



Hummin'

www.pvsb-audubon.org

Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

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Big Green Birdathon a Hoot

By Martin Byhower

Awake with a start at 2 a.m. Well, might as well get going, that Barn Owl I heard about at Lomita City Hall beckons. Coffeed up, I step out the door, and simultaneously get my first two birds of the day: our resident Mourning Dove in the planter on my porch watches me walk by, and a testosterone-amplified Mockingbird beckons mates in the neighborhood. I hope onto my bike by 3:15 a.m., (complete with new side-view mirror), I try to hoot up the owl to no avail. Wow, it is dark, quiet, cool and peaceful at this time. I am loving it! At least half of the few cars on the road are police, each of whom passes me very slowly, trying to figure what the heck I am up to!

I have time to hit KMHRP, albeit only in the dark, so what the heck? Of about 20 birdathons by now, I have never skipped Harbor Park, and doing so wouldn't seem right, even if I only get to bird in the dark! Thankfully, Marsh Wrens are already singing when I arrive and then a semi-familiar song; I know it is an Empidonax Flycatcher—I listen to my tape, not quite a Hammond's—and I realize it is a Dusky Flycatcher, good bird! Can't call up a hoped-for bittern or rail, but I hear Tree Swallows, a Black Phoebe and a few others. I get out my flashlight so I can tick off the Cackling Goose that is still around. No Barn Owl yet! OK, I cut across PV Drive North, since I need to meet the rest of my bike team by 5:30

a.m. at Torrance Beach.

I stop at the George F Nature Center, get a CA Towhee and a few odds and ends, but no owls, not even a Great-Horned. OK, don't give up yet—I cut across PV Drive North, startle a crusty old security cop in the parking lot at Rolling Hills Country Day School and ask if *he* has seen any owls around. He ticks off a list of the usual nocturnal mesopredatory mammals, but no night birds lately. OK, I keep pedaling and after a while, maybe hear something, so I stop. In the distance, yes, it's a Great-horned Owl!

I am late, so I put it in overdrive and arrive at our rendezvous spot at exactly 5:30. Lauren, a remarkable Chadwick 10th-grader who surprised me by asking to join the BushWhackers this year, is there to meet me, as planned. The previous day, at our annual Audubon Awards ceremony, I presented her with an Audubon YES! award, during the time between her track meet and writing a term paper (after the birdathon she has to study for a history test). Soon Dan Lee pedals up, and we are off! (Liz Kennedy, who rode with us last year on our inaugural Big Green Carbon Neutral Birdathon, calls me later from her new office in Atlanta, providing moral support and offering to contribute a few Eastern Warblers, but I need to draw the line at how far an "away team" is allowed to operate).

It is a very long ride from PV to the Marina, and a highlight for me is find-

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Hummin' Is in Transition

In the interest of preserving the environment, while saving on printing and mailing costs, the Board of Directors has decided to transition to a paperless newsletter, effective with the October/November 2009 issue of *Hummin'*. The e-*Hummin'* will be available online at our web site, www.pvsb-audubon.org, and may be read online or printed to read in-hand. The e-newsletter will be published and available on the web site by the first of alternate, even-numbered months: October, December, February, April, June and August.

If you wish to receive an e-mail reminder when e-*Hummin'* is available online, simply send an e-mail to our Chapter Secretary: nancy@pvsb-audubon.org and she will add you to the list of members to notify.

If you wish to cancel the paper version of *Hummin'* and to receive the online version only, then please send this request to the Chapter's e-mail: info@pvsb-audubon.org. The Board would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and support of our decision to transition to a paperless format.

Birdathon, from Page 1

ing the Yellow-chevroned Parakeets on Pier Plaza in Hermosa. They have been hard to find lately. Counting parrots, you may ask? Our rules are simple: Any species that is part of a stable, breeding wild population is countable (which is why I counted Peafowl earlier and added Mitred Parakeets later).

Back to the Strand, we slowly accumulate beach birds along the way. Lauren is the official species “ticker,” and Dan is our mobile multimedia roadie. We finally arrive at Del Rey Lagoon, to a disappointingly empty lagoon mudflat. A gaggle of egrets squabble over fish in the narrow channel, and I think about getting a nice lox bagel at the coffee shop nearby. We tank up, then head back to the Marina Jetty. Now it starts getting good! Lots of wandering tattlers in the channel, no less! A Black Oystercatcher, OK, things are looking up.

Dan watches the bikes while Lauren and I walk out to the end. We watch dolphins and sea lions between the cormorants, grebes, turnstones—and finally, Surbirds. Good, got all the hoped-for rockpipers. We get back to Dan and he is talking on his cell phone. We are concerned to find out that Nancy took a spill at Madrona Marsh and had to quit.

Nancy had joined my wife Eileen, who along with various others—Ron, Tracy, Ed, Tom and Tommie—was scouring Madrona that day for some goodies seen there earlier in the week. Eileen, who walked the three miles to the Marsh, would put in 12 hours there this day. Chris Boyd also did a solo walk for us, from his home in Redondo, down to Malaga Cove.

After checking the lagoon again (still nothing), we head up channel and ride all the way to the Centinela crossing. This is a fairly productive leg; a highlight is hearing the call of the remarkably out-of-context Wrentit that Kevin Larson had told me about, seen

a while back at the Culver crossing. We get a lone Bonaparte’s Gull, a Red-breasted Merganser and some Green-winged Teal (*any* ducks besides Mallards are good at this time of year), and a few other goodies. On the way back, we detour to check out the Bal-lona Freshwater Marsh. We find a beautiful Cinnamon Teal, Black-necked Stilts, a Moorhen with babies and other highlights, which buoy our spirits. But we need more birds—we are only at around 80! So, off to our one-and-only migrant songbird site we will be able to check this time, Sand Dune Park in Manhattan.

Biking in Sunday afternoon beach traffic isn’t the most fun, and the steep hill from the coast up and over Rose-crans challenges all of us. We are weak legged, already a bit sunburned (despite multiple applications of sunscreen), and a bit giddy when we arrive at the park. Having sunburned eyelids is my biggest complaint about having to wear a bike helmet instead of my usual Tilly hat. Normally I don’t put sunscreen over my eyes, since sweating causes it to go *into* my eyes, and that really burns. Today it is worth it, however, as long as I can still see birds through my tears.

Up the hill (walking, this time), we park at the lone flowering Grevillea Tree, in which we will see *every* bird we get at this place! A parade of migrants—Nashville, Townsend’s, Hermit, Black-throated Gray and other warblers—pass through our magic tree. Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Bullock’s Oriole, and they just keep coming! Eventually things slow down and I realize we have seen very few flycatchers! I am determined to pick up at least one before we leave, and on the way out, in our magic tree, flits a Pacific Slope Flycatcher. OK, time to move again.

No idea how many calories we have burned, we power along Valley-Ardmore, dodging traffic, then fuel up at El Pollo Loco and head to the PV

coast. It is already nearly 5 p.m., but we need *more birds*. I am set on getting to Forrestal (haven’t told my teammates about the hill there yet). The thing about bike riding is that you experience serious hills that you never seem to notice while driving. It makes one think seriously about planning routes, and getting from point A to B sometimes is worth traveling several extra miles just to stay on level ground.

We pass Point Vicente and ride a bit farther, and then I finally make a wise decision: It was time to turn back, even though we haven’t reached our goal. The bird gods are with us, however. Stopping at various spots along PV Drive South, we are able to pick up, one by one, Spotted Towhee, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, California Gnatcatcher, and, *finally*, a singing Cactus Wren! (That was the bird we missed last year.) According to our unofficial tally, we are at about 96 species. Oh well, we earned them, and maybe Eileen and Chris picked up a few more.

We drop Lauren off by her home near Golden Cove, then Dan and I split at PCH in Redondo, and I arrive home in Lomita at around 8 p.m., tired but eager to see what we might have forgotten to tally earlier. By my count, we have 97—no, 98—no, 99—wait, exactly 100 species for the day! Even more mind-blowing is that of the 42 species Eileen saw at the Marsh, a full *nine* of them were ones that the bike team had missed: Sora, Tricolored Blackbird, you name it! Add the Spotted Sandpiper that Chris found on the beach, and the BushWhackers bested their own prior claim of 105 by five species! The 110 sure feels good, but next year we are gonna go for 115!

Meanwhile, send us a check and we’ll give you the YouTube link to the video Dan is creating. I promise it will be entertaining! Thanks to my teammates and to those who helped out at Madrona, not to mention our sponsors!

Conservation Corner

Why and How to 'Go Green'—Now

By Lillian Light



In June 2008, James Hansen, the chief climate scientist at NASA, testified on Capitol Hill that the earth is on the verge of “disastrous climate changes that spiral dynamically out of humanity’s control,” causing “mass extinction, ecosystem collapse and dramatic sea level

rises.” I recently read an article reporting that the ocean water level could rise as high as 20 feet in some areas due to the melting of polar and Antarctic ice caps. What can we residents of sunny Southern California do to avert this looming catastrophe?

We can use the sun to produce our electricity! With the federal government offering a 30% rebate on the income tax for anyone who installs solar panels, this is the best time to do it. Also available are generous rebates by California’s utilities. Many local cities have eliminated all solar installation fees, and some give priority to inspections of green homes. On May 16, our Environmental Priorities Network held a very successful Solar Homes Tour when many people found out how profitable and trouble-free it is to “go solar.”

You can find out even more from the solar panel installers who will be at the Torrance Environmental Fair, set for Saturday, June 13, at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. The lovely nature center is located at 3201 Plaza Del Amo in Torrance. You will find a wide range of displays ranging from green home improvements, to energy-efficient appliances, to public transportation, hybrid cars, electric vehicles, scooters and bicycles. Information on water conservation and natural water-saving landscaping will also be available. Visitors will be invited to take the “Torrance Green Pledge” to encourage one and all to “go green” to help the survival of animals and people in the world.

If installing solar panels is not an option for you, there are many other ways to save our planet. If you plan to replace your car, buy a Toyota Prius, and get 50 miles per gallon if it is a 2010 model; a used Prius will give you 42 to 47 miles per gallon. If you can wait until 2011, you may be able to purchase a plug-in electric car and get 100 miles per gallon!

Plastic Bags Pose Problems

Did you know that manufacturing 14 plastic bags requires enough petroleum to drive a car one mile? It is estimated that the United States goes through 100 billion plastic bags a year, which takes an estimated 12 million barrels of oil to produce. Fewer than 5% of them are recycled, and the rest end up clogging our landfills, killing countless numbers of birds, animals and fish in our lakes and oceans, while also blowing in the wind.

Did you know that plastic bags photodegrade, breaking down into smaller, more toxic petro-polymers that contaminate our oceans and enter the food chain with catastrophic effects on wildlife? Millions of dollars of taxpayer money are spent to clean them up, because it is estimated that 17 cents a bag is spent on litter cleanup or on recycling it. San Francisco has banned petroleum-based plastic bags in large markets and pharmacies, and other cities and countries have legislated that plastic bags be sold for 20 or 25 cents apiece, which has caused a major drop in usage.

Once you consider how much harm these bags are doing to our planet, I am sure that you will resolve to take reusable bags with you to do your shopping. Remembering to bring them with us is a challenge I know that we can master!

Water Woes: To Bottle or Not to Bottle?

In a country where more than 89% of tap water meets or exceeds federal health and safety regulations, why did average Americans consume more than 25 gallons of bottled water each in 2006? Apparently, they did not know the facts. The production of bottled water, in 2006 alone, released 2.5 million tons of carbon dioxide, to exacerbate global warming. Of the 30 billion bottles that end up as litter each year, those that are not properly recycled might take 1,000 years to decompose. A sweeping U.N. report warns that the average water supply per person will fall by one third in the next 15 years.

As clean water becomes more scarce, corporations are buying it up, bottling it and running very successful marketing campaigns. Since public water supplies undergo more testing and more restrictions than bottled water, it is good environmental policy to drink water from your faucet and work to protect the public ownership of water

While we are on the subject of water, it is important to

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Audubon Conservation Awards Honor Standouts

By Jess Morton

Fifty-plus people jammed into the lecture room at Madrona Marsh for the party honoring this year's recipients of Audubon Conservation Awards. Cake, punch and sandwiches rounded out Earth Day activities at Madrona Marsh, which began with habitat restoration and bird walks before moving on to awards. In addition to 25 students who received Audubon YES! Awards, three community members were singled out for special conservation honors this year.

Hermosa Beach's Dency Nelson, co-founder of Plug In America, an organization promoting electric cars for the nation, was the recipient of the 2009 Conservation Award, the highest award our chapter bestows for extraordinary community service. Dency is one of those who leads by example, purchasing an electric car when they first came out and recognizing them as part of the solution to our energy dilemma. He has fought ceaselessly since then, first to rescue the existing models from destruction and, when that failed, helping to form Plug In America to push for their reintroduction.

Bob Carr, science teacher and one of the founding members of our chapter, was honored with the 2009 Conservation Education Award for his decades of dedication to educating young and old about environmental values. For the past several years, he has developed and run the microscopy lab at Madrona Marsh, patiently working with all, but especially young people, to help them experience the wonders of the microscopic world around them. But Bob is also ready to explain the human-scaled and astronomical worlds, with a special emphasis on Einstein and his work.

North High School junior Dinuk Magammana received the 2009 Youth Conservation Award for his broad range



Bob Carr received the Conservation Education Award.

of work at Madrona Marsh. Director Tracy Drake related the story of first meeting him on the marsh. Seeing a new face among the scattering of students working on marsh restoration, Tracy approached Dinuk to introduce herself and find out who he was. She was stopped in her tracks by Ron Melin's booming voice shouting from across the field, "You leave my best worker alone!" Well, hard work is not all that Dinuk has to offer, and he is well on his way to being an exceptionally able field naturalist, already able to name any bird on the marsh and many of its plants and small creatures.

Dinuk was also one of 25 students from around the South Bay to receive their Audubon YES! Award, granted for dedicating a minimum of 50 hours of hands-on service to our environment. Others so honored were Alexa Arango, Lillian Babcock, Zachary Blickensderfer, Monica Chen, Joseph Chiu, Timothy Chiu, Ning Dai, Kristin Frerichs, Robbie Gleichman, Roderick Go, Yuta Kaneko, Nicole Kelly, Eric Kim, Jun Koizumi, Jenny Kwong, Eleanor Lin, Christina Ling, Ruby McFarland, Rebecca Rakovsky, Jonathan Renslo, Lauren Stoneburner, Tammy Takigawa, Brian Vicari and Kevin Yoshiki. These students attend six high schools: Chadwick, Peninsula High, Torrance High and North, South and West High Schools.



Audubon YES! award winners include South Bay students, from left (back row), Roderick Go, Jonathan Renslo, Robbie Gleichman, Jun Koizumi, Dinuk Magammana, Kevin Yoshiki, and (front row) Christina Ling, Lauren Stoneburner, Nicole Kelly, Ruby McFarland, Alexa Arango and Lillian Babcock.



Marsh Director Tracy Drake presented the 2009 Youth Conservation Award to Dinuk Magammana of West High.



Past President Martin Byhower presented an Audubon YES! award to South High Junior Kevin Yoshiki.



Your Backyard Habitat

By Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSUDH

Sticky Monkeyflower *Diplacus aurantiacus*

Late spring is transition time. Spring-blooming plants taper off in the warm, dry days of summer. A whole new set of plants begin to flower—ones that may bloom off and on through summer in the home garden. One such group is the varied species commonly called Sticky Monkeyflowers. Although nomenclature is changing, the



species with salmon-colored flowers is currently *Diplacus aurantiacus*, while the red-flowering forms are best included in *Diplacus puniceus*. Both are lumped as *Mimulus aurantiacus* in some classifications.

Diplacus aurantiacus is locally native on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and in foothills of the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. *Diplacus puniceus* is found on Catalina Island and in San Diego County. Both grow on hillsides, slopes and canyon walls in chaparral, coastal sage scrub and southern oak woodland. Often growing on rocky soils in nature, they do surprisingly well in many local soil types, from sandy to clay soils.

While relatively short-lived (5 to 10 years is common), Sticky Monkeyflowers provide reliable color that is prized by native plant gardeners. They are excellent habitat plants, attracting hummingbirds (the plant's pollinator), bees and butterflies with their nectar. They pro-

vide larval food for Checkspot butterflies, and birds eat the seeds.

Sticky Monkeyflowers are medium-sized sub-shrubs that quickly grow 2 to 4 feet tall and wide. Their medium/dark green foliage is sticky. The flowers resemble large, showy snapdragons. Flower color is quite varied, so choose plants now, while they are in bloom at the native plant nurseries.

In gardens, Sticky Monkeyflowers do best with afternoon shade and thrive on the north and east sides of buildings. They like a well-drained soil, but do fine in most local clay soils except in very wet winters. In nature, plants are summer dormant. In the garden, you can keep them blooming with judicious summer watering:



Just be sure to let the soils dry out between waterings. Taper off watering at the end of summer to allow the plant to go dormant.

Sticky Monkeyflowers are easy to grow given the right conditions. You can prune them lightly after the first flowering season to encourage bushy growth and a second flowering. Prune out dead and unwanted branches in fall to keep plants from becoming leggy. Don't worry about fertilizers—these plants need none. Enjoy!

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 nature center.

Birds of the Peninsula

March and April 2009

By Kevin Larson

A Hooded Oriole and a Western Kingbird in early March were this year's first spring migrant landbirds to arrive locally. It was not unusual to hear few reports of multiple migrants until late March and early April since this early stage of migration usually progresses slowly. Migration stalled a number of times during April, but a good number of birds were moving through late in the month.

April rarities are hard to come by since most landbird vagrants are found later in the migration period during May and June. Local birders did well to find a Palm Warbler, a Green-tailed Towhee, two Clay-colored Sparrows and an Indigo Bunting during the month. A Glaucous Gull along Ballona Creek was outstanding, and the wintering Thick-billed Kingbird at the South Coast Botanic Garden remained through late April.

The weather during March and April was variable, so intervals of marine layer cloudiness were generally brief in duration. Rainfall accumulation from a number of low-pressure systems, mostly during the first half of March and the second week of April, amounted to only a few hundredths of an inch at LAX. Despite a good start to the rainfall season, dry weather in January and March dragged seasonal (July–June) rainfall totals to well below normal at LAX and Downtown Los Angeles. March was generally cool, with only a few warm spells. High temperature records were shattered in the region during a period of strong high pressure and offshore flow 19–21 April.

A Greater White-fronted Goose was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 26 Apr (Steve Glover). A Snow

Goose at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook on 24 Apr has evidently taken up residence; it is believed to have been present since 29 Jan 2008. An “Aleutian” Cackling Goose continued at Harbor Park 1 Jan–26 Apr (Martin Byhower). Fourteen American White Pelicans were spotted over the Ballona area on 26 Mar (Jonathan Coffin), and one was over Westchester on 5 Apr (KL). Three Cattle Egrets over Westchester



Palm Warbler
Photo by Steve Wolfe

on 19 April was the only report (KL).

A White-faced Ibis at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 24 Apr was an uncommon spring migrant (Dan Cooper). The Ferruginous Hawk spending its second winter along the southwest side of Playa del Rey, around the dune area, since 29 Nov was last reported on 2 Mar (Jonathan Coffin). A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull** along Ballona Creek downstream from the 90 Freeway 14–15 Mar was a great find (Martin Meyers); what was likely the same individual was at Dockweiler State Beach on 2 Apr (Dan Cooper).

A Band-tailed Pigeon near the top of the hill in Rancho Palos Verdes on 3 Apr was a rare find (Sally Moite). Un-

usual in spring locally, two species of nightjars was a windfall: a Lesser Nighthawk was at Madrona Marsh on 24 Apr (John Small) and a Common Poorwill was along the Westchester bluffs bordering Playa Vista on 4 Apr (Dan Cooper). A Red-naped Sapsucker found by Stephanie Bryan at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 7 Dec was last reported on 1 Mar (David Ellsworth). The very rare **Thick-billed Kingbird** continued at the South Coast Botanic Garden 7 Dec–25 Apr (Stephanie Bryan).

The wintering Least Bell's Vireo found at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 6 Jan was last reported on 7 Mar (Steve Wolfe). Spring reports of Bell's Vireos included singles at the Dominguez Gap Wetland in Long Beach 23–24 Apr (Karen Gilbert) and at Madrona Marsh on 25 Apr (Martin Byhower). A Cassin's Vireo at Harbor Park on 8 Mar was evidently the same wintering individual spotted there on 8 Nov (Martin Byhower). Another Cassin's Vireo at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 19 Mar had likely wintered locally (Steve Wolfe). Hutton's Vireos have been regularly recorded at the Botanic Garden in recent years, but breeding evidence was lacking until Brian Daniels found a nest on 7 Mar.

Two Red-breasted Nuthatches at Madrona Marsh on 25 Mar were rare spring transients (David Moody). Two Red-breasted Nuthatches at Highridge Park on 7 Apr were likely part of our small resident population on the hill (Sally Moite). Nesting for the second year in a row at Harbor Park, Western Bluebirds were incubating six eggs in a nest box on 6 Apr (Nancy Feagans). A Western Bluebird at DeForest Park on 25 Mar was at a location where

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Peninsula Birds, from Page 6

there are few records (Karen Gilbert). The Wrentit found singing in Marina del Rey along the north side of Ballona Creek, west of Culver Boulevard, crossing on 4 Mar 2007 was still present on 26 Apr (Martin Byhower).

Presumably the same California Thrasher found by Jonathan Coffin along the north side of Ballona Creek, west of Culver Boulevard, 16 Mar–16 Apr 2008 was singing again on 1 Mar (Walter Lamb). Offshore flow during April appears to increase one's chances of seeing a Phainopepla locally; conditions were perfect as one flew over Westchester on 5 Apr (KL). A **Palm Warbler** at DeForest Park on 23 Apr was a rare spring migrant (Karen Gilbert). Wintering Black-and-white Warblers included one at Madrona Marsh 24 Oct–21 Apr (David Moody), one at the El Segundo Library 5 Jan–27 Mar (Richard Barth) and one in a Westchester neighborhood 6 Dec–22 Mar (KL).

Missing from the DeForest Park list in recent years, a Black-and-white Warbler was added by Karen Gilbert

and Jeff Boyd on 14 Apr. This record is difficult to categorize: The date and the sparse coverage at the park over the winter may favor a wintering status over that of an early migrant.

A wintering Summer Tanager at DeForest Park in Long Beach continued 3 Jan–8 Apr (Karen Gilbert). A **Green-tailed Towhee** at DeForest Park on 30 Apr (Jeff Boyd) is only the second area record of a spring migrant that I know of; another was at Burton Chace Park in Marina del Rey on 3 May 2003. Very rare as spring migrants here, two **Clay-colored Sparrows** at Madrona Marsh occurred during offshore weather on 18 Apr (Photo: Tracy Drake). The White-throated Sparrow spending its fourth winter at DeForest Park was recorded 3 Jan–8 Apr (Karen Gilbert).

A White-throated Sparrow last seen in Paul Johanson's Rancho Palos Verdes yard on 11 Apr had been present all winter. Exceptional was an **Indigo Bunting** at the Dominguez Gap Wetland in Long Beach on 23 Apr (Karen Gilbert); one at Sand Dune Park on 22 Apr 2006 is our only other

local record before May. Three migrant Yellow-headed Blackbirds at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 19 Apr were the first reported this spring (Barbara Johnson).

The immature male **Scott's Oriole** found by Martin Byhower at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 18 Jan was last reported on 7 Mar. A notable movement of Purple Finches included 16 at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 7 Mar (Martin Byhower) and one in Westchester on 15 Mar (KL).

Following are the earliest dates on which these migrants were reported in 2009: Elegant Tern, 27 Mar (Barbara Johnson); Western Kingbird, 12 Mar Redondo Beach (KL); Blue Grosbeak, 12 Apr Sand Dune Park (Barbara Johnson); Hooded Oriole, 6 Mar Palos Verdes Estates (KL).

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at irdr@ca.rr.com for the Palos Verdes/South Bay and vicinity, including areas east to the L.A. River, north to about the 105 freeway and along the coast up to Marina del Rey.

Members' Help Needed

Your Board of Directors need some help and are hoping we can get what we need from you, our members. We have a box full of requests and needs. I am going to lay out three Committee jobs that need attention on behalf of the Chapter.

First, we have a need for a two-person team to work, set up and man our **Outreach** table at local festivals and fairs. If the Chapter is asked to attend a festival or fair where we could add some useful focus on the environment, then reservations are made and the event date and location are placed on our Outreach Calendar of Events. The needed brochures, books and other bird- and environment-themed material would be on hand. On the day of the event, the team would arrive at the required time to register and set up the booth, including materials. There, you would answer questions or refer visitors to a board or committee member. At the end, you would break down the booth and store materials until the next event. This job could require up 10 hours per month.

Program Coordinator would be the next request out of the box. This person would coordinate and schedule the monthly speaker. How is this done? Where do the

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note that bringing water to L.A. and pumping it over the mountains uses about 20% of the energy expended in our area. Therefore, saving water saves energy, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions—which, in turn, will help our people to survive climate change. Other suggestions for conserving water include (a) planting drought-resistant gardens, (b) taking shorter showers and (c) avoiding hosing down driveways and patios.

Take Energy Efficiency Survey

One important way you can improve your home's energy efficiency and reduce your electric bills is to arrange to take the free Edison Home Energy Effi-

ciency Survey. Call 1-800-278-8585 and request a trained expert to meet with you at your home. I was told that after taking the survey, participants receive six energy-saving, compact fluorescent light bulbs, a water-saving shower head and two faucet aerators.

Come to the Torrance Environmental Fair to find out how to reduce energy consumption, save money, gain personal convenience and moderate the dangers of global warming. You can also find out how to get rebates on energy-saving appliances.

For fair information, check out the EPN web site at www.environmentalprioritiesnetwork.org or contact Lillian Light at 310-545-1384 or llight@verizon.net.

MEET, LEARN, ENJOY, RESTORE

Calendar of Events

Wednesday June 3, 7 p.m.: The PV/South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh welcomes all Audubon members and friends.

Thursday June 11, 7:15-9:15 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 (see Ann Dalkey's article in the August/September issue of *Hummin'*). Volunteers are needed. They will be trained in identification and the methods used in the survey. If you would like to participate in this important project, contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday June 13, 9-11 a.m.: The Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others, the cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. All ages can help, but an adult must accompany volunteers under age 16. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Bring water, a snack, sun/bug repellent and work gloves. For information, call Martin Byhower at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday June 16, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday get-togethers, holiday party and board meeting at Madrona Marsh. The speakers will be Eric and Ann Brooks, who will talk

about birding in Cuba. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Saturday June 20, 7:15-9:15 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the PVPLC, our chapter will be 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. If you would like to participate in this important project, contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Thursday July 9, 7:15-9:15a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the PVPLC, our chapter will be 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. If you would like to participate in this important project, contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday July 11, 9-11a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others, the cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. All ages can help, but an adult must accompany volunteers under age 16. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Bring water, a snack, sun/bug repellent and work gloves. For information, call Martin Byhower

at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Saturday July 18, 7:30-9:30 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the PVPLC, our chapter will be 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. If you would like to participate in this important project, contact Ann Dalkey at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday July 18, 8:30 a.m.: Annual Palos Verdes butterfly count. No previous experience is required. Meet in the parking lot of Rolling Hills Estates City Hall for group assignments. A donation of \$5 is requested.

Tuesday July 21, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Guy Commeau, who will discuss California wildlife. Come to Madrona Marsh and socialize with friends and enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

For a complete list of events at Madrona Marsh, go to www.southbaycalendar.org and click on Friends of Madrona Marsh. For a list of Audubon YES (Youth Environmental Service) program activities, go to www.AudubonYES.org.

Field Trips

Tuesday, June 2, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Sunday, June 7, 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.

Tuesday, June 9, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, June 10, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, June 13, 9 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) Natural History Walk at White Point Nature Preserve. Experience a prime example of successful coastal sage scrub restoration on this former military missile site. For details, go to www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, June 14, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. Harbor Regional Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway.

Tuesday, June 16, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, June 17, 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.

Saturday June 27, 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour at Oceanfront Estates/PVIC. Join us for a tour of the museum and native plant garden, plus a walk along the spectacular blufftop at Oceanfront Estates (easy). For details and directions, call PVIC at 310-377-5370 or go to its web site and click on the map: www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

Sunday, July 5, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. A donation of \$5 per person is requested to help support Audubon and NABA in collecting and publishing the data. The fee will be waived for those who join Audubon on count day! Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation.

Tuesday, July 7, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, July 8, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, July 11, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk at Long Point Shoreline (located below Terranea Resort Hotel). The geology inside and outside a beach cave marks this walk. From Hawthorne Blvd., head east on PV Drive South, turn right on Seawolf, right on Beachview, left on Nantasket Dr. and park. For details, go to www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, July 12, 8 p.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. Harbor Regional Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave.

Wednesday, July 15, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan will lead this walk through the garden. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation.

Tuesday, July 21, 8:30 a.m.: Tour de Torrance. Join Audubon leader Dave Moody and friends on a ramble around the South Bay's best birding areas. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Sunday, July 26, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour at Ocean Trails on Trump National Golf Course. Walk the public trail system and enjoy the vistas and summer blooming habitat (easy). Meet in the lot at the end of La Rotonda Drive. For info, go to www.losserenos.com.

Help Needed, from Page 7

names of speakers come from? The job is not difficult to do. The California Audubon Society maintains a list of speakers who travel to various chapters to give talks. Members sometimes suggest someone. Another technique is to e-mail the program leaders of another local chapter and take their suggestions. This job is done almost entirely on the computer, with e-mails sent to the nominated speaker and to someone on the Board for review. Once the speaker is scheduled, our Calendar Committee must add the announcement to the *Hummin'* calendar. This job should take about 4 hours per month.

Publicity Coordinator is last but not least. This person would make sure that our field trips and other Chapter activities are announced in the local newspapers. The local media is familiar with such requests and have a format they use. This person needs to use the computer and telephone about 6 hours per month. Well, I hope you can help us out, and remember, these jobs can be divided among several people to lessen the burden.

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Newsletter Editor Michelle Fisher

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For back issues and Chapter info, go to <http://www.pvsb-audubon.org>

Palos Verdes Butterfly Count July 18

You don't have to be an expert to take part in the 29th annual Palos Verdes butterfly count! Set for Saturday, July 18, the count surveys the summer butterflies found within a 15-mile diameter circle at the PV reservoir. Meet in the parking lot at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall (at the north corner of Crenshaw Boulevard and PV Drive North) at 8:30 a.m.

Sponsored by the North American Butterfly Association, the PV count has greatly increased our understanding of our own butterfly populations, and their distribution and has introduced many people to the wonders of butterflies. A donation of \$5 per person is requested to help support Audubon and NABA in collecting/publishing the data. The fee will be waived for those who join Audubon on count day! Call 310-832-5601 for details or e-mail jmorton@igc.org to participate.