



CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

A publication of

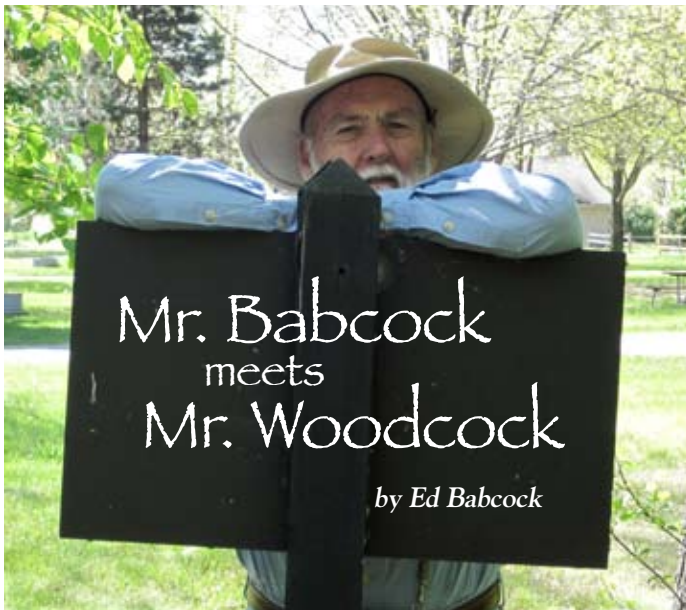
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Volume 49, No. 1



The expectant PVAS birders stood like silent sentries protecting their perimeter from attack. They scanned the low lying bushes and tall grass straining for a glimpse of their prey, the American Woodcock. The warmly clad birders, some wearing their NEOS oversize boots, stood anxiously in the mud of the swamp near Magee Marsh in Ohio. All were quiet, stretching their ears to hear the nasal clicking of the American Woodcock. Ten minutes passed and the sun began to set in the west beyond the tall trees in the west. Twenty minutes passed as daylight disappeared into dusk. Binoculars nervously drifted from bush to bush. Would the Woodcock ever make an appearance? The muscles tightened in our legs as the stake-out reached thirty minutes.

Then the unique clicking call of Mr. Woodcock was heard from across the trail. Many of us had been looking in the wrong direction. But twenty sets of eyes could not discover the hidden Mr. Woodcock. Deep within his private hiding place his call was returned. There was a pair. Suddenly, Mr. Woodcock revealed himself and flew quickly from the bush and landed directly in front of us on the gravel path not more than thirty feet away. He provided us a clear view of his plump

body and long bill extending from his large head. What a specimen! He strutted about with his characteristic rocking and bobbing motion trying to capture the attention of the female. She showed no interest, instead pecking at the ground at the edge of the trail. Mr. Woodcock extended his wings in a magnificent display of masculinity and commenced his valiant strut to our amazement. The female continued to demurely ignore his advances. Mr. Woodcock abruptly flew into a steep arc high above us, circling until he disappeared into the darkening sky. A high twittering sound from the flap of his wings signaled his return as he dove and landed in the exact spot he had just vacated.

The display, the dance, the rejection, the ascension, and the spectacular dive was repeated several more times, all to our extreme amazement and enjoyment. Finally, Mr. Woodcock surrendered and wandered down the gravel path into the darkness. What an adventure! Certainly the incredible show was worth the price of admission and a definite highlight of our birding trip to Ohio, Michigan, and Point Pelee in Canada. The long wait in the muddy swamp had been rewarded with an exquisite performance by the American Woodcock.



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Bird News *by Dan Guthrie*

Here are several items that have come out recently that might be of interest.

Spoon-billed Sandpipers

The world population of this shorebird is down to about 200 pairs. They nest in northern most eastern Russia. A few are regularly seen in Thailand and two have been seen in the United States on the outer Aleutian Islands. Until recently their main wintering grounds were unknown but now these wintering grounds have been found on the Bay of Martaban in Myanmar (old Burma). It turns out that local hunters in the area use mist nets and catch up to 30,000 shorebirds annuals for food. The local hunters, however, prefer larger birds and conservation groups are working to offer incentives to the local people to conserve small shorebirds. If successful, this may allow recovery of this species.

House Sparrows

To us, house sparrows are a common species. In England, however, the house sparrow as declined markedly in numbers, causing concern. There is now evidence that the Eurasian sparrowhawk (an accipiter very similar to our Cooper's hawk) is to blame. The sparrowhawk has recently expanded its range into Britain and where it has appeared, sparrows decline. It is suggested that urban sparrows, free of pressure from avian predators, have lost their wariness to this kind of predation. Locally, when eating breakfast at Some Crust Bakery in Claremont and feeding the house sparrows on my muffin crumbs,

I have seen a Cooper's hawk swooping down the street. Cooper's hawks are becoming increasingly common in our area, nesting at the Botanic Garden and at the Dog Park south of the railroad tracks (where they occasionally attack people and dogs that get too close to their nesting tree). I wonder if our local Cooper's hawks have learned that it is easy to catch urban unwary sparrows.

New Birds for your Life List

Want to add a few birds to your life list without ever leaving your home? Here are some possibilities.

Winter wren – now split into three species, the Eurasian Wren, the eastern U.S. Winter wren, and the Western Pacific wren.

Whip-poor-will, now split into the eastern Whip-poor-will and the Mexican Whip-poor-will, which is the species we see or hear in our local mountains and in Arizona.

Black Scoter, now split into the American Black Scoter and the Eurasian Common Scoter.

Finally, our wrentit, previously considered the only Babbler in North America, has been moved to the Sylviidae, a group of old world warblers.

Alas, a proposal to split the Western Scrub jay into Woodhouse's Jay of Nevada and California Scrub Jay (our local species) was voted down. Maybe next year.

Welcome New Members

We extend a warm welcome to all new members. Subscribers to Audubon Magazine from our area are automatically enrolled in our chapter and receive the Chaparral Naturalist at no additional charge. You are welcome to all our events.

Chino Hills: Karla Kyle

Chino: Rosella Arnold

Claremont: Martha Hill, Lori Johnson, Cynthia Valpreda, Leonard Dickey

Covina: Hilde Kayser

Glendora: Jerry Barrett, Mickey Bjorklund, D.J. Henderson,

La Verne: Sherry Venegas

Pomona: Jasper Garner, Douglas Pierce

Upland: Graig Hammer, Barbara Leavitt, Elaine Weller

West Covina: Emma Ortiz

Corona: Georgianna Kelly

Interested in Monthly Nature Walks in South Chino?

by Dan Guthrie

I've just visited the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park, located at the intersection of El Prado Road and Kimball Ave. (best entrance off El Prado south of Kimball opposite the Scott's Fertilizer Plant). The area consists of 22 acres and includes a variety of habitats, most importantly wetlands, ponds and riparian areas. The park has existed since 2007 and the vegetation is well developed. Their bird list has 62 species, including nesting Least Bell's Vireo and Tree Swallow, but I found three additional species on my first visit (Black-crowned Night Heron, Allen's Hummingbird and Brewer's Blackbird).

We hold regular monthly bird walks in Claremont and in San Dimas at Bonelli Park, but both locations are distant from our southern membership areas. If any of you from Chino or Chino Hills would be interested in our holding monthly walks at this center, send an e-mail to dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu. We will have a walk in the area on October 6th, which should be a good time for migrants. Come join us for an hour or two of nature study (We will look for butterflies and dragonflies as well as birds).



14th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 18-21, 2010

Hey, fellow bird lovers! It's time to get ready for the 14th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium to be held at the Hilton in Stockton, CA, Nov. 18-21, 2010.

This year for our evening programs we have dynamic photographer and author Paul Bannick giving a program based on his research on "Owls and Woodpeckers of the West". Author of dozens of books and articles and award-winning photographer Moose Petersen will give a presentation on "California's Threatened and Endangered Birds".

Workshops include Jon Dunn on sparrows and Joe Morlan's shorebird ID workshop focusing on loons and grebes. There are many others, ranging from Central Valley Raptors to Beginning Birding and digiscoping to bird sketching.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time!

For more information or registration go to the website at www.cvbs.org or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net. See you there!



Local Dues

If you live in our area (zip codes assigned to us) and are a member of National Audubon (receive Audubon Magazine) you automatically

become a member of our Pomona Valley Chapter. However, if you are not a member of National, you can be a local member for \$20/ year, which is due at the beginning of our Fall programs.

Payment may be made at meetings (see page 7) or via mail.

Conservation

Species Under Siege: The San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat

Reprinted from Endangered Habitats League Newsletter, Summer 2010 Vol 20 No 3

In Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, two of the three remaining populations of this highly endangered animal are threatened by development.

Living in and adjacent to active floodplains and washes, the San Bernardino kangaroo rat (SBKR) was emergency listed under the ESA in 1998 following an estimated 95% decline in population from historic levels. Only three important populations remain: along the Santa Ana Wash near Redlands, the San Jacinto River near Hemet, and the Lytle Creek and Cajon Creek confluence area near Rialto. The SBKR needs a natural flood regime to support pioneer and intermediate stage vegetation, as well as mature upland refugia to allow repopulation after heavy floods.

This year, the US Fish and Wildlife Service approved 35 acres of groundwater recharge basins in the San Jacinto Wash in occupied SBKR habitat. This action violated the Service's commitments under Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, which considers the land protected. While the Service claims the habitat is of low quality, this determination does not comport with the assessment of SBKR experts. The combined effects of other projects were not considered, and the mitigation offered

– management of other lands – does not compensate for the loss.

To compound matters, on July 28, 2008, the City of Rialto approved a massive 8400-unit development that would permanently destroy about 150 acres of occupied SBKR habitat and put miles of levees in Lytle Creek. The hydrology of previously conserved SBKR habitat and planned mitigation areas downstream would be jeopardized. EHL submitted extensive comments on the project's draft environmental impact report. Consistent with a previous legal settlement agreement, EHL does not oppose "Neighborhood I," a part of the project that would not harm the SBKR, nor urge others to do so.

EHL is carefully assessing what we can do about these threats, which may well lead to the extinction of this animal.

For more information, visit the Endangered Habitats League Website at <http://www.ehleague.org>.



Did you know that 52 Audubon California Important Bird Areas are at least partially owned by California State Parks, totaling 156,000 acres?

Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwood League and California State Parks Foundation are sponsors of The State Parks & Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act ("State Parks Initiative") appearing on the November 2, 2010 statewide ballot as Proposition 21.

Prop 21 works like this... Vehicles registered in California will get a free, year round day use admission to all California state parks in exchange for a new annual \$18 vehicle license fee, a considerable savings if you go to more than two State parks in

a year.

The funding will provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.

The parks budget will no longer be subject to cuts by the legislature or the Governor, the Trust Fund cannot be borrowed from or raided, and our state Parks can begin work on acquisitions and deferred maintenance once the funds become available.

The passage of this proposition is a conservation legacy that all of us Audubon members in California can leave to future generations!

But the proposition faces opposition. YES ON 21 needs volunteers to organize campaigns in cities, towns, neighborhoods and communities.

If you can give any volunteer time to the campaign please go to <http://yesforstateparks.com> and GET INVOLVED.

Save our State Parks and help pass Proposition 21 in November!

Field Trips

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are open to all individuals. Please call trip leader if you plan to attend and for starting time & meeting location. Sunday Beginning Bird Walks meet at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Bonelli Park trips meet at park headquarters on Via Verde, just off the 57 freeway. It is recommended to bring a snack (lunch if recommended), plenty of water, sun protection, and bug spray to all trips.

Sunday, September 5, 2010

Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (September, through June) bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is flat and takes about two hours. (Bring binoculars if you have them) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front entry gate (north end of College Ave. north of Foothill Blvd. 1500 N. College Ave.) **Leader: Fraser Pemberton 909-624-6451.**

Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Midweek Trip to Glen Helen Park

A half day trip to look for fall migrants. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259. Call for meeting time and location.**

Saturday, September 18, 2010

Orange County & Environs

A trip for returning shorebirds, migrants. Trip will go to early afternoon - bring a lunch. **Leader: Pamela Kling 909-240-7604. Call for meeting time and location.**

Sunday, September 26, 2010

Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 freeway for our monthly walk (4th Sunday, about 2 hours) at Bonelli Park. **Leader: Rod Higbie 909-599-6526**

Sunday, October 3, 2010

Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (September, through June) bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is flat and takes about two hours. (Bring binoculars if you have them) Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front entry gate (north end of College Ave. north of Foothill Blvd. 1500 N. College Ave.) **Leader: Fraser Pemberton 909-624-6451.**

Wednesday, October 6, 2010

Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Memorial park for a half day trip to the newly created Chino Creek Wetlands and perhaps Hellman Ave. riparian area. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

Saturday, October 9, 2010

Quail Lake/Holiday Lake/Apollo Park

A trip to the western Antelope Valley for migrant birds and collection of owl pellets for our educational programs. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m., bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Prado Regional Park

A half-day trip for water birds, vermilion flycatchers and wintering raptors. Bring a lunch for snacking. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259. Call for meeting time and location.**

Saturday, October 16, 2010

Galileo Hill and Piute Ponds

Two hours north is one of the best desert oasis for migrant birds and possible eastern vagrants. Return via Rte. 14, and Piute Ponds. Last year we had excellent looks at Pectoral and Baird's sandpipers and phalaropes. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. A hat and sunscreen is strongly recommended. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Village Venture

Plan to visit our booth!

Sunday, October 24, 2010

Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 freeway for our monthly walk (4th Sunday, about 2 hours) at Bonelli Park. **Leader: Rod Higbie 909-599-6526**

Saturday & Sunday, November 6-7, 2010 Morro Bay Field Trip

A trip for vagrant species along the coast. This is the best high tide of the year for wintering shorebirds. Saturday we'll visit Morro Bay, Montana del Oro, and Cambria for elephant seals. On Sunday we'll scout Oceano, Oso Flacco Lake, and possibly Santa Barbara for vagrants. Meet at the base of Morro Rock at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

PVAS 2010-2011 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

- Sunday, October 3 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 6 - Chino Creek Wetlands**
8 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Saturday, October 9 - Holiday Lake and Apollo Park**
Owl pellet and birding trip 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Wednesday, October 13 - Prado Regional Park**
7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday, October 16 - Galileo Hill and Piute Ponds**
6 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Sunday, October 24 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

NOVEMBER

- Sunday, November 7 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Saturday & Sunday, November 6-7 - Morro Bay Field Trip** 8 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Wednesday, November 10 - Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity** 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday, November 13 - Antelope Valley Owl Pellet & Mountain Bird Trip** 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Sunday, November 28 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

DECEMBER

- Sunday, December 5 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Sunday, December 12 - North End, Salton Sea and Whitewater Preserve** Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Wednesday, December 15 - Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas Trip** Leaders: Strangs
- Thursday, December 16 - Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas Trip** Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Saturday, December 18 - Annual Christmas Census**
- Sunday, December 26 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

JANUARY, 2011

- Sunday, January 2 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Saturday, January 8 - Orange County Big Day trip**
7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Wednesday, January 12 - Santa Fe Dam**
8 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Sunday, January 23 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

FEBRUARY

- Sunday, February 6 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, February 9 - Whittier Narrows Recreation Area** 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday & Sunday - February 19-20 - Salton Sea Weekend** Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Sunday, February 27 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

MARCH

- Sunday, March 6 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, March 9 - Los Angeles County Arboretum** 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday, March 19 - Lake Perris, San Jacinto Preserve** 7 a.m. Leader to be announced
- Sunday, March 27 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

APRIL

- Sunday, April 3 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- April 9 -16 - Texas High Island Migration Trip**
Leader: Pam Kling (More info in next issue)
- Wednesday, April 13 - Living Desert Reserve**
7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Sunday, April 17 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie
- Saturday, April 30 - Morongo Valley**
6 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

MAY

- Sunday, May 1 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, May 11 - Big Morongo Nature Preserve**
6 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday, May 14 - Galileo Hill and Northern Desert**
6 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie
- Sunday, May 22 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk**
8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

JUNE

- Sunday, June 5 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.
- Wednesday, June 8 - Carbon Canyon Regional Park**
7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory
- Saturday & Sunday, June 11-12 - Big Bear Lake Area**
Leader: Pam Kling
- Saturday, June 25 - Owling trip** 5 p.m. Leader: Pam Kling

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are open to all individuals. Please call trip leader if you plan to attend and for starting time & meeting location. Sunday Beginning Bird Walks meet at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Bonelli Park trips meet at park headquarters on Via Verde, just off the 57 freeway. It is recommended to bring a snack (lunch if recommended), plenty of water, sun protection, and bug spray to all trips.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Seeks New Volunteers!

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont is looking for new volunteers, and especially those interested in leading Garden tours for school-age children. The Garden has abundant volunteer opportunities for people with various interests and abilities. Whether you prefer indoors or outdoors, solitude or social situations, whether you have lots of plant knowledge or NONE, there is a place for you at RSABG.

Volunteers at the Garden lead interactive tours for children and adults, help maintain our 86-acres of California native plants, greet and assist visitors in the Gift Shop, serve in key roles for educational and fund raising events, collect and handle plant specimens for archiving and studying, tackle miscellaneous office projects and much more. Currently, the Garden is most in need of nature interpreters – volunteers who lead tours in the Garden for school groups.

There are many privileges that accompany volunteering with RSABG, including opportunities to learn, field trips, social luncheons, discounts, meeting people with similar interests and spending time in a beautiful and peaceful environment.

RSABG will offer thorough orientation and training for new volunteers on Friday mornings September 10th – October 1st. Nature Interpreter training continues October 8th – November 5th. There will be an interview process prior to this training that allows us to learn about your interests and find the best niche for you at the Garden. To inquire about volunteering, please contact Brenda Bolinger at (909) 625-8767, extension 256. You can learn more at our website at www.rsabg.org

PVAS OFFICERS 2010-2011

President.....	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Vice-President.....	Bruce Strang	626-332-2354
Secretary	Pam Kling	909-240-7604
Treasurer.....	Neil Gilbert	909-626-0334
Board Member	Nancy Strang	626-332-2354
Board Member	Jim Herman.....	909-240-8547
Board Member	Pat Higbie.....	909-599-6526
Board Member	Rod Higbie	909-599-6526

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Available	
Education.....	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Field Trips	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Membership	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Publications	Neil Gilbert	909-626-0334
Publicity	Shirley Harris.....	909-982-9727
Door Prizes	Karlene Campo..	909-627-8191
Hospitality.....	Gloria Slosberg ..	909-626-4754
Website	Mike Klein.....	909-625-5510

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

Editor..... Pam Kling

The **Chaparral Naturalist** is published bimonthly, except July and August by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the last Thursday of the month. Articles may be reprinted without permission, but please give credit to the author and the **Chaparral Naturalist**. We encourage members to submit articles and photos by email at pamtone@verizon.net. Acceptable file formats are jpg, Word and Excel.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are available for \$20 per year to non-members. **Make checks payable to PVAS and mail to W. M. Keck Science Center, 925 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.**

National Audubon Membership / Membership Information Update

Annual membership in the National Audubon Society is \$30 per year. **New** membership dues are \$20. Members receive the Audubon Magazine and Chaparral Naturalist newsletter. Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not be sent to PVAS. However, a new membership may be sent directly to PVAS. Checks should be made payable to National Audubon Society. Mail payment with membership form below and mail to: **PVAS, W. M. Keck Science Center, 925 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.** (Please note chapter code **COZC080Z** on your check.)

Information such as mailing address, email address and telephone numbers are used for sending email notifications, electronic versions of the newsletter, and are published in our membership directory. Membership information may be updated by filling out this form and turning it in to any board member. This information will be distributed only to members and will not be sold to other organizations.

- Yes**, Please sign me up as a new member! **Yes**, I am renewing my membership.
 Please send me the Chaparral Naturalist electronically. **Do not** publish my information in the chapter directory.

Name _____ **Chapter Code COZC080Z**
 Address _____ Telephone _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Mobile _____
 Email _____

Membership Meetings

Thursday, September 2, 2010

Dan Guthrie

"Wildlife and Birds of Ethiopia"

Based on a trip in November 2009, the talk will take us to some of the highest roads in Africa (over 12,000 ft) and alpine habitat as well as desert, and the lakes and marshes of the great rift valley. This should be a great introduction to what is becoming a major tourist area in Africa.

Monthly meetings are held in Bauer Forum of Claremont McKenna College. Evenings begin with a bird identification session at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

Thursday, October 7, 2010

Cathy McFadden

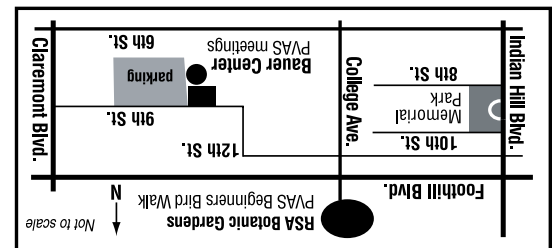
"Oaxaca, Mexico"

Member, world birder and Professor of biology Cathy McFadden will present a tour of the Oaxaca area of central Mexico with an introduction to its wildlife. An area of archaeological sites, interior valleys and high mountains, the birds of this area are quite unique.

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Tom Ryan

"Snowy Plover Recovery"



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