



CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

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Audubon California Endorses 2010 State Parks Initiative

Emeryville, CA – Continuing its long support for California State Parks, Audubon California today endorsed the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010, a proposed statewide initiative slated for the November 2010 ballot that, if ultimately approved by voters, would provide a stable source of funding that would keep state parks open and protect wildlife.

“Our State Parks are our heritage and offer invaluable opportunities for children and families to learn about birds and wildlife and, in many instances, make that first connection to nature that lasts a lifetime,” said Graham Chisholm, executive director of Audubon California. “We can’t continue to play budgetary games with one of the state’s most important resources.”

The relationship between Audubon and California State Parks goes back to the 1960s when the state was beginning to identify and prioritize the protection of key natural areas for their scenic, natural, historical and recreational potential. Since then, the two organizations have partnered on many conservation and education projects, with Audubon contributing not just funding, but technical support and volunteers as well.

In 2007, Audubon California established an endowment to provide long-term financial assistance to California State Parks to support important conservation, restoration and public outreach projects.

“We feel strongly about protecting the legacy of California State Parks because our two organizations share a similar mission – to protect our state’s spectacular natural resources and, at the same time, connect people to the natural world,” added Chisholm. “We believe that this initiative gives Californians an opportunity to embrace our parks as the treasures that they are.”

The State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 would ensure a dedicated and reliable funding stream for state parks through an \$18 annual surcharge on most California vehicles. By law, the trust fund could only be spent on state parks, urban river parkways, wildlife, natural lands and ocean conservation programs. Vehicles subject to the surcharge would receive free, year-round admission to all state parks. Californians will no longer pay day-use fees at any state parks. In comparison, park visitors currently pay up to \$125 for an annual pass or \$10-\$15 per day at most parks.

California’s 278 state parks, which include state beaches and state historic parks, are priceless public assets and a vital legacy for our children and future generations. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the

brink of being shut down. Only last-minute budget reprieves kept them open. But nearly 60 state parks will be shut down part-time or their hours of operation reduced because of this year’s budget cuts, and more park closure proposals and budget cuts are expected next year.

Budget cuts have starved state parks, causing them to accumulate a backlog of more than \$1 billion in needed maintenance and repairs. Roofs and sewage systems leak, restrooms are not cleaned regularly, bridges have collapsed, trails are washed out, campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered and buildings and structures throughout the system are badly deteriorated. Thousands of scenic acres are closed to the public because of reductions in park rangers, and crime has more than doubled. Destruction and vandalism of the parks themselves has grown fourfold, and beachgoers are often unprotected because of decreases in lifeguards.

With this announcement, Audubon California joins a rapidly growing coalition of supporters including, the California State Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Sierra Club California, Save the Redwoods League, Defenders of Wildlife, Surfrider Foundation, California State Park Rangers Association, California State Lifeguard Association and Ocean Conservancy.

For more information on the initiative and to view current supporters, please visit www.yesforstateparks.com.

Editor's Note: If you are interested in signing or circulating a petition, please contact Richard Moore at 909-626-1127 or by email at revs.moore@verizon.net.

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PVAS Mid -West Migration Trip May 15-22, 2010

Please join us for a very special opportunity to witness eastern songbird movement at the height of migration! We plan to visit three of the most popular locations along the midwestern flyway during the peak of migration. Magee Marsh in Ohio is the stopping point for many birds just before crossing Lake Erie on their way to the boreal forests of Canada. Pt. Pelee National Park, Canada is the first land for many birds crossing the great lakes. Bird numbers at both locations should prove to be dazzling and can provide many of us with several lifer opportunities. Plan to see many of the eastern warblers including Canada, Blackburnian, Palm, Black-Throated Blue, and Chestnut-Sided.. Uncommon but possible warbler species include Hooded, Mourning, and Connecticut. Other commonly seen species include Scarlet Tanager, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, American Woodcock, along with possible Yellow-Billed and Black-Billed Cuckoos! We will also make a stop in Mio, Michigan where we stand a good chance to see and hear one of North America's rarest species - Kirtland's Warbler.

Blocks of rooms have been reserved for Magee Marsh, Pt. Pelee and Mio, Michigan. **This trip is full**, however

if you would like to be added to the waiting list, please contact Pam Kling at 909-240-7604 or Dan Guthrie at 909-607-2836.

Plan to join us!



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: Patricia Damerell, Sharon Kaatmann, Barbara Long, Janet Robb

Claremont: Barbara Beretich, Sonia Blackman, Jim Hoste, Cynthia Kayer, Abigail Parsons, Nancy Ruyter, Donald Smith

Corona: Patrick Christopher, George Shumacher

Glendora: Victoria Brennan, Colleen Fay, Joy Wohler

La Verne: Frances Leavitt, Barbara Townsend

Mira Loma: Helen Giebeler

Norco: John Bailes, Denise E. Cope, S.V. Donaldson

Ontario: Ilene King, Lupe Martinez, Lee E. Ohrberg

Phillips Ranch: Earl Beavers, Miss Petra K. Johansson

Pomona: Christine Gross

Rancho Cucamonga: Tsuyako Kikuchi, Mary Robertson

San Dimas: The Culligans, Kathi Ellsworth

Upland: James Hamm, Dawn Hutchinson, Paul and Sue Sindelar

Walnut: Margaret E. Johnson, Jorge Martinez, Earnest F. Rooks

West Covina: Mr. M. McDermott, Judy Walters, James G. Taylor



PVAS Member Wins 1st Place at Science Olympiad

by Anne Sonner

Congratulations to PVAS member Paul Sonner, age 15, who won first place in ornithology at Science Olympiad.

Held March 6 at Cal State Los Angeles, this was the largest regional Science Olympiad competition in the country. About 2,900 elementary, middle school, and high school students participated in events on a variety of science subjects.

This is the first time in six years that ornithology has been included in Science Olympiad. Paul was excited about this opportunity because he has been a birder since second grade.

Students were tested on bird identification, including Latin names, habitats, feathers, physiology, calls, and even the names of bones. For one question they were given information on a bird's range and food preferences and had to identify the bird. On the "tie-breaker" questions, they had to identify the calls of the Chuck-will's-widow and whip-poor-will. Another question: name four birds that can't fly (Paul named six).

Paul also won first place in meteorology and medaled in geology. His team came in second out of 34 schools in the LA region, and will go on to the state competition in Long Beach on April 10.



Roadside Reststop Behind a Creosote Bush

So slug down that beer
and toss it out here.
So what?
It's a secluded spot,
and you'll never be back
down this lonely track.
A pox on them
environmental men.
What do you care?
It's only a wood rat's lair.
Big deal someone finds
your left behinds.

Marcyn Clements
January 22, 2004

Requesting Information on Squirrels

by Dan Guthrie

As you know, the red squirrel (reddish hue to fur) introduced from the eastern United States, is rapidly supplanting our native gray squirrels. Gray squirrels were once confined to our local mountains but for the past few decades have colonized our valleys where pines are used as ornamental planting. The third local squirrel, which I am not interested in, is the Beechey ground squirrel, also gray with spots and a ground burrower rather than a tree climber. I am starting a survey of the competition between red and gray squirrels and would appreciate any sightings of gray squirrels in our valley area. If you see one, could you email me or phone a location of the sighting?? I can be reached at dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu or 909-607-2836. Thanks.

*A red squirrel
finesses a
squirrel-proof
feeder at the
home of
the editor.*



PVAS WINTER/SPRINGS FIELD TRIPS 2010

MARCH

Sunday, March 7, 2010 - Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, 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, March 10, 2010 - Los Angeles County Arboretum

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:30 a.m. for a half day trip to the Arboretum in Arcadia. A chance to see introduced bulbuls and wood ducks. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

Saturday March 20, 2010 - Lake Perris, San Jacinto Wildlife Area

A trip for lingering water birds and raptors. Meet at 7 a.m. at Memorial Park and bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu or 909-607-2836.**

Sunday, March 28, 2010 - Bonelli Park 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**

APRIL

Sunday, April 4, 2010 - Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, 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, April 7, 2010 - The Living Desert Zoo

A trip to Palm Desert for desert species, early returning migrants and perhaps bighorn sheep! Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259**

Saturday, April 24, 2010 - Big Morongo Canyon and Whitewater Canyon Preserves

A trip for migrating flycatchers and warblers. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m.. We will visit the Whitewater Reserve for our lunch stop (bring one!) and a few desert species. **Leader: Dan Guthrie dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu or 909-607-2836.**

Sunday, April 25, 2010 - Bonelli Park 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**

MAY

Sunday, May 2, 2010 - Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, 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, May 5, 2010 - Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259

May 15-22, 2010 - PVAS Mid-West Migration Trip. (See page 2 for more information)

Saturday, May 22, 2010 - Butterbreadt Spring and the Northern Desert.

Meet at Memorial Park at 5:00 a.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu or 909-607-2836.**

Sunday, May 23, 2010 - Bonelli Park 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**

JUNE

Sunday, June 6, 2010 - Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, 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, June 9, 2010 - Carbon Canyon Regional Park.

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:30 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259**

Saturday, June 12, 2010 - Big Bear Lake Area

Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. **Leader: Pam Kling 909-240-7604**

Half and one day trips start at Memorial Park, Indian Hill Blvd at 10th Street, Claremont. Weekend trips usually meet at the destination on Saturday morning. 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.

Birding Festivals



Olympic Birdfest 2010 April 9-11, 2010 - Sequim, WA

A bird watching vacation for beginners to experts, from leisurely strolls to active hikes. Bird for a few hours, or all day ... from the dawn chorus to the evening owl prow!

Enjoy the show from guided birding trips, boat tours, silent auction, salmon banquet, and more.

Also this year! Stay on for a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands. Register at www.olympicpeninsulaudubon.org.

BirdFest program information and registration can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org

Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival April 23 - 26, 2010 - Pt. Reyes Station, CA

Come to Marin County California this April. See breeding and migrating birds in one of the most species rich parts of the United States. Top leaders like Howell, Hug, Hansen, Fish, Evens, Wimpfheimer: walks, boat tours, pelagic to Cordell Bank, exhibits, and great silent auction. Also wildflower and butterfly walks. Birding by ear CD of local birds, and related walks. Register : free calendar. Contact Person: Fred Smith @ 415-663-9312. Website: <http://www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org>

California Redwoods Bird & Nature Festival May 7-9, 2010 - Crescent City, CA

The Aleutian Goose Festival has fledged into the California Redwoods Bird and Nature Festival. During the second weekend in May (May 7 - 9 in 2010) in Crescent City, California join the fun with 70 field trips/workshops, boat and kayak trips, birding, botanizing, Native American cultures, and more. Visit <http://www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org>. Contact Person: Sandra Jerabek @ (707) 465-0888 Website: <http://www.calredwoodsbirdfest.org>

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Board Member	Pat Higbie	909-599-6526
Board Member	Rod Higbie	909-599-6526

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CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

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Subscriptions to the newsletter are available for \$10 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

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.

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail payment with membership form below and mail to: **PVAS, W. M. Keck Science Center, 925 North Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711.** (Please note chapter code number, **C08, 7XCH** on your check.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Chapter Code: Pomona Valley Audubon C08, 7XCH

You may also join National Audubon via our website at:
<http://www.ca.audubon.org/chapters.html/>

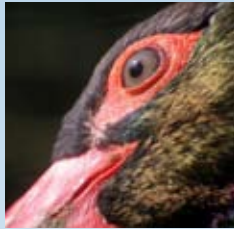
Membership Meetings

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Dr. Joseph Platt

Birds and Wildlife of the Arabian Peninsula

Dr Joseph Platt will present an illustrated discussion on the **birds and wildlife of the Arabian Peninsula**.



Dr. Platt, a professional ornithologist has spent 20 years on the peninsula and served as personal wildlife advisor to the Ruler of Dubai and the King of Bahrain. He will discuss the habitats of the peninsula, its importance to birds migrating between Europe and Africa, and conservation projects, including captive breeding programs designed to bring back birds and mammals native to the area. An accomplished photographer this should be an excellent introduction to the wildlife and conservation issues of the Arabian Peninsula. The meeting will be held in Bauer Forum of Claremont McKenna College. The evening will begin with a bird identification session at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

Thursday, May 6, 2010

Tom Ryan

Sensitive Bird Species of Los Angeles

Tom Ryan, who began his career as an ornithologist with Pomona Valley Audubon and who now works as an environmental consultant in Pasadena, will present a program on the **Sensitive Bird species of Los Angeles**.

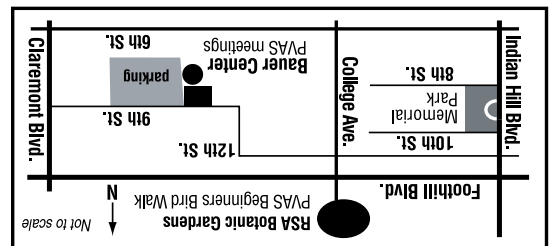
Monthly meetings are held in Bauer Forum of Claremont McKenna College. Evenings begin with a bird identification session at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Richard W. Halsey

Chaparral and Coastal Sage Communities: How They, and We, Can Survive Fire

Richard W. Halsey is the director of the California Chaparral Institute, a nonprofit research and educational organization focusing on the ecology of California's shrubland plant communities, wildland fire, and how Mediterranean-type ecosystems have helped shape human culture. He has given more than 300 presentations over the past five years concerning chaparral ecology, how communities can adapt to fire-prone environments, and the importance of nature education. Mr. Halsey also works with the San Diego Museum of Natural History, publishes *The Chaparralian*, a quarterly journal focusing on chaparral and wildfire issues, and continues to teach natural history throughout the state. The second edition of his book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was awarded the 2008 Best Nonfiction-Local Interest Book by the San Diego Book Awards Association.



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