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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

February/March 2008 Vol. XXIX No. 7

NAS Board — A Year in Review

By Jess Morton

With the completion of my first year as Western Regional representative to the National Audubon Board, it is time to report what has gone on and what the prospects are for 2008. My activities in 2007 were divided between becoming familiar with other board members and with NAS programs, finding where I could best make a contribution to the board and Audubon, and visiting chapters, councils and state meetings as time allowed. In this coming year, I plan to visit many more chapters, presenting programs whenever possible, and embark on a long-range plan to raise the effectiveness of the chapter network in its fundamental role as the heart of Audubon's grassroots.

During 2007, National Audubon finally began implementing its program to use global warming as a unifying theme of action. A workshop in May was well attended by Audubon staff, myself and other board members and chapter activists. An Audubon/National Wildlife Federation global warming PowerPoint presentation was introduced there — I presented it to our chapter last September.

Three important bird-related ini-

tiatives were also brought forth. Common Birds in Decline, a report on the status of U.S. bird populations based on 40 years of CBC and Breeding Bird Survey data, and the Audubon Watch List, identifying species most at risk, were both introduced during the year with good media attention paid to them. Articles in *Audubon* magazine and full reporting on the Web give the reports a continuing presence. I hope you have had a chance to look at them.

The third initiative, though introduced with little fanfare, is the International Alliances Program (IAP), which offers chapters many partnering opportunities throughout the Americas. Audubon is the U.S. partner in Bird Life International's worldwide network for bird conservation. By partnering with other member organizations, Audubon can draw on its grassroots strength to make a significant contribution to preserving important bird habitat not only at home, but throughout the ranges of many of "our" migratory species. Right now, our chapter is working with IAP Director Craig Lee and our Southern California chapters on a first partnership with residents of San Quintin, Baja California, aimed at preserving the criti-

cally important wetlands there.

On the political front, Audubon has an excellent policy team, but limited funds. Training camps for grassroots lobbying continue to produce chapter activists, though on a much smaller scale than we really need. These training camps are a great introduction to effective advocacy, and our own Leann Ortmann had a great time at one of these camps a couple of years ago. These camps are open to all, so let me know if you would like to be considered for the 2008 session.

To some extent, the lack of NAS policy funding has not been too disadvantageous during the last few years because of the anti-environmental bent of Congress, at least until very recently. Even then, the weakness of the recent energy bill points up how far we have yet to go.

Without question, 2008 is the crucial year if we are ever to make the political changes necessary to solve our most critically important environmental problems. Audubon chapters will have to make a concerted effort to work with Washington staff if Audubon is to deliver a powerful environmental message.

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President's Column

What do you know about science?

By Martin Byhower

Part II of II



Just for the heck of it, I thought I would try out some of the questions I ask my students at the beginning of the year on you. Just answer true or false.

___10. Global warming is the biggest threat to the economy and national security of our country.

___11. When the ice caps melt, Palos Verdes will be underwater.

___12. The first really serious effect that global warming will have on us (in Southern California) is the intense heat that we will experience.

___13. You give off more water than you take in.

___14. It is possible to see into the past and go into the future.

___15. It is possible to go into the past and see into the future.

___16. Fires are beneficial to ecosystems.

___17. Areas that have burned in recent years will eventually become forests again.

Bonus: What is the name of the plant community native to the area where Chadwick exists?

10. True. Think about millions of refugees, mass migrations for food and water, breakdown of social systems due to energy, medicine and supply shortages ... Note: It is hard to tell seventh-graders this stuff in a positive light, but I encourage them to get angry, inspired and active ... it's their world, and whatever *is* saved will be their doing! Being informed, smart, prepared and active is their best shot.

11. False. Some projections show only a 40- to 200-foot rise, but, if *all* the ice melts, which I am starting to think is a distinct possibility with runaway tipping points looming, those above about 600 feet elevation will have shoreline property (how high is Palos Verdes?)

12. False. We are already starting to see the water shortages, which will be crippling if we don't prepare. We are in a permanent drought, the Sierra snow cap we depend upon is melting earlier and not as extensive as in the past, and we sorely lack storage capacity in Southern

California. Some think that if we *really* conserve, allow water to permeate into the ground rather than divert to the ocean, reclaim wastewater, plant native xeriphytes and limit growth, we might be able to live on what will be available.

13. Yup! It's called respiration. We turn every sugar molecule we respire into six molecules of water and six of carbon dioxide. Theoretically, we could live in hermetically sealed suits and trap the water, like in the book "Dune," but it doesn't sound like much fun.

14. Look at the sun and planets and you are looking back minutes to hours in time. Visible stars are between four and a few thousand years, and if you look at the Andromeda Galaxy (a fuzzy blur in the constellation Andromeda), you are looking back 2 million years! If they are looking at us right now with a super duper telescope, maybe they are seeing Australopithecus throwing rocks at obelisks or something.

And atomic clocks calibrated to match, one on Earth and one sent at high speed into orbit, confirm that Einstein was right about "going into the future." At a more improbable but theoretically possible level, if an astronaut went into space and circled the Earth at even a sizable fraction of light speed for a while, he might come back and have aged a year, while greeting his grown grandchildren, who are chronologically older than him.

15. Nope. All kinds of paradoxes would entail. And anyway, logically, if *anyone* has *ever* gone into the past, wouldn't we, here in the past, know about it? And as far as the future, well, it hasn't happened yet.

(In this awful burning season, I just added the following two.)

16. True, at least for some ecosystems. Smoky was wrong, and the forest service did irreparable damage with a century of fire suppression.

17. False. Sadly, due to the above and to global warming's consequences, the areas that are burning aren't supposed to, and rain washes away the tenuous soil that would be necessary for an area to recover. It isn't just desertification in the rainforests. In the western United States, it is estimated that more than 2 million acres of former forest will never be forested again.

Bonus: Coastal sage scrub. It constantly amazes me that we don't know where we are in the world. Most school kids can name more African animals than ones native to their own ecosystem!

Conservation Corner

Implementing global warming solutions

By Lillian Light



When Ollie finished filling the gas tank of our Prius Hybrid car, he announced that it cost \$18 to fill it. A young lady just in front of us responded, "Eighteen dollars? It just cost me \$90 to fill up my SUV." I was taken aback. Why do 50 percent of U.S. consumers buy sports

utility vehicles when it costs so much for gasoline as prices continue to rise? Due to their height and bulk, they are more subject to rollover accidents and impede visibility to others on the road. Mainly, they emit exorbitant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions that speed up the harmful effects of global warming. What can be done to discourage the purchase of such gas-guzzlers?

The California Assembly has come up with an equitable solution. Since transportation accounts for more than 40 percent of California's global warming emissions, legislation that will wipe out nearly a third of these emissions is now being considered in Sacramento. The California Clean Car Discount Bill, or AB 493, makes cleaner cars more affordable by providing rebates to those who purchase new cars, trucks or SUVs that emit relatively low levels of global warming emissions. These rebates are funded by surcharges on dirtier new vehicles.

We do not have to wait until rising ocean levels flood our coastal cities or until severe drought sharply reduces our water supply before taking action. The most severe consequences of climate change can be avoided if emissions are reduced in time. Engineers have calculated that the discount program can do away with 75 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2030. This is equivalent to taking 20 million vehicles off the road.

If AB 493 is passed by the state Legislature and signed into law by the governor, Californians will be able to receive rebates of up to \$2,500 on the purchase of new vehicles. The amount of the rebate is based on how much greenhouse gas pollution the vehicle emits — the lower the emissions, the higher the rebate. The average rebate or surcharge will be between \$900 and \$1,450. Most minivans and smaller SUVs will fall into a "zero dollar-band," receiving neither surcharge nor rebate. Vehicles with high levels of emissions will have surcharges of up to \$2,500. The program is self-financing and applies only when purchasing a new vehicle.

The program includes exemptions for vehicles purchased for small businesses, paratransit and low-income Californians. It is expected that low- and moderate-income residents will benefit from AB 493 because less expensive cars and trucks, on average, receive the greatest rebates. The following information is instructive:

Median Retail Price of New Vehicles

Those receiving rebates = \$22,496

Those without rebate or surcharge = \$27,623

Those receiving surcharge = \$38,270

All of the major consumer organizations in California support the Clean Car Discount Program. Consumer Action described the program thus: "a creative approach to vehicle emission reductions that protects consumer choice." All environmental groups that dread the effects of the climate crisis on our planet are agreed that greenhouse gas emissions must be curbed to avoid catastrophic societal collapse. According to a recent poll, 60 percent of likely voters favor this program. I received a recent e-mail listing between 50 and 60 organizations that have endorsed it.

The lobbyists in the employ of the oil companies and automobile manufacturers are already mounting strenuous opposition. We need to balance this by contacting our Assembly legislators and urging them to vote for AB 493, because global warming threatens our health, our economy, our natural resources and our children's future. We must take action now.

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Birds of the Peninsula

November and December 2007

By Kevin Larson

A little late wave of migrants, including a Blackpoll Warbler, an American Redstart and a Grasshopper Sparrow during the second week of November, marked the end of this fall's vagrant season. During December, the Thick-billed Kingbird was present for a third winter at Banning Park, but few of the many rarities present last winter had returned. A Long-eared Owl, Vaux's Swifts and a Green-tailed Towhee were among the surprises tallied on the 23 December Palos Verdes Peninsula Christmas Bird Count (CBC). The 163 species recorded on count day, plus an additional eight species seen during the count week period, was well below last year's very good total. It is unreasonable, however, to expect such a large number of rarities to be present every winter. A Grace's Warbler found in Rolling Hills on the last day of the count week period was outstanding.

It was an extraordinary year in this article's coverage area, which includes areas north to Marina del Rey and east to the Los Angeles River. The 317 species (including five countable introduced species) found in 2007 was a remarkable increase over our totals of 302-306 in the previous four years. The large number of rarities present last winter did much to increase our total along with a good number of remarkable vagrants found during the year. For the second year in a row, few of the rarer

warblers were encountered. Following an amazing four-year run during which we recorded 17 Lucy's Warblers locally, none were found. No Snow Geese or Black Swifts were reported, and the Swamp Sparrow was missed for the second consecutive year.

The weather during November included extended periods of thick marine layer interspersed with shorter periods of dry offshore



Red-naped sapsucker

Photo by Laurie Szogas

flow. We remained dry until a significant storm brought about one-half inch of rain on the last day of November. Marine layer was virtually absent during December, but periods of low pressure alternated with dry offshore flow. Storms coming 6-8 December and 18-20 December added much-needed rainfall. The 3.76 inches

of rain recorded at downtown Los Angeles by the end of December was about normal for the midpoint of the season. This accumulation was already more than the record-low 3.21 inches recorded during the entire 2006-07 season.

A young Greater White-fronted Goose was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 18 Nov-1 Jan (Kevin Larson-KL). A Ross's Goose was found at the Los Angeles River near Willow Street 24 Nov-29 Dec (John Kelly) and another was reported along Ballona Creek east of the 90 Freeway on 30 Dec (Jonathan Coffin). A remarkable showing of "Aleutian" Cackling Geese included singles at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 22 Oct-1 Jan (Dan Cooper), at Madrona Marsh on 4 Nov (Tracy Drake, photo) and at Alondra Park on 23 Dec (Tracy Drake). Three Canvasbacks at Alondra Park on 2 Nov were the first to arrive (David Moody). White-winged Scoter sightings included two near the Marina del Rey Harbor entrance on 17 Nov (Barbara Johnson) and up to two at the L.A. River mouth 17 Nov-1 Dec (KL). Larry Allen found a female Long-tailed Duck in the Marina del Rey Harbor entrance channel on 30 Dec. A notable movement of Common Goldeneyes in late November included one flying past Point Vicente on 17 Nov (Mike San Miguel), five flying past Point Vicente on 24 Nov (KL), four at Dockweiler State Beach on 24 Nov (Richard Barth) and two at the L. A. River mouth on 24 Nov

(KL). December Common Goldeneye sightings included up to four individuals in the Marina del Rey and Playa del Rey areas 14-30 Dec (KL, Dan Cooper). A male Hooded Merganser was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 3-17 Nov and up to two females were at the newly created Dominguez Gap Wetland adjacent to the L.A. River in Long Beach 8-29 Dec (KL).

A count of **160** Northern Fulmars at Point Vicente on 22 Nov was unusually high (KL). Fulmar numbers at Point Vicente decreased to 70 on 24 Nov (KL) and 13 on 12 Dec (Mike San Miguel); only a few were seen after mid-December. Single Pink-footed Shearwaters were sighted off the north side of the Peninsula on 22 Dec (David Moody) and 23 Dec (Curtis Johnson). An American Bittern was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 1 Dec (Dan Cooper) and another was discovered at the Walteria Sump in Torrance on 23 Dec (Ann and Eric Brooks). A Cattle Egret at the L.A. River near Willow Street 22-24 Nov was the only one reported (Jeff Boyd). A White-faced Ibis was at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 28 Nov-8 Dec (Don Sterba). A juvenile Swainson's Hawk over the Playa Vista Wildlife Corridor on 25 Nov was late (KL). An adult Ferruginous Hawk was in the area of the Rancho Palos Verdes City Hall and Point Vicente 22-23 Nov (Pam Ryono, photo).

A Pectoral Sandpiper at the Dominguez Gap Wetland restoration area along the L.A. River on 1 Nov was late (Karen Gilbert, Jeff Boyd). Two immature Black-legged Kittiwakes flew north to-

gether past Point Vicente on 22 Nov (KL). I recorded a total of 13 Common Murres flying past Point Vicente 24 Nov-23 Dec. A late **Craveri's Murrelet** flew north past Point Vicente on 2 Dec (KL). Mike San Miguel saw two Cassin's Auklets from Point Vicente on 13 Nov. A few Rhinoceros Auklets were regularly seen from Point Vicente, but **164** southbound individuals counted on 16



Grasshopper Sparrow

Photo by John Fitch

Dec represented a prodigious movement (KL). No Spotted Doves were recorded on the CBC this year and only one has been recorded on three consecutive counts to date. This sharp decline in numbers comes after we recorded all-time high counts of 353 in 1999 and 420 in 2000. Two Band-tailed Pigeons were found in Rolling Hills on the 23 Dec CBC (Rusty Scalf). A White-winged Dove was in San Pedro on 3 Nov (Robert Billingsly).

A Burrowing Owl roosting on a

ledge at a school in Hawthorne on 5 Nov was unusual (John Ivanov); up to two were at White Point Nature Preserve during the period (David Moody). The biggest surprise of the CBC was a **Long-eared Owl** found at the Palos Verdes Golf Club on 23 Dec (Jim Pike). Tracy Drake was quick with her camera to record a **Short-eared Owl** flying over Madrona Marsh on 3 Nov. Rare in winter, up to five Vaux's Swifts were in the vicinity of Rolling Hills 16-23 Dec (KL et al) and one was over DeForest Park on 29 Dec (KL). Scarce in recent winters, a Costa's Hummingbird was at Trump National Golf Club in Rancho Palos Verdes on 19 Dec (Mike San Miguel). Two Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were more than expected; an adult male was at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 25 Nov (KL) and an immature was at Polliwog Park 1-9 Dec (Bob Shanman). A remarkable invasion of Red-naped Sapsuckers included singles at Harbor Park 11 Nov-23 Dec (Martin Byhower), in Rolling Hills 20 Oct-20 Nov (Martin Byhower), at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 23 Dec (Margaret Hoggan and Stephanie Bryan) and in Palos Verdes Estates on 23 Dec (Jim Pike).

A Gray Flycatcher at the Point Vicente Interpretive Center 24 Nov-23 Dec was a nice find (Mike San Miguel). A "Western" Flycatcher was at the South Coast Botanic Garden 16-23 Dec (KL). A late Ash-throated Flycatcher was in El Segundo on 9 Nov (Richard Barth). Returning for its third winter, a **Thick-billed Kingbird** was at Banning Park 23 Nov-

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Birds, from Page 5

23 Dec (KL). Single Plumbeous Vireos were at Harbor Park 5 Oct-23 Dec (KL), at DeForest Park 11 Oct-1 Nov (Karen Gilbert) and at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 4 Nov (Stephanie Bryan). Several Hutton's Vireos were found at locations where they are not known to be residents: up to two were at DeForest Park 17 Aug-29 Dec (Jeff Boyd); one was at Harbor Park 27 Oct-18 Nov (KL); two were at Peck Park in San Pedro 3-5 Nov (KL, David Ellsworth); three were at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 18 Nov (KL); and one was at the duck pond on Washington Boulevard in Marina del Rey on 14 Dec (KL).

A Horned Lark that flew over DeForest Park on 15 Nov was only the second recorded in the area this year (Jeff Boyd). Two Mountain Chickadees were at DeForest Park 22 Sep-29 Dec (KL). Single Red-breasted Nuthatches were at Wilderness Park 26 Oct-23 Dec and near El Retiro Park in Torrance on 23 Dec (David Moody); a few were also noted in Rolling Hills in late December. A White-breasted Nuthatch in Rolling Hills 22-23 Dec was a nice find (Martin Byhower). Brown Creepers made a good showing: one was at DeForest Park 11 Oct-29 Dec (Karen Gilbert); one was at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 5 Nov (Stephanie Bryan); one was at Sand Dune Park on 5 Nov (Don Sterba); one was in San Pedro on 11 Nov (Stephanie Bryan); and two were at Polliwog Park on 14 Dec (David Moody). Kimball Garrett found a Winter Wren in Rolling Hills on the 23 Dec CBC.

A Golden-crowned Kinglet in Rolling Hills on 26 Dec was the only report (KL). Western Bluebird sightings included eight to 10 at Harbor Park 7 Oct-8 Dec (KL), eight flying over DeForest Park on 3 Nov, four flying over Torrance on 27 Nov (KL) and a few continuing individuals near Highridge Park on 24 Dec (Laurie Szogas). A moderate movement of American Robins included 80 at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 25 Nov (KL). A Galapagos Mockingbird at the L.A. River mouth in Long Beach on 8 Dec was bizarre; it must have been transported by ship to the harbor area (KL).

A **Grace's Warbler** in a grove of Monterey Pines in the Purple Canyon area of Rolling Hills on 26 Dec is the first winter record for our area (KL). Up to two Palm Warblers were seen at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 27 Oct-18 Nov (Russell Stone, Dan Cooper, KL). David Ellsworth photographed a late Blackpoll Warbler in San Pedro on 13 Nov. One Black-and-white Warbler was at Banning Park 28 Oct-29 Nov (Steve Sosensky) and another was at Harbor Park on 16 Dec (Martin Byhower). A male American Redstart returned for a second winter to Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook 1 Oct-28 Nov (Richard Barth). An American Redstart at Banning Park on 10 Nov was evidently a late transient (KL). Single Summer Tanagers were at Chadwick School 6 Nov-21 Dec (Martin Byhower), in Palos Verdes Estates on 23 Dec (Ron Melin) and at DeForest Park on 29 Dec (KL).

Stephanie Bryan and Margaret Hoggan found a Green-tailed

Towhee at the South Coast Botanic Garden on the 23 Dec CBC. Lark Sparrow sightings included two at the PV Landfill on 2 Dec, nine at the Navy Fuel Depot on 15 Dec and eight in Carson 22-23 Dec (KL). Only the second found in fall here in recent years, a **Grasshopper Sparrow** was at Madrona Marsh 9-10 Nov (Tracy Drake, David Moody). Two "Thick-billed" Fox Sparrows were at the Forrestral Nature Preserve on 16 Dec (KL) and three were counted in Rolling Hills on 23 Dec (Kimball Garrett). White-throated Sparrow sightings included one at Laurie Szogas' residence in Rancho Palos Verdes on 4 Nov, one at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 24 Oct-7 Nov (KL), one at Polliwog Park 11 Nov-6 Jan (Bob Shanman) and one returning for a third winter to DeForest Park 8-29 Dec (KL). A "Gray-headed" Junco was at DeForest Park 17 Nov-29 Dec (KL). A Blue Grosbeak in San Pedro on 2 Nov was late (David Ellsworth). Up to three Bullock's Orioles were at the South Coast Botanic Garden 25 Nov-31 Dec (KL). A Purple Finch was at Sand Dune Park on 5 Nov (Don Sterba) and a few were noted in Rolling Hills in late December (Rusty Scalf et al). A Lawrence's Goldfinch flew over the Forrestral Nature Preserve on 16 Dec (KL).

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

NAS Board, from Page 1

While chapters are not permitted to support specific candidates, most chapters' expenditures in the political arena are well within IRS limitations. Certainly, ours are.

Education properly continues to play a major role in Audubon. There has been a shift away from concentrating efforts on Audubon Centers to a broader approach. Economics has played its role in this on two fronts. First the capital costs of Centers (as opposed to centers) has severely limited their number for the foreseeable future. Second, a \$20-million, five-year grant from Toyota calls for drawing on a much wider field than Centers can provide. Indeed, one of the key elements that led Toyota to choose Audubon over other organizations is its grassroots network.

Thus, I expect a much larger role for chapter-NAS partnerships to be developed in the next few years. One program I hope to further via this grant is our own Audubon YES! (Youth Environmental Service) program.

During the next few years, I intend to visit many chapters in the region, presenting programs on global warming, common butterflies, dragonflies, other insects, birds and spiders. I am highly impressed with the caliber of the NAS Board membership and expect to enjoy greatly working within this excellent company. Above all, I want Audubon to be a cohesive and effective whole, enabling us all to make major strides toward conserving birds, wildlife and their habitats, and in the end, we ourselves and our progeny.

YES! Starts 13th Year

Audubon YES!, our chapter's youth environmental service program, has begun its 13th year, offering a wide array of community service projects for high school students and others. Through the program, participants earn credits toward the Audubon YES! Award, which acknowledges each individual's dedication to environmental betterment, and is useful on college and scholarship applications. Through the years, more than 250 YES! Awards have been earned.

This year, our chapter will award YES! credits for projects at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Gardena Willows, Harbor Park, Madrona Marsh, White Point and other locations around the South Bay. Credits will also be awarded for work on school campuses, principally for habitat restoration and recycling. Credits are also given for student leadership and individual projects.

Chadwick, Environmental Charter High School, Mira Costa, Peninsula High, Palos Verdes High, South High and Vistamar are some of the schools we expect to see most active with Audubon YES! this year. However, students from other schools throughout the region are urged to participate. Adults, either educators or parents, can volunteer to help with the YES! program, too, by serving as coordinators with schools not listed above.

For more information about the YES! program, please see our website at www.audubonyes.org, or call Jess Morton at (310) 832-5601.

Gift and New Member Application

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

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

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 now how to make a bequest to PV/SB Audubon

7XCH/C43

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Connie Vadheim, CSUDH

Coastal Tidy-tips

Layia platyglossa



The advent of the rainy season signals an important event in Southern California — the germination of annual wildflower seeds. Wildflower seeds lie dormant throughout the dry summer and fall. With the rains, they imbibe water, setting in motion the complex chain of events that we call germination. Not surprisingly, the rainy season (November to March) is also a good time to plant native South Bay wildflower seeds in our home gardens.

Some native California wildflowers, such as the California poppy, are widely planted in home gardens. But a large list of additional wildflowers can brighten your garden for the (low) cost of a packet of seeds. Ironically, these wildflowers are widely planted in Europe but often ignored here in Southern California. The seeds can be ordered over the Internet from reputable native seed sources (Theodore Payne Foundation; Lerner Seeds).

Coastal tidy-tips is one of my personal favorites. A member of the sunflower family, the cheery yellow flower heads — tipped with white — add a bright, refined look to the home garden. A fast-growing annual, it reaches to 1 to 2 feet tall and has bright green foliage. The flowers are visited by a number of pollinators in-

cluding bees, butterflies and others. The seeds are a treat for seed-eating birds.

Annual wildflowers like coastal tidy-tips are incredibly easy to grow — in fact, many are good for our youngest gardeners. All they need is a patch of bare soil that gets plenty of sun (light shade is also fine). Sprinkle the seeds on the prepared soil just before a rain. You may want to mix the seed with a little clean sand. This helps you to spread seeds evenly, and may hide the seed from hungry birds. Don't bury the seeds, as they need light to germinate.

Annual wildflowers need adequate water in winter/spring while they are growing. In many years, rain will provide all the water needed. But in hot, dry times you may need to gently water your seedlings. Most of our annual wildflowers should not be watered once they finish blooming. They need dry conditions to set a good crop of seeds. Tidy-tips produce many fluffy seeds. You can let the plants reseed naturally, or gather the dry seeds and store them in a cool, dry place (like a small glass jar or paper envelope) for next year. You may also want to share your seeds with others.



Just about every garden has a place for tidy-tips. You can create a wildflower prairie with native grasses and other native wildflowers. Or include this plant in flowerbeds or around shrubs. It also makes a great plant for pots. So, where will you plant your seeds?

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

Calendar

Meet Learn Enjoy Restore

Events

(See Calendar locations and information box for directions)

Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m.: PV/South Bay Audubon Board Meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend.

Saturday, Feb. 9 from 9 to 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMRHP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others. 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, but folks under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. Bring water, snack, sun/bug repellent and, if possible, work gloves. Questions? Contact Martin Byhower at (310) 541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-together. Our speaker, Tom Kaminiski, will talk about birds on the Galapagos Islands. Come to Madrona Marsh and socialize with friends, enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds

Unlimited.

Saturday, March 8 from 9 to 11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMRHP. Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others. 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, but folks under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Wear closed-toed shoes and long pants. Bring water, snack, sun/bug repellent and, if possible, work gloves. Questions? Contact Martin Byhower at (310) 541-6763, ext. 4143.

Tuesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-together. Our speaker will be Jennifer Boyce. She will talk about bald eagle restoration in Northern California. Come to Madrona Marsh and socialize with friends, 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 complete list of Audubon YES (Youth Environmental Serv-

ice) program activities, go to www.AudubonYES.org.

Fieldtrips

(See Calendar locations and information box for directions)

Saturday, Feb. 2 at 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field trip to Antelope Valley to look for raptors with Audubon leaders Eric & Ann Brooks. Meet at Carrows Restaurant east of 14 Freeway in Palmdale.

Sunday, Feb. 3 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Saturday, Feb. 9 at 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field trip to San Jacinto Wildlife Refuge in Riverside County. Meet at the refuge HQ.

Saturday, Feb. 9 at 2 p.m.: Palos

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Calendar, from Page 9

Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History walk, Ocean Trails Reserve at Trump National Golf Course. Park at La Rotunda lot. See Web site for details: www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Feb. 10 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders & explore this important natural area in the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Friday to Monday, Feb. 15 to 18, 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field trip to Southeast Arizona for local specialties and wintering treats with Audubon leaders Eric & Ann Brooks. Contact the Brooks directly for info at (323) 295-6688 or Motmots@aol.com.

Sunday, Feb. 17 at 12:30 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Abalone Cove Shoreline Park, Tide Pool walk.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field

trip to Doheny State Beach, state park fee. Directions & map: http://www.parks.ca.gov/lat_long_map/default.asp?lvl_id=285

Saturday and Sunday, March 1 to 2, 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field trip to Salton Sea and Anza Borrego with Audubon leaders Eric & Ann Brooks. Meet at the Wister Unit of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge.



Plumbeous Vireo

Photo by Laurie Szogas

Sunday, March 2 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan. Charge for non-members of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Tuesday, March 4 at 8 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Saturday, March 8 at 8 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History

walk, Forrestral Reserve, park along Forrestral Drive. See Web site for details: pvplc.org.

Sunday, March 9 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders & explore this important natural area in the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Wednesday, March 12 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, March 15 at 8:30 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, field trip to Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (note: this is the regular L.A. Audubon walk). Meet in the first parking area on the left after the kiosk. Entry fee; no walk fee.

Tuesday, March 18 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, March 19 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday and Sunday, March 29 to 30, 8 a.m.: Birding with the Motmots, Morro Bay and environs. Meet at the parking lot just before Morro Rock.

Tuesday, April 1 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, April 6 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan. Charge for non-members of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Wednesday, April 9 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Saturday, April 12 at 8 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy Natural History walk, Linden H. Chandler Preserve, park at the Empty Saddle Club. See Web site for details: www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, April 13 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders & explore this important natural area in the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Tuesday, April 15 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, April 16 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Sunday, April 27 at 12:30 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Meet in parking lot at end of La Rotonda Drive.

Tuesday, April 29 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Tor-

rance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Sunday, May 4 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden with Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan. Charge for non-members of the SCBG Foundation. You can join at the entrance.

Tuesday, May 6 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Saturday, May 10 at 8 a.m.: Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, Natural History walk. See Web site for details: www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, May 11 at 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park. Join Audubon leaders & explore this important natural area in the South Bay. See meeting locations for directions.

Wednesday, May 14 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman.

Tuesday, May 20 at 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance's best birding areas. Meet at Madrona Marsh.

Wednesday, May 21 at 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Saturday, May 24 at 10 a.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour, Forrester Nature Preserve.

Meeting Locations and Information Sources

KMHRP: Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, Harbor City; parking lot near the intersection of Anaheim Street and Vermont, west of the 110 Freeway. Park opposite of old boat house.

Madrona Marsh Preserve: 3201 Plaza Del Amo, Torrance. Between Maple and Madrona Avenues. Park at Nature Center.

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

Eric and Ann Brooks organize birding fieldtrips that are co-sponsored by PV/South Bay Audubon. Suggested donations: \$5 for day trips (\$4 if carpooling). Weekend trips Saturday are \$10 (\$8); Sunday \$5 (\$4). Contact them directly for details at motmots@aol.com or at (323) 295-6688.

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

Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy sponsors walks and other activities on the Peninsula. For more information, consult the website at <http://www.pvplc.org>, contact the conservancy by e-mail at info@pvplc.org or call (310) 541-7613.

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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 monkus_boyd@yahoo.com.

Editor Chris Boyd

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

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

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.audubonYES.org. Pick up postage-paid envelopes at Wild Birds Unlimited at Pacific Coast Highway 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.