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California Least Tern

Newsletter of the El Dorado Audubon Society

Founded 1969

June 2018

Thoughts from the President - Mary Parsell

Celebrating Summer Field Trips and Events

The mission of the El Dorado Audubon Society is the conservation of native birds and their habitats. The society provides leadership in conservation and educates its members and the community, so that they may appreciate birds and participate in the society's conservation efforts.

El Dorado Audubon Society is a California chapter of the National Audubon Society serving the communities of Artesia, Avalon, Bellflower, Carson, Cerritos, Cypress, Hawaiian Gardens, La Palma, Lakewood, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, Paramount, Rossmoor, San Pedro, Seal Beach and Sunset Beach.

"Never Give Up Listening to the Sounds of the Birds," -Audubon.

This summer we are looking forward to a variety of field trips and events not only in June but throughout the summer. In June, we look forward to our Members' and Friends' night, field trip to Yorba Regional Park on the Santa Ana River, and El Dorado Park Clean-up. Our Los Cerritos Wetlands field trips continue June, July, and August.

We are planning a beginning birding class to be held on a weekend in July or August (date to be determined). Since this is the last edition of our newsletter

until September, please check our website for classes, events, and walks in July and August.

Thanks to all of you, our volunteers, who contribute your time, energy, and passion to conservation of birds and other wildlife. We have a great group of officers, committee chairs, committee members and YOU, our members and contributors! As we wrap up this year, we are going for another year of birding!

Thanks, and see you on the birding trail!



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or

Donate through PayPal on our website:

www.eldoradoaudubon.org

June 21st, 5:30 p.m. bird walk, 6:30 p.m. dinner and sharing

Members and Friends Night

Please join us on Thursday, June 21 for our last meeting until September. It's a chance to experience El Dorado Nature Center at a wonderful time of the day, a time to relax and to enjoy each other's company.

There will be a Bird Walk at 5:30 p.m. for those who can make it. Potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a dish big enough to share with six to eight people (appetizers, salad, main dish, dessert). Don't forget to bring your own plate and utensils. The chapter will supply drinks.

This is meant to be a sharing time. Bring photos on the computer (flash drive), a poem to read, cartoons, jokes, or whatever you would like to share. Bring friends and family. We hope to see you there!



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Chapter Happenings

Field Trips, Jeff Moore, Field Trip Chair

April Bird Walk Recap

Rancho Los Cerritos

By Carolyn Vance

Our last walk of the season wasn't as birdy as I expected it to be, but we still saw 20 species! We had up close looks at Bushtits and were able to distinguish male from female. I learned that, during breeding season, males have black eyes and females have pale yellow eyes. We also got a fairly good look at a Hermit Thrush and a better look at a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. A small flock (17) of Cedar Waxwings were seen flying over the Rancho. Other flyovers included nine Mallards, some way-up-high gulls, and a few Ravens. We heard several birds that we never saw including Red-shouldered Hawk, House and Lesser Goldfinches, an Orange-crowned Warbler, and a robin.

This is the last walk put on by El Dorado Audubon, but the Rancho has now started a family-and-beginner-friendly walk the fourth Saturday of every month. It runs from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. If you didn't attend one of our walks and still want to bird the Rancho, this is your chance. For more information, go to rancholoscerritos.org. Many thanks to Meryll Edelstein and Jerry Millett for helping out again in April and to Marie Barnidge-McIntyre, the Horticulturist for the Rancho, for having us in and helping. 

Dominguez Gap Field Trip Report

By Mary Parsell

We had an amazing morning

birding at Dominguez Gap on April 21st. It has been ten years since the opening of this restored area. We observed 33 species of birds. Highlights were Blue-winged Teal (8), Bullock's Oriole (7), Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cliff Swallow, and Barn Swallow. Other wildlife: Western Fence Lizards, rabbits, squirrels, turtles, and a bullfrog heard but not seen. Butterflies included Monarch, Cabbage White, and Mourning Cloak. Bush sunflowers were in full bloom and stood out against the shades of green of the native shrubs. See the eBird checklist (including photos) at ebird.org/view/checklist/S44790138. 

Bird Walk/Colorado Lagoon

Sun., June 3rd 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

(In conjunction with FOCL, Friends of the Colorado Lagoon.) See page six, contact Harriet Benish at 562.621.9734, or email: alinkletter@yahoo.com for info.

Los Cerritos Wetlands

Hellman Lowlands

Sat., June 9, July 14, Aug. 11 8:00 to 10 a.m.

Celebrate Year of the Bird with a walk on the wetlands! Meet at PCH and First St, on the border of Seal Beach/LB. Turn inland, park off asphalt. This is a locked gated area and one of two chances to enter the property. We will be looking for Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Hooded Oriole, Common Yellowthroat, herons, and egrets. Document avian species for this Audubon IBA. Bring binoculars, hat, water, sunscreen, and closed-toed

shoes. Rain or shine.

Bird Walk El Dorado Nature Ctr.

Sun., June 10th, 8:00-10:00 a.m.

Celebrate upcoming summer with a morning of easy birding in the shady Nature Center. No prior birding experience is necessary: all skill levels are welcome. Suggest binoculars, field guide, hat, sturdy shoes, water. Rain or shine.

Los Cerritos Wetlands

Zedler Marsh

Sun., June 24, July 22, August 26 6 to 8 p.m.

Celebrate an evening walk on the wetlands! Meet at PCH and First Street, border of Seal Beach/Long Beach. Turn inland, park off asphalt. This small tidal marsh off the San Gabriel River is a good place to look for herons, egrets, shorebirds, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, and Hooded Orioles. Enjoy native plants. It'll be a beautiful walk; help us document the birds! Binoculars, closed-toed shoes, water. Rain or shine. 

Volunteer to Salute:

Special thanks to Cindy Crawford for spending countless hours updating our website, getting it to function as it should and adding her pictures and from Cindy Dunbar, Kim Moore, and Jerry Millett (all who should enter Audubon's annual photography contest!)

See eldoradoaudubon.org.

Cindy will work on glitches, update existing pages, plus add new and interesting content to provide you with another source of what El Dorado Audubon is doing. 

Our Environment

Conservation News

By Mary Parsell, Conservation Chair

Los Cerritos Wetlands

Your comments are needed on two separate CEQA processes: the Conceptual Restoration Plan for the entire LC complex and on a plan for 154 acre property owned by Synergy (formerly Bixby Ranch Company) known at LC Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project (BOMP).

LC Wetlands Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP)

The LCW Conceptual Restoration Plan (CRP) has been in the works since 2011. As part of the EIR process, the first public workshop took place on Mar. 28th. To learn about information conveyed in the public workshop, go to: intoloscerritoswetlands.org/past-eir-public-workshops/. To comment online, go to intoloscerritoswetlands.org/eir-public-comments/.

Los Cerritos Wetlands Oil Consolidation and Restoration Project: Next Stop California Coastal Commission (CCC)

This project will be going to the CCC next probably in August 2018 when a meeting will be held in the Los Angeles/Orange County area.

You can make a difference for the resident and migratory birds and wildlife of Pacific Flyway. The bird species checklist is extensive, at least 120 species. It is an Audubon CA Important Bird Area (ACIBA). It is part of the "string of pearls" along our coast: SBNWR, Bolsa Chica, Huntington Wetlands, Banning Ranch and Upper Newport Back Bay.

Please send individual letters in support of restoration of Los Cerritos Wetlands to the California Coastal Commission at locerritoswetlands@coastal.ca.gov.

Background information

The project was approved by the Long Beach City Council on January 16. We have provided comments and suggestions throughout the CRP process. From our letter to the city: "In general, per our mission, we are in support of good restoration efforts not only the preserve but to restore habitat whenever possible. We have prepared a list of concerns. It is important to note many of our concerns have been addressed, and some are topics of ongoing communications. In conclusion, we believe that with careful planning and some modifications, the restoration of LCW would be of great benefit to the birds, wildlife and the public." (see complete list on our website). 

Refuge Update

By Carolyn Vance

Tern season is in full swing, as is Eyes on the Colony (EOTC) and we still need your help! Last year was not successful with no more than 16 fledglings ever seen at one time out of 120+ chicks. This was primarily due to all the predation by Peregrine Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks. After battling Great-horned Owls and Kestrels the last couple of years, and having a great 2016 year, we are dismayed with last year's results.

We need to document any predation to the terns. Permitting standards require that we thor-

oughly document and identify avian predators that are taking Least Terns before requesting their removal. So, the Refuge needs more help observing avian predators at times when they are active.

If you can commit to a **minimum** of four hours a week to EOTC, or just want more information, please contact Refuge Manager Rick Nye via email at: Richard_nye@fws.gov. Historically, we watched in four-hour shifts from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must obtain a badge from the Navy to access the Refuge by filling out some background paperwork and must be a U.S. Citizen. Training and equipment is provided.

Speaking of our Terns, we had mushrooms growing on the site in mid-May, a first in the 20+ years that Patti Smith has been "Walking the Colony." We have no idea how they got to our Tern Colony, which is made up of sand and seashells, with a few beach plants.

Birds of Note: For the third year in a row, we have a Killdeer on a nest inside our Tern Colony. She's been sitting on two eggs since May 2nd, the first date we checked the Colony. She is a very brave and good mama, not budging from her nest when we walk past her. Our nesting Red-tailed Hawk mama does have three chicks again this year. Birds are on the nest and/or going back and forth with food for nestlings. Don't you just love spring and summer? 

Website to visit:

From Cornell, and although 2016, still interesting. State of **the Birds**: stateofthebirds.org. 

Cleanup at El Dorado East Regional Park Area II

Sat., June 23rd 8:00 to noon

Join El Dorado Audubon and El Dorado Nature Center for a morning of trash cleanup in the park. Bags and supplies will be provided by the Nature Center (7550 E. Spring St., LB). Along the way we'll watch and identify numerous birds common in this area.

Note: Parking fee on weekends is \$7 cash or annual pass. Pedestrian and bicycle entry is free. Enter at the main entrance on the north side of Spring Street. Just past the entrance fee booth, turn right and follow the signs. We'll meet at the corner of Snake Road by Horseshoe Lake. Look for our signs and check-in table. Park along the road.

Return to our table at 11:30 a.m. with your filled trash bags and automatically be entered in the prize drawing. Must be present to win.

Sadly, litter such as plastics, Styrofoam, fishing line, and ribbon not only detract from the park but pose deadly risks to birds and wildlife. Every year numerous birds are injured at the park, becoming tangled in fishing line and hooks. Long ribbon in the park is often used by the birds in nest building, posing a hazard should the birds become entangled. Plastics and Styrofoam are often mistaken for food and ingested by birds, fish, and other wildlife.

The good news, there is something we can do to help: every piece of trash picked up can save a life! 

Proposition 68 will fund numerous local and statewide conservation priorities.

El Dorado is joining numerous organizations in supporting Proposition 68 on the June 5th CA ballot. These groups have cited numerous potential benefits to CA birds as well as other natural treasures and the state's residents.

Called the California Clean Water & Safe Parks Act, Prop 68 is a \$4B bond measure that will fund a number of important priorities for Californians, including local, regional/state parks, clean drinking water projects, flood protection, and habitat projects that are vital to the state's diverse wildlife.

Audubon CA was part of a broad coalition working closely with lawmakers during 2017 to put Prop 68 on the ballot. This critical opportunity comes at a time when millions of Californians don't have access to safe parks, trails, or recreation areas. Moreover, the cycle of drought and extreme weather is already taking a toll on CA's natural treasures and threatens our communities with flooding and ecological degradation.

These same forces have also exposed our state's antiquated water infrastructure, bringing into doubt our ability to provide clean, safe, and reliable drinking water to our residents. Lastly, with most of the bond funding for vital conservation programs running out in the last few years, it is time for Californians to make the next investment in the protection of the natural resources that make California's parks and open spaces destinations for millions of visitors every year. Local example of

funding by the conservancies are: the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) has funded restoration areas on three local rivers: Dominguez Gap (LA River), Whittier Narrows (San Gabriel River) and Yorba Regional Park (Santa Ana River.) The Coastal Conservancy funds projects on the entire CA coast.

"Audubon California has long fought to protect CA's birds and natural landscapes, to make it possible for more people to experience these treasures, which is why our organization emphatically supports Prop 68," said Sarah Rose, executive director of Audubon CA. "This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to invest in safe parks, clean water, and the vibrant wildlife that are so important for our quality of life."

For the birds of the Pacific Flyway, and the one million people living near the Salton Sea, Prop 68 has profound importance. The measure includes \$200M for vitally important dust mitigation and habitat restoration at the Salton Sea, where water diversions create a public health disaster and destroy habitat.

Prop 68 includes funding for a broad array of conservation priorities: \$2.83B for parks and natural resources funding; investments in park-poor neighborhoods; much-needed maintenance for state parks; trails and creek restoration; funding for critical restoration at the Salton Sea; \$1.27B for water reliability; clean drinking water projects; groundwater clean-up and sustainability; flood protection, including multi-benefit flood projects; \$767M for state conservancies; and much more. 

El Dorado Audubon Society
Website: www.eldoradoaudubon.org
E-Mail: ElDoradoAudubon@yahoo.com

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Donate directly on our website through PayPal!

El Dorado Nature Center: 562-570-1745

Seal Beach NWR: 562-598-1024

To sign up for **Rare Bird Alerts** for L.A. or Orange County, go to www.yahoo.com, scroll to the bottom to "Groups" and follow instructions.

Officers

President	Mary Parsell 562.252.5825
1st Vice President	Elaine Layne 562.431.7448
2nd Vice President	Leah Young 562.715.8084
Secretary	Carol Furutani
Treasurer	Larry Lee 562.597.7491

Chairpersons

Audubon Adventures/Education	Anne Maben afmaben@gmail.com
Bluebird Boxes	Jerry Millett 562.860.7880
Christmas Bird Count	Cindy Dunbar 562.331.1163
Conservation	Mary Parsell 562.252.5825
Digital Communications	Cindy Crawford 562.508.1369
Field Trips	Jeff Moore 562.397.2667

Greeters

Hospitality	Mary Parsell 562.252.5825
Labeling Volunteers	Elias Zuniga
Members-at-Large	Jane Smith
Membership	Patty Benoit 562.438.3183
Newsletter Editor	Open
Outreach	Eleanor Palmer 562.596.0832

Programs

Publicity	Erin Kellogg
Seal Beach NWR	Grace Earl 562.598.5345
	Lyn Kraatz 562.433.8280
	Elaine Layne 562.431.7448
	Patty Benoit 562.438.3183
	Cindy Crawford 562.508.1369
	Leah Young, Cindy Crawford
	Debbie Ketcham 562.598.8400
	Carolyn Vance 562.594.7589

El Dorado Audubon Society holds its monthly meetings in the El Dorado Nature Center 7550 E. Spring Street, Long Beach. The public is welcome to attend meetings and field trips. El Dorado Audubon Society, Inc. assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending meetings or on field trips sponsored by the society.

California Least Tern, the newsletter of the El Dorado Audubon Society, is produced monthly, September through June. The deadline for all submissions is the second Thursday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit all contributions to meet space or deadline requirements.

Persons who are not members of the National Audubon Society, or who are from chapters other than El Dorado, may receive this newsletter. Simply submit your name, address, and a yearly fee of \$10.00 to the treasurer at the chapter address.

If you need to check your membership status or request changes to your name or address with the National Audubon Society, please call 800.876.0994 or email: Audubon@emailcustomerservice.com.

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For sick or injured wildlife, call:

Long Beach Animal Hospital
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International Bird Rescue Center
(San Pedro)
310-514-2573

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El Dorado Audubon Society Chapter
-Only Membership: you will become an important part of our dynamic chapter and receive a one-year subscription (10 issues) to our newsletter. All funds stay with El Dorado Audubon. Your information is private. \$20 (self/family), \$15 (student/senior). Name, address, phone or email below:

Make check payable to: El Dorado Audubon Society, P.O. Box 90713, LB, 90809 or join through chapter web site. or
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June Calendar of Events

3	Bird Walk: Colorado Lagoon Sun. , 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Meet at the Science Center located near the bridge on Appian Way: 5119 E. Colorado St.	17	Father's Day Sunday
		21	Summer solstice , longest day of the year. Will there be sunshine? 3:07 a.m. Pacific Time. (no sunshine at that time!)
4	Board Meeting: Monday. @ 7:00 p.m.		
6	Refuge Volunteer Work Day Wednesday, 8:00 a.m to noon. To sign up, call 562.598.1024. For more info, go to: sealbeachnwrfrriends.org (or see page three for details)	21	Program Meeting: El Dorado Nature Center, Members and Friends Night 5:30 p.m. bird walk, or come for 6:30 potluck and sharing. Until 9:00 p.m. (See page one for details)
		23	El Dorado Clean-up Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to noon (See page four for details.)
9	Field Trip: Hellman Lowlands Los Cerritos Wetlands. Saturday, 8:00-10:00 a.m.. Rain or shine. (See page two for details.)	24	Field trip: Zedler Marsh/Los Cerritos Wetlands Sunday, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m (See page two for details.)
10	Bird Walk: Sunday 8:00 a.m. at El Dorado Nature Center. Meet in the parking lot. Parking fee: \$7 Five or more? Contact Jeff at 562.397.2667. (See page two for details.)	30	Refuge Tour: Sat., 8:30 a.m. at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Reservations required at least four days in advance: 562.598.1024. Photo ID (adults only) is required. All ages welcome.
14	Flag Day, Thursday.		

