



Grand Haven, Michigan

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Birds & Byways -A West Mexican Sampler

Carl & Judi Manning

Join us for a sampling of West Mexican birding as we travel to the states of Sonora, Nayarit and Oaxaca. In Sonora, we'll visit Yecora, deep in the barrancas of the Sierra Madres, and Alamos, designed in the 1700's by the King of Spain's personal architect. Here, the high desert and montane pine forests give way to tropical deciduous forest, home of Mountain Trogon, Black-throated Magpie-Jay and Happy Wren.

Further south, in the State of Nayarit, is San Blas, a quiet fishing village on the Pacific coast, and home to over 30 endemic birds. Excursions on the Rio San Cristobal allow close approach to Common Black Hawk, Roseate Spoonbill and Northern Potoo.

Oaxaca lies at the western edge of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, the narrowest part of the North American continent – exquisite food, exciting birds, and exceptional archaeological sites! We bird the Zapotec ruins of Monte Alban, and visit El Tule, one of the world's oldest trees. Finally, our journey brings us to Tuxtepec and Tehuantepec.

Carl and Judi are members of OIAS, and have enjoyed combining their passion for birding and photography for several years.

BOARD MEMBERS ARE NEEDED

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**Join us. Everyone is invited.
Programs are free.**

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Visit the OIAS homepage at
<http://www.oias.org>

Oldest Known Wild Bird and a New Mother at 60!

March 11, 2011 – A few weeks ago, the oldest known wild bird in the Northern Hemisphere was spotted at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii. The bird, a female Laysan Albatross named Wisdom, is at least 60 years old; she is also a new mother.

Bird Studies Canada BirdStudiesCanada@bsc-eoc.org

Wisdom was spotted with her chick a few weeks ago by John Klavitter, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and the deputy manager of the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. She has sported and worn out five bird bands since she was first banded by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) scientist Chandler Robbins in 1956. At the time, he estimated the albatross to be about five years old. Robbins rediscovered Wisdom in 2001, when she was at least 50.

“She looks great,” said Bruce Peterjohn, the chief of the [North American Bird Banding Program](#) at the USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland. “And she is now the oldest wild bird documented in the 90-year history of our USGS Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian bird banding program,” he added. “To know that she can still successfully raise young at age 60-plus, that is beyond words. While the process of banding a bird has not changed greatly during the past century, the information provided by birds marked with a simple numbered metal band has transformed our knowledge of birds.”

Wisdom, Peterjohn said, has likely raised at least 30 to 35 chicks during her breeding life. Almost as amazing as being a parent at 60 is the number of miles she has likely flown. Adult birds average about 50,000 miles annually, so Wisdom has flown at least two to three million miles since she was first banded. That’s the equivalent of four to six trips from earth to the moon and back again, with plenty of miles to spare!

Bird Facts:

<http://animals.howstuffworks.com/animal-facts/bird-facts.htm>

Home invader: The [kea](#) (New Zealand), the world's only cold-weather parrot, loves to swing on car antennas and sled down the snowy roofs of ski lodges. The bird's favorite sport, though, is to get inside a lodge through its chimney and then trash the joint in search of food.

Deep-sea diver: The common [loon](#) (northern North America and Greenland) can dive more than 250 feet below the water's surface.

Aussie storm chaser: Huge, flightless [emus](#) (Australia) run after rain clouds, hoping for [water](#).

Poacher: The world's smallest [owl](#) (about five inches), the elf owl (Mexico and southwest United States), moves into abandoned gila woodpecker holes in [cacti](#).

Captain Ahab: The wetlands-dwelling [anhinga](#) spears fish with a long, sharp, slightly barbed beak that keeps dinner from sliding off.

Fears nothing: The two-and-a-half-foot-tall great gray owl (northern forests) has a wingspan of five feet and fiercely attacks anything that gets too close to its nest and owlets.

Sturdy swimmer: American dipper birds, also known as "water duzels," use their strong wings to "fly" under and through water to catch prey.

Sanitary engineer: A malleefowl (Australia) lays eggs in a nest full of rotting vegetation. The decay gives off heat to keep the eggs warm; the male bird checks the temperature often and adjusts the pile as necessary.

We need you!

May 14th -

Bird Count Day

Another opportunity to be a part of citizen science.

Spring birds will be coming through.

It is always fun to see how many new ones you can find.

Let Carl know if you can help.

Things to do for Earth Month

April 22

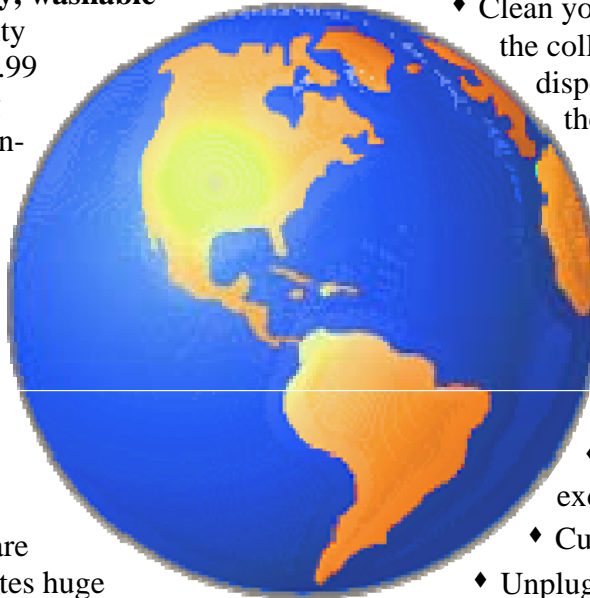
Ditch Single Use Plastic Water Bottles. Aside from being phenomenally more expensive than public water from your faucet, the water is not tested at the same standards that your tap water is, you don't know where it's from and the bottles are a source of a toxin (BPA) linked to obesity, prostate cancer, breast cancer, diabetes, brain disorders such as ADHD and a host of other illnesses. Instead **Choose a BPA free Stainless Steel Water Bottle (reusable) whenever possible.**

Bring your own high quality, washable bags to the store. High quality because using inexpensive, \$.99 bags creates more waste long term if they're made from non-woven polypropylene that can't/won't be recycled. Washable because reusable bags can become germ pits (ick) if they're not washed regularly.

Recycle your single use plastic bags. They're 100% recyclable, but you have to recycle them! Less than 6% are actually recycled, which creates huge amounts of waste for items that are used for a single time. Some get a second life as trashcan liners, but not many.

Buy locally produced foods. Not only are they fresher, they're less likely to be packaged heavily. Know the difference between local and organic. ASK the producers which chemicals they use if the produce isn't organic.

Reference: The NEXT 10 Things You Can Do for Earth Day By [Ellen Ornato](http://www.greenpackaginggroup.com/industry-experts/the-next-10-things-you-can-do-for-earth-day.html), 3/30/2011 | [excerpts] <http://www.greenpackaginggroup.com/industry-experts/the-next-10-things-you-can-do-for-earth-day.html>



- ♦ Start an herb garden in your window sill
- ♦ When planning a meal with fish, check [Seafood Watch Program](http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.aspx) from Monterey Aquarium [<http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/cr/seafoodwatch.aspx>]
- ♦ Follow principles of Kansa kitchen, don't waste food
 - ♦ Clean your medicine cabinet and drop the collection at a local safe medicine disposal site instead of dumping them in the toilet bowl
 - ♦ Take a hike or ride your bike
 - ♦ Buy bulk foods
 - ♦ Fix leaky faucets
 - ♦ Turn off lights when you don't need them
 - ♦ Once it gets warm enough, turn off the heat
 - ♦ Swap books through a book exchange
 - ♦ Cut down on sprays
- ♦ Unplug cords from outlets once you're done charging your gizmos.
- ♦ Donate unused clothing
- ♦ Use the same shopping bag at least twice.

Reference: 25 Things to Do in April for Earth Month 2011, <http://www.sergetheconcierge.com/2011/04/25-things-to-do-in-april-for-earth-month-2011.html>

- In 1932 James Markham obtained the 1st patent issued for a tree. The patent was for a peach tree.
- Orchids have the smallest seeds. It takes more than 1.25 million seeds to weigh 1 gram.
- The plant life in the oceans make up about 85 percent of all the greenery on the Earth. <http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/p-triv.html>

Green Tips To Prevent Phantom Energy Loss

by Kate on January 28, 2009; [excerpts] <http://www.greenertrends.com/2009/01/28/green-tips-to-prevent-phantom-energy-loss/>

There are certain electronic devices in your home that continue to use power even though they are not turned on, lovingly called “Vampires” or “Phantoms.”

- **Unplug your phone, camera, Ipad, and/or power tool charger.** These chargers use energy even when your devices are not plugged in.
- **Unplug your television and attached electronics.** It is easier if you have them all plugged into power strips, because rather than having to unplug each device, you can just turn off the strip.
- **Unplug your computer and attached electronics.** Just like with the TV, the computer is also a phantom energy user along with its attached devices. So, turning off a power strip is the easiest way to prevent phantom energy being used while these products are turned off.
- **Unplug kitchen appliances with clocks.** If you see a clock, then your kitchen device is using power. If possible, keep these appliances unplugged to prevent phantom energy usage.

- Enough energy is saved by recycling one aluminum can to run a TV set for three hours or to light one 100 watt bulb for 20 hours.
 - Making cans from recycled aluminum saves 95% of the energy required to produce cans from virgin material.
 - Recycling a soda can saves 96% of the energy used to make a can from ore and produces 95% less air pollution and 97% less water pollution.
- An aluminum can recycled today will be back on the grocery shelf in about 90 days.

http://www.oroloma.org/poster_contest/recycle_facts.html

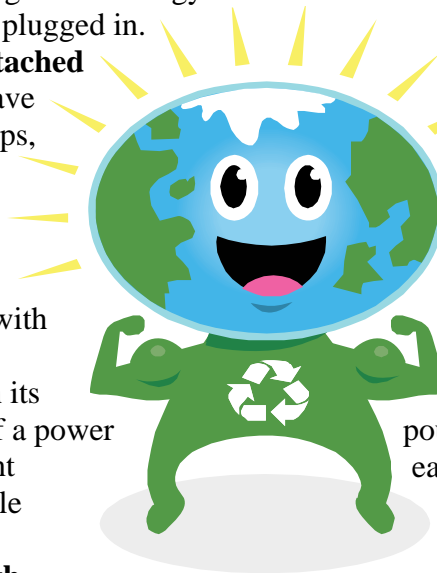
CARDBOARD IS USED TO SHIP 90 PERCENT OF ALL PRODUCTS IN THE U.S.

Recycling Facts

http://www.oroloma.org/poster_contest/recycle_facts.html

Recycling:

- ✧ Reduces the need for landfills
- ✧ Conserves natural resources, such as trees, metal ores, minerals, oil, and water
- ✧ Reduces the amount of pollution and greenhouse gases released into the environment
- ✧ You are conserving energy



Here are some facts to consider when you think about what happens when you recycle Paper and Cardboard:

- Recycling a four-foot stack of newspapers saves the equivalent of one 40-foot fir tree.
 - One tree can filter up to 60 pounds of pollutants from the air each year.
 - One ton of recycled paper saves 3,700 pounds of lumber and 24,000 gallons of water.
 - Paper made from recycled material uses 60% less energy than making virgin paper.
 - If every household in the U.S. reused a paper bag for one shopping trip, about 60,000 trees would be saved.
 - Recycling one ton of cardboard saves over nine cubic yards of landfill space.
 - Every ton of newspaper recycled saves enough energy to power a TV for 31 hours.
 - Recycling corrugated cardboard cuts the emissions of sulfur dioxide in half and uses about 25% less energy than making cardboard from virgin pulp.
 - If all morning newspapers read in this country were recycled, 41,000 trees would be saved daily and 6 million tons of waste would never end up in landfills.
- Recycling 1 ton of cardboard saves 9 cubic yards of landfill space and 46 gallons of oil.

Programs

2010—2011

May 17 - Potluck and Member's Show & Tell Picture Show —

bring a dish to pass, place setting and slides/digital pictures/photos to share.

Dr. Joelle Gehring — National Award

Dr. Gehring was our speaker February 16, 2010.

The Partners in Flight Awards Committee honored Dr. Joelle Gehring, a senior conservation scientist for Michigan State University Extension's Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) with a national award for her contributions toward bird conservation, specifically her work on bird collisions with communications towers.

Her research on lighted communication towers has paved the way for reducing collision mortality of birds, perhaps worldwide. More than 100,000 lighted communication towers are located in the U.S. It's conservatively estimated that these towers cause the death of between four million and 50 million birds a year in our country alone. She conducted the first fully replicated research on the effects of various types of communication towers with various types of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) lighting systems on the collision rates of birds. She discovered that by extinguishing the red, steady-burning L-810 lights but leaving on the strobe or incandescent blinking lights, collision mortality can be reduced 50 to 71 percent. In other words, her work may save the lives of millions of birds a year.

The FAA is currently reviewing its regulations to incorporate Joelle's findings into the lighting requirements for towers across the U.S.

Her full report can be found by typing in "Dr. Joelle Gehring" and it is titled *Michigan State Police Communication Tower Study*.

Reference: MSU Spotlight, MNFI Scientist honored with national award, <http://msuespotlight.com/2011/03/10/mnfi-scientist-honored-with-national-award>

If you change your mailing address or email address at any time, please contact me at

oias@oias.org.

Mailing newsletters to outdated mailing addresses costs the OIAS money.

Partners in Flight (PIF) came about in 1990 in response to growing concerns about declines in the population of many land bird species. PIF is a cooperative effort involving partnerships among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community and private individuals.

FAR FLOWING WATER

is a publication of the Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society, Grand Haven, MI All articles are copyrighted; permission is granted to copy any article in its entirety with references attached. Please contact Editor for other arrangements.

Far Flowing Water is published eight times per year. If you would like to contribute to the next issue, **please have your articles to me by May 1st**

Our programs are made possible, in part, by an Emilie Baker Fund for the Environment grant from the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation.

Recycling Facts

- Making glass from recycled material uses 50% less energy than making virgin glass.
- Recycled glass generates 20% less air pollution and 50% less water pollution than making virgin glass.
- Glass never wears out - it can be recycled over and over again.
- Over 41 billion glass containers are made each year.
- Over a ton of resources is saved for every ton of glass recycled - 1,330 pounds of sand, 433 pounds of soda ash, 433 pounds of limestone, and 151 pounds of feldspar.
Producing a ton of glass from 100% raw materials creates 384 pounds of mining waste. Using 50% recycled glass cuts this waste by about 75%

http://www.oroloma.org/poster_contest/recycle_facts.html

- 84% of a raw apple is water
- A pineapple is a berry
- Almonds are the oldest, most widely cultivated and extensively used nuts in the world
- An average ear of corn has 800 kernels, arranged in 16 rows
- Cranberries are one of just 3 major fruits native to North America. Blueberries and Concord grapes are the other two.
- Eggplant is a member of the thistle family.

<http://www.corsinet.com/trivia/p-triv.html>



- Buy water efficient fixtures
- Only run your dishwasher with a full load
- Don't let your car idle; shut it off instead
- Replace your light bulbs with CFL's or LED's
- Practice the 3 R's; Reduce, Reuse & Recycle

<http://top5d.com/top-5-things-to-do-for-earth-month>

Owashtanong Islands Audubon Society

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PLEASE FORWARD
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

APRIL 19
BIRDS & BYWAYS
MEXICO SAMPLER

BIRD COUNT
MAY 14