



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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Committed Leaders of Today and Future Honored by Audubon

By Jess Morton

The first Coastal Birds Day at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium was capped off with the 2010 Audubon Conservation Awards ceremony in the John M. Olguin Auditorium at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. The awards recognize the outstanding conservation achievements of five individuals and one local business as well as the community service work done by more than two dozen students who earned the Audubon YES! Award this year.

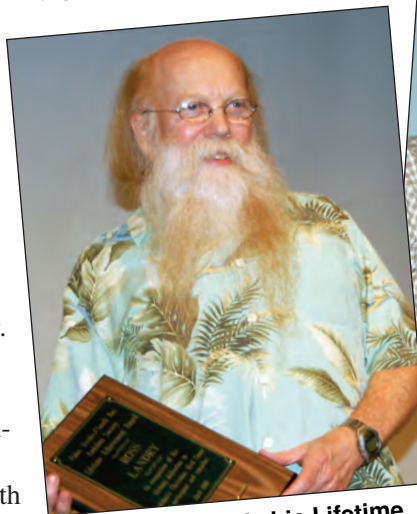
Travis Longcore, shown at right, and Catherine Rich have more than earned our 2010 Conservation Award. Among their many accomplishments, one with national policy implications is the lawsuit they led to force cities and other jurisdictions to conduct an environmental evaluation of the effects of implementing programs to trap, neuter and return feral cats to places with existing wildlife values.

Twenty-five of the 30 students who earned the Audubon YES! Award this year were on hand for the awards ceremony. The YES! Award recognizes the committed, hands-on efforts of our leaders of tomorrow to improve the environment. These forward-looking students represented Chadwick, Mira Costa, Palos Verdes, Peninsula, South, Torrance and West High Schools and El Camino College.

Recipients are shown below, as follows: front row, from left, C.J. Arnold, Brian Chen, Jonathan Chung, Alicia Citrin, Neil Duprey, Daria Clark, Max Hawkins, Jenna Hoover and Taylor

Uyama; second row: Aziz Husain, Vana Kawlakian, Firas Khan, Seo Kim, Jessica Landeros, Daniel Lee, Jillian Marin-kovich, and Brenda Tang; and back row, YES! advisers Martin Byhower and Jess

See Audubon Awards, Page 2



Ross Landry holds his Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to the PV Christmas Count.



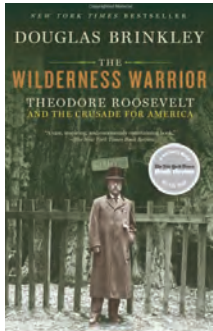
Travis Longcore, center, and Catherine Rich (not shown) were presented with Audubon's 2010 Conservation Award by National Board Member Jess Morton, left, and Chapter President John Nieto.

Photos by Donna Morton



Most of the 30 award-winning students who participate in the Audubon YES! program attended the annual Audubon Society awards ceremony at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in San Pedro. Recipients are listed on page 2.

BOOK REVIEW



The Wilderness Warrior: Theodore Roosevelt and the Crusade for America by Douglas Brinkley

The mental association I held, until recently, of President Theodore Roosevelt with conservation was sound, if vague, but Douglas Brinkley, in his new biography of Roosevelt, *Wilderness Warrior*, draws a picture of commitment to wilderness preservation and a passion for birds that goes far beyond anything I have imagined. Long before any of us were born, this country had a birder par excellence in the White House, a man dedicated to long-term environmental values and one who faced exactly the same reactionary political shortsightedness we face today. *Wilderness Warrior*, though too longwinded by a quarter, is a remark-

able read.

Brinkley charts a path that took Roosevelt from a sickly child obsessed with birds to the heights of power, which he used to create the vast system of national parks, forests, monuments and wildlife refuges known today. The importance of his work in preservation of watersheds, forests and biodiversity cannot be underestimated. While others have had similar aims, and other political leaders have wielded similar influence, no one else has ever combined the two to accomplish so much for the benefit of future generations.

Wilderness Warrior presents Roosevelt as he was—outdoorsman, hunter, visionary, authoritarian, keen observer and forceful leader—giving details of his life to show how these characteristics were employed and how they grew. Through all of it runs the theme of birds

and, through birds, Audubon. Roosevelt knew and respected the scientists and leaders who formed the first Audubon societies, working hand in hand with them to fashion the preservation ethic of his day and make it work in a way our generation has been unable to emulate—aspire to but not emulate.

The more reactionary political forces, especially in his own Republican Party, which Roosevelt was able to override, have had the upper hand over the last few decades. *Wilderness Warrior* contains a narrative that shows how a true leader can bring the ill-defined aspirations of the body politic into alignment with the political tools at hand. While the specifics have changed, the would-be environmental leaders of today must learn to do the same. Our future depends on it.

—Jess Morton

Audubon Awards, from Page 1

Morton, David Harris, Purvi Patel, Nathan Oh, Bryan Renslo, Taylor Sillekens, Thar Soe, Cindy Villavicencio and James Wu. Not pictured are Jimmy Breen, John Liu, Michael Tsai and Clifford Yap. Not pictured are Jimmy Breen, John Liu, Michael Tsai, and Clifford Yap.

In other awards, Ross Landry received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of dedicated stewardship of our Christmas Bird Count. Conservation Chair Lillian Light presented Carl Leach with the 2010 Conservation Education Award for his work with young people, principally at Mira Costa High School with its Eco Club. Michael Tande, senior vice president of Lowe Destination Development, accepted the newly created Audubon Responsible Business Award for Terranea Resort, which has done a remarkable job reestablishing habitat along the bluffs where Marineland once stood.

Many thanks go to the staff of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, especially Diane Alps and Larry Fukuhara, for their help with the event and to Audubon members Martin and Eileen Byhower, John Nieto, Evi Meyer, and Jess and Donna Morton who put it all together to make such a memorable ceremony.



Michael Tande accepts Terranea's Responsible Business Award from Morton and Nieto.

Photos by Donna Morton



Jenna Hoover earned the 2010 Youth Conservation Award, presented by Ron Melin and John Nieto.



Lillian Light had the pleasure of presenting her longtime friend Carl Leach with the 2010 Conservation Education Award.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Help Improve Clean Energy/Climate Change Legislation



As I write this, I just heard an announcement on the radio that a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is being introduced in the senate by Senators Kerry and Lieberman. For years, we environmentalists have been pushing Congress to enact comprehensive clean energy and climate change legislation to reduce global warming pollution and to increase employment in the renewable energy sector. In

June 2009, the House of Representatives passed the Waxman-Markey bill that called for reducing emissions 17% by 2020. Almost 1 year later, the Senate is talking about passing a bill that threatens to do more harm than good.

Kerry-Lieberman would bypass an economy-wide cap-and-trade system, opting instead for a bundle of separate energy bills that would slowly phase in emissions reductions sector by sector. Some of these bills may pass, while others may fail. Most would be opposed by corporate lobbies. I agree with many environmental groups that are against the proposed legislation unless some important changes are made.

I am sickened by the disaster in the Gulf, where a “gusher” has been spouting 200,000 gallons of toxic muck a day. It is on the way to blanket a national park, a dozen national wildlife refuges, and hundreds of miles of coastline. It is a tragedy for the people and a disaster for wildlife in those areas. Instead of declaring a national moratorium on offshore oil drilling, the Senate bill would open huge swaths of the Atlantic and Alaskan coasts to oil drilling.

Near-record Arctic sea ice loss and continued development of oil and gas in the proposed critical habitat spells double trouble for polar bears. The high probability that polar bears will completely disappear from our world is one theme in the book, *After the Ice: Life, Death, and Geopolitics in the New Arctic* by Alun Anderson. The author is the former editor-in-chief of *New Scientist* magazine. He describes “the great crash of 2007” when a large area of ice 4 times the size of California melted away at a speed no one had seen before. Previous scientific data had estimated that such a massive ice melt would not occur until 2056, but it occurred 50 years early. Anderson predicts that sea ice in the summer will be gone within 10 years (other scientists give later dates) and that this would result in the demise of polar bears. The narwhal and the walrus would also be close to extinction. He also predicts a 3-foot rise in sea level from the melted ice and states that this melt is unstoppable.

These horrendous changes in our environment should make us all eager to reduce human-produced greenhouse gases that are warming our climate and impacting all of our natural ecosystems. Not only is there a high probability that we will drive 35% to 40% of the world’s species to extinction, but the most basic life-support services provided by nature would be permanently harmed. These include cleaning our water, decomposing waste, fertilizing our crops and controlling erosion.

Will the Senate bill help us to make a transition away from our dependence on fossil fuels and move us toward a clean energy future? How can billion-dollar subsidies for nuclear power plants, offshore drilling and “clean coal” technologies promote these goals? Why should we taxpayers give so much money to nuclear reactors that produce such dangerous wastes and are too expensive for investment by the private sector? “Clean coal” is an oxymoron because coal is the largest single source of greenhouse gas emissions both in the United States and in the world. It is unfortunate that Big Coal is such a powerful lobby and that there is enough coal left in the ground to heat the planet to catastrophic levels. Why don’t these subsidies go to renewable energy technologies?

One of the most egregious parts of the climate change legislation is that it strips the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of its regulatory powers. This past December the EPA published a science-based “endangerment finding,” which found that carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases are dangerous to human life. Once the EPA issues such a finding, it is legally bound to issue regulations to address the problem. On April, the first vehicle emissions reductions were announced, and new water-quality regulations for future mountaintop removal permits were offered that would impose standards that very few mountaintop removal proposals would meet. The private utilities and the fossil fuel industries are strongly motivated to stop the EPA. However, the EPA can expedite prompt action required because time is running out.

There is also concern that the legislation would preempt regulations on greenhouse gases from states and municipalities. This would mean that neither the state of California nor the city of Manhattan Beach, closer to home, would be able to mandate that developers adopt clean energy technologies or otherwise encourage emissions reductions. We desperately need climate legislation to stop the devastating changes to our environment and to limit global warming to a “livable level” for people and for wildlife. I believe the Senate is falling short of what needs to be done.

We need to contact our senators and urge them to improve the climate bill. I called Senator Feinstein’s Washington office today and urged her to see to it that opening offshore oil drilling is not included in the legislation. We must make sure that a devastating disaster like the one that is occurring in the Gulf will not happen again. I also urged her to allow states and cities to formulate their own rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Please contact both of our senators and urge them to unleash our clean energy future and move beyond our dependence on fossil fuels. The ultimate cost of fossil fuels is climate change that will threaten the world with heat waves, sea level rise, flood and famine and major extinction of wildlife.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
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Washington, DC 20510
senator@feinstein.senate.gov
202-224-3841/310-914-7300

Senator Barbara Boxer
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Lillian Babcock observes a flock at Point Fermin while, below, Gilbert Prowler, Lauren Stoneburner, Babcock, Martin Byhower and Bill Lee enjoy DeForest Park during the first filmed Birdathon event.

Photos by Kathryn Babcock



Birdathon Record Ties Last Year's Total

By Martin Byhower

This year's Birdathon was both great fun and a great success! Chris Boyd walked to RAT (Right After Torrance) Beach on Friday, April 23, and Eileen walked to the Madrona Marsh on Saturday, while Dan, Lauren, Lillian and I rode our bikes all day (I started at 4:30 a.m. and got home at 8:50 p.m.) on our 3rd Annual Green (Carbon Neutral) Birdathon. We tied our record from last year at 110 species (if you accept the Myrtle/Audubon split and you allow us some established introduced species!). David Ellsworth gave us some invaluable help at Cabrillo Beach, and Tracy helped Eileen at the marsh.

We covered a lot of ground, including Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP), the Bixby Marshland, L.A. River, DeForest Park, Cabrillo, Pt. Fermin, Royal Palms and White Point. Warblers and ducks were big misses, but we did well in a number of other categories. As you can tell from the sidebar, some species (shown in italics) were fairly late records, yet others turned up in unexpected habitats

The great news is that the entire event was professionally filmed and will be used to produce a short documentary. Many thanks to the Bushwhackers, our support team; videographers Steve and Gil; and the Audubon Board for supporting the effort! Funds raised will support our youth programs at KMHRP and Audubon YES! as well as ongoing efforts to preserve tens of thousands of acres of coastal wetlands south of the border.

2010 Birdathon Finds

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Allen's Hummingbird | 56. Hooded Oriole |
| 2. American Avocet | 57. House Finch |
| 3. American Coot | 58. House Sparrow |
| 4. American Crow | 59. Killdeer |
| 5. American Goldfinch | 60. Least Sandpiper |
| 6. American Kestrel | 61. Lesser Goldfinch |
| 7. American Pipit | 62. Long-billed Dowitcher |
| 8. American Robin | 63. Mallard |
| 9. Anna's Hummingbird | 64. Marsh Wren |
| 10. Barn Swallow | 65. Mourning Dove |
| 11. <i>Belted Kingfisher</i> | 66. Myrtle Warbler |
| 12. Black Oystercatcher | 67. Northern Mockingbird |
| 13. Black Phoebe | 68. Northern Rough-winged Swallow |
| 14. Black Skimmer | 69. <i>Olive-sided Flycatcher</i> |
| 15. Black Turnstone | 70. Orange Bishop |
| 16. Black-headed Grosbeak | 71. Osprey |
| 17. Black-necked Stilt | 72. Pacific Loon |
| 18. Black-Crowned Night-Heron | 73. Pacific-slope Flycatcher |
| 19. <i>Blue-winged Teal</i> | 74. <i>Peregrine Falcon</i> |
| 20. Bonaparte's Gull | 75. Pied-billed Grebe |
| 21. Brandt's Cormorant | 76. Red-necked Phalarope |
| 22. Brant | 77. <i>Red-shouldered Hawk</i> |
| 23. Brewer's Blackbird | 78. Red-tailed Hawk |
| 24. Brown Pelican | 79. <i>Red-throated Loon</i> |
| 25. Brown-headed Cowbird | 80. Ring-winged Blackbird |
| 26. Bullock's Oriole | 81. Ring-billed Gull |
| 27. Bushtit | 82. Rock Pigeon |
| 28. California Gnatcatcher | 83. <i>Royal Tern</i> |
| 29. California Gull | 84. Ruddy Duck |
| 30. California Towhee | 85. Sanderling |
| 31. Caspian Tern | 86. <i>Say's Phoebe</i> |
| 32. Cassin's Kingbird | 87. Semipalmated Plover |
| 33. Cassin's Vireo | 88. Snowy Egret |
| 34. Cedar Waxwing | 89. Song Sparrow |
| 35. <i>Clark's Grebe</i> | 90. Spotted Sandpiper |
| 36. Cliff Swallow | 91. Surf Scoter |
| 37. <i>Common Loon</i> | 92. <i>Swainson's Thrush</i> |
| 38. Common Raven | 93. Townsend's Warbler |
| 39. Common Yellowthroat | 94. Tree Swallow |
| 40. Cooper's Hawk | 95. <i>Turkey Vulture</i> |
| 41. Double-crested Cormorant | 96. Vaux's Swift |
| 42. Downy Woodpecker | 97. Warbling Vireo |
| 43. Eared Grebe | 98. <i>Western Bluebird</i> |
| 44. Elegant Tern | 99. Western Grebe |
| 45. Eurasian Collared Dove | 100. Western Gull |
| 46. European Starling | 101. Western Kingbird |
| 47. Forster's Tern | 102. Western Scrub-Jay |
| 48. Gadwall | 103. Western Tanager |
| 49. Great-tailed Grackle | 104. Whimbrel |
| 50. <i>Glaucous-winged Gull</i> | 105. White-throated Swift |
| 51. Golden-crowned Sparrow | 106. Willet |
| 52. Great Blue Heron | 107. Yellow-chevroned Parakeet |
| 53. Great Egret | 108. Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| 54. <i>Greater White Fronted Goose</i> | 109. Wilson's Warbler |
| 55. <i>Heerman's Gull</i> | 110. Yellow Warbler |

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Hummingbird Sage *Salvia spathacea*

Hummingbirds are among the more interesting inhabitants of Southern California gardens. Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) is the larger—and more slowly flying—of our two common species. The smaller Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) is bronze and green colored. Both are a joy to watch. Most home gardens have trees



or shrubs suitable for hummingbird nesting. Provide water & some nectar plants and you can induce a hummingbird pair to set up housekeeping. Among our good native nectar sources is the Hummingbird Sage, *Salvia spathacea*.

Hummingbird Sage, like all *Salvias*, is a member of the mint family. It grows in the coastal region from Washington state to California, usually in shaded areas. You may have seen it in the Santa Monica mountains, usually growing under oaks and other trees or large shrubs. The green foliage and spikes of bright magenta flowers are a delightful surprise to many a hiker. The flowers look like a mint on steroids—and are irresistible to hummingbirds!

Like many others in the Mint family, Hummingbird Sage spreads by underground stems (rhizomes), making it an excellent groundcover plant for shady areas of the garden. Don't worry, it's not invasive like the common garden mint. But it

will fill an area with its green foliage after a few years. It is an excellent choice for under or around trees, which can be a challenging area in many gardens.

The leaves of Hummingbird Sage are large, arrow-shaped and fuzzy. They are bright green in spring and age to a medium green. The leaves have an aromatic scent that is slightly minty but indescribable. They can be used to make a delicious hot or iced tea. Leaves are also a nice addition to potpourri.

Hummingbird Sage likes a well-drained soil but will do fine in most local clays. Unlike many native plants, it does fine in soils that have been amended and enjoys an application of organic mulch (leaf mulch is best) in the fall.

Hummingbird Sage will bloom off and on from spring to fall, given an occasional deep summer watering. Taper off the water in fall to give the plants a dormant season. Old stalks



should be cut back almost to the ground (leave about three to four inches) in fall. Fresh new growth will emerge in early spring. You can produce new plants by dividing plants in late fall—or you can root stem cuttings in water before planting. Hummingbird Sage makes a welcome gift for gardening friends!



For more information on growing and purchasing this plant, please visit the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. You can also learn about local native plants at the "Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden" series on the first Saturday of each month at the center.

Birds of the Peninsula

MARCH AND APRIL 2010

By Kevin Larson

A Harlequin Duck and a Long-tailed Duck found in March were exciting additions to our varied list of recent waterfowl that included a King Eider this winter. The vanguards of spring landbird migration locally were a Hooded Oriole on 4 Mar. and a Warbling Vireo on 6 Mar. but it was not unusual that few other migrants were reported until the second half of the month. An excellent early wave of migrants 10–12 Apr. coincided with the approach and passage of a rainstorm. Birders were treated to a fairly steady daily passage of migrants all through April.

The changeable weather of winter persisted through the end of April, and our typical spring pattern of daily marine layer cloudiness had no opportunity to establish itself. We were generally under the influence of low pressure and cool weather during March and April. There were a few brief periods of warm, dry offshore flow that elevated temperatures into the 80s. Though little rain fell in March, a number of significant storms came in April. Downtown Los Angeles had received a normal season's worth of rainfall by 5 Apr but, due to the hit-or-miss nature of storms, LAX was still slightly below normal at the end of April.

Six Greater White-fronted Geese continued at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook 22 Oct–11 Apr. (Richard Barth) and one was still present at Harbor Park on 11 Apr. (Martin Byhower). An Aleutian Cackling Goose at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area since 26 Jan was joined by three more on 11 Apr. (RB). A very rare male **Harlequin Duck** at Dockweiler State Beach on 28 Mar. was the first found locally since 1999 (RB). The bird was apparently on the move since it was not seen on subsequent visits.

The rare scoters continued in very good numbers at Dockweiler State

Beach. A high count of eight White-winged Scoters was recorded by Richard Barth on 28 Mar.; three there on 5 Apr. were the last to be reported. At least four Black Scoters were seen by Barth at Dockweiler 6–28 Mar., and a lingering or migrant individual was noted there on 25 Apr. A Long-tailed Duck was a nice find along the Ballona Creek channel 26 Mar.–11 Apr. (Barbara Johnson). A female Hooded Merganser at Harbor Park 28 Mar.–11 Apr. (EG) was believed to be the same individual reported on the 27 Dec Christmas Bird Count (MB).

Four White-faced Ibises flew over Westchester on 17 Apr. (KL) and five were at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 28 Apr. (EG). An adult White-tailed Kite reported this spring in the Ballona area through at least 10 Apr. was present during this species' breeding season (many observers); wintering individuals usually depart by February. A Common Murre was in the Redondo Beach Pier/King Harbor area on 30 Mar. (RB). Three Band-tailed Pigeons flew west over Westchester on 4 Apr. (KL). Though still unrecorded in the Ballona area, this species has been sighted with some regularity in recent years in the Baldwin Hills area just northeast of this article's coverage area. A migrant Lesser Nighthawk in Westchester on the evening of 5 Apr. was an exciting find (Russell Stone). The only Rufous Hummingbird reports was one at Polliwog Park on 7 Mar. (Bob Shanman) and one in Westchester on 13 Apr. (KL).

An Acorn Woodpecker at Sand Dune Park on 30 Apr. is one of few local spring records (EG). Also notable in our area, a Nuttall's Woodpecker was at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester on 11 Apr. (RS). A migrant Gray Flycatcher was at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation



Singing Bell's Vireo at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh.

Photo by Don Sterba

Area on 11 Apr. (RB). A singing Bell's Vireo at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 20–30 Apr. was at a location where this species could potentially breed (Don Sterba). A silent Bell's Vireo in a Westchester backyard on 19 Apr. was a very rare record of a spring migrant away from willow habitat (KL). On 11 Apr., Martin Byhower reported that Tree Swallows were nesting again this year at Harbor Park. A Bank Swallow was in a mixed flock of swallows and swifts over Westchester on 12 Apr. (KL).

Western Bluebirds nested again this year at Harbor Park; pairs were attending clutches in two nest boxes on 11 Apr. (MB). Other Western Bluebird sightings included one at Madrona Marsh on 12 Apr. (Dan Cooper), two at Ernie Howlett Park on 17 Apr., and two at Highridge Park on 30 Apr. (both Sally Moite). A continuing California Thrasher along the north side of Ballona Creek in Marina del Rey on 11 Apr. is the only one known to be in this article's coverage area (Melissa Haylock). Notable in spring, migrant Palm Warbler sightings included one at Madrona Marsh on 21 Apr. and at least two, possibly up to four, along the Playa Vista Riparian Corridor on 27 Apr. (RS). A male Black-and-white Warbler at Sand Dune Park 4–24 Apr. evidently wintered (Lori and Mark Conrad).

See Peninsula Birds, Page 7

The Oil Spill's Blowout—and the Aftermath for Birds

By Jess Morton

The response by Audubon members and staff to the devastating loss of the Deepwater Horizon platform in the Gulf of Mexico and its subsequent uncontrolled release of massive amounts of oil into the waters there has been amazing. Staff from all parts of Audubon, headed by ornithologists Greg Butcher and Melanie Driscoll, are coordinating volunteer efforts and assessing damages to wild bird populations as we prepare for a possible flood of oiled birds. So far more than 14,000 volunteers have signed up on Audubon's web site.

How these concerned citizens can be matched to the needs at hand will be a major task to be followed over the next few months. It is too soon to assess the full implications of the crisis. Should the oil begin to come ashore in large amounts, the visible damages will be immediately apparent to all. However, there is a good chance (as of May 15) that the oil will be largely contained at sea.

While the environmental effects on sea life will be massive, the resulting loss of seagoing birds may be much reduced from what it might have been, and there will be a tendency to minimize the crisis simply because its effects

are not readily visible even if they can be fully assessed.

While in the end there may be a relatively limited call on volunteers to handle oiled birds, it will be extremely important to keep all volunteers directly engaged in actions that will mitigate for some of the overall losses. This may be through various onshore wetlands rehabilitation projects, political actions to improve regulations and obtain funding,

and other work that is just as important to the health of seabird populations as is the cleaning of oiled birds.

According to Audubon's Mississippi River Initiative Communications Coordinator, David Ringer, "It's easy to care during a crisis. It's a lot harder to care in the lulls between disasters, but that's when we make a thousand small decisions that influence the future. Disaster response is crucial—so

is a long-term commitment to care—to make smarter, safer choices that are more respectful of human life and all other life on earth. Will this disaster inspire us to make those choices, both large and small? Well, as with the impact of the spill itself, I think it's still too early to say. But I hope so, I really do."

To access up-to-date information on the spill or to volunteer, visit www.audubon.org/ and also read the *Audubon Magazine* blog at magblog.audubon.org/oil-spill.

"It's a lot harder to care in the lulls between disasters, but that's when we make a thousand small decisions that influence the future."

—David Ringer

Mississippi River Initiative

Peninsula Birds, from Page 6

Very rare in spring locally, a Vesper Sparrow was in the Ballona Wetland area north of Ballona Creek on 7 Apr. (DC). A Lark Sparrow at Hesse Park on 27 Mar. was evidently a lingering winterer since four were at this location on 16 Nov 2009 (Sally Moite). Rare near the coast, a Black-throated Sparrow at Madrona Marsh 16–17 Apr. was very far from its usual desert haunts (DC). A dark-lore, adult White-crowned Sparrow, believed to be of the oriantha race, frequented a backyard in Westchester 16 Jan–19 Apr. (KL). Up to six Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 6–30 Apr. (DS); sightings at Madrona Marsh included one on 12 Apr. (DC) and two on 25 Apr. (Tracy Drake).

Following are the earliest dates on which these migrants were noted in 2010: Warbling Vireo, 6 Mar. Westchester (KL); Nashville Warbler, 24 Mar. Ballona Freshwater Marsh (DS); Hermit Warbler (2), 11 Apr. Westchester (RS); MacGillivray's Warbler, 11 Apr. Westchester (RS); Wilson's Warbler, 17 Mar. Ballona Freshwater Marsh (Jose Mata); Western Tanager, 11 Apr. Banning Park (Andrew Lee); Black-headed Grosbeak, 24 Mar. Westchester (Dorothy Stone); and Hooded Oriole, 4 Mar. Westchester (KL).

What's Happening with Audubon YES!

By Marcos Trinidad

The PV/South Bay Audubon would like to say thank you and congratulations to all the recipients of the Audubon YES!

Awards: C.J. Arnold, James Breen, Brian Chen, Alicia Citrin, Daria Clark, Neil Duprey, David Harris, Max Hawkins, Jenna Hoover, Aziz Husain, Vana Kawlakian, Jessica Landeros, Jillian Marinkovich, Matthew Oh, Purvi Patel, Bryan Renslo, Taylor Sillekens Thar Soe, Tammy Takigawa, Brenda Tang, Michael Tsai, Taylor Uyama, Cindy Villavicencio, James Wu and Clifford Yap.

Audubon YES! had a busy April because it is Earth Month. Not only did we have the

awards ceremony but also there were many Earth Day celebrations. Audubon YES! members had a field trip to the "Nuestra Tirera" Earth Day Conference at Olvera Street, which was a chance for South Bay students to see the birthplace of Los Angeles and to link the inner city community to the areas where they live. The students learned how to catch rainwater, plant trees, recognize native and xeriscape plants and ways to green their campuses and yards. The conference featured lectures by noted environmentalists.

Audubon YES! is open to all, so if you know of any groups in need of volunteers, contact me at marcos@pvsb-audubon.org or 323-945-4346.

MEET, LEARN, ENJOY, RESTORE

Calendar

Events

Wednesday, June 2, 7 p.m.:
PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend.

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.–Noon:
Desalination or Conservation? The South Bay Parkland Conservancy and the Environmental Priorities Network are presenting a public forum on “Desalination or Conservation?” that is related to the water desalination plant proposed for Redondo Beach. Light breakfast and coffee will be served before the program begins at 9:30. Environmental groups can contact us to display their information there as well. The organizations sponsoring this event, held at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV, have serious concerns about the project and desire public feedback. For details, contact Jim Light at jim.light1@verizon.net or 310-989-3332 or Lillian Light at lk-light@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

Saturday, June 5, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.:
Natural history walk at Bixby Marshland. Explore the new 17-acre Bixby Marshland in Carson on your own after a half-hour introductory walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the welcome table in the parking lot. Learn about how the marsh came to be, demystify the acronym JWPCP, see the successful restoration and view the many birds that have made the wetland home. Photographers are especially welcome. Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa Street, just south of Sepulveda. (Note that parked trucks often block the en-

trance.) It is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District. Visit the LACSD site and click on “Bixby” in the Options menu:

www.lacsd.org/projects/

Thursday, June 10, 7:15–9:15 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 Aug./Sept. 2009 *Hummin’*). Volunteers are needed to be trained in identification and survey methods. To participate, contact Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, June 12, 9–11 a.m.:
Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP). Led by Gefen Oren, Martin Byhower and others, the cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area 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, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. Harbor Regional Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. For details, call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m.:
Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker for the evening is a U.S. Fish & Wildlife expert, who will share about the California Condors and their recovery progress. Come to Madrona Marsh Nature Center to socialize with friends and to enjoy the

June						
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			

July						
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

bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, June 19, 7:15–9:15 a.m.:
Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See June 10 for details.

Saturday, July 3, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.:
 Bixby Marshland open to the public. See June 5 for details.

Thursday, July 8, 7:15–9:15 a.m.:
Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See June 10 for details.

Saturday, July 10, 9–11 a.m.:
 Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. See June 12 for details.

Saturday, July 17, 7:30–9:30 a.m.:
 Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See June 10 for details.

Saturday, July 17, 8:30 a.m.:
30th annual Palos Verdes Butterfly Count. This survey of the regional diversity and abundance of butterflies is part of the national survey conducted by the North American Butterfly Association. The count will be conducted within a 15-mile diameter circle centered at the PV Reservoir, covering such important butterfly

habitats as our coastal bluffs, canyons, marshes, parks, fields and wetlands. We have learned an enormous amount about our local butterfly diversity through this count, but there is more to learn. Meet in the parking lot at Rolling Hills Estates City Hall, at Crenshaw Blvd. and PV Drive North. Here is your chance to take part in one of the 10 oldest counts in the nation! Call count compiler Jess Morton at 310-832-5601 or e-mail jmorton@igc.org.

Tuesday, July 20, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. This month's speaker will be from South Bay Wildlife Rehabilitation. Come to Madrona Marsh Nature Center to socialize and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Field Trips

Tuesday, June 1, 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 Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Sunday, June 6, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, June 8, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See June 1 for details.

Wednesday, June 9, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, June 12, 9-11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to White Point Nature Preserve. Admire ocean views, grassland restoration and impressive coastal sage scrub where the Conservancy has

planted over 80,000 native plants on this former military missile site. Check out the location of a new Nature Education Center and demonstration gardens. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.



Yellow-rumped warblers can be found at the Madrona Marsh. At right is a common buckeye, which might be spotted at the PV Butterfly Count.

Sunday, June 13, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See the June 12 KMHRP listing for directions.

Tuesday, June 15, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See June 1 for details.

Wednesday, June 16, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See June 6 for details.

Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour to Oceanfront Estates/PVIC. Join us for a tour of the museum, the native plant garden and a walk along the spectacular bluff top at Oceanfront Estates. Easy. For details, call 310-377-5370 or visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.



Sunday, July 4, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See June 6 for details.

Tuesday, July 6, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See June 1 for details.

Saturday, July 10, 9-11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to KMHRP. Visit one of L.A.'s largest remaining natural freshwater lakes containing tule marsh and willow riparian forest and boasting over 350 species of migratory birds. Easy. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, July 11, 8 p.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See June 13 for details.

Wednesday, July 14, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See June 9 for details.

Tuesday, July 20, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See June 1 for details.

Wednesday, July 21, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See June 6 for details.

Sunday, July 25, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour to Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Walk the trail system and enjoy the vistas and summer blooming habitat. Easy. Call 310-377-5370 or visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.



For more information on local events, please go to the Chapter Web site at: www.pvsb-audubon.org. For a complete list of events at Madrona Marsh, go to: www.southbaycalendar.org and click on Friends of Madrona Marsh. For a list of activities for Audubon's Youth Environmental Service program, go to: www.AudubonYES.org.

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