

# HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society Vol. XLI #3 April/May 2019

## John Nieto, 1949-2019

### The Passing of a Great Naturalist and Wonderful Friend

By Evi Meyer

My heart is filled with grief about the passing of John Nieto, a dear friend to many of us. John was a wonderful human being and brilliant naturalist who gave



generously and unconditionally of himself. His enthusiasm about the natural world and his love for teaching children will be remembered forever.

For many years he used his great organizational skills to head the third grade program of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, where he and other volunteer naturalists would go into local classrooms to teach third grade students about the rich history, fauna and flora of the place they call home. He was much loved by the students and they greeted him enthusiastically when he was on campus, even years after he had taught them.

(John Nieto continued on page 9)

## April-May Programs

Tuesday, Apr. 16th, at 7 PM, at Madrona Marsh, Bird guide, naturalist, and photographer, **Benny Jacobs-Schwartz**, will share his dazzling bird photos, captivating videos, and animated story-telling to bring a slice of the tropics to California.



Touching on topics of migration, speciation, and bio-diversity, this media rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics.



Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters.

Tuesday, May 21st, **Robb Hamilton** will present "Birds of Colorado Lagoon," a look at



the Long Beach lagoon's history, ongoing restoration, and the planned creation of an open channel from the lagoon to the nearby Marine Stadium.



## From the President



### Grants Awarded for Birds and Education

By David Quadhamer

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon has awarded five grants from the Gambee Fund of one thousand dollars each for the second consecutive year. Grants from the fund may fall into any of several categories: for scholarships to attend conferences, classes and workshops in ornithology; to fund research on birds, habitat conservation and education; and to support similar projects run by organizations with missions like those of PV/SB Audubon. This year's grant awards, four of which are for local projects, are described below.

Our first grant funds the Audubon Youth



White-breasted Nuthatch

Environmental Service (YES) Club's work at the Linden H. Chandler preserve planting deerweed and rattlepod. These are the host plants for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly. The Audubon YES Club has worked on this "Adopt-A-Plot" project since 2012. Members have biweekly workdays weeding and planting as part of their restoration project to which they have contributed 1,589 hours of volunteer work to plant and maintain 2,991 plants. This grant will fund the addition of 200 plants.

Our second grant supports the monitoring efforts of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land conservancy (PVPLC)'s Citizen Science Cactus Wren Monitoring Program. This annual monitoring program is a vital supplement to the triennial monitoring required by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes' Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP). This grant will be used to purchase a spotting scope, allowing improved visual analysis and making possible observations from further away, thus reducing disturbance of the birds by the observers. The data collected helps direct more effective conservation efforts.

Our third grant benefits the California Gnatcatcher at the White Point Nature Preserve. Cynthia Woo has volunteered many hours restoring coastal sage scrub habitat in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve and the White Point Nature

Preserve. Because of her extensive experience, she will do an excellent job leading this restoration effort. Cynthia will work with PVPLC staff and volunteers to plant 176 shrubs and small trees, maintain the new plants with regular watering, and will monitor their growth. Restoring this critical habitat will help the California Gnatcatcher, as well as the other species that rely on coastal sage scrub to survive.

Our fourth grant will support the Adopt-A-Plot program at the Vicente Bluffs Reserve in which habitat is being restored for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly (ESB), a federally listed endangered species. This Adopt-A-Plot was established two years ago with the specific goal of improving habitat for the ESB along a hilltop that currently supports the butterfly. PVPLC staff will work with volunteers to plant 200 native plants to expand habitat for the ESB.

The fifth grant was awarded to Plumas Audubon Society (PAS). PAS is located in northeast California and is working with the Plumas Unified School District on their new Next Generation Science Standards: Outdoor Core strategy. PAS serves as a primary strategic partner in the "Year of the Bird" for all seven 5th grade classes in the district. Our grant will support the creation of a "Bird-friendly and Climate-wise Community" mural at each

of four elementary schools in Plumas County. PAS has worked with teachers and staff to implement a “Birds and Climate Change” curriculum through their Plumas Environmental Education Program. It includes field trips, classroom lessons, activities and service-learning projects. The mural supplements this curriculum, raising awareness about birds and climate change, and shows students, teachers, staff and parents many of the birds commonly found in their community.

We will offer our grant program again next year. Applications will be due on January 15, 2020 and the guidelines will be released later this year. Contributions from members of Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon help support this grant program.

One way to contribute is by supporting one of this year’s Birdathons. Jess Morton and I will each be leading groups to find as many species of birds as we can in one day, usually in late April or early May. We generally try to stay within our Christmas Bird Count circle. Donations can be made at a flat rate or on a per species basis. I suggest one dollar per species. Your contributions support our grant program and other efforts in the South Bay. If you would like to give to one or both of our Birdathons, email Jess at [jmorton@igc.com](mailto:jmorton@igc.com) or me at [dquadhamer@yahoo.com](mailto:dquadhamer@yahoo.com). Your support is greatly appreciated.



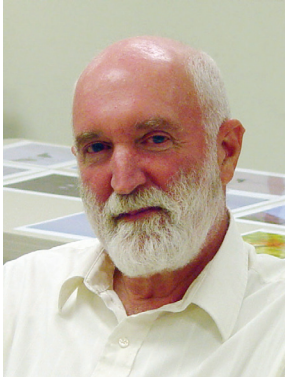
Phainopepla Photo by Evi Meyer

Our work restoring habitat for the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly out at Rolling Hills Preparatory School continues. After all the rain we have had, there are a lot of weeds to pull. If you would like to help us with the habitat restoration there, please send me an email and I’ll let you know when the next work day will be.

Many interesting presentations are on tap for the next several months. Benny

Jacobs-Schwartz will talk about birds of the new world tropics in April. Robb Hamilton will give a presentation in May about the birds of Long Beach’s Colorado Lagoon. Tracy Drake covers butterflies in June, a good introduction for our annual butterfly count in July. Please look through the calendar in this issue and join us on a bird walk or at one of our monthly presentations.

## From the Editor



### ANWR In Peril

By Jess Morton

Among the many environmentally disastrous actions of the Trump administration is one that threatens irreparable damage to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge while increasing the risks posed by use of fossil fuels. Capitalizing on last minute gimmicks included in the last tax “cut,” the administration has directed the Bureau of Land Management to fast track oil and gas leasing in the refuge, excusing it with a shoddy environmental review. Whether the leasing can be

prevented is questionable, but a substantial number of Congressional members are giving it a try.

As one of the first pieces of legislation introduced in the House of Representatives by the new Congress, Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA), Chair of the Water, Oceans, and Wildlife Subcommittee, Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Vice-Chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus, and 100 lawmakers introduced the “Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act”, bipartisan legislation to halt the oil and gas drilling exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge currently being pursued by the Trump administration. Included among the 100 cosponsors are Representatives Nanette Barragan, Allen Lowenthal, Ted Lieu and Maxine Waters, all of the House members who represent this Audubon chapter. Many thanks to them for their support.

The proposed legislation would protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling by repealing the controversial provision in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that mandated oil and gas leasing,

development, and production in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge.

“The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the last great expanses of untouched wilderness areas in America, but the Trump Administration is attempting to launch an all-out drilling spree, with no regards for the climate impacts or the effect on the Gwich’in people, who have lived off the land for generations.” said Rep. Huffman. “I’m introducing the bipartisan Arctic Cultural and Coastal Plain Protection Act to repeal the dangerous drilling provision that was slipped into the tax bill at the eleventh hour. This is a bipartisan message that we must keep the drills out of this national treasure. Time is not on our side here: the Trump administration is in a hurry, so we need to immediately repeal this oil and gas giveaway to ensure that the Arctic Refuge’s coastal plain remains unspoiled for future generations to experience and enjoy.”

“Serving as good stewards of our environment is something each of us are called to regardless of location, background or political ideology. Protecting our nation’s open spaces and wild places unites us as Americans,” said Rep. Fitzpatrick. “I’m proud to stand with my colleagues in support of this bipartisan legislation and urge others to join us in the defense of America’s wilderness.”



# Audubon Supports SEA General Plan Amendment

By Jess Morton

Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) have been a part of the Los Angeles County General Plan for many decades. The SEAs delineate those parts of the county containing important biodiversity resources. The hope was that they would be taken into account as development occurred. However, no mechanism was included in their definition to assure protection, so the SEAs were never more than conceptual entities. The result was case by case legal wrangling that only occasionally resulted in benefits to wildlife. That is about to change as new provisions have been proposed to the County General Plan that would make them a vital part of land use planning.

This chapter has signed on to comments drafted by the Endangered Habitats League advocating for adoption by the County Planning Commission. These state, “Years of thoughtful effort and stakeholder outreach have yielded a sound and important accomplishment. The conversion of ‘Conceptual SEAs’ to official SEAs is a vital improvement.. [to the existing ordinance].”

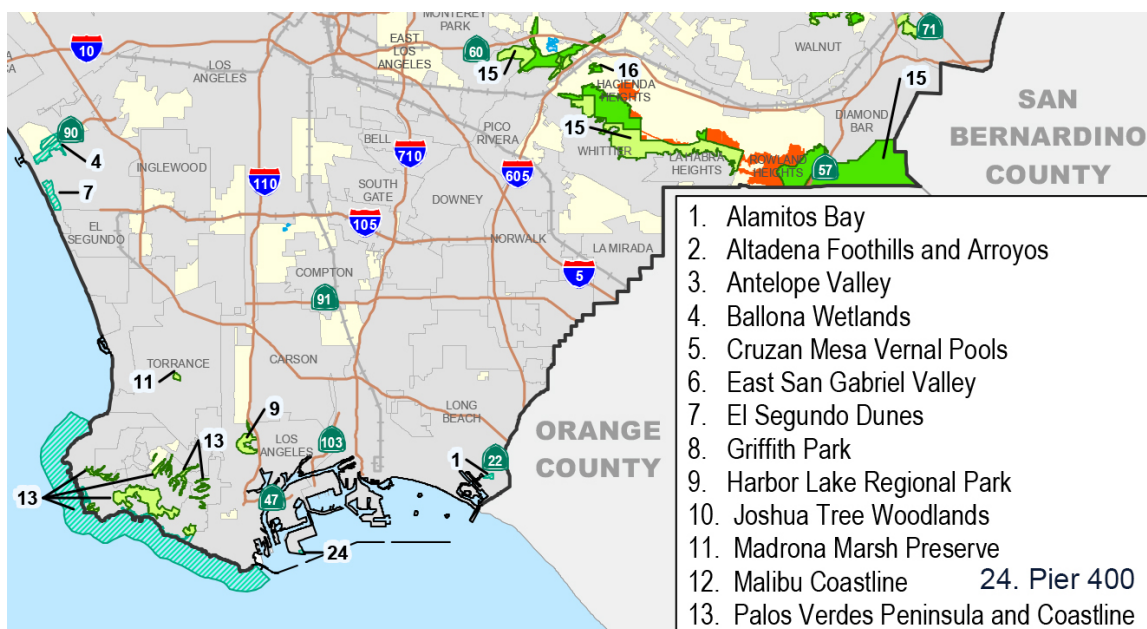
“The essence of what this Ordinance accomplishes is the successful combination of project streamlining with the principles of conservation biology. Indeed, a ministerial process can supersede the need for SEA Conditional Use Permits, which, with their many ambiguities, were the mainstay of the old ordinance. Simplified compliance with the Development Standards now serves as a positive incentive for applicants.”

“Construction of single-family homes on legal lots and

new subdivisions of land will all benefit. Clear, up-front, and biologically based requirements for amount and configuration of natural open space, as well as standardized mitigation ratios, will ensure that the goal of the ordinance—protection of precious SEA resources during development—will actually be met. As noted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, these development standards will also simplify any necessary federal permitting.”

“Staff has wisely put in place a consultative process for the early identification of biological constraints, so that applicants’ time and money is not wasted. And an illustrated Implementation Guide provides detailed guidance for compliance. Finally, we note that prior Commission direction to bring site design considerations into the findings for SEA Conditional Use Permits has resulted in additional improvements to that process.”

“Over the years, numerous changes have led to an Ordinance that gets the “big picture” of resource protection right and also includes many important details, from night lighting to non-reflective glass which will save the lives of birds.”



# BIRDS OF THE PENINSULA

## January/February 2019

by Vincent Lloyd

A big surprise was the pair of **Common Mergansers** that were found at Alondra Park on Feb. 19 by the Tour de Torrance group. Despite the name, it's not common in the South Bay; it has been seen only 3 or 4 times in our area in the last 10 years. Just as surprising was the **Surf Scoter** found at Madrona Marsh by Melissa Loebel on Feb. 22. Although common



Common Merganser pair at Alondra Park Photo by Jonathan Nakai



Surf Scoter at Madrona Marsh

Photo by Melissa Loebel

along the coast, this sea duck is seldom seen inland. The other two scoters are much less common this far south, but Dick Barth found a **Black Scoter** at Dockweiler Beach on Feb. 10 and a pair of **White-wing Scoters** on Feb. 23. Up to six **Black Brants** have been lounging around at Cabrillo Beach. One or two **Redheads** were on the L.A. River at Willow through Jan. 25. A **Snow Goose** was at Madrona Marsh on Jan. 1 (Bobby Trusela) and another was just outside our area at Earvin Magic Johnson Park through Feb. 25 (Javier Vazquez); a **Wood Duck** visited the park on Feb. 20 (RB). **Hooded Mergansers** were seen at Madrona Marsh on Jan. 13 (Tracy Drake), Amie Sump on Feb. 22

(TD), and a pair at Henrietta Sump on Feb. 20 (Bobby Trusela and Jonathan Nakai).

There's no doubt about it, the **Burrowing Owl** is the cutest raptor on Earth. Unlike its near relative, the Little Owl of Europe, which nests in tree holes (like most owls), the Burrowing Owl nests in - you guessed it - burrows. Once a common owl of the Los Angeles basin, lack of suitable habitat has seen it nearly disappear. But nevertheless, John Thomlinson was surprised by one at CSU Dominguez Hills in Carson on February 22. He wonders if this was the same bird he saw on the Christmas Bird Count in 2017. Meanwhile on the fringes of our area, Burrowing Owls have been nesting in the ghost town west of the airport, already important as a last stronghold for the El Segundo Blue Butterfly.

The **American Oystercatcher** continued at Royal Palms Beach in San Pedro through the end of February. A pair of **Wilson's Snipes** were at Entradero Park through Feb. 19 (Charlie Keller), while as many as 14 were seen at a time at Madrona Marsh! Up to 100 **Black Skimmers** livened up Cabrillo Beach in January, while three were seen flying over Hermosa Beach on Feb 10 (Kiersten Lo). The **White-faced Ibis** continued at Harbor Park through Feb 16. A **Virginia Rail** hung out at Henrietta Marsh through Feb. 22.

The Los Angeles River between Willow and P.C.H. continues to be a hot spot. A **White-winged Dove** hung around the area in January, while at the same time up to six **Acorn Woodpeckers** raised a ruckus. Meanwhile, the wintering **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** continued at least thru Jan. 26 and the **Vermilion Flycatcher** thru Feb. 10.

The **Hammond's Flycatcher** was still at Madrona Marsh thru the end of February, while another was seen at South Coast Botanic Garden on Feb. 16 (Mike Miller). At least one **Tropical Kingbird** continued at Entradero Park in Torrance thru Feb. 19; as did the one at Harbor Park thru Jan. 25. A **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was seen at Hemingway Park in Carson, along with a continuing **American Redstart** and a **Black-and-White Warbler**. Another Black-and-white was still at Madrona Marsh thru Feb. 19. The **Palm Warbler** at Entradero Park was seen thru Feb. 1 while others were seen at little Admiral Kidd Park in West Long Beach on Jan. 10 (Elias Zuniga) and at Wilmington Marina on Jan. 13 (SVL).

Two locally threatened **Cactus Wrens** were seen at Alta Vicente Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes on Jan. 28 (BT & JN), at Pt. Vicente on



Tropical Kingbird at Harbor Park

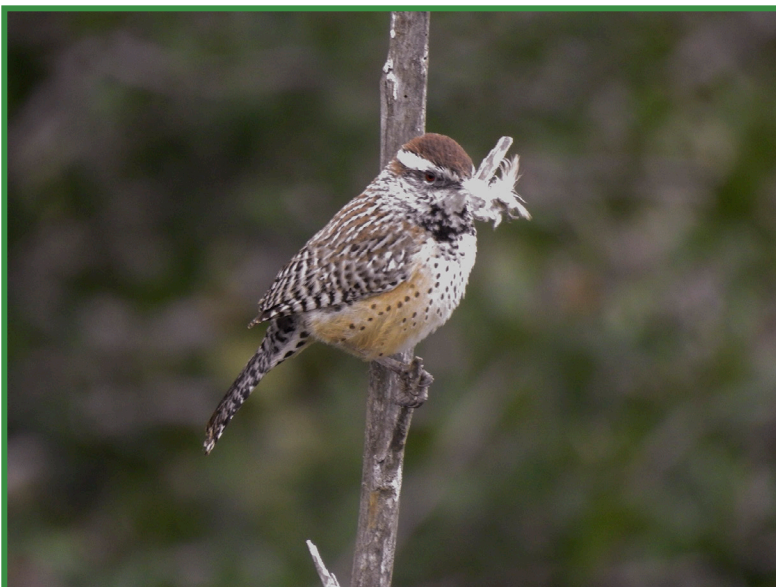
Photo by David Quadhamer

Feb. 24 (Kevin Calhoun) and Filiorum Preserve on Feb. 25 (Randy Harwood).

An exciting find was a pretty **Swamp Sparrow** at Harbor Park on Jan. 22 (BT). Meanwhile, **White-throated Sparrows** continued to winter in a yard in South Torrance thru the end of February, while others were seen in Carson (Feb. 5, SVL) and West Torrance (Feb. 19, Jim Evans). An altogether different kind of sparrow is the **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** which continued at Wilmington Marina. This bird, which no doubt came by boat from Asia, has been seen off and on since May 2017. Yours truly has missed it on two CBCs in a row! Just north of our area, a **Rusty Blackbird** lingered at Jesse Owens Park on West Century Blvd thru Feb. 4.

Corvids don't often make this page, but unquestionably the most spectacular rarity during this period was the **Black-throated Magpie-Jay** seen on Jan. 27 — yet another rarity seen along the L.A. River. This beautiful Mexican bird is no doubt an escapee. But it's still a beauty!

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 stephen-vincentlloyd@gmail.com.



Cactus Wren at Alta Vicente

Photo by Jonathan Nakai

## *Swan Lake*

How old were you then, in our afternoon sunshine,  
 Eight, or perhaps ten? Excited as the swan-white clouds,  
 Moving swift above the lake, and the wave of greedy birds  
 Shifting across the sunlight-bright picnic lawns  
 Near the boathouse pitched within the wooded grove.

The small lake in the city park was not remarkable  
 Except for its being there in the sunny noonday light.  
 The ranked baldcypress on the islands dripped filigree  
 Leaves to the water, like hemlock forests crowding shores  
 Of ancient seas, when the northmen first set sail.

The strutting blackbirds clacked to one another,  
 Stalked scraps of sandwich in the crisp new grass,  
 And scattered into trees as we walked among them.  
 Their puffed black forms stirred amid the branches,  
 Eagle-yellow eyes peering at us, harsh-voiced  
 Raucous ornaments for nobody's Christmas.

The bulging peddle boats waited open-mouthed  
 Beside the flimsy walkways of the docks  
 For their next serving of passengers and dreams,  
 Irritated, the mix of ducks moved on to other prospects  
 When we offered no fare for their unselective mouths

We pushed away from the anchoring dock, peddling lazy  
 Into the cozy lake, trailing our fingers in the languid,  
 Absolving waters. Above us, we heard the sharp-toned  
 "whit"  
 Of the yellow-flanked warblers as they leaped after  
 insects,  
 Pirouette elegance wheeling, embracing the afternoon air.

We circled the islands, exploring each inlet,  
 Small rocks lining the shore with rests and roosts  
 For the impassive turtles and white, preening ducks.  
 The long thin limbs of the willows and cypress  
 Shed their failing leaves into the waiting waters  
 And the sun stroked the day with praising fingers.





The discarded red-flecked leaves floated in shadow.  
Lank-necked mallards moved in drifts, clucked and parted  
As we moved among them quietly beside stony islands.  
The turtles, necks stretching to sunlight,  
Painted the rocks with green brushstrokes.

In the quiet resplendence of afternoon sunlight,  
The peacefulness seemed to assemble the universe.  
The lake drained creation of all but itself,  
And time matured into this illuminating instant,  
Consecrating within it the very essence of eternity.

The water took us, overpowering our mundane setting  
With joyous mystery of transformation.  
We knew that this crystalline moment defined  
And fixed an essential axis of our being  
With the promise that its magic would last forever  
In the memories of we two and the sponsoring sunlight.

So, we went down to our sea, stepped the great mast,  
Towering over us, and lifted invisible sail  
To capture eternity's freshening breeze.  
The hardened oak oarlocks creaked steadying rhythms  
As our stalwart sailors pulled hard from the shore.

The waters divided, accepting the fact of our presence  
As you sat enchanted on the warm throne of sunlight.  
The world dropped away and there was only this vessel  
And its princess following swans over great waters.  
The huge canvas of memory bellied, and we set our sail.

How the tree-top eagles screamed fierce farewells  
From the hot crowding forests by the shore.  
Hailed our departure with exultant chorus.  
And the swans rose from the waters before us,  
Long-necked whiteness longing for distant lakes  
And the unknowable spaces beyond all horizon.

From Shorelines, by Jess Morton

(John Nieto continued from page 1)

I have been one of the third grade naturalists for twenty years and worked with John in that capacity during many of those years. When we had meetings, scouted out walks for the students or worked on teaching materials, he was always receptive of new ideas and dedicated to giving the students the very best experience they could possibly have.

Above all, John was very reliable and ALWAYS on time. Waiting for John just did not exist. He appreciated and cherished his volunteers very much and did not want to waste anybody's time by having to wait for him. That is a rare quality, which made working with John such a pleasure, especially for a Swiss national like me, who has punctuality embedded in her DNA.

John had a zest for life and what it could offer. He loved to visit the Gray Whales at San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja California. I was privileged to be on two of his whale watching trips. Seeing John touch or kiss a whale was pure magic. Joy and happiness emanated from every pore of his being.

John also loved birds. He was an active member of PV/SB Audubon for many years, serving on its board for most of them. When we needed a new president, John stepped up and took the reins from 2009-2012. His organizational skills helped revitalize our chapter and focus on educational aspects like the Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Stewards) Program. This program was dear to John's heart, because it brings students' energies and idealism to bear on environmental needs of the local community, as well as the Earth as a whole. It was during John's presidency that the YES! Program really took off and became a guide for other Audubon chapters as well.

John was an inspiration to all. He challenged many of us to become volunteers and give of ourselves for the common good. For John, it was never about himself, but about the people, often children, whose lives he touched. The very best reward for him was the joy of a happy child whose curiosity he had ignited. John will be thoroughly missed and memories of him will be treasured forever.

## This Unknown Peninsula Fleacatcher

by Jess Morton

By the middle of March, spring migration is well under way. Large numbers of ducks, hummingbirds and swallows have already passed through on their way to distant nesting grounds. The brilliant hues of recently arrived orioles flash in the sun as their bearers begin defense of summer territories.

Then, as April nears, avid birders keenly anticipate the coming rainbow of migrants. Ah, for the rich days of spring when avian diversity reaches its maximum. Birds of every shape, habit and color pattern crowd trees and shrubbery as their flocks cross our sea-hugging peninsula. Among these is our smallest and most peculiar bird, the Fleacatcher.

Birds are often named for behavior. Thus flycatchers make a living by chasing after flying insects, capturing them on the wing. They are mid-sized birds, each with its own method of flycatching; specializing in some group of insects or hunting location. Gnatcatchers are smaller birds, and thus seek out smaller fare, gleaning it from brush and other vegetation. The Fleacatcher is smaller still, and is undoubtedly the most highly specialized of all these birds. That may account for the fact that the

Fleacatcher is the lone species in its family.

The Fleacatcher, as its name implies, feeds on tiny insects which infest fur bearing creatures. However, it is quite unlike the many Old World birds which depend on similar food. Those, like the Oxpecker, spend much of their time on the host animal itself, harvesting their insect prey directly from the skin of the afflicted beast. The Fleacatcher uses an entirely different strategy; stalking the fleas where they lurk, as they wait for their next meal to pass by.

Now this might seem a difficult task, but the Fleacatcher has evolved a number of special adaptations that allow it to exploit this resource, including heavily feathered legs, large toes and a quick tiny bill. Since ground motion is the signal which sets many kinds of flea to jumping, the Fleacatcher uses its big feet for stomping on the ground, thus simulating a much larger creature. When the flea jumps, the fleacatcher seizes it in midair. Even if the bird misses, the flea has given away its position and is doomed. The Fleacatcher is a determined hunter with keen eyes.

The adaptation which sets the Fleacatcher apart from all other birds, though, is that of its iridescent leg feathers. Like the throat feathers of a

hummingbird, the leg feathers of the Fleacatcher are built to refract light. Thus, even though the feathers themselves lack pigment, they shine brilliantly in sunlight because particular colors of light are reinforced and strengthened by internal reflections.

While the hummingbird uses its iridescence in territorial matters, the Fleacatcher uses its iridescence to hunt. Many small insects are attracted to their prey by the heat it gives off. However, this heat is sensed as infrared radiation, a form of light quite invisible to you and me. The Fleacatcher has taken advantage of this insect behavior. The bird's leg feathers, instead of refracting visible light, shine in the infrared, and at just the right wavelength to simulate a large animal. Thus, by pretending to be what it isn't, the Fleacatcher garners its meal. But, as they say, there's no free lunch. Snakes also are attracted by infrared radiation.

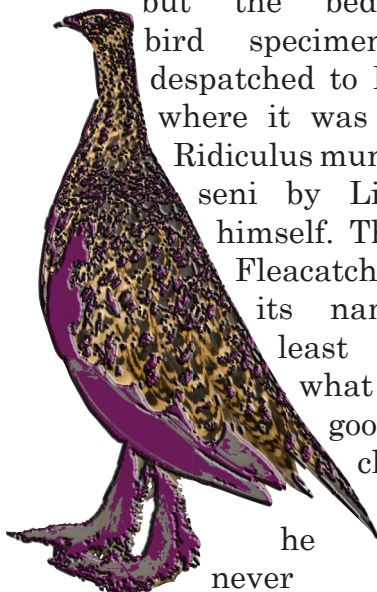
Consequently, when the Fleacatcher settles to rest, the flexing of its leg flips the specialized feathers inward so that they



no longer act as infrared beacons.

The Fleacatcher is rarely seen. Its migration period is extremely limited, and its foraging grounds are poorly known. The bird was discovered by a well-known European explorer/adventurer in the mid eighteenth century. He was travelling across an uninhabited part of the North American arctic when he happened into an area particularly rich in fleas and other pestiferous insects—evidently the Fleacatcher’s preferred domain.

He found himself the focus of decidedly unwanted attention as the overjoyed bugs welcomed him to their home. He was as always, however, armed for combat, and lay about him ferociously. In his diary, he noted that in the ensuing melee, a small bird unwisely decided to go for a flea that had just jumped. The variety of flea involved has never been determined,



but the bedraggled bird specimen was despatched to Europe, where it was named *Ridiculus munchhauseni* by Linnaeus himself. Thus the Fleacatcher got its name, at least that’s what the good baron claimed, though he never noted

for his veracity. Doubts persist about the facts surrounding this episode, and the type specimen itself has disappeared.

As I said above, the migration period for the Fleacatcher is short, and the entire population can be expected to move across the PV/South Bay region April First. So keep a sharp watch out. And please let eBird know what you see, as yours would be the first online record of the species.



Above: Typical pray item. *Photo by Mark Fox*

Below: Only known image of a Fleacatcher, here in typical Arctic habitat, according to its discoverer. *Aquatint by HKF von Münchhausen*



Palos Verdes / South Bay Audubon  
announces the second annual  
Photo Contest and Photo Show

Photo Show is Scheduled for July 8th to August 19th, 2019  
at the Palos Verdes Malaga Cove Library Art Gallery

Reception will be held on July 13th between 1pm and 5pm

Request for entries: We will now start accepting entries from California resident photographers who have captured images of California birds. Photographers can submit up to ten images. A tax-deductible entry fee of \$25 for up to ten images should be made at the donate button on our website: [www.pvsb-audubon.org](http://www.pvsb-audubon.org)  
The deadline for submission of your images is May 1, 2019.  
The images should be 72dpi and around 1000 pixels on the longest side and they should be e-mailed to [paul@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:paul@pvsb-audubon.org)  
Please label the images as...  
lastname\_imageName\_jpg

Selection of images: You will be informed of the selection of images on May 15th. If your image is selected you will be required to submit a 200 dpi 17 x 22 inch image file to [paul@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:paul@pvsb-audubon.org) no later than May 30th. We will print your image on metallic glossy paper and mount it on foamboard for hanging at the art show.  
You will be required to submit \$25 to cover printing and mounting cost. The payment shall be paid via PayPal at [paul@office-art.com](mailto:paul@office-art.com). Thank you and look forward to seeing your bird images.

Any questions please contact me at :  
[paul@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:paul@pvsb-audubon.org)

A few images from last years photo show:



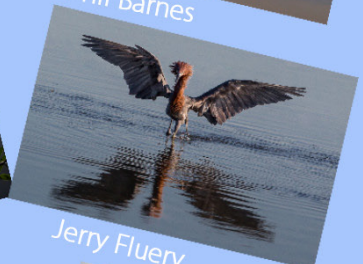
Karen Schuenemann



Phil Barnes



Joyce Cardwell



Jerry Fluery



Krisztina Scheeff



Beverly Gates

Photo Show location:

Malaga Cove Library  
Art Gallery  
2400 Vía Campesina,  
Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

## Madrona Marsh Audubon Bird Walk

By Paul Blieden

An early morning bird walk takes place every fourth Saturday at Madrona Marsh. Interested individuals meet at the nature center where the bird walk leader takes them on a rewarding two hour stroll around the marsh. On the delightful walk I joined last February, we counted 58 bird species and saw 397 individual birds on the marsh and around the nature center!!

Dinuk Magamma was our bird walk leader. He has been a staff member at the Madrona Marsh for over ten years. He did a wonderful job providing us various facts about each bird we saw. There were 18 of us all together, with several birders visiting from as far away as South Carolina. It was fascinating hearing their comments on both how different and how similar our birds are to those on the east coast.

Dinuk was able to point out birds that we might not have noticed on a normal walk. The bird walk is recommended for anyone interested in the marsh or birds and the environment. An enlightening morning was had by everyone. We even heard about the unusual crayfish that live in the marsh. A couple of years ago a count was taken in which several hundred crayfish were counted. It is an interesting fact that the crayfish hibernate by burrowing eight feet under the ground and then come out in spring to feed and lay eggs. Fun facts during a fact filled bird walk.



Wilson's Snipe in a favorite habitat Photo by Jess Morton

A few birds of note...unusual were sightings of a Hammond's Flycatcher and a Wilson's Snipe. The most abundant birds were 42 White-crowned Sparrows, 32 American Wigeon and 30 American Goldfinches.

A wonderful morning of birding and a recommended event for both beginner and experienced birders. Bring the kids and/or grandchildren!

So get your binoculars cleaned up and join us at 8:30 am at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center on the fourth Saturday of every month. For more information please call 310-782-3989. The Madrona Marsh Nature Center is located at 3201 Plaza del Amo in Torrance.



Crayfish on the move.

Photo by Jess Morton

### Chapter Support

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Your donation is tax-deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

## Chapter Calendar

### EVENTS

**Tuesday, Apr. 16, 5:30 p.m.:** PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

**Tuesday, Apr. 16, 7 p.m.:** Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker for the night will be Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, presenting a program



called “Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

**Tuesday, May 21, 7 p.m.:** Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker for the night will be Rob Hamilton, presenting “Birds of Colorado Lagoon”. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

### FIELD TRIPS

**Tuesday, Apr. 2, 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, Apr. 3:** Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com) and click on Birding with Bob.

**Friday-Saturday, Apr. 5-6, 8:30 a.m.:** Fieldtrip to Carrizo Plain for Birds’n Bloom with Eric and Ann

Brooks. For details, e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.

**Sunday Apr. 7, 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, Apr. 9, 8:30 a.m.:** “Tour de Torrance.” See Apr. 2 for details.

**Wednesday, Apr. 10, 8 a.m.:** Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Saturday, Apr. 13, 9 a.m.:** PVPLC Natural History Walk to Linden H. Chandler Preserve. Experience this impressively restored 28-acre nature preserve with its lush oasis of riparian habitat and home to the rare Palos Verdes Blue butterfly. Moderate. For details, visit [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

**Saturday, Apr. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.:** Los Serenos de Point Vicente Whale of Day (at PVIC). Fun, food, entertainment, education. On the grounds of PVIC. Bring the family and friends. FREE. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm).

**Sunday, Apr. 14, 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 nominal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

**Tuesday, Apr. 16, 8:30 a.m.:** “Tour de Torrance.” See Apr. 2 for details.

**Saturday, Apr. 20, 8 a.m.:** Fieldtrip to Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area with LA Audubon and Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.

**Sunday, Apr. 21, 8 a.m.:** Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com).

**Tuesday, Apr. 23, 8:30 a.m.:** “Tour de Torrance.” See Apr. 2 for details.

**Friday-Sunday, Apr. 26-28, 12:30 p.m.:** Annual Fieldtrip to Whitewater Preserve, Salton Sea, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve and other desert spots

with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.

**Saturday, Apr. 27, 8:30-10:30 a.m.:** Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magamma. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Tuesday, Apr. 30, 8:30 a.m.:** "Tour de Torrance." See Apr. 2 for details.

**Wednesday, May 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](http://www.torrance.wbu.com) and click on Birding with Bob.

**Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m.:** Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Ocean Trails Reserve. Walk through coastal sage habitat along the eastern bluff of the Reserve. Enjoy coastal views, see WWII sites and possible gray whale sightings. Moderate. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm).

**Sunday May 5, 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.:** Bird Walk through Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. See Apr. 7 for details.

**Sunday May 5, 8 a.m.:** Fieldtrip to Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.

**Tuesday, May 7, 8:30 a.m.:** "Tour de Torrance." See Apr. 2 for details.

**Wednesday, May 8, 8 a.m.:** Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. Apr. 10 for details.

**Sunday, May 12, 8 a.m.:** Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Apr. 14 for details.

**Tuesday, May 14, 8:30 a.m.:** "Tour de Torrance." See Apr. 2 for details.

**Sunday, May 19, 8 a.m.:** Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com).

**Sunday, May 19, 4 p.m.:** Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to McBride Trail. Enjoy this easy walk along the McBride trail, featuring spectacular panoramic views of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Catalina Island. Learn about the native coastal sage scrub habitat

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](mailto:pblieden@yahoo.com)  
 Ann Dalkey  
 Treasurer: Jess Morton, [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org)  
 Secretary: Vincent Lloyd, [svlloyd@elcamino.edu](mailto:svlloyd@elcamino.edu)  
 Directors: Paul Blieden, Tracy Drake,

#### Committees:

Calendar: Evi Meyer, [evimeyer@cox.net](mailto:evimeyer@cox.net)  
 Christmas Bird Count and  
 Field Trips: Ann and Eric Brooks, [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com)  
 Hospitality: Alene Gardner,  
[alene.gardner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alene.gardner@sbcglobal.net)  
 Hummin': Jess Morton, [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org)  
 Mailing List: Bob Shanman, [wildbirdbob@gmail.com](mailto:wildbirdbob@gmail.com)  
 Programs: Jan Gardner, [janet.gardner800@gmail.com](mailto:janet.gardner800@gmail.com)  
 Bob Carr, Candy Groat  
 Snowy Plover Tommye Hite [tommyehite@hotmail.com](mailto:tommyehite@hotmail.com)  
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 YES: David Quadhamer  
[dquadhamer@yahoo.com](mailto:dquadhamer@yahoo.com)  
 Photos by the author unless stated otherwise.

along with a lesson on the rich history of the Palos Verdes area. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm).

**Tuesday, May 21, 8:30 a.m.:** "Tour de Torrance." See Apr. 2 for details.

**Saturday, May 25, 8:30-10:30 a.m.:** Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Dinuk Magamma. See Apr. 27 for details.

**Tuesday, May 28, 8:30 a.m.:** "Tour de Torrance." See Apr. 2 for details.

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



**April 16th:** Bird guide, naturalist, and photographer, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, presents "Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics," bringing a slice of the tropics to California.

May 21st, Robb Hamilton presents "Birds of Colorado Lagoon." A board member of the Friends of Colorado Lagoon in Long Beach, Robb has been observing, recording and photographing the many kinds of birds that visit the lagoon through the seasons.



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

Time-sensitive  
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## Open Wide!

It's time for our chapter's annual **BIRDATHON**, when birding teams led by Dave and Jess head out around the South Bay and peninsula to see how many kinds of birds can be recorded in a 24-hour period, and, most importantly, raise money for Audubon.

This year, we especially want to replenish the Gambee grant fund so that next year we can award another \$5,000 to worthy bird-related projects like those described by David on pages 3 and 4 in this issue of *Hummin'*. Please give generously, either as a fixed dollar amount or on a per species basis. The total can

run anywhere from 65 with only one or two people out looking, up to 135 species on a "birdy" day when a count has lots of helpers.

Donors to Dave's team can pledge support by emailing him at [dquadhamer@yahoo.com](mailto:dquadhamer@yahoo.com). Jess will continue his tradition of offering contributors digital photos from the day's birding. Donors of 50 cents per species will receive two pictures, and donors of \$1 per species or more will receive five. Donors of \$10 per species will receive a fine print suitable for mounting of their choice from the five pictures of day. To pledge, e-mail your support for Jess's team to [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org).

