



WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of
The National Audubon Society

Volume 58 Number 1 September 1991



by David White

When Is Los Angeles Going to

Grow Up?

One of the world's youngest metropolitan areas, Los Angeles hasn't yet grown up. I'm thinking not so much of L.A.'s glitzy youthful exuberance as of urban population density. We not only haven't grown up; we've barely begun to think about it.

During my visit last year, Buenos Aires impressed me in many ways; one lasting impression relates to population density. In essence, the *Distrito Federal* (Buenos Aires proper) accommodates the same population as Los Angeles but in one-sixth the area; Metropolitan Buenos Aires, likewise, has a population similar to Los Angeles County, again, in a much smaller area (see table at right).

"Packed in like rats, huh?" a fellow Auduboner said when I mentioned these comparisons. But numbers distort reality. Buenos Aires has row after row of ten- to fifteen-story buildings, but housing, stores, and offices are so well mixed that few people need to travel, regularly, more than a few miles from home. The city lacks extensive freeways but has superb public transpor-

tation (subways, buses, taxis); driving habits beg for pages of detail, but what's important is how four-lane streets accommodate seven or more fluid rows of traffic, moving with astonishing rapidity. (The basic rule of driving is to pay no attention to things like lines painted on the street—if there is room for your vehicle, you quickly move in and push ahead, and six inches of clearance between vehicles is considered more than enough.)

The amenities of Buenos Aires are not entirely urban. The abundance of parks is striking. These range from

Picazuro Pigeon) and vast urban greenbelts like Palermo (where I tallied Rufous Hornero and Masked Gnatcatcher). The *Distrito Federal* also has the splendid Parque Natural y Zona Reserva Costañero Sur (where in a few hours I easily added 27 species, including Plumbeous Rail and Rufous-sided Crake). Despite Argentina's economic problems, parks are well kept—and the visitor's center at Costañero Sur is staffed.

Readers may consider my figures skewed by National Forest land within L.A. County and undeveloped land in the Santa Monica Mountains within the City. Let's try the comparison another way. If our population were distributed with Argentine efficiency, City residents could fit between Hollywood Boulevard on the north and Slauson on the south, the Los Angeles River on the east and La Cienega on the west. Everyone in the County, ex-

cept a few hundred farmers, could live south of the San Gabriel Mountains, southeast of Sylmar and Woodland Hills, and east of Pacific Palisades. Leave a few dozen thousand people in

	Population	Square Miles	People per Sq. Mile
Buenos Aires			
Distrito Federal	3 million	77	38,600
Metropolitan Area	8.4 million	1,500	5,600
Los Angeles			
City	3 million	464	6,000
County	8.7 million	4,083	2,130

tiny clearings in odd-shaped intersections (replete with children and Rock Doves) to roomy neighborhood parks like Parque Chacabuco (where I saw my first Picui Ground-Dove and

Lancaster and Palmdale (properly clustered), and we could keep the Santa Monica Mountains and all the other open spaces we have now, plus some, and have room for more people besides.

Of course, this is not what our policymakers have in mind. In 1985, a court order forced the City Planning Department to comply with community plans that put limits on density. Such plans reflect the "slow growth movement." Often considered part of an environmentalist agenda, "slow growth" does in fact sometimes lead to local protection of natural areas, at least temporarily. Yet so long as population is growing, people must go somewhere; if growth is delayed in one place, it will be expedited somewhere else. Now (per the *L.A. Times*, June 13th), the City Planning Department says a crisis is brewing; homes are needed in L.A. for 25,000 new families per year, but current zoning will allow only 100,000 more units. Circa 1994, we will officially run out of space. Does that mean L.A. will simply have to stop growing?

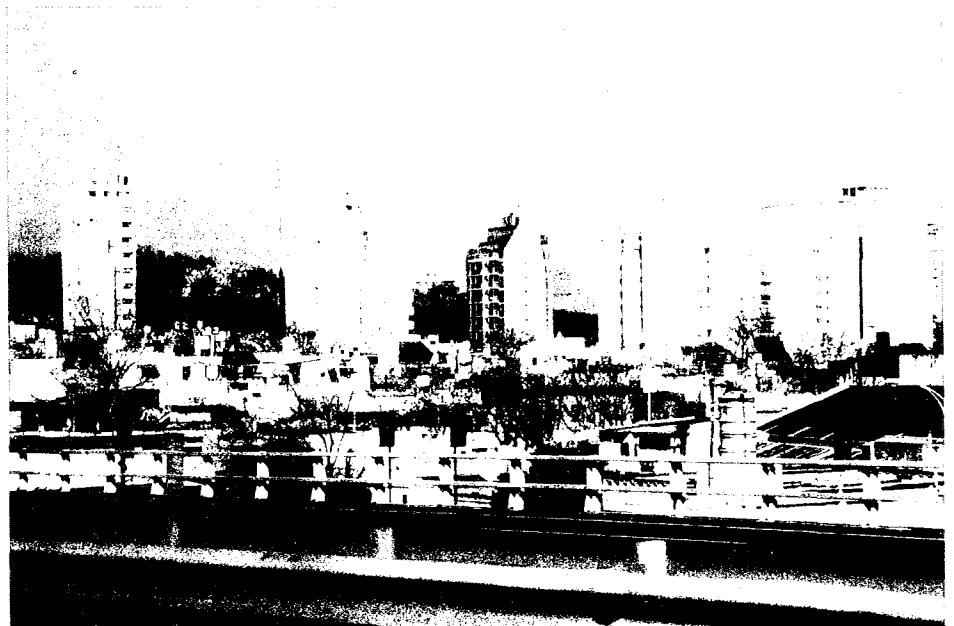
Not at all. If we grant the apparently unshakable assumption that "no growth" is tantamount to economic and sociocultural death, Planning Director Melanie Fallon has the right idea; she says density will have to be increased. Councilman Woo seems to have a rather different idea: while fretting about "going the direction of New

York," he suggested using "city-owned land" for new housing.

City-owned land? Mr. Woo specifically mentioned parking lots and freeway margins, but I began worrying about Griffith Park after reading that Woo is backing a low-density housing project that could impair the wildlife corridor between Griffith Park and points west. This sounds too much like the County, which is proposing to close Nature Centers at Whittier Narrows, Eaton Canyon, Placerita, and elsewhere, while simultaneously planning commercial ven-

tures within parks. Both City and County are amidst fiscal crises, but neither should rely on solutions which erode remaining open space.

If Los Angeles wants a livable City and County over the long term, we need to start *right now* taking a hard look at the true costs of living the way we do. Low density housing has many pleasures, as I (gazing at my backyard) must attest; it also creates a dreadful societal burden in infrastructure costs, not to mention lost open space. Orange County could also consider growing up, to avoid the di-



Los Angeles, below—Buenos Aires, above—The choice is ours...



lemma of otherwise having to choose between California Gnatcatchers and development.

I think we need:

- (1) a regional growth plan and policy;
- (2) more construction in growing areas like Westlake and Watts;
- (3) mixed residential/commercial centers to alleviate infrastructure strains;
- (4) innovative ways, such as swapping development rights, to create new open spaces while letting enclosed spaces get higher and denser; and
- (5) improved traffic controls and transportation infrastructures.

As it is, we're childishly taking future resources to pay for present profligacies. Isn't it time we started growing up? 🐦

Birdathon '91 Raises \$12,000 to Support Audubon Adventures

Through the efforts of dozens of chapter members, sponsors and friends, the Los Angeles Audubon Society's Birdathon '91 surpassed its goal and raised nearly \$12,000 to support environmental education in Los Angeles public schools. "It was our best year yet," said Melanie Ingalls, Birdathon Chair, and head of LAAS's Education Committee. Funds will be used to enroll more than 250 classes in the award-winning Audubon Adventures Program this fall.

The six-week event featured a variety of birding activities designed to encourage fun in the field while building support for chapter education programs. There were field trips for beginning birders at Placerita Canyon and Malibu Creek State Park, a backyard bird sighting contest, and Big Day Competition. Birders ranged from Armando Armenta, a fifth grader at Broadway Elementary in Venice, to Marshal Case, the National Audubon Society's Senior Vice President for Education and founder of the Audubon Adventures Program. All participants received an LAAS pin, and sponsors pledging \$50 or more received a copy of *Where Birders Go In Southern California* by Henry Childs. Prizes will be awarded at the September meeting to those seeing the most species and raising the most money in each competition category (see table).

LAAS's Birdathon was one of hundreds sponsored by Audubon chapters across the country. Their combined efforts raised more than \$1.3 million for Audubon programs and activities nationwide. LAAS's efforts ranked third in the Western Region (behind Seattle [\$17,000] and Tahoma [\$15,000]), and first in California for a chapter with more than 1,000 members.

Kimball Garrett led a Birdathon field trip at Placerita Canyon on

April 20. Birders included: Jim Blair, Marshal Case, Sally Close, Nick and Elsie Colias, Lori and Mark Conrad, Steve Hirsh, Melanie Ingalls, Bart Lane, Mary Lumkin, Dan and Linda Marten, Neil Multack, Judy Steelhammer, Mary Stephens and Paula Weever. They counted 53 species.

Chuck Bernstein took a group to Malibu on May 5 and chalked up 69 species. The group included: Harold Bagby, Beverly Clump, Barbara and John Courtois, Melanie Ingalls, Anne Schneider, Sarah Schneider and Walter Williams, as well as Gloria Mendelsohn and four fifth-graders from Broadway Elementary.

Backyard birders (who counted species in their own yards) included: Pat Lindquist, Ruth Lohr, Judy Rothman and Milo Sather. Most saw at least 15 species within the confines of their backyards, with Pat Lindquist leading the way at 21.

The Big Day Competition drew the usual mixed crowd of enthusiastic LAAS Board members and their cohorts. Nine teams took to the field including Ken Kendig and Tom Van Huss; Jonathan Alderfer, Marshal Case and Melanie Ingalls; Ty Garrison and Dan Kahane; Gretchen Keeler and David Richardson; Mary Carmona, Pearl Hilliard, Bob Johnson and Darlene Knieriem; Mary Semski; Bob Van Meter; Sandy Wohlgenuth; and Peter Barnes.

Many thanks to the dozens of generous sponsors who supported the efforts of our birders. Thanks, too, to those who helped make the event a success: Kimball Garrett and Chuck Bernstein who led the ever-popular field trips; Steve Hirsh who designed the Birdathon brochure; and Deitra Duplantier of the National Audubon Society's education office in L.A. who kept track of registration and book-keeping. 🐦

BIG DAY COMPETITORS

Most Species		Most Money Raised	
Peter Barnes	152	Ken Kendig	\$7,195
Gretchen Keeler/ David Richardson	146	Gretchen Keeler/ David Richardson	\$ 915
Jonathan Alderfer/Marshal Case/Melanie Ingalls	138	Mary Carmona/Pearl Hilliard/Bob Johnson/ Darlene Knieriem	\$ 568

BACKYARD BIRDERS

Most Species		Most Money Raised	
Pat Lindquist	21	Judy Rothman	\$ 250
Judy Rothman	20	Pat Lindquist	\$ 50

FIELD TRIPS

Most Money Raised	
Barbara & John Courtois	\$240
Lori & Mark Conrad	\$170
Steve Hirsh	\$135

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

Mary Semski	\$ 355
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The Los Angeles Audubon Society wishes to thank those who donated prizes for this year's event:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Easton Press | <i>Fight for Survival</i> by Di Silvestro |
| Franklin Mint | Stamp Sets |
| Hartman Jewelry and Gifts | Binoculars |
| LAAS Bookstore | <i>Hummingbirds</i> by Tyrrell & Tyrrell |
| Macmillian Publishing Co. | Audubon Calendars |
| National Audubon Society | Camera Bags |
| NAS Education Division | Posters and One-Year Subscription to
Audubon Adventures Program |
| OP/TECH | Camera Strap |
| Renaissance | Holiday Cards |
| Seaboard Seed | Bird Seed |
| United States Survival Society | Automobile/Earthquake Survival Kit |

Lens View

by Herb Clarke

A continuing photographic problem is proper exposure. The subject is often in shadow, not in a desirable sunlit position, the day is heavily overcast or it's night time. There are various approaches to overcome these problems, none of which works well every time. Methods most often adopted are to use a variety of films, one of which is fast (light sensitive), or to have a slower film "pushed" by the processor. Both ways usually result in poorer color, loss of sharpness, or both. Invariably, the wrong film will be in the camera when a sudden event occurs, or the kind of film is forgotten in the excitement of shooting. By not being totally familiar with the film, mistakes can be made in setting the camera or lens.

The built-in light meters of modern cameras are marvels, but like any device they can fail or go out of adjustment. By using and thoroughly knowing the characteristics of one film, corrections of indicated but wrong settings can be made on the spot, hopefully avoiding the anguish of a missed opportunity. This is not to say new films or methods should never be tried; but before veering in a new direction, practice on unimportant subjects and, if possible, bracket exposures. That is, shoot some pictures about one stop over and under what you think is the proper exposure. Remember to increase exposure when confronted by side and back lit situations or dark subjects. Take lots of pictures. Film is cheap when overall costs of the outing are considered.

Other ways to overcome exposure problems require devices outside the camera. A simple reflector can be made from thin plywood covered with aluminum foil. This is inexpensive and works well over fair distances. It is a little awkward to use and must be frequently adjusted as the sun moves. In addition, the subject must remain in one position, for example, when photographing a flower or a

bird at the nest. A mirror can be used similarly.

Flash is by far the best way to augment natural lighting. Some purists reject using artificial light, and I have no quarrel with methods that satisfy other people. But for me, modern electronic flashes are indispensable to my photography. There are so many brands and types of these units presently available, with new ones constantly being offered, that I must confine this discussion to equipment I have settled on after years of trial and error.


Most new cameras, when coupled to the proper flash, offer the ability to set the correct shutter speed, signal when everything is properly connected and ready and even avoid overexposure with through-the-lens (TTL) metering. But, here again, I must temper expectations by noting some serious limitations these units pose in bird photography. Manufacturers know that most photographs are taken of people or of reasonably close, large subjects. Therefore, the light emitted by the flash is made to spread over a fairly wide angle. This, in combination with the rule that light intensity falls off in proportion to the square of the distance from camera to subject, makes just about all flash units unsatisfactory for illuminating a small target such as a bird except at extremely close range. I am often amused when attending programs in large, dark arenas to see people attempting flash photography at great distances.

Placing the flash close to the subject while the photographer and camera are further back works well at nests or feeders. Sometimes I use two or more flashes, fired either by wires connected directly to the camera or by flash "slaves" setting off the auxiliary units when struck by the light of the master flash. Multiple flashes eliminate harsh shadows as well as increase light output. Standard models take eight or more seconds to recycle in order to get ready to go off again. This time can seem like an eter-

nity when trying to photograph a fidgety bird. Many brands offer a battery pack accessory which can reduce this recycling time to about one second.

Sometimes, when using flash while photographing animals, night birds, or even people, an unpleasant phenomenon known as "red eye" shows in the picture. This is caused by light reflecting from blood vessels in the retina of the creature's eye. This can be avoided by holding the flash to the camera's side or by the subject not looking directly at the lens.

All the above sounds extremely complicated and the gear bulky, expensive and time consuming to set up, increasing chances for error or equipment failure. It all depends on how serious one is about nature and especially bird photography. Like any other activity, greater effort produces better, consistent results. But don't let all this discourage you. I have seen great pictures taken merely by stalking prey with the simplest of equipment in hand.

There has been a recent development in flash equipment using a Fresnel or concentrating lens. This has greatly enhanced the use of flash in bird photography and will be discussed in the next column. 



HOODED WARBLER, male, taken near Desert Center, California, April, 1991. Two Sunpack 433D flashes were set on tripods, eight feet apart about seven feet from the bird (note two highlights in the eye). Camera was an N8008 Nikon mounted on a Nikon 400mm lens coupled to a Nikon TC-14B teleconverter and a 27.5mm extension tube. Effective aperture was f8.0, shutter speed was 1/250th second. Camera and lens were mounted on a tripod. The photograph was taken from a blind 13 feet away as the warbler approached a water drip. Film is Kodachrome 64.

Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodtkin

September will find fall migration well underway. From the mountain ridges where troops of warblers and vireos drift south, to our wetlands (coastal and otherwise) where masses of shorebirds fatten up for their journeys, birders will be out enjoying our fascinating hobby. The first vagrants will also start showing up. Keep an eye out for Eastern Kingbirds, Northern Waterthrushes, and Red-eyed Vireos. These birds breed very close to north-eastern California and have been seen quite early in the season. By the middle of the month anything can happen. The coastal promontories and desert oases are the most likely to turn up an unusual bird, but keep an eye on your own backyard as well. This is also a good time to go on a pelagic trip. Check the *Tanager Calendar* for these opportunities and make your reservations early.

And please consider putting something back if you do find an unusual bird by reporting it to Dave Koeppel or myself and by fully documenting your sightings for *American Birds*, published by National Audubon. If you do not know where to send your reports, mail them to me at the address at the end of this column and I will forward them to the appropriate sub-regional editor. Your report should include a complete description of what you saw on the bird (without adding fieldmarks seen later in a field guide), date, time of day, weather, position of sun, type of optics used, distance from the bird, duration of sighting, and your familiarity with the species. Of course any photos, field sketches, or even tape recordings should also be included.

The number of vagrants seems down this past spring. This is probably due to flowering in the desert (the best in recent memory) and the hordes of caterpillars and other insects feeding on this vegetation. This abundance spread the birds out instead of concentrating them at the oases.

The following reports are an inter-

esting mix of late spring migrants, vagrants, breeding birds, post-breeding wanderers and early fall migrants.

A **Pink-footed Shearwater** was seen off Point Mugu with a hundred **Sooties** on 3 June (Don Desjardin), and the season's first **Magnificent Frigatebird** was reported from Malibu on 13 July (Chuck Bush).

The **Brant** flock was up to eight at Malibu by 2 June (Dave Koeppel), and a summering pair of **Blue-winged Teal** was on the L.A. River at Long Beach on 24 June. For the first time in many years, a pair of **Swainson's Hawks** bred in the Antelope Valley (Kimball Garrett).

A lingering **Long-billed Curlew** was at Malibu on 2 June (DK), and a very rare **Bar-tailed Godwit** was reported on the same day at Upper Newport Bay (Lee Jones). An almost as rare **Rufous-necked Stint** was at the Wister Unit at the south end of the Salton Sea on 18 May (Richard Webster), and the two first "fall" **Baird's Sandpipers** were on Edwards Air Force Base's Piute Ponds on 13 July (KG). A male **Ruff** was at Piute on 20 July (Larry Sansone and Arnold Small).

Franklin's Gull reports include one at Palos Verdes on 18 May (Mitch Heindel), five at the Lancaster sewer ponds on 25 May (DD) and one at Piute Ponds on 13 July (KG). A late **Glaucous Gull** was reported from the Santa Clara River Mouth on 4 June (DD), and a usually pelagic **Sabine's Gull** and a usually coastal **Royal Tern** were at the north end of the Salton Sea on 4 July (Steve Mlodinow).

Very rare anywhere on the west coast of the Americas, two reports of **Sandwich Tern**, one at Malibu on 29 May (Barbara Elliott) and one at Bolsa Chica on 29 June (Brian Daniels), both seen with **Elegant Terns**, could conceivably apply to the same bird.

Alcids spotted from Point Mugu include two **Common Murres** on 16 June, a **Xantus' Murrelet** on 3 June, and a **Cassin's Auklet** on 16 June (all DD).

Six **Band-tailed Pigeons** were in Temescal Canyon on 24 June (DK), and an **Inca Dove** in Brawley on 4 July (SM) could indicate further range expansion of this species.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports feature an early bird at Butterbredt Springs on 26 May (Art Cupples and Scott Terril), two arriving at the Kern Preserve breeding grounds on 15 June (Bob Barnes), one at Big Morongo Preserve on 8 July (Martin Biehower) and one in O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills, on 10 July (Trudy Heiman).

Owls reported in the Blue Mountain/Arch Rock area of the San Gabriels on the night of 8 June include **Flammulated**, **Northern Pygmy**, and **Northern Saw-Whet** (DK), and a **Common Nighthawk** was reported from nearby Table Mountain on 6 July (Betty Jo Stephenson).

Eight **Calliope Hummingbirds** were on Fish Creek in the San Bernardino on 8 June along with a **Black Swift** (SM), while another **Black Swift** was at the Kern Preserve on 1 June (BB). A flock of up to 25 **Chimney Swifts**, probably breeders, were at Ninth and Broadway in downtown Los Angeles on 10 July (KG), and a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** was at the Mt. Abel Campground on 16 June (Hank and Priscilla Brodtkin).

A singing **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was spotted at Lake Hollywood on 17 May (Patricia Adelman), and a very late **Say's Phoebe** was at Palos Verdes on 18 May. An **Eastern Kingbird** was at Galileo Hill on 26 May, and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area on 7 July (SM).

A flock of 50 **Pinyon Jays** was in Garner Valley in the San Jacintos on 6 July (SM), and a late **Varied Thrush** was at Redondo Wilderness Park on 23 May (David Moody).

A **Gray Catbird** was in Butterbredt Canyon, Kern County, on 1 June (Matt Heindel), a **Brown Thrasher** was at Scotty's Castle on 25 May (Mike Patten), and an **American Dipper** was in Santa Anita Canyon on 24 June (KG).

Warbler reports include one Tennessee at Redondo Wilderness Park on 23 May (DM) and one at Westminster Cemetery on 1 June (SM), one Northern Parula also at the cemetery on 1 June and one on 2 June at the El Dorado Nature Center (BD), a Chestnut-sided at the Kern Preserve on 9 June (BB), a Blackburnian also at the Preserve on 1 June (BB) and American Redstarts at Redondo Wilderness Park on 23 May (DM) and on 16 June at Troy Meadows in the Sierras (BB); and single Ovenbirds at Borrego Springs on 18 May (Bruce Kautz), at Galileo on 19 May (MaH), at Butterbredt Springs on 26 May (H&PB), at Huntington Beach Central Park on 2 June (BD) and at Mojave also on 2 June (H&PB).

A Summer Tanager was at Huntington Beach Central Park on 18 May (SM) and another was found shot in Halsey Canyon, Castaic, on 19 June (Dan Kahane). A Dickcissal was reported from Furnace Creek on 25 May (MP), and a Bobolink was at San Joaquin Marsh, Irvine, on 25 May (SM) with two at Furnace Creek on the same day (MP).

Numerous Red Crossbill reports cover our mountains from Mt. Abel through the San Bernadinos. Last, but possibly least, is a report of a Eurasian Tree Sparrow, possibly a ship-

aided traveler from Asia, on 4 July at Point Fermin (KG & Bill Principe). 🐦

GOOD BIRDING!

Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the American Birds regional editors or, if appropriate, by the California Bird Records Committee.

Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

Hank Brodtkin
27 -1/2 Mast Street
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
(213) 827-0407

- or -

David Koeppel
(213) 454-2576

CORRECTION

The July/August BIRDS OF THE SEASON column was written by Hank Brodtkin. Gremlins changed his name to Kimball Garrett. We apologize to Hank for not giving him credit for the fine work he is doing for the birding community.

CALENDAR

Continued from Page 8

Outdoor Classroom. Franklin Canyon is located between Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills. Over 100 species have been documented in the chaparral, lakeside and oak/pine woodland habitats of the canyon. Meet at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center lot at 7:30 a.m. From the 101 Fwy take Coldwater Canyon S into the hills. Immediately after Mulholland Dr. merges from the west with Coldwater Canyon, make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon and continue on to the nature center. The lot is past a gate designating the William O. Douglas Outdoor Classroom. (LA, p.22, B-6)

Sunday, September 22 - Lake Palmdale. Jonathan Alderfer will lead a select few on a tour of this restricted, little-birded bit of L.A. County. Vagrants have been encountered with the waterfowl and migrants in the past. Take the 5 Fwy to the 14 Fwy to the La Mont-Odett Overlook just before Palmdale. Meet at 7 a.m. sharp and finish at 1 p.m. Sign-up by phone with Audubon House. 15 participants maximum.

Thursday, September 26 - O'Melveny Park. Park regular Fred Machetanz will guide us through this expansive piece of chaparral/oak woodland. The morning should produce late migrants, residents, early wintering birds, and the Western Bluebirds should still be lingering at the



Picnic '91 —the best yet

Birds, baseball, butterflies, food, charades, drinks, games, kids, blue sky, fresh air, fun, good people—a wonderful day.

nest boxes. Take the 405 Fwy N to the 118 Fwy W, then take Balboa Blvd. N for about 3 miles to Pineridge Dr. Take this W as it becomes Jollette Ave., turn right onto Meadowlark Ave., and meet at 8:00 a.m. in the lot at the end. (LA, p.1, E-3)

Sunday, September 29 - Mojave Vicinity. Leader **Larry Allen**. We will bird the California City Central Park for one hour (in case you're late), eat a picnic lunch when the mood strikes us, and bird surrounding areas 'till we drop. Come prepared for a possibly very hot, dusty, fun day. Take Hwy 14 out past Mojave, continue N about 10 miles to California City Blvd., turn right and proceed into the town past the shopping center for about a mile, and turn left at the Central Park sign just past the overpass. The first right turn will take you into the parking lot. We will meet in the lot at 6:30 a.m., so please consider local camping and motel options. About two hours driving time from L.A.

Saturday, October 5 - Santa Cruz Island. **Irwin Woldman** leader. This year we will visit Pelican Cove, which is owned by the Nature Conservancy. An island ranger will lead us along the trails. The Ironwood grove and native plants show less impact than much of the island, due to controlled foot traffic and extermination of feral pigs and goats. The endemic ssp. of Scrub Jay should be seen, as well as island-hopping migrants. Many birds may also be seen en route, but this is not a pelagic birding trip, as the boat will take us quickly and directly to the island. Reserve directly with Island Packers in Ventura (805) 642-1393. If you plan to go with LAAS, please inform both Island Packers and Audubon House. LAAS has 20 spaces reserved until September 10. Reserve later at your own risk. Leave from Ventura Boat Landing at 8:00 a.m. to Pelican Cove, return 6:00 p.m. Bring a cold lunch. Cost \$42.

Sunday, October 6 - Topanga State Park. Leader **Gerry Haigh**. See September 1 write-up for details.

Monday, October 7 - Malibu to McGrath. First Monday in October for twenty years running! What a landmark! Ed Navojosky will lead birders up the coast from Malibu Lagoon to the McGrath estuary, stopping along the way to bird and picnic at Big Sycamore Canyon and elsewhere. Good possibilities for resident, migrant, vagrant and wintering bird species together. Full or half day; suit yourself. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the shopping center adjacent to the Malibu Lagoon bridge. Take PCH N over the bridge, turn right and right again into the shopping center across from the la-

goon. Meet in the NE corner of the lot. Bring a lunch. (LA, p.114, B-5)


Friday, October 11 - Chatsworth Park South. Join leader **Allan Keller** for a morning of late migration birding. We will seek warblers, orioles, grosbeaks and others in this chaparral/oak woodland habitat. From Topanga Canyon Blvd., go W on Devonshire and continue into the parking lot by the Recreation Center. Meet at 8:00 a.m. (LA, p.6, B-3)

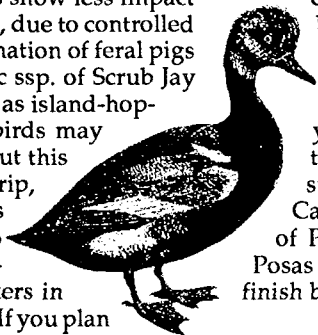
Sunday, October 13 - San Diego Area. **Nick Freeman** leader. A good portion of the morning will certainly be spent at Point Loma. Some odd birds have been known to pop up here during late migration. Other areas that may be visited include the Tijuana Marsh and the Tijuana River farm fields. Take the San Diego Fwy (Interstate 5) about three miles past Route 52 to the Clairemont Drive offramp and head W into the small lot adjacent to the Mission Bay Information Center. Meet here at 8:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Scopes helpful.

Saturday, October 19 - Oxnard Plains. Leader **Larry Allen** will be scanning the extensive sod fields and wind breaks in the area for late migrants. Possible sightings may be late warblers, Red-throated Pipit and Upland Sandpiper (one last year). Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of the Edison building on the north side of Hueneme Rd. just before Casper Rd. and about 1.5 miles west of PCH. From the 101 Fwy take Las Posas Rd. S to Hueneme Rd. W. Probably finish before lunch. Scopes a big plus.

Saturday, October 19 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Leader **David White**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See September 15 write-up for details.

Friday, November 8 - Sparrow Seminar. Ever have trouble sorting out Clay-colored and Chipping sparrows? Our own **Jon Dunn** will draw on his extensive field experience and impressive slide collection to familiarize us with this often difficult family of birds. Bring binoculars to view slides. Lecture only fee \$8. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at location TBA. See November 10 for field trip.

Sunday, November 10 - Sparrow Field Trip. The affiliated field trip to California City with **Jon Dunn** will take us through the ins and outs of sparrow identification in the field. Sparrows should be migrating or wintering in fair numbers at this time. Meet in California City at 7:30 a.m. Sign up with LAAS for exact directions. \$15 fee for limited participation field trip only. See November 8 for lecture. 



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Annual membership in both societies is \$35 per year, \$21 for seniors, and presently \$20 for new members for their first year. Members receive the *Western Tanager* newsletter and *Audubon* magazine, a national publication.

Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not normally be sent to LAAS. New memberships and renewal of lapsed memberships may be sent to Los Angeles Audubon House at the above address. Make checks payable to the order of National Audubon Society.

Non-members may subscribe to the *Western Tanager* for \$15 per year. The newsletter is sent by first class mail to subscribers and members who pay an additional \$7. Make checks payable to Los Angeles Audubon Society.

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(updated Thursdays)

RESERVATION AND FEE EVENTS
(Limited Participation)
POLICY AND PROCEDURE

Reservations will be accepted ONLY if ALL the following information is supplied:

- (1) Trip desired
- (2) Names of people in your party
- (3) Phone numbers (a) usual and (b) evening before event, in case of emergency cancellation
- (4) Separate check (no cash please) to LAAS for exact amount for each trip
- (5) Self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and associated trip information

Send to Reservations Chairman **Millie Newton**, LAAS, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90046.

If there is insufficient response, the trip will be cancelled two Wednesdays prior to the scheduled date (four weeks for pelagics) and you will be so notified and your fee returned. Your cancellation after that time will bring a refund only if there is a paid replacement.

Millie Newton is available at Audubon House on Tuesdays 10 - 3 to answer questions about field trips. If you desire to carpool to an event, she can also provide contacts for you. Our office staff is also available Tuesday - Saturday for most reservation services.

C A L E N D A R

EVENING MEETINGS

Meet at 8:00 p.m. in Plummer Park
ID Workshop precedes the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

September 10, 1991 - Breeding Birds of Riparian Habitat Restoration Sites, presented by Steve Laymon. Since 1986, the Nature Conservancy has reforested over 200 acres of cottonwood and willow riparian habitat at its 1,000 acre Kern River Preserve in the southern Sierra Nevada. Part of the research conducted by the Kern River Research Center includes monitoring the changes in foraging and breeding use by various species of birds including the Yellow-billed Cuckoo and the Willow Flycatcher on the reforestation sites. Steve will share the research findings to date.

ID Workshop: Kimball Garrett - Allen's vs. Rufous, The Finer Points.

October 8, 1991 - Herb Clarke, LAAS's ace photographer, will present a slide program entitled "Wild California."

Arnold Small before the Saturday pelagic trip. Lecture participants guaranteed spot on Saturday, Sept. 14 pelagic trip (\$60 fee for boat trip only, \$12 fee for lecture only). Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Valley Plaza Recreation Center near the 5 Fwy and Laurel Canyon Blvd. in North Hollywood.

Sunday, September 15 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Join **David White** on the first of his monthly morning walks of the year. Meet at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. in South El Monte, off 60 Fwy between Santa Anita and Peck Drive exits, west of 605 Fwy. (LA, p.47, D-5)

Saturday, September 21 - Franklin Canyon. This morning walk will be led by **Steve Saffier** of the William O. Douglas

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PELAGIC TRIPS

Saturday, September 14 - Ventura to the back side of Santa Rosa Island - weather permitting; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost: \$60. Leader: **Arnold Small**. (See September 12 Seabird Workshop in Calendar.)

Saturday, October 12 - Los Angeles to Santa Barbara Island and beyond; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: **Herb and Olga Clarke**.

Saturday, November 16 - Los Angeles to Santa Barbara Island and beyond. Trip is planned to look for ALCIDS; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: **Arnold Small and Herb Clarke**.

Note: Surcharge may be required for all trips if fuel costs rise.
See Reservation Policy on page 7

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FIELD TRIPS

CALL THE TAPE!

Before setting out on any field trip, call the Audubon bird tape at (213) 874-1318 for special instructions or possible cancellations that may have occurred by the Thursday before the trip.

Notations in parentheses after trip listings refer to Thomas Bros. map page and grid coordinates (county, page number, grid coordinates).

Sunday, September 1 - Topanga State Park. **Gerry Haigh** will lead participants through this nearby area composed of sycamores, grasslands, scrub oak and chaparral. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new in the area. From Topanga Canyon Blvd. heading SW from the Valley, turn E (uphill) on Entrada

Dr. (7 miles S of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile N of Topanga Village). Follow the signs to the state park, and meet in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch at 8:00 a.m. \$3 parking fee. (LA, p.109, D-4)

Thursday, September 12 - Seabird Workshop. Alcids, petrels, etc. reviewed by