

# WESTERN TANAGER



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## DISASTER AND TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS: Mystic Lake Revisited

by Henry E. Childs, Jr., Ph.D.

**D**isaster has again struck the Tricolored Blackbirds at Mystic Lake. A flock of over 1,000 individuals was nesting in a cultivated field of barley and weeds near the intersection of I-60 and Theodore Street at the north end of the San Jacinto Valley in Riverside County. As a participant in the 1995 Tricolored Blackbird Survey, I had been watching the flock since early April. That this normally marsh-dwelling species would nest in such an unlikely and marginal habitat was a surprise. They did, and on May 19, 1995, the field was harvested. The year's reproductive effort of this flock was wiped out.

### Background

I reported the effect of the ephemeral Mystic Lake in 1993 on the resident Tricolors (Childs, 1993a). In that article, the contrasting lifestyles of the Tricolored and Red-winged blackbirds were described. The impact of the lake on the reproductive success of this little known California endemic at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) was discussed. (For location, see Childs, 1993b:101).



*Red-wing Blackbird Florida race (left) at Loxihatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Tricolored Blackbird at Mystic Lake*

Briefly, the Tricolored Blackbird, a potentially endangered species, makes a living in ways different from its more common, look-alike species, the Red-winged Blackbird. Both are marsh- or moist habitat-dwelling species. The Tricolor, however, is colonial, territorial for only a week during egg laying and obtains the food necessary to raise its young by foraging away from the marsh, often at considerable distances. Cultivated fields, such as alfalfa, provide excellent sources of insects. The reproductive activities of the colony are synchronized, e.g.,

all the eggs hatch within a day or so of each other, this in a colony of thousands of birds! Thus, feeding flights occur later with all the adults flying back and forth in a continuous stream from colony to field during a two week window, as they say in the space biz, and the observation of this behavior is one that should be worth five lifers to any birder!

That the lake and its habitats have changed with the land use can be deduced from Willett and Jay (1911), a report in the literature generated in the "good old days" of

Donna Johnson

K. Nice

egg collecting. Almost impossible to penetrate beds of tules occurred at the east end of the lake. They are no more, nor are the formerly nesting Fulvous Whistling Ducks.

Meanwhile, as noted above, a large flock had moved to the more upland than marsh habitat near I-60, about three miles from the north end of Mystic Lake. Apparently, the fields provided evidence to the Tricolors that enough food would be available for a successful nesting, and so they did. However, hundreds of thousands of years of past experience did not give that population the information (instinct) that they better be out of there by May 19th or those yellow, grass-eating harvesters would mulch their young. The protectors of the wildlife had not seen to the postponement of harvesting until the young could fly before the blade. Disaster struck that day!

## The Good News

Tricolors are nomads. They can go with the environmental flow. Weather patterns vary from year to year as does nesting success. Tricolors can adapt and survive these changes by choosing other localities where the necessary resources are available.

In 1994, when reproduction essentially failed at the SJWA, I found a colony, probably composed of birds from there, on Bridge Street near Lakeview, a half mile north of the Ramona Expressway. This colony of 1,000 nested successfully then and again this year. (By the way, in estimating the size of a Tricolored colony, experience and a crystal ball are useful.) Located around a pond, this colony is surrounded by no trespassing signs and riparian nesting habitat, safe from the harvesting machines, yet only 100 yards from the road. On May 19th, foraging flights were in full swing to an alfalfa field being harvested. Other fields are nearby. This colony will make it!

On the east side of Mystic Lake, at the junction of Gilman Springs Rd. and Jackrabbit Trail, is located a cement plant with a spring-fed

water supply that maintains a healthy cattail marsh. Tricolors have nested there, in my experience, since the early '80s. It is a small colony of probably less than 500 birds. Food is obtained from fields about a quarter of a mile away across the road. This year, however, the crop rotation had those fields ready to plant, not ready to feed blackbirds. The reproductive success of this colony, therefore, is in doubt. Next year, hopefully, it may be better.

## Discussion

The future of the Tricolored Blackbirds in the San Jacinto Valley in the next 100 years is problematic. The north end of the valley will be in houses in no time at all, meeting the demands of overpopulation by a people who refuse to control the immigration and the birth rate that cause it. Gradually, the marginal agricultural activities which support the blackbirds will cease and be replaced by houses. Small colonies will survive as long as some ground water exists to feed the tules at the wet spots. Experience, however, would support the idea that all the ground water will soon be exhausted to fill swimming pools. When that happens, and it will, the Tricolored Blackbirds will no longer provide those gorgeous foraging flights and provide answers to the question, "Why are there two kinds of 'red-winged' blackbirds?"



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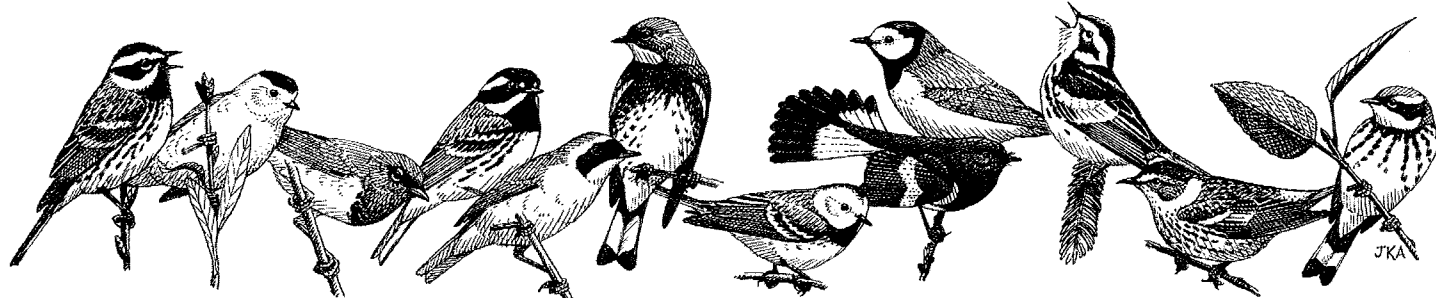
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# BIRDS OF THE SEASON

by Hank Brodtkin

September finds fall migration well under way. Most of the birds seen will be in immature and alternate plumage and, as such, will present interesting challenges to identification skills. There is also an increasing chance of running into a vagrant which — especially at this time of year — should be thoroughly documented with a complete written description and photographs or videotapes if possible. Such documentation is necessary for acceptance by either the *Field Notes* regional editor or the California Bird Records Committee.

The spring migration period started uneventfully but ended well including some interesting breeding records for Los Angeles County uncovered by the *Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas*.

Three **Cook's Petrels**, usually a highly pelagic species, were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea on 15 July (Guy McCaskie), a **Tricolored Heron** was spotted at a heronry in the Wister Unit at the south end of the sea on 8 July (Tony Lloyd and Stacy Peterson) and a **Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was at nearby Ramer Lake on 29 May (Al Eisner).

Three interesting tern species showed up at Bolsa Chica, two **Gull-billed Terns** on 1 June (Doug Willick), a **Sandwich Tern** with a chick on 24 June (Charles Collins and his students) and a **Sooty Tern**, first seen on 17 June (Brian Daniels). Another **Sooty Tern** was reported earlier, on 28 May, at the mouth of the Santa Clara River (Walter Wechek).

A **Common Ground-Dove** was reported from Pasadena on 4 June

(Thomas Miko), and a **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** — now very rare on the coast — was seen in Tapia Park on 18 July (Richard Barth). Up to eight different **Whip-poor-wills** were heard in the San Bernardino Mountains on 1 July (Bob McKernan), and **Chimney Swifts** were reported on 15 June — 14 in downtown Los Angeles (Kimball Garrett) and one over the Santa Anita Flood Control Basin (Mike San Miguel).

Two pair of **Gray Flycatchers** were seen at Ball Flat in the San Gabriels on 25 June (KG), an **Eastern Kingbird** was at Baker on 3 June (Scott Terrill) and a **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found in extreme southeastern San Bernardino County on 24 June (Michael Patten). Eight **Purple Martins** were in two separate colonies in Bear Mountain Springs near Tehachapi (Gail Hightower).

A singing **Gray Vireo** was at Rose Mine in the San Bernardinios on 14 July (RB and Barbara Magnuson), a nesting pair of **Solitary (plumbeous) Vireos** was in Mescal Canyon in the San Gabriels on 25 June (KG) and a **Yellow-throated Vireo** was in Laguna Canyon on 27 May (DW). **Red-eyed Vireo** reports include single birds at Baker on 22 May (MSM and Tom Wurster), at Huntington Central Park on 26 May (Mike San Miguel Jr.) and another at Exposition Park on 31 May (KG). This is capped by the finding of California's first **Red-eyed Vireo** nest in the Kern Refuge on the South Fork of the Kern River by Kern Refuge workers.

Warbler reports include a **Virginia's** on Clark Mountain,

22 May (MSM and TW); three single **Northern Parulas** at Sylmar Veteran's Park, 22 May (Doug Martin), at Redlands, 31 May (Sandy Koonce) and at Butterbredt Springs, 9 June (GH); three **Chestnut-sided** at San Pedro, 6 June (Bob Beckler), the SC campus, 7 June (KG) and Butterbredt Springs, 9 June (GH); a **Magnolia** at Butterbredt Springs, 20 May (Vernon and Andrew Howe); a **Black-throated Green** at Butterbredt on 26 May (ST et al); a **Grace's Warbler** on Clark Mountain, 22 May (MSM and TW); a singing **Blackpoll Warbler** at the very late date of 8 July (BD); a **Louisiana Waterthrush** at Yucca Valley, 7 June (Gene Cardiff); and a **Hooded Warbler** at Ft. Piute, 25 May (MSM and MSM Jr.).

Nesting **Pyrrhuloxias** — at least one pair — were found in Chemuevi Wash near the Colorado River on 25 May (John Mariani). At least four singing **Grasshopper Sparrows** were in suitable nesting habitat in the Puente Hills on 18 June (Larry Schmall), and a singing **Bobolink** was seen in Shoshone on 25 May (JM).

Good Birding. 🐦

Records of rare and unusual bird sightings reported in this column should be considered tentative pending review by the *FIELD NOTES* Regional Editors or, if appropriate, by the California Bird Records Committee. Send your bird observations with as many details as possible to:

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Tom Southerland

Margot Southerland

# P E R S O N A L H I G H

by Tom and Margot Southerland

## Birding On The Run

**B**ecause of our nature tour business, we travel to many parts of the world. Only a few of our trips, however, are bird oriented. But as birders, the two of us often take the opportunity to bird on our own, either after or before the trip. Then we primarily look for a few target birds. Sometimes, though, we are able to look for species on our own personal "bird breaks" during a trip. On an African safari it is easy to spot birds while looking for game. For example, while most are watching a herd of elephants bathing in the Okavango Delta, we can watch a nearby Coppery-tailed Coucal in marsh grass.

Knowing of our extensive travels (one year we visited all seven continents during the first six months of the year), friends often ask what is our favorite birding spot or continent. Such a question is akin to asking a birder to name a favorite bird! There are birding pluses and minuses for each continent.

We feel one can't beat birding in the good ol' USA at High Island and Cape May during migrations, and in the usual well-known hot spots: Southeastern Arizona, South Florida, the Rio Grande Valley, Southern California, Eastern Colorado, Coastal Maine, Western Washington, North Dakota, Alaska, to name a few of our favorites.

But back to the original question. Our single favorite U.S. birding area is easily Southeastern Arizona. In fact, nowhere does birding get any better, only different. SE

Arizona offers scenery with a variety of habitats that produce enough exciting, challenging and colorful birds to hold anyone's interest. And if you like rarities, SE Arizona has its share. No wonder Jim Lane's first bird-finding guide in 1965 (first published as *A Birdwatchers' Guide to...* instead of its present *A Birders Guide to...*) covered this area.

But today, there often seem to be more birders than birds. Years ago, when we camped out West with our two young daughters, it was so easy to find a place to camp, even in Yosemite. No crowds. No hassle. Open roads and the only hotline was Massachusetts Audubon's "Voice of Audubon."

Now it has become almost impossible for the two of us to chase rarities by air because of the demands of our business and the fact that airline tickets are dear — no more People's Express — and, what is worse, for the best rates, tickets must be purchased well in advance! Restrictions on frequent flyer mileage abounds. Gone are the days when we could change our airline tickets without penalty. And flying "stand by" can be nervous-making.

Before citing some of the pluses and minuses we have found birding in other continents, let us warn you that any place with lots of birds is to our liking!

A big minus is not having a decent field guide when you are out of the country. In North America we take field guides for granted, but it's not that way everywhere. Fortunately good guides now cover Europe, Southern Africa, Australia, Puerto Rico, Central America,

northern South America, Hawaii and the South Pacific, New Zealand, various islands, and a few Oriental countries. Some are better than others.

There's a great need for good guides in a number of African and South American countries (Brazil, for example). Birders to East Africa quickly find out that the plates in the field guide only cover a fraction of the birds and is outdated with regard to taxonomy. (A new field guide for East Africa, now over a year behind schedule, by Don Turner and Dale Zimmerman, Princeton Univ. Press, promises to remedy present complaints.)

South America, "the Bird Continent," offers the most species but many are tough to spot — antbirds in the dark understory or parrots and mixed flocks of tanagers high in the canopy. And birds in the higher elevations out in the open (the Paramo and Puna zones) can sometimes be tough to identify, and these include miners, ground-tyrants, sierra-finches and yellow-finches.

Africa has its share of gorgeous birds and an ample list of tropical birds for us to see (Kenya, a country almost the size of Texas, has about 1,100 birds to offer the visiting birder; Texas has about half that number). The continent, like South America, has a variety of habitats. Most American and European tourists, however, come to Africa to go on safari where the dominant landscape is savannah, open Acacia woodlands, marshes and sometimes montane forest. There are so many visible birds (herons, storks, raptors, cranes, plovers, bustards,

doves, rollers, bee-eaters, hornbills, kingfishers, starlings, shrikes and weavers, to name some) that many nonbirders start a bird list. It seems so easy in so many places.

But there's the usual downside. The hard-core birder can easily get frustrated being a prisoner in a safari vehicle or being unable to stop a vehicle because of time constraints. And Africa has its share of tough-to-identify birds — larks, pipits, bulbuls, cisticolas (the African "LBJs"), female sunbirds, nonbreeding weavers and Old World warblers plus some raptors and shorebirds. Besides great birds, Africa also offers the greatest concentrations of game in the world. No wonder we never find Africa boring and we've been on or led almost 25 safaris covering eight countries including Tanzania's Zanzibar.

Australia has much to offer visiting American birders. Uniqueness, for starters. Charles Darwin suggested that Australia seems "to have been made by a different Creator." As a result of Australia's long isolation, wildlife ranges from the exotic to the extraordinary with three kinds of mammals: monotremes, marsupials and placentals — a land of kangaroos and wallabies, the duck-billed platypus, echinda and the irresistible koala. And most of the trees are eucalyptus ("gum trees").

The people combine the friendliness of Americans with the civility of the English, and are not too numerous: a sparse population about equal to New York City but spread out over one great continent. A visit requires no shots; the water is good; there is little, if any, air pollution, and there are plenty of stores and restaurants. You also feel safe.

Not a bad recommendation for a continent that also has its share of mouth-watering birds: Emu, Cassowary, handsome pigeons and doves, cockatoos, rosellas, kingfishers (including two Kookaburras), robins, two lyrebirds, bowerbirds and riflebirds, dazzling fairy wrens, several pittas and striking honeyeaters.

Also, there are not too many

tough-to-identify birds. Some exceptions include button-quails, grasswrens and gerygones.

When we are on our own in Australia we try to cover as many distinct habitats as possible since different habitats mean different birds. Tropical, subtropical and temperate rainforests, the Outback, mangroves, the Great Barrier Reef and Malee scrub have their own endemics. So does the island state of Tasmania. That's why Australia is a logistical challenge (time and money) since you are in a country-continent about the size of our Lower 48 (within a few hundred square miles). Travel will involve side trips to numerous out-of-the-way places, often by air, just to add a few specialties.

The Orient has its share of dazzling birds, but so far we find birding in that part of the world less satisfying than in other places we visit and, besides Antarctica, it is the place we visit the least. Too many people in Asia have too many birds in cages while the really good birds are often in isolated forest preserves that can be difficult to reach because of jam-packed roads.

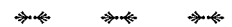
Once there, some of the birds make up for the wait, but many seem unduly skittish (maybe fearing a future in a small cage!), often making it tough to get good looks. And many drab birds are tough enough just to identify: babblers, wren-babblers, bulbuls, spiderhunters, flycatchers and warblers, to name a few. On the other hand, impressive raptors, waterfowl and gamebirds, plus colorful fruit doves, pittas, trogons, hornbills, kingfishers, barbets and woodpeckers are some of the rewards that await us whenever we visit the Orient.

With a few exceptions, European birds can't compete in number or in color with those in our Northeast. After all, this is the continent with pipits, larks, the Rock Dove, Old World warblers, House Sparrow, Common Starling, Black-billed Magpie and a number of waterbirds that are either the same as ours or a close kin.

Compensation for the American birder in Europe are superb restaurants, delicious cheeses, some great wines (well almost as good as California's), castles, cathedrals, museums, villages and landscapes. But there are no equivalents of bluebirds, tanagers, New World orioles or colorful warblers — and their pretty ones seem more difficult to find than ours. That is why when passing through Europe to and from Africa, we "nickel and dime" our bird list. That is, we are content just to add a few species here and there.

We have visited Antarctica twice. Not so many species but the ones there are choice and the scenery steals the show; in fact it's awesome. Only Torres del Paine in southern Chile, Machu Picchu (in some months), Iguassu Falls (Argentina and Brazil) and snow-capped mountains anywhere come close. Another plus comes with crossing the Drake Passage when all those super pelagics appear, including the two great ones: the Wandering and Royal albatrosses.

Still, when we return home and have time to bird, our wonderment and enthusiasm for U.S. birds remains high wherever we happen to be. Since our return from southern South America in late February, we have seen a bird new to our yard, a male Hooded Warbler and our 25th warbler at home; added two birds to our New Jersey list; and saw the Northern Lapwing on Long Island. Dorothy was right — "There's no place like home! There's no place like home!"



*Tom and Margot Southerland have been birding together since the spring of 1961, and both have long been active on behalf of the environment in many organizations and on many boards. They founded Princeton Nature Tours in 1981 and primarily work with colleges, universities and nonprofit groups. Their birding has taken them to all 50 states except Kentucky and to all seven continents.*



# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

by Sandy Wohlgemuth

In this sprawling city engulfed by mountains and bounded by the Pacific Ocean, we stand transfixed as our cherished canyons and open spaces seem to disappear before our very eyes. Trees and flowers and seasonal creeks are replaced by expensive homes in guarded enclaves. Our small refuges from the cold geometry of office buildings and the whirl of tires are no longer within reach. Neighborhood city parks offer little consolation; they are planned around ball fields, swimming pools, sand boxes and lawns.

So where do we go to find a bit of nature with birds and butterflies, native plants and a morsel of solitude? Griffith Park has been pretty well drained of wildness. Malibu Lagoon is surrounded by traffic, the Colony and polluted water. O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills has excellent, limited habitat but has been severely trashed by floods. The wildlife areas of the Sepulveda Basin are slowly and painfully emerging from sod farms and ancient corn fields. The best we have is the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area encompassing a huge portion of the mountains stretching from Griffith Park to Pt. Mugu that includes three state parks and thousands of acres of private property. The parks — Topanga, Malibu Creek and Pt. Mugu — have magnificent views, campgrounds, creeks and miles of hiking trails. Most of the privately owned land is not available to the general public. The effort to acquire more land for the Recreation Area — looking to the future needs of a growing population — is blocked by lack of money.

But help is on the way! Miraculously, at a time when the environment is under siege, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is buying over 3,000 acres of prime woodland habitat close to the heart of millions of people in Greater Los Angeles. Together with land already owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and other adjacent properties, this undeveloped Chevron Corporation parcel will make up more than half of the projected 6,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. It lies northwest of O'Melveny Park, west of the Golden State Freeway on the northern slope of the Santa Susana Mountains.

What are we buying here? No less than the grand prize. This is genuine wilderness with astonishing diversity. It includes mixed evergreen and hardwood forests, year-round creeks, waterfalls, coastal sage scrub, grassland. In the upper reaches of the canyons are Big-cone Douglas fir and Canyon oaks, perhaps at the southern limit of their range. Associated with them are Big-leaf maple, California bay and unusually tall flowering ash. The rare California Walnut is common at lower altitudes. State Department of Fish and Game senior ecologist Todd Keeler-Wolf says, "The Santa Susana Mountains have a number of unique or near-unique vegetation types I have not seen elsewhere in the state... Taken as a whole, they represent a blend of Northern and Southern California woodlands." (*L.A. Times*, 4/6/95)

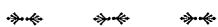
Why the Santa Susanas are so different from the Santa Monicas is not clearly understood. Their clay

soil retains water and encourages dense growth. The presence of Big-cone Douglas fir and Canyon oak indicates a relationship to the San Gabriel Mountains where both mountain systems can be viewed geologically as one continuous range. Chipmunks are common in the Santa Susanas and the San Gabriels but do not occur in the Santa Monicas.

The Santa Susanas are taller than the Santa Monicas and are farther inland so the climate is cooler at the summits. A light snow falls several times each winter above 2,500 feet. A hike through the woods with this unexpected white carpet underfoot is a wild and magical experience. Is this apparition a few miles from home or are we in the Sierra Nevada? For those of us who enjoy the outdoors, Santa Clarita Woodland Park is a gift from the gods. On a clear day (and above 2,400 feet) there is less smog and the views can be breathtaking. From the high ridges, one may see Mt. Baldy, Mt. Pinos, downtown skyscrapers, the western Santa Monicas and the Channel Islands. In spring and early summer, wildflowers can be everywhere. Deer, long-tailed weasels, gray foxes, bobcats and raccoons are common; mountain lions, black bears and badgers are rare. Though there has not been intensive birding in the area, the lush vegetation supports many expected residents. Spring and fall migrations should be rewarding. It will be interesting to watch the species list grow. Long-eared Owls, Barn Owls and Screech Owls have been reported as well as Peregrines and Golden Eagles.

Towsley Canyon has an impressive gorge where Cliff Swallows actually nest in real cliffs and Canyon Wrens sing their incomparable song.

The existence, at this late date, of so rich an enclave of natural beauty close to a sprawling metropolis is hard to believe. It could easily have become a vast real estate development. We are grateful to those who had the vision to see the surpassing value of this place as a public woodland refuge and worked for years to make it a reality. It is up to us to support the formation and growth of the park and to press for acquisition of the balance of the property that will complete the 6,000-acre Santa Clarita Woodlands Park. 🌿



NOTE: Thanks to Don P. Mullally, not only for his invaluable research on all aspects of the Woodlands, but for conceiving the idea of the Park, leading hikes to show people its wonders, lobbying agencies and politicians and infecting all with his tireless enthusiasm.

**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:  
LAAS Reservations  
7377 Santa Monica Blvd.  
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694.

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 Wednesdays from noon to 4:00 P.M. to answer questions about field trips. Our office staff is also available Tuesday through Saturday for most reservation services.

## F I E L D T R I P S

*Continued from page 8*

South El Monte (just W of the 605 Fwy). Take the offramp onto Durfee Ave. heading W (right), and turn left into the Nature Center, 1000 Durfee Ave. Meet at 8:00 A.M. \$2 voluntary donation suggested by park.

**Saturday, September 23 — Lake Palmdale. Jonathan Alderfer** will lead a select few on a tour of this restricted and little-birded bit of L.A. County. Vagrants have been encountered with the waterfowl and migrants in the past. Meet at the new Park-and-Ride adjacent to Lake Palmdale. Take Hwy 14 N to the Avenue S offramp E, followed by a quick right into the lot. Meet at 7:00 A.M. sharp and finish around 12:30 before lunch. Sign up by phone with Audubon House. *Strict maximum of 10.*

**Friday, September 29 — Warbler Workshop Cancelled.** The tentative workshop has been **cancelled** due to scheduling difficulties. Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett intend to reschedule for late September 1996.

**Sunday, October 1 — Topanga State Park. Leader Gerry Haigh.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. See September 3 write-up for details.

**Sunday, October 8 — San Diego Area. Nick Freeman** leader. A good portion of the morning will be spent at Pt. Loma. Some odd birds have been known to pop up here during late migration. Other possible areas include the Tijuana Marsh and nearby farm fields. Take the 5 Fwy S 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 at 8:00 A.M. E of the kiosk. Bring a lunch. Send \$5 registration fee to LAAS.

**Sunday, October 8 — Whittier Narrows. Leader Ray Jillson.** Meet at 8:00 A.M. See September 10 write-up for details.

**Sunday, October 15 — Oxnard Plain. Leader David Koeppe.** Meet at 7:30 A.M. at the Hueneme sod fields to look over the plovers until 8:15. Next, Oxnard Plain and Sycamore Canyon for warblers and other late song birds. There are usually one or more vagrants seen here. Meet in front of the Edison building on the N side of Hueneme Rd. just before Casper Rd. and about 1.5 miles W of PCH. From the 101 W, take Las Posas Rd. S to Hueneme Rd. W. Bird until 2:00 P.M. (at least). Scopes helpful.

🚣 **Sunday, September 17 —** 12-hour trip on the *R.V. Vantuna* out of San Pedro to Santa Barbara Island and the Osborne Bank. \$37.

🚣 **Saturday, September 30 —** 17-hour trip out of Ventura on the *M.V. Vanguard*. Land on San Miguel Island after birding adjacent waters. Dinner included. \$90.

🚣 **Saturday, October 7 —** 12-hour trip out of Ventura to Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island and Santa Cruz Island. Full galley on board. \$60.

🚣 **Saturday, October 21 —** 12-hour trip on the *R.V. Vantuna* out of San Pedro to Santa Barbara Island and the Osborne Bank. \$37.

🚣 **Saturday, November 18 —** 8-hour trip on the *R.V. Vantuna* from San Pedro to the Palos Verdes Escarpment and Redondo Canyon. \$25.

🚣 **Friday, November 24 —** 30-hour trip (10 P.M. Friday to 4 A.M. Sunday) on Island Packer's *M.V. Vanguard*. NW out of Ventura past Point Conception to Arquello Canyon and W to the California continental shelf with several daylight hours along the shelf. \$250/double bunk, \$145/single bunk. 🌿



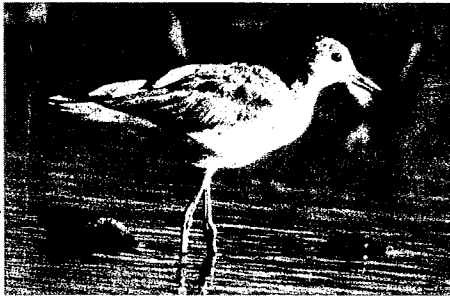
# EVENING MEETING

Meet at 8:00 P.M. in Plummer Park.  
ID Workshop may precede the meeting at 7:30 P.M.  
Call the Bird Tape for information.

**September 12, 1995**     **David Seay**  
**Fall Banding of Asian Shorebirds in**  
**Northwest Australia**

Imagine joining a 30-member team to band and flag up to 6,000 shore birds over a period of a month in three locations. Well tonight it's possible. David Seay will illustrate the locations, various species (including Greenshank and Little Curlew), and give a general idea of what is involved should you be interested in joining a future expedition.

**October 10, 1995**     **Jean Brandt**  
**Trinidad and Tobago:**  
**A Tropical Birding Adventure**



David Seay

## F I E L D T R I P S

**B**efore setting out on any field trip, **please 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.

‡ **Denotes Pelagic Trips**

**Saturday, September 2 — Edwards Air Force Base.** *Note Date Change!* Local talent **Charles Hood** will poke around the base and environs looking for residents, late breeders and early migrants. Bank Swallow as well as Baird's

and Pectoral sandpipers are occasionally seen this time of year. Take Hwy 138 N to Avenue D and meet just E of the highway across from the sewage facility (park on S side). Meet at 7:30 A.M. and bird until noonish. Call Audubon House to sign up. No fee.

**Sunday, September 3 — Topanga State Park.** **Gerry Haigh** will lead participants through this diverse coastal mountain area. An ideal trip for a beginning birder or someone new in the area. A botanist is usually present.

From Topanga Canyon Blvd. heading SW from the Valley, turn E (uphill) on Entrada Rd. (7 miles S of Ventura Blvd., 1 mile N of Topanga Village). Follow the signs and turn left into the park. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in the parking lot of Trippet Ranch. \$5 parking fee.

**Saturday, September 9 — Bolsa Chica.** Leader **Larry Allen**. Skimmers and terns, with an emphasis on shorebirds. Meet at 8:00 A.M. in the Bolsa Chica estuary parking lot on the east side of PCH. Take the 405 Fwy S to Goldenwest St. Head S to PCH and turn right. Don't miss the small parking lot for the Bolsa Chica Marine Preserve on your right. Some paid parking across the street at the beach may be required. We'll continue on to San Joaquin Marsh afterwards.

Los Angeles Audubon Society     *DATED MATERIAL*  
7377 Santa Monica Boulevard     *Please Expedite*  
West Hollywood, CA 90046-6694

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**Sunday, September 10 — Whittier Narrows Regional Park.** Join ranger **Ray Jillson** to view resident raptors, waterbirds and songbirds. Yellow-breasted Chat and Cardinal possible. Take the Peck Dr. exit S off the 60 Fwy in

*Continued on page 7*