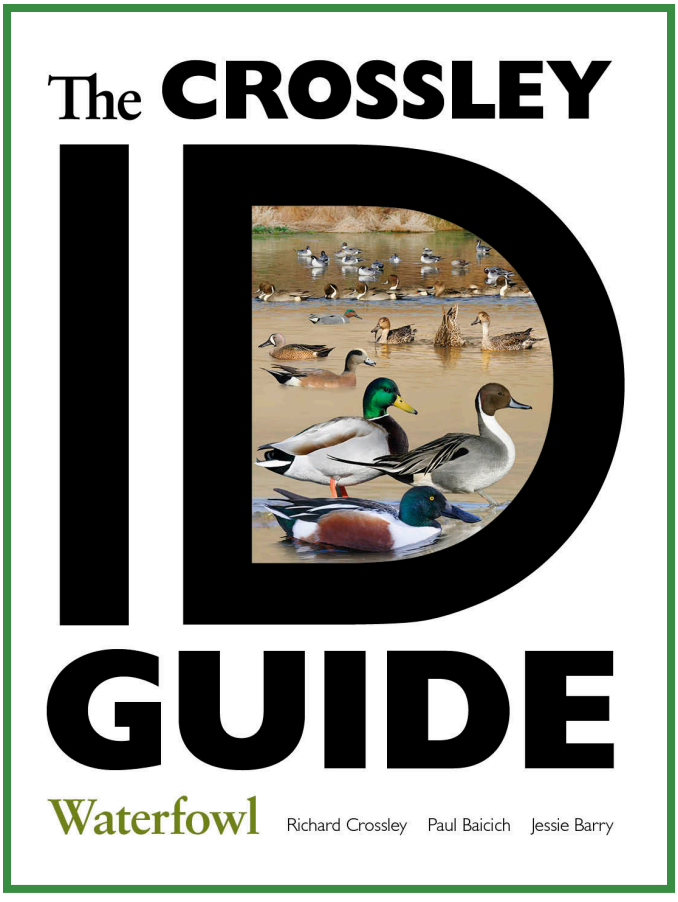
Field guide author, bird photographer and world traveler **Richard Crossley** will present "**There and Back**,"the story of a field guide. While working on The Crossley ID Guide: Waterfowl, Richard decided he needed to drive to the Arctic Ocean, northern Alaska – from his home in Cape May, NJ. Told in a thick Yorkshire accent, with a sense of humor, and a disdain for PC, Richard will talk about his 16,000 mile adventure. Living out of his truck, Richard chats about the incredible places he travelled and the inspiring people he met who changed his thoughts.



Richard Crossley gets another photo for his waterfowl field guide.

David Quadhamer presents YES Awards to IES students Yuna Choi, Daren Chun and Irene Yena Kang. See story, page 2.

A comparison of heads for the four species of eider as seen from various angles and illustrated in The Crossley's ID Guide: Waterfowl.



From the President

Plans and Awards

By David Quadhamer

Everyone is invited to attend our chapter's annual planning meeting, which will be held on Saturday, August 18th, from 9:00 am to noon at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. Replacing our usual bi-monthly board meeting, the session will be about what we would like to accomplish in the next year. We would love to have you share your ideas about what our chapter should be working on—birds, conservation, advocacy, habitat restoration and what else? If you would like to get involved in chapter activities, this would be a great time.

Five more students were presented with Audubon YES Awards in June at the International Environmental Service Club (IES) luncheon banquet (See photo page 1). IES members put in a lot of volunteer hours restoring habitat around the South Bay. The awardees were Youngeun (Eric) Kim, Daren Chun, Irene Yena Kang, Yuna Choi and Kevin Kim. Congratulations and thank you for your work!

Our Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly habitat restoration at Rolling Hills Prep will continue when school begins in September. If you would like to help with the habitat restoration, please let me know. We have a lot of work to do to get the site ready for planting. We typically work one Saturday a month from 9:00 – noon. Tools and gloves are provided.

Vincent Lloyd's summary of the results of our 38th annual butterfly count, noting the effects of local drought conditions, is on page 12. Thank you, Vincent, for coordinating the count and thank you to everyone who helped count butterflies. We will have another count next July and would welcome your participation.

We are over half way through the Year of the Bird which marks the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Audubon, BirdLife International, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, National Geographic and other organizations have teamed together to celebrate the Year of the Bird.

How can you get involved in the Year of the Bird? You can contact your representatives in Congress and let them know how important the MBTA is. The MBTA was signed into law in 1918 and protects over 1,000 species of birds and has broadened to be international in scope. One of the birds the MBTA helps protect is the Snowy Egret. They can be found at Madrona Marsh and Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. They were almost hunted to extinction for their feathers. The MBTA helped protect them, as it has numerous other birds.

You can take someone birding or bring them on a bird walk. We offer bird walks throughout the month, including at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park and at Madrona Marsh. The dates and locations are listed in the calendar. Introducing someone to birds can spark a new interest for him or her. You can point out some of the field marks they should look for when trying to identify a bird. You can also help them learn by identifying common bird songs and calls.

If you have a yard at home, please go native. Native plants provide food and nesting places for birds. and they save water. The National Audubon website has a database that provides a list of plants appropriate for your zip code. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and the Madrona Marsh Nature Center are also good resources for plants appropriate for your yard. If planting plants at home is not an option, you can help restore habitat by volunteering for our PV Blue Project or with

the PVP Land Conservancy or at Madrona Marsh.

You can also reduce the amount of plastic that you use. Dave Weeshoff gave an informative presentation in May about the effects of plastic in the environment. According to the National Geographic website (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-waste-pollution-trash-crisis/) there are 9.2 billion tons of plastic. 6.9 billion tons of that has become waste. 6.3 billion tons of that waste was not recycled. Jenna Jambeck estimates that between 5.3 million tons and 14 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean each year. This is just from coastal regions. There are more than 5 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans. It is unclear how long it will take for this plastic to biodegrade. Estimates range from 450 years to never. Birds and other ocean wildlife get trapped in plastic waste. They also eat bits of floating plastic, thinking it is food, or feed it to their young. The plastic can't be digested, so the birds become malnourished or too heavy to fly and die as a result.

These are just a few of the important steps we can take to help birds and other wildlife. Making others aware of these steps is also important. If there is anything you would like our chapter to work on, please join us at our August planning meeting.

TAXONOMY NEWS

By Vincent Lloyd

Every summer avid birders look forward to the publication of the latest update to the A.O.S. (formerly A.O.U.) Checklist of the Birds of North and Middle America (7th Edition), hoping that one or two species have been split so their bird count will

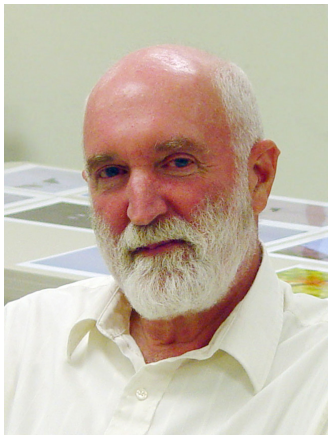
instantly get higher. This year's changes may disappoint, as few will see an increase in their species count. However, Canadians and Canadian-Americans (like myself) will be pleased.

GRAY JAY. The 5th Edition of the checklist, published in 1957, changed the English name of *Perisoreus canadensis* from Canada Jay to Gray Jay. After 60 years of whining and complaining by our neighbors to the north, the Checklist Committee (NACC) succumbed to pressure and changed the name back to Canada Jay. (It appears Canadians were particularly offended that "gray" was spelled the American way, rather than the English way as "grey". Coincidentally, the 5th Edition also changed the name "English sparrow" to "House sparrow". So much for the English!) In fairness, there seems to have been no good reason for changing the jay's name in the first place, as it didn't involve any taxonomic change. Furthermore, the Canadians have a particular attachment to this inquisitive and intelligent bird, nicknamed "whiskyjack", "lumberjack", and "camp robber"; many Canadians consider it their national bird. (In a curious parallel, over the years NACC changed the English name of *Aphelocoma ultramarina* from Mexican Jay to Gray-breasted Jay and then back to Mexican Jay. Go figure.)

Naturalists with long memories may recall that the first edition of Peterson's Field Guide to Western Birds described two closely similar species, the Oregon Jay of the Pacific coast and the Canada Jay of the Cascades and Rockies. The

(Taxonomy continued on page 5)

From the Editor



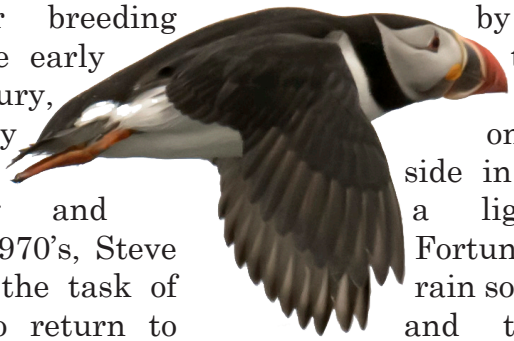
Puffins

By Jess Morton

It's hard to remember what it was that first attracted me to postage stamps with puffins on them back in the post war years when I first began collecting. Perhaps it was the odd circumstances of Lundy, a small island off the English coast where they were issued. Not a sovereign government exactly, yet postal stamps nonetheless, and denominated in puffins: half puffin, one puffin, two puffins etc. Nor were these especially colorful stamps, but they weren't quite as dull as most of the stamps that got printed in those days. Still, they had this exotic looking bird on them, big billed and chubby, somehow endearing, even to an adolescent. I've been infatuated by puffins ever since. But they have always lived far away. Only recently have I taken opportunities to see them, the two Pacific Ocean species in Alaska last year, the third kind in June, when I traveled to a five-day "Joy of Birding" session at Audubon's Hog Island, on the Maine coast.

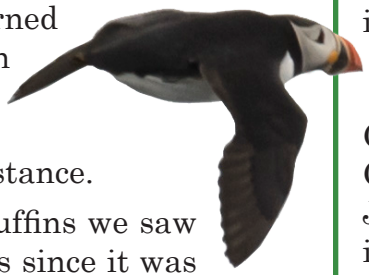
Atlantic Puffins had abandoned their breeding colonies in Maine early in the 20th Century, driven away by incessant egg collecting and hunting. In the 1970's, Steve Kress undertook the task of inducing them to return to coastal Maine as breeders. If you care to, you can read about his methods in "Puffin Project" and his other books on the subject. It took a lot of effort, money and ingenuity, especially the latter, but it worked. The puffins have returned, and from Hog Island it is but a short boat ride to Egg Rock, where one of Steve's colonies now thrives.

I'm told there are four seasons in Maine: early winter, deep winter, late winter and next winter. I believe we hit one of the latter two, though being from coastal LA with its three seasons, none of which remotely resembles any Maineish winter, I am not qualified to judge which of the winters it was that we were in. Just understand, it was cold. And it was wet. But like the postman, neither wind nor rain, etc, was going to prevent me from seeing Atlantic Puffins in their private paradise, however non-paradisiacal it felt to me.



The first puffin we saw was more blur than bird, zipping by our boat, the Snow Goose, on the port side in mist and a light rain. Fortunately, the rain soon stopped and though it remained cloudy and cold while we were near Egg Rock, everyone on board got great looks at dozens of puffins as they went about their business. Some were standing on the rocky, kelp-strewn shore, probably near their nesting sites, which were either hidden under rocks or at the end of a long burrow in accumulated soil. Others loafed on the water or "flew" beneath the surface as they dove after hake, herring and other small fish which they would line up side by side along the length of their bills, fish heads and

tails flopping to either side. Still others were flying to and from the island, aware of our presence, but not concerned other than to keep us at a discrete distance.



All the puffins we saw were adults since it was too early in the season for young to be off the nest. Three other alcids, the bird family to which puffins belong, were present, Black Guillemot, Common Murre and Razorbill. However, it was puffins that pulled the eye, each a parti-colored marvel of tall beak and feathered sculpture. They were as I had long imagined they would be. It was as if I had recovered some wonderful letters from the past, each one marked Isle of Lundy, postage paid.

Another view of an Atlantic Puffin, as mounted in an exhibition of mixed media birds in flight at the Portland (ME) Art Museum

(Taxonomy continued from page 2)

Oregon Jay is darker above and lighter below. These two populations were subsumed into the Canada Jay in 1944. (Other corvids lumped together that year were the California Jay, the Santa Cruz Jay, and the Florida Jay, which were combined into the Scrub Jay, much to the annoyance of birders who had gone to a lot of trouble to see all three species. It wasn't until 1995 that NACC admitted the error of its ways.) A recent genetic study, however, indicates that the Oregon Jay has been genetically isolated for about three million years. Don't be surprised if in future *P. canadensis* is split into two or more species. Keep a careful record of the location whenever you see one, just in case. Maybe you'll get a nice species bump someday!

In California, the Canada Jay occurs in small numbers along the Oregon border as far south as Eureka. An easier place to see it is Mt. Rainier National Park (where you can see an Oregon Canada Jay in Washington!).

WHITE-COLLARED SEEDEATER. This tiny tropical species belonging to the tanager family (Thraupidae) occurs in small numbers along the Rio Grande. Only for this reason is it included in the field guides for the U.S. and Canada (for the benefit of those who think it's fun to see common Mexican birds on the north side of the border). This population, now called Morelet's Seedeater (named after a French naturalist), has been split from the distinctive population found on the Pacific coast of Mexico, now called the Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater. In 2015 a Cinnamon-rumped Seedeater was spotted in San Diego, but as these are popular cage birds, the sighting was not accepted by the California Rare Bird Committee.

GENUS CHANGES:

For those who keep track of such things, the woodpecker genus Picoides has been split. In California, the change affects the Downy, the Hairy, the White-headed, the Ladder-backed and Nuttall's woodpeckers; these species are now in the genus *Dryobates*. Only the two three-toed woodpeckers (American and Black-backed) remain in *Picoides*. The genus of fat-looking sparrows, *Ammodramus*, has also been split. The only California bird affected is the localized Nelson's sparrow, now in the genus *Ammospiza*. The Grasshopper Sparrow remains as the only U.S. bird in *Ammodramus*.

Ululations on Bonnie's Island

By Evi Meyer

In early June, I visited my friend Bonnie at her small island home on Highland Lake, in New Hampshire. The island is just big enough for a house, an outhouse and a tiny cabin, all with a bit of northern woods in between. However, the size of the island had no bearing on the Common Loon population using the lake as breeding grounds. From dusk, when I got there, to dawn the next morning, the loons' haunting wails could be heard, ululations loud, long and strange. I could not wait to see these majestic birds during the day.

Human ululations are practiced by some cultural groups as an expression of sorrow or happiness. I have attended joyous events where Jewish women of Sephardic or middle-eastern descent ululated their hearts out in delight. They produced a high-pitched vocal sound in the larynx accompanied with rapid back and forth movement of the tongue and uvula.

Birds have a very different vocal system. Avian sound is created in the syrinx deep in the throat, and its vibrating membranes produce the characteristics of each sound, perhaps making the tongue insignificant for ululations like the loons'. Would I be able to find out?

I was hoping to encounter some birds on the water and perhaps even be lucky to hear and see them ululate during the daylight hours. Since Bonnie doesn't just own an island but also a small pontoon boat we would be able to explore the lake and search for loons. With a bit of luck and a pair of binoculars we might be able to observe some detail on the production of their calls. Our plan was to head out right after breakfast when the loons were most likely to be on the water fishing.

However, before we could finish our morning chow on the back deck, we heard the first haunting wails. They sounded much closer than we had expected. We jumped on the boat and drifted towards two loons calling for each other. They were on the water directly adjacent to the island. They showed off spectacular breeding plumage with greenish-black head and neck, white vertical streaks on the throat and side of the neck, while the rest of the black body was thickly marked with white spots.

After a couple of short dives they emerged and started to ululate not too far from the boat. They seemed to be completely unfazed by our presence. During their vocalizations I was able to see the slightly opened bill and the black tongue protruding across the opening to the top of the mouth, almost as an extension of the stretched out neck. However, even with binoculars I was not able to see any rapid tongue movement. It appeared that the loons' ululations emerged from the syrinx without visible assistance of the tongue.

Whether or not this is true for all loons or just an anecdotal observation is not clear. However, it does not take away from the mesmerizing, almost hypnotizing, draw this call had on me. Writer John McPhee called the Common Loon's wail "the laugh of the deeply insane", while Ralph Hoffmann referred to it as "maniacal laughter". Although there is definitely an aspect of the insane in these ululations, there is also a captivating sense of yearning and appetency.

Common Loons are symbols of northern wilderness and, as top predators on lakes, important ecological indicators for aquatic health. They have been subject of legend and lore for a long time, appear on license plates of five states in the US and also adorn the dollar

coin called "Loonie" in Canada. They are important birds to more than just birders.

The North American Common Loon population appears to be robust today with an estimated 250,000 breeding pairs, but it wasn't always so. Loons require clean and clear lakes as breeding grounds and are harmed by disturbances, development and pollution. In the early to mid 20th century the North American population crashed because there was very little environmental protection in place. Only in the 1970s –around the time of the passing of the clean water act - did it rebound.

Could the loons do better today? Definitely. It turns out that lead poisoning from fishing tackle is the leading cause of death for loons in the contiguous US. Decades after lead had been regulated out of gasoline, paint and ammunition, fishing sinkers and jigs are still made from it. When they detach and sink to the bottom of lakes, they become indistinguishable from small pebbles loons ingest to aid digestion in their gizzard. The poison from ingested lead results in lethargy, paralysis and death.

Forward-looking states like New Hampshire have passed regulatory policies restricting the use of lead in tackle. Other states on the east coast have followed, though under strong protests from the angling and sporting groups. In the final days of the Obama presidency a ban on lead in tackle was proposed on federal lands, but quickly overturned by the current administration. Here we go again, another environmental law is under attack by an administration that is hellbound to overturn all laws deemed unfavorable to business, resulting in further destruction of our ecosystems.

We must continue to stand up and fight this senseless assault on our planet. This isn't just about saving birds, but it is about creating an environment where all creatures, including humans, can live a healthy life. David Yarnold's mantra of "what's good for the birds is good for the people" could never be more true than now. Hearing ululations that are offered to us is not just a privilege, but a right. It feeds our souls and creates poetry.

Note:Loon photos by the author

Loon Songs

Below the loose cliffs, where the wet fist knocks,
lacy seas surge over the raised knees of cleft rocks
and the chasing shadows as the loons dive and climb,
dark forms easing seaward in the slow thighs of time.

Rounding the point, the loons line low over gray waves,
urgent black notes undulating across sea-staves,
an unvoiced evocation of their lake-sung ululant cry.
Loons lining north under the vast, soft rhythms of sky.

The boneless mists lapse onto the lake, diverge, retire
into silhouette cedars. Foretold in the eyes' dark fire,
the loons, slow forms, low, drift away, with fog coalesce.
At the shore, tense needles of spruce, on end, motionless.

Ice forms and the thick heads lift. South the quick bore
through chill wind. One unknowable pulse pulls at the core
of the purposed loons. This dark blood of earth, that sings
along unseen veins of necessity on hot heartbeat of wings.

Jess Morton (from Shorelines)

This Unknown Peninsula

Weird Things

By Jess Morton

What on earth has that crane fly done, I asked myself? It had flown up from some grasses beside a stream as I walked past, and landed back in the shade of a tree beside the trail I was following. It hung from a leaf but was too far in to approach closely. My binoculars, meant for birding, were a help, but without ones designed for close in work, only gave me a distant look, better than naked eye, but still not enough for real detail. The same held for the small screen on my camera. But I could make out enough to show me that this bug had done something odd.

Crane flies are those critters that look like huge mosquitoes. Fortunately for us, they do not bite—they'd draw a pint of blood if they did. Actually most of them don't even feed as adults. They've done all the growing they need to do in the grub stage. After pupating, they mate, lay eggs for the next generation and die. Of course, there are thousands of crane fly species, so some do all kinds of crazy things, but what this one had done looked unplanned. There was a pale thing on a hind foot, perhaps the molted skin of a leaf hopper. Had the crane fly accidentally stepped into it and been unable to shake it loose? It seemed unlikely. Most insects are quite fastidious, and this one was making no effort to rid itself of the excrescence. I would have to wait to see the full photo images on my computer to find out.

Up the image came, and things got even weirder than they already were. The pale thing was not a skin, but a living plant bug of some sort, and it was being gripped by the crane fly's hind foot. No accident this! And those two wings? I'd never seen a fly's wing with a pterostigma, the often-colorful, thickened spot near the wingtip of, for example, a dragonfly. And those crazy wing veins, more like a fisherman's net than the flies' wings I knew. Then, zooming in to look at its head, I could see this one was eating an ant. No way!

But it was. So perhaps this was some kind of robber fly. It didn't look much like the ones I'd seen, but at least robber flies are predators. Off to the books and BugGuide.net I went, but none of the robber flies, nor any of the other fly families I looked at fit the image I had. Still, with well over 100,000 species described so far, and probably even more than that waiting classification, a fly like this could turn up.

I had two usable images. I had glanced at both, but been concentrating my attention on the first. When I shifted, I found in the second, almost completely hidden, the pterostigma of a third wing. The penny dropped. This thing had four wings, not two! The second pair was merely out of view behind the wee monster's body. It was not a fly at all!

This time my look through the books paid off. My "crane fly" was actually a member of the order Mecoptera, the scorpionflies, which are neither scorpions nor flies, but they are definitely predaceous. Mine, *Bittacus chlorostigma*, belonged to a group called the hanging flies, an appropriate term since that was exactly what my critter was doing. They also have an interesting mating behavior that explained the plant bug this one was holding. Scorpionflies use their hind legs to capture prey, normally the small insects that make up their diet. But a male may also offer a prey item to a female as an inducement to mate. She gets to eat, he gets to procreate. And I got to learn a little more about this weird, amazing world we live in.

If it looks like a crane fly,
and hangs like a crane fly,
might it be Bittacus chlorostigma?

Photo: Jess Morton

Your Backyard Habitat

Cleveland Sage -- *Salvia clevelandii*

By Connie Vadheim

One trick to good habitat gardening is planning seasonal food sources. The best gardens provide blooms, fruits and seeds from early spring through winter. Fortunately, many native – and non-native – plants help accomplish this goal. A favorite summer bloomer/seed source in many gardens is the Cleveland sage.

Salvia clevelandii grows in chaparral and coastal sage scrub, primarily in Riverside and San Diego counties, with Coyote bush, Chamise, Laurel sumac and California encelia. It's named for Daniel Cleveland, an early collector in the San Diego area. A sub-shrub (part-woody), it grows to about 5 ft. tall/wide, forming a tidy mound (with a little pruning).

Cleveland sage and its cultivars are widely planted in S. California gardens, both for their aroma and early summer flowers. This is one of the best native sages for aroma – delightfully fresh and clean! The flowers are an electric blue-violet. While individual flowers are small, they grow in ball-like clusters typical of the Mint family. And individual flowers are showy when viewed up close. Popular cultivars include 'Winnifred Gilman', 'Betsy Clebsch' and 'Allen Chickering'.

All the native sages are good habitat plants. A single plant can provide thousands of tiny flowers, attracting hummingbirds, butterflies

and other large insect pollinators. The seeds, which ripen in summer/fall, provide rich food for finches and other seed-eaters. The plants themselves provide good perches and cover for ground-foraging species. In short, a single plant provides many benefits to garden visitors.

Cleveland sage looks good with other Salvias and native Buckwheats – or with water-wise Mediterranean herbs like Rosemary. It succeeds in most garden soil types (on a mound in heavy clay) and tolerates full sun or afternoon shade (hot gardens). Salvia clevelandii looks best with occasional summer water – perhaps once or twice a summer. And plants benefit from a light fall pruning (after all the seeds are eaten).

For more on this plant see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2018/07/plant-of-month-july-cleveland-sage.html>.

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

Chapter Calendar

EVENTS

Saturday, Aug.18, 9-12pm: PV/South Bay Audubon Strategic Planning Meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Together. Our speaker for the night is TBD. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, Aug. 1: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on Birding with Bob.

Sunday Aug. 5, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders to explore the newly 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, Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Tommye Hite and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

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

Saturday, Aug. 11, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Friendship Park. Take in some of the best harbor and Catalina views on the eastern side of the Peninsula. See habitat restored by the Conservancy for the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to PVIC/Vicente Bluff Reserve/PV Lighthouse. Join us for a tour of the PVIC museum, the native plant garden and a walk along the spectacular bluff top at the Vicente Bluff Reserve, followed by a tour of the Point Vicente Lighthouse hosted by the Coast Guard Auxillary. Easy. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Sunday, Aug. 12, 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 an admission charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Sunday, Aug. 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com.

Tuesday, Aug. 21, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Saturday, Aug. 25, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magammana. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Tuesday, Aug. 28, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Sunday Sept. 2, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.: Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. See Aug. 5 for details.

Tuesday, Sept. 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Wednesday, Sept. 5: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.

wbu.com and click on Birding with Bob.

Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Pelican Cove. Hike with us and admire picturesque ocean views and restored seaside buckwheat covered bluff tops that support the recovery of the rare El Segundo blue butterfly. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Sept. 9, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Aug. 12 for details.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Aug. 8 for details.

Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park (Coastal Clean-up day). International Coastal Clean-up Day. Bring the family to help clean the beach. Gloves and trash bags provided. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

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

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

Saturday, Sept. 22, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magammana. See Aug. 25 for details

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Aug. 7 for details.

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

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.:	Paul Blieden, pblieden@yahoo.com
	Ann Dalkey
Treasurer:	Jess Morton, jmorton@igc.org
Secretary:	Vincent Lloyd, svlloyd@elcamino.edu
Directors:	Robert Carr, Oliver Coker, Tracy Drake, Lillian Light

Committees:

Calendar:	Evi Meyer, evimeyer@cox.net
Christmas Bird Count and	
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Please make checks to PV/SB Audubon and mail to: PO Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274

THIRD TUESDAY PROGRAMS 7 PM AT MADRONA MARSH 3201 PLAZA DEL AMO, TORRANCE

Wednesday, August 22nd, at Madrona Marsh. In place of our usual Tuesday program for August, **Richard Crossley** will present "**There and Back**," the story of his adventures photographing birds for his new waterfowl field guide. The talk begins at 7:30, preceded by a reception and book signing at 6:30.

Tuesday, September 18th, please join us for our regularly scheduled program. All are welcome and there is no admission charged for our programs. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a drawing for door prizes.

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

Time-sensitive material

BUTTERFLY COUNT SUMMARY

By Vincent Lloyd, compiler

Sunny skies, pleasant temperatures and light winds blessed the 38th Palos Verdes Butterfly Count, which took place on Saturday, July 14th. Ten intrepid groups, working at hot spots scattered from Torrance Beach to Cabrillo Beach, counted all the butterflies that they could on that day. In most areas they were disappointed by the low number of butterflies, probably a consequence of the extended drought, which resumed this year after last year's exceptionally wet winter; for example, Madrona Marsh got only 3 inches of rain this past winter. Nevertheless, 25 species of butterflies were seen, which is about our average. The big surprise was David Ellsworth's discovery of a lovely Variegated Fritillary in San Pedro (see photo at left). This butterfly breeds in Arizona and Baja California and only rarely strays to Southern California. It's a first for the PV Count. Congratulations, David, and many thanks to all participants for giving their time to the cause of citizen science!