



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

February/March 2012 Vol. XXXIV No. II

THIS UNKNOWN PENINSULA

Shrike

By Jess Morton

This did not used to be news! Back in the 70's, when I began birding, finding a loggerhead shrike was a cinch. Take a walk in any of our wilder or more open areas, and there would be a shrike somewhere nearby, on the hunt for grasshoppers, mice, even the unwary small bird.

Today it's another matter, and the news of two, possibly three, shrikes on this year's Christmas Count drew cheers from all participants. You can understand why when looking at old CBC data. This same count circle that produced two birds in 2011 regularly had counts in which 60 was a slow day. The decline has been steady, low forties 25 years ago, less than 20 birds 10 years ago, one bird in each of the three past counts.

The same pattern of decline in loggerhead shrikes applies to much of southern California, and the more urbanized an area has become, the greater the decline. Habitat loss is the critical factor, mostly from the loss of open space these birds need. They want open land for their hunting and some trees or shrubs in which to nest. In our suburban landscape, there is precious little of that commodity, and what is left is beset by constant manicuring, pesticides and feral cats. Not happy shrike



Loggerhead shrike

Photo by Jess Morton

country, and the numbers show it.

Yet shrikes are wonderful birds. Bandit-masked grey birds with white wing and tail flashes, they are reminiscent of mockingbirds, which may well be found in places where shrikes are. But you can tell them apart instantly from great distances if you see one fly. Unlike a mockingbird with its clean, straight point-to-point flight, a shrike will launch itself from a perch, dip down and skim the ground, finally swooping up onto its destination perch.

See SHRIKE, Page 4

(Make It A) Great Backyard Bird Count

It's time for all of us to take part once again in the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The 15th annual GBBC will be held Feb. 17-20. For those not familiar with it, the GBBC is the annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across the U.S. and Canada.

Each checklist submitted by these citizen scientists helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing — and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, participants turned in more than 92,000 checklists online, creating the continent's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2009 GBBC data highlighted a huge southern invasion of Pine Siskins across much of the eastern United States. Participants counted 279,469 Pine Siskins on 18,528 checklists, as compared to

See GBBC Page 3

CONSERVATION CORNER

Do Something Drastic! Cut the Plastic



By Lillian Light

I am very proud that my city, Manhattan Beach, is a leader in the movement to ban plastic bags! The Manhattan Beach City Council approved this ban in July 2008. A month later the ban was challenged by the Save the Plastic Bag Coalition, and an L.A. County Superior Court

Judge ruled that the city had to conduct an EIR before the ban could be implemented. On appeal, the California Supreme Court unanimously ruled in the city's favor, saying that its ordinance would have no significant environmental effect.

The city's plastic bag ban, which was implemented on Saturday, Jan. 14, requires that all restaurants, food vendors, grocery stores, and pharmacies distribute only recyclable paper bags or reusable bags to customers. Enforcement will not begin until April 14, giving the businesses a grace period to phase out the offending bags. Since last year's ruling, Laguna Beach and Calabasas have followed Manhattan Beach's lead. San Francisco was the first city in the United States to institute such a ban in 2007. Palo Alto and Malibu followed. Los Angeles and Santa Monica are considering taking this action as well.

Why is it so important to get these polluting bags out of the waste stream? It is estimated that the United States goes through 100 billion plastic bags a year, which take an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce, and which last almost forever. In L.A. County, an estimated 6 billion bags are used, with only 5 percent of them recycled, and it costs 17 cents to recycle each bag. It costs more to recycle a bag than to produce a new one. Lisa Foster of 1 Bag at a Time, which sells reusable bags to Ralph's and Ace Hardware, was quoted as saying that people need to know that the manufacture of 14 bags requires enough petroleum to drive a car one mile.

Most plastic bags go into our lakes and rivers and then end up in the ocean where they do not biodegrade like other debris. They photo-degrade, a process in which they are broken down by sunlight into smaller and smaller pieces, eventually becoming individual particles of plastic that are too tough for living animals to digest. They enter the food chain with catastrophic effects on wildlife. Fish, birds, whales, dolphins, seals and turtles die when they mistake these particles for food. It is estimated that 200 different species of sea life have died because they ingested these petro-polymers.

Every piece of plastic that has made it into the Pacific Ocean has been breaking down and accumulating in an area the size of Africa, called the North Pacific Central gyre or the great Pacific Garbage Patch. Research has documented six pounds of plastic for every pound of plankton in this area. Some beaches

in Hawaii get coated with blue green plastic sand, along with staggering amounts of larger plastic debris. Ten percent of the debris washed up on the U.S. coastline is plastic.

As these ubiquitous plastic fragments float around, they accumulate the poisons that are not water soluble and that are manufactured for various purposes. Plastic polymers are sponges for oily toxics like DDT, PCBs and nonylphenols. Some of our worst pollutants are being ingested by jellyfish, which are then eaten by fish. How long will the fish eaten by humans remain pesticide free?

What can we do to reduce the huge quantity of plastic that pollutes our waterways and oceans, endangering the health of so many living things? We can bring reusable bags with us whenever we shop. Do something drastic — cut the plastic! For more information, visit www.algalita.org.

What's Happening With Audubon Yes

By Marcos Trinidad, YES director

As 2012 rolls out, I am honored to announce that, starting in February, YES members will be helping to lead planting events for TreePeople in the Angeles National Forest. Cool! Okay, what does that mean? It means we will be helping our communities connect to our local forest through planting seedlings in reforestation efforts with the U.S. Forest Service and TreePeople, ForestAID. In August 2009, just north of Los Angeles more than 160,000 acres of forest burned in a fire known as the Station Fire. Eighty homes were also destroyed and, most sadly, two firemen lost their lives. We will be planting in Barley Flats this year, starting in February through April. The events will be every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Madrona Marsh's Advance Restoration Crew (ARC) will be helping in a big way. ARC members will be attending supervisor training on Feb. 4 to help manage the many groups of people who have expressed their concern for our communities and our environment and who have great skills and talents that can be utilized in creative ways to help connect our communities to our forest and waterways. ARC members will get the chance to camp at Chilao Campground while they contribute to the restoration efforts. In their down time, they will have time to explore the Angeles Forest by hiking, birding and being in the forest.

Audubon YES is open to all student Audubon Society members and their families. If you know any organizations or areas in need of volunteers, please contact me at marcos@pvsb-audubon.org or 323-945-4346.

GBBC, from Page 1

the previous high of 38,977 birds on 4,069 checklists in 2005. Failure of seed crops farther north caused the Siskins to move south to find their favorite food.

On this website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators. Participants may also enter the GBBC photo contest by uploading images taken during the count. Many images will be featured in the GBBC website's photo gallery. All participants are entered in a drawing for prizes that include bird feeders, binoculars, books, CDs and many other great birding products.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited. Please call our local GBBC coordinator, Bob Shanman of Wild Birds Unlimited, at 310 326-2473, or visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information.



White-crowned Sparrow

Photo by Jess Morton

Report from the Board: Realignment to Align With Flyways

By Jess Morton

By now, all Audubon members will have received National Audubon's 2011 Annual Report, "A Field Guide to Audubon." If you have not read it through, you should, since it contains the basic concepts on which Audubon will operate in coming years. The central theme is Flyways and how these will be used to organize work throughout our entire network of members, chapters, states, centers and national offices.

Every birder and most school children (which, in case you had forgotten, we all once were) have been introduced to the flyways that birds use in migration. Four flyways, two coastal and two interior, define the routes birds pursue from breeding to wintering grounds. It is a simple concept, and useful as a paradigm under which Audubon can operate and explain to the public what we do. Audubon's goal is as it has always been, conservation. Conservation of birds and of the habitats they — and we — depend on.

Of course, birds do not read the books, as I learned early on from

Shirley Wells, who taught me much of what I know about birds. So any simple conception of flyways as applicable to birds in general is bound to be complicated when looked at in detail. Many birds do not migrate, others migrate up and down mountains, and there are always birds going off course, crossing multiple flyways to end up as delightful additions to a day's birding in PV.

But Flyways as an organizing principle for Audubon is going to allow us to work more effectively for large-scale conservation, not only by more easily integrating the work of all parts of the Audubon network within each flyway, but also by more easily attracting the necessary funds that make the work possible.

Since 1987, there have been nine regions in Audubon, each of which elect one representative by chapter to serve on Audubon's National Board of Directors. For the past five years, I have served as western regional director, representing all chapters in California, Hawaii and Guam. In order for us to work more effectively, I and my fellow regional directors have recommended that the regions be aligned with the Fly-

ways. By the time you read this, I expect the board to have approved the proposal.

As of January 2013, there will be north and south regions in each of the four flyways: Pacific, Central, Mississippi and Atlantic. As now, one regional director will be elected by the chapters in each of those eight regions. Thus, for instance, my spot on the board will be held by the Pacific South Regional Director. The ninth Regional Director will serve a nationwide region and be elected by all chapters — something not tried before but that holds potential benefits for implementing nation-spanning programs such as "Audubon at Home" and "Important Bird Areas."

I cannot say how this realignment will play out, but I do know that it fits well with the new dynamism within Audubon. Our recently appointed President, David Yarnold, has begun to unleash the potential within Audubon. Integrating and reinvigorating the Audubon network under the Flyways paradigm is part of that. So is the regional realignment proposal. Now, it is up to us in the chapters to become the catalysts for that reinvigoration!

PV/SB Audubon Bird Quiz

By Martin Byhower

Last month's quiz bird was, granted, a toughie, but I told you that you earn partial credit for narrowing it down a bit. Obviously an "LBJ" ("little brown job," the bird has brownish tones, which are the first clue (though hard to see in the hard copy version of the newsletter, so start checking the online version if you use color as a cue). The paler underside, general wing pattern, and triangular bill have hopefully got you as far as "some sort of sparrow."

Notice the narrow, sharply "jagged" tail and face pattern, and lack of central spot (or any spotting) on the chest. The clue I gave you that may be most helpful is that it is an *unusual* and *wintering* /*va-grant*. The unusual part (and the patterns I mentioned) rule out Fox, White- and Golden-crowned, and Song Sparrow, all common in winter. If you have narrowed it down to something in the "Spizella" group of sparrows, nice work!

Now the hard part. Chipping Sparrows are fairly common in winter, but pretty localized in our area. Brewer's Sparrows show up occasionally, and Clay-colored Sparrows even less frequently. All can be similar, especially in winter. All flock in small groups, feed-



Last issue's quiz bird; read above for clues.

Photo by Dinuk Magammana



New Quiz Bird

Photo by Jose Sandoval

ing mostly on the ground. One of the best ways to distinguish them is when you have different species in the same group, but watch out — some individuals are paler than others, and "Chippies" can vary considerably, depending on age and plumage stage.

But one thing about winter Chippies that is pretty consistent is a thin dark eyeline extending to the bill. It doesn't look like this bird has it. Also, Chippies always have a darker crown, generally unstreaked. You can't see the rump in the picture, but it is always gray, unlike our bird's, which is always brown.

The next candidate is Brewer's Sparrow. I usually identify these little toughies more by their *lack* of distinguishing features than by any distinct field marks. Our bird has a bold face pattern. They have a faint but distinct eye-ring and a faintly streaked crown.

By contrast, our bird has a distinct pale (buffy) crown stripe. The distinct and bold cheek patch almost seems "framed" with a slightly darker border. The only bird that has this combination of characteristics is a Clay-colored Sparrow, and that's our guy! But caution: Other Spizella sparrows, especially Brewer's, can closely ap-

proach a drab Clay color, and even the best birders often have to take very close looks in order to nail down the ID.

Now try next month's bird. I will tell you that it is *not* a rarity and that it lives in our area year-round. Don't worry if there is a shadow of a doubt in your determination — I will fill you in next time!

SHRIKE, from Page 1

It's also a chunkier bird, more jay-like in silhouette.

Another name for the bird is butcherbird, from its habit of storing food on thorns or barbed wire. While this may seem extreme, it is hardly that. Many birds and other animals take their food whenever it is available, finding places to store what they cannot immediately eat. You likely have seen scrub jays storing peanut after peanut, moving constantly between source and storage point until the supply runs out.

Unlike a jay, which hides its food, say by stuffing a peanut under a loose roofing shingle, shrikes store their extras out in the open where they can keep an eye on them. That dangling, impaled lizard is close by and handy, even if, to us, more than a little gruesome. Lunch anyone?

Your Backyard Habitat



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

Red-skinned Onion *Allium haematochiton*

With no rain for weeks, we're in winter drought mode. Even the hardiest of native plants need good winter rains, so if Mother Nature doesn't provide, we should deeply water them so they will survive the next year.



One group that often can survive a winter drought are the bulbs and corms. Many of them just hunker down and wait for rain — even if it doesn't come until next year.

One of our prettiest early native bulbs is the Red-skinned Onion (its name refers to the red membranous bulb coating). It is commonly found in fields/slopes in the Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral and grasslands of coastal Southern California and Baja. This is a real onion — it's used in cooking like shallots — and some animals will eat native onions. The flowers attract pollinator insects, and later, the seeds are eaten by birds. So it's a pretty good habitat plant.

Native bulbs like the Red-skinned Onion should be planted in the fall. Order

native bulbs from companies like Far West Native Bulbs and Teleos Rare Bulbs or locally from Tony Baker. Plants are sometimes also available from Theodore Payne Foundation and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens.

Native onions are quite easy to grow. They aren't particular about soil type and are fine in full or part-sun. You can grow them in the ground (they are great fillers in dry areas of the garden) or in pots. With good winter rains — or your watering — you'll often see the new leaves breaking ground in December. This is usually an early blooming bulb — January or February is common. Flowers are small, white or slightly pink, in tight clusters. They make a pretty seasonal accent!

Native onions need adequate water until the leaves start to yellow — then taper off the water. Collect the seed from seed capsules dried on the plants and use to propagate new little onions (they will be small and won't flower for several years). Our native bulbs do not like summer water, although this onion can take a little. In general, don't water native bulbs until next fall.



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 on the first Saturday of each month at the center.



BIRDER'S DIARY



Female Hooded Mergansers

Photo by Steve Wolfe

Martin Byhower

In order to atone for all the carbon I produced for my "Southern California big year" in 2011 (I hit my goal of 330 species on Dec. 30, with a Barrow's Goldeneye at Quail Lake), I am confining my year list to the PV/South Bay newsletter circle (including the Playa del Rey area, but mainly from the 105 Freeway to the L.A. River and all points south). As of Jan. 15, I have seen 106 species, so I am off to a good start. I am grateful for the many folks who are out there finding these birds, though I have found a few of the rarities on my own, which is more fun!

Evi Meyer

The day of the PV/SB Audubon Christmas Bird Count started out spectacularly. It was a beautiful, crisp, clear day in the southland promising to provide ideal conditions to see and count lots of birds. I was assigned to Region 1, which included Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park and Bixby Marsh. We met at the boathouse at 7 a.m. and were rewarded immediately with a gorgeous sunrise over Machado Lake. Actually, some of the hardcore birders had arrived an hour prior to that in an attempt to find some owls previously seen there, and also to identify some of the early shore birds by sound. But I allowed myself the extra hour in bed and arrived just as dawn was breaking.

Our fingers, ears and nose got cold real fast. The caffeine and adrenaline had not quite kicked in yet, but we were eager to start and divided into groups. Ed Griffin, one of the expert birders of the team, and I were sup-



American bittern

Photo by Evi Meyer

posed to cover the western shore of the lake towards the north end. Ed had asked me to take my camera along, just in case if we saw something rare we needed to document. While Ed was getting his scope ready, I strapped on my camera and overlooked the lake from the boathouse platform. The rising sun was turning it into a beautiful

Birding with Jose Sandoval on Jan. 2, I saw the American Bittern at KMHRP and the very unusual (for this area) Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at San Pedro. We heard the Pine Warbler at the PV Country Club, but didn't get a visual. Also near the PV Drive West area we heard a Summer Tanager and, very unusual for this time of year, saw a Black-headed Grosbeak.

At the South Coast Botanic Garden I saw, on one day, a Hooded-, 2 Bullock's-, and a Baltimore Oriole, plus a Summer Tanager, all in the Coral Tree virtually at one time, as well as on, two other trips, a Purple Finch, Red-breasted Sapsucker, hybrid Red-breasted X Red-naped Sapsucker, Hutton's Vireo, Wilson's Warbler, and a Golden-crowned Sparrow.

I got my first Peregrine Falcon of the year, plus my first Cactus Wren, at Three Sisters on Jan. 7. The next day, for my birthday, I found the White-throated Sparrow at Madrona Marsh. On Jan. 14, I got 26 new year birds in the Playa del Rey area, including my first Merlin of the year, a Brant (goose), and notably, I found a Long-tailed Duck in the Channel.

Tomorrow I will try to find the Clay-colored Sparrow at Madrona, the Varied Thrush at Sand Dune Park, the Hooded Mergansers at Trump, and maybe look offshore from Long Point for some pelagics. No more birds for a while (at least five days, unless I find something at Chadwick!).

golden pond with lots of birds silhouetted across the water.

I scanned back and forth, and then I froze in my tracks. There was a huge golden brown bird, an American Bittern, sitting in the reeds close to the shore. It was soaking up the warming sun, fully exposed. Ed, normally a very calm person, was jolted with excitement when he saw the bird. We walked to a place where we could be even closer to this normally elusive bird and just gorged ourselves visually on its beauty. I was glad I had my camera with me.

Bitterns are rarely seen at Machado Lake. There was a time when Least Bitterns were breeding there, but they have recently been declared extirpated. I believe Jose Sandoval had had an early morning sighting of an American Bittern not too long ago, but even he was stunned by the rare bird. Our experience clearly reinforced the very important birding principle of never excluding anything and going at it with a completely open mind.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher***Photo by Ann Brooks***Ann Brooks**

About 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Bird Count day, Eric and I were preparing to leave the San Pedro Naval Fuel Depot. We were feeling a little disappointed, as we had scouted the depot a couple of days before, and we had been there for a couple of hours, but we had not yet seen any of the special birds, like Mountain Bluebirds, that had been spotted in years past.

Suddenly I saw a fluttering bird out of the corner of my eye — and I said “Scissor-tailed Flycatcher!” as I turned my head towards it. Eric said, “What?!” and stopped the car. There, on a wire, was a lovely adult Scissor-tailed Flycatcher! We watched, photographed and videotaped the bird for over half an hour (a long time to not be looking for and counting birds during the CBC!), but it’s such a pretty and special bird, we could not tear ourselves away!

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher resembles a Kingbird, but is paler, with a salmon belly, crimson underwing and a very long, forked tail that flutters in flight. As Kingbirds and other flycatchers do, it will find a wire or fence or branch and sally out to catch bugs, often returning to the same perch. It seems to prefer rather open perches, and it was clear why that would be — when it turns around on its perch, it has to flip that long tail around, and that would be hard in dense vegetation! It breeds in Texas and Oklahoma and neighboring states, and winters in Central America. We had seen them in Texas and Costa Rica, and there have been other some strays in the L.A. Basin, but never on the peninsula.

We were concerned that we would not be able to share the bird with many people, as the Fuel Depot is open only by advance appointment. Fortunately, Stephanie Bryan found it again the next day in San Pedro near the Police Station, where it has been seen fairly consistently in the mornings.

Forget the partridge in a pear tree, we’ll take the Scissor-tailed as our Christmas bird!

Jess Morton

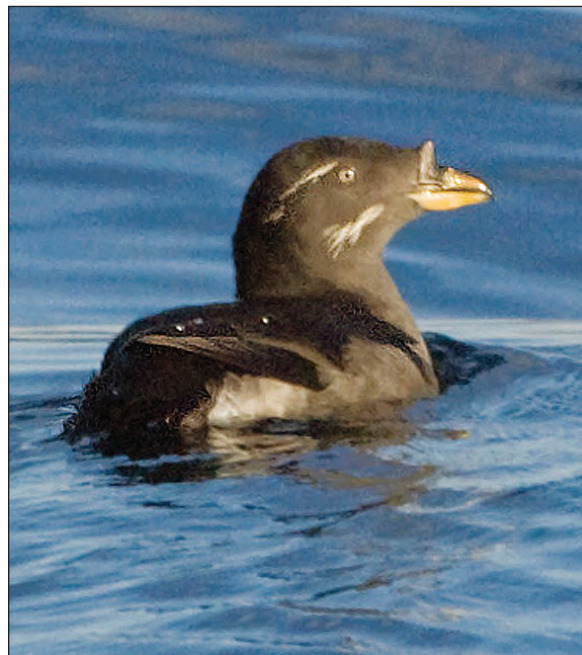
There is something about seabirds that sets them apart.

Some like puffins and penguins have intrigued me since childhood. Others like shearwaters grabbed my imagination since I first saw one skim a swell and glide away on steady wings. Birds apart. Worlds apart.

Then there are the auklets, tubby birds that seem like bumps on the sea from a distance. They pop up out of the water as one approaches and whirl away like edgy footballs. Unless, of course, they have stuffed themselves on krill, when gravity prevents any escape except with an emergency dive.

The weirdest of the auklets are the rhinoceros auklets — puffins with none of the charm of their larger cousins. But we have rhinos here, not puffins, and for this CBC, there were many along the coast. They are wary birds, though, and getting close enough to get a good photo is a test of patience and luck.

In the photo below, one can see the “rhino” horn at the base of the bill that gives them their name. Sometimes they are in close to shore, so a trip to Point Vicente can turn one up for you if you can’t get out on the ocean to see them in their usual haunts.

**Rhinoceros Auklet***Photo by Jess Morton*

CALENDAR

Meet, Learn, Enjoy, Restore

Events

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.:

PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' birding class (Raptors) at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. The fee for the course is \$20 for Foundation members, \$25 for nonmembers. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh. Explore the new 17-acre Bixby Marshland after a half-hour walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the parking lot welcome table. Learn how the marsh came into being, see the results of this restoration and view the many birds. Located in Carson, Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa Street. The marsh is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District: www.lacsd.org/education/.

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' birding class (Ducks) at South Coast Botanic Garden. Garden walks before class start at 6 p.m. if daylight permits. The fee is \$20 for SCBGF members, \$25 for nonmembers. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Thursday, Feb. 9, 8:05 – 10:15 a.m. Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. Along 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. Volunteers are needed. They will be trained in ID and

survey methods. For details, e-mail adalkey@pvplc.org or call 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP). Come take part in Audubon's important partnership with the Chadwick Ecommunity and the City of Los Angeles to restore habitat in Harbor Park. This is a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasives removal and native species planting. Students earn community service credits. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. Harbor Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave. Call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 7:50 – 10 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Feb. 9 for details.

Saturday, Feb. 18, 9 – 11 a.m.: The Stories of Birds at Madrona Marsh, a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior. Tracy Drake will give a short presentation about identification of birds and proper equipment and etiquette. The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No previous birding knowledge required.

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Jennifer Bryce, program manager of the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program. She'll give an overview of Phase 1 and a plan for Phase 2. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize and enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' birding class (Gulls) at South Coast Botanic Garden. Garden walks before class start at

February						
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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			

March						
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

6 p.m. if daylight permits. The fee is \$20 for SCBGF members, \$25 for nonmembers. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

Saturday, March 3, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland open to the public. See Feb. 4 for details.

Thursday, March 8, 7:35 – 9:45 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Feb. 9 for details.

Saturday, March 10, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. See Feb. 11 for details.

Saturday, March 17, 8:20 – 10:30 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See Feb. 9 for details.

Saturday, March 17, 9 – 11 a.m.: The Stories of Birds, a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior. Tracy Drake will give a short presentation at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center about yard birds, or birds that can be seen every day, such as House Sparrows, House Finches, Mourning Doves and Pigeons. The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No birding knowledge required.

Tuesday, March 20, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Guy Torres, who will discuss Native Americans' use of plants. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Fieldtrips

Note: Chapter fieldtrips are free, but donations are appreciated.

Saturday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Antelope Valley (and Piute Ponds) for wintering raptors. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Jess Morton will lead this walk through the garden, at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 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.

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

Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 – 11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Cabrillo Beach. Visit a restored salt marsh, see a coastal native plant garden and learn about this historic area, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium and the beachfront adjacent to the Harbor. Moderate. Visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leader Martin Byhower and explore this important natural area of the South Bay.

Sunday, Feb. 12, 8:30 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 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.



Orange-crowned Warbler

Photo by Jess Morton

Saturday, Feb. 18, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area. This will be a joint fieldtrip with L.A. Audubon. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. Visit <http://torrance.wbu.com>.

Sunday, Feb. 19, 12:30 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour tide pools teaming with marine life. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Monday, Feb. 20, 7:30 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Registration is required. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

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

Sunday, Feb. 26, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Malibu Lagoon State Park. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

Saturday, March 3, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Whale of a Day. Enjoy fun, food, entertainment, education at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Sunday, March 4, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Feb. 5 for details.

Tuesday, March 6, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 7 for details.

Saturday, March 10, 3 – 5 p.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove. Enjoy this afternoon hike at beach level to see lava intrusions and explore the tide pools at low tide. Rocky terrain, so wear shoes with good traction. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, March 11, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See Feb. 12 for details.

Wednesday, March 14, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Feb. 8 for details.

Sunday, March 18, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. For details, visit <http://torrance.wbu.com>.

Tuesday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 7 for details.

Wednesday, March 21, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Feb. 15 for details.

For more information, visit the Chapter website at www.pvsb-audubon.org or www.southbaycalendar.org. For details about Audubon's YES program, visit www.AudubonYES.org.

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NOTE: Please send corrections to Nancy Feagans (e-mail address above)

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