



HUMMIN'

www.pvsb-audubon.org

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

October/November 2009 Vol. XXXI No. 5

First L.A. River Rat Recalls Early Shorebirding Days

By Mitch Heindel

The discovery of the Los Angeles River as a place to go shorebirding was relatively recent, and some may enjoy the story of how it occurred. It was in 1981 when a sandpiper revolution hit coastal Southern California (SoCal). First on July 4, an alternate adult Curlew Sandpiper was found at San Elijo Lagoon near Carlsbad. It was a 1-day bird, which I chased and photographed. The species was a bird of my dreams, not something I ever expected to see, much less in SoCal. Maybe there is something to these darn shorebirds, I thought.

Then July 12, David Koepfel and eagle-eyed Ed Navajosky found an alternate plumaged Red-necked Stint at McGrath State Beach in the Santa Clara River estuary. The next day two or three dozen birders whose bosses thought they had come down with something overnight (you couldn't explain stint fever to them) converged on the spot. I was the lucky one to rediscover the bird for all of us on July 13. After an hour or two of nothing, I borrowed a scope and wandered off to check some distant peeps we hadn't been through, and the next thing you know, I am waving to everyone—got photos of it, too!

These two events changed lots of SoCal birders' ideas on what might be found shore-birding on the SoCal coast

locally. They certainly changed mine and gave me an incurable case of shorebird fever. Few were even out looking in July until these two events.

I thought there had to be a place closer than an hour-plus away to go through numbers of shorebirds. I was



Various shorebirds gather at the L.A. River.

selling signs to businesses, sometimes in Long Beach, and while crossing the L.A. River, I noticed shorebirds down in the channel. I first found the access point at Willow Street and went on the bike path walking upriver. Wow, there were bunches of shorebirds!

This was in July 1981. I regularly began riding my 10-speed bicycle down the path with my cheesy scope and tripod bungee-corded to the handlebars. I usually rode down *in* the channel for the most part! I spent many days doing this, in the process finding the Del Amo access.

Back in 1981, most of the channel was dry. Almost all of the water was in

the low-flow channel down the middle. The shorebirds were in areas where the water spilled out of this channel, creating mats of algae and muck. Boy, it looked mmm-mmm good.

Nowadays the water is too deep for peeps in much of the channel as you near the lower end of the river, quite unlike how it was then. They seem to be moving upriver to get to shallower water, where the appropriate habitat now exists.

Anyway, I told Brian Daniels about the place and access, that I was biking it checking it, there were lots of shorebirds there and that something good had to show up. He seemed fairly uninterested and wouldn't even meet me there to look.

After many trips, finally I hit pay dirt with my first find of something reportedly unusual locally: two Stilt Sandpipers. They were nearly unknown in the L.A. Basin at the time. I called Brian and Shum Suffel, whom you better call when you see something good. Shortly after, Brian went and rediscovered them. I am reasonably certain (please correct me if I am wrong) that this was the first published record of a shorebird at the L.A. River in Long Beach. They were in Shum Suffel's "Birds of the Season" column in L.A. Audubon's *Western Tanager* newsletter.

But before that came out, later that fall, while it was still an unknown bird-

See Early Days, Page 4

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Road Traveled and New Paths Ahead



By John Nieto

A sustainable strategic position requires trade-offs. Simply put, a trade-off means that more of one thing necessitates less of another....The essence of strategy is choosing what *not* to do.

(Porter, 1996, pp. 61-78)¹

On August 16 our Chapter's Board of Directors met at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center to strategize, plan and choose which of the many opportunities, projects and good deeds we could attack next year. We started by first acknowledging last year's accomplishments. After all, these accomplishments came about after years of planning sessions and revisiting our goals and talent pool each year.

As this set of accomplishments is quite an impressive list, I would like to share it with you before I present the new and exciting things planned for the upcoming year:

- **Blue Bird Nest Project:** Four nest boxes were installed at Chadwick School and 10 at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP). The nests were monitored and project leaders Dan Lee and Nancy Feagans will present the extraordinary results at our November 17 general membership meeting. They will discuss the best distance to keep between nest boxes and who else just might share them.

- **New Chapter Web Site:** Our "go-to" computer expert and board secretary Nancy Feagans has redesigned and maintained this bright new Web site for you to explore, so please visit: www.pvsb-audubon.org.

- **Eleven exciting monthly speakers** continued to educate and entertain us every third Tuesday of the month at our general membership meetings at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. (There is no general membership meeting in August.)

- **The Chapter continues to offer seven to eight quality bird walks per month.** I am sure you can find at least one that fits your experience level and interest if you check out the Calendar in this newsletter.

- **Chapter volunteers monitored and assisted with surveys of the Coastal Cactus Wren and a bird species count of movement** through the Three Sisters Nature Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. Ron Melin led active monitoring of the Snowy Plovers along South Bay beaches.

- **Audubon Chapter Conservation Awards:** Chapter founder and science educator Bob Carr earned the 2009

Conservation Education Award, and conservation activist Dency Nelson received the Chapter's 2009 Conservation Award. Dinuk Magammara was awarded the Youth Conservation Award and 25 YES! Awards were presented to the area's young environmental volunteers.

- **Christmas Bird Count:** This event raised awareness of the many wintering bird species around the Peninsula, South Bay and Harbor areas. One dozen teams found 158 species of birds.

- **Green Birdathon:** Martin Byhower led a hardy group of Birders on a bicycle ride around the greater South Bay looking and listening for as many birds as could be found (110 species total). Look for a professional video of their adventure at one of our general meetings. Please give them encouragement by sponsoring their team or another of the three Chapter teams.

- **July Butterfly Count:** Four teams from our Chapter improved last year's effort. They found 1,370 individual butterflies comprising 35 species!

- **Bixby Marsh:** Chapter leader Jess Morton helped PV/South Bay Audubon partner with the L.A. County Sanitation District to lead monthly tours at the newly restored wetland every first Saturday of the month starting at 8 a.m.

- **Newsletter Editor Transition:** We have had the pleasure of working with very talented editors in the past, and our new editor is no exception. Michelle Fisher came aboard for the June/July edition of our *Hummin'* newsletter, taking the reins from Chris Boyd without missing a beat. Board members have described this transition as "seamless."

- **E-newsletter:** The general membership has been encouraged to help us produce less paper waste by signing up for an e-mail-delivered version of *Hummin'* with color photos in every issue! Those of us who can't do without a hard copy can still receive one via snail mail.

Regarding the Strategic Plan for next year, the Board of Directors has decided to continue the same successful operations established in the past year and to add a few new goals to the mix. We will:

- (1) work with our newly hired YES! volunteer coordinator, Marcos Trinidad, in recruiting new school-age conservation volunteers from our area's inner-city schools;
- (2) activate a Science Advisory Committee made up of board members and area residents as projects require;
- (3) initiate workshops where members can learn birding

See *New Paths*, Page 3

Conservation Corner

Stand Up for Sea Change at Day of Climate Action



By Lillian Light

This October each one of us will have an opportunity to act to save our planet from a climate catastrophe. In December, the nations of the world will be meeting in Copenhagen to craft a new global treaty on cutting carbon emissions. If that meeting were held now, it would produce a treaty that just might lead to a collapse of human civilization across the planet by 2050. A paper by the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research found that President Obama's proposal to cut greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 would result in 4 to 5 degree of warming by that date and likely cause an irreversible global warming crisis. The U.S. government and others need pressure from the people to initiate effective action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 350 parts per million, the level that scientists have identified as the safe upper limit.

Bill McKibben has designated October 24 the International Day of Climate Action to send a message to the world's leaders that the new global treaty must reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the 350 level. To date, nearly 1,100 actions in more than 100 countries have been registered at www.350.org. One such event will take place here in the South Bay, and organizers invite you to participate. With your help, we can make this a massive outpouring that will send a message on the importance of a strong and effective global climate treaty.

Our South Bay Climate Action Group plans to form the Amazing Human Tideline Saturday, October 24, starting at the Manhattan Beach Pier and extending south into Hermosa Beach. This line will represent in real terms where sea levels will rise due to increasing global temperatures. Everyone is urged to attend a 3 p.m. rally at the Manhattan Beach Pier before the human tide line is put in place at 3:50 p.m. Signs demonstrating our support for a 350 standard at the Copenhagen conference will be provided.

Mr. McKibben said this about the current threat:

But carbon dioxide is not like traditional pollution. There's no Clean Air Act that can solve it. We must make a fundamental transformation in the most important part of our economies, shifting away from fossil fuels and on to something else.... And because every country on earth will have to coordinate, it's far and away the biggest foreign policy issue we face. (You were thinking terrorism? It's hard to figure out a scenario in which Osama bin Laden destroys Western civilization. It's easy to figure out how it happens with a rising sea level and a

wrecked hydrological cycle.)

Everything that we do now matters! We cannot put it off any longer. Climate scientists have determined that the safe level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is 350 parts per million. Since we are now at 389ppm, the impacts of global warming are already being felt. Among these are melting ice caps, more severe storms, sea level rise and flooding, drought, more forest loss due to fire, disease migration into new regions and the loss of fisheries and coral reefs due to the rising ocean temperature. Unless emissions are curbed, there will be centuries of warming and rising seas that will threaten ecosystems, water supplies and human survival, from the poles to the equator.

What can we do? We must create and support an energy revolution using solar, wind and other sources of renewable energy. We need to eliminate the use of highly polluting coal. We need more fuel-efficient vehicles and access to sustainable alternative fuels. Energy-efficient buildings must be constructed and retrofitted. More and better public transport will be needed as well. All of these goals can be achieved with public support.

To participate or to assist with the event, go to www.350.org/southbay350, or contact Joe Galliani (mrjoe@mrjoe.com; 310-373-7892), Kathleen Jacecko (310-372-7484) or Amy Willinger (310-802-0450).

New Paths, from Page 2

techniques, bird photography and working with those bird photos you have taken already;

(4) redesign our Chapter logo for use on the newsletter masthead, promotional materials, T-shirts and caps; and

(5) assemble bird guides and bird lists of the micro regions here in the Peninsula, South Bay and Harbor areas.

If any of our new or ongoing projects interests you, please give the committee chairperson a call or contact me at johnnieto@audubon.org or 310-544-2714. Last, I would like to thank our board members for giving up their Sunday and putting together a plan for us to serve our membership the best of birding, conservation issues, activities and environmental education opportunities. Also, I want to thank Tracy Drake and her staff at Madrona Marsh and the City of Torrance for allowing the Chapter to use the facilities. They have shown us nothing but kindness and have been very professional.

1. Porter, M. E. (1996, November-December). What is strategy? *Harvard Business Review*, pp. 61-78.

Trinidad Joins Audubon YES! as Volunteer Coordinator

By Jess Morton

Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service), now beginning its 16th year, is expanding its role in the community with the addition of Marcos Trinidad as volunteer coordinator. In the coming school year, Marcos will concentrate on developing YES! participation from schools in Wilmington, Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood and Lawndale. Ideally, YES! student volunteer efforts will finally achieve uniformity across the geographical range of our chapter.

Marcos has an abiding passion for environmental improvement in all fields. Forestry is high on his list, ranging from the urban forestry of Northeast Trees, where he has taught and worked with at-risk youth, to the big trees of the Tongass, working with water-quality monitoring and wildlife management. Marcos also volunteers with the L.A. County Natural History Museum, working on fossils; the Friends of the Los



Marcos Trinidad said yes to YES!

Angeles River (FOLAR), monitoring water quality; the California Mediterranean Research Learning Center, collecting data related to habitat restoration; and Haven House, a domestic violence shelter. This cross-disciplinary experience, combined with a naturally sunny approach to life, makes Marcos an ideal addition to our chapter's staff.

Each month, Audubon YES! publishes an activities calendar with dozens of volunteer opportunities. YES! participants may take part in as many as they like, but all work toward the eventual acquisition of 100 YES! credits, which will earn them the Audubon YES! Award. So far about 300 of these awards have been bestowed on area youth. This year, we aim to add 50 young people to this list of awardees—half from the schools Marcos will be shepherding.

To see what these young people are accomplishing, please visit www.audubonyes.org and the calendar on our Web site: <http://www.pvsb-audubon.org/YESCalendar.html>.

Early Days, from Page 1

ing site to the public, Brian and I were at Deep Springs and ran into Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn. When we were talking, it came up that fall had been an amazing shorebird season. After recounting the rarities, either Jon or Kimball lamented, "It's too bad we don't have any place for it in L.A." I replied, "We do!" Shocked, they said, "Where?" and I said, "The L.A. River!"

Do you recall that TV commercial for hot sauce with cowboys around a campfire, and one asks where the hot sauce is from and another says, "New York City," then three cowboys exclaim in unison, "New York City?!?" So, when I said, "The L.A. River!" Kimball and Jon replied in perfect synchronicity, "The L.A. River?!?" exactly like the cowboys had said their piece in the TV commercial. I might as well have said "the Angeles Crest Highway" for their reaction.

I said yes, that the L.A. River is

full of shorebirds from Willow to Del Amo, and you can use the bike path, then explained what I was doing there. One of them asked if I had seen anything good. I replied that I'd seen two Stilt Sandpipers. Jon looked at Brian and said, "Someone should go check that out," and Brian replied, "I did," so Jon asked, "What did you see?" Brian said, "Two Stilt Sandpipers." The cat was out of the bag.

I continued birding it that fall but didn't find anything else unusual—mostly the thousands of Western and Least Sandpipers—but that was enough for me. I didn't have to drive an hour-plus for a peep show now.

I left L.A. the summer of 1982, so I didn't get back into it there for nearly a decade after that first fall of 1981 when I discovered the place. But that small start was enough to get others to go look and cover it. The rest is history. I understand Brian adopted it as his spot for a while, and over the years many others have become involved in shore-birding at this last stand for wader habitat in the area.

Far better birds than I've ever seen have been found since, with all the attention and coverage, but best of all must be Kevin Larson's Little Stint. How exciting to see in fall 2009 the Hudsonian Godwit and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper, which are again real eye-openers, and show the site's magnetic shorebird attraction, as the only spot around for them to feed and rest.

Rather ironic since the L.A. River delta and estuary, now L.A./L.B. harbors, comprised square miles of mudflats and islands, just a hundred years ago. Now shorebirds have L.A.'s version of a river—concrete, of course—left to use. But it is geographically so critical, in a sea of cement where there is little other place to go, the tired and weary migrants obviously need it and use it to a tremendous degree.

I personally enjoy seeing all the great reports from the site, especially every Stilt Sandpiper of course, since that was the first thing I found that encouraged others to go birding there.

Keep up the good work, L.A. River rats!

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

California Aster
Aster (Symphyotrichum) chilensis

Fall can be a challenging time in the habitat garden. Many plants, particularly the native species, have completed their flowering and are becoming dormant. Nonnative flowering plants often don't provide the nutritious food needed by fall-feeding birds and native pollinators. The trick is to provide good nectar and seeds while adding a little color to the garden. California Aster—*Aster chilensis*—



can provide an important “season bridger” between summer- and winter-blooming plants.

California Aster, as seen in the photograph, is a member of the Sunflower family (*Asteraceae*). This family supplies some of our more important habitat plants. Their long blooming season, abundant flowers and plentiful nectar provide food for a variety of insect pollinators. Later in the season, seed-eating birds and small mammals relish the tasty and nutritious seeds. In addition, the shrubby habit of the shrub and perennial “sunflowers” provides cover for ground dwellers.

California Aster is native to coastal areas and coastal marshes of central and northern California. In the wild, it often grows in disturbed, moist places. In the garden, California Aster is a somewhat shrubby perennial that dies back to the ground in late fall or winter. Standing 2 to 4

feet tall, the plant makes a perfect addition to a native plant garden or a more traditional perennial bed. The cultivar ‘Point St. George’ is a more robust, 1- to 2-foot natural variant that works particularly well as a flowering ground cover. *Aster chilensis* spreads via rhizomes and will fill an area with lush foliage and abundant flowers. You should plant it in an area where its spreading habit is desired—or contain it!

California Aster is very tolerant as a garden plant. It takes full sun to part-shade and thrives in just about any soil, sandy to clay. Extremely easy to grow, it is quite drought tolerant but will die back to the ground in late summer or fall. Supply a little extra summer water (let the soil dry out a bit between deep waterings) to extend the blooming season well into fall in our mild growing climate.

The flowers (actually, flower heads) have lavender to pale pink ray flowers (often called petals) and yellow centers. As seen above, the plants are covered with flowers from late spring through fall. This plant is so showy that many people won't recognize it as a California native. But



the butterflies and other insects will know!

Cut the plant back to several inches in late fall or early winter. It will grow back, lush and lovely, in the spring. Plant California Aster this winter and you'll have a lovely “butterfly magnet” next summer.

Those who are interested are invited to learn more about native plant gardening at the “Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden” series held on the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. to noon at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center in Torrance.

Birds of the Peninsula

July and August 2009

By Kevin Larson

A White-eyed Vireo in early July generated much excitement. This late-arriving spring vagrant was only the third record for Los Angeles County. Southbound migrant shorebirds were arriving at the Los Angeles River during July, but below average numbers were reported through early August. By late August, however, very good numbers of the rare-but-regular sandpipers had been found. A Hudsonian Godwit and a Buff-breasted Sandpiper were exceedingly rare visitors to the Los Angeles River during the second half of August.

A good early showing of fall migrant passerines during the last 10 days of July included flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and grosbeaks. Remarkably, rarities such as a Black-and-white Warbler, a Summer Tanager, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak and a few Indigo Buntings occurred before mid-August.

This summer was relatively cool until late August. Onshore flow and frequent marine layer kept temperatures well below normal during the first part of July and much of August. The monsoonal flow in the interior was fairly weak and infrequently affected the coast with midlevel clouds and elevated humidity. Huge wildfires raged in the San Gabriel Mountains during a period of hot, dry weather at the end of August. A significant burn occurred in the Portuguese Bend area of Rancho Palos Verdes 27-28 Aug.

A Brant at the Los Angeles River in Long Beach 30 Jul-9 Aug was a rare summer record (Richard Barth). Single Cattle Egrets were reported along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach on 6 Aug (Karen Gilbert) and at Harbor Park

on 9 Aug (Ed Griffin). The Little Blue Heron found at Del Rey Lagoon on 31 May was last reported on 1 Aug (Regine Snitzer). White-faced Ibis reports along the Los Angeles River included one juvenile 24 Jul-11 Aug (Andrew Lee) and six on 16 Aug (RB).

Solitary Sandpipers made a very good showing; some 13 compiled sightings at the Los Angeles River in Long Beach and Paramount may have



Common Ground-Dove

Photo by Jess Morton

involved up to 9 individuals 7-25 Aug (AL, RB, Jon Fisher, et al.). A **Hudsonian Godwit** photographed along the Los Angeles River in Paramount on 22 Aug was a spectacular find (Steve Sosensky, Bruce and Greg Aird).

Unfortunately, the bird flew off shortly after discovery. The only other record of this species in Los Angeles County involved an adult female at Piute Ponds in Lancaster 9-19 May 1980. Two juvenile Red Knots at the Los Angeles River north of Willow Street 13-18 Aug represent an early record for southern California (RB, KG, Jeff Boyd). A report of seven Red Knots along the river north of the Metro Blue Line crossing on 14 Aug

evidently involved juveniles as well (Mary Freeman, Paul Weers).

Sightings of juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers along the Los Angeles River in Long Beach and Paramount 6-23 Aug involved at least nine individuals (RB, AL, Jon Feenstra, et al.). A very rare adult Baird's Sandpiper was along the Los Angeles River south of Artesia Boulevard on 23 Jul (KG, JB). Compiled sightings of juvenile Baird's Sandpipers at the Los Angeles River in Long Beach and Paramount may have involved up to 15 individuals 11-29 Aug (many observers); a high single-day total of four was recorded on 23 Aug (RB, JF).

An adult Pectoral Sandpiper was a nice find at the Los Angeles River near Rosecrans Avenue on 18 Aug (RB). An early juvenile Pectoral Sandpiper was in the same area 22-23 Aug, followed by four or five more along the river in Long Beach and Paramount 23-31 Aug (RB et al.). The Los Angeles River's first **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** was recorded south of the Artesia Boulevard crossing 25-26 Aug (KG, JB).

A Black Tern at the Los Angeles River near Willow Street on 22 Aug was a rare find (JB). A White-winged Dove was at Madrona Marsh on 19 Aug (Tracy Drake). A **Common Ground-Dove** at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 19 Aug is one of few found locally in recent years (Jess Morton). Up to two **Chimney Swifts** were along the Los Angeles River at the Dominguez Gap Wetland south of Del Amo Boulevard 24 Jul-18 Aug (AL); one was present in this area 17 Jul-23 Aug last year. A Costa's Hummingbird in residential Westchester on 18 Aug was the only report (Russell Stone). A few Nuttall's Woodpecker

See Peninsula Birds, Page 7

Peninsula Birds, from Page 6

sightings in Westchester during August apparently represent a dispersal of birds breeding outside of our area (KL, RS). Their occurrence is somewhat regular along the northern tier of this article's coverage area. They are rarely recorded on or near the Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Adult Say's Phoebes with fledglings along the bluffs of Playa del Rey near the Ballona Freshwater Marsh (Don Sterba, Jonathan Coffin) and in San Pedro at Angel's Gate Park (David Ellsworth) in early July were evidently local breeders. A Loggerhead Shrike in the Ballona area on 14 Jul coincided with past records of early migrants; it was still present on 16 Aug (JC). Another Loggerhead Shrike was at Madrona Marsh on 27 Aug (TD).

A **White-eyed Vireo** at DeForest Park in Long Beach 2–4 Jul constitutes the third record for Los Angeles County (KG, JB); preceding county records are: 24–27 May 1981 Malibu Lagoon and 25 May 1992 Banning Park, Wilmington. Single Bell's Vireos at DeForest Park on 6 Aug, at the Dominguez Gap Wetland on 6 Aug, and along the Los Angeles River south of Willow Street on 13 Aug were on the move (KG, JB).

I received late word that a pair of Western Bluebirds nested in John and Joanne Koval's backyard in Hawthorne earlier this year (fide Bob Shanman). Single Lucy's Warblers were along the L.A. River south of the Willow Street crossing on 23 July and south of Del Amo Boulevard on 18 Aug (KG, JB).

A Black-and-white Warbler at Madrona Marsh 5–30 Aug is our earliest fall record (TD). An adult male American Redstart was in Cathy Nichols' Rolling Hills yard at the end of August. A Summer Tanager photographed by Tracy Drake at Madrona Marsh 6–19 Aug was astonishingly early. Single Lark Sparrows at Madrona Marsh on 22 Jul (TD) and in Westchester on 31 Jul (KL) were on the move. Sightings of a juvenile Dark-eyed

Junco in Westchester on 10 Jul (KL), along with a few juveniles in the Baldwin Hills area about the same time, suggest breeding in the Los Angeles Basin. Up to four Dark-eyed Juncos in the Highridge Park area in Rolling Hills Estates 25 May–30 Jul were very near where breeding was confirmed in 2006 (Sally Moite).

Bob Shanman informed me of a report of a well-described adult male Rose-breasted Grosbeak seen by Diane and Craig Welday along the trails below the end of Crenshaw Boulevard the last week of July. This individual may have been a summer wanderer.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak sighting more likely to be categorized as a very early fall record involved an adult male at DeForest Park on 13 Aug (KG, JB). Up to three Indigo Buntings were at Madrona Marsh 31 Jul–30 Aug (Ron Melin, TD). Two Tricolored Blackbirds in the parking lot of an El Segundo supermarket on 23 Jul were evidently migrants (Carol Selvey). A Yellow-headed Blackbird along the L.A. River south of Artesia Boulevard on 18 Aug was the only report (KG).

Selecting here are notably early fall migrant dates in 2009: juvenile Red Knot—13 Aug, Los Angeles River, Long Beach (RB, KG, JB); juvenile Wilson's Phalarope—20 Jul, Los Angeles River, Paramount (RB); Vaux's Swift—30 Aug, Westchester (KL); Olive-sided Flycatcher—15 Aug, Westchester (KL); Pacific-slope Flycatcher—1 Aug, Westchester (KL); Warbling Vireo—31 Jul, Westchester (KL); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—4 Aug, Madrona Marsh (TD); Nashville Warbler—8 Aug, Madrona Marsh (TD); Yellow Warbler—23 Jul, Dominguez Gap Wetland (KG); Wilson's Warbler—29 Jul, Westchester (KL); Black-headed Grosbeak—23 Jul, Dominguez Gap Wetland (KG).

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at cbirdr@ca.rr.com for

the Palos Verdes/South Bay and vicinity, including areas east to the L.A. River, north to about the 105 freeway, and up the coast to Marina del Rey.

Help Needed

Your Board of Directors need help and hope some members will step up and get involved. Specifically, there are three committee jobs that need to be filled to enable the Chapter to be its very best.

First, we have a need for a two-person team to work, set up and man our **Outreach** table at local festivals and fairs. If the Chapter is asked to attend such an event, then reservations are made and it's added to our Outreach Calendar of Events. The needed brochures, books and other bird- and environment-themed material would be on hand. On the day of the event, the team would arrive at the required time to register and set up the booth, including materials. This may require up to 10 hours per month.

Program Coordinator is the next open spot. This person would coordinate and schedule the monthly speaker. How is this done? Where do the names of speakers come from? The job is not difficult to do. The California Audubon Society maintains a list of speakers who travel to various chapters to give talks. Members sometimes suggest someone. Another technique is to e-mail the program leaders of another local chapter. This job is done almost entirely on the computer and should take about 4 hours per month.

Publicity Coordinator is last but not least. This person would make sure that our field trips and other Chapter activities are announced in the local newspapers. The local media is familiar with such requests and have a format they use. This person needs to use the computer and telephone about 6 hours per month. Please consider helping us out, and remember, these jobs can be divided among several to lessen the burden.

MEET, LEARN, ENJOY, RESTORE

Calendar

Events

Saturday, October 3, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.:

Bixby Marshland. Open to the public, the Bixby Marshland, a 17-acre property restored by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, is located on Figueroa Street, just south of Sepulveda. For more information and special appointments, visit www.lacsd.org/ or e-mail rsoni@lacsd.org.

Sunday, October 4, 4 p.m.: 'An Evening of Classical Music' benefit.

Chadwick School classical musicians and Richard Babcock will be joined by special guest artist Benjamin Oren at this benefit for habitat and wildlife restoration projects sponsored by Chadwick's E-Community and the PV/SB Audubon Society. The suggested donation is \$50. RSVP to gef-bobef@yahoo.com or 310-541-1406.

Wednesday, October 7, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks birding class at the South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class starts at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. Class fees for 8 classes are \$36 for SCBGF members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Wednesday, October 7, 7 p.m.: Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend.

Thursday, October 8, 8:30–10:30 a.m. Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), our chapter will be monitoring the bird population on the Three Sisters habitat restoration site as a long-term project (see Ann Dalkey's article in the August/September issue of *Hummin'*). Volunteers are needed. They will be trained in identification and survey methods. If you would like to

participate in this important project, contact Ann at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, October 10, 9–11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others, the cleanup and restoration of the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP) offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Bring water, a snack, sun/bug repellent and work gloves. KMHRP is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. For more information, call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Wednesday, October 14, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks birding class at the South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 7 for details.

Saturday, October 17, 8:30–10:30 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Oct. 8 for details.

Tuesday, October 20, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Laurie Sozogas, who will discuss birds of the South Bay. Come to Madrona Marsh and meet with friends, enjoy a bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Wednesday, October 21, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks birding class at the South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 7 for details.

Saturday, October 24, 3:00 p.m.: International Day of Climate Action. The South Bay Climate Action Group will organize a "human tide line" along the beach between Manhattan and

October						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Hermosa piers to show the impact of sea level rise from climate change in our area. See the related story on page 3. Visit: sb350.pbworks.com or contact Joe Galliani (mrjoe@mrjoe.com or 310-373-7892).

Wednesday, October 28, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks birding class at the South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 7 for details.

Saturday, November 7, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland. See Oct. 3 for details.

Thursday, November 12, 7:45–9:45 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Oct. 8 for details.

Saturday, November 14, 9–11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. See Oct. 10 for details.

Tuesday, November 17, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Nancy Feagans, who will discuss the KMHRP Blue Bird project. See Oct. 20 for details.

Saturday, November 21, 8:00–10:00 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Oct. 8 for details.

Field Trips

Sunday, October 4, 8 a.m.: Birding field trip with Eric and Ann Brooks to Sycamore Canyon and Oxnard Plain. Meet at the day use area (for a fee) of Sycamore Canyon Campground or park along PCH for free. Visit: www.trails.com/tcatalog_trail.aspx?trailid=HGS259-009.

Sunday, October 4, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden, at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for non-members of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, October 6, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk at Shoreline park. Impressively restored new habitat makes this spectacular blufftop park worth a visit! For this moderate walk, park along PV Drive and 25th Street, just before entering San Pedro. Visit: pvplc.org.

Sunday, October 11, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. The spacious park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway.

Tuesday, October 13, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. See Oct. 6 for details.

Wednesday, October 14, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, October 17, 8 a.m.: LAAS bird walk with Eric and Ann Brooks at Kenneth Hahn SRA. Meet in the first

parking lot on the left side of the kiosk. Entry \$4 per car. Visit: www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=612.

Tuesday, October 20, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. See Oct. 6 for details.

Wednesday, October 21, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 4 for details.

Saturday/Sunday October 24–25, 8 a.m.: Weekend field trip with Eric and Ann Brooks to San Diego. Meet Saturday at Bayside Park in Chula Vista. Visit: www.portofsandiego.org/chula-vista-bayside-park.html.



A Cooper's hawk drags a pigeon into a willow tree at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park.

Photo by Mike Ziegler

Saturday, October 25, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour to Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Walk the switchback trail to the beach on this moderate hike. Learn about geology and fall blooming habitat. Stay to watch the sunset from beautiful Founders Park. For more information, call PVIC at 310-377-5370 or visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Tuesday, October 27, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. See Oct. 6 for details.

Sunday, November 1, 8 a.m.: Birding field trip with Eric and Ann Brooks to upper Newport Bay and Bolsa Chica. Meet at the parking lot of the Muth Interpretive Center at 2301 University Drive in Newport Beach. Visit:

www.ocparks.com/uppernewportbay/.

Sunday, November 1, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 4 for details.

Tuesday, November 3, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. See Oct. 6 for details.

Sunday, November 8, 8 p.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See Oct. 11 for details.

Wednesday, November 11, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Oct. 14 for details.

Saturday, November 14, 1 p.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Bluff Cove. Descend through coastal bluff habitat and learn about local history in one of the most beautiful coves on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Visit: pvplc.org.

Tuesday, November 17, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. See Oct. 6 for details.

Wednesday, November 18, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 4 for details.

Saturday, November 28, 11:30 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Explore the tidepools, which are teeming with fascinating marine life, on this moderate walk. Call 310-377-5370 or visit: www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.



For more information on local events, please visit the Chapter Web site: www.pvsb-audubon.org. For a complete list of events at Madrona Marsh, visit: www.southbaycalendar.org and click on "Friends of Madrona Marsh." For more information on Audubon's YES! program for area students, visit: www.AudubonYES.org; to subscribe to the monthly calendar, send an e-mail to: jmorton@igc.org.

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 P.O. BOX 2582
 PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PALOS VERDES, CA
 PERMIT NO. 172

Time-sensitive material—
 please deliver promptly



Printed on Recycled Paper

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.

Officers 2008/2009

John Nieto, President 310-544-2714
 Connie Vadheim, VP 310-540-9624
 Jess Morton, Treasurer 310-832-5601
 Nancy Feagans, Secretary/Webmaster 310-483-8192

Board of Directors

Eileen Byhower Bob Carr
 Linda Chilton Ollie Coker
 Tracy Drake Allen Franz
 Linda Gonzales Candy Groat
 Lillian Light Evi Meyer
 Bob Shanman Laurie Szogas

Committees

Calendar: Evi Meyer 310-378-1234
 Conservation: Lillian Light 310-545-1384
 Harbor Park: Martin Byhower 310-539-0050
 Programs/Calendar: John Nieto 310-544-2714
 Membership: Vicki Peterson 310-375-3150
 Outreach: Candy Groat 310-541-4932
 KMHRP Restoration Chair: Geffen Oren
 Newsletter Editor: Michelle Fisher

Hummin' is published six times per year by the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society. Authors' opinions do not necessarily represent those of the society. Please send articles and suggestions to info@pvsb-audubon.org. *Hummin'* subscriptions cost \$7.50 per year for nonmembers of the PV/SB Audubon Society.

For back issues and chapter info, please visit our Web site at: <http://www.pvsb-audubon.org>.

WHAT BIRD IS THIS?



Please send your best guess about the type of bird shown above to info@pvsb-audubon.org. Winners will be announced.

Join and Renew

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

Membership (National Audubon) \$35.00
Chapter Supporter (to support local programs)
 Gift \$25__ \$50__ \$100__ Other \$____
Total Enclosed \$____

Please make your check payable to the Audubon Society and mail it to:
 P.O. Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274