

HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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Adopta in the News

By Jess Morton

Adopta is not a name on everybody's lips, but it should be! It is on ours, and in our hearts. PV Audubon supports Adopta Bosque Panamá (the non-profit's full name) by funding some of its work protecting birds, wildlife and habitat. Over the last twenty years, Adopta has become one of Panama's premier conservation organizations. Beginning with no money, but a dream of protecting a cloud forest atop Cerro Chucantí, a remote mountain peak with rare birds in eastern Panama, Adopta's founder, Guido Berguido, has created a network of habitat reserves and research stations across his home nation of Panama. One of these, the new Parque Nacional Sierra Llorona, is a spectacular win for wildlife he will tell us about this fall.

On March 23rd, a 40,000-acre national park, PN Sierra Llorona, was signed into being. It is centered around Adopta's most recently acquired habitat reserve near Colon, on the Caribbean Coast. The creation of this national park coincides with the construction the "Corridor of the Caribbean," a highway between María Chiquita and Santa Rita Arriba. This, the first ecological road in the country, has 36 wildlife crossings along its 28 kilometers of roadway, thus integrating road infrastructure and the conservation of biodiversity. Structures for wildlife movement include overhead crossings for arboreal species, such as monkeys and squirrels, dry underground passages for the transit of terrestrial birds and mammals, and flooded underground passages for amphibians and other water dependent life. Taken together, this represents a holistic approach all too rarely seen.

To the west, Adopta plans to establish a permanent raptor migration census station in Bocas Del Toro, at the choke point where the

mountains come down to the sea. Around six million raptors pass by each fall. Over the last few years, observers, mostly indigenous women, have been trained in count procedures so that there is now a competent staff to make accurate counts. This could become the world's premier hawk watching spot. What is missing to make it so is a proper base facility with child care. Given that, both birds and birders will come!

Our Audubon chapter salutes and supports Adopta by providing funds for reserve management. While money for land acquisition is sometimes available, especially if it comes with naming rights, rarely is an endowment provided for ongoing management costs, leaving the land holding NGO to scramble for the necessary funds to keep its property from being encroached upon by land hungry neighbors and/or degraded by invasive species. Hence, this is a need our chapter has chosen to fill. No glamor here, but there is a very appreciative Adopta. Your donations to PV Audubon thus support both our local and international efforts to benefit birds and their habitats.



Guido Berguido (seated, left) and other dignitaries at the dedication ceremony for Panama's newest national park, Parque Nacional Sierra Llorona, March 23, 2026.

Birdathon Takes Wing

By Jess Morton

Birdathon 2026 was a great success for PV Audubon, with lots of birds, lots of birders out birding, and lots of donors coming through in support of the birds and all Audubon does. On May 2nd, a spectacularly gorgeous day to be outdoors birding, fourteen of us spent the day scouring the peninsula and South Bay to tally 116 species of birds. Perhaps we missed some, but it won't have been many! And it was worth all the effort, not only because the hunt is enjoyable, but because generous donors supported the team by pledging a total of \$124 per species, plus an additional \$4,000 in flat amounts. The total came in at just about \$18,500, funds that will go for the work Project Manager Keith Haney and other chapter leaders do with YES (Youth Environmental Stewards), and for Adopta's work conserving rare habitats in Panama (see Page 1). If you didn't have a chance to add your support for Birdathon, go to the Donate page on our website at PVSBAudubon.org!

The terns were clustered on Cabrillo Beach at the water's edge. Though smaller than the Royals, the Elegants always seem to stand much taller, especially when courting. One of a pair flew in with a small

fish as a present to its most appreciative mate. While there were a few Black Skimmers with the terns on the beach, we came across a large flock along the Los Angeles River near Willow Street. This is a good location for all sorts of birds when, as is the usual case, the river is not in flood. We were treated to a couple of skimmers fishing in that odd way they have, with

lower mandible dragged through the water. When contact is made with a fish, the upper mandible snaps down to trap the bird's next meal. In late afternoon, Alta Vicente beckoned for rarities. No Cactus Wrens, but a California Gnatcatcher showed off before disappearing into the sagebrush. And as we neared our car, a gorgeous Lesser Goldfinch watched us pass.

Birdathon team members were Tracy Drake, Deanna & Randy Harwood, Tori Fay, Evi Meyer, Kim Moore, Vincent Lloyd, Bob Shanman, Jeanne Bellemin, Liz Kennedy, Elise Harrison-Smith, Linda Gonzales, and Bill Tymczynsyn. That's an amazing roster of great birders, all dedicated to this important cause. And it's good we had that help. Spring migrants have been scarce on the peninsula this year, and the clear weather, while nice for us birders, meant that migrants present the day before

had probably taken advantage of the clear night sky to fly on. Still, we did get to count all our residents and summer visitors.



Spring Butterfly Count Results

By Keith Haney



By now, you've hopefully seen one of the "# of simple ways to help birds" lists posted by Audubon and other bird-focused organizations. Regardless of the source, these lists always include "community science". Community science is a core value of Audubon, and with widespread availability of data collection apps like eBird and

iNaturalist, our collective ability to document the flora and fauna is easy. Recording what we see around us is incredibly valuable to researchers studying wildlife populations, habitat changes and climate trends.

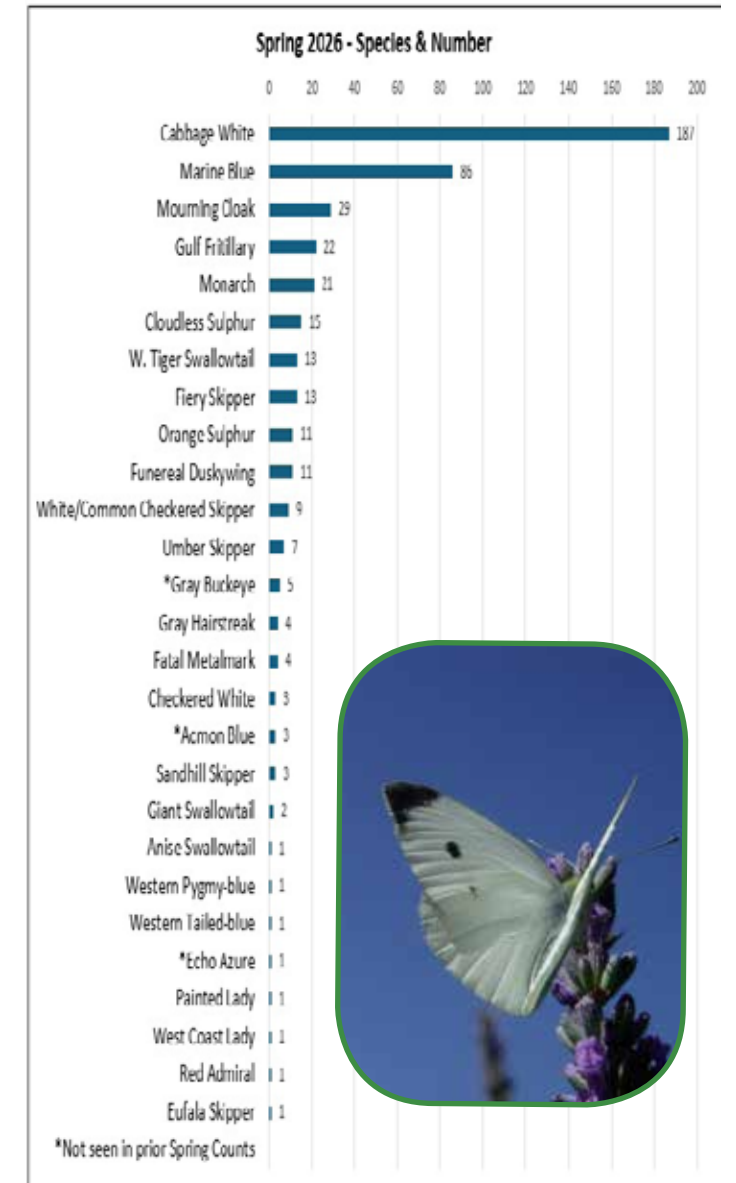
Our chapter has a number of community science initiatives in which we invite you to participate; one being our Butterfly Counts. You may recall the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024 was: Protect Insects, Protect Birds. Birds and butterflies both rely on habitat containing the plants they need within their home territories and along migration routes. Butterflies not only pollinate plants which provide nectar, fruit, and seed for birds, but the butterflies themselves may also be a food source. Butterflies are especially sensitive to changes in their environment, making annual monitoring within a consistent area a meaningful way of detecting environmental trends.

On May 2nd, we conducted our 7th annual Spring Butterfly Count. Usually performed in April, it was postponed this year due to weather. Our 22 participants tallied butterflies observed in 16 locations across the South Bay and Palos Verdes Peninsula. The 27 different species and nearly 500 butterflies spotted edged out 2022 for the most we've counted in our spring counts; likely due to a warm beginning of the year and our postponement to May.

The ubiquitous small white (see inset) was our most observed species, followed by the marine

blue. The remainder of the top six species spotted were the flying friends we expect to see this time of year: mourning cloak, gulf fritillary, monarch, and cloudless sulphur. Most of these six are unique in their size and coloration, so take an extra moment to watch the next butterflies you come across and know they are likely one of these!

Please join us on July 11th for our 46th annual Summer Butterfly Count. You do not need to be an expert in butterfly identification to participate, but we do need your keen eyes to help us spot. In return, you will quickly learn the names of our most common butterflies, meet some new friends, and have the gratification of knowing that you contributed to nearly 50 years of butterfly population data for our community!



Birds of the Peninsula April - May 2026 By Vincent Lloyd

The weather was mild in April and May, with foggy mornings and sunny afternoons. The high temperature was 87°F on May 19 & 20, although it reached 84°F on Apr 4. The low was 52°F on Apr 28; it hasn't gotten below 50°F since Feb 22. The total rainfall during the period was about half an inch, mostly in two storms, the first on Apr 12 and the last on May 5. The total rainfall since September at the Torrance Airport was 13.6 inch, about average.

A nice rarity was the adult male **Hooded Warbler** that John Rodgers found in Palos Verdes on May 1. This green and yellow warbler is distinguished by its handsome black hood on the male. A bird of Southeastern swamps, it rather resembles Wilson's Warbler but is more closely related to the Hermit Warbler and the other members of the large genus Setophaga, such as the Yellow-rumped Warbler. A female **Scarlet Tanager** was on Signal Hill for two weeks in early May (Nancy Salem); this bird is the eastern counterpart to — you guessed it — the Western Tanager. Many birders saw the male **Indigo Bunting** at Sand Dune Park in mid-April (Jim Hecht); this is the eastern counterpart to



Indigo Bunting
Photo: Jim Hecht

the western Lazuli Bunting. Not often seen in the South Bay any more, four **California Quail** were chanced upon by Bee Rawles at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park on Apr 29.

While common along the Los Angeles River, the **Turkey Vulture** isn't often seen in Torrance, so Brett Karley was surprised to see five of them fly overhead on May 7. **Northern Harriers** were seen at Harbor Park, Madrona Marsh, Wilderness Park, and the Willow Street crossing of the L.A. River. Sadly, no White-tailed Kite was seen in the area (the nearest was at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge). Joyce Brady had an **American Barn Owl** at DeForest Park on May 19. **Great Horned Owls** were seen at widely



Great Horned Owl
Photo: Vincent Lloyd

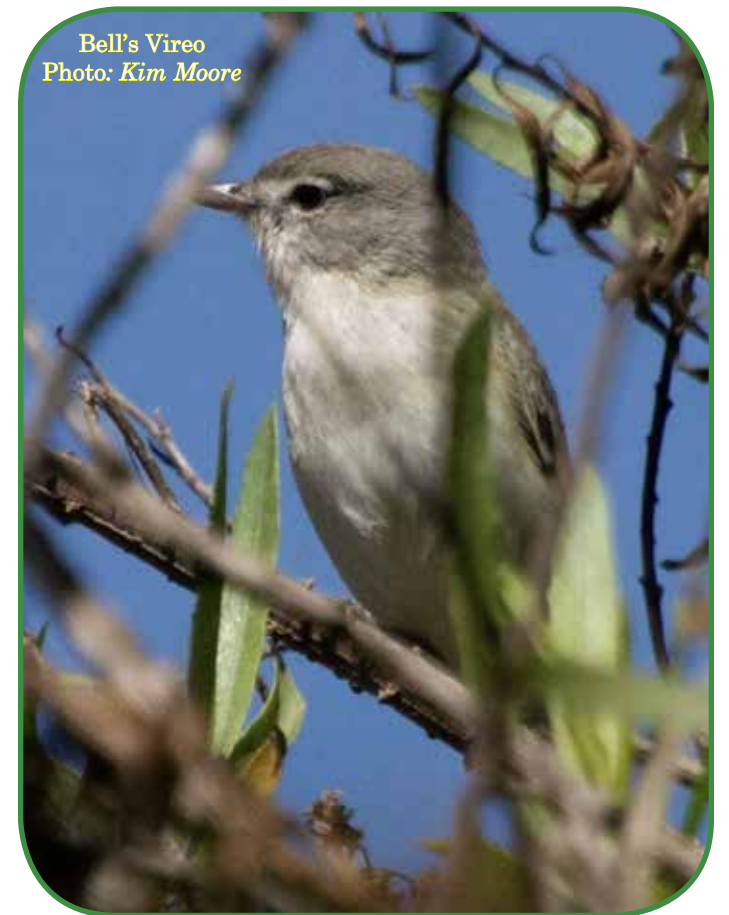
spread locations in the South Bay; particularly notable was the nest with three owlets that Bernardo Alps discovered at Cabrillo Beach on Mar 26. There were a couple of reports of a late **Merlin** at Harbor Park extending into early May. One or two **Acorn Woodpeckers** continued in the neighborhood of the Willow Street crossing into the end of May.

A nice variety of migrating flycatchers passed through the South Bay during the spring. **Willow Flycatchers** were seen at AES Wetland, Madrona Marsh, Golden Shores Preserve, and

Signal Hill. **Hammond's Flycatchers** visited Polliwog Park, Hopkins Wilderness Park in Redondo Beach, DeForest Wetlands in Long Beach, and Signal Hill. **Grey Flycatchers** appeared at Wilderness Park on Apr 20 and Point Vicente on May 1 (JR). **Vermilion Flycatchers** were seen at a half dozen locations, including their usual spots at Columbia Park and Magic Johnson Park. Wilderness Park had both a **Cassin's Vireo** and a **Plumbeous Vireo** on Apr 20; a second Plumbeous was at Harbor Park on May 9 (Johnny Ivanov). Cassin's and Plumbeous Vireos used to be considered subspecies of the defunct "Solitary Vireo"; both have bold white "spectacles". "Plumbeous" means lead-colored; it's distinguished from Cassin's Vireo by the lack of greenish-yellow color. Meanwhile, the threatened **Bell's Vireo** popped up at Madrona Marsh, Harbor Park, Cal State Dominguez Hills, De Forest Park, and Willow Springs Park in Long Beach. Let's hope they successfully breed in the area.

A couple of **Bank Swallows** (Nicole Lemoine, Xavier Mason) and three **Purple Martins** (Lee Xoing) joined the swarms of swallows at Harbor Park at the end of April. About the same time, Sophie Shen had a late **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in her backyard in RPV, while Jim and Cathy in Rolling Hills had another on Apr 30. Jess Morton came across a late **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at South Coast Botanic Garden on May 2; on the same day Jeanne Bellemin found two at Madrona Marsh; this species breeds in the high Sierra Nevada. Elizabeth Kennedy had a **Phainopepla** in Palos Verdes Estates on May 2 for the Birdathon; Christopher Boyd found another at Madrona Marsh on May 7; Becky Turley and Meryl Edelstein came across three at Willow Springs Park on May 13. While at the Marsh, Christopher spotted a **Northern Red Bishop**. Bernardo Alps found a single **Purple Finch** at little Leland Park in San Pedro on Apr 26. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** popped up at High Ridge Park, Old Torrance, and Madrona Marsh. This pretty little goldfinch breeds only in Upper and Lower California.

Yellow-breasted Chats chatted at Madrona Marsh, Harbor Park, White Point, and Golden Shores. Up to five **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**



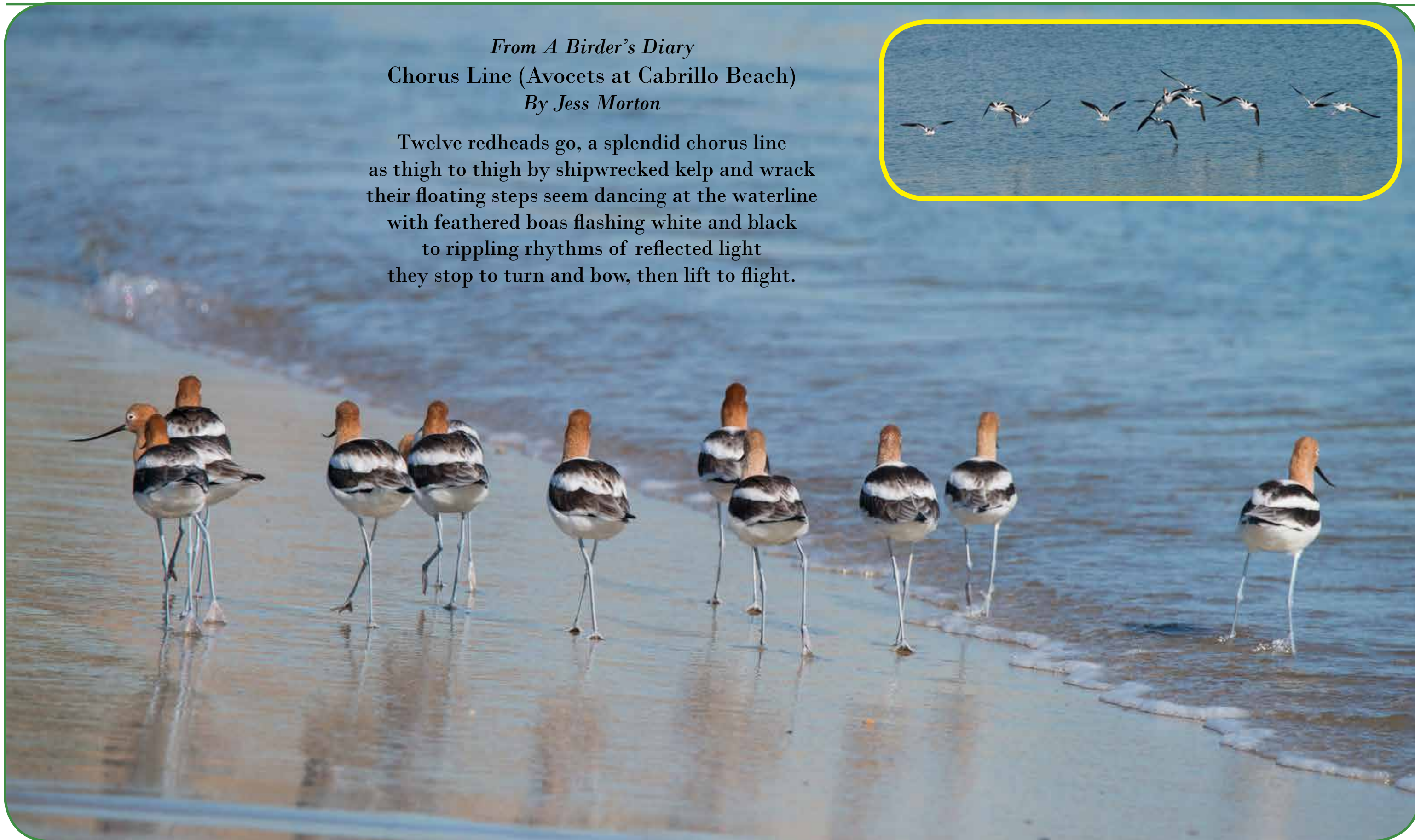
Bell's Vireo
Photo: Kim Moore

were at Magic Johnson Park in mid-April (Chris Dean); single birds were on Terminal Island on May 7 (Adam Scharnau) and at the Willow Street crossing on May 19 (Dick Barth). **Black-and-White Warblers** were seen at High Ridge Park on Apr 14 (Chef Ito), Golden Shores on May 3 (Christine Jacobs, Becky Turley, Meryl Edelstein), and the vicinity of SCBG on May 15 (SS). Matthew Wilson found a traveling **Northern Parula Warbler** at the Hilton Garden Hotel in El Segundo on Apr 20. Joyce Brady found another at Harbor Park on Jun 8. Two "**Channel Island**" **Orange-crowned Warblers** (O-c. sordida) were spotted at Point Vicente on Apr 12; this is our local resident subspecies. The latest report of a **Yellow-rumped Warbler** was in El Segundo on May 19 (Dan Enders). **Summer Tanagers** appeared at Signal Hill on May 23 (BT) and Madrona Marsh on Jun 2. Summer Tanagers are rare breeders in L.A. County. They like riparian habitat with lots of cottonwood trees; they are, or used to be, common breeders along the Colorado River, but are much more abundant in the Southeast. Not

(Birds of the Peninsula continued on page 8)

From A Birder's Diary
Chorus Line (Avocets at Cabrillo Beach)
By Jess Morton

Twelve redheads go, a splendid chorus line
as thigh to thigh by shipwrecked kelp and wrack
their floating steps seem dancing at the waterline
with feathered boas flashing white and black
to rippling rhythms of reflected light
they stop to turn and bow, then lift to flight.



(Birds of the Peninsula continued from page 5)

often seen in the South Bay, **Blue Grosbeaks** were observed at Madrona Marsh, Abalone Cove, the Willow Street crossing, and DeForest Park.

Small numbers of **Cactus Wrens** were spotted at their usual haunts at Alta Vicente, Point Vicente, and Ocean Trails Preserve. Two **California Gnatcatchers** were at Harbor Park on May 10 (BR), while many were seen on the south side of the Peninsula. **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** were seen at Point Vicente Interpretive Center, Pt. Vicente Fishing Access, and Terranea (all places near Point Vicente).

Turning to water birds, **Brant** appeared at AES Wetland on Apr 27 (Dave Moody), and the Willow Street crossing on May 8. Meanwhile, Jess Morton came across 50 Brant on Cabrillo Beach on May 2, while 95 were counted flying past Point Vicente on Apr 12. A single **Cackling Goose** was at Harbor Park the second week in April. The two resident **Snow Geese** continued at Magic Johnson Park into May.

M&M Neeno discovered two **White-winged Doves** in San Pedro on Apr 10. **Black-chinned Hummingbirds** were reported at Harbor Park on Apr 25, Signal Hill on Apr 29, and Willow Springs Park on May 19. Nancy Salem found the only **Sora** seen during the period at SCBG on Apr 16. About 30 **Semipalmated Plovers** hung out at Cabrillo Beach during April (Jonathan Nakai); this is the best spot to find them in the South Bay. A single plover was at the Willow Street crossing on Apr 14 (DB). **Long-billed Curlews** made graceful appearances at the Hermosa Pier, Redondo Pier, and Golden Shores. An unusual **Pectoral Sandpiper** paused on its migration at the Willow Street crossing on Apr 11 (ME, BT). At the same spot there was a **Wilson's Snipe** on Apr 7 (DB) and a **Solitary Sandpiper** on Apr 12 (DB, JB).

Out in the channel, a **Pomarine Jaeger** was spotted from Point Vicente on May 1 (JR) and 8 **Sabine's Gulls** were seen from a boat on Jun 7 (James Wagner). Two **Black-footed Albatrosses** thrilled an LA Birders pelagic trip at 270 Bank on May 31. On the same trip they saw an immature **Cocos Booby** at South Bay Cove. (The Cocos Booby was formerly considered a subspecies of the Brown Booby.)

Back on land, **Neotropical Cormorants** hung out at AES Wetland, Polliwog Park, Harbor Park, and the Willow Street crossing. **Brown Pelicans**, normally seen only at sea, appeared at Magic Johnson Park, Polliwog Park, and Harbor Park — and other inland locations across the L.A. basin — indicating a food shortage in the ocean. At least one **Least Bittern** continued at Harbor Park into May. A **Yellow-crowned Night Heron** was at Magic Johnson Park on Apr 26 (Joshua Mitchell); another spent most of May at Golden Shores. A single **White-faced Ibis** spent a couple of weeks at Harbor Park in mid-May (Lee Xoing), while Dick Barth noted 18 pausing in their northward migration at the Willow Street crossing on May 22. Ibises winter mainly in Mexico.

Elsewhere in Los Angeles County, a pair of **Reddish Egrets** dropped by Alamitos Bay in Long Beach on Jun 4. Elsewhere in California, a female **Lesser Frigatebird** excited birders at San Clemente Pier on May 24; this is only the third accepted siting of this Indian Ocean species in California (although it is difficult to distinguish from the Magnificent Frigatebird, which is common in the Pacific Ocean). A **Sooty Tern** was seen from the same location the next day. **Hudsonian Godwits** were seen near Fort Bragg, Mendocino County on May 17 and the Salton Sea on May 18. **Eurasian Whimbrels** were reported at Point Reyes, Marin County, on Apr 16 and Point St. George, Del Norte County on Jun 2. The Eurasian and North American populations of the Whimbrel were recently split by eBird, the American bird being dubbed the Hudsonian Whimbrel. The Eurasian Whimbrel is distinguished by a lighter underwing and rump. Elsewhere in North America, a **Baikal Teal** (an Asian duck) was at Point Pelee in Ontario on Apr 18 and a **Ross's Gull** (a bird of the high Arctic) was seen near Lethbridge, Alberta on May 2.

Vincent welcomes reports from readers about unusual birds found in the South Bay area (west of the Los Angeles River and south of I-105.)

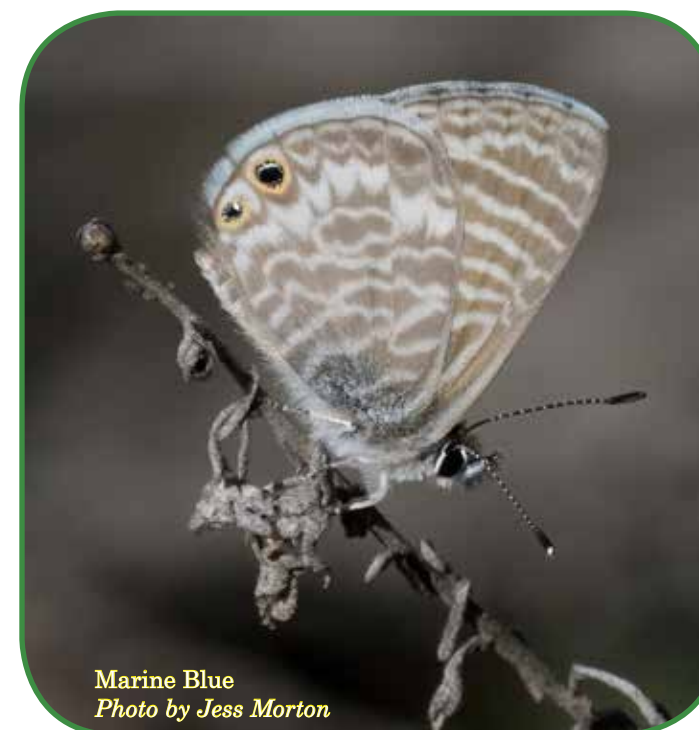
Send reports to:

stephenvincentlloyd@gmail.com.

Member Notes By Connie Huante

Howdy nature lovers! I thought I'd share these pictures my brother, Steve Huante, took while walking his dogs... He caught nature at work on North Redondo's greenbelt bike and pedestrian path:

Mr. Blue (Blue Heron) is on gopher duty while Mr. Gopher is on predator patrol. We're so blessed to see earth's beautiful creatures even in densely populated urban areas.



Marine Blue
Photo by Jess Morton



YES Participants Speak
Samantha "Sammy" Murakami



Hello! I'm a junior at South High School and a Girl Scout in Troop 9215. I'm currently working on my Gold Award project centered on protecting birds in suburban areas through community education and engagement. I'm proud to say that I

will be working with Audubon's Keith Haney and Nina Su'a as my project advisors, and Madrona Marsh as my community partner. When I started my Gold Award, I knew I wanted my focus to be on helping the environment and animals in any way that I could. I've loved birds since I was in elementary school, and I'm so grateful to have this opportunity to give back to nature and our community. I'm excited to see where this project will take me!



Crows

At the first,
 we felt no concern
 when the crows came
 intermittently
 deceptive
 in their swart-feathered fews

For fifteen years the
 crows have increased their
 numbers streaming southward
 proliferating from low
 squalid habitats where
 they were known and countenanced
 to claim the palms
 lining our carefully tended streets

Suddenly, as if it were unexpected
 we see everywhere these
 unwanted invaders
 littering the avenues
 with their black-beaked clamor
 and brutal habits

Mornings
 are torn open with the harsh
 violence of their ominous
 insistence the ripped nests of doves
 emptied of eggs crushed
 young consumed We
 should have listened
 to others insistent that these crows
 were more than marks
 for our lists birds to be
 counted and added
 like so many dollars that
 these were crows and that this
 has always been
 their way

By Jess Morton from Shorelines

MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY
Chapter Calendar

Sunday, July 5th, at 8 AM: Bird walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Meet in the parking lot between Vermont and Anaheim above the ranger station.

Saturday July 11th, 46th annual summer butterfly count. All welcome to participate, kids with their parent(s) especially. Contact count coordinator Keith Haney < progammanager@pvsbaudubon.org > for details.



Tuesday, July 21st, at 7 PM, at Madrona Marsh. Monthly meeting. For speaker and program, check our home page at PVSBAudubon.org.

Saturday, July 25th, at 9 AM. Meet the Birds! at Madrona Marsh. Birding for all ages and levels of knowledge in a biologically blessed place. Come on out!

Sunday, August 2nd, at 8 AM: Bird walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Meet in the parking lot between Vermont and Anaheim above the ranger station.

Tuesday, Aug. 18th at 7 PM, at Madrona Marsh. Monthly meeting. For speaker and program, check our home page at PVSBAudubon.org.

Saturday, August 22nd, at 9 AM. Meet the Birds! at Madrona Marsh. Birding for all ages and levels of knowledge in a biologically blessed place. Come on out!

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage. Within the framework of National Audubon Society policies, we seek and implement ways to preserve indigenous flora and fauna, especially that of our local area, and provide educational services to the region's communities with respect to birds, wildlife, ecology and conservation.

Executive Officers and Staff

- President: Ann Dalkey
- Vice-Pres.: Nina Su'a
- Treasurer: Julian Chasin
- Secretary: Nina Su'a (Interim)
- Project Mgr: Keith Haney
progammanager@pvsbaudubon.org
- Directors: Tracy Drake, Dianna Kim,
 Shari Morrow, Jess Morton,
 Patty Naegely, Malia Jade Young

Committees:

- CBC: Jonathan Nakai, pvbirdr@gmail.com
- Events: Malia Young, Events@pvsbaudubon.org
- Field Trips: Ann and Eric Brooks, motmots@aol.com
- Hospitality: Shari Morrow
- Hummin': Jess Morton, jmorton@igc.org
- Membership: Patty Naegely,
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- Social Media: Nina Su'a, Tania Ralhan (intern)
- Webmaster: Dianna Kim
- YES: Nina Su'a

Audubon Membership

To **join or renew** PV/SB Audubon membership, go to Audubon.org and select the link to Membership & Giving. Members receive Audubon Magazine and Hummin', your chapter's newsletter.

To get Hummin' by email (and /or print), send your preference to info@pvsbaudubon.org.

PV/SB Audubon Chapter Support

Support your local chapter's work with checks made to PV/SB Audubon and mailed to: PO Box 2582, Palos Verdes, CA 90274 or give on line at pvsbaudubon.org/donate.

THIRD TUESDAY PROGRAMS

7 PM AT MADRONA MARSH

3201 PLAZA DEL AMO, TORRANCE



PV/South Bay Audubon's third Tuesday programs about birds and wildlife are held at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center, at 7 in the evening. All are welcome. Coffee and refreshments are served. Stop in early during the summer months to enjoy quiet time in the nature center's native garden,



Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society
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Please deliver promptly

AVIANTICS

By Sara Courtneidge

