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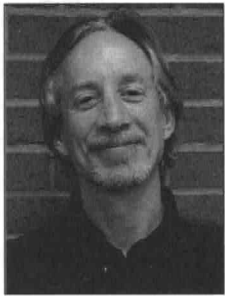
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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

June/July 2008 Vol. XXX No. 3

President's Column

Birdathon team goes green for planet



By Martin Byhower

Last month this column featured my plan to try something new and green for the BushWhacker birdathon team. We did, and since I survived it, I thought it might be fun to recount our adventure. I will even push my luck and ask you one

last time for an after-the-fact sponsorship, if you haven't gotten around to sending a pledge or donation to one of your PV/South Bay Birdathon teams yet (and if you send one to me, I will reply with a copy of our list).

First, some statistics: Three people on bikes. Fifteen and a half hours, give or take. Fifty-four miles (not counting walking or carrying bikes — and the door-to-door distance for Dan was 75 miles!); 102 species (plus a few more from the “away teams”). At times, bugs and rocks in our faces and diesel fumes on the highway. Ninety-degree temperatures, full sun and a lot of strong headwinds much of the day. A lost bird book (my annotated Sibley Western Guide, darn it!).

And I would do it again in a minute.

Heading out at about 4:45 a.m. in the darkness, wearing the way-cool, official BushWhacker Green Team T-shirts that Dan had made especially for us, we sped to Denny's, where we hooked up with Liz. Bikes rule the road in the early morning, and I immediately felt a sense of freedom and a delicious silence in traveling that would last throughout the day. As I had predicted, the first two birds of the day were the mourning dove nesting in the hanging planter on my porch and a raucous love-struck mockingbird down the street. It was already warm by 5 a.m., but I needed my coffee. Thus began a

day requiring constant hydration and blood sugar elevation, and I felt like an aged and overgrown hummingbird flitting (well, pedaling) from sugar water source to sugar water source (ever try filling your water bottle with a mix of Cherry Slurpee and Diet Coke?). My advantage was that a good portion of the nectar I sought was also caffeinated. I would pay later, of course, with muscle cramps and exhaustion that rendered me useless for a few days afterward.

I knew we weren't going to achieve anything near the local birdathon species record my team set in 2006, which was 150, but I was ambitiously shooting for a hundred. Jumping ahead a bit, at mid-day it was somewhat bittersweet to run into my former teammates, now hooked up with my annual competitor team, at Banning Park. It was all I could take to hear all the great stuff they had already seen in their petroleum-powered zigzagging around the South Bay. I knew that we owned the environmental high ground, but I also knew we would have to “milk” each site for all it was worth since our range was significantly limited. At this point we had worked only the L.A. River, and it was already after noon!

In the early morning, watching the world come to life both in and adjacent to the river was magical. The old spreading basin channel on the east side of the river south of Del Amo has been improved, in the best possible sense, to create beautiful wetland habitat. The banks bore a profusion of California native wildflowers, which were alive with red-winged blackbirds and goldfinches. Without bikes, this is a difficult area to access. How much do we miss as birders in cars, bent on *destinations*

See *Green Birding*, Page 2

Green Birding, from Page 1

while missing out on the journey?

Traveling for miles along the easy bike path adjacent to the river, we got some excellent ducks and shorebirds, and Dan even picked up a black skimmer. But the biggest surprise, perhaps, was the California sea lion we saw south of Willow Street. All these distractions made it hard for us to focus on reaching our “first destination,” DeForest Park, where we had decided to take our biggest stab at migrants while they would still be active in the early morning. Cruising along up through Long Beach to East Compton before heading back in the direction of Trumpville, I had to chuckle at the cross section of both birds and humanity we would experience in the day to come. Dan asked me about the nude woman going about her daily business on the opposite bank near the Compton Creek crossing, and I explained that she is the resident homeless free spirit I have seen there regularly for several years, beyond the stilts and dowitchers.

At DeForest Park, we had to work for our migrants. There had been no big fallout, and it was getting warm rapidly. Western tanager, black-headed grosbeak, yellow, Wilson’s, orange-crowned and Nashville warblers, check. Most of these I was getting by ear first, since there was no time to get a visual confirmation on every bird. Things were slowing down, but there was a Pacific slope flycatcher ... hey, a Hutton’s vireo! I saw a thrush but couldn’t quite get on it, and we missed the black-chinned hummers that were nesting there. It was noon and we were still at our first “official” stop.

Reluctantly we left, heading back down the river all the way to PCH. Having very low standards for refueling, we picked up a quick fast food meal and guzzled mass quantities of fluids, then cut over to Banning, then

Harbor Park, steadily adding species at each site. Darn, still well below our target. Thanks goodness Liz knew a way to Cabrillo that was relatively level (but we couldn’t do anything about those headwinds!). A new tern here, a new gull there, but the hordes of humanity at the beach cramped our style, so we headed up to Point Fermin, where we added some seabirds (migrating Pacific loons among them) and shorebirds (including a group of *four* wandering tattlers).

Here I should note that we had been in only brief contact with our “remote” green team members, Chris Boyd, my wife, Eileen, and John Nieto. Chris was walk-



The lean, mean, bushwhacking team of, from left, Liz Kennedy, Martin Byhower and Dan Lee.

ing to Rat Beach near his home, John was checking out the Navy Fuel Depot (he had business that required his being there, so he was given a green “exemption”) and all I knew was that Eileen was going to take a walk from our home and try to scare up some birds with our trusty little Bijon pooch, Frodo. All of our remote teammates found some good birds, but alas, Chris’s hard-earned tattler was a dupli-

cate hit! He did add willet and ruddy turnstone to our list, and we wouldn’t have broken 100 without him.

Eileen walked from 7 a.m. until 3 p.m., covered a very long stretch in the heat and, bless her heart, got the white-faced ibis at Madrona Marsh (alas, the only species she was to add to our list, but it was a good one!). The walk wore out our little four-legged birder, and Eileen had to carry Frodo home part of the way. John also saw a good number of species that day, but none that we had missed on our ride.

Back to the bikers. It was now late afternoon, and we were picking up one species at a time. We pushed on to White’s Point (California gnatcatcher) and then Royal Palms (black oystercatcher.) We decided to shoot for

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Conservation Corner

Gas tax 'holiday' is a political ploy

By Lillian Light



Those political candidates who are proposing the temporary suspension of the federal gas tax to offset rising fuel prices just don't get it. They totally ignore the dangers that climate change poses to the survival of mankind,

and they contradict their own commitments to fight global warming and cut U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Eliminating the gas tax will encourage people to drive more, increasing greenhouse gas emissions at this critical time. At a time when America needs to use less gasoline, this compounds our addiction to oil. If anything, we should be increasing the federal tax to discourage the purchase of toxic, emission-spewing SUVs. With this tax money, we could offer rebates on the purchase of low-emission cars and solar panel installations.

The tax of about 18.4 cents per gallon is the same today as it was when gas was one dollar per gallon. For many years it has been used to fund vital road repairs. Do we want to stop making these repairs and drive over potholes, or will we increase the deficit by using other taxes for this purpose? Our governor has suggested closing 48 state parks because of the state budget problem. Shall we close more state parks to save 18.4 cents per gallon of gas?

Suspension of the tax from Memorial Day to Labor Day would result in a roughly \$9-billion loss to a federal highway trust fund. According to the May 2 *L.A. Times*, "[John] McCain has vowed to replenish the highway fund with other tax revenue, but a spokesman for his campaign declined to say what spending would be cut to preserve the roads program."

Meanwhile, road builders say that this proposal would jeopardize more than 300,000 highway-related jobs, about 23,000 of them in California.

Economists are "as close to unanimous as you can get" in denouncing the idea. They state that

while this suspension would save motorists about 15 to 18 cents a gallon, the savings would be lost in the usual ebb and flow of prices. Only the oil companies would profit from the proposal.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is opposed to this measure, and has wisely suggested that we invest in energy-efficient, climate-friendly transportation alternatives. Sen. Barack Obama opposes this "political stunt"; he favors raising fuel economy standards and investing in mass transit instead. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson called it a shameless political ploy that would do nothing to help American families.

Please contact your senators to oppose congressional action on this gas tax "holiday." Ask them to give strong support to a bill that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, HR 5351: the Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Tax Act of 2008. This important bill promotes solar, biomass, geothermal, wind, tidal, wave and ocean thermal power, as well as other alternative energy sources. It also provides for an income tax credit for plug-in hybrid vehicles. It has passed in the House of Representatives and is now in the Senate. As you can imagine, it has a lot of opposition, so any encouragement you can give our senators is sorely needed. Tell them that it is about time that we catch up to other countries of the world in taking action to reduce global warming pollution.

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Washington, D.C. 20510
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112 Hart Senate Office Bldg
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Senator@boxer.senate.gov
(202) 224-3553
Local: (213) 894-5000

Birds of the Peninsula

March and April 2008

By Kevin Larson

There were few new finds to add to the short list of wintering rarities as we moved toward spring. Migrant swallows were recorded in generally low numbers, and I received only two reports of Violet-green Swallows. Only four reports of migrant Rufous Hummingbirds seemed to affirm that this species is accustomed to a more inland route following a reasonably wet winter. A Warbling Vireo and a Hooded Oriole were found on 9 March, but it was not unusual that few land bird migrants were recorded before the end of the month. An early wave brought a good number of Nashville Warblers and other migrants 3-6 April. Migration was otherwise slow during April. Numbers finally did increase at the end of the month, but a dome of strong high pressure over the area squashed any chance of a fallout. It was a rare feat to record all six species of geese listed on the Los Angeles County checklist locally during March and April. Exceptional sightings were of a Marbled Murrelet in San Pedro and a Steller's Jay in Torrance.

Following the driest rainfall season on record, it was nice to see the hillsides green and in bloom again from above-normal precipitation experienced this winter as of the end of February. A few low-

pressure systems came through during March and early April, but accumulated rainfall amounted to only a few hundredths of an inch. As a result, seasonal (July-June) rainfall totals fell to below-normal levels at LAX and Downtown Los Angeles. We saw many sunny days since periods of marine layer cloudiness were brief. The first 10



Brant

Photo by Laurie Szogas

days of April were unusually cool. Recurring periods of warm, dry offshore flow brought record-high temperatures to LAX on five dates, including readings of 96 degrees on 13 April and 95 degrees on 27 April.

An immature Greater White-fronted Goose continued in the coastal Ballona area 18 Nov-12 Apr (Kevin Larson-KL). A Snow

Goose was at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook 29 Jan-1 Apr (Richard Barth). The young Ross's Goose found at the Los Angeles River near Willow Street on 24 Nov was seen through 6 Apr (John Kelly). Single "Aleutian" Cackling Geese continued at Alondra Park 23 Dec-6 May (Tracy Drake) and in the coastal Ballona area 22 Oct-12 Apr (Dan Cooper). A Brant at Harbor Park 6-13 Apr was inland, where rare (Andrew Lee). Canvasbacks have wintered at Alondra Park for as long as the old timers can remember and it remains the only reliable location to see this species locally; present this winter from 2 Nov-10 Mar, these magnificent ducks peaked at 56 in number on 27 Jan (David Moody). A White-winged Scoter was at Playa del Rey 21 Mar-5 Apr (Barbara Johnson) and another flew north past Point Vicente on 28 Mar (KL). A female Black Scoter at Dockweiler State Beach 18 Jan-2 Apr was joined by an immature male on the latter date (Richard Barth). The female Long-tailed Duck continued in the Marina del Rey entrance channel and mouth of Ballona Creek 30 Dec-23 Apr (Larry Allen). A second Long-tailed Duck, this one an immature male, was discovered at Dockweiler State Beach 13-21 Apr (Richard Barth). A Common Goldeneye along Ballona Creek on 16

Mar was the last sighting of this wintering individual (KL). Up to six Hooded Mergansers were at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 5-7 Mar (Richard Barth) and a single female was there 26 Mar-11 Apr (Don Sterba).

Up to two Cattle Egrets at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area 23 Jan-1 Apr were wintering (Richard Barth); sightings of transients included two at Ballona Creek 12-18 Apr (KL), one at Madrona Marsh 13-15 Apr (Tommy Hite) and one in Lomita on 15 Apr (Eileen Byhower). Two White-faced Ibises at Madrona Marsh 12-26 Apr (Ron Melin) and one at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 28-30 Apr (Barbara Johnson) were rare spring sightings. A Ferruginous Hawk in the dune area near the beach on the south side of Playa del Rey was seen by several observers 4-10 Mar (Roy van de Hoek); it was learned that this evidently wintering bird had been photographed as early as November (fide Dan Cooper). Uncommon in spring, a Lesser Yellowlegs was at Madrona Marsh on 17 Mar (David Moody); one was at the Los Angeles River near Willow Street on 28 Mar (KL), followed by two there on 6 Apr (Andrew Lee). Normally rare at this season, Los Angeles County witnessed an invasion of Solitary Sandpipers. Locally, we recorded singles at Madrona Marsh on 3 Apr and 13 Apr (David Moody, Tracy Drake), at the Playa Vista Wildlife Corridor on 9 Apr (KL), and at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 27-29 Apr

(KL). Five found elsewhere in the county included an astonishing count of **three** together along the Los Angeles River near the Sepulveda Basin on 27 Apr (Jon Fisher). A Red Knot in basic plumage was at Del Rey Lagoon 27 Mar-5 Apr (Michael Zarky).

Single Franklin's Gulls flew north past Point Vicente on 20 Apr (David Moody) and 26 Apr (KL). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake



White-faced Ibis

Photo by Laurie Szogas

flew north past Playa del Rey on 15 Mar (KL). Flybys of Common Murres at Point Vicente included one on 6 Mar (Mike San Miguel) and four on 15 Mar (KL). Charlie Walker convincingly described a **Marbled Murrelet** along the coast of San Pedro near its border with Rancho Palos Verdes on 19 Mar. Mike San Miguel recorded single Xantus's Murrelets flying past Point Vicente on 19 Mar and 8 Apr. Rhinoceros Auklet sightings

included two at Point Vicente on 19 Mar (Mike San Miguel) and one flying north past Playa del Rey on 2 Apr (KL). A Burrowing Owl in the dune area near the beach on the south side of Playa del Rey 4-16 Mar was evidently a winterer discovered near the end of its stay (Roy van de Hoek). Several Vaux's Swifts over the Los Angeles River south of Del Amo Boulevard on 1 Mar were wintering locally (Martin Byhower); the first migrant was seen at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on a typical arrival date of 5 Apr (KL).

Mike San Miguel found a wintering Gray Flycatcher near the Point Vicente Interpretive Center on 23 Nov and recorded it as late as 8 Apr. A Dusky Flycatcher at Madrona Marsh on 25 Apr (David Moody) and single Gray and Dusky flycatchers at Banning Park on 27 Apr (KL) came during a period of offshore flow. A pair of Say's Phoebes was nesting again this year at Madrona Marsh in April (David Moody). The wintering Plumbeous Vireo at Harbor Park was present 5 Oct-13 Apr (Martin Byhower). Extremely rare in the coastal lowlands, a **Steller's Jay** visited Barbara Hayden's Torrance backyard on 19 Apr (fide Bob Shanman). Three pairs of Tree Swallows were attending nest boxes near the boathouse at Harbor Park on 27 Apr and several birds were nesting again at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh. A late Violet-green Swallow at Polliwog Park on 27 Apr was only the sec-

BOP, from Page 5

ond reported this spring (Bob Shanman). A Bank Swallow at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh in mid-March was the only report (John Ivanov). A few Red-breasted Nuthatches at Chadwick School during April were part of our resident population on the Hill (Martin Byhower).

Nesting for the sixth consecutive year at Ridgecrest Intermediate School in Rancho Palos Verdes, a pair of Western Bluebirds was incubating five eggs in a nest box on 18 Apr (Sam Bloom). Harbor Park may become the second known breeding location for Western Bluebirds in our area; a pair was using a nest box there in April (Jess Morton). Other Western Bluebird sightings included two to three at Hickory Park in Torrance 5-6 Mar (Tracy Drake) and a pair at Alondra Park on 4 Apr (David Moody). A singing California Thrasher was in the coastal sage scrub area along the north side of Ballona Creek west of Culver Boulevard 16 Mar-16 Apr (Jonathan Coffin). A Virginia's Warbler returned for a third winter to the willows behind the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 9 Mar-9 Apr (KL); I saw what must have been the same individual there on 25 Sep 2007, but did not see again until March. This bird apparently spends the majority of its wintering season elsewhere; it has not been detected until March in the previous two winters. A nice spring rarity was a Palm Warbler at Polliwog Park in Manhattan

Beach on 27 Apr (Bob Shanman). The timing of a Black-and-white Warbler found by Tracy Drake above the end of Via Tejon in Palos Verdes Estates on 20 Apr would indicate it was a spring migrant rather than a wintering individual.

A Lark Sparrow at Madrona Marsh on 24 Apr was a late transient; wintering birds have normally departed by early April

**Plumbeous Vireo**

Photo by Laurie Szogas

(David Moody). The White-throated Sparrow spending its third winter at DeForest Park was present 8 Dec-28 Mar (KL); one at Stephanie Bryan's residence in San Pedro on 15 Apr had been present for about a month. A male Northern Cardinal in Stephanie Bryan's backyard on 16 Apr will likely be regarded as an escapee, though the April timing is intriguing since it coincides with the last one found at Harbor Park in 2006.

A male Rose-breasted Grosbeak at Libby Helms' feeder in the Malaga Creek area of Palos Verdes Estates 8-14 Apr was undoubtedly the same wintering individual I found nearby on 10 Feb. A Black-headed Grosbeak at Chadwick School in Palos Verdes on **17 Mar** is the earliest record of a spring migrant I know of locally (Martin Byhower). A notable wave of 150-plus Yellow-headed Blackbirds was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 27 Apr (KL, Jonathan Coffin).

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at cbirdr@ca.rr.com for the Palos Verdes/South Bay and vicinity, including areas east to the L.A. River, north to about the 105 freeway, and along the coast up to Marina del Rey.

Acronyms in Birds of the Peninsula

AL: Andrew Lee
 BFM: Ballona Freshwater Marsh
 BP: Banning Park
 DM: David Moody
 DP: DeForest Park
 DSC: Daniel S. Cooper
 EMJRA: Earvin Magic Johnson Rec. Area
 HP: Harbor Park
 JSB: Jeffrey S. Boyd
 KL: Kevin Larson
 KSG: Karen S. Gilbert
 LAR: Los Angeles River
 MB: Martin Byhower
 MM: Madrona Marsh
 RB: Richard Barth
 RPV: Rancho Palos Verdes
 SDP: Sand Dune Park

Green Birding, from Page 2

Shoreline Park to try to find a cactus wren. Liz said they were still to be found there, but I was skeptical. The trail down was difficult and narrow for a bike. We were exhausted but giddy with the possibility of meeting our goal, and finding a surviving individual or, better yet, a pair of the vanishing cactus wren would be a great way to finish the day. OK, not where they were expected, but it was too late to turn back, so we hoisted our bikes and carried them up the brutally steep, narrow, cactus-bordered slope to the beginning of Ocean Trails. A decision was necessary: Should we keep going, knowing that we still had to ride a long way home? Dan had the longest ride ahead, and he bid farewell, heading home the long way to Redondo. Liz and I headed uphill with our hopes of finding a cactus wren dashed as nightfall approached. More portaging of bikes up a steep grade. Wait a second, I just heard a spotted towhee! OK, our last bird wasn't a cactus wren, but we will gladly take a towhee in a pinch! So as lazuli buntings, common yellowthroats and song sparrows buzzed us and sang their evening vespers, we headed up the hill and back to paved road. Hey, 102 is a good number, and our team total, 105, the new Green Birdathon Record, will be a great number to try to beat next year.

To see the Green Birdathon video slideshow with commentary, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6wOCujbXD4>.

Happy Birthday to Our Chapter!

Can you believe that the PV/South Bay Audubon chapter is turning 30 this year? How many great opportunities for learning about wildlife and its preservation we have had over the years. How many exciting hours of bird walks we have logged in. Thank you to all the members of our chapter who have given tirelessly of their time and effort to make this all possible.

If you would like to show your appreciation for our chapter and celebrate its milestone birthday, how about considering a monetary donation to the chapter or a gift membership for a friend in honor of our 30-year anniversary? What better contribution to the environment could you make than to contribute to an organization that is dear to your heart anyway?

For gift memberships, please contact Vicki Peterson at (310) 375-3150. Monetary donations should be made payable to PV/South Bay Audubon and sent to P.O. Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274.

Happy 30th Birthday and many more to follow!

Gift and New Member Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: AUDUBON SOCIETY
MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 2582, PALOS VERDES, CA 90274**

MEMBERSHIP (*chapter only or national*—circle one) \$25
(your contribution supports local programs)
and/or

GIFT ... \$20___ \$50___ \$100___ Other___

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Please send me information now how to make a bequest to PV/SB Audubon

7XCH/C43

Your Backyard Habitat

By Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSUDH

Black Sage

Salvia mellifera



Imagine a plant that's a virtual supermarket for birds, butterflies, bees and other insects. Add to that attractive flowers, neat growth form and aromatic foliage and you have our native Black Sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Black Sages bloom from March to July (depending on the weather), so it may be blooming right now in Southern California gardens.

Black Sage, along with its cousins the White, Purple and Chia Sages, is a member of the Mint family (Lamiaceae). This family includes a number of species with fragrant foliage, many of which are used for flavorings. The honey made by bees nectaring on Sage flowers has a characteristic flavor and "Black Sage Honey" is much favored. In addition to the non-native honey bee, Black Sage is pollinated by a number of small to medium-sized native bees (*Osmia*, *Apis*, etc.). Watching the activity of bees can be a fun activity for the whole family.

Black Sage flowers are typical for the Sages — and for the Mint family in general. The flowers are small, pale lavender or white, and clustered along the stalk in tight, ball-shaped whorls. As the whorls dry they become dark-colored — hence the common name Black Sage. In addition to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds

nectar on Black Sage. A range of seed-eating birds and small mammals relish the seeds. The foliage also provides cover for birds/small animals.

Black Sage is a medium-sized (3 to 6 feet tall and wide) sub-shrub (only partly woody). A smaller sage, similar in characteristics, is Munz Sage (*Salvia munzii*). The leaves are dark green and stems reddish. It loses its large, aromatic "spring leaves" in summer drought, producing smaller leaves in fall — a characteristic known as seasonal dimorphism. Plants die back somewhat in the winter, producing new growth in spring.

Black Sage likes well-drained soils and favors coarse-textured soils in nature. It thrives in full sun to part shade. Once established, Black Sage should only be watered (and watered deeply) when the soil dries out. A 2- to 3-inch layer of an organic mulch (like tree chippings or redwood bark) will help keep this plant healthy. Leave a 4-inch zone of bare soil around the trunk.



Black Sage needs little in the way of pruning or other management. You can remove old flowering stalks after the birds have eaten the seeds — and you've collected some. Black Sage lives three to five years in most gardens, but may re-seed if it's happy. Plants are great on slopes, parking strips, etc.

Note: All Salvias burn readily. Don't plant near structures in fire-prone areas.

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.

Calendar

Meet Learn Enjoy Restore

Events

(See Calendar locations and information box for directions)

Wednesday June 4 at 7 p.m.:

PV/South Bay Audubon Board Meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend.

Saturday, June 14 from 9 to 11 a.m.:

Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at Ken Malloy-Harbor Regional Park. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others. Cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. All ages, but folks under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. Bring water, snack, sun/bug repellent and, if possible, work gloves. Questions? Contact Martin Byhower at (310) 541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday, June 17 at 7 p.m.:

Audubon Third Tuesday Get-together. Our speaker, Tom Ryan, will be talking about burrowing owls. Come to Madrona Marsh and socialize with friends, enjoy the

bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, July 12 from 9 to 11 a.m.:

Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others. Cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. All ages, but folks under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. Bring water, snack, sun/bug repellent and, if possible, work gloves. Questions? Contact Martin Byhower at (310) 541-6763, ext. 4143.

Sunday, July 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Hermosa Beach Playhouse:

"HOTSPOTS" movie presented by the South Bay and West Valley bird societies. This movie will highlight 35 different ecosystems from all over the world. Admission of \$25 will benefit organizations that are actively involved in preservation of these ecological hotspots. Stay for Q & A and some sweets after the movie. For questions, call Janet at (310) 376-5954.

Tuesday, July 15 at 7 p.m.:

Audubon Third Tuesday Get-togethers. Our speaker will be Ivan Snyder. He will talk about man, fire and environment. Come to Madrona Marsh and socialize with friends, enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

For a complete list of events at Madrona Marsh, go to www.southbaycalendar.org and click on Friends of Madrona Marsh.

For a complete list of Audubon YES (Youth Environmental Service) program activities, go to www.AudubonYES.org.

Fieldtrips

(See Calendar locations and information box for directions)

Sunday, June 1 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan; 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Tuesday, June 3 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's

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best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, June 8 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy-Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

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

Saturday, June 14 at 9 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History Walk on the Lemonade Berry Trail, in the Palos Verdes Preserve, Rancho Palos Verdes. See Web site for details at www.pvplc.org.

Tuesday, June 17 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, June 18 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday, June 28 at 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Oceanfront Estates/Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Rancho Palos Verdes. See Web site for details at www.losserenos.com.

Tuesday, July 1 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on

a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, July 6 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan. Charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.



Black-throated gray warbler

Photo by Laurie Szogas

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

Saturday, July 12 at 9 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History Walk at Angel's Gate Park in San Pedro. See Web site for details at www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, July 13 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy-Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important

natural area of the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Tuesday, July 15 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, July 16 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Sunday, July 27 at 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Walk the West Bluff Preserve. Meet in the parking lot at the end of Ocean Trails Drive, at east side of clubhouse. See Web site for details at www.losserenos.com.

Tuesday, July 29 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, Aug. 3 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan; 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Saturday, Aug. 9 at 9 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History Walk at Malaga Cove bluff-top, Palos Verdes Estates. See Web site for details at www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Aug. 10 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy-Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Wednesday, Aug. 13 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Tuesday, Aug. 19 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, Aug. 20 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday, Aug. 23 at 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Forrestal Reserve, Rancho Palos Verdes. See Web site for details at www.losserenos.com.

Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, Sept. 7 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan. Charge for nonmembers of

the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, Sept. 13 at 2 p.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History Walk at Royal Palms Beach, San Pedro. See Web site for details at www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Sept. 14 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy-Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Tuesday, Sept. 16 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday, Sept. 20 at 9 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, Rancho Palos Verdes. See Web site for details at www.losserenos.com

Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Meeting Locations and Information Sources

KMHRP: Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, Harbor City; parking lot near the intersection of Anaheim Street and Vermont, west of the 110 Freeway. Park opposite of old boat house.

Madrona Marsh Preserve: 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. Between Maple and Madrona Avenues. Park at Nature Center.

South Coast Botanic Garden: 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes.

Eric and Ann Brooks organize birding fieldtrips that are co-sponsored by PV/South Bay Audubon. Suggested donations: \$5 for day trips (\$4 if carpooling). Weekend trips Saturday are \$10 (\$8); Sunday \$5 (\$4). Contact them directly for details at motmots@aol.com or at (323) 295-6688.

Martin Byhower provides field guided trips. For updates and details on all trips, go to www.birdingsocal.com and click on "Updated calendar of events."

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy sponsors walks and other activities on the Peninsula. For more information, consult the website at <http://www.pvplc.org>, contact the conservancy by e-mail at info@pvplc.org or call (310) 541-7613.

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Editor Chris Boyd

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For back issues and chapter info, go to www.LMconsult.com/pvaudubon

Help Needed!

Audubon YES!: Contacts with South Bay schools and teen youth groups are wanted. If you are a teacher looking for extra-credit opportunities for your students, or if you are an adult advisor to a teen group looking for volunteer activities, become an active part of Audubon YES!, our Youth Environmental Service program. Audubon wants to work with you and your kids! For more information, call Jess Morton at (310) 832-5601 or visit us online at www.audubonYES.org. Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon also is looking for a volunteer with **grantsmanship experience** to help our board apply for grants for projects of interest; a member to serve as **volunteer coordinator** for restoration and other projects; and donations of **native plants** (or money for the purchase of native plants) for our restoration projects.