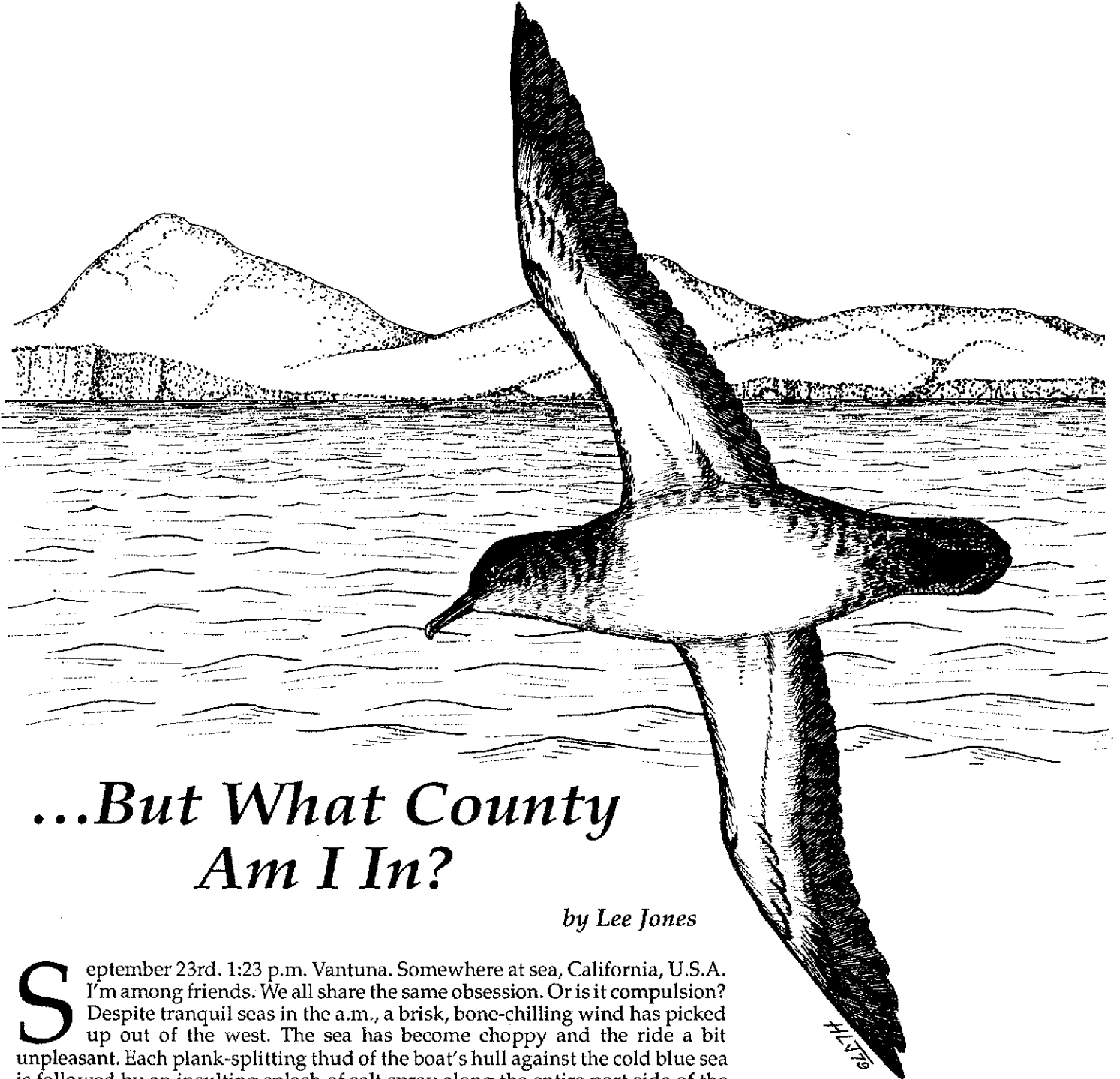




WESTERN TANAGER

The Los Angeles Chapter of
The National Audubon Society

Volume 58 Number 10 July/August 1992



...But What County Am I In?

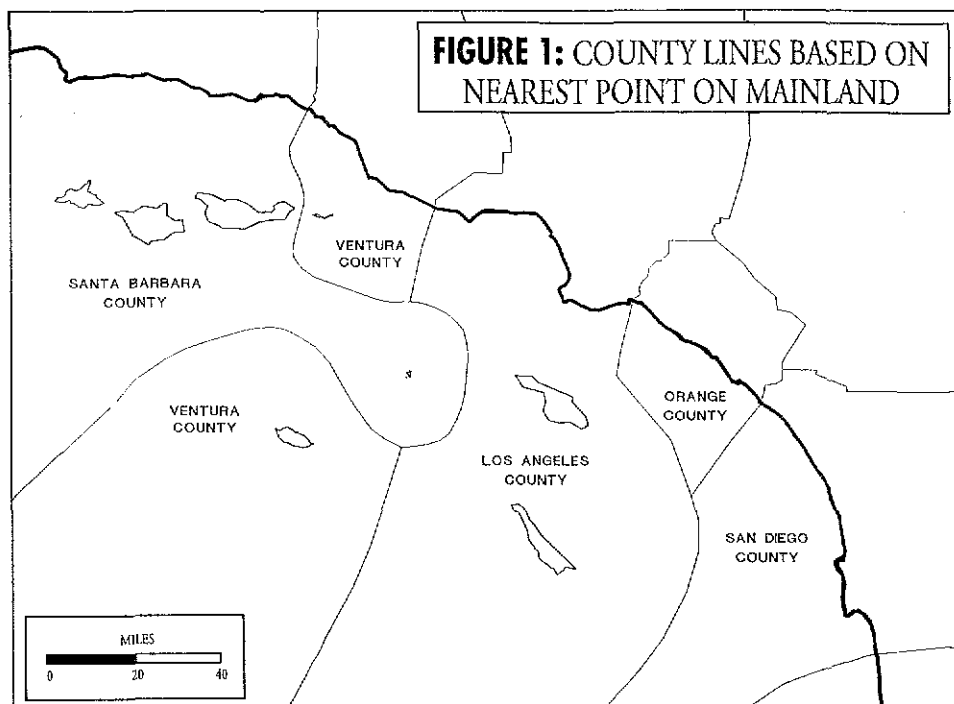
by Lee Jones

September 23rd. 1:23 p.m. Vantuna. Somewhere at sea, California, U.S.A. I'm among friends. We all share the same obsession. Or is it compulsion? Despite tranquil seas in the a.m., a brisk, bone-chilling wind has picked up out of the west. The sea has become choppy and the ride a bit unpleasant. Each plank-splitting thud of the boat's hull against the cold blue sea is followed by an insulting splash of salt spray along the entire port side of the boat. Except for the Buller's Shearwater that streaked across the bow three, maybe four, hours ago, and a large flock of Black and Least Storm-Petrels in the San Pedro Channel shortly after leaving port at dawn, there really hasn't been

Black-vented shearwater

much of interest. But there's always that hope. The dullest of trips can turn on a tropicbird, can become the trip of the year with just one Cook's Petrel, the trip of the century with the chance encounter of a Short-tailed Albatross. One never knows.... Why else would forty crazy fools endure such misery month after month, year after year? Any normal person would be home right now watching the Rams get mauled by the 49ers. In fact, why *am* I out in the middle of this God-forsaken... SKUA! Eleven o'clock. Just past the eastern tip of Santa Barbara Island. Flying right. Low over the water. The announcement over the boat's p.a. system pierced the air like a bullet. It was the familiar voice of our intrepid leader. Most of the troops were abruptly awakened from a dreamy trance, and it took them a few moments to get their bearings. I was at the bow in a flash and had my binoculars on the bird within seconds. Just as I thought I saw the golden hackles characteristic of a South Polar Skua there was a loud thud as the boat slapped hard at the relentless sea. As quickly as I had raised my binoculars to observe the skua, my binocular lenses were coated with a thin saline mist. A grimy t-shirt didn't help much, but it was all I had. With a binocular view that was only slightly improved by my hasty cleaning effort, I was able to see the bird well enough to be sure that it was, indeed, a South Polar Skua—not a Short-tailed Albatross or even a Cook's Petrel, but a very good bird, nonetheless. In fact, it was a county b... Wait a minute, what county are we in anyway?

County listing became popular back in the mid-1970s when gasoline prices skyrocketed, making competitive state listing prohibitive for many. County listing has since become an obsession. The competition among the leaders can be fierce. Keeping a list of birds you've seen in each county should be simple enough, right? You see a bird, you record what county it's in, and be done with it. Well... not so fast. The nagging question: what do you do about birds seen at sea? What about the South Polar Skua? Let's see. It was about 2.5 miles northeast of Santa Barbara Island which would put it in... uh... Well, it must be in some county. I'll just look it up. But where do I look? Is there a source that shows



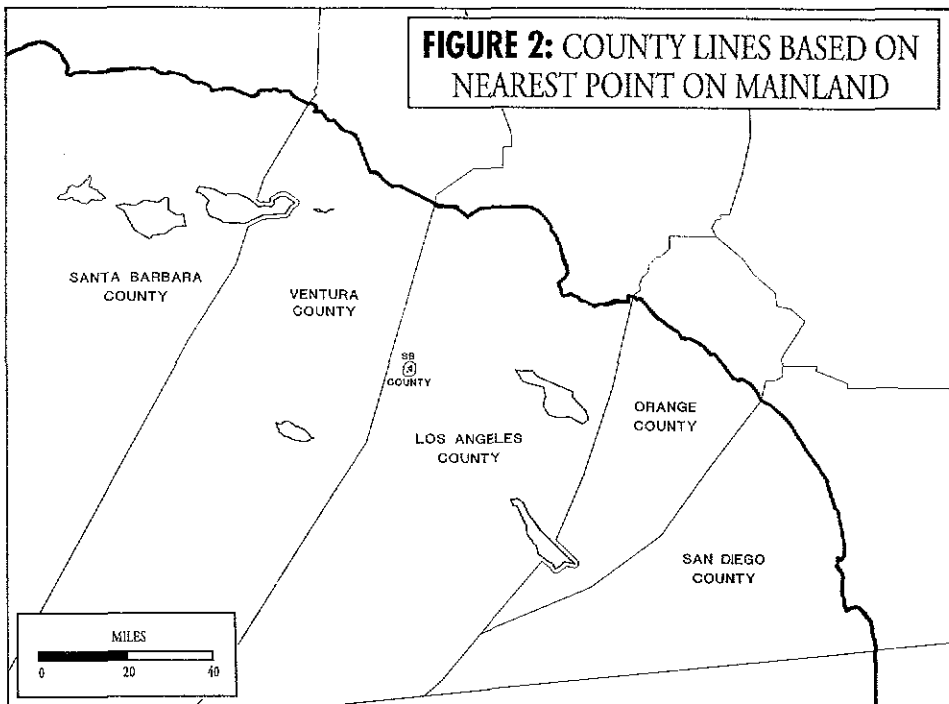
county lines at sea? What about Santa Barbara Island? What county is it in? How close to an island must a bird be to be in the same county? Good question.

It used to be that people counted all birds seen on a pelagic trip in the county from which their boat departed. But this practice stopped when people started taking boats out of different counties on successive days to see the same bird, thus enabling them to add the same bird to two or more county lists. After that, a number of proposals were advanced. Some suggested extending county lines out to sea perpendicular to the shoreline. Others suggested extending the lines out to sea in the same direction the lines were going when they reached the coast. Still others suggested extending the county lines due west, or due south (the former were undoubtedly from San Diego County, the latter from Santa Barbara County). Somewhere along the line someone suggested that the nearest point of land should dictate which county a bird was in. Did this mean nearest point of mainland or nearest point of any land, including islands? Different people followed different conventions.

There were still other questions that remained to be answered. What counties are the Channel Islands in? How does this affect county listing

when the bird is seen near one of the islands? How far out to sea does California (and therefore its counties) extend?

These are all tough questions. If they weren't, birders wouldn't have been debating the issue for the past fifteen years or so. The question of which county each of the Channel Islands is in turns out to be a relatively easy one to answer... if you ignore the early body of literature which has Santa Barbara and San Nicolas islands variously in three different counties. The California Government Code, Section 2300, gives legal descriptions of each of California's counties and defines their boundaries, including which county each of the Channel Islands is in. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maps of the islands also indicate which county each island is in. But, as it turns out, all the islands are not necessarily in the counties we might like them to be in. For example, San Nicolas and Anacapa are both in Ventura County, but Santa Barbara Island, which is east of San Nic and Anacapa, is in Santa Barbara County, which, as everyone knows, is west of Ventura County! And San Clemente Island, which is due west of San Diego County, is in Los Angeles County. So, how the #@* does one draw the county lines at sea so that they don't cross over themselves? Now the ques-



tion of which county my skua was in is truly muddled! Was it in Santa Barbara County or Ventura County? Or was it in Los Angeles County? And, for that matter, what about the Red-billed Tropicbird I saw off the south end of San Clemente Island last month? Was it in Los Angeles or San Diego County? Gad! Maybe I should take up stamp collecting.

Now that we've settled which counties the eight Channel Islands are in, we must revisit the annoying question of which counties the surrounding ocean is in. First question: How far out to sea do the counties extend? The State of California has jurisdiction over waters out to 3 miles. On the other hand, the U.S. Government has jurisdiction out to 12 miles. This means that foreign vessels need a visa if they are to venture inside this limit. To add to the confusion, the country's "Zone of Influence" extends out to 200 miles. This means that ships have the right of passage inside the 200-mile limit, but the country regulates the use of the sea floor and all fisheries within this zone. The California Bird Records Committee has adopted the 200-mile limit, and most other coastal states have done the same. Of course, had the CBRC adopted either the 3-mile or 12-mile limit, county listing would be much simpler (but a lot less exciting), since the Channel Islands (except for

Anacapa) are more than 12 miles offshore.

Second question: How close to a given island does a county extend if the island is in a different county from the surrounding ocean (like Santa Barbara Island, for example)? Years ago when I was studying the avifaunas of the eight Channel Islands, I considered only those birds seen within 1 kilometer of an island to be part of that island's avifauna. However, under the present circumstances, it makes more sense to use miles instead of kilometers (in this case, 1 mile) to be consistent with the CBRC's 200-mile limit. But, as you'll see later, this may be a mute point.

Now for the hard part. How do you draw the county lines at sea? Most people now agree that they should be drawn according to the nearest point of land. But whether or not the nearest point of land includes islands or just the mainland makes a very big difference in how the county lines are drawn (see Figures 1 and 2). The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that state jurisdiction is determined by nearest point of land (including islands). But no court has ruled on county jurisdictions at sea. If we extend the Supreme Court ruling to counties, then the county lines would be drawn as shown in Figure 1. As difficult as that might be to swallow (especially if you

live in San Diego County), it does make sense in that there is a quasi-legal precedent. The CBRC, while not getting involved in the county issue as such, has adopted the practice of citing the nearest point of land for all observations of rare birds seen at sea.

The alternative, which disregards islands except for a 1-mile zone around each and considers only the closest point on the mainland (Figure 2), would also be a reasonable approach. The choice of which convention to use is a tough one; however, I'm inclined to go with the former in light of both the Supreme Court ruling for states and the CBRC convention for citing bird records at sea.

Oh, about the South Polar Skua? It really was a fantastic bird; and regardless of what county it was in¹, it made my day! 🐦



NOTE: The maps shown in Figures 1 and 2 were computer-generated by a special Geographic Information System program compliments of Michael Brandman Associates. If you should need assistance in figuring out which county a given bird seen at sea was in, send the latitude and longitude of the sighting to me and I'll be glad to let you know which county it was in. Lee Jones, Michael Brandman Associates, 2530 Red Hill Avenue, Santa Ana, CA 92705



¹Under the convention using nearest point of land as the criterion, it was in Santa Barbara County. Under the convention using nearest point on the mainland, with a 1-mile zone around each island, it was in Los Angeles County.



The Tanager welcomes and encourages its readers to respond to our articles. Please let us know your feelings about county pelagic listing and why. We will publish the results.

Conservation Conversation

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

Not long ago, birders who live by the numbers received a small bonus from the AOU. The American Ornithologists Union, like Zeus on Mt. Olympus, created a new species—the California Gnatcatcher. This small, rather unspectacular gray bird was formerly considered a race of the Black-tailed Gnatcatcher. Its sole habitat is the coastal sage scrub of southern California which extends from the South Coast Ranges to Baja California. While the predominant plants are sagebrush, sage, sumac and buckwheat, there are many more less conspicuous species. In the spring there is a modest display of flowers, but the rest of the year it presents a fairly drab brushy appearance appealing mainly to botanists and gnatcatchers. The gnatcatcher occurs in Orange, San Diego, and western Riverside Counties and a few areas of the Palos Verdes peninsula. Research in the '80s revealed that there were no more than 2,000 pairs and possibly fewer than 1,200 pairs left in the state. The obvious reason for the bird's decline is loss of habitat: between two-thirds and 90% of original sage scrub is gone. Gone to homes, condos and the deep pockets of the real estate fraternity. Aggressive plans for toll roads through coastal canyons are also a threat to dwindling sage scrub.

Much of the work on the gnatcatcher was done by Jon Atwood, an old friend of birders in southern California. His ten-year study is responsible for the call to list the bird as endangered. Petitions were filed with the state Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for candidacy as endangered under the state and federal Endangered Species Acts. Such listing would be a powerful weapon in the effort to save the habitat. Forty species of plants and animals, including the coastal race of the Cactus Wren, depend on their sage scrub home and many of them would

not survive if it was obliterated.

Last year the Endangered Habitats League was formed to protect the remaining coastal sage scrub in California. Over 30 environmental organizations including several Audubon chapters, the Sierra Club and the National Resources Defense Council have joined the League.

Coordinator is Dan Silver, an experienced and successful environmentalist who led the citizens' group that saved the Santa Rosa plateau from development.

On August 1, 1991, the California Fish and Game Commission met to consider the petition to list the gnatcatcher as a candidate for the state endangered species list. Testimony was given by the scientific community that built an incontrovertible case for listing the bird. The only voice opposing the scientific consensus was from a commercial environmental firm hired by the Building Industry Association. A *Times* reporter said, "On my score card, the environmentalists blew away the other side."

The Commission, unable to make a decision, called a 30-day recess. With one exception, the Commission consists of businessmen appointed by Governor Deukmejian and seem unable to understand the significance of dying ecosystems and species extinction. Their natural sympathies are with the real estate interests. We see a familiar pattern here. People in the field know the score; the upper echelons find themselves shuffling paper and losing touch with the real world. They are apt to be political appointees and amenable to political influence.

On August 30, the Commission met again. The Fish and Game Director reviewed the testimony and concluded that the petition to list was acceptable to his department. In a surprise move, Michael Mantell, Undersecretary of the State Resources Agency, declared that listing the gnatcatcher was unnecessary because the Wilson Natural Community Conser-

vation Plan (NCCP) was created to preserve endangered ecosystems. The Endangered Habitats League believed that the NCCP was a fine idea but was seriously flawed. It did embrace the entire ecosystem approach to protection. It set up a scientific review panel of eminent conservation biologists. But there is no law to enforce it. Local governments and landowners join *voluntarily*. DFG cannot set up the habitat reserves or manage them. This job is for city councils and boards of supervisors who have no expertise in the area and may be against the whole idea in any event.

A case in point. The San Marcos city council issued grading permits for several hundred acres of coastal sage scrub to a large ranch resort development and refused to allow the USFWS to review the plan. The developer admitted that half the pairs of gnatcatchers would be destroyed. So much for the naive belief that local jurisdictions will do the right thing.

And the NCCP was still a blueprint and would take months to organize and get into operation while sage scrub continued to disappear with no protection in the interim. Despite their misgivings, the Endangered Habitat League felt that it was proper for them to work with the Resources Agency to help get the NCCP started.

The Commission voted 3-1 to deny listing the gnatcatcher. The next day Mr. Mantell, of the Resource Agency promised the Commission and the public that if strong interim controls during the period before NCCP was developed were not instituted, a state listing for the California Gnatcatcher would be immediately requested.

Less than a week later the USFWS decided to consider the gnatcatcher as a candidate for federal listing. This was a hopeful sign. A status review period of one year is required, which ends September 1992. Again, unfortunately, there is no interim protection. Taking advantage of this, some landowners have been clearing their land.

If the gnatcatcher is listed, they will have no sage scrub and no gnatcatchers and will be home free. An *L.A. Times* article (April 21) bore the headline "2,145 Acres of Gnatcatcher Habitat Razed." A USFWS botanist was quoted as saying, "It is a significant amount of habitat lost. There is no doubt about that... It opens up the eyes of most of the biologists I know."

This February, both sides made their comments at USFWS hearings. The anti-listers are trying to sell the feds on the notion that the NCCP will protect the gnatcatcher and make listing unnecessary. They are lobbying the upper echelons of USFWS. They undoubtedly have an eager ally in Manuel Lujan, Secretary of the Interior, who has complained about protecting subspecies and loses no sleep over the Northern Spotted Owl.

The Endangered Habitats League has come to the reluctant conclusion that NCCP is not going to work and, in fact, has become a pernicious vehicle for the destruction of the coastal sage scrub ecosystem. Undersecretary Mantell's promise of interim protection has vanished. DFG will not be allowed oversight of NCCP, and unfriendly local governments and developers will be running the show. In short, Pete Wilson talks a good fight on the environment. When the chips are down and the big campaign donors call in their chits, the gnatcatcher and the rest of our threatened plants and animals will pay the bills.

The irony of a newly-declared species passing so soon into oblivion is too much to bear. We have competent, determined warriors on the front line fighting a relentless battle against powerful adversaries. A loss here—in our own backyard—will encourage the short-sighted forces of greed everywhere to continue their war against our natural heritage. They need our help. Send whatever you can to:

Dan Silver, Coordinator
c/o Endangered Habitats League
1422 N. Sweetzer Ave., #401
Los Angeles, CA 90069 🐦

Bookstore News

by Olga Clarke

New Recordings

HOT RELEASE — The long-awaited *Peterson's Field Guide to Western Bird Songs* has arrived. This edition includes the songs and calls of 522 species, all the most common and vocal birds found in western North America. Organized as a companion to Roger Tory Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*, this is the "Birder's Bible" of bird songs. It comes in two compact discs (\$39.95) or three cassettes (\$34.95).

A Bird Song Tutor for Visually Handicapped Individuals. An excellent beginners introduction to the sounds made by common birds, frogs, insects and mammals of the eastern U.S. and Canada. Cassette (\$14.95).

Voices of the Cloudforest. A stereophonic chorus from Costa Rica's Monteverde cloudforest from pre-dawn until dark. Cassette (\$10.95).

Ocean Voices of the Alaskan Arctic, Side One: underwater voices of bowhead whales, howls and groans of sea ice. Side Two: undersea voices blend with arctic chorus. Cassette (\$10.95).

Voice of the Night. Thirty-six frogs and toads found in eastern North America. Cassette (\$10.95).

New Books

Mammals of the Eurotropics, Volume II, The Southern Cone (Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay), Kent H. Redford.

New additions to our book repertoire include *A Dictionary of Scientific Bird Names*, Jobling, a comprehensive book which defines all scientific names of birds along with fascinating details of bird life and the history of ornithology (\$29.95).

PETERSON FIELD GUIDES

WESTERN Bird Songs



Cornell/Interactive

Birds in Jeopardy, Ehrlich, Dobkin and Wheye. This is not just another essay on the plight of the environment. It documents the declining number of species and the causes (\$17.95, 45.95).

Stillness in the Pines; the ecology of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker, Robert W. McFarlane (\$22.95).

Butterflies of Greater Los Angeles, Rudi Mattoni. An illustrated guide to all 106 butterfly species (\$8.95).

The U.S. Outdoor Atlas & Recreation Guide, an indispensable planner for every outdoor activity and trip including birdwatching (\$16.95).

Birds of Grand Teton National Park and the Surrounding Area (Wyoming), Bert Raynes. Features 60 species and notes the avifauna of this unique area.

Aves Comuns do Planalto Central Anta, Cavalcanti (Portuguese). Covers birds of Minas Gerais in the state of Sao Paulo.

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The Birds of the Department of Dima Peru. Now taking back orders. 🐦

Birds Of The Season

by Hank Brodtkin

July marks the beginning of fall migration—an amazing fact considering that spring migration continues well into June. Mountain meadows ablaze with paintbrush and penstemon play host to swarms of southbound hummingbirds in July, and by August, flocks of western warblers and vireos drift through the pines along the ridges. These are also the months that the Salton Sea—unfortunately soon to be a dead sea—sometimes plays host to wandering boobies, frigatebirds, Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, and if the hurricanes of August off Mexico drift north, any one of a number of pelagic species are possible. Be sure to be prepared for the unbelievable heat and humidity if your birding wanderlust leads you to this area.

Birding in May was as exciting as any we can remember with vagrants being found in almost every corner of the southland. Northern Parulas and Hooded Warblers seemed almost common—though as usual in spring, most did not stay too long in any one spot. One exception was a pair of Hooded Warblers at Descanso Gardens from 10 May to the present. Another exception was the two pair at the Kern River Nature Conservancy Reserve—both suspected of breeding. According to John Sterling, one nest was found.

Also worth mentioning was the LAAS pelagic trip out of Ventura on 10 May. Two Black-footed Albatrosses, three Sabine's Gulls, two Common Terns, three Arctic Terns, 80 Common Murres, 30 Xantus' Murrelets, and 40 Rhinoceros Auklets were among the birds seen.

In crediting the reports of species sightings, the person credited with the sighting is not always the original observer, but is sometimes the person reporting the bird—usually by message machine. Persons wishing to be assured of credit should make the report themselves stating that they found the species reported. Birds credited to "Orange County Birders"

are extremely interesting reports from their tape. Hopefully closer coordination with our neighbors to the south can remedy this situation.

A Sooty Shearwater visited King Harbor on 11 May, and the King Eider is still in the harbor at this writing (30 May) (Mitch Heindel). At least four South Polar Skuas were found on the LAAS pelagic trip to Santa Barbara Islands on 31 May. A Franklin's Gull was at the Lancaster Sewage Ponds on 26 April (Kimball Garrett), and one was at Newport Back Bay on 4 May (MiH).

A "stop the presses" singing Alder Flycatcher was found at Butterbredt Springs in eastern Kern County on 30 May for what probably will turn out to be the second state record (Matt Heindel). A Least Flycatcher was seen at Peck Park in San Pedro on 25 May (MiH), and 20 Purple Martins were back on territory at Nojoqui Falls near Solvang on 16 May (Art and Jan Cupples).

A Brown Thrasher was reported from Deep Springs, Inyo County on 24 May (John Brack), and the Bendire's Thrasher was back on territory in Butterbredt Canyon on 10 May (Hank & Priscilla Brodtkin).

White-eyed Vireos were reported from Newport Back Bay on 10 May (Brian Daniels), from Butterbredt Springs on 14 May (MaH), and from Banning Park in Wilmington on 25 May (MiH). Yellow-throated Vireos were at Redondo Wilderness Park on 9 May (Bob Beckler), along the Santa Ana River on 10 May, and at Huntington Beach Central Park on 21 May.

Northern Parula reports include one at Malibu Creek above the PCH bridge on 28 April (David Koeppel), one at Huntington Beach Central Park on 5 May (BD), two at Butterbredt Springs on 9 May (MaH), one at Descanso Gardens on 12 May (Gayle Benton), one at Galileo on 16 May and one at Butterbredt Springs on 22 May (MaH), and on the same day three were seen together in Big Pine, Inyo

County (Tom & Jo Heindel).

A male Black-throated Blue Warbler, very rare in spring, flew past a disbelieving crowd of birders aboard the *Vantuna* in midchannel in mid-May. A Prairie Warbler was reported from Newport on 17 May (OCB) and a Blue-winged was seen in southeastern Kern County on 22 May (MaH). The Black-and-white Warblers reported were single birds at Descanso Gardens on 4 May (Bill Principe), Huntington Beach Central Park on 5 May (BD), and Redondo Wilderness Park on 29 May (Ron Moline). American Redstarts included a bird at Gardena on 24 May (MiH) and a bird at Butterbredt Springs on the same day (H&PB).

Two Worm-eating Warblers were reported, one at Big Pine with the three Parulas on 22 May (T&JH) and one at Butterbredt Springs on 24 May (H&PB). An Ovenbird was at Butterbredt on 22 May (MaH), and a very rare Louisiana Waterthrush was at Huntington Beach Central Park on 4 May (BD). A Kentucky Warbler was seen by many people at Galileo on 9 and 10 May and another was at Butterbredt Springs on 31 May (MaH).

Hooded Warblers included one at Butterbredt Springs on 21 April (MaH) and another two miles below the springs on 9 May (Laurie Conrad), the almost resident birds at Descanso Gardens on 10 May into June (GB), one at Oasis on 24 May (John Brack), and one at Banning Park on 26 May (BD).

A singing Yellow-breasted Chat may have been a breeding bird on Malibu Creek above the bridge on 29 May (DK), and a Summer Tanager was at Peck Park on 25 May (MiH). On 28 and 29 May, four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were reported from L.A. County, and on 5 May an Indigo Bunting was seen at Huntington Beach Central Park (MaH).

Two singing Bobolinks were reported—one from Harbor Park on 24 May (MiH) and one from Madrona Marsh on 29 May (David Moody). A

"Baltimore" Northern Oriole was at **Banning Park** on 4 May (DM).

Although this report ranges over a large area of southern California, the real heroes have to be those birders who are able to find fantastic vagrants practically in their backyards. If world conditions continue as they have been, this is a habit we might all have to emulate.

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 OR **David Koeppel**
27-1/2 Mast Street (213) 454-2576
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
(213) 827-0407

Field Trips

Continued from page 8

logical Reserve on your right. Some paid parking across the street at the beach may be required. (OC, p.25, D-2)

Saturday, August 1 - Bolsa Chica/L.A. River. Leader **Sherman Suter** will review the subtle nuances of sandpiper I.D. aided by close looks at small *calidrids* at Bolsa Chica, then the group will scan the L.A. River for a broader assortment of birds. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Bolsa Chica estuary parking lot. See directions for July 18 Bolsa Chica trip. Bring lunch. (OC, p.25, D-2)

Sunday, August 2 - Topanga State Park. Leader **Gerry Haigh**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See July 5 write-up for details.

Sunday, August 16 - Lancaster Migrants. Leader **Kimball Garrett**. Shorebirds and early land birds should keep us busy. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the new Park-and-Ride adjacent to Lake Palmdale off Hwy. 14. Take the Avenue S offramp east, followed by a quick right into the lot. Stops will depend on scouting reports and accessibility. We will probably finish up shortly after noon. It will get hot. (LA, p.183, B-2)

Saturday, August 22 - Mt. Piños Vicinity. Leader **Dustin Alcalá**. Hummers, mountain woodpeckers, Hermit Warbler, etc. Anticipate the elements, and bring a lunch. Take Hwy. 5 N past Tejon Pass to the Frazier Park offramp, turn left, and follow Frazier Mountain Park Rd., bearing right onto Cuddy Valley Rd. Meet at the "Y" formed by the junction of Cuddy Valley Rd. and Mil Potrero Hwy at 7:45 a.m. promptly, and park in the obvious dirt clearing. (CAL, p.88, C-1)

Saturday, August 29 - Mugu/McGrath. Leaders **Irwin Woldman** and base biologist **Tom Keeney** will start the morning out on the base looking for terns, sandpipers and other shorebirds. Irwin will also canvas the Santa Clara River estuary at McGrath and consider afternoon options, with lunch nestled in along the way. Take the 101 Fwy. W to Las Posas Rd. S, take PCH N onto Wood Rd., head W then S on the frontage road to the lot at the main (#1) gate. Meet at 7:30 a.m. The limited attendance list must be submitted to the base, so

sign up early. Must be 16 years old. Scopes but no cameras, please. Include in your reservation request an SASE, citizenship status, phone number, and a \$5 deposit to be refunded at the gate.


Saturday, September 5 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park. Join **Ranger Ray Jolsen** on the first of our continuing monthly morning walks of the season. Hummers, warblers and flycatchers will be ushering in the start of land bird migration. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. for September (time for October TBA). Meet at the Nature Center at 1000 Durfee Ave. Take the 60 Fwy to South El Monte, just W of the 605 Fwy, taking the Peck Dr. exit S. Take the offramp onto Durfee Ave. heading W (right), and make a left into the Nature Center. (LA, p.47, D-5)

Sunday, September 6 - Topanga State Park. Leader **Gerry Haigh**. Meet at 8:00 a.m. See July 5 write-up for details.

Saturday, September 12 - Sepulveda Basin Natural Area. Leader **Steve Ducatman**. Migrant and early wintering birds should be starting to augment resident species. Meet at Woodley Park at 8:00 a.m. Take Burbank Blvd. W from the 405 Fwy, turn R onto Woodley Ave. and continue to the entrance on the right. Meet in the first parking area. (LA, p.15, B-6)

Sunday, September 13 - Franklin Canyon. Leader **Steven Saffier**. Located between Sherman Oaks and Beverly Hills, over 100 bird species have been documented in the canyon's chaparral, lakeside and oak/pine woodland habitats. Meet at the parking lot at 7:30 a.m. From the 101 Fwy, take Coldwater Cyn. Ave. S into the hills. Immediately after Mulholland Dr. merges from the W with Coldwater Cyn. Ave., make a 90° right turn onto Franklin Cyn. Dr. and continue on to the Nature Center. The lot is past a gated drive on the left. (LA, p.22, B-6)

Saturday, September 19 - Lake Palmdale. Details in September 1992 *Western Tanager*.

Sunday, September 27 - Mojave Vicinity. Details in September 1992 *Western Tanager*. 

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EDITOR: Jean Brandt
CONSERVATION: Sandy Wohlgenuth
ORNITHOLOGY CONSULTANT:
Kimball Garrett
FIELD TRIPS: Nick Freeman
PROGRAMS: Dan Kahane
PELAGIC TRIPS: Phil Sayre
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- (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., West Hollywood, CA 90046-6651.
- 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.

July and August – No Meetings

September 8 – From Monterey to the Sage Brush Plains—An Ornithological Transect of the Golden State. Arnold Small, world class wildlife photographer and one of Los Angeles Audubon Society's senior statesmen, will present our first program of the 1992-93 season. Arnold's dramatic and colorful photographs will be the vehicle for this imaginary trip from the Pacific Ocean to the Great Basin. We will pass through a variety of different habitats while examining the diversity of birds and other wildlife in California.

I.D. Workshop: TBA

Saturday, July 11 – Big Bear Lake Vicinity. Leaders Louis Tucker and Nick Freeman. Meet outside Coldbrook Campground in Big Bear at 8:00 a.m. Take Hwy. 18 or 38 to Big Bear Lake. Proceed about halfway along the south side of the lake on Hwy. 18 and turn S on Tulip Lane. The campground will be on the SW side as the road curves. Target birds include Williamson's Sapsucker, 3 *selasphorus* hummer species, mountain finches and White-headed Woodpecker. It should be warm and there may be bugs—come prepared. Bring lunch.

Saturday, July 18 – Bolsa Chica. Leader Bob Johnson. Shorebirds, skimmers and a number of tern species likely. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the Bolsa Chica estuary parking lot on the east side of PCH. Take the 405 S to Golden West St., take this S to PCH, and turn right onto PCH. Don't miss the small parking lot for the Bolsa Chica Eco-

Continued on page 7

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PELAGIC TRIPS

Saturday, August 15 - Santa Barbara Island and Osborne Banks; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Bruce Broadbooks and Kimball Garrett.

Saturday, September 12 - Seaward side of Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, via Anacapa Island, on the *Jeffrey Aroid*, out of the Ventura Marina; 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$60. Leaders: Herb and Olga Clarke and Arnold Small.

Sunday, October 18 - Santa Barbara Island and out to sea; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cost \$32. Leaders: Herb Clarke and Mitch Heindel.

Saturday, November 21 - Palos Verdes Escarpment to Redondo Canyon; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost \$20. Leaders: David Koeppel and Mitch Heindel.

NOTE: Marine Mammal Expert Linda Lewis will be one of our leaders when her schedule permits.

Destinations may be changed by leaders to optimize bird sightings. All LAAS pelagic trips are on the *Vantuna*, out of San Pedro, unless otherwise noted.

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 pre-1992 Thomas Bros. map page and grid coordinates (county, page number, grid coordinates).

Sunday, July 5 – Topanga State Park. Gerry Haigh will lead participants through this diverse coastal mountain area. This is an ideal trip for a beginning birder or for someone new in the area. A plant person is usually in attendance. 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)

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