



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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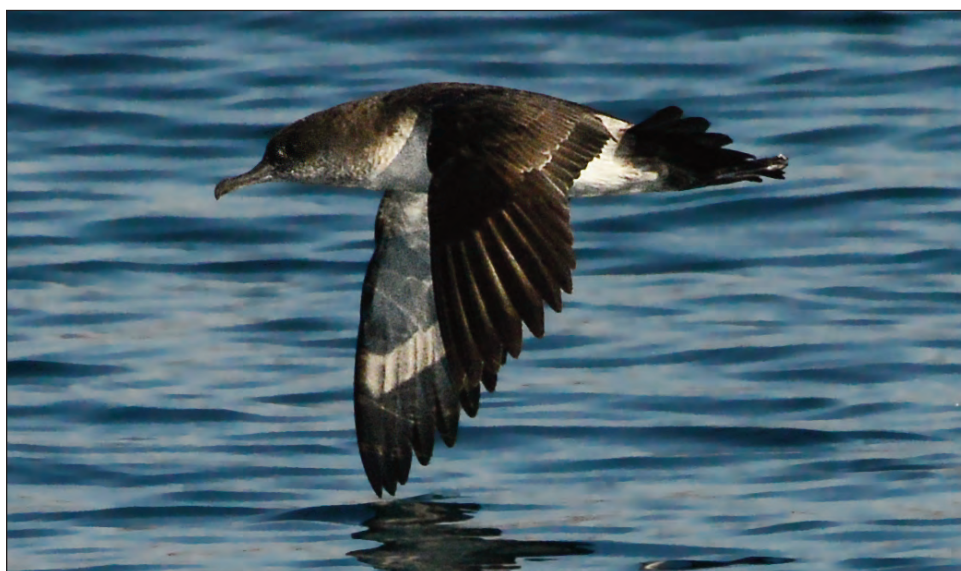
CHRISTMAS COUNT: A PELAGIC REPORT

By Jess Morton

The 2013 Christmas Count was conducted Dec. 22 under perfect conditions for those of us looking for seabirds. Hans and Diane Bozler hosted the pelagic birding team on their boat, the ideal platform from which to seek out those birds that live at sea and come in to land only when nesting. Our team leader was the inestimable Kimball Garrett, curator of ornithology at the L.A. County Natural History Museum, and a birder whose eyes and ears are only surpassed by his deep knowledge of birds. Team members included my wife Donna, Bob Carr and Liz Kennedy.

As usual at this time of year, Black-vented shearwaters dominated the off-shore expanse. On count day, thousands skimmed along the sea surface around us, most of them heading northwest in a seemingly endless procession. Among them were a few leucistic birds, showing varying amounts of white where brown feathering would normally be, and one Manx shearwater, a bird common in the Atlantic Ocean, but rare here.

See Christmas Count Page 2



A Black-vented shearwater skims the water.

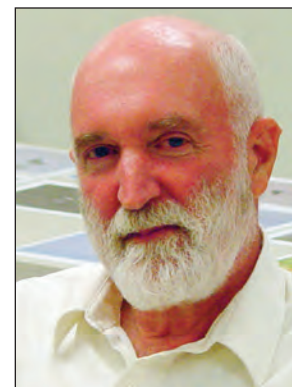
Photo by Jess Morton

'Scaling Conservation'

**Presented by Jess Morton
Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center**

"Scaling Conservation (One Naturalist's Notebook)," will be presented by Jess Morton at the PV/South Bay Audubon meeting at 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18. Looking back over his 40-plus years in the birding world, Jess will relive some of his experiences as both a naturalist and conservationist through stories, poems and photographs.

In addition to his many activities in support of PV/South Bay Audubon, ranging from walk leader to three-time chapter president, Jess has served as an officer of Southern California's only regional conservation group, the Endangered Habitats League, since its founding in 1991, and on the boards of many other influential organizations, including the National Audubon Society for six years. These roles have enabled him to observe and contribute to the preservation of open space and biodiversity at scales ranging from local and regional, to national and international. Each requires its own approach, but the rewards are the same at every scale. If scaling also means to climb, scaling conservation has been, and continues to be, a great adventure. You can share in it as Jess opens his notebook for our February meeting program.



Jess Morton

Christmas Count, from Page 1

Though distant, we could see the bird's sharply contrasted white and dark feathering, quite unlike the gradation shown by the Black-vented shearwaters. Of course, when Donna and I first started birding, the taxonomic splitters had not quite got to the Black-vented/Manx shearwater complex yet. They were all Manx back then. Manx shearwater. Ho hum!

According to Anna Weinstein, head of the Barrow to Baja Bird Conservation Program at Audubon California, Sooty shearwaters are California's most abundant bird, and we had a few for the count even though the summer months are when they are off the Palos Verdes coast by the thousands. Also present were a couple of Pink-footed shearwaters and several Northern fulmars.

All five of these species belong to the order Procellariiformes, more commonly called the tubenoses, birds adapted to drinking seawater by extracting the salts via a nasal gland at the base of the bill and excreting them through a tube-like structure atop the bill, as is readily seen in the photo of the fulmar at rest on the water. Fulmars are very gull-like birds in appearance, but their flight is like that of shearwaters, with wings held quite stiffly out to the side. No floppy-winged flight for these fellows.

All the larger tubenoses are adapted to their oceanic living by using long, slender wings to take best advantage of the turbulence near the sea's surface where winds and waves interact. Flight for many of these birds, especially the albatrosses, is not a matter of flapping wings at all, but of gliding into and out of



This Northern fulmar shows its characteristic tube nose.

Photo by Jess Morton

wave-driven updrafts at will, with wings merely held outstretched.

During the course of the day, we spotted several other birds that spend no time on shore at this time of year. A few dozen little Cassin's auklets sped quickly out of view at our approach. No photo ops there! Red phalaropes were more cooperative, though, and we were able to get close enough to watch these little members of the sandpiper family as they rested in small flocks on the water.

The much larger pomarine jaegers — and aerial pirates to boot — were seen occasionally throughout the morning hours. We did not see one chasing another bird, but they do, often forcing a tern or gull to disgorge a meal so it can escape the attacking jaeger. The jaeger, of course, is quite happy to do clean-up duty on what the other bird had intended to eat.

It was a great day of birding on the water. We saw many other species of birds, of course (cormorants, grebes, gulls, herons, loons, terns, etc.) but these were land-based birds, even if seen at sea. I will leave the reporting of them to others. For me, this part of the Christmas Count was mostly all about pelagic birding at its best.

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to 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. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can now participate from anywhere in the world!

It's free, fun and easy. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC 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 134,000 online checklists, creating the world's largest instantaneous snapshot of bird populations ever recorded.

The 17th Annual GBBC will be held Friday, Feb. 14, through Monday, Feb. 17. Please visit the official website at www.birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources.

"This count is so fun because anyone can take part — we all learn and watch birds together — whether you are an expert, novice or feeder watcher," said Gary Langham, Chief Scientist.

"I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up."

What's Happening with YES

During the past couple months, YES has been extremely busy. We have not only returned from winter break with excitement, we have returned with purpose and resources. Audubon YES is pleased to announce the collaboration of two eager schools in South Los Angeles, thirsty for the opportunity to learn and explore the natural world and two dynamic conservation organizations, the PV/South Bay Audubon Society and Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC).

Audubon and the PVPLC are no strangers to collaborating together. In fact, as part of a 2011 Toyota TogetherGreen Innovation grant, the two have partnered in the past to recruit and train South Bay youth to become volunteer supervisors and to restore vital habitat throughout the peninsula for the California gnatcatcher, cactus wren and the Palos Verdes blue butterfly. What is new for these two organizations will be working with inner city schools located in stressed neighborhoods that lack the environmental awareness or support from any large conservation organization.

The Cindy and Bill Simon Alliance High School of Technology and Edwin Markham Middle School are both walking distance from each other and the Watts Towers. These two schools are in the beginning stages of adopting the Audubon YES program and participating in field trips and restoration activities with the PVPLC. Simon Tech has about 80 students participating in the Audubon YES program. So far the students have had an educational exploration day at Abalone Cove and a restoration day at White Point Nature Preserve.

"For me, one of the most amazing things about this partnership is being able to watch the students share this moment with each other. They get to come out to the peninsula and create memories with their friends," said Adrienne Mohan, stewardship associate with the PVPLC. Adrienne is also the author of the 2013-2014 TogetherGreen Innovation grant that



At Abalone Cove, YES director Marcos Trinidad points to a diving brown pelican and explains the duty we have to keep our oceans clean for all life.

Photo by Matt Maranan

is funding this project.

At the moment, our Simon Tech YES members have plans that include continued field trips to the South Bay, drought tolerant plants for their school campus, recycling for their campus, neighborhood tree planting and vegetable gardening as well as fruit tree giveaways for their community. Simon Tech will have their first fruit tree giveaway in February in partnership with TreePeople and the Watts Healthy Farmers Market. With continued exposure to nature, the students are learning how they can transform their very own community into a vibrant living space for humans and wildlife.

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 contact Director Marcos Trinidad at marcos@pvsb-audubon.org or 323 945-4346.



Photo courtesy of Nick and Mary Freeman

'Thailand – In Search of the Dream Bird'

**Presented by Mary and
Nick Freeman
Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center**

Come and share the experiences of finding one of the rarest shorebirds in the world, the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (see photo at right). Mary and Nick Freeman will give a talk on their recent trip to Thailand and share some diverse birding opportunities to be found in this great tropical birding destination. Mary will present photographic highlights of their trip and discuss the search for their dream bird.

Mary is a Los Angeles native who has been birding for over 40 years. She is a

member of her local Audubon chapter, a past president and the current programs chair. She has been leading birding trips since the late 1970s. Mary is passionate about owls, and has taken on the role of trending the recovery of Northern Saw-whet Owl in the Western San Gabriel Mountains after the 2009 Station Fire.

Nick has birded all four corners of the U.S. and traveled to Baja California, Central America and South America. Thailand was the first foray for Nick and Mary out of the Americas. He has been a field trip leader for over 20 years, and has led innumerable trips for his chapter, as well as for bird festivals. His special interests are flycatchers, gulls, owls, hawks, and reptiles.

BIRDER'S DIARY



Snipe Hunt

By Jess Morton

Summer night, Cape Cod, and boyhood so many years ago when there were still dirt roads through the woods on the sandy barrens. I can clearly remember moments of that first snipe hunt, campers and counselors alike out under the stars, beating the roadside shrubbery for something no one was sure existed. Over us stood an old, beat-up roadside sign pointing to the two closest towns. "Mashpee – Sandwich," it proclaimed to our flashlights in its weary way.

We thought a snipe was supposed to be a bird, but its size and what it might sound or look like were unknown, as was its location. This road? That road? Who could know? Even the oldest of the counselors had never seen one, so how were we to know if we even found one? At the time, I think I was quite convinced there was no such thing as a snipe and that snipe hunts were intended to be jokes on the unsuspecting.

Well, I still think the latter is true, but I have had no doubts about the existence of snipe ever since I started birding some 40 years ago. They were right there in the books. That only proved their existence, mind you — actually seeing a snipe was quite another matter! These are elusive little devils, birds of marsh and close cover. Seeing one, even if it is in plain view, can be difficult. So, for me, a snipe on the checklist means I've had a very good day of birding. More than one or two is unheard of in these parts.

Until a month or so ago, that is. The draining of Machado Lake at Harbor Park has suddenly provided an ideal habitat for snipe to judge by the results. I counted 54 on the day I took photos, all crammed into a small part of the lake edge no more than 100 feet across. Yet, it is still easy to miss seeing them, even knowing they are there. Once you spot the first bird, though, the others begin to blossom into view. The little panorama above will give you an idea. Jammed onto that six-foot stretch of marsh are two dozen birds. Snipe hunt, indeed! How many can you find?

CHAPTER HELP NEEDED

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society is in immediate need of volunteers to fill three important positions: Secretary, Publicity Coordinator and Insurance Consultant.

The primary duties of the **Secretary** are to record and distribute minutes of the bimonthly board meetings and other special meetings, and also send out e-mail notices to the membership. The **Publicity Coordinator** sends announcements of upcoming Chapter events and other publicity-related communication to local publications. For details, contact Nancy Feagans at 310-974-2666 or David Quadhamer at 310-833-3095.

The Chapter also needs volunteers to assist Bob Shanman at Wild Birds Unlimited with the bimonthly mailing of our *Hummin'* newsletter, which takes two to three hours. Please contact Bob if you can help at wildbirdbob@gmail.com or 310-326-2473.

Last, the Board of Directors is looking for an **Insurance Consultant** who can advise on all forms of insurance to ensure Chapter members and volunteers are adequately protected under existing policies. If you can invest a few hours of time each year reviewing our coverage in consultation with YES Director Marcos Trinidad and President Nancy Feagans, e-mail nancy@pvsb-audubon.org or call 310-974-2666. Thank you in advance for your help!

A Trans-Species Wren

By Evi Meyer

I recently spent seven magnificent hours birding at Bolsa Chica. While I was treated to close encounters with a White-faced Ibis, an American Bittern and several Reddish Egrets, it was a little bird that caught my attention and became the bird of the day.

As I was standing by the benches on top of "Tern Island," trying to figure out who is who amongst the shorebirds, I heard a bird scolding behind me. It sounded very much like a House Wren. However, when I turned around and saw it fly, it appeared to be too small for a house wren and had rusty-colored wings. It had my full attention now!



Marsh Wren

My instinct told me that it looked very much like a Marsh Wren, but I had only ever seen those associated with reeds in fresh or brackish water. I was clearly standing along channels filled with water from the Pacific Ocean.

I decided to wait for this bird to reveal itself so I could have a better look and perhaps even get a picture. After a few minutes, it came hopping out of the bush in which it was hiding, and sat on top of the rocks between the vegetation. Now it behaved more like a Rock Wren, but in plain view it clearly was what my instinct had told me.

Here was a Marsh Wren, which sounded like a House Wren, behaved like a Rock Wren and was in a habitat not usually associated with Marsh Wrens. If I have learned anything in birding, it is to never exclude anything. Crazy things can happen.

2014 PV/South Bay Audubon Chapter Programs

- Jan. 21** *"International Wildlife Trade"*
Mike Osborn, Supervisory Wildlife Inspector, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Feb. 18** *"Scaling Conservation"*
Jess Morton
Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon
- March 18** *"Thailand: In Search of the Dream Bird"*
Mary and Nick Freeman
Los Angeles Chapter of Audubon
- April 15** *"Habitat Restoration & the Bird Community"*
Ann Dalkey
Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
- May 20** *"Cavity Nesters of Southern California"*
Sylvia Gallagher
Sea and Sage Audubon
- June 17** **Madrona Marsh Stroll**
- July 15** **Photo Night:** Bring your Best Nature Photos to Share
- Aug. TBD**
- Sept. 16** *"Birds and Mammals of Namibia and Botswana"*
Lisa Fimiani
Los Angeles Chapter of Audubon
- Oct. 21** *"Saving the Endangered Channel Island Fox"*
Pat Meyer and Keri Dearborn
Friends of the Island Fox

All programs start at 7 p.m.
at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center
3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance, CA 90503
www.friendsofmadronamarsh.com

CONSERVATION CORNER

California Needs a Fracking Ban



By Lillian Light

The drought that grips the Southwest today is the worst in 1,250 years, and climate modeling suggests that this situation is likely to get worse. The findings of the first California snow survey of 2014 were dismal and highlight the need for a reliable state water supply system. In view of this serious problem, why do Governor Brown and legislators of both parties support the fossil fuel companies' plan to expand fracking into the gargantuan Monterey shale formation?

This formation extends from the L.A. Basin to Salinas in Northern California and may contain 15 billion barrels of frackable oil and gas. One well can be fracked up to 18 times, and each time 1 to 8 million gallons of water are required. Not only are huge quantities of water used, but also much of this water is permanently contaminated. Fracking also fuels climate change-driven extreme drought. Oil, coal and gas companies already have provided reserves of oil, gas and coal far greater than we can burn without reaching irreversible climate catastrophe. Allowing these industries to extract and burn otherwise inaccessible oil and gas is sure to lead to environmental disaster.

Governor Brown's administration recently proposed regulations that allow fracking and other oil-extraction techniques like acidizing. The process of acidizing involves injecting hydrofluoric acid into the bedrock. This acid is extremely toxic; it can immediately and permanently damage lungs if inhaled, and a spill on the skin is absorbed deep into the body's tissues and changes bone calcium atoms to fluorine atoms. Do we want this toxic acid leaking into our ground water?

In addition to conventional pollution

hazards, fracking also releases natural gas (methane) into ground water and into the atmosphere, significantly contributing to global warming. Due to methane leakage, scientific studies show that natural gas is not better than coal when it comes to global warming. Some of our legislators are fearful that fracking can set off seismic activity. In several Midwestern states, it has triggered earthquakes where they have not been experienced before.

Why So Much Support?

With all the negatives that have been brought to light, why do so many people support fracking in California? At our last Environmental Priorities Network meeting, board member Sally Hayati provided the answer:

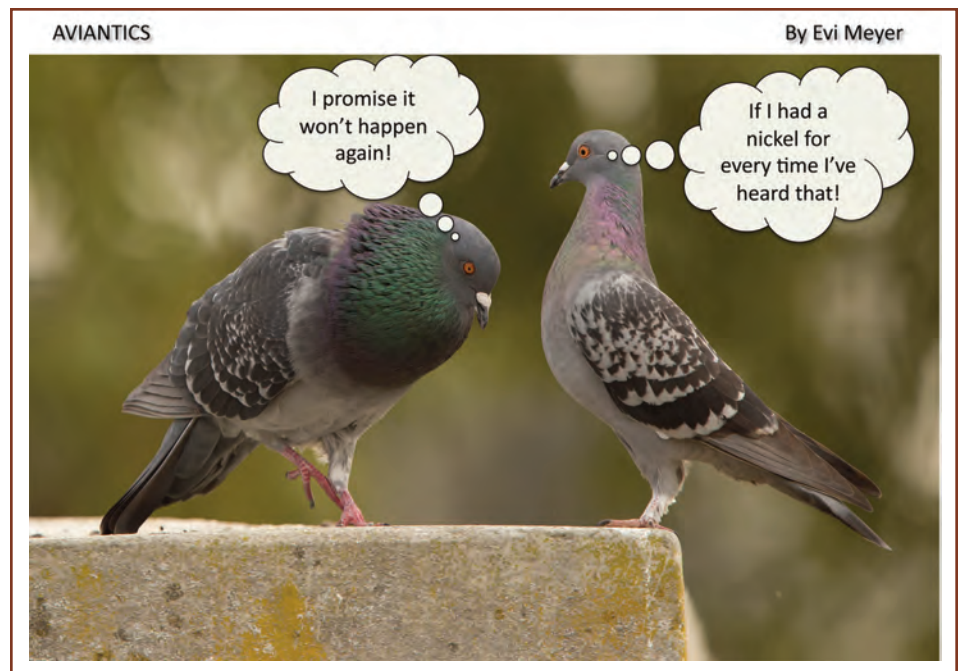
"As Exxon Mobil pointed out on their website, energy expert Mark Mills noted recently in the *Wall Street Journal* that opening up the Monterey shale field to full-scale production could provide overall economic benefits to the state (of California) of \$1 trillion. These economic contributions will come from extracting, selling and burning fossil fuel

that could not be extracted using conventional methods. The United States is now on track to becoming a major energy exporter."

Exporting natural gas to Europe would be twice as profitable as selling it in the U.S. Selling it to Japan would be three times as profitable because the price of gas there is so much higher.

All of this revenue will not help us to stop catastrophic global warming, nor will it restore clean drinking water once it has been contaminated. Because so much potential profit is at stake, the environmental opposition will need to promote a large, grassroots activist movement of the people to set priorities that will protect our health and assure a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren. Please contact Governor Brown and urge him to impose a moratorium on toxic, planet-warming fracking until we are out of the drought.

Governor Jerry Brown,
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 94102
Phone: 916-445-2841
Fax: 916-558-3160



Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Bigberry manzanita
Arctostaphylos glauca

January is one of the slowest months in local gardens. Ironically, when birds, bees and other creatures critically need food, many gardens provide little in the way of flowers, seeds and fruits. One group of reliable early bloomers is the manzanitas (genus *Arctostaphylos*).

In winter or early spring, the tiny urn-shaped flowers are sought by hummingbirds, butterflies and bees. In summer and fall (even winter), the ripe fruits are used by birds and humans alike. They make good jelly/syrup and the classic California drink “manzanita cider.” As a large shrub/tree, Bigberry manzanita is also good for cover, perch and nesting sites.

Arctostaphylos glauca likes full sun and a well-drained soil. After the first two years it is quite drought tolerant, provided it gets adequate winter rain. If it does not — like this year — you may need to provide occasional deep winter irrigation.

Bigberry manzanita is easy to grow as long as it's not over-watered. Prune to shape (if desired) when young. It needs no fertilizer, but likes thin bark mulch. If happy, plants can live 100-plus years. For more information, see: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2014/01/plant-of-month-january-bigberry.html>



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.



Bigberry manzanita is the closest we come to a local manzanita in the South Bay. It grows on rocky slopes in chaparral and native woodlands from Northern California to Baja. Locally, it can be seen in both the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains.

Bigberry manzanita is one of the large manzanitas, reaching a mature height of 15-plus feet and a diameter of 12 to 15 feet or so. Fortunately, it has a rather open growth habit and can easily be trained as a multi-trunk “tree.” The thick, stiff leaves are blue-green, providing nice foliage contrast in the garden. Dappled shade under *Arctostaphylos glauca* affords a welcome respite on hot, sunny days.

Manzanitas are excellent habitat plants because they provide services throughout the year.



MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

Chapter Calendar

Events

Saturday, Feb. 1, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh. Explore the 17-acre Bixby Marshland after a brief introductory walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the welcome table. Located in Carson, Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa, south of Sepulveda. It is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District: www.lacsd.org/education.

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.: PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 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. Led by Chadwick students and faculty, this is a hands-on opportunity to learn about removing invasives and planting native species. KMHRP is located at 25820 Vermont Ave. For details, call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 – 11 a.m.: An Introduction to Birds and Birding, a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior at Madrona Marsh. Bob Shanman will be giving a short presentation in the Nature Center about "Gulls of the South Bay." The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No previous birding knowledge required.

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker for the night will be Jess Morton with a program titled "Scaling Con-

servation (One Naturalist's Notebook)." Jess will be reflecting on 40-plus years of experience as a naturalist and conservationist. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, March 1, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland open to the public. See Feb. 1 for details.

Saturday, March 8, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. See Feb. 8 listing.

Saturday, March 15, 9 – 11 a.m.: An Introduction to Birds and Birding, 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 on "Local Waterfowl." The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh.

Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speakers will be Mary and Nick Freeman from Los Angeles Audubon. They will talk about their quest to find their dream bird in Thailand. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Field Trips

Sunday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG). Audubon leader Dinuk Magamma will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw



Snowy Egret

Photo by Evi Meyer

Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Sunday, Feb. 2, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to Veteran's Park in Sylmar with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Ron Melin and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 5: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Saturday, Feb. 8, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Chadwick Canyon. Explore this canyon tucked away on the Peninsula's north slope in an area enjoyed as a popular field trip site. Moderate. Visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 9, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leader Martin Byhower and explore this important area of the South Bay.

Sunday, Feb. 9, 8:30 a.m.: Fieldtrip to San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge, Riverside with Eric and Ann Brooks.

Ducks and owls are target birds. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Saturday to Monday, Feb. 15 – 17, 8 a.m.: Weekend fieldtrip to the Colorado River, Cibola NWR, Salton Sea and Imperial Valley with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour the tide pools teeming with fascinating marine life. Moderate. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Sunday, Feb. 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 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.

Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente's Whale of a Day. Find fun, food, entertainment and education on the grounds of Point Vicente Interpretive Center. For details, please visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Sunday, March 2, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Feb. 2 for details.

Sunday, March 2, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to Alondra Park with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, call 323-295-6688 or e-mail motmots@aol.com.

Tuesday, March 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, March 5: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Saturday, March 8, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Royal Palms. See unusual geologic formations on the coastal bluffs walking down to the shoreline while also learning more about the cultural history of the area from the abalone fishing industry of the late 1800s to the recent landslide. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, March 9, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See Feb. 9 for details.

Wednesday, March 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Feb. 12 for details.

Saturday, March 15, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area jointly held by Eric and Ann Brooks and L.A. Audubon. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, March 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Tuesday, March 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Feb. 4 for details.

Wednesday, March 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Feb. 19 for details.

Saturday, March 22, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Forrestal Nature Reserve. Walk through coastal sage scrub habitat. Learn about the local geology. Moderate. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Saturday to Sunday, March 29 – 30, 8 a.m.: Weekend fieldtrip to Anza Borrego with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

NOTE: PV/South Bay Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations are much appreciated to support the chapter's programs.

Please visit the chapter website at www.pvsb-audubon.org or www.southbaycalendar.org. Youth are encouraged to visit www.pvsb-audubon.org/AudubonYES.html.

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Spring Fundraiser April 19

Here's a chance to support your local Audubon Chapter and to win some great prizes! We're having a major fundraising event with some terrific prizes donated by local merchants:

- ❖ A Nikon Coolpix S01 camera and \$100 gift certificate for classes at Paul's Photo. Both items were donated by Mark Comon, Paul's Photo & Creative Photo Academy.
- ❖ A feeder station setup including hardware, squirrel baffle, two feeders, two 20-lb. bags of seed and a seed scoop (retail value: \$300), all donated by Wild Birds Unlimited.
- ❖ And the grand prize ... a Vortex Razor Spotting Scope, 65mm with a 15-45 zoom lens, plus a Vortex Pro GT Tripod (retail value: \$1,350), also donated by Bob Shanman of Wild Birds Unlimited.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. You may purchase the tickets at our Third Tuesday Get-Togethers (see the event listings on opposite page), at Wild Birds Unlimited in Torrance or from any board member.

The drawing for the winning tickets will be held on Saturday, April 19, during the Chapter's Earth Day Celebration at Madrona Marsh. Winners need not be present to win.

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

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The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage.

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