



# HUMMIN'

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY

AUG/SEP 2007 Vol. XXIX No.4

## AUDUBON RESPONDS TO GLOBAL WARMING

By Jess Morton

In May, Audubon's national board of directors met at Park City, Utah, where I was privileged to sit in as a full-fledged member representing Audubon chapters in California, Guam and Hawaii. Although much of the time was occupied with details of planning, governance and finance, two major Audubon undertakings emerged fully for the first time. Most important was that Audubon actions will concentrate on global warming and its effects on Earth's biosphere. Second, Audubon's bird science has finally matured to the point where a century of bird data collection is paying off. As a nice cap to the meeting, and of special significance to us Californios, approval was given for the acquisition of the 6,800 acre Bobcat Ranch in Yolo County.

The board meeting was part of a week of Audubon activities, culminating in a two-day global warming workshop. Nearly 200 Audubon activists, including national and state staff, and chapter leaders from around the country, got together to begin framing Audubon's overall approach to global warming. Much information can be gathered from the Audubon web site at <http://www.audubon.org/globalwarming/>, and more is to come. Some of the actions you can take are available on the "Audubon at Home" web pages. Additionally, Audubon has developed a bird-oriented global warming presentation, which I will give at our chapter meeting on September 18th.

Greg Butcher, Audubon's Director of Bird Conservation, was on hand to give us all a first look at the results of his analysis of 100 years of Christmas Count data and 40 years of Breeding Bird Surveys, in a report titled "Common Birds in Decline." It provides quantitative substantiation of what all of us birders know—populations of many birds are in steep decline. Heading the list is the Bobwhite, which

### UPCOMING CHAPTER GET-TOGETHERS

The Chapter has organized Third Tuesday Get-Togethers for September 18 and October 16 at 7:00 PM at the Madrona Marsh Preserve. Besides listening to the speakers, you can participate in a bird quiz and raffle, with prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Instead of a Chapter Get-Together in August, the Chapter will be welcoming all members and friends to attend the annual PV/South Bay Audubon Planning Meeting at Madrona Marsh. The meeting will run from 9:00AM to 3:00PM on Saturday, August 11. A birdwalk before the meeting will begin at the Marsh at 7:30AM.

At the September Get-Together, Chapter Founder and National Board Member Jess Morton will discuss the expected local impacts of climate change. As Jess notes in his report from the recent national board meeting, National Audubon Society has taken on global warming as a major focus.

If you are unable to attend this year's Audubon California Assembly October 7-9, you can get a recap of activities at the assembly by attending the October Get-Together. Jess Morton will report on the assembly and the future of Audubon California.

should not surprise those of us who have watched our own California Quail go from abundant to virtually extirpated from the South Bay. While both species are common over their range, both species have seen range contraction as

*Continued on page 3*

## BIRDING ETIQUETTE

*(Adapted from the American Birding Association's Code of Birding Ethics)*

### **Promote the welfare of birds and their environment.**

- Support the protection of important bird habitat.
- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger; exercise restraint and caution when observing, photographing, recording, or filming birds.
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds.
- Before advertising the presence of a rare bird, evaluate the potential for disturbance to the bird, its surroundings, and other people in the area.
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths where they exist; otherwise, keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

### **Respect the law and the rights of others.**

- Do not enter private property without the owner's explicit permission.
- Follow all laws, rules, and regulations governing the use of roads and public areas, both at home and abroad.
- Practice common courtesy in contacts with other people; your exemplary behavior will generate goodwill with birds and non-birds alike.

### **Ensure that feeders, nest structures, and other artificial bird environments are safe.**

- Keep dispensers, water, and food clean and free of decay or disease.
- Maintain and clean nest structures regularly.
- If you are attracting birds to an area, ensure the birds are not exposed to predation from cats and other domestic animals or dangers posed by artificial hazards.

### **Group birding, whether organized or impromptu, requires special care.**

### **Correction**

The previous issue of *Hummin'* mistakenly identified Chapter Conservation Award winner Barbara Sattler as a volunteer of the Palos Verdes Land Conservancy. Barbara has been a volunteer of the California Native Plant Society.

## ENERGY BILL MOVES

Last month, the Senate passed a broad energy bill that included, for the first time in more than 20 years, an increase in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for automobiles. The bill establishes a 35-mpg standard for cars and light trucks by 2020. While the measure is a significant improvement, it does contain some loopholes that could potentially allow auto companies not to meet the standard. The Senate energy bill also contained several other energy related measures, including an increase in the production and use of biofuels, energy efficiency standards for appliances, energy efficiency improvements for federal buildings, and research projects for carbon capture and storage technologies aimed at reducing global warming pollution.

Unfortunately, the Senate bill fell short of being truly comprehensive energy legislation when the Senate did not add a nationwide renewable electricity standard--an Audubon priority.

The House of Representatives was set to debate energy issues in July, as it assembles a bill composed of legislation drafted by 11 different committees. As the energy package moves through the House, it is unclear whether key energy policies will be included, such as a nationwide renewable electricity standard of 20% by 2020 and an increase in CAFE standards to 35mpg by 2018.

### **3rd Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival**

Pajaro Valley's 3rd Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival will take place Friday, September 21 through Sunday, September 23, 2007. The festival will feature expert-led field trips, guided walks for children, specialized birding activities for beginners, and outings led by a bilingual birding expert. Additional excursions to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab and guided outings to see the endangered California Condor are also available. Visit [www.montereybirding.org](http://www.montereybirding.org) for the festival schedule or to register. Visit [www.birding.travel](http://www.birding.travel) for additional information on lodging or for general travel information.

## HOW CLEAN IS CLEAN ENERGY?

Renewable electricity standards are meant to encourage clean, renewable technologies like solar, wind, geothermal, ocean power, and bioenergy. During the Senate debate, some legislators did their best to portray coal and nuclear power as “renewable” energy sources.

Nice try, but the Senate didn’t buy it and we’ll be reminding the House as well that clean, renewable energy sources don’t include those two types of fuel.

The renewable electricity standard is meant to diversify our energy portfolio and encourage the addition of burgeoning technologies like wind and solar—not give additional governmental subsidies to the same old dirty technologies.

All energy sources, including renewable energy, have environmental impacts. In contrast to advanced nuclear power and fossil fuel technologies, however, renewable resources do not present attractive targets for terrorists; and they avoid the risk of high future environmental and safety regulatory costs.

Any nationwide electricity standard should focus on encouraging the growth of clean, renewable technologies and should not include energy conservation, which should stand on its own with its own separate policy provisions.

Scarcity of water and food could lead to major conflicts and increase security risks with broad ripple effects throughout the globe. Even if people find a way to adapt, the wildlife and plants on which we depend may be unable to adapt to rapid climate change. While the world itself will not end, the world as we know it very well may disappear.

### *Global Warming, continued from page 1*

their habitat has disappeared. Indeed, the Bobwhite population has declined by 82% in the last 40 years. For more on this, see the current Audubon Magazine and/or visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/CBID/>

The Bobcat Ranch is located on the west side of the Central Valley, where intense pressure is building for suburban housing. Audubon has acquired this property through grants from California’s Wildlife Conservation Board and private donors. Part of the importance of this acquisition is that it sets a precedent for conservation of other nearby ranches, and it is part of a huge wildlife corridor stretching northwestward from Interstate 80 into the California coastal ranges. The land will continue as a working landscape. However, it will also provide a place for scientific studies on habitat restoration and wildlife populations.

## GLOBAL WARMING MYTH BUSTER

**Myth:** We can adapt to climate change—civilization has survived droughts and temperature shifts before.

**Fact:** Although humans as a whole have survived the vagaries of drought, stretches of warmth and cold—we are a very adaptable species—entire societies have collapsed from dramatic climatic shifts.

The current warming of our climate will bring major hardships, economic dislocations, and untold human suffering, especially for our children and grandchildren. Climate has changed in the past and human societies have survived, but today more than six billion people depend on interconnected ecosystems and complex technological infrastructure. What’s more, unless we limit the amount of heat-trapping gases we are putting into the atmosphere, we will face a warming trend unseen since human civilization began 10,000 years ago.

The consequences of continued warming at current rates are likely to be dire. Many densely populated areas, especially in low-lying coastal regions, are highly vulnerable to climate shifts. A middle-of-the-range projection is that the homes of 13 to 88 million people around the world would be flooded by the sea each year in the 2080s. Poorer countries and small island nations will have the hardest time adapting. In the United States, the village of Shishmaref in Alaska, which has been inhabited for 400 years, is collapsing from melting permafrost. Relocation plans are in the works.

Scarcity of water and food could lead to major conflicts and increase security risks with broad ripple effects throughout the globe. Even if people find a way to adapt, the wildlife and plants on which we depend may be unable to adapt to rapid climate change. While the world itself will not end, the world as we know it very well may disappear.

## BIRDS OF THE PENINSULA

May and June 2007

by Kevin Larson

This spring's passage of migrant land birds was impressive. There was hardly a lull in their very good numbers from early April all the way through late May. During a record-dry season in southern California, our well-watered urban parks and backyards attracted many species on their journey north. An Ovenbird on 22 May seemed to mark the beginning of a good vagrant season, but this turned out to be rarest of the few vagrant warblers found this spring. A very cooperative young Mississippi Kite that stayed for ten days was undoubtedly the "star" rarity this season. It was probably the most observed and photographed individual of this species ever in our state. After the kite departed, seabirds stole the show. Blue-footed and Brown boobies, a Parakeet Auklet, and a Horned Puffin along Los Angeles County's southern coast were the stuff of birders' dreams. A Yellow-throated Vireo was the best of the few vagrant songbirds found in June. As expected, a few species of fall migrant shorebirds were trickling in before the end of June.

The weather during May and June was for the most part typical and uneventful. After a warm, dry offshore pattern 6-9 May brought record high temperatures to the area on a few dates, a nearly uninterrupted pattern of night and morning coastal low clouds prevailed through the end of June. The driest rainfall season on record at Downtown Los Angeles ended on 30 June. The 3.21 inches recorded since 1 July was over an inch below the 4.41 inches during the dry season of 2001/2. Only two winters have passed since the near-record wet season of 2004/5, during which 37.25 inches of rain fell at Downtown L. A.

The immature Greater White-fronted Goose at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area (EMJRA) in Willowbrook since 25 Oct was still present on 12 Jun (Richard Barth-RB). A female American Wigeon at the Los Angeles River (LAR) near Willow St. 26 May-2 Jun was unusually late (Kevin Larson-KL). A male Northern Shoveler at LAR near Willow St. on 2 Jun, joined by a female on 10 Jun, was another unseasonable occurrence (KL). Male Wood Ducks were at EMJRA on 20 May



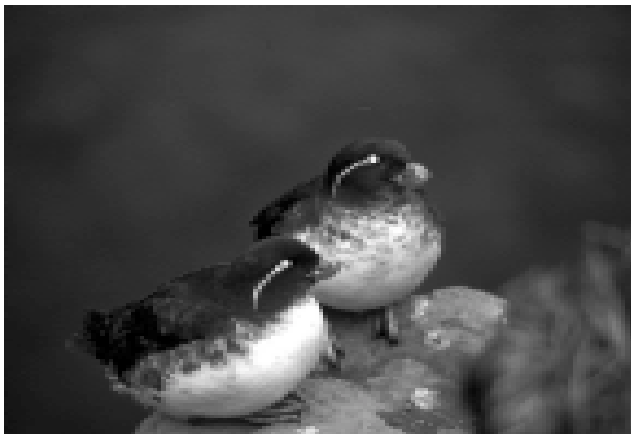
**Horned Puffin**  
(Vernon Byrd, USFWS)

and at LAR near Willow St. on 10 Jun (KL). Single Northern Fulmars were seen from Pt. Vicente (PtV) on 12 May and 2 Jun (KL). Black Storm-Petrel sightings included six at Pt. Fermin on 9 Jun and two at PtV on 30 Jun (KL). Extremely rare along the coast of California, an adult **Blue-footed Booby** spent an hour in the vicinity of PtV on 9 Jun (KL); this sighting came just a week after an immature **Brown Booby** was seen from PtV on 2 Jun (KL).

A Cattle Egret in the Ballona Wetland area on 6 May was the only report (Kathy Keane). Eight White-faced Ibises at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh (BFM) and one at Del Rey Lagoon on 7 May were uncommon for spring (Daniel S. Cooper-DSC). A Turkey Vulture over the South Coast Botanic Garden (SCBG) on 17 Jun—not likely to be summering here—was early if a southbound migrant (KL). Wintering White-tailed Kites normally depart by March, so up to two in the Ballona Wetland area and another in RPV at the end of Hawthorne Blvd. lingering through May and June were unusual. A subadult **Mississippi Kite** at SCBG 26 May-4 Jun thrilled throngs of birders from around the state. I notified state

birders when I discovered it on 27 May. It was later learned that Steve Wolfe was first to record this rarity on 26 May, after excellent images were discovered on this photographer's web page. A Virginia Rail at BFM on 30 May and an adult Common Moorhen there 23 May-23 Jun were notable since they were present during the nesting season (Don Sterba-DS).

Numerous Black-necked Stilts and several American Avocets were nesting along the lower Los Angeles River channel during May and June. Typical of summering birds, a Wandering Tattler on the jetty at the mouth of Ballona Creek on 25 Jun was in basic plumage (RB). A Long-billed Curlew flying south past PtV on 9 Jun was remarkably early if a fall migrant; one flying south over Harbor Park (HP) on 22 Jun was noted on a more typical early arrival date (KL). An alternate-plumaged male Wilson's Phalarope in the lower wetland of HP on 28 May was present a week or two before the earliest fall migrants are recorded (KL). A special treat was a female Red Phalarope in breeding plumage—still on its way north—at Alondra Park 30 May-2 Jun (David Moody-DM). A Black Skimmer at HP on 10 Jun was inland, where rare (Edmond Griffin). More alcid species than expected at this time of year were recorded. Common Murre sightings included a total of six flybys at PtV 3 Jun-1 Jul, and one on the water at Pt. Fermin on 9 Jun (KL). Three adult Pigeon Guillemots flew past PtV singly on 9 Jun (KL). One Cassin's Auklet flew north past PtV on 12 May, and two landed off the point on 10 Jun (KL). A **Parakeet Auklet** picked up alive on Venice Beach on 18 Jun was Los Angeles County's first record; unfortunately, it died the following day (fide Kimball L. Garrett). Two Rhinoceros Auklets were at PtV on 3 Jun (KL). An immature **Horned Puffin** that



**Parakeet Auklet**  
(Art SOWLS, USFWS)



**Ovenbird**  
(S. Maslowski, USFWS)

flew south past PtV on 30 Jun was a southern component of this year's invasion to California waters (KL, Mike San Miguel).

A Chimney Swift at HP on 26 May was the first recorded locally in three years (KL); subsequent sightings included one at SCBG on 29 May (Tom Wurster et al), one at DeForest Park (DP) on 2 Jun (KL), and five to six at Malaga Cove on 7 Jun (Ron Melin). One Gray and two Dusky flycatchers at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester on 7 May were part of a prodigious migrant wave on 7 May (DSC). A late Dusky Flycatcher was at SCBG on 27 May (KL). Say's Phoebe nested successfully for the second year in the Playa Vista area below the bluffs of northern Westchester; a juvenile was seen with an adult on 28 May (KL). Singing Bell's Vireos were in the Wilmington Drain 28 May-18 Jun, and in the southeast corner of HP on 16 Jun (KL); one at BFM on 31 May could not be found after (DSC). A singing **Yellow-throated Vireo** in the Wilmington Drain on 16 Jun was a notable vagrant; it was our latest record for spring (KL). A number of pairs of Tree Swallows were nesting again this year at BFM, and one pair was also using nest boxes at HP. Bank Swallow records included one photographed by David Ellsworth at HP on 14 May, and two at BFM on 22 May (KL).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch at a feeder in RPV on 13 May was part of our small resident population noted

*Continued on page 8*

## CONSERVATION CORNER

By Lillian Light

Since 1970, the importation of kangaroo skins or products has been banned in California. In this way, we have reduced our impact on the global environment. Recently, the Adidas company has spent \$435,000 on lobbying to reverse this state law so that they can sell shoes made from kangaroo skins in our fair state (at \$200 a pair).



The lobbying worked! The California State Senate has just passed Senate Bill 880, which would legalize the sale of kangaroo products. Now, this proposed law can only be stopped by the Assembly. There are many reasons why we need to urge our assembly members to vote no on SB 880!

Over the past 5 years, 16,876,343 kangaroos have been killed for commercial use. If California, which is the fifth largest economy in the world, becomes another consumer of kangaroo products, the number of kangaroos killed will increase significantly, and the survival of these exotic animals that occur only in Australia would be threatened.

Australian government statistics now show that the kangaroo population is the smallest that it has been in over a decade. In May of 2004, wildlife activists warned that Australia's iconic kangaroos are being decimated by hunting and drought and that the largest of the species could be extinct within ten years. The Wildlife Protection Association has said that Red Kangaroos, the world's largest living marsupials, are in the greatest danger from aggressive culling programs.

If California moves to allow kangaroo product importation for the making of unnecessary luxury items, we will be contributing to this extinction.

Kangaroos are wild animals that cannot be domesticated like cows or other livestock. Humans do not have control over their population numbers, which fluctuate in response to fires and droughts. Australia has suffered from a prolonged and severe drought over the last few

years, and global warming is likely to continue to cause significant challenges to the survival of wildlife.

The clearing of large areas of native habitat for the grazing of domestic stock has also worked against the survival of native animals. Farming and ranching have been two of the most destructive threats to Australia's environment. Although kangaroos have diets similar to cows, they produce almost no methane by flatulence. This means that they do not contribute to global warming like the animals that would displace them and would turn their natural environment into grazing areas. Certainly, every effort needs to be made to keep native plants and animals in place in order to protect our environmental systems.

Since kangaroos are hunted and killed at night for commercial export, it is difficult to distinguish between the endangered species and the more common ones. Some 40% of those killed are females who may have a baby in their pouch. This results in the senseless deaths of hundreds of thousands of "joeys".

Another reason to oppose SB 880 is that it could undermine California's law protecting endangered and threatened species. Adidas and other defendants have been facing a lawsuit alleging that they have been selling kangaroo skin illegally. The California Superior Court and the Court of Appeal have held that state law is trumped by the federal Endangered Species Act and should be abolished. The case is now in the California Supreme Court, where a decision for Adidas will do away with the right that California now has to protect its own animals, regardless of the decisions of the weakened federal Endangered Species laws. (For a good discussion about the weakening of the Endangered Species Act by the Bush administration, see the LA Times front-page story on July 5th, headlined "Species list jeopardized; federal agency in turmoil.") Passage of SB 880 would also undermine the lawsuit against Adidas, and would let stand the decisions against California's Endangered Species Act, harming many of our state's threatened animals.

Please contact your assembly members, and tell them how important it is to retain the California law that bans the importation of kangaroo skins and other products. Tell him or her that we must retain our state's Endangered Species Act, and that making shoes from the skin of a wild and exotic animal found only in Australia is wrong. Many different kinds of leather and plastic are readily available for this purpose. David Beckham, a top soccer

*Continued on page 9*

## YOUR BACKYARD HABITAT

### Southern Island (Mission) Mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*)

By Dr. Connie Vadheim



The southern Channel Islands are home to unique plants and animals – including some found there alone. Southern Island Mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora*) presents a bit of a mystery. It currently occurs in the wilds of both Catalina Island and the southern California coast. Many suspect, however, that the islands are the true home and that human beings, en-

chanted with the plant, brought it to the mainland—hence the common name “Mission Mallow”.

Like the hibiscus, Lavateras are members of the mallow family, which makes them great habitat plants. Flowers produce nectar favored by hummingbirds. Plants supply bird perching sites/cover and seeds eaten by birds and insects. And the foliage provides larval food for Painted and West Coast Lady butterflies and Checkered Skippers, making this an important butterfly plant as well.

Island Mallows are attractive large shrubs or small trees, measuring 6-12 feet tall and wide. They have a rounded shape with many gray-colored branches. Their leaves are a bright gray-green and almost tropical looking. But the showy flowers really make this plant a knockout.



They look like small, magenta-striped hibiscus flowers and can occur all year long. Plant an Island Mallow in your front yard and everyone in your neighborhood will want one!

Island mallow is very adaptable. It can be grown as a small tree or large shrub, pruned as a large hedge/screen or trained to grow along a fence or wall. It does well on hillsides and even tolerates seaside conditions.

Island Mallow is quite easy to grow, thriving in local soils as long as they are well-drained. It does best in full sun right along the coast, but appreciates some afternoon shade in hotter inland gardens. While Island Mallow is fairly drought tolerant along the coast, it looks better with a little summer water. In fact, it does fine even with regular waterings.

Lavateras require very little maintenance once established. You can prune them to control size/shape and to reveal the attractive branch structure. Plants will drop some leaves during dry periods. Island Mallows only live 10-15 years, perhaps less with regular water. This is not a drawback, since they grow quickly and reseed around the parent plant. In fact, you can pot up the ‘babies’ and give them away!

In addition to the wild species, there are several excellent hybrids available including *Lavatera purisima*, ‘Black Heart’ and ‘Magenta Target’ (*L. assurgentifolia* X *venosa* hybrids).

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

*Birds of the Peninsula, continued from 5*

since 2000 (Miriam Varend); it was very near where breeding was confirmed in May 2004. A Rock Wren singing on a pile of concrete rubble in the Playa Vista construction area 28 May-1 Jul was in the Ballona Valley, where there are few records (KL). Our nesting pair of Western Bluebirds at Ridgecrest Intermediate School near Highridge Park in RPV fledged young by mid-June, which apparently succumbed to predators; a new nest was built shortly after (Sam Bloom). A Swainson's Thrush at DP on 10 Jun was a late migrant (KL), but one in upper George F Canyon in Rolling Hills on 17 Jun was at a known nesting location (MB). The Wrentit singing along the north side of Ballona Creek west of Culver Blvd. in Marina del Rey since 4 Mar (KL) was seen by DS on 3 Jun. A California Thrasher was a surprise visitor to BFM on 7 May (DSC). During May and June, several Phainopeplas were on territory in the upper and lower sections of George F Canyon in Rolling Hills and Rolling Hills Estates (Martin Byhower, DM), and a few were along the trail below the end of Crenshaw Blvd. (Sally Moite). One male Phainopepla flew over HP on 15 Jun (KL).

*V. c. sordida* is the race of Orange-crowned Warbler that normally breeds on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and at Harbor Park. This spring, an individual of the race *V. c. lutescens*—easily distinguished by its rapidly trilled song—was on territory in the southeast section of HP 28 May-1 Jul (KL). Andrew Lee found a Northern Parula in the neighborhood near the Willow St. crossing at LAR on



**Orange-crowned Warbler**  
(Jess Morton)



**Pigeon Guillemot**  
(Jess Morton)

3 Jun. A Black-and-white Warbler was at Sand Dune Park (SDP) on 8 Jun (RB). Only two American Redstarts have been recorded as spring vagrants locally since 1996, so two this year were remarkable; coincidentally, single females were at SDP 27-28 May (Mark Scheel) and at DP 27-28 May (KL). A singing Ovenbird was a nice spring find on 22 May at SDP, a place that has produced by far the most records in our area (KL). A Northern Waterthrush was at DP on 12 May (KL). Four Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded this spring; all were transients occurring 21 Apr-8 May. Summer Tanagers at DP on 12 May (KL), at SDP on 23 May (Mark Conrad), and at SCBG on 29 May (DM) were all immature males; an unseen bird was calling at SDP on 17 Jun (Carol Selvey, KL).

A singing Rufous-crowned Sparrow—a local breeder on the peninsula—at White Point Nature Preserve 18-25 Jun was the first record for this location (DM); it is encouraging that this species will disperse to occupy the newly-created coastal sage scrub at this site as the California Gnatcatcher has already done. A Brewer's Sparrow there 5-6 May added to recent records which indicate it is a rare but regular spring and fall transient at this location (KL). An adult Lark Sparrow along the newly-created riparian corridor in the eastern portion of the Playa Vista area on 28 May was apparently a wanderer during this species' nesting season (KL); one



at BFM on 11 May 2005 (DSC) is the only other May record in our area in modern times. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are very fond of seed and reports from feeders often equal or surpass the number we find in parks that are known vagrant traps. This spring, feeder reports came in from RPV on 20 May (Laurie Szogas) and Palos Verdes Estates 28-29 May (Jeanne Kula), while vagrant hunters could only muster one at SDP 25-26 May (KL). Single male Indigo Buntings were at SDP on 18 May (RB) and at SCBG on 27 May (KL).

Here are some late dates of spring migrants in 2007: Sora—**16 May** BFM (DS); Spotted Sandpiper—30 May BFM (DS); Vaux's Swift—26 May LAR Long Beach (KL); Olive-sided Flycatcher—**8 Jun** SDP (RB); Western Wood-Pewee (2)—**19 Jun** lower George F Canyon (DM); Hammond's Flycatcher—**22 May** El Segundo (Lori Conrad); Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler—20 May MM (DM); Hermit Warbler—**3 Jun** Alondra Park (KL); MacGillivray's Warbler—**3 Jun** DP (KL); Lincoln's Sparrow—**13 May** HP (KL); Yellow-headed Blackbird—30 May BFM (DS).

Following are the earliest dates on which these fall migrants were noted in 2007: adult Western Sandpiper—**17 Jun** Playa del Rey (Barbara G. Johnson et al); adult Short-billed Dowitcher—**25 Jun** Playa del Rey (RB).

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at [cbirdr@ca.rr.com](mailto: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.

### Acronyms in Birds of the Peninsula

BFM: Ballona Freshwater Marsh  
 DM: David Moody  
 DP: DeForest Park  
 DS: Don Sterba  
 DSC: Daniel S. Cooper  
 EMJRA: Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area  
 HP: Harbor Park  
 KL: Kevin Larson  
 LAR: Los Angeles River  
 PtV: Point Vicente  
 RB: Richard Barth  
 RPV: Rancho Palos Verdes  
 SCBG: South Coast Botanic Garden  
 SDP: Sand Dune Park

### Conservation Corner, continued from page 6

player, has stopped wearing this controversial shoe and has switched to a synthetic model of the Adidas Predator soccer shoe. Apparently, his game has not suffered as a result.

Tell your assemblyperson to continue the ban, protect endangered animal species, and vote "No" on SB 880. Thank Assemblyperson Ted Lieu for voting No on SB 880 at the Water, Parks, and Wildlife Committee meeting on July 3rd. It is also important to contact Governor Schwarzenegger to veto this harmful bill if it is passed in the assembly.

### CONTACTS

1. Assemblywoman Betty Karnette (represents Palos Verdes, San Pedro, Avalon, Eastern part of Long Beach)  
 3711 Long Beach Blvd  
 Suite 801  
 Long Beach, CA 90807  
 310 - 548 6420
2. Assemblywoman Laura Richardson (represents Western part of Long Beach, Carson, Harbor City, Lakewood, Wilmington, Harbor Gateway)  
 4201 Long Beach Blvd, Suite 327  
 Long Beach, CA 90607  
 562 - 989 2919
3. Assemblyman Ted Lieu (represents Torrance, the Beach Cities, and El Segundo)  
 500 Center St  
 El Segundo, CA 90245  
 State Capitol  
 PO Box 942849  
 Sacramento, CA 94249  
 916 - 319 2053  
 310 - 615 - 3515  
[assemblymember.lieu@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.lieu@assembly.ca.gov)
4. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
 State Capitol Bldg  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
 916 - 445 2841

# AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY

**October 7-9  
Pacific Grove, California**

On Sunday through Tuesday, October 7-9, the Audubon California Assembly will convene at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, California. The assembly brings together more than 300 chapter leaders, birders, scientists, volunteers, grassroots activists, and staff. The 2007 assembly will examine the problems of global warming from a wildlife and ecosystem perspective and will help us understand how global warming should affect land management decisions. The assembly will spotlight climate solutions, from simple changes you can make around the house to reducing national greenhouse gas emissions by 80% through federal legislation.

At the Asilomar Conference Grounds, participants will have an opportunity to attend a wonderful variety of interactive workshops on restoration, policy, and education, and meet renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of effective conservation of California's birds, wildlife and habitat. World-class birding, pelagic and condor field trips, and so much more will make the assembly an unforgettable experience.

For more information and to register, visit [http://ca.audubon.org/audubon\\_assembly.html](http://ca.audubon.org/audubon_assembly.html) or call 510-601-1866, Ext 3. Registration fees are \$325 per person. Fees do not include lodging and food.

# HOUSE INCREASES FUNDS FOR ENVIRONMENT

The House of Representatives has recently passed what is largely viewed as the best funding bill for the Department of the Interior, the EPA, and the Forest Service in over 15 years. Not only does the bill restrict building new timber roads in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, it also funds many programs and agencies at their highest levels in years. The National Wildlife Refuge System will receive \$451 million for Fiscal Year 2008, an amount that will help keep the Refuge System open and fully functioning. The House also provided more than \$200 million for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, a program that has received little to no support from previous congresses.

One of the more interesting initiatives in the House bill is a \$50 million fund for a two year commission to study the impacts of global warming on public lands and suggest solutions to some of the identified problems.

The Senate has passed their bill out of the committee process, but has yet to bring it to the floor. It is expected that they will complete their work either in late July or early September.

---

*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](mailto:MLEoWeber@aol.com).

Editor.....Michael Weber

*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](http://www.LMconsult.com/pvaudubon)

## GIFT & NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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*

Sunday, August 5, 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.

Tuesday, August 7, 8:00AM: “**Tour de Torrance**,” Join Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance’s best birding areas. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center parking lot and car pool to sites in & near Torrance.

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

Saturday, August 11, 9:00AM – 3:00PM: **PV/South Bay Audubon Planning Meeting** at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend. Bird walk at 7:30AM in the Marsh before the meeting.

Saturday, August 11, 9:00PM: **PVP Land Conservancy Nature Walk at Friendship Park**, San Pedro. Drive through the gate on 9<sup>th</sup> Street, then up into the parking lot at the Nature Center.

Sunday, August 12, 8:00PM: **Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park**. Join Audubon leaders to explore this important natural area in the South Bay. See meeting location below.

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

Tuesday, August 21, 8:00AM: “**Tour de Torrance**,” Join Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance’s best birding areas.

Saturday, August 25, 10:00AM: **Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour** at the Forrestal Nature Preserve in RPV. Park on Forrestal Drive meet at the “yellow gate”.

Sunday, September 1, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Tuesday, September 4, 8:00AM: “**Tour de Torrance**,” Join Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance’s best birding areas.

Saturday, September 8, 9:00AM: **PVP Land Conservancy Upper Malaga Dunes walk**. Park on the streets around Malaga Cove Plaza. Meet at the EAST end of Via Tejon cul-de-sac.

Sunday, September 9, 8:00AM: **Second Sunday Walk at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park**. See meeting location below.

Wednesday, September 12, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh**. Leader: Bob Shanman.

Saturday, September 15, 9:00AM: **California Coastal Cleanup Day**. Various locations in the South Bay; Madrona Marsh, Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, Cabrillo Beach, Abalone Cove, Torrance Beach, White Point. See Heal The Bay web site for other locations: <http://www.healthebay.org/volunteer/ccd/>.

Tuesday, September 18, 8:00AM: “**Tour de Torrance**,” Join Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance’s best birding areas.

Tuesday, September 18, 7:00PM: **AUDUBON THIRD TUESDAY GET-TOGETHERS** Come and socialize with friends, enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited. At Madrona Marsh Preserve. Our speaker will be Jess Morton discussing global warming and its effects locally.

Wednesday, September 19, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

Tuesday, October 2, 8:00AM: “**Tour de Torrance**,” Join Dave Moody & friends on a ramble around Torrance’s best birding areas.

Sunday, October 6, 8:00AM: **Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden**. Leader: Stephanie Bryan.

# 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](mailto:motmots@aol.com).

· Martin Byhower also provides guided field trips. For updates and details on all trips, go to [www.birdingsocal.com](http://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](mailto:info@pvplc.org) or by telephone at 310-541-7613.

PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 2582  
PALOS VERDES, CA 90274

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PALOS VERDES, CA  
PERMIT NO. 172

**Time-sensitive material--  
please deliver promptly.**



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.

**OFFICERS 2005/2006**

*President*

Martin Byhower.....539-0050

*Vice Presidents*

John Nieto.....544-2714

Connie Vadheim.....540-9624

*Treasurer*

Jess Morton.....832-5601

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Eileen Byhower	Bob Carr
Linda Chilton	Ollie Coker
Tracy Drake	Allen Franz
Nancy Feegans	Linda Gonzales
Candy Groat	Dan Lee
Lillian Light	Evi Meyer
Bob Shanman	Laurie Szogas
Swati Yanamadala	

**COMMITTEES**

Birds & Habitat: Allen Franz.....832-1671  
Conservation: Lillian Light.....545-1384  
Harbor Park: Martin Byhower.....539-0050  
Programs: John Nieto.....544-2714  
Membership: Vicki Peterson  
Outreach: Candy Groat.....541-4932

## **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 310-832-560-1 or visit us online at [www.audubonYES.org](http://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.