



HUMMIN'

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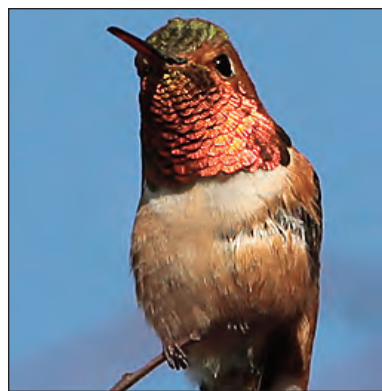
Two-Year Update of a Restoration Project: Birding on Three Sisters

By Billy Sale and Ann Dalkey
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy

Since July 2008, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy has partnered with the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society in a 5-year scientific survey to answer the question: How do birds respond to habitat restoration? Also, we wonder about whether birds leave when crews are conducting restoration activities, what changes occur following removal of nonnative invasive plants and how long it takes before they utilize the new native habitat.

The study is being conducted at the 98-acre Three Sisters Reserve, which is located west of Portuguese Bend in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. The Conservancy is currently working to restore a once-weedy area to 13 acres of coastal sage scrub and 8 acres of perennial grassland. The restoration involved the removal of invasive plants including Acacia trees, mustard, fennel and other nonnative grasses and weeds. After irrigation was placed, more than 1,000 pounds of native seed and 8,000 coastal sage scrub plants were installed. The Conservancy's field crew is continuously working hard to bring this reserve back to its native roots for everyone to enjoy.

Experienced PV/South Bay Audubon birders as well as enthusiastic local volunteers of all ages participate in the surveys twice a month. The surveys also include motivated student volunteers as part the Conservancy's research



Clockwise, from top, are a Western Meadowlark, a Rufous-crowned sparrow and two Allen's hummingbirds at the Reserve.

Photos by Evi Meyer

and Audubon's YES! programs, which seek to include volunteer students in sci-

entific research. Using a point observation method, surveyors count all birds seen and heard within 10 minutes at five designated sites. Two sites are located within the restoration area, and the remaining three are in nonrestored areas. These sites are used to compare bird species and abundance between restored and existing nonnative habitat.

At this 2-year point in the survey, we have observed a total of 50 identified bird species: 38 in July 2008–June 2009 and 43 in July 2009–June 2010.

Abundance, the number of birds observed, has also steadily increased, with the largest increase seen in spring 2010, which coincides with the highest number of bird species observed. We suspect that the increase in abundance and bird diversity is due in large part to the 12 inches of rainfall that arrived last winter. As a result, there is more food for the birds, which probably accounts for notable increases seen in California towhee and lesser goldfinch.

While overall trends are apparent, there were no differences detected between the restoration sites and other, nonrestored sites. Nevertheless, we are excited to see numbers increase in the midst of restoration and expect to see bird numbers increase even more once the newly planted natives are flourishing.

Interestingly, the California gnatcatcher has been rarely present during the first half of 2010. In contrast, California gnatcatchers were seen consistently during the first 18 months of the

See Restoration Project, Page 7

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

One 'Cool' Sighting on Walk—But 'No Rabbits!'



By John Nieto

Three of us decide on a short hike before dinner and choose the big open space behind our tract. The goal of today's walk is to spot a rabbit—not just any rabbit but one with a white tail. After all, during evening walks with his parents, our 4-year-old grandson finds a cottontail rabbit at almost every turn along the trails at Trump's (to the dismay of the grounds crew there). So, we start off from the parking lot, the three of us: my son-in-law, my grandson and me. We grab our water bottles, hiking sticks and binoculars and start the climb up into the Quarry Bowl. Along the way the smallest member of our band is talking, questioning and exclaiming at every new sight and sound.

The best part of walking with a 4-year-old is that his feet are small and his legs are short, so we are able to keep the same pace uphill. The sage scrub habitat is starting to blossom, the California sunflowers are bright yellow and the other plants are all green and ready to take their turn in the cycle of the spring bloom. We walk along at a comfortable pace for a few minutes when we spot something in the bunch grass.

A rather large beetle comes into view, powering through the obstacle, hardly turning his ridged, shiny black body. It is a darkling beetle, known as a "stink bug" to many of us. While it is entertaining for a few minutes transferring it from hand to hand, still it is not a rabbit. On we walk, passing tall coyote brush and lemonade berry thickets. Every now and then we stop to listen to something rattling the brush. Is it a rabbit? Maybe it's a snake? "That would be cool!" my grandson exclaims. We stop, look and listen, and then the dead, brown leaf debris jostle and tumble aside. What is it? A rabbit? No, it is only a bird, not a rabbit. Is this California towhee looking for nesting material? It is most likely just foraging.

On we march, stopping occasionally to use our binoculars to follow a small bird into the sage scrub. It could be a California gnatcatcher. It is a house finch wearing nice, bright red coloring on his breast blending into a white belly. It may be common, but viewing it through binoculars brings out so much detail. It is very striking. We watch a lizard dash across the trail—most likely, a Western fence lizard, or a "blue belly" to kids in the neighborhood.

We soon find ourselves in the throat of the Quarry Bowl. It is an eerie place when we think that where we stand would be several hundred feet below the rocky surface of a basalt cliff face just 80 years ago. Now we look around and find a new sage scrub habitat, all self-seeded with the help of wind, rain and birds. The entire basin is filled with mature sage scrub habitat. We stand in the center of what is a scoured plane of

black igneous rock probably introduced here more than 5 million years ago. At the northeast side, we see tall willows marking the spot where the year-round stream runs down Forrestal Canyon and disappears into rock. The wind whips around us as we gaze up at the rusty brown cliffs 130 feet above. We spot a gliding figure high in the thermals; it is in silhouette now but coming toward us. We find it is a large red tail hawk; it flies over us and lands in the shaded, rusty cliffs. We continue up the trail at the southwest edge of the Bowl, still hunting for rabbit.

At the top of the trail, we arrive at a flat area that offers a tremendous view of the coast, the sparkling water alive with sailboats, whalewatching boats and fishing boats. It is a beautiful afternoon, but for one thing, we still have not seen a white-tailed rabbit. We decide to backtrack and head down the trail we just climbed. We see more lizards and small birds darting in and out of the purple sage and bed straw. Down we walk until we are once more at the Quarry Bowl, and again we spot the red tail gliding from the direction of the cliff face; down into the brush we follow it with our binoculars.

It comes up with something in its mouth, a long twig. It flies across the bowl and lands on a small shelf and disappears. We try to find it, but as we search, out flies its mate from an adjoining shelf straight across the bowl at some speed. It lands in the tall grass and proceeds to stomp and peck at something on the ground. This goes on for what seems like a few minutes but is probably just one. The red tail hawk rises up from the tall dry grass with something in its talons; it is long and very limp.

It's a snake! Wow, are we excited! Our hawk flies across the Quarry Bowl and transfers the snake from its talons to its beak in mid-flight! We try to contain ourselves so as not to spook the hawk; all but one of us, the 4-year-old, is yelling with glee, "That is so cool!" We watch the hawk disappear into the cliff face, and we strain to see where it went. After a few seconds, we spot a nest on the cliff face, a jumble of branches and grass shoved into the cracks in the basalt, strong enough to support this family of raptors. We stay there fixed on the sight of mom and dad feeding the chicks.

As wonderful a sight as it may be, we are reminded of our quest: "We need to find a rabbit." But the best thing to do now is to head home for dinner, so we ramble down the trail. We talk about what we just witnessed on the way home and share it with both our wives, still as excited as we felt while in the Quarry Bowl. The banter ends, though, with a question: "Did you see any rabbits?" "No!" comes the complaint from my grandson, "No rabbits!" So, this trip will be logged into the family book of lore as a failure: No rabbits!

The Quarry Bowl is but one of the fabulous sights in the Forrestal Nature Reserve: a 163-acre open space with some of the best native wildlife habitat and hiking trails on the Peninsula. Open daily from 1 hour before sunup to 1 hour after sundown, it is located at 32201 Forrestal Drive, RPV.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Prop. 23 Gets a 'D' for *Drastic, Deceptive, Dangerous*



By Lillian Light

All of us have read many articles critical of politicians in general and of our state legislators in particular. I, for one, am proud of our California legislators who have passed many bills to help our environment and to reduce the dangers of global warming. They have acted when our federal government has failed to attack the problem.

The bill that makes our state number one in the world in legislating real reductions in greenhouse gas emissions is the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as AB 32. It requires that greenhouse emissions levels in the state be cut to 1990 levels by 2020 in a gradual process of cutting slated to begin in 2012. It directs the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to begin developing early voluntary actions while also preparing a plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit. CARB is considering setting some curbs on harmful emissions from power plants and factories.

The need for such action is great since global emissions of carbon dioxide rise every year, and soon people will be facing the horrendous consequences of runaway global warming. Let me remind you that these include rising sea levels, acidified and warming oceans, melting glaciers, droughts, floods, climate refugees and increasingly violent weather wreaking death and destruction on low-lying lands. AB 32 was passed to slow this process and has been a beacon of hope in our country and the world.

Valero Energy, Tesoro Oil Co., Occidental and others have spent \$2 million to put Proposition 23 on the November ballot to get Californians to destroy AB 32 so that these oil companies can make more money. Proposition 23 is supported by the California Republican Party and most of the Republican candidates for office. It suspends state laws requiring reduced global warming emissions until California's unemployment rate drops to 5.5% or less for four consecutive quarters. It requires the state to abandon implementation of the comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction program that includes increased renewable energy and cleaner fuel requirements, mandatory emission reporting and fee requirements for major polluters.

Prop. 23's Big Hitters

Valero	\$500,000
Occidental Petroleum	\$300,000
Tesoro Companies	\$300,000
National Petrochemical and Refiners Association	\$100,000
Tower Energy Group	\$100,000
World Oil Corp.	\$100,000
Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association	\$100,000

Potentially, state revenues from the auctioning of emission allowances by the state may be foregone because future implementation of cap-and-trade regulations will be suspended.

If this proposition succeeds in halting the use of renewable energy and cleaner fuels, oil company profits will rise. So just who would profit from this proposition? Check out the sidebar below showing the organizations who have made largest donations to the so-called "California Jobs Initiative Committee" as of May 20.

This deceitful and confusing "California Jobs Initiative"

is intended to get voters to overturn the global warming bill under the guise of saving jobs. The ballot measure will, in fact, kill competition from California's emerging "clean energy" businesses, costing California thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in investments. Suspending AB 32 would be a real job killer. "A December study by NEXT 10, a San Francisco think tank, found that jobs in California green businesses grew 36% from 1995 to 2008, while total employment expanded only 13%" (*L.A. Times*, 2-6-10).

In the same article, Aaron Mc Lear says that it is "deceptively written to protect big polluters and would keep us from staying number 1 in the country in creating clean tech jobs." California really needs these jobs since the state has lost 34% of its manufacturing jobs since 2001.

Even our Republican governor is concerned and has said, "This initiative sponsored by greedy Texas oil companies would cripple California's fastest-growing economic sector, reverse our renewable energy policy and decimate our environmental progress for the benefit of these oil companies' profit margins."

Courage Campaign has initiated a campaign to boycott Valero and Beacon gas stations for wantonly seeking to destroy our environment. To find out more about this boycott, visit www.couragecampaign.org/boycottvalero. AB 32 seeks to stop the global devastation that is now occurring and helps to ensure that our grandchildren will inhabit a livable planet. It is very important to oppose Proposition 23 and to advise your family members and friends to vote against it in the November election. In doing so, you will be helping to set our state and our country on the path to a sustainable future.

COMMENTARY

Thoughts About Nature Centers

By Jess Morton

The recent decision by the City of Rancho Palos Verdes to pursue grant funding for a nature center at Abalone Cove leaves me to ponder the efficacy of the nature centers we have now and others we might have. There are four large nature centers in our area: the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, The Deane Dana Nature Center in Friendship Park, the Madrona Marsh Nature Center and Point Vicente Interpretive Center (PVIC). There are others on a smaller scale at George F Canyon, White Point and Wilderness Park. The use of these varies significantly from center to center, but most are located in and cater to the more affluent part of the general population.

The glaring lack here is at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. A nature center there, for which Audubon has advocated for many years, would serve many educational and recreational functions in an ethnically and economically diverse neighborhood. Programs developed there in conjunction with Harbor College and the City of Los Angeles could eventually be built to a scale similar to that reached by the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, which today serves hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren each year. Furthermore, a nature center at Harbor Park has an innate theme of the human uses of water resources that is not addressed by any other nature center in our area.

Of the nature centers we do have, there is only a moderate correlation between their construction or acquisition costs and their usefulness to the greater community they serve, which is largely deter-

mined by the public buy-in associated with them. For instance, Madrona Marsh has both strong leadership and a solid volunteer base, permitting development of a large habitat restoration program centered on vernal wetlands, many educational programs and regional research. By contrast, though on a similar scale for building costs, the nature center at Friendship Park has only modest support and few programs.

While I could go on about this particular venture, it is enough to say that nature centers must have a clear vision behind their establishment and use, be fully funded for that use and be placed in a location that supports the vision.

At some point, there will be an entry facility to the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve on PV Drive South in the vicinity of the landslide. Because of the instability of the land, this facility will not be your typical nature center building. But it will serve the function of a nature center by introducing visitors to the natural values of the preserve and why it exists. Although it might be possible to site such a facility nearby at Abalone Cove, it would be impractical because it will be years before an access to the preserve from there could be realized.

While a nature center at Abalone Cove could have a marine life theme, it would have to be done in cooperation with the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium to serve any meaningful role. It is hard to imagine where the volunteer base to support programs at Abalone Cove would be found as most candidates are likely already fully committed at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium or PVIC.

What's Up With Audubon YES?

By Marcos Trinidad
Volunteer Coordinator

Now that summer is officially here, Audubon YES! is eager to enjoy the beautiful outdoors, and we have enough events to keep you busy. On July 24, the Tree Musketeers will need volunteers for a street tree care project. Nature walks at the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park are set for August 8 and September 12; help is also needed for habitat restoration on August 14 and September 11. Join volunteers at the Cabrillo Native Garden or at the Cabrillo Beach cleanup on the first Saturday of each month (students earning service credits need to make reservations by that Thursday). On August 21, Madrona Marsh is hosting a night hike for the first 25 people who sign up. Please see the Calendar on page 8 for details on these events or write to me at the e-mail address provided.

Currently Audubon YES! is working to forge a stronger connection with the Los Angeles Chapter of Audubon for a combined effort to educate area students about our endangered Snowy Plover. This collaboration will possibly include guided trips to Malibu Lagoon and Cabrillo Beach. Our monthly Audubon YES! calendar will keep you up to date on all these events. If you would like to receive this calendar and be added to our e-mail list, please send a request to the e-mail address below.

Also coming soon is the new Audubon YES! Facebook page. This page is currently under construction, so be sure to add us in August. For now, feel free to check out the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon page, where information on area activities is frequently updated.

We would also like to ask those students who have completed their requirements for an Audubon YES! Award to please e-mail me at the address below. Audubon YES! will be hosting another award ceremony due to the amount of students meeting their requirements. Great work, everyone! We are scheduling the ceremony for September 2010; the exact date will be announced soon via e-mail.

Audubon YES! is open to high school students as well as adult volunteers. If you know of any organizations or educational/environmental efforts that are in need of volunteers, please contact me at either 323-945-4346 or marcos@pvsb-audubon.org.

Your Backyard Habitat



By **Dr. Constance M. Vadheim**
CSU Dominguez Hills

Cobwebby Thistle *Cirsium occidentale*

In June, it seemed like summer would never come. But summer's finally here and insect pollinators are visiting our local gardens. They're a bit late this year—but that's par for the course in southern California. Our plants, our pollinators and we ourselves just have to adjust to our variable weather.



The third week in June is National Pollinator Week. This week celebrates the important role of biotic (living) pollinators. They pollinate over 150 of the most important food crops worldwide. Biotic pollinators contribute over \$30 billion to the U.S. economy each year. In short, our ecosystems, our agriculture and even our home gardens literally depend on pollinators. Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder—in which adult bees die unexpectedly—serves as a wake-up call, warning us of the vulnerability of our pollinators. It is a call to action, reminding us that protecting our ecosystems begins in our own backyards.

Promoting native pollinators requires four simple steps: (1) planting pollinator food plants, (2) providing a source of water, (3) providing nesting places and (4) limiting the use of pesticides. Insect pollinators (native bees, flies, bee-flies, butterflies, moths and others) need food year round. Planting certain native food plants—the “pollinator magnet” plants—helps to meet those needs. In spring, annual wildflowers provide excellent sources of nectar and pollen. In spring and summer,

plants in the mint family, including the *Salvias* (sages), as well as the native Buckwheats (*Eriogonum* species) are among the best choices. From mid-summer through fall, plants in the sunflower family, including our native thistle, take center stage. Plant the pollinator magnets, then sit back and enjoy the show!

Cobwebby Thistle is a well-behaved, noninvasive thistle. It will reseed in many gardens and is prickly, so locate it accordingly. Native in much of California, Cobwebby Thistle is an annual or biennial that is grown from seed. It reaches 2 to 4 feet tall, becoming wide with green-white foliage. It is covered by long white hairs—hence the name “Cobwebby Thistle.”

Cirsium bloom in late spring and summer, sometime between May and August in the South Bay. Their purple-pink



flowers are extremely showy. Pollinators including bees, butterflies and large moths, who vie for the sweet nectar. I've even seen hummingbirds jealously guard their thistles from other pollinators.

Easy-to-grow, native thistles need plenty of sun and adequate water from winter to spring. Learn more about pollinators at www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/pollinators and www.xerces.org/pollinator-conservation.



For more information on growing and purchasing this plant, 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 offered at the center on the first Saturday of each month.

Birds of the Peninsula

May and June 2010

By Kevin Larson

Following an excellent April, land-bird migrant numbers tapered off in early May despite the fact that some of our best fallouts have occurred at this time. However, migrant numbers were fairly good around the middle of the month when a weather front brought light precipitation. Monumental news was the nesting of endangered Least Bell's Vireos in the Ballona area. A few nice rarities were found during the late May and early June vagrant season. Kicking off the "fall" shorebird season were two Greater Yellowlegs that appeared at Ballona Creek on 18 June.

Our cool and winter-like spring continued through May. Though only small amounts of precipitation fell on a few dates in May, cold low-pressure systems recurred during the month. Snowfall in the local mountains on 23 May was unusually late. The weather stabilized after the onset of June, with unrelenting daily marine layer cloudiness throughout the month.

A pair of Redheads at Harbor Park on 12 Jun. was an interesting summer record (Ed Griffin); they were not seen on subsequent visits. White-faced Ibis sightings in recent years appear to demonstrate that birds dispersing or migrating away from breeding sites occur earlier than some published southern California status and distribution books indicate. A flock of 75 flying south over Westchester on 20 Jun. seems to prove that significant numbers are on the move by late June (KL). Some individuals, such as two at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 21 May (Don Sterba) and two (noted to be adults) at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area on 3 Jun. (Richard Barth) may actually be failed nesters or early-dispersing birds. Since

nearby breeding is unknown, a juvenile at the Los Angeles River on 6 Jun. 2004 indicated how early this species can be on the move. This year, Don Sterba photographed a juvenile at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 22 Jun.

A **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 28 May is among the latest ever recorded in spring in southern California (DS); another exceptional record involved one at Harbor Park on 30 May 1968. Larry Fukuhara



Solitary Sandpiper

Photo by Steve Wolf

photographed an adult **Laughing Gull** at Cabrillo Beach on 4 Jun. (fide Bernardo Alps). Three Bonaparte's Gulls along the Los Angeles River north of Willow Street 6–20 Jun. were late (RB). A Glaucous-winged Gull at Ballona Creek 13–18 Jun. was also unusually far south for this time of year (Walter Lamb). Four to six Common Murres were inside the breakwater near the Cabrillo Fishing Pier on 3 May (David Moody). A White-winged Dove at David Ellsworth's San Pedro feeder 8–9 May was a rare spring record (DE).

Nineteen Black Swifts flying north over Westchester during the morning of 23 May (KL) were a small part of an impressive movement of this species along the coast of southern California; several hundred were counted moving north in

Santa Barbara County 22–23 May. For those who wish to correlate sightings of this rarely seen migrant to the weather, a cold low-pressure system was centered over Bakersfield on the morning of 23 May. The Westchester swifts were flying under mostly clear skies with scattered cumulus clouds. A Gray Flycatcher was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 7 May (DS). A family of Say's Phoebes just north of the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 11 May must have nested in the area (Dan Cooper). By late May, Say's Phoebes at Madrona Marsh had already fledged four and were nesting again (Tracy Drake). A Loggerhead Shrike at Madrona Marsh on 20 Jun. was an early arrival from breeding grounds outside our area (Tony Sangrity).

A singing Bell's Vireo found at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 20 Apr (DS) once again sparked hope that this species might breed locally. Summering individuals have occurred at Harbor Park in recent years but, to my knowledge,

breeding evidence has not been obtained. On 7 May, Dan Cooper reported that the BFM individual was paired and there were two singing males in the nearby Playa Vista Riparian Corridor, one of which was paired. Subsequently, both pairs were found to have nests. Fledglings were observed being fed by adults 18–22 Jun. at BFM (DS). A singing Warbling Vireo in Torrance on 14 Jun. was a very late spring record (KL). A male Phainopepla was in San Pedro along Western Avenue at Capitol Drive on 8 Jun. (Bob Shanman).

Our only detected wave of vagrant warblers came on 25 May: a Northern Parula was seen at Madrona Marsh (TS) and a **Hooded Warbler** was seen at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh (DS). A

See Peninsula Birds, Page 7



Jess Morton, Evi Meyer and Baika Glassford conduct the bird survey at Three Sisters Reserve. Photo by Ann Dalkey

Restoration Project, from Page 1

survey. Because this is a threatened species, the restoration was designed to provide the bird with its favored habitat, including California sagebrush. For now, the new sagebrush plants and other coastal sage scrub species are quite small. Once the plants mature, we have high hopes that the California gnatcatchers will move into the new habitat. This typically occurs within 4 years of completed restoration.

With that comes some great news: The Western meadowlark just appeared this past winter on our native grassland restoration site. The meadowlark's preferred habitat in Southern California is a grassland habitat, so we hope that these birds will make Three Sisters a permanent home.

The partnership between the Conservancy and Audubon has resulted in a highly successful survey due to the enthusiastic volunteers. Because of our well-founded partnership, the next 3 years of monitoring is assured. An exciting sidenote is that the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy is implementing a bird survey and is using our survey as a model.

Surveys and restoration will continue for the next 3 years and we welcome new volunteers to participate. Please visit us at www.pvplc.org or contact our Science Director Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208 for more information.

Peninsula Birds, from Page 6

singing Yellow-breasted Chat was in the willow area south of the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 4–19 May (DS) and up to two singing males were at Harbor Park 19 May–4 Jul. (RB, EG). A female **Scarlet Tanager** at Madrona Marsh on 30 May was convincingly described and would constitute only our third area spring record of this species (TD). Previous spring records were of a male in San Pedro 20–24 Jun. 1976 and a female

at Banning Park 23–27 May 1994.

A singing male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was at DeForest Park in Long Beach on 31 May (Andrew Lee). A pair of Indigo Buntings was at Madrona Marsh on 6 Jun. (TS). Two male Tricolored Blackbirds at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area on 3 Jun. were likely early arrivals from breeding locations outside our area (RB).

About 60 migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds were at the Ballona Freshwa-

ter Marsh 3–7 May (DM, DC); two there on 21 May were the last reported (DS). Two individuals of this species were also found at Madrona Marsh on 4 May (DM).

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 along the coast up to Marina del Rey.

Birds Observed in the First and Second Year of the Three Sisters Reserve Bird Survey

Species	2008-2009	2009-2010
Allen's hummingbird	14	22
American crow	30	42
American goldfinch	0	2
American kestrel	1	2
Anna's hummingbird	60	75
Barn swallow	14	7
Bewick's wren	27	30
Black phoebe	5	22
Black-headed grosbeak	0	2
Blue grosbeak	1	0
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	5	0
Bushtit	74	31
Cactus wren	28	30
California gnatcatcher	18	24
California towhee	94	144
Cassin's kingbird	4	6
Cliff swallow	21	14
Common raven	35	44
Common yellowthroat	0	1
Cooper's hawk	6	0
Golden-crowned sparrow	0	2
Hermit thrush	1	4
House finch	311	273
House sparrow	1	0
House wren	7	3
Lazuli bunting	0	6
Lesser goldfinch	47	104
Mourning dove	32	24
Northern flicker	0	6
Northern harrier	1	0
Northern mockingbird	15	18
Northern rough-winged swallow	6	5
Pacific-slope flycatcher	0	2
Red-tailed hawk	3	7
Rock dove	0	2
Rufous-crowned sparrow	5	9
Say's phoebe	14	13
Sharp-shinned hawk	1	0
Song sparrow	2	0
Spotted towhee	88	97
Vaux's swift	0	2
Western gull	0	2
Western kingbird	0	1
Western meadowlark	0	9
Western scrub-jay	23	37
White-crowned sparrow	45	64
White-throated swift	22	21
Wilson's warbler	1	1
Yellow warbler	4	1
Yellow-rumped warbler	13	12

MEET, LEARN, ENJOY, RESTORE

Calendar

Events

Saturday, July 31, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.: **Annual Strategic Planning Meeting** at Madrona Marsh. We will review the successes of this past year and compare them to the goals we set. We will then lay out a direction for next year and have lunch together.

Thursday, August 5, 7:30 p.m.: **Environmental Priorities Network meeting** at the ABC Solar Design and Build Store at 344 PCH in Hermosa Beach. Hear Brad Bartz talk about all things solar, including the exciting program based on Assembly Bill 811. For details, contact Lillian Light at llight@verizon.net or 310-545-1384

Saturday, August 7, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: **Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh.** Explore the new 17-acre Bixby Marshland after a half-hour introductory walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the parking lot welcome table. You will learn about how the marsh came into being, demystify the acronym JWPCP, see the results of this successful restoration project and view the many birds that have made the wetland home. Bixby Marshland is located in Carson on the west side of Figueroa St., just south of Sepulveda. Please note that the entrance can be hard to see. The marsh is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District: www.lacsd.org/about/wastewater_facilities/jwpcp/bixbymarshland.asp.

Thursday, August 12, 7:45–9:45 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 related article in the Aug./Sept. 2009 *Hummin'*). Volun-

teers are needed. They will be trained in identification and the methods used in the survey. To participate, contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, August 14, 9–11 a.m.: **Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP).** Here is your chance to take part in Audubon's partnership with the Chadwick E-community and the City of Los Angeles to restore habitat in Harbor Park. Led by Chadwick students Roderick Go, Lauren Stoneburner and their teacher, Martin Byhower, this is an opportunity to learn about removing invasives and planting native species. Students earn community service credits. Wear long pants, closed-toe shoes and a hat. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug spray and work gloves. The park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. For details, call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday, August 17, 6–8 p.m.: Community meeting of the L.A. Department of Public Works/Department of Recreation and Parks will provide project updates on the Machado Lake/Wilmington Channel Ecosystem Rehabilitation. Join them at the Kaiser Hospital Conference and Education Center, Room 1/2, 25825 S. Vermont Ave., Harbor City, CA 90744.

Saturday, August 21, 7:45–9:45 a.m.: **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See August 12 for details.

Saturday, September 4, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: **Bixby Marshland open to the public.** See August 7 for details.

Thursday, September 9, 8–10 a.m.: **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See August 12 for details.

August						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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September						
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26	27	28	29	30		

Saturday, September 11, 9–11 a.m.: **Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP.** See August 14 for details.

Saturday, September 18, 8:15–10:15 a.m.: **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See August 12 for details.

Tuesday, September 21, 7 p.m.: **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Evening speakers Martin and Eileen Byhower will be presenting "The Best of New Zealand." Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m.–12 pm: **Coastal Cleanup Day.** Join this worldwide venture to clean our coasts and open spaces. Locations in the South Bay include Madrona Marsh, KMHRP, Cabrillo Beach, Abalone Cove, Torrance Beach and White Point. Participants must sign a liability waiver at: www.healthebay.org/volunteer/ccd/2010/waivers.asp.

Field Trips

Sunday, August 1, 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.

Sunday, August 1, 8:30 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' field trip to Ventura Harbor/McGrath State Beach. Meet at the parking lot closest to the Channel Island Park Headquarters. For details, write to motmots@aol.com.

Tuesday, August 3, 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, August 8, 7 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' field trip to the L.A. River. Join L.A. Audubon and Kimball Garrett to experience the shorebirds of the L.A. River. For details, write to motmots@aol.com.

Sunday, August 8, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See August 14 KMHRP event in previous section.

Wednesday, August 11, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, August 14, 4–6 p.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Ocean Trails Reserve. Traverse the bluffs east of the Trump National Golf Course, which have mature coastal sage scrub and cactus, prime habitat of the rare songbird, California Gnatcatcher. Discover local history as you pass WWII military bunkers on this moderate/strenuous walk before taking the coastal switchbacks down to the beach. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Tuesday, August 17, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See August 3 for details.

Wednesday, August 18, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See August 1 for details.

Saturday, August 21, 3 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' field trip to Mt. San Jacinto Aerial Tram. For details, write to motmots@aol.com and/or visit www.piuteponds.com.



Yellow-headed blackbirds at Piute Ponds.

Photo by Jeff and Judy Pfau

Saturday, August 28, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Oceanfront Estates/PVIC. Join us for a tour of the museum, the native plant garden and an easy walk along the spectacular blufftop at Oceanfront Estates. Visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Tuesday, August 31, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See August 3 for details.

Sunday, September 5, 7:30 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' field trip to Piute Ponds on the Edwards Air Force Base in Antelope Valley. For details, write to motmots@aol.com and visit www.piuteponds.com.

Sunday, September 5, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See August 1 for details.

Tuesday, September 7, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See August 3 for details.

Wednesday, September 8, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See August 11 for details.

Saturday, September 11, 9–11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to George F Canyon Preserve. Journey along a willow-filled canyon with excellent restored riparian and coastal sage scrub habitat on this easy/moderate walk. Look down on the Peninsula's rare Catalina Schist from one of the few points where the exposed rock is observable. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, September 12, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See August 8 for details.

Wednesday, September 15, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See August 1 for details.

Tuesday, September 21, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See August 3 for details.

Saturday, September 25, 9 a.m.–12 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. On International Coastal Cleanup day, bring family and friends to enjoy a moderate hike and to clean the beach. Gloves and trash bags will be provided and refreshments served. For details, 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 a list of activities for Audubon's Youth Environmental Service program, visit www.AudubonYES.org.

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