



HUMMIN'

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCT/NOV 2006 Vol. XXVIII No.5

84 YES and 90 NO

On November 7, California voters will help determine the future of California's wildlife habitats when they vote on Proposition 84 and Proposition 90. Passage of Proposition 84 will provide a hedge against growing pressures of population and development, while Proposition 90 will undermine the ability of state, county and local government agencies to cope with growth pressures.

Proposition 84, known as the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond, aims at ensuring that there is sufficient funding for safe drinking water, protection from floods, opportunities to enjoy parks, natural landscapes and our rivers, lakes beaches, bays and coastline. A broad coalition of interests, including water districts, conservation and environmental groups, local government agencies, and civic organizations, supports the bond. Here is a brief summary of what funds from Proposition 84 will enable:

- Improved reliability and quality of local water supplies;
- New river parkways, restoration of urban streams, and reduction of contaminated stormwater runoff;
- Preservation of ocean waters and bays and support for marine wildlife conservation and for sustainable fishing communities;
- Mapping of high-risk flood areas as well as the inspection and repair of levees and flood control facilities;
- Creation of local and regional parks, especially in park-poor communities;
- Development of nature education opportunities at natural history museums, aquariums, botanical gardens;
- Protection of California's forests and wildlife and of working farms, forests, and ranches; and
- The greening of cities, schools and neighborhoods as well as investments in water-use efficiency and conservation to reduce energy consumption.

By contrast, **Proposition 90** is a full frontal assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind

Continued on page 3

UPCOMING CHAPTER GET-TOGETHERS

The Chapter has organized Third Tuesday Get-Togethers for October 17 and November 21 at 7:00PM at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Besides listening to speakers, you will be able to test your knowledge of birds in a bird quiz, and test your luck with a raffle, with prizes for both contests from Wild Birds Unlimited.

In October, Dr. Constance M. Vadheim will talk about backyard native plants and their attraction to pollinators and birds. Dr. Vadheim is a plant ecologist specializing in the South Bay natives. She is an adjunct Professor of biology at CSU Dominguez Hills, teaching plant physiology, environmental restoration and native plant propagation. She also teaches classes in native plant gardening at the Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve.

In November, Kimball L. Garrett will talk about birding on \$4.00 a gallon. Mr. Garrett is the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Given that consuming large quantities of fossil fuel to "chase" birds around the state is rarely supportable on environmental grounds much less economic ones, he will talk to us about the joys and scientific benefits of "patch birding", from the County level down to the local park or neighborhood. We will explore how birding on a local scale can generate important information on seasonal occurrence, population trends and distributional changes and how record-keeping schemes can be used to maximize what we learn from our observations.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

**By Frances Spivy-Weber, Chapter Co-President,
with Martin Byhower**

As we do every year, the PV/South Bay Board and friends met this August at Madrona Marsh Preserve to plan our program for 2006/2007. I hope you agree that the outcome is exciting and deserves your support and participation. If you want to help with any of these projects and activities, please contact Fran at 310-316-0041 or

Frances.Weber@gmail.com.

Here are some of the high points:

1. Invigorating **Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service) and the Audubon YES! Council** is our highest priority. We are planning a meeting in October or November at Madrona Marsh for teachers, organizations with possible YES!



Projects, and Audubon YES! students. At the meeting all participants can be able to identify opportunities and people throughout the South Bay to work with these programs. The more the merrier. Let me know if you would like to attend!

2. **Audubon Website** for the overall Audubon program and Audubon YES! We have a website, but it could be much, much better. If you have talent and/or interest in improving our website, please contact Jess (jmorton@igc.org).

3. John Nieto has done a wonderful job of organizing the **Third Tuesday Get-Togethers** 7:00 p.m. each month at Madrona Marsh. This was our highest priority last year, and it has truly been a success. Check the calendar page for upcoming programs, and let us see you there soon.

4. **Audubon At Home:** This National and California Audubon program is chapter-based and encourages chapters to help members develop bird and butterfly-friendly habitats at home and in their community. During 2006/2007, this program will be a high priority planning effort, and it will be launched in earnest in 2007/08. Some elements, such as building and installing bird or bat houses, may be started earlier by Audubon YES!. Connie Vadheim is developing plant palates for the

South Bay. Get in on the ground floor in putting this program together. It will be fun!

5. And we have a new **Publicity and Outreach** chair: Candy Groat. Thank you, Candy. She will be getting notices out to the media about Audubon events for starters, and she is filled with enthusiasm and creativity for more, but she needs help. If you want to be on her committee, please let me know.

6. **Hummin'** is always a priority, and the Editor, Michael Weber is always looking for writers. Let him know if you have computer, and will write! MLeoWeber@aol.com or 310-316-0599.

7. **National, State and Local Policy issues and priorities:** Lillian Light, our Conservation Chair, and the Environmental Priorities Network (EPN) made the Cool Cities Campaign a high priority. In this campaign, cities agree to take steps to reduce their carbon, energy footprint and conform to the Kyoto Protocol. Contact Lillian if you want to know how you can help: lklight@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

8. Finally, we decided to discuss **criteria for adopting a policy issue as a chapter priority**. There are many issues that cry out for our time, such as the Salton Sea, LA River Shorebird Preserve, Harbor Park, Energy and Climate Change (with EPN), and the Dominguez Watershed. Can we do it all? What does our support mean? Join us at the October 4 Board meeting (See calendar). The discussion should be lively, and you are welcome to arrive with ideas for criteria and ideas for policy issues.

So, this is the PV/South Bay Audubon program plan for 2006/07, and you are welcome to be a large or small part of it. I hope you take me up on this offer.

MACHADO LAKE FUNDING DELAYED

At the end of August, the Los Angeles City Council approved the first release of funds from Proposition O, which was approved by LA voters in 2004. Unfortunately, the council did not consider the \$61-million request prepared for clean-up and restoration at Machado Lake in Ken Malloy Harbor Reginal Park. Securing this funding has been a Chapter priority.

The council did vote to develop a full proposal for Machado Lake for consideration in 2007, together with 14 other projects vying for the funding.

84 Yes and 90 No, continued from Page 1

language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop 90 includes several very dangerous provisions that would drastically cut back on the State's, local governments', and even voters' ability to protect the environment, local communities, farmland, and other important resources. The most damaging provisions would make it nearly impossible to implement many resource protection laws or to acquire private property to protect wildlife habitat or other important resources.

Under Prop 90, most government actions to protect the environment would require huge payments to landowners unless those actions are to protect narrowly-defined public health or safety. Prop 90 would redefine "damages" to allow virtually anyone to sue claiming a law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business – no matter how far-fetched the claim. It would also make pollution a private property right so that the government would have to pay to regulate or reduce pollution. Prop. 90 would not only impact environmental protection, but also consumer protection, historic preservation, hunting regulation, and many other laws that protect our quality of life, communities and environment.

Conservation organizations, labor, public safety organizations, local governments and many others are opposing Prop 90.

For more information on these propositions, consult Audubon's website, www.ca.audubon.org.

Forms

He walks down the road with his dog.
Around him, wisps of fog lift from town;
gray, the winter breath of mountains.

The workmen were all here last week.
Twenty-two yards of concrete poured;
trucks through the day, coming, going.

For years his yard had seen the forms grow.
Staked planks snaked over the bare rock;
shapes to hold walls, walkways, benches.

Yesterday, he stood right over there,
watering the concrete. "Seasoning,"
he said; how he had always imagined it.

This morning, his usual forest green coat
is scarcely visible. Dark hair, head bare,
he walks down the road with his dog.

--Jess Morton

Birds and Birdwatching Class

Eric and Ann Brooks are once again offering their classes on birds and birdwatching. Five classroom lectures are held at 7:00PM every other Wednesday at the South Coast Botanic Garden. The series of lectures costs \$22.50 for members of the garden's foundation and \$25.00 for non-members. Field trips are separate from the lecture series, and are not sponsored by the garden's foundation. Suggested field trip donations are \$5.00 for standard half-day trips, and \$4.00 per person if you carpool. Weekend trips are \$10.00 for full days (\$8.00 if you carpool), and \$5.00 for half days (\$4.00 if you carpool).

For more information, contact Eric or Ann at 323-295-6688 or motmots@aol.com.



Brown Pelican on Nest
(John Turner, USFWS)

BIRDS OF THE PENINSULA

July and August 2006

by Kevin Larson

The relatively static avifauna of June is spelled by the return of many adult shorebirds from their arctic and sub-arctic breeding grounds in July, and the Los Angeles River is where many birders go to witness this spectacle of migration. Increased coverage of the river in recent years, thanks in large part to Richard Barth, has produced eye-opening results. With a good portion of shorebird migration yet to come, we had already amassed enough remarkable sightings by the end of August to declare this a banner year. A surprising number of rare adult shorebirds was found this year. Semipalmated, Baird's, and Pectoral sandpipers are sought after species found annually in small numbers as juveniles each fall. That adults of all three of these species were found at the Los Angeles River is unprecedented in a single season. Three adult Pacific Golden-Plovers at the river exceeded the number of golden-plovers found there in the last ten years combined. An adult Stilt Sandpiper in July was another rarely-found adult shorebird. What may have been two juvenile Ruffs headed the list of shorebird rarities. Other outstanding finds in the area included a Magnificent Frigatebird, a Reddish Egret, and two Craveri's Murrelets. Our first ever nesting of Dark-eyed Juncos was the highlight of several interesting breeding records this year. A few land bird migrants were arriving before the end of July; numbers increased slightly with a few minor waves after mid-August.

Unrelenting heat and humidity during July was fueled by a strong and persistent area of high pressure over the southwestern states. Our cooling onshore flow was replaced by a hot and sticky monsoonal flow from the interior. High temperature records were set or tied on five dates at LAX during July, and thunderstorms and rain loomed over the Palos Verdes Peninsula 22-23 July. Mercifully, cooler temperatures and lower humidity returned with the onshore flow at the end of July. Welcome near-normal temperatures and frequent coastal marine layer persisted through the end of August.

A male Blue-winged Teal was at the Los Angeles River (LAR) near Willow St. on 1 Jul (Kevin Larson-

KL). Two summering female Northern Pintails at Del Rey Lagoon were last noted on 31 Jul (Richard Barth-RB). Five Surf Scoters in the harbor near Cabrillo Beach (CB) 2 Jul-8 Aug were summering (KL). Two Pacific Loons were at CB during July (KL). A Northern Fulmar was sighted a few miles south of Queen's Gate on 2 Jul (Bernardo Alps-BA), and singles were seen from Pt. Vicente (PtV) on 2 Jul and 25 Aug (KL). Five Black-vented Shearwaters seen from PtV on 2 Jul were the first recorded locally since 2 Apr (KL); approximately 10,000 were visible from PtV on 13 Aug (Brian E. Daniels-BED, Mike San Miguel-MSM, KL). A **Magnificent Frigatebird** at Pt. Fermin was observed by the staff of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on 8 Aug; what was likely the same bird was seen by Pam Ryono and Libby Holmes at PtV on 9 Aug.

A few pairs of Least Bitterns nested successfully at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh (BFM) again this year; juveniles were seen on 18 Jul and 7 Aug (KL), and a very young downy juvenile was photographed by Don Sterba (DS) on 9 Aug. Barbara Courtois was very fortunate to witness an adult **Reddish Egret** land on the beach in Playa del Rey to rest before flying off to the north on 4 Aug. Six Cattle Egrets flying south along LAR on 27 Aug (KL), followed by one there on 30 Aug (RB) were the only reports. White-faced Ibises made a good showing at LAR from 16 Jul through the end of August (RB et al); thirty-four in the vicinity of Willow St. on 25 Jul was a high count (Jeff Boyd-JB). Eight White-faced Ibises flew north past PtV on 13 Aug (KL); one at Del Rey Lagoon on 16 Jul was surprisingly the only report from the Ballona area (Roy van de



Surf Scoter
(Jess Morton)

Hoek). A migrant Northern Harrier in Carson on 22 Aug is the only local report so far this year (Tracy Drake). A juvenile Virginia Rail on the LAR bike path in Paramount with joggers and bicyclists was a surreal sight for RB on 16 Aug.

Three Pacific Golden-Plovers at LAR in Long Beach were extraordinary. A stunning male in breeding plumage 8-13 Jul (KL) was followed by distinguishable molting adults 27 Aug-6 Sep and on 31 Aug (RB). Breeding shorebirds recorded on an 8-9 Jul survey along LAR from the vicinity of Willow St. north to the 105 freeway included 224 pairs of Black-necked Stilts, nine pairs of American Avocets, and at least two pairs of Killdeer (KL, Carol Selvey-CS). David Moody (DM) found a Solitary Sandpiper at Madrona Marsh (MM) on 26 Aug; another in the Ballona area 26 Aug-1 Sep was seen at BFM and along Ballona Creek near Centinela Ave. (KL, DS). Found less than annually at LAR, a juvenile Red Knot was along the river in Long Beach on 30 Aug (RB). Two **adult** Semipalmated Sandpipers at LAR, one 23-25 Jul and another 5-6 Aug, were big news since adults are very rare here (KL). Possibly the only other record of an adult at LAR was on 21 Jul 1996 (MSM). A Semipalmated Sandpiper at LAR 2-5 Aug (Andrew Lee) was the first juvenile, followed by a minimum of ten more recorded through 25 Aug (RB, KL, CS, Sandy Koonce). An **adult** Baird's Sandpiper at LAR in Long Beach 16-18 Jul was an exceptional record (KL); four juveniles were recorded at LAR 11-30 Aug (RB). A Pectoral Sandpiper at LAR in Long Beach 18-20 Aug was a rarely-found **adult** (RB); the first juvenile was recorded at LAR in Paramount on 26-29 Aug (RB). Outstanding shorebird finds at LAR in Long Beach included an **adult Stilt Sandpiper** 25-26 Jul and a record-early juvenile **Ruff 23-24 Aug** (RB). A juvenile Ruff on the river 31 Aug-6 Sep (William Heckmann et al) may have been the same bird since it appeared similar. However, good coverage of the river between these sightings seemed to confirm that the 23-24 Aug Ruff had departed.

After a complete failure in 2005, Least Terns had excellent breeding success this year at Venice Beach; a few birds were still on nest as late as 12 Aug. Rare inland sightings of Black Skimmers included one flying south along LAR at Compton Blvd. on 22 Jul (RB), and one at LAR at Willow St. on 29 Jul (Kimball L. Garrett-KLG). Recorded only a few times at Harbor Park (HP), three Black Skimmers were feeding over the lake on 29 Jul, followed by one there on 5 Aug (KL). A Common Murre flew past PtV on 13 Aug (BED). Two



Least Tern
(Jess Morton)

Pigeon Guillemots at PtV on 9 Jul (KL), and one at White's Point on 22 Jul (DM) were adults in breeding plumage. A Xantus's Murrelet (*S. h. scrippsi*) spent the day on Ballona Creek near the Pacific Ave. bridge on 10 Aug (KL, CS). Two **Craveri's Murrelets** were seen from PtV for a few hours by fortunate observers on 13 Aug (BED). A dead Cassin's Auklet was found on Venice Beach on 26 Jul (David Bell), and a few flew past PtV on 13 Aug (MSM).

Unrecorded locally since 2003, a Band-tailed Pigeon was photographed by Stephanie Byran in San Pedro on 10 Aug. A White-winged Dove over Carson on 30 Jul was an early record of this fall vagrant (KL); two were at White's Point Nature Preserve (WPNP) in San Pedro on 19 Aug (Edmond Griffin), and one was at PtV on 25 Aug (MSM). Two migrant Costa's Hummingbirds at DeForest Park (DP) on 23 Jul were the only ones reported (KL). A Nuttall's Woodpecker was at Alondra Park (AP) on 6 Aug (KL). Remarkably, the first fall migrant Western Wood-Pewees were recorded on 20 Aug in the past three consecutive years; this year's first was a day early on 19 Aug at HP (KL). Adult Say's Phoebes tending fledglings in the southeast portion of the Playa Vista area on 17 Jul constituted the first known breeding record for the Ballona Valley (Jonathan Coffin). A Loggerhead Shrike at BFM on 4 Aug was the first seen locally since 29 Mar (RB). Now appearing only in migration or winter, this species is evidently extirpated as a breeding resident. The last breeding records came from LAR in Long Beach in 2004 and at White's Point in San Pedro in 2003. A migrant or dis-

Continued on page 8

CONSERVATION CORNER

By Lillian Light

Hooray for California, the first state in the nation to pass legislation that puts caps on carbon dioxide and other climate-changing emissions! The bill, which was passed by our legislature in early September, was sponsored by Fran Pavley and Fabian Nunez. The legislation calls for a 25%-reduction in the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted from California electric power



plants, refineries, and other sources by the year 2020. In 2002, Assemblywoman Pavley was the author of a law limiting carbon emissions from motor vehicles, a law that was later enacted by several other states, but is now being challenged by the auto industry. She also helped to pass the Million Solar Roofs bill that will sharply reduce the cost of solar electricity in our state.

Unfortunately, this crusading environmentalist has been forced out of the assembly because of term limits, but her legacy will benefit all of us.

With the Bush administration refusing to take any action on the greatest environmental threat of our time, states and cities are taking the lead in reducing catastrophic climate change. They claim that global warming controls won't just be great for the environment, but will also cause a revolution in energy technology that will create tens of thousands of jobs. Innovative energy solutions cut our dependence on oil, benefit public health, and save taxpayer dollars.

On February 16, 2005 – the same day that the Kyoto Protocol international global warming treaty took effect in 141 nations – Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels initiated the “U S Mayors Climate Protection Agreement,” which is gathering support around the country and has earned the backing of the U. S. Conference of Mayors. As of August 16, 2006, 284 mayors representing over 48.8 million Americans have signed on, pledging to reduce global warming pollution citywide to 7 % below 1990 levels by 2012. (For more information on the mayors’

climate protection agreement, go to seattle.gov/mayor/climate)

How will these cities accomplish these ambitious goals in the next 6 years? The first step involves city residents urging their mayor, with the backing of their city council, to sign the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. While each city’s energy solutions plan will be unique, most cities choose to invest in renewable energy, add hybrid cars or biodiesel vehicles to their fleets, and adopt energy-efficient technologies to light streets and power buildings.

Local organizations, like the Environmental Priorities Network, Citizens for Global Solutions, and the Sierra Club, which has dubbed participating cities “Cool Cities”, are trying to galvanize cities in Palos Verdes and the South Bay to develop plans for joining this green movement. The Environmental Priorities Network is awarding a plaque to the first city in our area that will sign on to the climate protection agreement. Environmental activists in the cities of Rolling Hills Estates, Rancho Palos Verdes, Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Hermosa Beach are organizing committees to develop strategies that will help their cities become “cool cities”. Fifty- four cities in California have taken this pledge, and we are trying hard to increase that number.

To take part in this action or to be notified of the date this proposal comes before your city council, please contact Lillian Light at 310 – 545 1384 or at lklight@verizon.net. Let me urge each of you to join this movement to reduce the catastrophic consequences of global climate change. Remember the injunction of Dr Martin Luther King, Jr.: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.

Christmas Bird Count on Catalina Island

On December 17, the Catalina Island Conservancy is offering volunteers a unique opportunity to experience the wonder of Catalina Island’s wild interior through the annual Christmas Bird Count. Teams will head out before sunrise to witness the rare, the unique, and the beautiful of the Island’s communities in areas that visitors never see. Call or email now to receive your registration form and more detailed information. 310-510-2595 ext. 110 or email: lhuman@catalinaconservancy.org.

YOUR BACKYARD HABITAT

Ashy-Leaf Buckweat (*Eriogonum cinereum*)

by Dr. Connie Vadheim

Early fall is the dormant season for many South Bay native plants. But a few hardy species thrive – and even bloom – during this dry time of the year. Many such plants are in the Sunflower family (*Asteraceae*). A good example of our fall-blooming ‘Sunflowers’ is Coyote Bush, a great habitat plant for local gardens. It attracts a wide range of insects (and the birds that feed on them) and provides cover and nesting sites for birds and smaller animals.



Coyote Bush is an important shrub of the coastline from southern Oregon to northern Baja CA and Mexico (also on the Channel Islands). It can be found in Coastal Sage Scrub, Chaparral and Oak Woodlands, but it really thrives along the coast - on coastal bluffs, in

coastal shrublands and even on sand dunes to the north.

Perhaps because it grows in fairly diverse conditions, Coyote Bush is quite variable in its growth habit. In the South Bay, it naturally grows as a small (< 5 ft) bush near the coast and as a larger shrub (to 8 ft) further inland. On the northern CA coast, low-growing (prostrate) variants form a natural groundcover. The natural variability is a



boon to the home gardener, who may desire the more shrub-like forms (buy the species; sometimes called ssp. *consanguinea*) or a low-growing ground-cover (the best are the cultivars ‘Pigeon Point’, which is lighter green, and ‘Twin Peaks/Twin Peaks 2’ which is darker and more mounded).

Coyote Bush is dioecious, so there are male plants (with yellow flowers) and female plants (with fluffy white flowers). Plants bloom prolifically in late summer/ fall, providing a dramatic – and unexpected – garden accent.

As you might expect, Coyote Bush is very hardy. It grows well in any local soil, including clays. It can even tolerate alkali/salty soils and seaside conditions. It is extremely drought tolerant, but will remain green with a little summer water. It does need full sun – or nearly so – and does well without fertilizers.

Coyote Bush can be grown as a large shrub, as a groundcover (particularly the above- mentioned cultivars) or along walls and fences. It can even be trimmed as a hedge and it is good for slopes. Plant it where you can enjoy the wildlife. It can be trimmed back radically to maintain its shape. Although sometimes sold as a fire-resistant plant, it will burn. Other than pruning, it requires little care. Widely available.

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 second Saturday of each month at the Center.

Dr. Vadheim will also share her knowledge of local plants at the Chapter’s Third Tuesday Get-Together on October 17 at 7:00PM at the Marsh.



Birds of the Peninsula, continued from 5

persing Hutton's Vireo was at Wilderness Park (WP) on 29 Aug (DM).

A **Mountain Chickadee** was at WP on 29 Aug (DM); this species has been a very scarce visitor to our area over the years. One or two Red-breasted Nuthatches near Chadwick School on 10 Jul confirm the continuing presence of a small resident population on the hill (Martin Byhower-MB). MB photographed a Rock Wren feeding nestlings along the coast near Trump National Golf Course in RPV; a solid breeding record has been lacking in recent years. Great work Martin! Exceedingly rare away from coastal sage scrub, a California Gnatcatcher moved through HP on 3 Jul; this individual was most likely a juvenile dispersing from breeding areas on the peninsula (KL). Our resident pair of Western Bluebirds at Ridgecrest Intermediate School in RPV had fledged two young from their second nesting of the year by 31 Jul (Sam Bloom). Up to two Phainopeplas were encountered down the dirt road from the end of Crenshaw Blvd. in RPV 7-26 Jul (Sally

Moite), and up to two were in upper George F Canyon 4-15 Jul (KL).

A young male American Redstart at AP on **6 Aug** was astonishingly early (DM); its outer tail feathers were not fully grown and it still had the pink in the bill shown by juveniles. A singing Yellow-breasted Chat was at the north end of HP 3-9 Jul (KL). Three Lark Sparrows at MM on 15 Aug (Ron Melin-RM), and one at WPNP on 16 Aug (DM) were the first found this fall. A Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco carrying food to a nest near the top of the hill in RPV on 20 Jul constitutes our **first breeding record** (KL); a male seen about one-half mile away at Ridgecrest Intermediate School on 30 Jul (Sam Bloom) may indicate more than one pair is nesting in the area. A Dark-eyed Junco at Columbia Park in Torrance on 21 Aug was another very unusual summer record (RM). Blue Grosbeaks bred at Long Point in RPV; a pair was feeding fledglings on 9 Jul (KL). A Lazuli Bunting, another scarce nester in our area, was feeding young in Rolling Hills on 4 Jul (KL). An adult male Indigo Bunting at DP on **27 Jul** was an early vagrant (JB).

Following are the earliest dates on which these fall migrants were noted in 2006: Sora—3 Aug LAR Willow St. (RB); Snowy Plover—8 Aug CB (BA); adult Semipalmated Plover—13 Jul LAR (RB); juvenile Semipalmated Plover—30 Jul LAR Long Beach (KL); adult Spotted Sandpiper—18 Jul BFM (KL); juvenile Spotted Sandpiper—**29 Jul** LAR Paramount (RB); adult Wandering Tattler—24 Jul Ballona Creek (RB); juvenile Marbled Godwit—29 Jul LAR Long Beach (KLG); adult Sanderling—25 Jul Ballona Creek (KL); juvenile Least Sandpiper—29 Jul LAR Long Beach (KL); juvenile Wilson's Phalarope—20 Jul LAR Willow St. (RB); juvenile Western Gull—28 Jul CB (BA); Western Wood-Pewee—19 Aug HP (KL); Hermit Warbler—**30 Jul** DP (KL); MacGillivray's Warbler—18 Aug Sand Dune Park (KL); Western Tanager—27 Jul DP (Karen S. Gilbert); Savannah Sparrow (northern/interior race)—16 Jul LAR Long Beach (KL).

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at cbirdr@comcast.net 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.

Acronyms in Birds of the Peninsula

AP: Alondra Park
 BA: Bernardo Alps
 BED: Brian E. Daniels
 BFM: Ballona Freshwater Marsh
 CB: Cabrillo Beach
 CS: Carol Selvey
 DM: David Moody
 DP: DeForest Park
 DS: Don Sterba
 HP: Harbor Park
 JB: Jeff Boyd
 KL: Kevin Larson
 KLG: Kimball L. Garrett
 LAR: Los Angeles River
 MB: Martin Byhower
 MM: Madrona Marsh
 MSM: Mike San Miguel
 PtV: Pt. Vicente
 RB: Richard Barth
 RM: Ron Melin
 RPV: Rancho Palos Verdes
 WP: Wilderness Park
 WPNP: White's Point Nature Preserve

Six New Audubon YES! Awardees Recognized

Six Audubon YES! Awards were presented recently at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. The Chapter honored students Brian Cadigan, Chelsea Frazier, Tiffany Hoang, Michelle Nguyen, Ngoc Nguyen and Becky Niemiec, representing Chadwick, Mira Costa and North Torrance High Schools. While three of the awardees will be off to college this fall, Cadigan and Frazier will be continuing with Audubon YES! in this, their Senior year. The sixth awardee, Chadwick Sophomore Becky Niemiec, will grace us with her presence for three more years.

Jess Morton as well as bTracy Drake and her Madrona Marsh staff hosted the event. Several other young people were in attendance to cheer on the winners, including another Chadwick student who is only a few hours short of her own Audubon YES! Award.

Our two enthusiastic YES! Council leaders, Lynn Hiel and Swati Yanamadala, welcomed the other students. Also on hand was a third past winner of the Audubon YES! Award, Leann Ortmann, who traveled up from San Diego to say hello and add her congratulations.



Brian Cadigan receives YES! award from Jess Morton.



Tiffany Hoang receives YES! award from Jess Morton.



YES! Award Winners Past and Present: Front row, left to right, 2006 winners Tiffany Hoang, Michelle Nguyen, and Becky Niemiec. Back row: Leann Ortmann (1997), Lynn Hiel (2004), and Swati Yanamadala (2004).



Jess Morton and YES! Award Winner Michelle Nguyen.

Hooked on Galapagos Birds A DVD by Tom Kaminski

Reviewed by Jess Morton

Tom Kaminski has done it again. While “Hooked on Galapagos Birds” may not have as wide an appeal as his 2004 hummingbird video, it shares the same production qualities that has made “Hooked on Hummingbirds” a classic. Tom’s writing skills, humor, and attention to detail are everywhere evident.

“Hooked on Galapagos Birds” is at once a travelogue and overview of the wildlife of each of the islands that make up this isolated archipelago. For me, the most impressive shots were of Galapagos penguins darting under water. But birds are not the only features of this video. Many of the other endemic creatures have their turn before Tom’s lens, and they are all fascinating.

With Christmas coming, you may want to consider “Hooked on Galapagos Birds” for your gift lists. Especially if you, or someone you know, is headed for the Galapagos Islands. Here’s a great introduction. Available at Wild Birds Unlimited or from <<http://www.avianvideocenter.com>>.



Rufous Hummingbird
(Dean E. Biggins, USFWS)

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

Where will you be Nov. 16-19? How about learning the story of “Birds on the Wind”—the “where, why, and when” of bird migration with Kevin Karlson—or taking his workshop on “Birding Made Simpler”? Marvel at the “Falcons of North America” by noted photographer John Hendrickson and consider the environmental implications of “\$4.00 a Gallon Birding” discussed by Kimball Garrett. Interested in raptors? Simone Whitecloud will help you out with “Raptors Demystified”. How about attending a program by Joe Morlan about the “Birds and Wildlife of Eastern Australia” if you want to wander farther afield. If not, Ed Harper’s program on “Sharing the Experience” of Central Valley Birding will be a delight.

Have you guessed yet? Come to the Tenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, CA Nov. 16-19 and experience all these things as well as field trips, the “Birder’s Market”, and more. Brochures will be on the way soon, and advance information will be available ASAP at our website, <http://cvbs.org>.

Hummin’ is published six times per year by the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society. Authors’ opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Society. Send articles and suggestions to MLeoWeber@aol.com.

Editor.....Michael Weber, 310-316-0599

Hummin’ subscriptions for non-PV/SB Audubon members are \$7.50 per year.

For back issues and chapter info, go to www.LMconsult.com/pvaudubon

GIFT & NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

NAME _____

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MEMBERSHIP (*chapter only* or *national--circle one*).....\$25

(your contribution supports local programs)

and/or

GIFT\$20 ___\$50 ___\$100 ___ Other ___

TOTAL ENCLOSED..... _____

Please send me information on how to make a bequest to PV/SB Audubon.

MAKE CHECK TO: AUDUBON SOCIETY
MAIL TO: P.O. BOX 2582, PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

7XCH/C43

Meet Learn Enjoy Restore

(See Calendar Locations and Information Box for directions.)

Sunday, Oct. 1, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**, 26300 Crenshaw Bl., Palos Verdes. Leader: Stephanie Bryan. Charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation; you can join at the entrance.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 7:00PM: **PV/South Bay Audubon Board Meeting** at Madrona Marsh. All are welcome to attend! If you think you might be interested in joining the Board, this is a good chance to see what we do. It is fun.

Wednesday, Oct. 11, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh** with Bob Shanman.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00AM-1:00PM: **Million Trees L.A. Planting** at the Machado Youth Camp in Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, led by TreePeople and the LA Department of Recreation and Parks. To sign up call 818-623-4879 or volunteer@treepeople.org.

Saturday, Oct. 14, 2:00-4:00PM: **PV Peninsula Conservancy Nature Walk at Cabrillo Beach Shoreline**. Park in the Cabrillo Beach public lot at 3800 Stephen M. White Dr. in San Pedro.

Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7:00PM: **AUDUBON THIRD TUESDAY GET-TOGETHERS** featuring Dr. Connie

Vadheim, who will describe the use of native plants that can attract birds and butterflies to your yard. Come and socialize with friends, enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited. At Madrona Marsh Preserve.

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Sunday, Oct. 22, 8:00-10:00AM: **"Best of the South Bay" Fall Migrant and Vagrant Chase!** Leader: Martin Byhower. The "chase" starts at Banning Park. Meet in the MacDonald's lot on the south side of PCH between Avalon and Eubank in Wilmington. Park at the end of the lot closest to the Park. See Martin Byhower in box below.

Sunday, Nov. 5, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh**. Leader: Bob Shanman.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 9-10:30AM: **PV Peninsula Conservancy Nature Walk at**

Lunada Canyon. From Hawthorne Blvd. turn west on Verde Ridge Rd., just north of Hesse Park. Turn right on El Rodeo and then left on King Harbor Rd. Park along King Harbor Rd. and meet near Posey Way.

Sunday, Nov. 19, 8-11AM: **"Best of the South Bay" Alondra Park and other winter "hot spots."** Leader: Martin Byhower. Directions: From the 405 in Torrance, take Crenshaw Blvd. exit North 1 mile, turn left on Redondo Beach Blvd., and after about .3 miles turn right into the parking lot. See Martin Byhower, box below.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, 7:00PM: **AUDUBON THIRD TUESDAY GET-TOGETHERS** featuring Kimball Garrett of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles will talk about birding locally. Come and socialize with friends, enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited. At Madrona Marsh Preserve.

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 7:00PM: **PV/South Bay Audubon Holiday Party** at Madrona Marsh. All are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 9, 8-11:00AM: **Gardena Willows Wetlands Preserve**, Leader Martin Byhower. Meet in the lot at South Park, 1200 W. 170th St. in Gardena. The entrance to the Park is between Normandie and Vermont, one block N. or Artesia. See information box for more.

CALENDAR

MEETING LOCATIONS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park: Harbor City, parking lot near the intersection of Anaheim St. and Vermont, west of the 110 Fwy.

Madrona Marsh Preserve: 3201 Plaza del Amo, Torrance. Between Maple and Madrona Avenues.

South Coast Botanic Garden: 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes.

Eric and Ann Brooks organize birding classes in the South Bay and field trips throughout the region and statewide. Contact them directly for details: motmots@aol.com.

Martin Byhower also provides guided field trips. For updates and details on all trips, go to www.birdingsocal.com and click on "updated calendar of events."

Palos Verdes Land Conservancy sponsors walks and other activities on the peninsula. For information, consult their website at <http://www.pvplc.org/>, or contact them by email at info@pvplc.org or by telephone at 310-541-7613.

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY
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The Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society, of which PV/SB Audubon is the local chapter, are dedicated to the understanding and preservation of our natural heritage.

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HELP NEEDED!

Audubon YES!: Contacts with South Bay schools and teen youth groups are wanted. If you are a teacher looking for extra-credit opportunities for your students, or if you are an adult advisor to a teen group looking for volunteer activities, become an active part of Audubon YES!, our Youth Environmental Service program. Audubon wants to work with you and your kids! For more information, call Jess Morton at 310 832-5601 or visit us online at www.Audubon YES.org

The Chapter also would welcome **two volunteers** to assist the outreach chair for the Chapter. If this opportunity seems attractive to you, please contact Frances at Frances.Weber@gmail.com.

Pick up postage-paid envelopes at Wild Birds Unlimited at PCH and Crenshaw to **recycle your HP or Lexmark Inkjet cartridges**. For each cartridge sent in these envelopes, \$2.50 is donated to our Chapter or to South Bay Wildlife Rehab. This is a great way to reduce waste and to support your favorite organizations.