



HUMMIN'

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Palos Verdes/South Bay Audubon Society

April/May 2010 Vol. XXXII No. 2

Audubon Awards Are On!

By Jess Morton

What a privilege it is to honor Travis Longcore and Catherine Rich of the Urban Wildlands Group with the 2010 Audubon Conservation Award for their tireless, successful dedication to environmental protection. This honor will be presented at our annual conservation awards ceremony Saturday, April 24, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. in the John C. Olguin Auditorium, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, San Pedro. Others to be recognized for outstanding work are Ross Landry, Carl Leach, the Terranea Resort and students earning the Audubon YES! Award.

The awards will mark the culmination of Coast Bird Day, a special Earth Day celebration of our shore and sea birds. Starting at 10 a.m., there will be information displays, bird walks, talks on coastal bird identification for neophytes and experts alike, and a special program on conservation opportunities for birds and coastal wetlands. The activities, presentations and awards ceremony are free of charge for the general public, but beach parking costs \$1 per hour.

Travis and Catherine formed the Urban Wildlands Group 10 years ago to protect natural values in our urban setting. Their work with the endangered El Segundo blue butterfly has met with great success. During the past 3 years, the Torrance/Redondo population has increased dramatically. More recently, they led the important CEQA lawsuit against the City of Los Angeles over its implementation—without environmental review—of a feral cat TNR (trap, neuter and return) policy. For these and many other efforts, Catherine and Travis have more than earned our 2010 Conservation Award.

Ross Landry has been at the center of the PV Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for more years than we've had birds! Though others have helped out, for 40 years Ross has provided the steady, dependable base on which our CBC is built. Therefore, it is our privilege to honor Ross with Audubon's Lifetime Achievement Award for his quiet but essential dedication.

Terranea, the new Long Point resort, has shown that development can be done while enhancing environmental values. From its water quality to blufftop habitat creation, Terranea is a model for other businesses to follow. Thus, it is our pleasure to

The 2010 Birdathon Wants You



With spring migration upon us, it's time to support our Audubon Birdathon teams in their efforts to find lots of birds and attract funds for many important Audubon programs. This year, teams led by Martin Byhower (again by bike and on foot), Lillian Light and Bob Shanman will scour the South Bay for 120 species or more in their all-day marathons. Funds raised will support our youth programs at Harbor Park and Audubon YES! as well as ongoing efforts to preserve tens of thousands of acres of coastal wetlands south of the border. Please pledge generously when team leaders ask for your support. Jess Morton will again offer a set of Birdathon photos to donors. To make a pledge or learn more, e-mail Jess at jmorton@igc.org.

give Terranea our first Responsible Business Award.

Carl Leach is one of the unsung heroes of our educational system. Now retired, Carl was head of maintenance at Mira Costa High School and the school district for many years. Though not officially a teacher, Carl still champions environmental protection through his mentoring of the Costa Eco Club as he has done for the past 20-plus years. His legacy of conservation now resides in more than a generation of high school graduates throughout Los Angeles and the nation.

Many of Carl's students, plus others from South Bay schools, will be honored with the Audubon YES! Award, which recognizes the committed, hands-on efforts of tomorrow's leaders to improve the environment. This year we will honor students from Chadwick, Mira Costa, Palos Verdes, Peninsula, Torrance and West High Schools. A list of awardees, plus photos, will appear in the next issue of *Hummin'*.

Check out the color version of *Hummin'* online at <http://pvsb-audubon.org/hummin>

Great Days for the 'Blues'

By Jess Morton

Short-sleeve weather has arrived! Old Sol bathed the lush hillsides where grasses were beginning to head. Lupine, bush sunflower, bladder pod and, most importantly, deerweed and rattleweed were in full bloom—yellow, cream, purple and blue! But this last color comes with wings: a butterfly the size of a thumbnail, a Palos Verdes blue, one of the rarest animals on earth.

Nearly 30 years after the last known breeding in the wild, other than on a secluded hillside in North San Pedro, a female Palos Verdes blue butterfly (PVB) was found laying eggs on deerweed in Rolling Hills Estates. While possibly one of the butterflies released on the Chandler Preserve a few days earlier, this female and two males were on the site where captive-reared butterflies were released to reproduce a year ago. Chances are good that these particular butterflies represent a big step forward in the eventual recovery of this endangered butterfly.

The PVB has had a rough time since it was first described in 1977. One of many subspecies of the silvery blue (*Glaucopsyche lygdamus*), the caterpillars of the PVB are specialized for feeding on only two kinds of plants, neither of which is particularly abundant around the Palos Verdes Peninsula. But where those plants did grow, people wanted to use the land for other purposes. So, by the time the butterfly was listed as an endangered species in 1980, only two sites were known still to support PVBs: Hesse Park and the switchbacks on PV Drive East.

In 1982, our Audubon chapter organized a search to find out whether there were other PVB sites. We succeeded, finding four new locations, including Forrestal Quarry, to add to the existing two. Then disaster struck. The

Hesse Park site was destroyed to make way for a ball field that could have been built elsewhere in the park, and the weather turned ugly the following winter. In our 1983 survey, no butterflies appeared at any of the 1982 sites.



A female PV blue butterfly prepares to lay eggs, above, while the male below nectars on deerweed flowers.

Photos by Jess Morton



Although one new site was found that spring, no more than six butterflies—and possibly as few as three—were seen. None were found in 1984 or subsequent years.

The PVB was thought extinct for a decade. Then, in 1994, a remnant population was found on Navy property in San Pedro. A joint effort was launched to recover the blues. Scientists from UCLA, military and government agency personnel and hundreds of volunteers, including Audubon YES! students and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC) all

Upcoming Speakers

Ann and Eric Brooks bring another fabulous program of birding travel for our April 20 meeting. Popular with local birders, Eric, a founding member of our chapter, and Ann have taught about birds and led bird trips here and abroad for years. Recently they took us to Cuba, and this month we will check out their latest trip to the birding paradise of Costa Rica. You'll get to meet some of their latest bird friends up close through their lenses and stories.



Naturalist **Kurt Leuschner** describes "The Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail" at our May 18 meeting. Associate Professor of Natural Resources at the College of the Desert, Kurt has combined his knowledge of birds and wildlife into this fascinating guide to desert wild places. Starting at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument visitor center in Palm Desert, his birding talk gives detailed notes on 10 stops—where to bird, who to talk to and what not to miss. Kurt is a terrific teacher, and his program will be informative and entertaining. His wonderful trail guide will be available at the meeting.

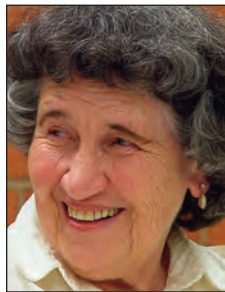
pushed for plans to save the butterflies.

For several years, Dr. Jana Johnson and PVPLC have led the work; Jana has been a brilliant success at rearing PVBs in the laboratory and the PVPLC has raised and planted thousands of food plants for the caterpillars. In March 2009, butterflies were finally released into the wild to lay eggs on those plants with the hope that the caterpillars would hatch, feed, mature and pupate, eventually to emerge as flying, breeding adults in 2010.

It is too early to predict the success of these prodigious efforts, but the appearance of the little lady in the photograph here is very encouraging. It is likely one of the 2009 brood, meaning that, for the first time, laboratory-bred blue butterflies have reproduced in the wild. What a great day for the blues!

CONSERVATION CORNER

Desalination or Conservation: Which Is Better for Us?



By Lillian Light

Readers of my previous *Hummin'* column are aware of the alarming decline in the supplies of fresh water in California. Is desalination really the solution to water supply problems or will it create more problems than it solves? This issue becomes particularly

urgent since plans are being made to site a large desalination facility in Redondo Beach alongside the power plant. We who are concerned about the environmental and economic vitality of our coast and ocean need to think twice before supporting ocean water desalination.

Most proposed plants plan to rely on “once-through” intake structures.

This is a technology that sucks in ocean water and kills fish and other marine organisms that get sucked into the facilities. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), these intake structures kill at least 3.4 billion fish and other organisms annually. This amounts to a \$212.5 million loss to anglers and commercial fishermen. Another problem is the brine or super salty water resulting from this process that is then dumped into the ocean, seriously impacting our coastal ecosystems.






Another major concern is that the desalination process will exacerbate global warming. It is estimated that this process is 10 times more energy intensive than other supply sources, and is even more energy demanding than importing water from the Sacramento Delta.

Poseidon Resources, whose largest investor is private equity firm Warburg Pincus, is attempting to build several desalination plants in Southern California and has received a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission to run one in the Carlsbad area. Since desalination is such an extremely energy-intensive way of producing drinking water, Poseidon was required by law to account for and offset their impacts on global warming. The company promise of “carbon neutrality” was based on incomplete and inaccurate calculations and withheld information.

In addition to hiding the facts about greenhouse gas emissions, Poseidon’s methods are highly destructive of ocean wildlife. You can take action to request that the Cal-

ifornia Coastal Commission revoke the Coastal Development Permit (see contact information at end). An interesting statistic I found states that the energy used for the Poseidon–Carlsbad desalination equals the energy use of 39,000 homes. A quotation from “Food and Water Watch” follows: “Companies like Poseidon view the ocean not as a public resource but as a vast, untapped source of profit, with unlimited potential to supply water to the highest bidder.”

Water-Wise Tips

-  Water your yard in the morning or evening
-  Use broom, not hoses, to clean driveways and sidewalks
-  Repair leaky faucets, plumbing and sprinklers
-  Install a solar-powered drip irrigation system in your garden
-  Use mulch for greater absorption

Ocean desalinated water is among the most expensive ways to supply water—three or more times what it costs to produce water from traditional supplies. It provides a new opportunity for private corporations to own and sell water. A recent Food and Water Watch analysis found that privately owned water utilities charge customers higher water rates than do

their publicly owned counterparts—from 13% to 50% higher. As water supplies become scarcer, rate-gouging thirsty populations may be the result of privatizing water.

Some public health experts have expressed concern about using ocean water as drinking water because of contaminants that are concentrated by the desalination process. These include boron, algal toxins like red tide and endocrine disruptors. Another concern is that water is drawn from coastal areas with sewage and storm-water runoff. Draft guidelines released by the state of Massachusetts advise, “Prior to seeking desalinated water, proponents and communities needing additional water should first achieve savings through efficient use and conservation of existing water.”

There is so much that can be done to conserve water (see sidebar). The L.A. area has about 14 inches of rainfall a year. We should all be collecting the water that falls on our roofs and use permeable paving to reduce the water runoff that goes to the ocean. Recycling water to use for all outdoor watering would be cheaper than investing in desalination. Repairing those leaking pipes throughout the nation could save 6 billion gallons of water every year.

To find out more about both sides of the desalination controversy, you are invited to come to two South Bay events (see announcement on p. 5).

Please write or call the California Coastal Commission, 45 Fremont Street, Sacramento, CA 94105-2219; phone: 415-904-5200; fax: 415-904-5400.

Birds of the Peninsula

January and February 2010

By Kevin Larson

Local birding tapered off after the Christmas Bird Counts and fewer bird reports were received. A number of continuing winter birds were reported, with the star being the King Eider at Cabrillo Beach that remained through mid-January. By far the most notable of the new finds was a Painted Redstart at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester. Swallows arriving in February marked the welcome onset of spring migration.

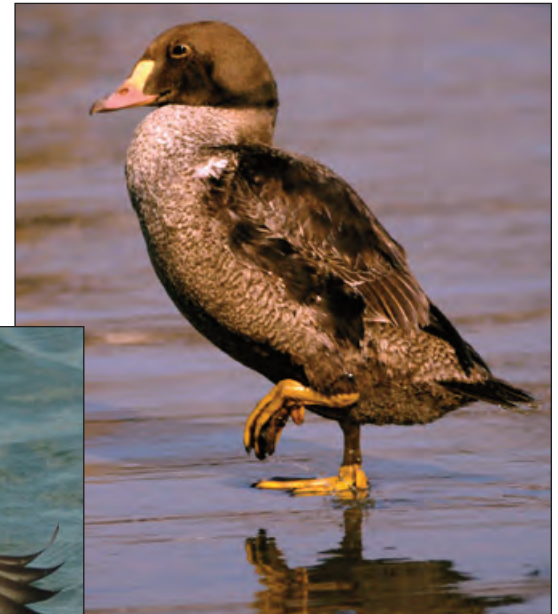
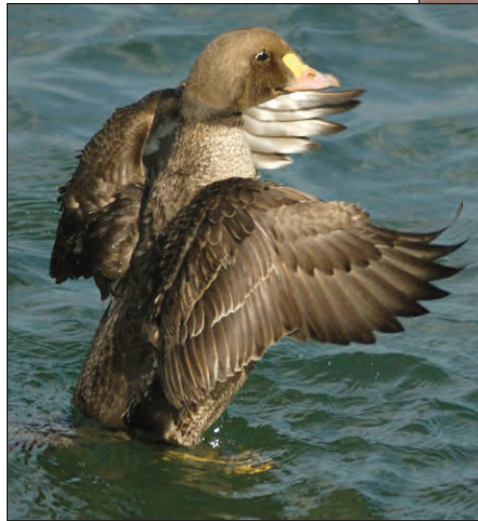
After two weeks of warm, dry offshore weather at the beginning of the year, a series of four potent rainstorms hit the area 17–21 Jan. A barometric pressure reading of 29.07 inches of mercury on 21 Jan. was the lowest recorded at LAX since records began in 1931. Additional rainfall events came through February. After four consecutive winters of below-normal rainfall, it was encouraging to have seasonal (July–June) totals running above normal at the end of February.

Six Greater White-fronted Geese continued at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area in Willowbrook 22 Oct–16 Feb. (Richard Barth). A now-tame Snow Goose that has taken up residence at this location was still present on 16 Feb. (RB).

Cackling Geese at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area included one of the minima race 28 Nov–26 Jan. and one of the Aleutian race 26 Jan.–16 Feb. (RB). Up to 11 Brant at Cabrillo Beach 27 Dec.–9 Jan. were notable winter visitors (Tom Miko et al.); two at Marina del Rey on 18 Feb. were likely early migrants (David Bell).

The **King Eider** found at the

Cabrillo Beach Pier on 27 Dec. was last reported on 20 Jan. (David Ellsworth, TM). A report indicated that the bird was not present on 24 Jan. Wildlife rehabilitators made unsuccessful attempts to capture the bird in



King Eiders

Photos by Jess Morton

early January since there was conjecture that it was slightly oiled. It is not known whether it was eventually captured or it departed on its own.

The rare Scoters continued in good numbers this winter. Compiled White-winged Scoter sightings at Dockweiler State Beach 4 Jan.–11 Mar. involved at least eight individuals (RB) and one was sighted along Ballona Creek on 15 Jan. (Martin Myers). Compiled Black Scoter sightings at Dockweiler State Beach 4 Jan.–11 Mar. involved at least 10 individuals (RB). A Common Goldeneye was along Ballona Creek on 28 Jan. (Ed Griffin). Hooded Merganser sightings included one at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh on 19 Jan. (Don Sterba) and another at Madrona Marsh 29–30 Jan. (Dan Cooper).

A Cattle Egret at Earvin Magic Johnson Recreation Area 17 Jan.–2 Feb. was at a location where a few in-

dividuals have been recorded each winter since 2002–03 (RB). What was believed to be a Swainson's Hawk was over Ernie Howlett Park on 3 Feb. (David Moody); the timing coincided with early records of this northbound migrant in southern California. The Ferruginous Hawk that returned for its third winter to the dune area along the southwest corner of Playa del Rey continued 11 Nov–18 Feb. (Jonathan Coffin); an adult was also seen over Westchester on 20 Feb. (KL).

A report of a White-winged Dove along the 405 freeway in Carson on 7 Jan. was a surprise since there are no recent winter records locally (Tracy Drake). On 6 Jan., Barth photographed the Burrowing Owl reported along Dockweiler State Beach by Dean Schaff. The Nuttall's Woodpecker found at Harbor Park on 24 Oct (Martin Byhower) was still present in mid-January (EG).

Two Tree Swallows, along with

See Peninsula Birds, Page 5

Peninsula Birds, from Page 4

single Northern Rough-winged and Barn swallows, at the Ballona Freshwater Marsh 1–3 Jan. were evidently wintering in the area (DS, KL). A Northern Rough-winged Swallow and several Barn Swallows there on 2 Feb. may have been early migrants (DS).

The first report of a good push of migrant swallows involved a large mixed flock over the Playa Vista area on 20 Feb. (Russell Stone). A pair of Western Bluebirds at Alondra Park on 23 Feb. was at a location where this species bred in 2008 (David Moody). A singing California Thrasher in a tract of scrub in Marina del Rey along the north side of Ballona Creek east of the marina on 25 Feb. was undoubtedly the same individual noted in this area the past two springs.

A Nashville Warbler at Sand Dune Park on 3 Feb. was a good winter find (Kathy Ellsworth). A **Painted Redstart** at Loyola Marymount University in Westchester 23 Jan.–7 Mar. constitutes the first winter record for this article's coverage area (RS); two other records of this species in our area involved fall transients.

A dark-colored, adult White-crowned Sparrow, evidently of the oriantha race, in Westchester 16 Jan.–12 Mar. was wintering unusually far north (KL). Byhower saw two Bullock's Orioles and at least one Purple Finch at the South Coast Botanic Garden on 31 Jan.

Thanks to all who reported sightings during the period. Please send your sightings to me at cbirdr@ca.rr.com for the Palos Verdes/South Bay and vicinity, including areas east to the L.A. River, north to about the 105 Freeway, and up the coast to Marina del Rey.

What's Happening With Audubon YES!

By Marcos Trinidad

The Hwarang Leo Club of South Bay has struck again! In the past couple of months, they not only have committed to helping our environment in great numbers, they are spreading themselves throughout the South Bay. Their selfless service has included habitat restoration efforts at Madrona Marsh in Torrance and Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City. The Leo Club has also helped organizations, such as TreePeople, with potting over 350 bare-root shade and fruit trees on a rainy day.

Most impressively, 27 Hwarang Leo Club members completed the Youth Planting Supervisor Training hosted and taught by Tree Musketeers in El Segundo. All 27 members have earned a Supervisor Certificate issued by Tree Musketeers and all participated in the Musketeers' Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting in El Segundo March 6.

Our hats are off here at Audubon YES! to the amazing efforts of the Hwarang Leo Club! They are truly a model of what impact our youth can have on the environment when they

are inspired and engaged to take responsibility for our urban environment. Keep up the great work, Leo Club! It is appreciated by many and the birds are singing in praise of your work every morning. For those of you just joining the PV/South Bay Audubon Society, the South Bay chapter of the LEO Club is a division of the Lions Club, which is dedicated to helping Korean youth find service opportunities in their communities.

We are excited to have such motivated members of Audubon YES! and our numbers are growing with new connections made with many different organizations. Our focus is to be of service to the various organizations in the Palos Verdes and South Bay areas. We have recently included opportunities offered at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy and will concentrate efforts in the coming months to the Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve.

Audubon YES! is open to all and if you know of any organizations or areas in need of volunteers please contact Marcos Trinidad, volunteer coordinator, at marcos@pvsb-audubon.org or 323-945-4346.

Join the Local Debate on Desalination Plans

The South Bay Parkland Conservancy and the Environmental Priorities Network are presenting a Desalination Powwow in the Veterans Park Historical Library, 309 Esplanade, Redondo Beach, on Thursday, May 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Heal the Bay, West Basin Municipal Water District, and other professionals will discuss the impacts of desalination plants on our water supply and our ocean environment. Parking is adjacent to or under the pier.

A public forum on "Desalination or Conservation?" is also planned for Saturday, June 5, from 8:30 a.m. to

noon at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, Rancho Palos Verdes. Coffee and a light breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 9:30 before the program. Environmental groups can request a table to display their information.

The two sponsoring organizations have serious concerns about the problems that desalination can cause, and are eager to have the community weigh in on these impacts. For details, contact Jim Light at jim.light1@verizon.net or 310-989-3332 or Lillian Light at llight@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

The Odes of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Vicinity

By Mitch Heindel

Utopia, TX (formerly of PV)

Like so many things more glorious to study in far away exotic places, the Odonata (or “Odes”), the dragonflies and damselflies of the Palos Verdes Peninsula (PVP), have been much overlooked and little studied. With the recent advent of Ode field guides similar to bird field guides with color plates and range maps plus many Web sites about them, laypeople now have a reasonable chance of learning their common local dragonflies and damselflies like never before.

Odes have great diversity and spectacular colors, not to mention fascinating behaviors and life histories. In their short-lived flying adult form, they are high-end aerial insectivorous predators and great mosquito eaters. But most of their lives, often a year or more, are spent as aquatic larvae underwater, eating mosquito wrigglers, among other things that move. Most only live a few months as flying adults after they emerge, but some do migrate long distances.

Although you can find them anywhere, even in dry backyards far from water, your best Ode hunting will be at wet habitats like lakes, streams, swamps and marshes, and even temporary wet spots can be good. They are generally considered to be fairly sensitive to pollution, and their lack of presence in aquatic habitats is often an indicator of poor water quality.

This first attempt at naming the PVP Odes makes no effort to find or note historical records, but instead notes what has been found recently from the first, serious modern bit of looking for Odes here. It also provides a rough sketch of local status for each. In the world of insect records, historically, a specimen is required. With advances in technology and knowledge, a photograph can be sufficient now, if the key characters are shown unambiguously.

Without the hypothetical sight records, 11 species of dragons (Anisops) are irrefutably known from the PVP and vicinity in current modern times, and seem to be of regular occurrence. At least nine species of Zygops (damselflies) are present (only seven of which we can name for sure!) and currently known locally. So then, at the most conservative count, there are 20 species of Odes known to occur in the PVP and vicinity, with the 11 dragonflies, and at least 9 species of damselflies.

Additionally, there may be unidentified species of damselflies (of *Lestes* and *Enallagma* at KMHRP and *Ischnura* at Madrona Marsh) present, so 22 species is probably closer to



A Pacific forktail male damselfly with prey.

Photo by Jess Morton

the true total for minimum species diversity here. Then there are the two species of dragons for which there are sighting-only reports. So there may be as many as 24 to 25 species of Odes that occur in the PVP and adjacent vicinity.

If there could be 24 species here, then we have to believe that we've missed a few. I would expect with some diligent sump, canyon and damsel work, 25 species of Odes could be listed from the PVP and nearby areas

and maybe more. There also might be some historical records in local collections (Harbor College, LACNHM, CSULB, etc.) that could add to the list. Although the 30 species mark is likely an insurmountable task, the 25 total that is likely reality is remarkable in its own right, especially considering that the PVP is a former Channel Island. For now, we can name 18 of 20 species we know are present, so there is much work to be done!

To compare diversity with the PVP's 20 to 25 species in 100 square miles, as an example, from an acre or two at my current local park, at the edge of a pond and a big stream in south-central Texas, I have seen 50 species of Odes. Sometimes you can see 20 species in 20 paces. A south Texas stream is an Ode lovers dream. The L.A. County Ode list is currently at about 51 species, which means about half of the county list occurs locally. California has about 113 on its Ode list. So the PVP species comprise a fifth or so of the state list.

Odes are fairly solar-powered, and like butterflies, enjoy the summer sun and heat. The good news is that you don't have to get up and out there early to see them like with birds. They often aren't real active in the cold or under clouds. Midday is usually best. They come around from spring to fall, as flying adults are scarce November through February. The main season is from April to September.

With most digital cameras today, it is possible to easily get great dragonfly images at places like the KMHRP, Madrona Marsh and South Coast Botanic Gardens, etc. that are sufficient for learning and identification. Damselflies are most easily learned via netting and in-hand examination. The newer, stronger binoculars with close focus (4 to 8 feet) can be a great tool for observing and learning Odes.

Consider trying some of the dragonfly pond directions on the Web, which can attract all the regular species right to your yard and surely keep the skeeters down, biologically, besides always providing you with something to do that is fascinating.

Happy Odeing!

Your Backyard Habitat



By Dr. Constance M. Vadheim
CSU Dominguez Hills

Coast Strawberry *Fragaria chiloensis*

The weather is warming up, but we can still hope for a bit more rain.

It's not too late to plant a few more native habitat plants in your garden. The only trick is to keep them well-watered until they're established. Remember that windy days can really dry out the soil—and new plants. But if



you plant some Coast Strawberries now, you'll likely get a few tasty strawberries this season.

Coast Strawberry (*Fragaria chiloensis*) is native to the west coast from Alaska to Chile. This strawberry grows on coastal dunes and prairies near the ocean throughout its native range. The species is treasured for its strawberries (smaller but way better tasting than domesticated varieties) and pretty little white flowers in spring. The fruits are so tasty that you'll be sharing them with fruit-eating birds—unless you cover them with a net. Like any other strawberry, you can use them to make jam and syrup, eat them fresh, use them in baked goods or dry them for later use.

Coast Strawberry looks and grows like domesticated strawberries. The plants are short (usually less than 6 inches) with medium-green leaves. The leaves have three leaflets, which is characteristic of strawberries. And like most straw-

berries, Coast Strawberry spreads by producing “runners” (stolons). New plantlets, which form along the stolons, will take root forming new plants. Ultimately, Coast Strawberries fill in an area, making a nice, low-lying groundcover under trees. Mix them with Yarrow or native grasses for a mixed groundcover. They also look great in pots.

The flowers of *Fragaria chiloensis* are about a half-inch across with five white petals and a yellow center. The white flowers provide a lovely contrast with the darker leaves in spring. The plants may flower off and on from March through summer, and fruits begin to ripen as soon as the weather warms up.

Coast strawberries are easy to grow in gardens with sandy, well-drained soils. If you have heavy clay, try our local Woodland Strawberry, *Fragaria vesca ssp. californica*. Strawberries take full sun on the coast but are best in dappled or afternoon shade in hot inland gardens. Strawberries like to dry out be-



tween waterings. If you overwater in summer, they may suffer from fungal diseases. Taper off water in fall to promote fall dormancy. Plants produce new leaves in winter.

Native strawberries are easy to grow and wonderful to eat. Be sure to protect the fruit from snails, slugs and sow bugs, so you and the birds can have a feast!

For more information on growing and purchasing this plant, visit the Madrona Marsh Nature Center. The public 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 nature center.

MEET, LEARN, ENJOY, RESTORE

Calendar

Events

Saturday, April 3, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: Natural history walk at Bixby Marsh.

Explore the new 17-acre Bixby Marshland on your own after a half-hour introductory walk with Audubon leaders Jess Morton and John Nieto. Walks begin on the hour at the parking lot welcome table. Learn about how the marsh came into being, demystify the acronym JWPCP, see the results of a successful restoration and view the many birds that have made the wetland home. Photographers are welcome. Located in Carson, Bixby Marshland is on the west side of Figueroa Street, south of Sepulveda. Please note that parked trucks can make the entrance hard to see. The marsh is managed by the L.A. County Sanitation District; go to www.lacsd.org/about/wastewater_facilities/jwpcp/bixbymarshland.asp.

Wednesday, April 7, 7 p.m.: PV and South Bay Audubon board meeting at Madrona Marsh. All Audubon members and friends are welcome to attend.

Thursday, April 8, 8–10 a.m. Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. In collaboration with the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy (PVPLC), our chapter will be monitoring the bird population on the Three Sisters habitat restoration site as a long-term project (see Ann Dalkey's article in the August/September 2009 *Hummin'*). Volunteers are needed to be trained in identification and the methods used in the survey. To participate, contact Ann at adalkey@pvplc.org or 310-541-7613, ext. 208.

Saturday, April 10, 9–11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at the Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park (KMHRP). Led by Geffen Oren, Martin Byhower and others, the

cleanup and restoration of this important wildlife area offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about invasive species removal, native planting, effective debris removal and much more while earning community service credit. Wear closed-toe shoes and long pants. Bring water, a snack, sunscreen, bug repellent and work gloves. Harbor Regional Park is located at 25820 Vermont Ave., just west of the Harbor Freeway. For details, call Martin at 310-541-6763, ext. 4143.

Saturday, April 17, 7:45–9:45 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See April 8 for details.

Saturday, April 17, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.: Earth Day Concert/Celebration. VOICE and the City of Manhattan Beach will host the 19th annual South Bay Earth Day Concert and Celebration in beautiful Polliwog Park in Manhattan Beach. Join us for music, eco-friendly shopping, kids' activities, a garden tour, great food, music and dancing, environmental quiz and prizes. See greenervoice.org for more information and directions.

Tuesday, April 20, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. Our speakers for the evening will be Ann and Eric Brooks. They will be talking about birding in Costa Rica. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, April 24, 1:30 p.m.: Audubon Award Ceremony and Earth Day. For details, check our Web site at www.pvsb-audubon.org.

Saturday, April 24, 6:30 a.m.: 2010 Birdathon. All are invited to join the Wild Bunch for the 2010 Birdathon to help make it a huge success! We are meeting at the Fantastic Café in San

April						
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May						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Pedro on 25th Street, just west of Western Ave., and we hope to start birding about 7 a.m. Help us to find out what birds currently inhabit our area. You can also discover what birds we find by becoming our sponsor, and pledging 25 cents a bird, another amount or a fixed sum. Please contact Lillian Light at lklight@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

Saturday, May 1, 8 a.m.–12 p.m.: Bixby Marshland open to the public. See April 3 for details.

Saturday, May 1: Carbon Neutral Big Green Birdathon. The BushWhackers, led by Martin Byhower, will be doing their third annual Carbon Neutral Big Green Birdathon on their bikes. They are hoping to find 100 species. To find out more or to sponsor this event, contact Martin at avitropic@sbcglobal.net.

Thursday, May 6, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Desalination in the South Bay? The South Bay Parkland Conservancy and the Environmental Priorities Network are presenting a Desalination Pow-Wow in the Veterans Park Historical Library, 309 Esplanade, Redondo Beach. Heal the Bay, the West Basin Municipal Water District, and other experts will discuss the impacts of desalination plants on our water supply

and our ocean environment. Contact Jim Light at jim.light1@verizon.net or 310-989-3332 or Lillian Light at lk-light@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

Saturday, May 8, 9–11 a.m.: Second Saturday Habitat Restoration Project at KMHRP. See April 10 for details.

Saturday, May 8, 9:30 a.m.: Solar Homes Tour. Using the sun to produce electricity can reduce the dangers of global warming, which is why the Environmental Priorities Network is sponsoring its fifth annual Solar Homes Tour. Attending this tour or visiting any of the homes included will open up a new world of technologies to help everyone participate in a sustainable energy economy. Each home will be open to visitors for two hours, starting with the first one from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. To include your home in this tour, to obtain more information, or to request a flyer, contact Lillian Light at lklight@verizon.net or 310-545-1384.

Thursday, May 13, 7:30-9:30 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See April 8 for details.

Saturday, May 15, 7:15–9:15 a.m.: Bird survey on a habitat restoration site. See April 8 for details.

Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.: Audubon Third Tuesday Get-Togethers. This month's speaker will be Kurt Leuschner. He will be talking about birding the Palms to Pines Nature Trail in Palm Desert. Come to Madrona Marsh to socialize with friends and to enjoy the bird quiz, raffle and prizes from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Saturday, June 5, 8:30 a.m.–Noon: Public Forum on Desalination. A public forum on proposed desalination facilities in Redondo Beach will take place at the Pacific Unitarian Church, 5621 Montemalaga Drive, RPV. Environmental organizations are welcome to display information. The South Bay Parkland Conservancy and Environmental Priorities Network have serious concerns about the problems of desali-

nation and are eager for community input. Please see contact information directly at left.

Field Trips

Sunday, April 4, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden.

Audubon leader Stephanie Bryan 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 at the box office.

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

Saturday, April 10, 9–11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Forrestal Reserve. Encounter some of the best remaining coastal sage scrub on the Peninsula. Enjoy local wildflowers, such as scarlet paintbrush and mariposa lily, and see extraordinary geology in the dramatic cliffs where crystal and fossils are visible. Moderate. For details, go to www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, April 11, 8 a.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. Join Audubon leaders and explore this important natural area of the South Bay. See the February 13 KMHRP listing for directions.

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

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

Wednesday, April 21, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See April 4 for details.

Sunday, April 25, 3 p.m.: Los Serenos de Point Vicente Natural History Tour to Ocean Trails at Trump National Golf Course. Walk the Western Bluff Preserve to observe endangered gnatcatchers while enjoy-

ing the beautiful vistas of the coastline. Easy. For details, call 310-377-5370 or go to www.losserenos.com/pvic.htm.

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

Sunday, May 2, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See April 4 for details.

Tuesday, May 4, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See April 6 for details.

Saturday, May 8, 9–11 a.m.: PVPLC Natural History Walk to Linden H. Chandler Preserve. Experience three distinct habitat types—restored riparian vegetation, slopes with coastal sage scrub and grasslands. View the successful habitat restoration by the Land Conservancy to help reintroduce the endangered blue butterfly. Moderate. For details, go to www.pvplc.org.

Sunday, May 9, 8 p.m.: Second Sunday Walk at KMHRP. See April 11 for details.

Tuesday, May 11, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See April 4 for details.

Wednesday, May 12, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at Madrona Marsh. See April 14 for details.

Tuesday, May 18, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See April 4 for details.

Wednesday, May 19, 8 a.m.: Bird Walk at South Coast Botanic Garden. See April 4 for details.

Tuesday, May 25, 8:30 a.m.: "Tour de Torrance." See April 4 for details.



For more information on local events, please go to the Chapter Web site at: www.pvsb-audubon.org. For a complete list of events at Madrona Marsh, go to: www.southbaycalendar.org and click on Friends of Madrona Marsh. For a list of activities for Audubon's Youth Environmental Service program, go to: www.AudubonYES.org.

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