



# HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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## When Birding Becomes Personal

By Evi Meyer

In my years as a birder I have always enjoyed my encounters with our feathered friends, often completely enthralled by their beauty and fascinated by their behavior. But never did I expect to develop the close personal connection I had this past spring with a family of Red-tailed Hawks. Let me explain.

Late in December 2011 a pair of Red-tailed Hawks were starting to build a nest in the Point Vicente cliff, as in previous years. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, this was a very early start for RTHA nest construction, but in California we do things a bit differently from the rest of the country!

The birds chose a location almost directly under the lighthouse. I watched them pick up long sticks at the bottom of the cliff and fly them into their chosen site. I found it really amazing that, rather than choosing "nest-size" twigs, they often dragged sticks through the air that were easily three times their size. I had to have a closer look at that.

Over the next six months, I spent countless hours observing the ups and downs of nest building, brooding eggs and raising chicks on a windblown cliff.



Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk

*Photo by Evi Meyer*

After the construction of the nest, I saw them mate in the cliff on January 20, which started the count down to egg-laying time. They continued to add more sticks to the nest and even lined it with green leaves, resulting in a very suitable place to lay the eggs the female was carrying. But it was not meant to be.

In the middle of February a strong storm blew the nest out of the cliff and destroyed the home of the future brood.

*See Birding, Page 4*

## Butterfly Count Locates 26 Species

By Jess Morton

The 32nd annual summer Palos Verdes/South Bay butterfly count was held July 7 under gorgeous skies with one of the best count circle coverages ever, yet could only produce 26 species, well below our top count of 33, and right in the middle of tallies from the last few years. There is no doubt that butterflies are in decline, along with many other groups of insects, victims primarily of habitat loss.

Fortunately, all of us out counting had a great day in nature, and our thanks go to all who participated, especially group leaders Martin Byhower, Tracy Drake, and Paul Levine.

These counts are held under the auspices of the North American Butterfly Association, which compiles the data from hundreds of counts nationwide, publishing the results annually as they have done since NABA was founded back in 1992. Before that, the Xerces Society, an invertebrate conservation organization which originated the count in 1976, handled the compilation until it threatened to overwhelm the

*See Count, Page 2*

### Count, from Page 1

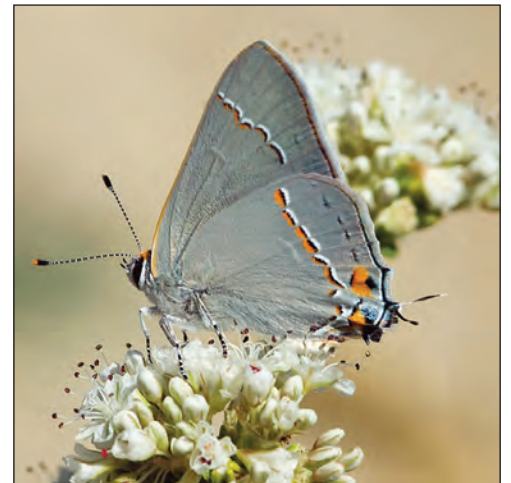
group's underlying conservation agenda. PV/South Bay Audubon held its first count in 1981, subsequently introducing many other Audubon chapters to butterfly counting. Ours is now one of the 10 oldest continuing counts in the nation.

There were no surprises this year. With a total of 471, cabbage whites were the most numerous, as always, Then came Western pygmy-blue (241) and fiery skipper (161), totals that could place us as No. 1 in the nation for these two species. At 34 individuals seen, we will certainly have the highest count for El Segundo blue, one of our two local endangered species. The other, the Palos Verdes blue, does not fly at this time of year, so will never show up on this annual summer count.

Nine species have been found on every count: cabbage white, gray hairstreak, western pygmy-blue, marine blue, gulf fritillary, common checkered white, fiery skipper, sandhill skipper and eufala skipper. Another 13 have been found on 25 or more counts, making them expected species every year: anise

swallowtail, western tiger swallowtail, El Segundo (and its close relative, square-spotted blue), acmon blue, mourning cloak, west coast lady, red admiral, common buckeye, monarch, funeral duskywing, sagem, woodland skipper and umber skipper.

Two other expected species are the giant swallowtail, seen every year but one since 2000, when it first ex-



**Clockwise from top: The fatal metalmark butterfly (by Tracy Drake), El Segundo blue butterfly (by Jess Morton), and gray hairstreak butterfly (by Jess Morton).**

panded its range into our area, and fatal metalmark, found every year since 1999.

The count is nominally held July 4, much as Christmas Day is the nominal date for Audubon's annual year-end bird count. In practice, we have held our count on the third Saturday of July, late enough in the season that the overcast of June gloom (if any) dissipates early in the day and early

enough in the season that we do not fry while out counting in the full heat of summer.

In recent years, the butterflies have seemed on the wing earlier, calling for an earlier start. This year, the 7th of July was the only practical alternative for us, though, and there is no doubt that the weather fully cooperated. What butterflies we have, we saw!



## CONSERVATION CORNER

# Can We Stop the Frack Attack?



By Lillian Light

I just received an email describing a national mobilization against fracking that is scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. on July 28, when they will make three demands for Congress to take action:

- 1 Stop dangerous fracking.
- 2 Close seven loopholes that exempt the oil and gas industry from parts of the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Air Act.
- 3 Implement a pathway toward 100% clean, renewable energy.

Celebrities, community groups, and more than 100 nationwide organizations will join forces to promote an end to the fracking that pollutes water supplies and harms public health, air quality and the climate.

Before hearing about this event, our Environmental Priorities Network made plans to present a public forum dealing with this important subject on Saturday, Sept. 29, at the Pacific Unitarian Church from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Now, we are working to line up articulate and informed speakers to encourage action to protect our communities from the dangers of fracking.

Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, involves drilling a pipe horizontally into an underground oil- or gas-bearing formation and pumping a slurry into it. Millions of gallons of water, sand and numerous chemicals are injected into drilling wells under very high pressure to fragment the shale and open fissures to release natural gas or oil. Recently this process has been used more frequently to tap oil and gas reserves that were once considered too costly to extract. Although this process was initially regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA oversight was terminated by a provision of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 known as the "Halliburton Loophole."

The dangerous environmental impacts of fracking continue unchecked by safety regulations or government oversight and are causing increasing public concern. The huge volumes of chemical-laden water used in fracking can contaminate local water tables and streams and can bring high levels of radioactivity to the surface. Residents near these drilling sites have reported that gas has migrated into their

mains, a phenomenon depicted in the documentary "Gasland," when water from kitchen faucets bursts into flame.

One well can be fracked 18 times, and each time requires between 1 to 8 million gallons of water, which are transported by hundreds of water haulers. Hydraulic fracturing technology currently uses a combination of more than 600 possibly toxic chemicals to fracture rock formations. Leaked fracking fluids impacting family water supplies is a significant concern, especially because not all of the chemicals and their health impacts have been disclosed by the gas companies. Across the nation, fracking has raised concerns about its links to contaminated groundwater, greenhouse gas emissions, earthquakes and adverse health effects. The EPA has reported that diesel oil is used in the process, and its benzene, toluene and other ingredients are hazardous to human health.

Locally, the oil company in charge of the Baldwin Hills Oil Field is proposing to start "horizontal hydraulic fracturing," which would allow it to drill outside of the perimeter of the oil field under the homes of 150,000 people. Some of these are residents of Culver City. I attended a City Council meeting there on July 3, where 24 persons spoke to urge the council to take action against fracking. The City Council unanimously passed the following resolution:

*"The City of Culver City urges Gov. Jerry Brown and the California State Department of Conservation, Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR), to immediately place a moratorium ban on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR takes all necessary and appropriate actions to adopt, implement and enforce comprehensive regulations concerning the practice of fracking that will ensure that public health and safety and the environment will be adequately protected."*

To find out what we all can do to protect public health and the environment, mark the date of Sept. 29 on your calendars, and attend the "Can We Stop the Frack Attack?" public forum. Food and drink will be provided, and six tables in the hall will have literature on local environmental groups and their programs. Admission is free, but voluntary contributions are appreciated. Co-sponsors of this event are the PUC Green Sanctuary Committee and the South Coast Interfaith Council. To request a table at our event or to get more information, contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384 or [llight@verizon.net](mailto:llight@verizon.net).

### *Birding, from Page 1*

Under time pressure, the hawks quickly and haphazardly rebuilt a nest on the same site, just in time to lay the first clutch of eggs. But again, the weather turned bad and another storm took out the second nest, this time with eggs inside. It was time for the birds to reassess.

**T**he hawks decided to relocate the nest site to a different part of the cliff, which gets hit by the westerly winds head on and not sideways. Over a few weeks they built their third nest of the season, mated again (this time on the lighthouse) and at the beginning of April the female laid eggs in a well placed and well constructed new nest. Despite the fact that there were several more strong storms, the nest stayed securely in place. After an incubation time of about 30 days, two tiny white chicks were visible on May 1.

Now the tough part of bird parenting started. The adult hawks had to feed and protect their offspring. Though they did take turns hunting for food and sitting on the nest, the female seemed to be a much better hunter and more patient parent on the nest. She brought back snakes and small mammals as food for the chicks in no time. The male often flew up to the high poles by city hall, sat there for hours and came back empty-taloned.

Over the next month I witnessed the chicks develop from little white fluff balls into beautiful juvenile hawks. I remember how their primaries were the first parts of their body to turn dark, until the entire wing had a more grown-up look to it. As they were getting bigger and more visible standing in the nest, I noticed how they developed a beautiful buff breast and dark belly band. As the back was turning dark as well, the head was the last part to develop into an adult look. There remained a little white fluff in-between some darker head feathers, giving both birds a bit of a silly Mohawk look. But they were beautiful in my eyes, and I felt some real parental pride. They had become “my birds.”

During the time of their physical development in the nest they learned how

to balance their rapidly growing bodies and eat food that was simply delivered, but not pre-chewed, to them. They also learned to turn around facing the back of the nest while “evacuating” into the air like the parents did. As they were growing bigger, they spent most of their time trying out their wings by flapping them while hopping around in the nest. There were some close calls of potential disaster, but everything seemed to be fine until June 11, which was the day the first juvenile hawk fledged.

It had been in the nest for 42 days — right on target with what the Cornell Lab for Ornithology predicts — and was eager to fly. It took off from the nest and soared beautifully, but had trouble keeping altitude and steering. It ended up descending towards the bottom of the cliff where it safely landed. But it could not take off again. It spent the rest of the day hopping back up the cliff, keeping balance by flapping its wings just like it did in the nest. After some harrowing attempts, it climbed back into the nest for the night. It had not been a good day.

**T**he next day I went to the cliff early in the hope that the bird’s second day of flight would turn out to be better. But it encountered the same problems. Once it had hopped up to the cliff just under the lighthouse, it soared towards the Interpretive Center, steadily losing altitude. It landed in-between two parked cars and was picked up by someone at the center who was trained in wild bird rescue. It was checked for physical injury, but none was found. The “equipment” was undamaged — the bird just did not know how to use it.

It sat for about 90 minutes on a bench by the cliff recovering from the stress it had encountered. Finally, it hopped to the ground, walked to the edge of the cliff and spread its wings. It soared again, this time towards the hillside of Alta Vicente, barely clearing Palos Verdes Drive South. It was seen one more time the next day up by city hall sitting on the ground below one of the high power-poles the parents regularly used as a perch. Despite several attempts

to relocate the bird in the area, it could not be found after that.

**M**eanwhile, the second juvenile hawk had become a fledgling as well. It took off from the nest, flew skillfully and steered back into the nest without any problems. Though it continued to receive prey from the parents as it sat on the cliff, it learned how to kill and take apart the food often delivered just by dropping it from the air. Pretty soon it would be time for it to go hunting by itself.

Did the two additional days in the nest really make such a difference in the ability of the fledglings to fly, or had something gone wrong in the development of the first bird? Perhaps it is not unusual for Red-tailed Hawks to only have a survival rate of 50% at their fledgling stage. Whatever the reason, I was saddened by the loss of the first bird and decided to pay tribute to it by having one of my portraits of it printed on a canvas to hang in my office. I chose canvas rather than photo paper because it represents permanence to me. The bird will never come back, but at least it will live on when I look up from my desk.

### **Help Madison Audubon Win!**

Madison Audubon Society (MAS) in Wisconsin has been selected as one of 500 nonprofit finalists in Toyota’s 100 Cars for Good program, a major philanthropic initiative in which the automaker is giving 100 vehicles to 100 nonprofit organizations over 100 days. MAS will be up for consideration on Monday, Aug. 20, and voting will be open until 11 p.m. Central Daylight Time.

If selected, MAS plans to request a truck for use at Faville Grove Sanctuary, where it has relied on a loaned vehicle for many years. With a full-time employee, six summer interns, hundreds of volunteers and scads of equipment to lug around for restoration work on about 1,000 acres of land, a dedicated truck would really make a difference. Please vote for MAS on Aug. 20 at <http://www.100carsforgood.com>. Also watch its video at <http://bit.ly/N3flkf>.

# The Bird Quiz Is Back...

By Martin Byhower

**S**orry about the long hiatus. I know that you have been sitting on the edge of your perch begging to get the answer to last time's bird quiz! Well, your cheeps have been answered! The bird in question is one that is a fairly common migrant, but it is often misidentified or goes unidentified perhaps because it lacks what most folks would consider "distinctive" field marks. Sometimes it is good to start with what a bird *isn't* in order to narrow down the choices as to what it is.

Our little fellow is perched on a branch, so that rules out a huge number of species. It is clearly one of those small songbirds that show up in almost any patch of green as if by magic during migration. The bill is our first clue. It's too wide to be a thrush or warbler, and not wide enough to be a sparrow. The bird looks like it might be some type of oriole, but the face pattern rules that out. The bill that fits is that of a vireo.

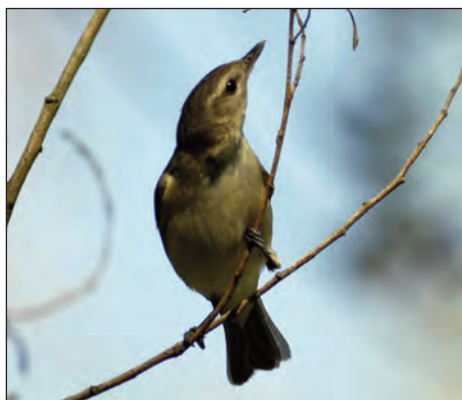
Vireo species are often notoriously nondescript. The face pattern is, in fact, what gives away this bird's identity. Almost unique to this species is the white eye line above ("supercilium") and the

white area below the eye ("lore"). Another way to describe this appearance is to say that the bird has an "open spectacled" appearance. The yellow/greenish/olive tones and mostly white underside clinch the identification; our bird is a Warbling Vireo. Now, if you haven't checked out my Birder's Notebook piece yet, note the irony; if this bird had showed up during migration, identification would have been a snap, but because it was out of context, my own quiz bird momentarily threw me for a loop! But alas, that is one of the greatest joys of birding —



The new quiz bird.

Photo by Steve Wolfe



Gussed yet?

Photo by Jess Morton

finding the unexpected! Critters with wings, especially ones that normally migrate long distances, can show up virtually anywhere!

Our new bird, you will notice, is another one of those perching birds. Here is a hint; mostly a common spring and fall migrant, a few always winter here (especially at the South Coast Botanic Garden), and there is a remnant breeding population of this species in Upper George F Canyon/Purple Canyon. See ya next time, and good birding!

## What's Happening With Audubon YES

**A**udubon YES is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Environmental Science and Technology High School (ESAT), a relatively new charter high school in Northeast Los Angeles. ESAT will be adopting Audubon YES and implementing YES into their class curriculum. This partnership is new for the PV/South Bay Audubon Society because this will be the first time the organization will have a direct influence in a public high school classroom.

What does this mean? It means our Audubon education committee will help YES and ESAT create a curriculum that is to standard, teaching students about conservation of birds, wildlife and habitat through hands-on experience and volunteerism. Tenth-grade environmental science teacher, Latiffe Amado, has been key to the adoption of YES into her school.

When asked why she wanted to adopt the YES program, Amado said, "I want our students to realize that the environmental movement is much larger than our environmental science class, and even larger than our school. Being a part of YES will show ESAT that land stewardship is a global move-

ment and students all over Los Angeles County care about what happens to our environment."

On June 22, students from ESAT participated in a volunteer work day at Madrona Marsh, weeding and watering 54 native shrubs that were planted on Arbor Day last year. It was the first time that they visited our jewel in the South Bay. Afterward, the students toured the marsh and visitors center.

Jonathan Mungia, a sophomore at ESAT, was very inspired by his visit to Madrona Marsh. "Coming from Central Los Angeles, one doesn't think about the L.A. River as an important piece of a universal water puzzle ... Madrona Marsh disproves what most Angelinos would think about water and where it goes. Seeing that water is precious to the Vernal Marshes is proof that we need to conserve water and protect special places like Madrona," he said.

Audubon YES is also pleased to announce our Facebook page. Please visit us and "Like" this page to receive updates about what is happening. Here is the link: [www.facebook.com/pages/Audubon-YES/189636134402195](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Audubon-YES/189636134402195).



## BIRDER'S DIARY

### Martin Byhower

Summer can be really slow birding around these parts, but my walk at KMHRP is monthly, rain or shine, so after the butterfly count there on July 7, I led a small but intrepid group of birders on our routine walk the next day. Little did I know what those days would produce! Not many butterflies, for sure ... but while exploring the north-end willows for butterflies, Jose and I heard an interesting song. I couldn't quite place it at first, but two birds were singing, and I knew their song was a bit out of context. Even when I saw the bird, it didn't quite register at first (Spoiler alert: It was a recent quiz bird) — Warbling Vireo!

Now, as an early migrant, it would be a pretty unusual record, but two birds singing meant, with about 95% probability, that they were attempting



Warbling Vireo

Photo by Steve Wolfe

to nest. If so, this would be the southernmost nesting record for that species in L.A. County ever.

What's more, a pair of Bell's Vireos were singing in the same location! We are hoping that when the Proposition O improvements are implemented (now I am told that they will start "at the beginning of next year"), one of the major goals is to provide good breeding habitat for the latter species, which

has been all but extirpated from our area for nearly a century.

As if this weren't enough, there were several other unusual as well as expected birds at the park. Most of the Western Bluebirds in our nest boxes had fledged, and a pair of Least Terns, probably from the Terminal Island colony, were scouting for mosquitofish to feed their young and for "teaching purposes" when they bring their fledged young back to Machado Lake to learn to fish.

Our Canada Goose population has exploded, and now we have at least 13 birds. Hooded and Bullocks Orioles and Cassin's Kingbirds were around still, with their offspring. There were four Brown Pelicans at the Lake, a record number for this rare park visitor. Finally, to top things off, there were two Tricolored Blackbirds on the lawn!

Who says summer birding is slow and uneventful?

### Jess Morton

We see them here, sometimes up close from a whale-watch boat, but usually off shore, a skein of cormorants speeding low over the water, destination unknown. They are Brandt's cormorants, one of three local species, theoretically easy to tell apart from size, shape of head and color of their gular pouches, those featherless, fleshy parts of the throat and neck just south of the bill. At least that's what the books say, but telling cormorants apart in practice can be a bit more difficult.

A cormorant inland is easy. That's a double-crested cormorant. The little guys among a priesthood of cormorants piled up on a near shore stack are also easy. Those are pelagic cormorants, with little bitty bills stuck on the end of a long neck. One sometimes wonders if they have any head at all. But when the birds are seen singly, or out over the sea, picking up distinguishing marks is challenging.

It is during the breeding season that Brandt's cormorants show off the distinctive blue gular pouches the books show you. Even at a distance (your normal viewing range), the blue can be picked up with reasonable light and a good sight angle. But up close, wow!

This photo was taken at Moss Landing, up north of Monterey. The birds are communal nesters, often found in large rookeries with a variety of herons in tall trees close to the coast. The eucalyptus grove lining Elkhorn Slough, close by Moss Landing, and another in Morro Bay are just two examples. Brandt's cormorants also use off shore islands, nesting up along the cliffs, contributing their grunts to the cacophony made by the gulls, alcids and oystercatchers similarly occupied.

This particular bird and its mate were happy enough to pick a piling in the marina for its nest site. Evidently



Brandt's cormorant

there is little enough traffic through the marina that the birds are not bothered. A pair of Western gulls have, in fact, recently decided to nest atop the cabin of a rather rickety old fishing boat. I doubt the owner will be pleased when — and if — he shows up. My cormorant won't care, though, waiting patiently for eggs to hatch, tolerant of the occasional passing boat and camera, her (or his) electric blue flag hoisted high above the bay.



# Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim  
CSU Dominguez Hills

## Coastal Buckwheat *Eriogonum parvifolium*

**S**ummertime — and the insects are flying. Though it's been cool thus far, the butterflies, native bees, flies and other pollinators are busy at work in field and garden. One of our best native plants for attracting a wide range of insects is the Coastal Buckwheat, or *Eriogonum parvifolium*.

Native Buckwheats (genus *Eriogonum*) are excellent habitat plants. They aren't for buckwheat pancakes — that's an Asian buckwheat in a different genus — but they do produce high-quality nectar, pollen and seeds. The best



4 feet wide. In nature it tends to fill in around other shrubs, making it a great garden filler plant or ground-cover on slopes. It provides good cover for ground-dwelling and foraging creatures.

The leaves of Coastal Buckwheat are small and spoon shaped, green above and whiter below. The leaves roll under as plants become drought-stressed and may be lost entirely in a dry summer or fall. The foliage is more lush with occasional water and is larval food for the gray hair-streak (above) and endangered El Segundo blue butterfly.

The flowers are typical of native “insect magnet” plants: many small flowers and relatively easy access. Flowers are pink-cream, fading to rust, in ball-like clusters — showy from summer to fall. Plant Coastal Buckwheat where you can sit and enjoy the flowers and insect visitors.

Buckwheats are undemanding. They grow in most soils, in full sun to part-shade. They are quite drought tolerant, but look best with occasional deep summer water. Remove old flower heads after birds have eaten the seeds. That's it!

Buckwheats for attracting insects are shrubby species local to the South Bay: Ashy-leaf Buckwheat, California Buckwheat and Coastal Buckwheat.

Coastal Buckwheat is native to coastal areas from Monterey to San Diego counties. It grows on dunes and bluffs right along the coast. In our area, it also grows in coastal sage scrub on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in coastal shrubland inland at least as far as CSU Dominguez Hills.

Coastal Buckwheat is a sub-shrub; the older parts are woody while the new growth is herbaceous. It generally grows as a loose, rather sprawling plant that's 2 to 3 feet tall and 2 to



*For more information on growing and purchasing this plant, visit the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. You can also learn about local native plants at the “Out of the Wilds and Into Your Garden” series on the first Saturday of each month at the center.*

# CALENDAR

## Meet, Learn, Enjoy, Restore

### Events

**Saturday, Aug. 4, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh.** Explore the new 17-acre Bixby Marshland after a half-hour introductory walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the parking lot welcome table. Learn about how the marsh came into being, see the results of this restoration. Located in Carson, Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa Street, just south of Sepulveda Blvd. The marsh is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District: [www.lacsd.org/education/](http://www.lacsd.org/education/).

**Wednesday, Aug. 8, 7 p.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks birding class (topic TBD)** at South Coast Botanic Garden. Walks in the garden before class start at 6 p.m. as long as daylight permits. The fee for this four-week course is \$22.50 for SCBGF members, and \$27.50 for nonmembers. For details, e-mail [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.

**Thursday, Aug. 9, 7:35 – 9:45 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** Along with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), the chapter is monitoring the bird population on the Three Sisters habitat restoration site as a long-term project. Volunteers are needed. They will be trained in identification and the methods used in the survey. Contact Ann Dalkey at [adalkey@pvplc.org](mailto:adalkey@pvplc.org) or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

**Saturday, Aug. 11, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project** at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP). Come take part in Audubon's partnership with the Chadwick Ecommunity and the City of Los Angeles to restore habitat in KMHRP. This is a hands-on opportunity to learn

about invasives removal and native species planting. Students earn community service credits. Wear closed-toe shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. Harbor Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. Call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

**Saturday, Aug. 18, 7:30 – 9:45 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See Aug. 9 for details.

**Saturday, Aug. 18, 9 – 11 a.m.: The Stories of Birds,** a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior at Madrona Marsh. Tracy Drake will give a short presentation on "Beautiful Birds of Fall" in the Nature Center. She will feature Bushtits, American and Lesser Goldfinches and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No previous birding knowledge required.

**Saturday, Aug. 25, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.: PV/South Bay Audubon Annual Strategic Planning Meeting** at Madrona Marsh. We will brainstorm the next year and have lunch together. Bring your ideas, creativity and passion for Audubon and its causes.

**Saturday, Sept. 1, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland open to the public.** See Aug. 4 for details.

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 – 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP.** See Aug. 11 for details.

**Thursday, Sept. 13, 7:50 – 10 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See Aug. 9 for details.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 7:50 – 10 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration**

August						
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September						
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30						

site. See Aug. 9 for details.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Coastal Cleanup Day at KMHRP.** Meet in the parking lot close to the boat house. Bring sunscreen, long pants, closed-toe shoes, and a desire to help make our park beautiful and clean. Audubon YES and community service credit for all. Participants under 18 must have their parents sign a waiver and must work under adult supervision. Contact Martin Byhower at [avitropic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avitropic@sbcglobal.net).

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.: The Stories of Birds,** a beginner's guide to birds, bird life and bird behavior at Madrona Marsh. Tracy Drake will give a short presentation on "Sparrows – Visitors From Afar," to feature Lark, White-crowned, Chipping and Savannah Sparrows. The second part of the program will be outdoors.

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** The program for the night will be "Natural Secrets of the Palos Verdes Peninsula," by Emile Fiesler. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.



## Field Trips\*

**Wednesday, Aug. 1: Birding with Bob.** Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit [Torrance.wbu.com](http://Torrance.wbu.com) and click on "Birding with Bob."

**Sunday, Aug. 5, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Jess Morton and Dinuk Magamana will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

**Tuesday, Aug. 7, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around a great birding area. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Wednesday, Aug. 8, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Madrona Marsh** with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

**Saturday Aug. 11, 9 – 11:30 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Altamira Canyon.** This extensive hike will take you from the end of Crenshaw Blvd., along Burma Road and through the Conservancy's habitat restoration work at peacock Flats, then return uphill on Rattlesnake Trail through lovely Altamira Canyon. Strenuous. For details, visit [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

**Sunday, Aug. 12, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP.** Join Audubon leader Martin Byhower and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See Aug. 11 event for directions.

**Wednesday, Aug. 15, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden,

located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

**Saturday, Aug. 18, 8:15 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Santa Cruz Island.** For details, e-mail [mot-mots@aol.com](mailto:mot-mots@aol.com) or call 323-295-6688.



Hunting quietly and with precision, this Great Egret masters the task with grace and efficiency.

*Photo by Evi Meyer*

**Sunday, Aug. 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands** with Bob Shanman. For details, visit [Torrance.wbu.com](http://Torrance.wbu.com).

**Tuesday, Aug. 21, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See Aug. 7 for details.

**Saturday, Aug. 25, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Oceanfront Estates.** Join us for a tour of the museum, the native garden and a walk along the spectacular bluff top at Oceanfront Estates. Easy. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm)

**Sunday, Sept. 2, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** See Aug. 5 for details.

**Tuesday, Sept. 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See Aug. 7 for details.

**Wednesday, Sept. 5: Birding with Bob.** Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details,

go to [www.torrance.wbu.com](http://www.torrance.wbu.com) and click on Birding with Bob.

**Saturday, Sept. 8, 9 – 11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Ocean Trails Reserve.** Walk through mature coastal sage scrub and cactus habitat near the Trump Golf Club along the bluffs before continuing down to the rocky beach, and returning to Founder's Park. Strenuous. For details, visit [www.pvplc.org](http://www.pvplc.org).

**Sunday, Sept. 9, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP.** See Aug. 12 for details.

**Wednesday, Sept. 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh.** See Aug. 8 for details.

**Saturday, Sept. 15, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park.** On International Coastal Clean-up Day, bring your family and friends to help clean up the beach. Gloves and trash bags

will be provided and refreshments served. Moderate. For details, visit [www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm](http://www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm).

**Sunday, Sept. 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at the Ballona Wetlands** with Bob Shanman. For details, please visit [Torrance.wbu.com](http://Torrance.wbu.com).

**Tuesday, Sept. 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance."** See Aug. 7 for details.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** See Aug. 15 for details.

**\*Note: PV/SB Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations of any amount are appreciated and support programs of the chapter.**

Please visit the Chapter website at [www.pvsb-audubon.org](http://www.pvsb-audubon.org), or [www.southbaycalendar.org](http://www.southbaycalendar.org). Area youth are encouraged to visit [www.AudubonYES.org](http://www.AudubonYES.org).

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Audubon So. Cal. Council Rep.: John Nieto, [johnnieto@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:johnnieto@pvsb-audubon.org)  
Birdathon Teams: Martin Byhower, [avitropic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avitropic@sbcglobal.net)  
Tracy Drake, [tdrake@torranceca.gov](mailto:tdrake@torranceca.gov)  
Jess Morton, [jmorton@igc.org](mailto:jmorton@igc.org)  
Birds of the Peninsula: David Ellsworth, [davidells@cox.net](mailto:davidells@cox.net)  
Bird Walks—KMHRP: Martin Byhower, [avitropic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avitropic@sbcglobal.net)  
Madrona/Polliwog Park/Ballona: Bob Shanman, [wildbirdbob@gmail.com](mailto:wildbirdbob@gmail.com)  
Out of Area: Eric & Ann Brooks, [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com)  
Tour de Torrance: Dave Moody, [dsmoods@verizon.net](mailto:dsmoods@verizon.net)  
South Coast Botanic Garden: Stephanie Bryan, [scbryan@aol.com](mailto:scbryan@aol.com)  
Bluebird Nest Project: Dan Lee & Nancy Feagans, [nancy@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:nancy@pvsb-audubon.org)  
Calendar: Evi Meyer, [evimeyer@cox.net](mailto:evimeyer@cox.net)  
Christmas Bird Count: David Moody, compiler; Ann & Eric Brooks, [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com)  
Community Outreach: John Nieto, [johnnieto@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:johnnieto@pvsb-audubon.org)  
Conservation: Lillian Light\*, [lkligh@verizon.net](mailto:lkligh@verizon.net)  
Education: Evi Meyer, [evimeyer@cox.net](mailto:evimeyer@cox.net)  
E-mail announcements: Jan Gardner, Janet.Gardner@ngc.com  
Field Trips: Eric & Ann Brooks, [motmots@aol.com](mailto:motmots@aol.com)

Hospitality: Alene Gardner, [Alene.Gardner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Alene.Gardner@sbcglobal.net)  
Hummin' Editor: Michelle Fisher  
KMHRP: Martin Byhower, [avitropic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avitropic@sbcglobal.net)  
Membership manager: Vicki Nishioka  
Membership outreach: David Quadhamer  
Programs: Bob Carr, [robertfcarr@aol.com](mailto:robertfcarr@aol.com)  
Publicity: *Vacant*\*\*  
Restoration—Harbor Park: Martin Byhower, [avitropic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:avitropic@sbcglobal.net)  
Science Advisory Committee: Candy Groat, [groat99@aol.com](mailto:groat99@aol.com)  
Surveys—Three Sisters Restoration: Ann Dalkey, [adalkey@pvplc.org](mailto:adalkey@pvplc.org)  
Snowy Plover: Ron Melin, [er2melin@gmail.com](mailto:er2melin@gmail.com)  
South Bay Birds: Dave Moody, [dsmoods@verizon.net](mailto:dsmoods@verizon.net)  
Webmaster: Nancy Feagans, [nancy@pvsb-audubon.org](mailto:nancy@pvsb-audubon.org)  
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