



# HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

April/May 2012 Vol. XXXIV No. III

## Ka'ena Point

By Evi Meyer

A couple of months ago my husband David and I went on one of our far-away trips to places we had never been. This time we were headed to Palau, an archipelago of rainforest islands in Micronesia. We are both divers and had heard about the beautiful Palauan coral reefs and their incredible biodiversity. Around the Palauan Islands alone there are more species of coral than in the entire Caribbean. This, we had to see, and so we embarked on a dive trip of a lifetime.

Because Palau was so far away, we decided to interrupt our trip in Oahu for one night, so the distance we had to travel was more manageable. I had heard about the Laysan Albatross nesting site at Ka'ena Point at the northwestern tip of Oahu, and I wanted to visit it during our layover.

Our flight from Los Angeles arrived at noon in sunny Honolulu, and we immediately rented a car and headed out. We had about an hour drive to our destination. Before long we experienced the rain the north side of the island was famous for. As we drove up to where the paved road ended and parked our car, a drizzle had become full-blown rain.

There was still about an hour walk on a very muddy coastal trail to reach the nesting site, but I was determined to see those birds. David's desire to get out of the car was slim and I told him to just stay put and enjoy the view of the rain and waves pounding on each other from

## Return of the Roadrunner



**On March 4 Holly Gray and Neil Uelman were fortunate to spot this spunky roadrunner foraging along the roadside near the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy's Native Plant Nursery, which is located at the Defense Fuel Support Point in San Pedro. The last known sighting of a roadrunner at this site was made by Jeremiah George in the 1990s. Could this ground-nesting cartoon legend be making a comeback along with Wile E. Coyote?** *Photo by Holly Gray*

behind the windshield. He graciously agreed to wait and let me go.

I strapped on my camera and binoculars and waterproofed them with a dry sack. I put on my hiking boots and rain jacket and headed out. This was a very remote part of the island, and I seemed to be the only person crazy enough to brave this trail. As I was slogging through the terrain, my shoes were rapidly getting

heavy with mud. The trail was slippery, and it was difficult to keep my balance with each step. But I was not going to give up easily. I continued for about half an hour walking in absolute solitude with a steep mountain cliff to my left and waves crashing to my right. I was beginning to have doubts. What was I doing here? I was not even sure I would have

*See Ka'ena Point, Page 3*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

# Preventing the Next Nuclear Catastrophe



By Lillian Light

**M**arch marked the first anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear accident, an accident that still has not ended. At least 80,000 Japanese people have lost their homes and livelihoods. Hundreds of thousands more are living in contaminated zones, afraid of the food they eat and the

water they drink. They have good reason for fear, since scientists have found that one millionth of a gram of plutonium, if inhaled or ingested, can cause cancer. A goat named Katie lived near the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut for several years. Her milk contained high levels of radioactivity, and she has been stricken with inoperable cancer. On March 11, the Fukushima anniversary, she was taken to the White House to protest nuclear proliferation. The protesters were urging President Obama to oppose taxpayer support of two new nuclear power plants in Georgia.

A most interesting article, "Nuclear Fallout" appeared in the Sunday Review (p. 9) of the March 11 issue of *The New York Times*. The writer, Kristen Iversen, is the author of the forthcoming book, "Full Body Burden; Growing up in the Nuclear Shadow of Rocky Flats." The article maintains that neither nuclear power plant managers nor government officials can be trusted to protect people from dangerous exposure to radioactive elements. A report on the Fukushima meltdown recently published in the March 1 *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* details the extensive misinformation supplied to the public by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) in collusion with Japanese officials. This failure to warn people about radioactive danger put many of them at risk in Japan and in other countries as well. The report concludes that the much vaunted "absolute safety" of nuclear power is no more than a "twisted myth."

Quoting from the article: "The threat from nuclear power plants is twofold: grand scale catastrophe and continuing health problems connected with radioactive contamination in our air, water, soil, and food supply — both short-term, high-level contamination and the long-term, low-level kind." Both Japanese and American officials suppress the truth about dangerous nuclear contamination. Ms. Iversen reports that Rocky Flats, which produced plutonium "triggers" for nuclear weapons from 1952 to 1989, was profoundly contaminated, leaked plutonium into the soil and had two large fires in 1957 and 1969. These fires sent radioactive plumes over a wide area including Denver, while radioactive and toxic contaminants routinely escaped from the plant. The public was never warned. When Dr. Carl Johnson, a Jefferson County health director, opposed housing development near Rocky Flats because of the health risks, he was fired.

How much have you heard about the Hanford area that housed nine nuclear reactors, and is now one of the most heavily contaminated places on earth? It may be leaking radioactive elements into the Columbia River. Thirty seven of the 104 nuclear plants in the U.S. have been confirmed to be leaking deadly tritium. In a recent report, the U.S. Academy of Sciences stated that there is no safe level of radiation exposure. Every exposure to radiation increases the risk of cancer, birth defects and other disease. Government officials have failed to take action to address major safety concerns at existing power plants. They have ignored calls to remedy the deficiencies in our nation's nuclear emergency response plans, and they continue to offer billions of dollars in loan guarantees to the nuclear power industry to build new reactors.

**I**n 1995, the Department of Energy said it would take 50 years and \$37 billion to clean up Rocky Flats. After awarding a \$3.5 billion contract to Kaiser-Hill to clean up the site, it is now the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, except for the 1,300 acre portion of the site so drenched in plutonium that state officials say it is not fit for human activity. It is not a place that I would recommend visiting. In 1991, when Congress approved closing Fernald, an Ohio uranium processing facility, federal scientists said that no one could safely live there and that the site would have to be closely monitored forever. This recognizes the fact that most radionuclides are a threat to human health and remain dangerous for thousands of years.

It is encouraging to read that a poll released in early March by the Civil Society Institute found that 77 percent of Americans polled do favor using clean, renewable energy sources such as wind and solar as well as increased energy efficiency rather than more nuclear power in the United States. With the one-year anniversary of the ongoing Fukushima disaster fresh in our minds, let us do our best to join the movement for a nuclear-free, carbon-free energy future!

One important action to take now is to urge your representative (mine is listed below) to support the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures, or SANE Act. On Feb. 9, Representative Markey (D-MA) introduced this bill, which would halt all plans to build new nuclear bomb factories, cancel plans for new nuclear bombers and new nuclear missile systems and also save taxpayers up to \$117 billion during the next 10 years. Please ask Congressman Hahn to support H.R.3974, which would cut billions from proposed wasteful and dangerous nuclear weapons programs.

Representative Janice Hahn  
Rayburn HOB, Room 2400  
Independence Ave. and 1st Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0536  
Office: 202-225-8220  
Local: 310-831-1799

*Ka'ena Point, from Page 1*

seen the nesting site, as I only had a vague idea of where it was.

**B**ut then I saw the silhouettes of two people walking on the same trail way ahead of me. I picked up speed and soon joined up with them. They were just as soaked as I was, and they also had binoculars and cameras with them. That was a really good sign. I struck up a conversation and learned that they were two wildlife biologists, a professor and his student. They were both pelagic bird specialists and were on the island for a birding conference. Of course they were on their way to visit the Laysan Albatross nesting site. My doubts disappeared and I felt incredibly happy that I had stuck it out and met up with these interesting people who were very willing to share their knowledge.

We continued to walk and talk for about half an hour. Just when we were approaching Ka'ena Point, the rain diminished into a drizzle and then the clouds disappeared and the sky turned blue. We opened up our rain jackets and dry sacks to make our equipment accessible in anticipation of the big birds. We were rewarded almost immediately with soaring Albatross right above us. As we continued on the trail, we walked past some birds displaying their courtship behavior and others already sitting on eggs,



**Laysan Albatrosses show their bills as part of their courtship.**

*Photo by Evi Meyer*

or in one case even a newly hatched chick. Apparently very young birds cannot thermoregulate yet and the mother actually sits on them to keep them warm. This of course also protects the chicks against any predators that might be lurking around.

For 20 minutes we were almost delirious with enjoyment of these gorgeous winged creatures. There were Laysan Albatross everywhere doing their best to ensure the success of the next generation. I was struck by a threesome of birds showing their bill fencing typical for courtship. I'd seen this kind of behavior displayed by Waved Albatross on the Galapagos Islands, but only two birds at a time. What were these birds up to?

**Y**et nothing lasts forever, and certainly not the blue sky on the north shore of Oahu. Rain clouds were blowing in again and we knew that we had to waterproof our equipment to avoid damage. So we packed up our stuff, closed up the rain jackets and said goodbye to the beautiful birds. We started our walk back, again through mud and rain, but this time with a beautiful experience engraved in our memory. We felt grateful that the sky had opened up for us just at the right time, so we could photograph the Laysan Albatross colony. Back at the car, I felt tired and dirty, but enormously satisfied. David was listening to music and just shook his head in disbelief of how stubborn I can be. He did enjoy the pictures, though.

## LOOKING FOR SUPPORT



### It's time for Audubon's annual Birdathon that raises funds to let our birds live

PV/South Bay Audubon's Birdathon teams are at it again! We're counting birds to support Audubon's quest to keep birds flying and our youth programs running. Every species seen adds money to the effort. Please help us out by investing in the future. Pledge now!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Please donate either a set dollar amount or an amount per species (we expect to find about 150). E-mail pledges to [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org) to qualify for Bonus Birdathon Photos.*

# Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Bird Quiz

By Martin Byhower

**Y**ou may have noticed a superficial similarity between last month's bird quiz and the Loggerhead Shrike pictured on the first page of the newsletter. Both are grayish, similar in



Guessed yet?

Photo by Jose Sandoval

size, with a pale underside and an *apparent* distinctive black mask. But in strange fashion, the quiz bird's "mask" doesn't seem to terminate on the head, or even the body. Also, look more closely at the bill shape. The Shrike has a distinct, "carnivore hook" at the tip, while the quiz bird has a generalist's "thick for-

cep" bill, which can be used for eating fruit, insects or scavenging. The quiz bird has spotted wings but few other distinguishing features.

Note that the quiz bird is perched in a leafless but heavily branched tree. More than once, I have been fooled by tricks of lighting and shadows. The black band across the face of this Northern Mockingbird is clearly one such shadow! Now, don't go dismissing this bird as *just* a Mockingbird. These native birds are remarkably adaptable and resilient, and seem to be one of the few native species to hold their own against the onslaught of exploding populations of crows and ravens, which tend to either eat or drive away their competitors.

Mockingbirds, especially in breeding season, can be remarkably aggressive. When I am birding in a new area, I find it helpful to "listen to the mockingbird" since their expert mimicry of other birds' songs can tell me which birds I am likely to find in the vicinity. And when you hear one singing at 3 a.m., try to think positively about the bird; that male who is responsible for your insomnia is saying, "I am *so* repro-



**Here's a fairly common guy that will show up soon in most local "birding patches." Color is not the best criterion for identifying this one, so note its other distinctive features. Answer next time!**

Photo by Jess Morton

ductively fit that I can *afford* to be singing right now instead of sleeping or worrying about food or energy conservation. I clearly have a territory staked out and can defend it, and I must have plenty of food, so my genes would afford any future offspring a greater chance of survival!"

## Seventh Annual Solar Homes Tour Set for May 12

The Environmental Priorities Network is sponsoring its seventh annual Solar Homes Tour in the Palos Verdes and South Bay area on May 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Attending this tour will open up a new world of technologies to help you to participate in a sustainable energy economy. Reducing energy use will help to save our planet from catastrophic climate change and save us money as well. The featured homes have many environmental features, such as solar hot water heating, double-paned windows, low-voltage lighting, off-peak timed appliances and native and drought-tolerant plantings. This is a great opportunity to find out more about conservation, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Each home will be open to visitors for two hours or more, starting with the first from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The final home will be open from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. At one home you may view the control panel showing the meter running backwards, and at another you may inspect the electric car in the garage. Please present the EPN flyer to the host or hostess of each home that you visit.

Event co-sponsors are the Pacific Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee and the South Coast Interfaith Council. To request the Solar Homes Tour flyer or to obtain more information, contact Diane Wallace (310-266-1241; [dmbarkwall@gmail.com](mailto:dmbarkwall@gmail.com)) or Lillian Light (310-545-1384; [lllight@verizon.net](mailto:lllight@verizon.net)).

# Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim  
CSU Dominguez Hills

## California Poppy *Eschscholzia californica*

Nothing signals spring quite like California Poppies. Our state flower was well chosen. Historically, it was viewed with interest by the Spanish; the “hills of gold” noted by early explorers were covered with California poppies! Poppies can also make our home gardens seem touched with gold.



California poppies are true poppies in the family Papaveraceae (Poppy family). There are several different forms of this subspecies, the proper naming of which is still debated. The form native to our area was formerly called variety *maritima* (or “coastal form”) and can still be found under that name in the nursery trade. The coastal variety has two-toned flowers — yellow on the edges and orange in the center — rather than being only orange. The foliage is also more blue-green than inland forms. The coastal form should be planted in local gardens.

The showy flowers of California Poppy have petals that attach below the seed capsule (technically, below the ovary), so you can see the developing capsule in the center of the flower. The flowers only open in the sunlight — one Spanish name (*Dormidera*) means “the sleepy one.” Bees are the primary pollinators, and it’s fun to watch them crawling around in the

flowers on a sunny day. The seed capsule is long and cylindrical; it grows quickly once the flower petals drop off. The tiny seeds are flung several feet when the dry capsule opens with explosive force. If you want to collect seed from your poppies, pick almost dry capsules and let them ripen in a sealed paper bag. Poppy seeds are eaten by birds and other ground dwellers. You can also use them in recipes calling for poppy seeds. But you should *not* eat the leaves or roots.

California Poppies are quite easy to grow — in fact, they have become serious weeds in other Mediterranean climates. While California Poppies are often grown as annuals, in our area they are perennials that come back year after year. You can start your poppies from seed sown right before a winter rainstorm (just spread the seed on the soil and lightly rake it in). Or you can start the seed in small pots and plant out small plants when they are about 3 inches tall (be careful not to damage the long roots). Poppies are best in full sun but also do fine in light shade.

California Poppies die back in the summer heat and drought, then often come back again with cooler weather. They may bloom off and on for months from spring to fall. Just cut back the old, straggly growth. If happy, Poppies will re-seed and naturalize around your garden, spreading the magic.

*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

### Martin Byhower

As we move past the February-March birding doldrums into the exciting Spring migration period, it is good to take a moment to reflect upon the spectacular avifauna (and other fauna) that can be found in our area, not to mention the equally spectacular photos of this assemblage taken by our many talented local photographers. Our webmaster, Nancy Feagans, has been busy posting many of those remarkable photos to our website Gallery link. Recently, Jose Sandoval gave us a flashdrive-full assemblage of photos of not only the birds but all types of wildlife at Ken Malloy Park. So check out the Gallery page!

Once you stop drooling over the possibilities that are available virtually in your own backyard, start planning your local spring birding ventures! And if you have a few special photos, especially of South Bay birds that are underrepresented on



Male and female Kestrels in a courtship ritual at White Point Nature Reserve

*Photo by Steve Wolfe*

the site, pass them along to Nancy so that we can include them. Also, spread the word that our PV/SB Chapter website is developing one of the best galleries of local birds of any chapter.

### Jess Morton

One of the benefits of doing the bird surveys on the Three Sisters Preserve is getting to hear the “churr, churr, churr” of cactus wrens calling — or is it complaining? — from hillside patches of cactus scrub. Even better is getting a look up close. That’s what I got to do the other morning when one of my keen-eyed companions spotted this bird who had hopped up on some lemonadeberry to serenade the day. Or was that complain?

Whichever, it was a fascinating sight, especially when I noticed that the bill is only barely opened when the bird makes this call. Somehow, I always expect birds to be like people — mouths wide open when sounding off, serenading, complaining. My mouth may have been open, too, but that would have been from simple wonder.



Cactus Wren at the Three Sisters Reserve in Rancho Palos Verdes

*Photo by Jess Morton*

## A Virginia Rail Encounter at Terranea

By Evi Meyer

It was in late December 2010, when Bill Cullen and Jan Gaffney saw a Virginia Rail at the Western pond of Terranea during a pre-CBC scouting trip. I already knew about the Soras at that pond and had actually been able to take some decent photos of them. But Virginia Rails are supposed to be much rarer and more elusive than the Soras. I like challenging tasks and was now determined to get some photographic evidence of the Virginia Rail, the sighting of which was doubted by some.



Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*)

Photo by Evi Meyer

For the next couple of weeks I spent many cold hours waiting by the pond in the late afternoon. I slogged through mud after rain and endured the cold winter breeze with hat and scarf, camera always ready to shoot. Soras showed up everywhere. One even walked by me right in front of my feet, as if I wasn't there. But where was the Virginia Rail?

One late afternoon, when I was ready to leave the pond because of frozen fingers and lack of light, I heard the beautiful descending call of a Sora, perhaps telling me not to leave yet? So I grabbed another scarf in the car and walked over to the northern shore of the pond, where I sat down and waited. And

then it happened. Not only did I see the Virginia Rail probing along the reeds, but just for good measure, one of the Soras showed up right next to it. I excitedly clicked away, but knew that the pictures would be suboptimal, as I noticed my camera was now on really high ISO settings. But at least I had the proof of the bird.

Over the course of the next year, I went back to the pond quite frequently, attempting to get pictures of the Virginia Rail in better light, preferably sunlight. It was difficult to see that elusive bird again, but I would not give up. I kept

stopping at the pond on my way to and from work.

Then, on a beautifully sunny mid-morning last Nov. 9, I got to the pond and within five minutes of my arrival the Virginia Rail was *prancing* along the north shore of the pond. Elusive was not the word that came to mind. This bird seemed as careless as could be, busily probing and fully exposed to the outside world. It was absolutely exhilarating to finally get rewarded and photograph the Virginia Rail at Terranea under perfect lighting conditions.

Was it worth all the effort? Absolutely, and I would do it again in the blink of an eye.

## What's Happening with YES

By Marcos Trinidad, YES director

I am pleased to announce that we will be having our Audubon YES Award Ceremony on Sunday, April 29. It will take place at Madrona Marsh Wetland Preserve. Join us at 1 p.m. for lunch, the award ceremony an hour later, and the closing at 3 p.m.

All are welcome to attend as we show our appreciation to the Palos Verdes/South Bay youth for their hard work and dedication to conservation. Students volunteer their time to various environmental organizations and earn Audubon YES credit. When they have earned a minimum of 100 credits, or approximately 50 hours of volunteer service, they are qualified to receive an award.

YES members have been key to much of the conservation efforts throughout the South Bay. From their habitat restoration work with Madrona Marsh, to their tree planting with the Tree Musketeers' in El Segundo. YES members have shown that when youth are engaged and inspired to make a difference, all of our conservation goals can be met.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) and YES have made a major commitment to encourage youth to take on leadership projects throughout the Peninsula area. Through a TogetherGreen Innovation Grant, YES and PVPLC will be offering a leadership training workshop for Audubon YES awardees. This training will help young people learn how to become a leader among their peers in an outdoor setting. Dates have not been set for the trainings, but they will take place in late spring. Also as part of this grant, YES will

See Audubon YES, Page 8

## Morton Headlines Chapter Meeting

National Audubon Director and PV/South Bay Audubon Chapter Treasurer Jess Morton will present "ESA, Birds and Bugs — Jewels out of a Waste Land." at our 7 p.m. meeting Tuesday, May 15, at Madrona Marsh.

In this presentation, Jess will delve into his library of photos, poetry and natural history to illustrate how the natural world so close at hand is often undervalued as "waste land," though incredibly beautiful and full of wonders. Then, drawing on his long sense of local history, he will tie the political and legal process of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to the conservation of birds and bugs, such as the tiny jewels that are the California gnatcatcher and Palos Verdes blue



California Gnatcatcher

*Photo by Jess Morton*

butterfly, or "PV Blue."

Finally, all of these strands will be intertwined to show how our own crown jewel, the Palos Verdes Nature Reserve, came into being and what it means for our future and for all the living things that depend on it for existence.

## Easter Grass Poses a Danger to Birds

It's that time of year. Bluebirds are nesting and kids have Easter Egg hunts. How are these related? Dropped or discarded Easter grass makes for easy pickings for Bluebirds and other cavity nesters, such as Tree Swallows, that build their nests out of grass. They pick up the plastic Easter grass and weave it into a beautiful nest, a nest that is dangerous for adults and chicks. Birds get tangled and trapped in the strong plastic grass, so they are unable to leave the nest to feed.

The Bluebird Nest Box Project at Harbor Park is in its fourth year. Our nest box monitors continually remove strands that have been woven into the nests, and also dispose of clusters found on the ground. To educate the public, we have created a flyer (visit [pvsb-audubon.org/bluebirdproject.html](http://pvsb-audubon.org/bluebirdproject.html)). If we are able to save even a few nesting birds through this effort, it will be worthwhile!

### Audubon YES, from Page 7

expand to new chapters and organizations throughout the country. Teachers

in the Los Angeles area have been looking for ways to integrate YES into their environmental science class curricula.

Most recently, some YES members

have been able to attend the ForestAid project in the Angeles National Forest. ForestAid is a partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and TreePeople, to engage volunteers from the Los Angeles basin and surrounding areas to plant native seedlings in reforestation efforts. Volunteers are currently planting in Barley Flats, one of the main areas that was affected by the 2009 forest Station Fire.

High school student Gabriel (Gabe) Hernandez said, "I'm happy that I can give back to the forest. It's really sad to see the damage the fire has done. And it's sad that it was caused by a person." A new YES member, Gabe started his volunteer work at a TreePeople tree planting in Gardena. This was Gabe's second time planting in the Angeles Forest, and he said, "I'll be back!"

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



Shown above are YES Director Marcos Trinidad (far right, white hardhat) pointing out a pair of bluebirds to YES members like Gabe Hernandez (middle).

*Photo by Vahagn Karapetyan*



# CALENDAR

## Meet, Learn, Enjoy, Restore

### Events

**Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.:** **PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting** at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

**Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.:** **Eric and Ann Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. The fee for this eight-week course is \$45 for SCBGF members, \$55 for non-members. Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.:** **Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh.** Explore the 17-acre Bixby Marshland after a short introductory 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 and view its many birds. Located in Carson, Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa Street, just south of Sepulveda Blvd. The marsh is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District: [www.lacsd.org/education/](http://www.lacsd.org/education/).

**Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.:** **Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

**Thursday, April 12, 7:50 – 10 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. Volunteers are needed to be trained in identification and survey methods. For details, contact Ann Dalkey at [adalkey@pvplc.org](mailto:adalkey@pvplc.org) or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

**Saturday, April 14, 9 – 11 a.m.:** **Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP).** Come take part in Audubon's partnership with the Chadwick Ecommunity and the City of L.A. to restore habitat. This is a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasives removal and native species planting. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. KMHRP is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. Call 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

**Tuesday, April 17, 7 p.m.:** **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Our speaker for the night will be Tracy Drake. Tracy will talk about bringing nature home through habitat creation by illustrating the story of insects, birds and mammals thriving in an urban setting. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

**Wednesday, April 18, 7 p.m.:** **Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. For details, see April 4.

**Saturday, April 21, 7:35 – 9:45 a.m.:** **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See April 12 for details.

April						
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29	30					

May						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

**Saturday, April 21, 9 – 11 a.m.:** **The Stories of Birds,** a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior at Madrona Marsh. Tracy Drake will be giving a short presentation in the Nature Center about ducks and other common divers and dabblers, featuring Mallards, Coots, Pied-billed Grebes and Northern Shovelers. The second part of the program will take place outdoors.

**Wednesday, April 25, 7 p.m.:** **Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

**Sunday, April 29, 1 – 3 p.m.:** **YES (Youth Environmental Stewards) award ceremony** at Madrona Marsh. Please come and support our YES students by celebrating their vital contributions to a healthier local environment.

**Wednesday, May 2, 7 p.m.:** **Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

*Please see Calendar page 10*

*Calendar, from Page 9*

**Saturday, May 5, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland open to the public.** See April 7 for details.

**Monday, May 7, 7:30 p.m. – CNPS Bird Lecture** at the South Coast Botanic Garden, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Steve Hartman will present “How to Find Birds in the Desert.” California Native Plant Society programs are free and open to the public. There is no Botanic Garden admission fee for evening programs. For details, visit [www.sccnps.org](http://www.sccnps.org).

**Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m.: Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

**Thursday, May 10, 7:20 – 9:30 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See April 12 for details.

**Saturday, May 12, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP.** See April 14 for details.

**Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Our speaker will be Jess Morton. He will be presenting a program on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), “Birds and Bugs – Jewels in a Waste Land.” Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

**Wednesday, May 16, 7 p.m.: Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

**Saturday, May 19, 7:05 – 9:15 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See April 12 for details.

**Saturday, May 19, 9 – 11 a.m.: The Stories of Birds,** a beginner’s guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior at Madrona Marsh. Tracy Drake will give a short presentation in the Nature Center about little birds with big voices, like jays, crows, mockingbirds and ravens. The second part of the program will be outdoors.

**Sunday, May 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.: The South Bay Water-Wise Garden Tour** is a self-guided tour of local gardens. Guests will encounter the beauty and pristine look of South Bay gardens that embrace the water-wise gardening philosophy. Cost is \$12 per person (age 10 and under are free). For details, call 310-515-0934 or e-mail [WaterWiseGarden-Tour@gmail.com](mailto:WaterWiseGarden-Tour@gmail.com). Visit [www.southbaywaterwisegardentour.com](http://www.southbaywaterwisegardentour.com).

**Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.: Brooks birding class** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. For details, see April 4.

## Field Trips

**Sunday, April 1, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Jess Morton will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBGF, or you can join there.

**Tuesday, April 3, 8:30 a.m.: “Tour de Torrance.”** Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble in a great local birding area. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Wednesday, April 4: Birding with Bob.** Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. Visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com) and click on “Birding with Bob.”

**Saturday, April 7, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks** field trip to the Huntington Beach Central Park and Bolsa Chica wetlands. Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Sunday, April 8, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP.** Join Audubon leader Martin Byhower and explore this important natural area. See April 14 event for location.

**Wednesday, April 11, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh** with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Saturday, April 14, 9 – 11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Chandler Preserve.** Admire this flourishing 28-acre preserve featuring restored habitat for the PV blue butterflies, and look for native wildflowers. Easy to moderate. For details, visit [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

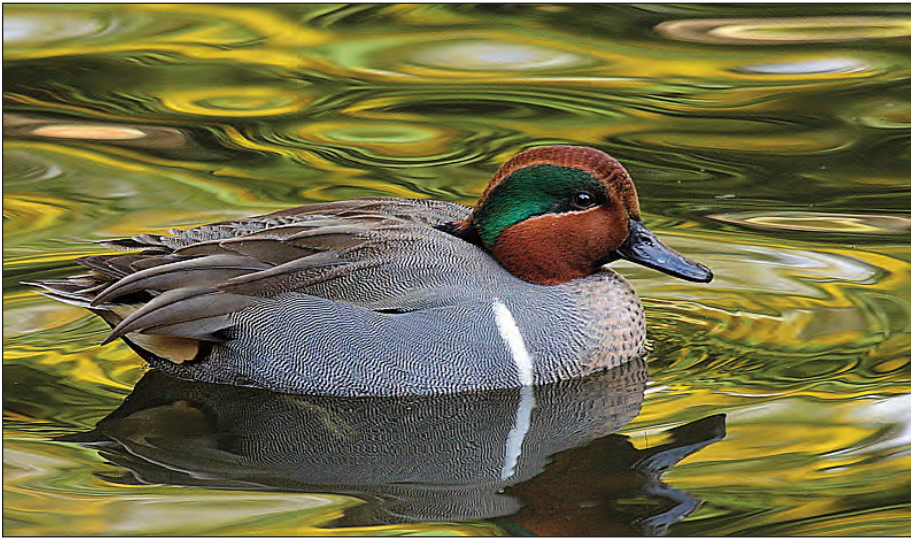
**Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m.: Brooks field trip to San Joaquin Marsh Preserve** with Mark Kinchloe. Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Sunday, April 15, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands** with Bob Shanman. For details, visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com).

**Tuesday, April 17, 8:30 a.m.: “Tour de Torrance.”** See April 3 for details.

**Wednesday, April 18, 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 SCBGF, or you can join there.

**Sunday, April 22, 8:30 a.m.: Brooks field trip to Malibu Creek State Park.** Please call 323-295-



Male Green-winged Teal at Averill Park this February.

*Photo by Steve Wolfe*

6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Sunday, April 22, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course.** Walk the Western Bluff Preserve to observe endangered Gnatcatchers while enjoying the beautiful vistas of the coastline. Easy. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm)

**Tuesday, April 24, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.

**Sunday, April 29, 8 a.m.: Brooks field trip to Big Santa Anita Canyon.** Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Tuesday, May 1, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.

**Wednesday, May 2: Birding with Bob.** Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. Visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com) and click on "Birding with Bob."

**Sunday, May 6, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** See April 1 for details.

**Friday through Sunday, May 4–6: Brooks weekend field trip to Whitewater Preserve, north end of Salton Sea, Big Morongo Canyon and Joshua Tree or Pioneertown Mountains Preserve.** Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Tuesday, May 8, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.

**Wednesday, May 9, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh.** See April 11 for details.

**Saturday, May 12, 8 a.m.: Brooks field trip to Sand Dune Park and other coastal hot spots.** Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Saturday, May 12, 9 – 11 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History Walk to Forrestal Reserve.** This 155-acre Reserve offers some of the best wildflowers viewing in spring. See dramatic geological formations on the cliffs at this former basalt quarry where faults, folds, sedimentary bedding and igneous intrusions are visible. Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

**Sunday, May 13, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP.** Please see April 8 for details.

**Tuesday, May 15, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.

**Wednesday, May 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** See April 18 for details.

**Sunday, May 20, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands** with Bob Shanman. For details, visit [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com).

**Sunday, May 20, time TBD: Brooks field trip to Tejon Ranch.** Please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Tuesday, May 22, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.

**Saturday, May 26, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Forrestal Nature Reserve.** Walk through coastal sage scrub habitat, and learn about the local geology. Moderate. Visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm).

**Saturday, May 26: Brooks field trip to a location TBD.** For trip information, please call 323-295-6688 or e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

**Tuesday, May 29, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See April 3 for details.



**NOTE:** PV/South Bay Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations of any amount are appreciated and support our programs. For more information, visit the Chapter website at [www.pvsb-audubon.org](http://www.pvsb-audubon.org) or [www.southbaycalendar.org](http://www.southbaycalendar.org). Also visit [www.AudubonYES.org](http://www.AudubonYES.org).

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