



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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Preserving the Preserve

By Jess Morton

Now that the PV Peninsula has a nature preserve, what are we going to do to keep it? Will it fulfill its acquisition purpose: adding an essential element to southern California's Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) area? Or will it be allowed to degrade amidst the noise and clamor of special interests, each of which claims its own special right to the use of the land? In particular, what are we in Audubon willing to do to see that the birds and other creatures so dependent on this fragile place thrive?

Since its inception, public use of the preserve has been the subject of workshops, testimony before various agencies, Rancho Palos Verdes City Council decisions, letters to the editor, state and federal agency comments from a slew of community groups and seemingly endless private discussion. What has emerged from all this is a trails and public use plan developed by RPV, in consultation with the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy (PVPLC), which manages the preserve. The City has been very generous in allowing multiple public uses of the land, more generous than are many other governing agencies for similar preserve lands elsewhere in southern California.

The Problem

Unfortunately, the result has been a preserve increasingly beset by problems, including illegal camping, introduction of beehives and extensive misuse of the trail system. Trail signs have been removed, fence posts pulled out, vegetation cut back or ripped out and responsible trail users have been subjected to abuse and threats. Some users groups, especially mountain bikers, have flagrantly disregarded preserve rules, in effect converting parts of this multi-use preserve into a single-use property devoid of the habitat that made its acquisition possible.

A Bit of Background

More than 20 years of hard work by hundreds of people and many millions of dollars, both public and private, have gone into assembling the Portuguese Bend Nature Preserve. Originally the dream of a pair of visionaries, Bill and Barbara Ailor, the preserve now stretches across the south face of the



A young female Anna's Hummingbird.

Photo by Tracy Drake

peninsula from San Pedro to Point Vicente. Locally, the roles of the City of RPV and the PVPLC have been absolutely critical to its successful completion. Regionally, the Endangered Habitats League and state and federal agencies played vital roles in creating a working NCCP out of the controversies surrounding federal listing of the California gnatcatcher as a threatened species.

While many hundreds of people responsibly use the trails on the preserve, scores of others volunteer their time to work in the preserve, and substantial PVPLC and RPV staff time is dedicated to its maintenance, relatively few fully understand why the preserve exists. Yet, without such an understanding, it is difficult to put some of the greatest threats to the preserve into perspective. Certainly it is open space, but it only exists as such because it is now in public hands.

Twenty years ago, the great majority of what makes up today's preserve was in private hands awaiting a favorable political climate for development as golf courses, high end housing and the like. At the time, the dream of seeing this expanse as a preserve seemed laughable. But what made the dream a reality was a little bird and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

See Preserve, Page 3

CONSERVATION CORNER

3 Numbers That Add Up to Global Catastrophe



By Lillian Light

With so many communities still recovering from the Hurricane Sandy devastation, and many other communities having suffered through record wildfires, withering droughts, scorching summer heat and other extreme weather events this past year, the growing threat of catastrophic global warming can no longer be ignored.

Already half of the polar ice cap has disappeared this summer, yet the average temperature of the planet has increased only one degree Celsius. On Sunday, Nov. 11 Bill McKibben, long an outstanding activist on the climate crisis, presented a 350.org program at UCLA that emphasized the need to “Do the Math” and take immediate action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. His appearance in L.A. was part of a tour of 20 cities that started in Seattle on Nov. 7 and will end on Dec. 3 in Salt Lake City.

Global warming’s new math is terrifying because the numbers add up to global catastrophe. Yet Mr. McKibben is an advocate for climate action that would make a difference. Let’s start with the numbers.

The first number is **2 degrees Celsius**

In Copenhagen the only thing that the international community could agree on was that the temperature increase must not go over 2 degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

The second number is **565 gigatons**

This is the best estimate of how much carbon we can pour into the atmosphere before we reach 2 degrees Celsius.

The third number is **2,795 gigatons**

This number describes the amount of carbon contained in the proven coal, oil and gas reserves of the fossil fuel companies, and the countries that act like fossil-fuel companies (think Venezuela or Kuwait).

This is five times as much as the 565 gigatons allowed before we reach 2 degrees. What this means is that if the proven reserves are dug up and pumped out of the ground and burned, this planet will be pretty much uninhabitable.

Since we have five times as much oil, coal and gas on the books as scientists think is safe to burn, we have to keep 80% of those reserves locked away underground to avoid catastrophe. Those 2,795 gigatons of carbon emissions are worth

about \$27 trillion in assets. If you burn all that carbon, the planet will crater. In 2011 the profit of the five big oil companies (Chevron, Shell, BP, Exxon and Conoco Phillips) was \$137 billion. You can have a healthy fossil-fuel balance sheet or a relatively healthy planet, but you cannot have both.

These numbers make clear that wrecking the planet is the business model for the fossil-fuel industry. This industry alone holds the power to change the physics and chemistry of our planet, and they are planning to use it. They are relentlessly searching for more hydrocarbons.

Last March Exxon CEO Rex Tillerson told Wall Street analysts that the company plans to spend \$37 billion a year through 2016 (about \$100 million a day) searching for more oil and gas. The welfare of the seven billion human beings on this planet does not compete with the riches to be had from exploiting the fossil fuel bonanza. The industry has fought hard against recognition of Al Gore’s “Inconvenient Truth,” and is financing a global warming denial industry.

In the 1980s, a campaign was started demanding divestment from companies doing business in South Africa. It first rose on college campuses and then spread to municipal and state governments. Archbishop Desmond Tutu said “The end of apartheid stands as one of the crowning accomplishments of the past century, but we would not have succeeded without the help of international pressure, especially from the divestment movement of the 1980s.”

Bill McKibben is recommending similar action against the fossil-fuel companies who profit from global warming. Students from some colleges are already demanding that their institutions dump stock from companies that are profiting from the climate crisis. Many Claremont College students are urging their administrators to sever ties with the fuel industry. Our Environmental Priorities Network is planning a campaign to encourage this kind of divestment. If you would like to join our campaign or have information that could help us, please contact me at 310-545-1384 or at lklight@verizon.net.

Bob’s Wild Birds Unlimited

Need a last minute holiday gift for your bird-loving family member or your friends? Whether it is binoculars or bird feeders and seeds, Wild Birds Unlimited is likely to be a place where you can find that special item.

Bob supports our chapter by donating door prizes every month and by leading bird walks and other activities in the South Bay and beyond. Let’s support him by shopping at his store in Torrance!

The PV/South Bay Audubon Bird Quiz

By Martin Byhower

Last month's bird seemed pretty straightforward. If it looks like a goose and honks like a goose, then it probably isn't a duck. But this bird is actually the size of a Mallard! If you saw him alone, the white "chinstrap" and dark brown scalloped plumage, with the black head and neck, might lead you to conclude it is a Canada Goose. (No serious birder would ever call one a Canadian Goose — a lot of geese may be Canadian, but that is not the name of a species!)

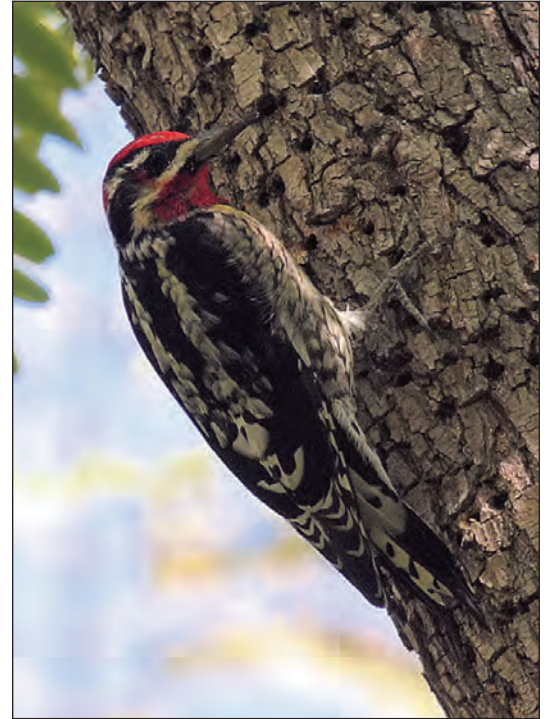
In 2004, this bird, with a much stub-



If it looks like a goose and honks like a goose...

bier bill and rounder head, not to mention its diminutive size, was split from the Canada Goose complex into its own species, the Cackling Goose. The problem is, when I say Canada Goose complex, the emphasis is on the complex. There is a great deal of variation, based on race/breeding grounds, of both Canada and Cackling Geese. In fact, some populations of the latter have individuals that can overlap with populations of the former.

In other words, some birds are impossible to identify, unless you are an expert, versed in the slight but consistent variations from group to group. The four documented races of Cackling Goose all nest further north into the Arctic than the majority of Canada Geese. The call of the Cackler, if you hear it, is higher pitched. Some Cackling Geese have a white ring on their necks below the black part, but others lack it. Usually, when I find a Cackling



These guys show up in our area around November in far fewer numbers than their very similar, regularly wintering counterparts. You will often hear their activities before you find them. Hint: Check it out online in color.

Photos by Steve Wolfe

Goose, it will be hanging out alone, sometimes with a partner, in or at least near to a larger flock of its Canada cousins.

..... Preserve, from Page 1

Many articles have appeared in *Hummin'* over the years about the NCCP and its service to our local community in funding the acquisition of most of the property in the Portuguese Bend preserve. I won't repeat them here except to note that the funds obtained from the state and federal governments used to buy the land come with a requirement to provide viable habitat for the California gnatcatcher and other "target species."

The funds were not meant to be used for purposes incompatible with habitat protection. Indeed, part of the agreement includes an obligation for PVPLC to restore five acres of habitat each year. There are no provisions for allowing manmade habitat destruction. There is more than enough of that caused by fire and other natural causes already. But what are the remedies for habitat destruction that is the result of misuse of the land, of intentional disregard for either the property itself or the right of others to their permitted use of the land?

PVPLC has, from the beginning, had a Keepers program,

made up of individuals who regularly cover sections of the preserve, reporting conditions and changes. The information gathered is important for proper land management. However, the Keepers' role is not one of policing the preserve, nor should it be. For more than a year, RPV has contracted with the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) Rangers to patrol the land in hopes of controlling illegal activities on the land. Sadly, this has not been enough. City officials are dismayed by what is happening, and many preserve users have horror stories to tell of close encounters with those who are perpetrating the abuses. The ranger, who cares very much about the preserve and how it is used, clearly needs help.

Solving Problems

Three things are needed to begin solving these problems before they jeopardize the fundamental soundness of our NCCP preserve.

See Preserve, Page 6

BIRDER'S DIARY

Jess Morton

We don't get a lot of snowy plovers at Cabrillo Beach. This year, I've seen seven of them, and they seemed to arrive much later than other times. It was August last year, November this year, or at least with more than a single bird. But, the other day (11/9) seven were along the inner beach trying to avoid the windsurfers, resting in divots as these birds do, and maybe picking off an ill-fated kelp fly or two.

One was banded (see photo), at first appearing to have three bright red bands on its legs, though, as you can see in the online version of this article, only one band was red.

On inquiry, PRBO's Frances Bidstrup, who oversees a lot of snowy plover work, told me, "Three chicks were banded with this combo at VAFB (Vandenberg) this year. I would think it is the same bird that's been seen at Surfside, Bolsa Chica and Morro Bay. What a traveler!" Perhaps the bird has found a home here



Banded Snowy Plover

Photo by Jess Morton

in San Pedro — at least until next breeding season, when it will scoot off again.



White-tailed Kite

Photo by Evi Meyer

Evi Meyer

This past fall, my friend Bill Cullen and I went on one of our birding trips along the Palos Verdes coastline. We were immediately rewarded with a beautiful White-tailed Kite as we started out down the road towards the parking lot at the north end of Oceanfront Estates. It was atop a pole and let us get within 30 feet of its perch. We watched it contort its head, preen its feathers and stretch its wings — always carefully scanning the surroundings with its big red eyes. Was all of this preparation for something bigger to come?

After about 10 minutes of observation, the kite suddenly decided it was time to take off. A reason for a sudden departure was not obvious, but it was probably breakfast.

We followed the bird as it flew towards the coast and hovered over a small flat grassy area just beyond the fence separating the parking lot from the steep cliff. Within seconds, it retrieved a large rodent and flew right over us, head and tail of the prey visibly drooping from its talons.

Though I had seen many raptors catch small mammals, snakes, other birds or even dragonflies, I had never seen any of them do what we were about to witness. As the kite flew over us, it let go of the prey with its left talon, and then proceeded to toss it, still gripped in its right talon, into its mouth, swallowing it in one gulp. All this happened within seconds and while the bird was in flight!

This spectacular, and seemingly very efficient way to get to that first morning nourishment, was a real eye-opener. For me, the term "in-flight meal" has taken on a completely new meaning.

Martin Byhower

OK, I'll admit it. Birding for me is a lot of things, a necessary part of my life that keeps me sane amidst so many things in my life that I need to do that require me to be indoors, especially what I hate most, sitting at the computer. No Facebook or Twitter for me, yet with about 100 emails a day and at least five applications I must deal with at work, I need my daily fix of outdoor-ness. But I do like a challenge — Jeopardy, the Saturday L.A. Times Crossword or an annual bird quest. Yes, I am competitive, but I am only competing with myself.

I will never see the 300 species in the "PVS area radius" that Kevin Larson did in one remarkable year, but I chose this year to shoot for 250. And I am at 231 and it is already mid-November. It is getting tough! Here are my last seven entries:

Oct. 20: Birding at Alondra Park with Steve Wolfe and David Ellsworth. Hear a very faint and very high-pitched "seep." Know there is a Brown Creeper here somewhere. Yup, there they are, *two* of them, in the pines. I am up to 225.

Oct. 27: Invited the filmmaker who is considering using me in a new nature reality show on the National Geographic Explorer Channel to come see what birding is all about, with Steve Wolfe. For fun and adventure, we snuck onto the Harbor Park Golf Course. I saw what looked like a dead snake or some weird wood on the ground, approached it, and when within about four feet of it, the Common Poorwill took off! Fortunately, it landed nearby and Steve got a great shot (see if you can make it out in the photo Steve took!) OK, that was bird number 226.

Nov. 2: Stuck in my classroom grading papers and preparing for parent teacher conferences, I set up a hose in a tree dripping in a pot next to my pond outside my classroom, peering up occasionally to watch the Yellow-rumps, Lesser Goldfinches and House Finches drink and bathe. Look up and see what looks like a funny-looking Goldfinch. Hold up the funky student binoculars I keep in



Common Poorwill



Brown Creeper

Photos by Steve Wolfe

my room and there is a Blackpoll, an Eastern vagrant warbler that has been eluding me for a few years now. Tick! 227.

Nov. 10: Lovely couple Jim and Cathy, who come regularly on my Second Sunday walks at KMHRP, invite Steve and me up to their house in Rolling Hills to see the birds they attract to their yard. Wow! From their living room, I counted at least six species of sparrows at their feeders, but the real treat were the dozen or so Pine Siskins on their Goldfinch feeder. That makes 228. We walk out into their neighborhood up on Crest Road, I hear a familiar "yank squeak," and there is number 229, a White-breasted Nuthatch.

Nov. 17: Forecast is for rain, but I can't stay in. Drive up toward Ballona, stop at Dockweiler lookout to scope the distant, far offshore Surf Scoter flock. After nearly giving up, there were the two Black Scoters found by Dick Barth about a week before. Good, I'm up to 230. Later, I head toward Del Rey Lagoon and the Ballona area. This was the northern limit of the "Kevin circle"

as we called it in the past.

There had been several birds I still needed that had shown up there within the past few weeks or months and that were making me crazy with anticipation. Short-eared Owl, Tropical Kingbird and Common Tern had come through and were likely gone, but there were a Burrowing Owl, White Pelican, Ross' Goose and a few others I wanted that were still around, according to recent reports. I was also hoping for some rarities that could show up there like Red Knot, Pacific Golden-plover, Common Goldeneye, Red-necked Grebe and others. Well, I tanked on all of those, but I did pull out a few Dunlin in with the huge flock of Black-bellied Plovers. Now up to my current 231.

Nov. 18: Just spent a fun morning back up in Rolling Hills — gorgeous day, lots of birds feasting on the subterranean termites swarming out of the ground, but no new birds. At this rate, I probably won't make my goal, but the fun is in the trying!

REPORT FROM THE BOARD

By Jess Morton

Six years! It is hard to believe, but my two terms on the National Audubon Society's (NAS) Board of Directors are coming to an end. In September, I went to Tucson to attend my last meeting as Western Regional Director. Consequently, this is my final official report to you in that capacity. In it, I will summarize some highlights of my tenure and make an estimate of what is in store for Audubon.

When I joined the Board, the rhetoric about the importance of chapters from both NAS management and the board itself was uplifting. While NAS and each of its chapters are legally separate entities, we all share common goals and should act together as "Audubon." However, there was little evidence that we were really doing so in any concerted way. There had been no national convention in years, cooperative ventures between Audubon and its chapters were a haphazard grab bag, chapter-run centers were not part of the Audubon Centers program and *Audubon Magazine* rarely mentioned the work chapters did. Fiscally, Audubon had just begun a multi-year program to end deficit spending. What limited funding chapters did get from NAS was at risk of being cut. The emphasis was on making the Centers program financially viable, hanging onto the state office structure, cutting costs to the bone and beyond, everywhere.

Chapters had little voice and less influence. The nine regional directors (RDs), of which I was now one, though making up 30% of the board, were not acting in an organized way that could help project that voice. It was soon apparent to me that my responsibilities to Audubon were more than the fiduciary ones common to all Board members. My role had to be to bring the RDs together and to convert the rhetoric about chapters into reality. Six years later, that and far more has been accomplished. We have a new strategic plan, in which chapters play a key role, and a new operational paradigm in Flyways that has everyone excited to be in and part of Audubon. We have a visionary President, for whom I was honored to serve on the search committee, and a Chair of the Board who is always looking for ways to improve its operations.

The Board itself has changed in many ways. The caliber of its members, dedicated conservationists all, has risen from a high starting point to include an amazingly diverse array of talent. Most importantly though, from a functional point of view, the Board now has a standing Chapters Committee which, to my mind, is essential to the success of our strategic plan. No longer will chapter-related matters be relegated to ad hoc task forces, though those also will be needed. This is a committee I campaigned for early on and on which I now serve as its first chair. Working jointly with the RDs, this committee has proposed significant improvements in the way RDs are elected, including realignment of the regions to fit neatly into our four Flyways. I will be sad to step down from this committee, but leave it with a very full agenda of important tasks for the future.

For Audubon, the future looks brighter than at any time since I first became a member, back when our chapter formed in 1978. The goals now being set involve projects that are nationwide, even hemispheric in scope. Achieving those goals means that all parts of Audubon will have knit themselves into a successful joint venture, truly "One Audubon." The community of Audubon is in the process of reinventing itself, and the biggest beneficiaries will be the birds that have led us to our conservation work — the birds and the future generations of birders who will still have them to enjoy and understand.

Preserve, from Page 3

An effective way of policing the preserve is needed now to limit, if not eliminate, the damage being done to habitat. Such policing would have the added benefit of making trail use by responsible citizens more enjoyable. A suggestion has been made to create a fully trained team of citizens to help PVPLC, RPV and the MRCA ranger. How such a team would be constituted, its interface with the agencies responsible for the preserve and what authority it would have are subjects for long and careful thought.

Time for Problem Solving

A thorough review of trail use policy is needed. While public input to this review is most welcome, the decisions with respect to trail use must be based on objective facts and independent of how loud any particular faction may be. Anyone who has attended one of the many trail use planning sessions will readily appreciate the need for this condition.

Scientific data is needed on the biota of the preserve. We have a 20-year history of population surveys for the preserve, which is particularly good for California gnatcatchers and cactus wrens. PVPLC also is committed to a long-term program of triennial surveys and is doing additional bimonthly surveys in one part of the preserve to monitor bird use changes as habitat is restored. However, a program for broad-spectrum sampling of birds and other wildlife on a seasonal basis will be very useful for long-term planning. When the NCCP comes up for renewal at the end of its first 50 years in the middle of this century, data gathered from studies like these will give critical support for keeping the NCCP preserve intact.

We in Audubon can make substantial contributions in all of these problem-solving areas, especially when it comes to surveys of flora and fauna. Letters to the City of RPV and PVPLC encouraging the creation of a citizens' team to assist the MRCA Rangers in a nonenforcement capacity would also be helpful. It is likely that the City Council will hear public comments on this topic at their Dec. 18 meeting. The agenda will be posted at www.palosverdes.com/rpv/ccmenu2. However you choose to participate, you can play an important role in making sure the our preserve will be preserved.

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman' *Ceanothus arboreus* x *C. thyrsiflorus griseus*

It's been an unusual year. With La Niña weather conditions and an unusually dry summer, plants are confused. Some early blooming plants are already in bloom — way ahead of schedule. Included among them are the *Ceanothus* species.

The genus *Ceanothus* (California Lilacs) is in the Buckthorn Family (*Rhamnaceae*) with California Coffeeberry and the Redberries. Our local native species include *Ceanothus megacarpus* from the Santa Monica Mountains and *C. arboreus* (from Catalina Island). Local species usually grow in the chaparral community (elevation above 1,000 feet) but north coast species can be found in low elevation coastal sage scrub – some even on dunes.

Ceanothus are well known as pollinator plants. They are an irresistible source of nectar and pollen for bees in particular. But they also attract butterflies and other early insects. *Ceanothus* seeds are eaten by Mockingbirds, Bushtits and finches. And the dense growth provides cover and suitable nesting sites. Southern California Lilacs make good habitat plants.

Ceanothus species have been garden favorites for many years. With their irresistible blue-purple flowers and evergreen habit, they appeal to the gardener in all of us. But *Ceanothus* are notoriously short-lived in home gardens. 'Ray Hartman' *Ceanothus* is one of the more garden hardy varieties.

A hybrid of our local *Ceanothus arboreus* and the Northern Californian *Ceanothus thyrsiflorus* var. *griseus*,



'Ray Hartman' *Ceanothus* was introduced by Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in 1948. It has medium blue flowers and relatively large leaves.

'Ray Hartman' is an evergreen shrub, making it useful in gardens. Like its *C. arboreus* parent, this plant is large (10 to 20 feet tall and about as wide) at maturity. It also is fast growing.

'Ray Hartman' and other large *Ceanothus* species can be

carefully pruned as hedges, large shrubs and even trees. To learn more about this plant, please see the Plant of the Month (Dec. 2012) at: <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/>



For info on growing and purchasing this plant, visit the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. 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, Dec. 1, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh.

Explore the 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 the marsh and view the many birds that have made the wetland home. 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/.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.:
PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 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 Harbor Park. This is a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasives removal and native species planting. Students earn community service credits. Wear closed-toe shoes, pants and a hat. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. KMHRP is located at 25820 Vermont Ave. Call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Thursday, Dec. 13, 8:00 – 10:15 a.m. Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), our chapter will be monitoring the bird population on the Three Sisters habitat restoration site as a long-term project. Volun-

teers are needed to be trained in identification and survey methods. Contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 8:05 – 10:15 a.m.: **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See Dec. 13 for details.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 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 be giving a short presentation in the Nature Center about the world's largest citizen science project: The Christmas Bird Count. The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No previous birding knowledge required.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.: **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers and Holiday Party.** Our speaker for the night will be Marcos Trinidad, YES director for PV/SB Audubon. Marcos will give the chapter an update on Audubon YES. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Sunday, Dec. 23: Christmas Bird Count of PV/South Bay Audubon. For details, contact Dave Moody at dsmoods@verizon.net.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.: **Bixby Marshland open to the public.** See Dec. 1 for details.

Thursday, Jan. 10, 8:15 – 10:30 a.m.: **Bird survey on habitat restoration site.** See Dec. 13 for details.

Saturday, Jan. 12, 9 – 11 a.m.: **Second Saturday Habitat Restoration at KMHRP.** See Dec. 8 for details.

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January						
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Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.: **Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers.** Our speaker for the night will be David Bell, birder extraordinaire of Southern California. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, Jan. 19, 8:15 – 10:30 a.m.: **Bird survey on a habitat restoration site.** See Dec. 13 for details.

Saturday, Jan. 19, 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 be giving a short presentation on winter at the water's edge, featuring Ruddy and Black Turnstones, Willets and Spotted Sandpipers. The second part of the program will be outdoors, using the newly learned skills at the marsh. No birding knowledge required.

Field Trips

Sunday, Dec. 2, 8 a.m.: **Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.** Audubon leader Jess Morton and Dinuk Magamma will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There

is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBGF, or you can join there.

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Dec. 5: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit <http://torrance.wbu.com/> and click on "Birding with Bob."

Saturday, Dec. 8, 9 – 11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Oceanfront Estates/Lighthouse. Enjoy a family walk along the bluff edge, then tour the open Pt. Vicente Lighthouse and end at the Pt. Vicente Interpretive Center, a premier whale watching site. Easy. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leader Martin Byhower and explore this key natural area of the South Bay. See Dec. 8 event for directions.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to El Dorado Park. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Saturday, Dec. 15: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. This trip is presently full. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour the tide pools

teeming with fascinating marine life. Moderate. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Dec. 4 for details.

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden (26300 Crenshaw Blvd.). There is a minimal charge for nonmembers.

Tuesday, Jan. 1, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Dec. 4 for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 2 : Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit <http://torrance.wbu.com/>.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Dec. 2 for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Dec. 12 for details.

Saturday, Jan. 12, 9 – 11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Peck Park Canyon. Walk through shaded canyon woodlands, site of the former Hernandez Ranch on the east side of the Peninsula in San Pedro. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Saturday, Jan. 12, 2:30 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour the tide pools teeming with fascinating marine life. Moderate. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Sunday, Jan. 13, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See Dec. 9 for details.

Sunday, Jan. 13, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to South Bay

CBC hot spots. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Dec. 4 for details.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Dec. 19 for details.

Saturday to Monday, Jan. 19 – 21, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Carrizo Plain and the southern San Joaquin Valley. Ballona Creek and Freshwater Marsh. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, Jan. 20, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. Visit <http://torrance.wbu.com/> for details.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 8 a.m.: Eric and Ann Brooks' fieldtrip to Veterans Park in Sylmar. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Walk through coastal sage scrub habitat along the Eastern Bluff Preserve with possible whale sightings. Moderate. , Visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm for details.

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Dec. 4 for details.



NOTE: PV/SB Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations are much appreciated and support our chapter programs.

Please visit the Chapter website at www.pvsb-audubon.org or www.southbaycalendar.org. Area youth are encouraged to visit www.AudubonYES.org.

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NOTE: Please send corrections to Nancy Feagans (e-mail address above)

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