



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

October/November 2015 Vol. XXXVII No. V

THIS UNKNOWN PENINSULA

Preening

By Jess Morton

Great blue herons are impressive birds; huge-winged and graceful in flight, a deadly patience at the edge of a small pile of fresh dirt waiting for the gopher's next approach, and thoroughly attentive as it preens its multi-hued and all-important plumage. In this last, the great blue is like all other birds. They spend a lot of time caring for feathers, because feathers are not only essential to flight, they control body temperature, signal eligibility or territorial ownership to others, shed water and serve a host of other uses.

And speaking of host in quite another sense, feathers provide dozens of microhabitats for a range of parasitic fungi, mites and insects, each adapted to living on birds, sometimes a single species.

Thus, great feather care is necessary to a bird's health. That is why you may see a Great blue heron bend its head to examine lifted body feathers or stretch out its wing and use its long neck and bill to work its way out along the underside of the wing: straightening, combing, cleaning as it goes. Or if you have spent much time watching hummingbirds, you will have seen one reach its tiny claw over its wing to scratch its head zippity-zip, rearranging feathers and perhaps dislodging a feather louse as it scratches. It may look silly and the ultimate contortionist's trick — who knew it had such long legs? — but there are a lot of feathers up top, and all need to be in good shape.

Most birds have a preen gland at the base of their tail to help with preening. In fact, that preen gland is a magical chemical factory, producing waxes and oils to do a score of jobs. Waterproofing is pretty high on that list, but keeping the vanes and barbs pliable is critical for feathers. Once grown, they are dead matter and wear out. A substantial part of a bird's weight is in its feathers, so keeping them usable as long as possible with what comes out of the preen gland saves a lot



A Great blue heron at Bolsa Chica

Photo by Jess Morton

of energy in the long run. Some of the chemicals produced also play a role in parasite control, and in a few species, they may make the bird's smell or taste so repulsive that predation is reduced. The preen gland serves cosmetic purposes, too, of course, and one does not have to take much more than a cursory look to see how attractive birds are. But my great blue heron was not preening for my benefit. Not too far away, its mate was waiting. And nesting season was well under way.

California
Condor
Experts
Coming in
November

See page 9 for
information!



Southern California Council Meeting Coming Up

By David Quadhamer

The Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter of the Audubon Society is hosting the Southern California Council meeting on Saturday, October 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. In addition, Tracy Drake will lead a bird walk starting at 8 a.m. All chapter members are invited to attend.

We are also calling on chapter members for help with hosting the meeting. Hosting involves getting the room ready for the meeting, greeting people, serving snacks and beverages during the meeting, organizing and serving lunch and cleaning up the room after the meeting. If you can help with any of these duties, please let me know.

There are 49 Audubon chapters in California and each is assigned to one of five Councils. There are 14 chapters in the Southern California Council. The Council meetings are held quarterly and provide an important opportunity for various Southern California Audubon Chapter members to get together and talk about what projects they are working on and what issues they are facing. Different Audubon chapters around Southern California take turns hosting the meeting,

and it was about time for us to host another meeting.

It is interesting to hear about the efforts of other chapters as well as their objectives. Some chapters are striving to prevent land development, other chapters have a focus on education and some chapters are very active in protecting and/or surveying a particular species of bird. You definitely get a sense of what some of the conservation issues are around Southern California. Hearing about the work of these chapters is also a great way to get new ideas to incorporate into our chapter's mission.

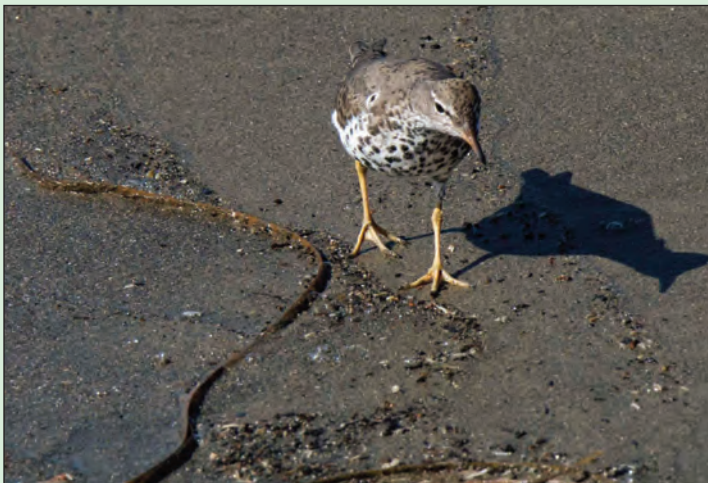
Garry George, the California Chapter Network Director, will provide an update on what Audubon California is working on. Vic Leipzig, the Southern California Chapter representative on the Audubon California Board, will give the Audubon California Report, including an update from the last Audubon California Board meeting.

Representatives from each chapter in attendance will give an update on their latest projects. Typically about 10 to 12 chapters from Southern California are represented at each meeting. Tracy Drake will likely give a presentation about Madrona Marsh at the meeting as well. At press time, however, the meeting agenda had not been finalized.

'Photography Night'

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center

Come share your best nature photos with the Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society for our Fourth Annual Photography Night Program. From digi-scoping to point-and-shoot photography to serious SLR shots, we all have our favorite photos we would love to share. Birders enjoy hearing tales of adventure, and tonight is your chance to come in and share memories along with your own photos. To participate, please bring up to 15 of your favorite nature and bird photos. All levels are welcome.



Spotted sandpiper at Cabrillo Beach. Photo by Jess Morton

AVIANTICS by Evi Meyer



A New Season Begins for Audubon YES

By Tracey Awad

As we transition from summer to autumn, birds and butterflies prepare to migrate south, the cooling weather enables us to plant once more, and school is back in session. The new school year has always felt like a time for fresh starts and a good time to set new personal goals to me, and we are so excited to help our students, both new and returning, to achieve their community service goals.

Many of our students have worked with our wonderful partner Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy over the past year, and this summer they helped with removing invasive species at White Point. Some of our YES students will be continuing their work at White Point during the school year, where they will be learning about and planting native species.

Blue Butterfly Project

Molly Kim and Lydia Doku are two YES students who have shown tremendous leadership and initiative. In 2013, they began their SavetheBlueButterflyProject “with the aim of restoring the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly’s habitat, creating a favorable environment for the endangered species,” explained Molly in a recent exchange. Molly and Lydia, along with their YES club, started their project by planting native seeds at the Land Conservancy nursery in San Pedro, and once matured, they planted the native species at Linden H. Chandler Preserve in Rolling Hills Estates.

What started as a short-term project grew into a multi-year project with longer term goals. Molly, Lydia, and club members are visiting the plot every other week to plant, weed and water the restoration site. They are currently discussing their plans for the planting season with the Land Conservancy, which includes expanding their plot at Chandler Preserve and planting more deerweed and rattlepod plants.

“We hope that next spring we will see the endangered species in our plot, especially since there have been reports of the butterfly’s eggs in our plot,” said Molly.

She noted that she and the other students involved in the SavetheBlueButterflyProject are working on publicizing their project and efforts through their Facebook page and website: www.savethebluebutterfly.com.

We are so proud of Molly and Lydia and the work that they have done to help restore the Palos Verdes Blue Butterfly habitat and bring this butterfly back to the Peninsula.

New Film in the Works

We’re putting a video together with filmmaker and birder Steve Dexter. As some of you may remember, Steve worked



Above, YES volunteers restore habitat to help save the PV Blue Butterfly. Below, YES director Marcos Trinidad meets with filmmaker Steve Dexter about telling the story of YES on film.

Photos courtesy of YES



with Martin Byhower in 2010 to make the short film, “Birdathon 2010: The Bushwhackers Go Green,” during which Steve and his crew filmed Martin and his fellow birders as they participated in the 2010 Bird Count on their bicycles.

The new video will tell the story of Audubon YES, what is currently happening with YES, and what we hope we can achieve and become. The story will be told by current and former Audubon YES members, as well as educators and conservationists who help the students with achieving their goals. We’ve started preproduction meetings and we are in the process of scheduling a weekend for filming in October. We will film at sites all over the South Bay including Madrona Marsh, White Point Nature Conservancy and more.

This film will be used to promote Audubon YES to new students and community and gain exposure; to tell our story and share what we have been doing for 20 years. Our students are doing such good work and we want to spread the word as far as we can. Our hope is that by creating interest and investment in this great program, Audubon YES will be able to expand to more and more parts of the city and even throughout California and beyond.

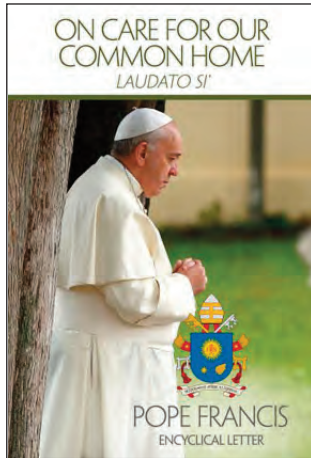
REVIEW: THE ENCYCLICAL LAUDATO SI

By Jess Morton

Pope Francis's call in May for international action on the environment is clear and multifaceted. His book-length encyclical *Laudato si*, subtitled "On Care for Our Common Home," is a thorough analysis of the difficulties we humans face both short and long term in maintaining a livable earth, and it lays out a comprehensive plan of sufficient depth to make possible the changes needed. Whether we have the will to do so is left an open question, but the range of political and economic actions outlined here do not instill any sense of optimism on this reader's part.

Francis's concerns are broad ranging, with a concentration on existing social and economic systems. Birds are part of the equation, too, as this quote shows: "It may well disturb us to learn of the extinction of mammals or birds ... But the good functioning of ecosystems also requires fungi, algae, worms, insects, reptiles and an innumerable variety of microorganisms."

Francis recognizes that human intervention in nature, though a root cause of loss, is a necessary part of what has to be



done, but issues an admonitory warning, too. "We must be grateful for the praiseworthy efforts being made by scientists and engineers dedicated to finding solutions to man-made problems. But a sober look at our world shows that the degree of human intervention, often in the service of business interests and consumerism, is actually making our earth less rich and

beautiful, ever more limited and grey, even as technological advances and consumer goods continue to abound limitlessly. We seem to think that we can substitute an irreplaceable and irretrievable beauty with something which we have created ourselves."

FFrancis is careful to build his case for the social and economic changes needed. It is not simply a matter of addressing species loss or pollution in isolation. He understands those are merely two symptoms of a dysfunctional economic system linked with a social order intent on amassing goods and wealth that conjoin to breed widespread poverty, inequity among nations and potentially devastating environmental degradation.

The changes needed are spelled out in the last chapter of *Laudato si*. The

headings for each section are broad and the text worth reading for what Francis has to say. He calls for changes, often radical and none easily made, that require individual, national, regional and international actions at unprecedented levels of cooperation and commitment.

At the same time, he warns, "Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain. The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world. The effects of the present imbalance can only be reduced by our decisive action, here and now."

To Francis, a world that results from such changes can offer all a richer life. "Such sobriety, when lived freely and consciously, is liberating. It is not a lesser life or one lived with less intensity. On the contrary, it is a way of living life to the full. In reality, those who enjoy more and live better each moment are those who have given up dipping here and there, always on the lookout for what they do not have. They experience what it means to appreciate each person and each thing, learning familiarity with the simplest things and how to enjoy them ... Even living on little, they can live a lot, above all when they cultivate other pleasures and find satisfaction in fraternal encounters, in service, in developing their gifts, in music and art, in contact with nature, in prayer."

Francis's action plan is one that should be at the forefront of every national agenda. While the Roman Catholic Church is no longer the political power it once was, *Laudato si* is the strongest environmental statement any government has ever made and its reach extends to over a billion people. "In the end, a world of exacerbated consumption is at the same time a world which mistreats life in all its forms." Can we make the needed changes?

'Diatoms of San Gabriel Streams'

Presented by Dr. Brynne Bryan,
Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center

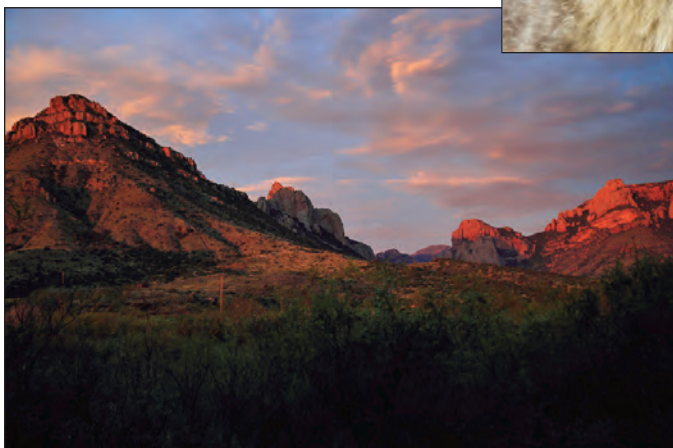
The Chapter's October speaker, Dr. Brynne L. Bryan, will present a program on diatoms from San Gabriel streams. High-mountain streams have unique communities of diatoms, many of which are adapted to living in clean water. Southern California diatoms must be adapted to drying out for long periods of time as well. Dr. Bryan will show us some of the diatoms that inhabit these streams, as well as those that encrust the rocks in dry streambeds.

Dr. Bryan is a professor at CSUDH, teaching ecology, biology and various biology topics. Prior to this, she spent five years working for the U.S. Forest Service in Puerto Rico, studying the response of diatom communities to changes in land-use intensity along a river. She earned a Ph.D. at the University of Puerto Rico as well as an M.S. from the University of North Texas.

Why I Decided to Move to Rural Portal, Arizona

By Steve Wolfe

The Chiricahuas, Elegant Trogon, Portal — these are fabled names among birders and bird photographers. The Chiricahuas are a “sky island” in extreme southeast Arizona, near the New Mexico border; Elegant Trogon is one of the sought-after birds in all of North America; and Portal, gateway to the Chiricahuas from the east, is the small “hamlet” where I bought a home in December 2014 and moved to in August 2015.



Cave Creek Canyon

It's a big change from the South Bay's suburban lifestyle — from city to rural, from a Wal-Mart nearby, to one 55 miles away. There are no grocery stores within 50 miles either, and the closest gas is in a New Mexico town 25 miles to the east. To get to Portal on a paved road, you have to go into New Mexico, then drive back into Arizona. There are no banks, only two places to eat, and no Home Depots. Residents of Portal and the surrounding area make a “Costco Run” to Tucson, 140 miles to the west (partially by dirt road) and stock up on supplies to last a month. So we make sacrifices to live here.

And its advantages? Well, one is the view to the east from my back yard — Cave Creek Canyon. The closest neighbors are at least 300 yards away. There are no street lights here, so the night sky, with its crystal-clear air and no lights except for the occasion-

al house, is among the cleanest and clearest in the nation — so much so that actual astronomers live in Sky Village, a community where you get



an observatory with your house, just outside of Portal.

The wildlife here is abundant, and much of it is unique to the area, not to be found anywhere else. It's not unusual to see wildlife in my back yard, such as Coues (white-tailed) deer, Gray Fox and Javelina, a member of the peccary family, often mistaken to be a wild pig. All of these photos were taken from the open sliding-glass door to the back porch of my house. And the birds — a possible 13 species of hummingbird; the aforementioned Elegant Trogon, seen in the U.S. only in the “sky islands” of Southeast Arizona; Montezuma Quail, a “nemesi” bird for many; Mexican Chickadee, seen only here in the Chiricahuas and an isolated spot in New Mexico, etc.

So I came here for all of these reasons, and more. And I think I was



Roadrunners, foxes and Javelinas often visit.

Photos by Steve Wolfe

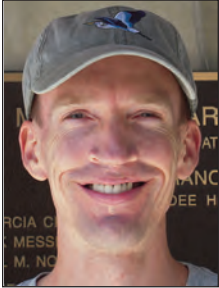
meant to get *this* particular house here, called “Faranuf” by its original owners (pronounced “Far Enough” because it is) as I had an encounter with a deer just outside of Portal while I was on my way to see the house — and I survived, without a scratch, whiplash or even being sore the next day, though my Tundra four-wheel-drive truck was totaled. I fell in love with Faranuf — and it became mine in short order.

Since I've moved into the house, I've noticed “residents” here — two Say's Phoebes, three Cottontail rabbits, a Black-throated Sparrow family of two adults and a juvenile, and a Roadrunner who's becoming increasingly curious about my presence and “stands guard” on top of my well house. I have hummingbird and bird feeders in the backyard, along with a water feature where birds bathe and wildlife can get a drink. Yes, there are also snakes, both poisonous and non-poisonous, along with black widow spiders and tarantulas, but as long as they don't bother me, I don't bother them.

So that's life here in the “boot heel” of southeast Arizona — and I wouldn't have it any other way have it any other way.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

An Array of Local Opportunities



By David Quadhamer

At our Annual Planning Meeting in August, we tried to cover what we would like to accomplish in the coming year and set goals. Our top priorities are to find funding for Audubon YES and to tap people to fill our open positions on the board.

Tracey Awad, our Audubon YES intern, wrote an excellent article in the last issue of *Hummin'* about some of the work Audubon YES has been doing. Alison Hong's project is a perfect example of what YES is all about. The work that Marcos Trinidad, Tracey and all of their volunteers do requires a lot of financial support — which is why the support of our members is crucial. Please consider donating to the Palos Verdes/South Bay Chapter to help keep Audubon YES going strong.

Currently, the chapter is in need of a Vice President, a Treasurer and a Secretary. We are also looking to fill some vacant positions on the Board of Directors. The Board meets six times per year, usually on the first Wednesday of even numbered months at 7 p.m. at Madrona Marsh. If you are interested in becoming a Board member, please let me know.

Another chapter need is extra help preparing *Hummin'* for a bimonthly mailing. We have a small group of volunteers who meet at Wild Birds Unlimited, typically on a weekday morning, to get the newsletter ready. It is a lot of work, but more hands mean the job will be completed more efficiently. Please let me know if you're interested in helping with this.

Did you know that California is home to more than 600 species of birds? There are 29 species and subspecies of birds on the California list of Threatened or Endangered Species. There are 74 bird Species of Special Concern in California. These are birds whose populations are considered at-risk by the California Department of Fish and Game and conservation groups. You might be able to see some of these birds on our bird walks.

We offer a number of bird walks each month throughout the South Bay. These walks are a great opportunity to potentially see some of these threatened or endangered birds.

Our walk leaders are very knowledgeable and are happy to help with bird identifications. Ron Melin and Dave Moody lead the "Tour de Torrance" bird walks on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. If there are five Tuesdays in a month, there is a walk on the fifth Tuesday as well. They meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center and bird not only at the marsh

but also other hot spots in the South Bay.

Bob Shanman leads walks to different locations around the South Bay on the first Wednesday of every month. These are the "Birding with Bob" walks. Go to www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob" for information on where to meet. Bob also leads a walk at the Ballona Wetlands on the third Sunday of the month. They meet in the parking lot at Del Rey Lagoon and bird from 8 to 11 a.m.

Additionally, Manuel Duran and Steve Dexter lead a bird walk at the South Coast Botanic Garden on the second Sunday of every month. They meet in the parking lot, and the walk begins at 8 a.m. Recently a Mississippi Kite was at the garden, and Manuel and Steve were able to find the kite again and show their walk participants. So you never know what you might find!

Tracy Drake and/or Dinuk Magamma lead a walk on the fourth Saturday of each month at Madrona Marsh from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Both Tracy and Dinuk are very knowledgeable birders and can tell you everything about the marsh. There have been several great bird sightings there as well.

The South Bay offers a number of volunteer activities if you would prefer to help restore and preserve habitat for some of the threatened or endangered birds that I mentioned. There is ongoing habitat restoration at the Madrona Marsh, and volunteers are needed to pull weeds on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. until noon. Additional habitat restoration work is done every Saturday from 8:45 a.m. until noon.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy also has volunteer opportunities for habitat restoration. They are held most Saturdays at locations around the peninsula from 9 a.m. to noon. Check their website (www.pvplc.org) for more details on where they are working.

A lot of our Audubon YES volunteers can be found volunteering at these habitat restoration events. They help to restore and preserve habitat for our birds and other wildlife. You can help at these events as well and see how our Audubon YES volunteers are making a difference.

At our upcoming October meeting, Dr. Brynne Bryan will give a presentation on diatoms, and in November Vince Gerwe and Rod Lang of the Friends of the California Free and Wild will offer a presentation on California Condors (see the respective listings on pages 2 and 9). Both presentations promise to be very engaging and informational. The calendar in this newsletter has a list of chapter meetings and bird walks. Please join us!

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Telegraph plant *Heterotheca grandiflora*

Fall is the driest time of the year. It's also when resident and migratory birds are looking for food. Fortunately, some of our local sunflowers are at their peak right now. One of the easiest to grow in a home garden is the Telegraph plant.



Heterotheca grandiflora is native to Southern California and Northern Mexico. It appears in many plant communities, including Coastal Prairie, Coastal Sage Scrub — even Southern Oak Woodland. It grows in bare, sunny spots; you've likely seen it at the Madrona Marsh Preserve or in vacant lots around the South Bay. It's a particularly important plant because it blooms in late summer and fall, providing food for late-season pollinators and plentiful seeds for the seed-eating birds.

Telegraph plant is an annual or short-lived perennial. It has very fuzzy foliage, which lends a soft, pastel appearance to the plant. On closer observation, the small, ball-like glands that give this plant its distinctive scent are apparent. The scent is strong but not unpleasant, with camphor

over-tones. We recommend wearing gloves when handling this plant as the scent persists!

The flowers are in typical sunflower heads with yellow-gold ray (the flat ones) and disk flowers. The cheery color is a welcome sight this time of year. So are the many butterflies and other insects that visit them. The fluffy seeds are spread by the wind, so this is a great plant for naturalizing.

Telegraph plant likes sun and adequate water in winter and spring. Fuzzy new plants start to appear about March. In many years, Telegraph plant does fine with only rain; in a dry year, give the plants some supplemental spring water.

Plants die back to the ground in late fall. Many gardeners just pull them out at this point, since natural re-seeding usually provides plenty of replacements. You can collect seeds in fall and either sow in the garden or start in small pots with the winter rains. This is an easy wildflower to grow.

To learn more, visit <http://mother-natures-backyard.blogspot.com/2015/08/plant-of-month-august-telegraph-plant.html>.



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.



MEET, LEARN, RESTORE, ENJOY

Chapter Calendar

Events

Friday & Saturday, Oct. 2 – 3: Native Plant Sale by the South Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. Open to the public Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and open to Audubon Chapter members Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. (memberships available at the door). A wide variety of plants will be available at the sale, held at Madrona Marsh Nature Center, 3201 Plaza del Amo, in Torrance.

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speakers will be Vince Gerwe and Rod Lang reporting on the California Condor Recovery Program. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Field Trips

Important change: Due to construction at Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, all second Sunday bird walks there are cancelled indefinitely.

to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. For details, visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Saturday, Oct. 10, 3 p.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Klondike Canyon. Named after "fool's gold" found in the canyon, follow a loop overlooking the Portuguese Bend landslide to experience splendid views. Strenuous. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, Oct. 11, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.

Audubon leaders Steve Dexter, Manuel Duran and Ed Griffin will lead this walk through the garden, located at 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. There is a minimal charge for nonmembers of the SCBG Foundation, or you can join there.

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Oct. 6 for details.

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leader Bob Shanman. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Oct. 14, 8:30am: Field-trip to Silver Saddle Resort (Galileo Hills) with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk to Switchback Trail at Trump National Golf Club. Walk the switchback trail to the beach. Learn about local geology and fall blooming habitat. Stay to watch the sunset from Founders Park. Moderate. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Sunday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman.



Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) in Bolsa Chica

Photo by Evi Meyer

Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.: PV & South Bay Chapter board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speaker will be Dr. Brynne L. Bryan, giving a presentation on the Diatoms from San Gabriel Streams. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Sunday, Oct. 4, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to Sycamore Canyon and Oxnard Plain with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Tuesday, Oct. 6, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." Join Audubon leader Ron Melin and friends on a ramble around a great local birding area. Meet at Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Wednesday, Oct. 7: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks

Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Sunday, Oct. 18, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to San Joaquin Marsh with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Tuesday, Oct. 20, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Oct. 6 for details.

Saturday, Oct. 24, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leaders Tracy Drake and Dinuk Magamma. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Oct. 6 for details.

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Oct. 6 for details.

Wednesday, Nov. 4: Birding with Bob. Bob Shanman leads bird walks to different destinations every first Wednesday of the month. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Sunday, Nov. 8, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See Oct. 11 for details.

Sunday Nov. 8, 8 a.m.: Fieldtrip to Ballona Creek and Freshwater Marsh with Eric and Ann Brooks. For details, e-mail motmots@aol.com or call 323-295-6688.

Wednesday, Nov. 11, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See Oct. 14 for details.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 9 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Peacock Flats/Eagles' Nest. Visit this site where 20 acres are being restored to coastal sage scrub and cactus scrub. Observe the other side of Peacock Flats trail to compare how the area looked before restoration. Moderate. For details, visit www.pvplc.org.

Saturday, Nov. 14, 3:30 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Walk at Abalone Cove Shoreline Park. Tour the tide pools teeming with fascinating marine life.

Moderate to strenuous. For details, visit www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm

Sunday, Nov. 15, 8 a.m.: Bird walk at Ballona Wetlands with Bob Shanman. Visit www.torrance.wbu.com and click on "Birding with Bob."

Tuesday, Nov. 17, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See Oct. 6 for details.

Saturday, Nov. 28, 8:30-10:30 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh with Audubon leaders Tracy Drake and Dinuk Magamma. Meet at the Madrona Marsh Nature Center.



NOTE: PV/South Bay Audubon field trips are generally free, but donations are much appreciated to support programs of the chapter. Please visit the Chapter website at www.pvsb-audubon.org or www.southbaycalendar.org. Area youth and their families are encouraged to visit www.pvsb-audubon.org/AudubonYES.html.

'California Condor Recovery Program'

Presented by Vince Gerwe and Rod Lang, Friends of California Condors Wild and Free
Tuesday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Madrona Marsh Nature Center

The Friend's slide presentation, and accompanying discussion, provides a summary of the California Condor Recovery program in Southern California. Our presenters will review how their volunteer organization provides assistance and support to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Santa Barbara and Los Angeles zoos, and other supporting organizations.

Vince Gerwe has been a condor volunteer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife even before the founding of the Friends of the California Free and Wild group. Vince is a past president of The Friends group and is currently the Activities Director. Rod Lang has been a member of The Friends group for over 3 years and a member of our speaker program for a year. Check out these websites: www.friendsofcondors.org; www.facebook.com/friendsofcondors; Twitter: @CondorFriends.



Male Condor with his chick.

Photo by Joseph Brandt, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Jess Morton, jmorton@jgc.org
David Quadhamer, dquadhamer@yahoo.com
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Publicity: Open
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