



CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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Strange Lunch Guest



by Pat Higbie

One fall afternoon, I went outside to survey my kingdom, (my backyard, as I call it) when I saw a strange guest on the hummingbird feeder. It sat there quite motionless for some time, so I went to get my camera for a few pictures. The birds didn't seem bothered by its presence, so I just let it be. I knew it was a Praying mantis, but not much else about it. Curiosity got the best of me, and I decided to look it up on *Wikipedia*.

Praying mantis are named for their prayer-like stance. They are predatory insects, closely related to termites and cockroaches, but not stick/leaf insects and other insects, such as grasshoppers and crickets. Other insects are their primary diet, which they catch and hold with their grasping, spiked forelegs. They have been known, also, to feed in small scorpions, lizards, frogs, birds, (oops!) snakes, fish, and rodents. Cannibalism is common among most species. Using their coloration to blend in with their surroundings, and being very still, they wait until their prey approaches close enough to snatch. Their camouflage, also, enables them to hide them from their predators.

Praying mantises mate in the autumn (I won't go into detail here). The female lays her eggs in a frothy mass, called an ootheca, on a flat surface, stem, or the ground. The mass



hardens to become a protective coating. If the ootheca survives the winter, the nymphs are hatched and have voracious appetites. They are known to shed their outer skin up to five times as they grow. If not enough aphids or other food is available, they, also, will resort to cannibalism.

Praying mantis are used for biological pest control by those farmers not wanting to use insecticides. After learning all this, I've concluded that having a Praying mantis on my hummingbird feeder is not a good idea, and had Rod gently brush it off.

Note to Readers: The Chaparral Naturalist can always use articles. If you have had or viewed an interesting bird or wildlife situation, taken an interesting field trip or vacation, write about it and submit it to the newsletter. Share your experiences, and help make our newsletter a fun and informative read.

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What Would You Like ? How Can the Chapter Better Serve You?

by Dan Guthrie

I think our chapter does fairly well with monthly program topics. However, our field trips have not been well attended lately, and for that reason, I would like some input from you, our members, as to how we might be better able to serve you. If you could answer the following questions, either by phone to 909-607-2836 or via e-mail to dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu it would help us better serve you



Field Trips

- What level would you like? Beginner, intermediate, advanced?
- Destinations: Within one hour driving? Further?
- Duration: All day? Morning only?
- Day: Weekends? Weekdays?

Classes

- Would you be interested in a beginners bird class, meeting probably three times for talks and a couple of half day trips?
- Please let me know your thoughts on these topics and any other comments on our activities?

112 Christmas Bird Count Results

by Neil Gilbert

2011 marked the 112th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the 40th year that Pomona Valley Audubon has taken part. December 17th was an overcast day that started off warmish and got colder as the day went on.

We found 134 species on count day plus 6 additional species during count week (3 days before to 3 days after count day). Those numbers total about the same as last year, 137 plus 2, but are much lower than our 10-year average, 148 plus 4. At least partially offsetting the low species count were the two new species we added to our cumulative list: Vermillion Flycatcher on Count Day, and Hooded Warbler during Count Week. The 14,961 individual birds reported this year was considerably lower than our 10-year average.

Birds of interest included: Bald Eagle at Bonelli; Golden Eagle at Baldy Canyon, Tree Swallow at three locations, Northern Rough-winged Swallow at Bonelli. Also Gray Flycatcher, Blue-winged Teal, Loggerhead Shrike, Wilson's Snipe, Hooded Merganser.

Birds that we did not see but should have seen, based on prior years' results, included Mountain Quail, Hairy Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker, Phainopepla and Brown-headed Cowbird.

A listing of the species we tallied is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. The results will soon be available on-line at: www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html and should be available soon on our own web-site.

Thank you to the 51 birders who helped with this year's count. (results listed on facing page)

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.

Alta Loma: Carol Schoening

Chino: Carlos Compean, Irene Falcomer, Dyana Wilson

Chino Hills: Jo Carey, Hang Nguyen

Claremont: Judith Hill, Mimi Kome, Crawford M. Judge, D. Wilsdon, Douglas Quisenberry, Janet Johnson, Robert Gustaveson, Hans Rindisbacher

Corona: Shirley Cyr, June Gravlee, Martin Westlake

Diamond Bar: Victoria Carnevale, Grizel Norte-Avila, Maryanne Strehlow

Etiwanda: Paula Foster, Erna Noble

Glendora: Nancy Olmsted

La Verne: Marion Fiske, Walter Garrison, Paulyne Verseput

Montclair: Dave Taylor

Norco: Natalie Gass, Chuck and Deborah Mills, Mr. Grothe

Ontario: John Colgrove

Pomona: Jane Burtis, Jane Green, Patricia Pruden

Rancho Cucamonga: Ken and An Aven, Lauren Leos

San Dimas: William Harter, Tina Kerrigan, Lori Melching

Upland: Karen Basquez, Richard and Mandy Bennett, Lida Schneider, Smita Sanghvi, Diane Turner

Walnut: Rosetta Goss

West Covina: Carmen Gonzalez, Jane Shannon

112th Christmas Bird Count Results

Species	2011 TOTALS
Greater White-fronted Goose	-
Snow Goose	-
Ross' Goose	-
Cackling Goose	-
Canada Goose	43
Tundra Swan	-
Wood Duck	-
Mandarin Duck	-
Gadwall	200
Eurasian Wigeon	-
American Wigeon	397
Eurasian x American Wigeon	-
Mallard	396
Blue-winged Teal	1
Cinnamon Teal	2
Northern Shoveler	169
Northern Pintail	24
Green-winged Teal	127
Canvasback	4
Redhead	-
Ring-necked Duck	137
Tufted Duck	-
Greater Scaup	-
Lesser Scaup	75
White-winged Scoter	-
Bufflehead	102
Common Goldeneye	-
Hooded Merganser	10
Common Merganser	22
Ruddy Duck	555
Chukar	-
Ring-necked Pheasant	-
Mountain Quail	-
California Quail	95
Red-throated Loon	-
Pacific Loon	-
Common Loon	-
Pied-billed Grebe	80
Horned Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	35
Western Grebe	52
Clark's Grebe	6
American White Pelican	-
Brown Pelican	-
Double-crested Cormorant	178
American Bittern	-
Great Blue Heron	6
Great Egret	38
Snowy Egret	23
Cattle Egret	-
Green Heron	3
Black-crowned Night-heron	23
White-faced Ibis	-
Turkey Vulture	12
Osprey	5
White-tailed Kite	2
Bald Eagle	-
Northern Harrier	6
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4
Cooper's Hawk	13
Red-shouldered Hawk	17
Red-tailed Hawk	73
Ferruginous Hawk	CW
Rough-legged Hawk	-
Golden Eagle	1
American Kestrel	31
Merlin	5
Peregrine Falcon	2
Prairie Falcon	-
Virginia Rail	-
Sora	-
Common Moorhen	-
American Coot	2221
Black-bellied Plover	-
Killdeer	55
Black-necked Stilt	238
American Avocet	-
Spotted Sandpiper	5
Greater Yellowlegs	8
Lesser Yellowlegs	-
Western Sandpiper	-
Least Sandpiper	5
Dunlin	-
Long-billed Dowitcher	77
Wilson's Snipe	4
Bonaparte's Gull	15
Mew Gull	-
Ring-billed Gull	153
Western Gull	CW
California Gull	300
Herring Gull	-
Thayer's Gull	CW
Glaucous-winged Gull	CW
Glaucous-winged x Western Gull	-

Species	2011 TOTALS
Glaucous-winged x Thayer's Gull	-
.....Gull Species	-
Caspian Tern	-
Forster's Tern	-
Rock Pigeon	202
Band-tailed Pigeon	300
Eurasian Collared-Dove	2
Spotted Dove	-
White-winged Dove	-
Mourning Dove	387
Common Ground-Dove	-
Rose-ringed Parakeet	-
Red-crowned Parrot	-
Lilac-crowned Parrot	-
Yellow-headed Parrot	-
Greater Roadrunner	1
Barn Owl	1
Western Screech-owl	1
Great Horned Owl	9
Northern Pygmy-owl	-
Burrowing Owl	-
Spotted Owl	-
Long-eared Owl	-
Short-eared Owl	-
White-throated Swift	135
Black-chinned Hummingbird	-
Anna's Hummingbird	153
Costa's Hummingbird	3
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	-
Allen's Hummingbird	37
.....Selasphorus Sp.	-
Belted Kingfisher	4
Lewis' Woodpecker	-
Acorn Woodpecker	161
Williamson's Sapsucker	-
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-
Red-naped Sapsucker	-
Red-naped X Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	-
Red-breasted Sapsucker	6
Nuttall's Woodpecker	28
Downy Woodpecker	2
Hairy Woodpecker	-
White-headed Woodpecker	-
Northern (R.S.) Flicker	44
Northern (Y.S.) Flicker	-
Greater Pewee	-
Gray Flycatcher	1
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	-
.....Empidonax species	-
Black Phoebe	124
Say's Phoebe	30
Vermillion Flycatcher	1
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	-
Ash-throated Flycatcher	-
Cassin's Kingbird	24
Thick-billed Kingbird	-
Western Kingbird	-
Loggerhead Shrike	1
Plumbeous Vireo	-
Blue-headed Vireo	-
Hutton's Vireo	2
Warbling Vireo	-
Steller's Jay	26
Western Scrub Jay	162
Clark's Nutcracker	-
American Crow	188
Common Raven	19
Horned Lark	-
Tree Swallow	112
Violet-green Swallow	-
No. Rough-winged Swallow	8
Barn Swallow	-
.....Swallow Species	-
Mountain Chickadee	33
Oak Titmouse	57
Bushtit	494
Red-breasted Nuthatch	-
White-breasted Nuthatch	17
Pygmy Nuthatch	-
Brown Creeper	1
Cactus Wren	6
Rock Wren	4
Canyon Wren	4
Bewick's Wren	33
House Wren	2
Pacific Wren	-
Marsh Wren	-
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14
California Gnatcatcher	4
American Dipper	1
Golden-crowned Kinglet	-
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	81
Wrentit	35
Western Bluebird	253
Mountain Bluebird	19

Species	2011 TOTALS
Townsend's Solitaire	5
Hermit Thrush	14
American Robin	342
Varied Thrush	-
Gray Catbird	-
Northern Mockingbird	76
California Thrasher	19
European Starling	741
American Pipit	4
Cedar Waxwing	674
Phainopepla	-
Orange-crowned Warbler	8
Nashville Warbler	-
Yellow Warbler	-
Yel.-rump. Warbler (Myr.)	-
Yel.-rump. Warbler (Aud.)	1193
Blk.-throated Gray Warbler	-
Townsend's Warbler	5
Hermit Warbler	-
Black and White Warbler	-
American Redstart	-
Common Yellowthroat	17
Wilson's Warbler	-
Painted Redstart	-
Green-tailed Towhee	-
Spotted Towhee	39
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	7
California Towhee	187
Chipping Sparrow	52
Clay-colored Sparrow	-
Brewer's Sparrow	-
Vesper Sparrow	-
Lark Sparrow	68
Sage Sparrow	-
Savannah Sparrow	8
Fox Sparrow	1
Song Sparrow	33
Lincoln's Sparrow	8
Swamp Sparrow	-
White-throated Sparrow	-
White-crowned Sparrow	594
Golden-crowned Sparrow	2
Drk-eyed Junco (Slate-col.)	1
Drk-eyed Junco (Oregon)	302
Drk-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	-
Drk-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)	1
Hepatic Tanager	-
Summer Tanager	1
Western Tanager	-
Northern Cardinal	-
Red-winged Blackbird	40
Tricolored Blackbird	-
Western Meadowlark	147
Brewer's Blackbird	186
Great-tailed Grackle	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	-
Scott's Oriole	-
Pine Grosbeak	-
Purple Finch	14
Cassin's Finch	2
House Finch	408
Red Crossbill	-
Pine Siskin	2
Lesser Goldfinch	196
Lawrence's Goldfinch	-
American Goldfinch	184
House Sparrow	92
Nutmeg Mannikin	-
Total Species Count Day	134*
Total Individuals	14961
Count Week Only	5

Participants
2

2011 PVAS Challenge:

How to Find 200 Birds in Our Local Valley *by Martha Estus*

Year bird counts are compelling adventures. I've done several, the best one being 380 California bird species for 2009.

Dan Guthrie, president of Pomona Valley Audubon Society, challenged members to try for 200 bird species in 2011 in our chapter area defined as: north to Mt. Baldy Village and the top of the ski-lift; west to Glendora and Walnut; south to Norco and Corona, and east to Etiwanda. I had the "Aha!" moment and thought "What a terrific idea!" No more spending long days driving the freeways to distant locations. These local areas could be reached easily and birded in half a day. That being said, where do you start?

January: The winter months are a good time to look for birds that will leave in the spring such as ducks, gulls, and wintering vagrants (lost birds out of their usual area). I began by looking for the 137 birds which were found on the 2010 PVAS Christmas bird count. I spread the word to all my birding friends who alerted me to birds they found during the year and also relied on LACoBirds@yahoogroups.com, inlandcountybirds@yahoogroups.com, and www.sialia.com. I studied the field list of California birds compiled by the California Bird Records Committee. The list can be viewed online by searching for California Bird Records Committee and clicking on "state list". It's important to study bird status and distribution to know time of year and location of birds you're looking for, otherwise, you can waste a lot of time looking for a bird that just isn't present at the moment. There are good books available, especially *Birds of Southern California—Status and Distribution*, by Kimball Garrett and Jon Dunn. Take the time to read the distribution maps included in most bird guides. The color coding will indicate which birds are in your area year round and where they winter or breed. Among the exciting birds for January were a Glaucous-winged Gull (winters coastally) and a Tropical Kingbird (a vagrant from southeast Arizona and Mexico) at Prado Regional Park in Chino.

April/May: I birded 4 to 6 mornings a week depending on availability of the birds. Spring migration is extremely

important as it offers the best chance of seeing birds such as the western warblers (only missed MacGillivray's) and flycatchers passing through on their way to their northern breeding grounds. I was surprised to find so many unusual shorebirds this far inland – Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, and Dunlin – all in the Chino area. By May 9 I had gotten the required 200 species but wasn't ready to quit!

June-August: Summer was a bit slower, but in early June, I took several trips up the Mt. Baldy ski-lift up to the saddle where I saw Clark's Nutcracker, Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, and, to my surprise, two Red Crossbills. There were also searches for Owls and Poorwill. Two PVAS birders found a spotted owl on Glendora Ridge Road and showed it to me; a very rare find for our area.

September-December: Early September brought shorebirds to find again – Solitary and Pectoral Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes. Clay-colored (Oak Park Cemetery), White-throated, and Swamp Sparrow (Bonelli Regional Park) made an appearance. Another terrific gull to end the year was a Little Gull, which usually winters on the east coast. During 2011 I saw 7 vagrant birds in total. By the last week of December I had seen 238 bird species, far beyond my expectations and the original challenge. It had been a great experience, but demanding. I have decided I won't do any more year counts. "Well, wait a minute, I'll just take a peek at the bird alerts. Wow, there's a Brown Pelican at Bonelli – gotta go!"

Many thanks to PVAS birders who alerted me to birds they found (you know who you are) and thanks in general to the Southern California birding community for devotedly reporting birds they see on the internet listserves. It's the dedication of all these birders which made this year's 2011 count, and other counts possible for me. And... a final salute to Rick Clements, who passed away 12/26/11. He was a good birding friend of mine, taught me a lot, and kept birding until the end. Looking at my list I see he alerted me to 3 of my birds for 2011.

I would end by saying -- get out there and try for a year count. Keep a list. You'll be surprised at what birds you may find. It's a constant learning experience and a great feeling of accomplishment. Good Birding!

P.S. If you would like a copy of my 2011 list, please e-mail me at leighestus@aol.com I would be happy to send it to you as a Microsoft word document. ~ Martha

Editor's Note: PVAS Birders, Martha Estus has set the bar for future attempts – your new goal is 238... good luck and great job Martha!



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.

Saturday, January 7, 2012 Big Day Trip to Orange County

A tour of coastal migrant traps and hot spots for wintering specialties and a New Year start with a big list. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for carpooling or phone for our first stop. Bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836 or cell 909-239-5124.**

Thursday, January 19, 2012 Whittier Narrows Regional Park

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for a half day trip for wintering geese, sparrows, flycatchers and other good birds (perhaps we will see the returning Tropical Kingbird?) **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

Sunday, January 22, 2012 Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

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

Sunday, February 5, 2012 Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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

Thursday, February 16, 2012 Prado Regional Park

A half day trip to nearby Chino for Vermillion Flycatcher, wintering ducks and gulls and a variety of raptors. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

Saturday & Sunday, February 18 & 19, 2012 Salton Sea Weekend

Our annual trip to the south end of the Salton Sea for flocks of geese, pelicans, Burrowing Owls and hopefully some longspurs and Mountain Bluebirds and Mountain Plover. We will drive down Saturday morning, starting in Memorial Park, and spend Saturday birding. Those who wish to stay overnight can make reservations at the Brawley Inn. Leave Claremont at 6:00 a.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836 or cell 909-239-5124.**

Sunday, February 26, 2012 Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

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

Sunday, March 4, 2012 Beginner's Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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

Thursday, March 8, 2012 North Etiwanda Preserve

A half day trip for Sage, Rufous-crowned, other sparrows and chaparral birds. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

Saturday, March 17, 2012 Lake Perris and San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Between Winter and Spring it's hard to predict what might be seen. However, raptors should be plentiful, wintering ducks now in breeding plumage will be present, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, and Mountain Bluebird have been seen on this trip in the past. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park and bring a lunch. Participants should be in possession of a California DFG Lands Pass which can be obtained by visiting <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/landpass/> **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-907-2836 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu.**

Sunday, March 25, 2012 Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

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



PVAS 2012 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2012

Saturday, January 7 - Orange County Big Day Trip

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

Thursday, January 19 - Santa Fe Dam

8 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Sunday, January 22 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

FEBRUARY 2012

Sunday, February 5 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Thursday, February 16th, Prado Regional Park

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Saturday & Sunday, February 18-19 - Salton Sea Weekend.

Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, February 26 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

MARCH

Sunday, March 4 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Thursday, March 8 - North Etiwanda Preserve

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Saturday, March 17 - Lake Perris/San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, March 25 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

APRIL

Sunday, April 1 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Saturday, April 14 - The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden

7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Saturday, April 21 - Morongo Valley.

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, April 22 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

MAY

Saturday, May 5 - Big Morongo Canyon

6 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Sunday, May 6 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Saturday, May 12 - Angeles Crest Highway

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, May 27 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

JUNE

Sunday, June 3 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Saturday, June 16 & 17 - Big Bear Lake Area

Leader: Pamela 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.

PVAS South Florida Trip – April 7-14, 2012

Please join us for a very special opportunity to witness songbird movement at the height of migration! During mid-April, birds migrating from the Bahamas and the Caribbean come through Florida during the big push for migration. Bird numbers should prove to be dazzling and should give us some specialties not seen on other trips taken during migration.]. Plan to see many of the eastern warblers including Kentucky, Prairie, Cape May, and Palm, along with Florida endemics. Our past trips taken during the peak of migration, provided opportunities to see incredible numbers of migrants so close we could observe them easily without aid of binoculars.



Blocks of rooms will be reserved for those members interested in participating and space is limited. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Pam Kling at 909-240-7604.

2012 San Diego Bird Festival March 1-4, 2012

The San Diego Audubon Society invites you to San Diego for the 16th annual San Diego Bird Festival, being held at the Marina Village Conference Center. This year's banquet keynote speaker is Kenn Kaufman. He is a field editor for Audubon magazine and a contributor to every major birding magazine and author of Kingbird Highway, Flights Against the Sunset, and Lives of North American Birds.

We have trips going to all areas of San Diego County. Destinations include the desert and mountains, lake and lagoons, and four pelagic trips aboard the Grande. We have special event for families and children on Sunday, March 4. Kid-friendly activities include a Beginning Bird Art Workshop, the Raptor Rap Workshop, and a Bird Calling Workshop. All family events on Sunday are free with no pre-registration needed, although we do ask you to check-in at the San Diego Audubon Society registration desk at festival headquarters upon arrival for handouts and important information and announcements about Family Free Day events.

Long-time festival favorites such as social mixers, keynote banquet, silent auction, and Birding & Optics EXPO are returning in 2012. EXPO is free and open to the public from 12 to 5 daily. The social mixers are on Thursday and Friday, 5 to 8 pm each night. The keynoter banquet with Kenn Kaufmann is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 5:30 to 8:30 pm. For more information and to register, visit <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org> and click on 2012 Birding Festival.

PVAS OFFICERS 2011-12

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	Ken Burgdorff	626-962-9702
Board Member	Jim Herman.....	909-240-8547
Board Member	Pat Higbie.....	909-599-6526
Board Member	Rod Higbie	909-599-6526
Board Member	Nancy Strang	626-332-2354

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Available
Education.....	Dan Guthrie
Field Trips	Dan Guthrie
Membership	Dan Guthrie
Publications	Neil Gilbert
Publicity	Shirley Harris.....
Door Prizes	Karlene Campo..
Hospitality.....	
	Gloria Slosberg/Ed Babcock....
Website	Mike Klein.....

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.

Chapter only memberships with subscriptions to the newsletter are available for \$20 per year. **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.

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Email _____

Membership Meetings

Thursday, January 5, 2012

Dan Guthrie
"The Wonders of Namibia"

President Dan Guthrie will present a program about the Wonders of Namibia, based on his visit there last September. Despite the differences in bird and mammal life, Namibia was very reminiscent of southern California, especially the Salton Sea as it may have looked 20,000 years ago when California, too, had herds of large mammals, including elephants.



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, February 2, 2012

Robert A. Hamilton
"Local Insect Fauna of Southern California"

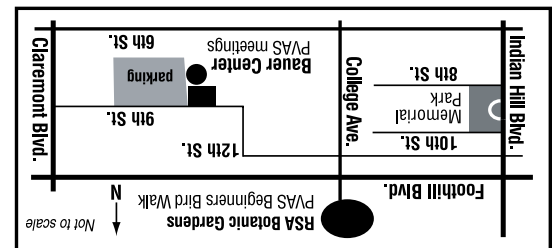
Among other accomplishments, Bob is a recognized authority on the status, distribution, and identification of birds in California. He is the lead author of two standard references describing aspects of the state's avifauna: *The Birds of Orange County: Status & Distribution* and *Rare Birds of California*. An excellent photographer, Bob has lately been fascinated by the diversity and beauty of insects that can be found in a small patch of habitat. He will share with us some of his photographic work, including a close up look at the Delhi Sands Flower-loving Flies from nearby Colton. This should be an excellent introduction to our insect fauna.



Thursday, March 1, 2012

Jim Herman
"Cruising the Galapagos, Walking in Darwin's Footsteps"

Member Jim Herman will present a program based on his recent trip to the Galapagos. Jim is an excellent photographer and plans show some cloud forest pictures from Ecuador.



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925 North Mills Avenue
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