I went to Scottsdale, AZ, to attend the 80th birthday of a friend. At the party a man of my age introduced himself as Sherman Saperstein and said he wanted to show me some pictures. On his cell phone were pictures of what I thought were parrots or parakeets. He said they were Peach-faced Lovebirds. That was a new bird for me and perhaps for other members of PVAS. He said that he welcomed birders to his house at 7363 E. McLellan Blvd, Scottsdale, AZ. He has a flock of the birds in his back yard.

I then drove to the Sweetwater Wetlands, a water treatment area just west of Tucson. It is an oasis in the desert filled with ducks, some shorebirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and many resident desert birds. The place is very peaceful with lovely walking paths. Take exit 252, (don’t take exit 254, it’s closed), then drive about three miles on the frontage road and turn right on Sweetwater Road.

I drove from Nogales to Patagonia and stopped at the roadside rest but didn’t see or recognize any birds. I rationalized this because it was noon and the birds were resting. I then drove to the Patons. There were only two cars parked at the fence and I was very surprised when I met about 30 birders inside. It must have been a tight squeeze in those cars. Now the bad news. I found out that Wally and Marion Paton had died and the place was for sale. However the feeders were full and the birds were plentiful. Evidently the place is being cared for by members of the Tucson AS. They had placed a large pile of brush in the center of the yard that attracted many normally cryptic birds. I mentioned to a fellow birder about the Peach-faced Lovebirds. She told me that there is a resident flock (or could there be a murder of Lovebirds?) at the Gilbert Water Park, a euphemism for the Gilbert sewage treatment ponds. It might be better to see the Lovebirds in Gilbert rather than someone’s private residence in Scottsdale.

I think it would be a good idea for the local Audubon societies in Arizona and the southwest United States or the national Audubon Society to buy the Patons’ home and keep it in perpetuity. It would be a shame to lose such a gem. I would be happy to donate to such a cause. I bet others would too.
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.

Another Birding Spot to Write Off
by Dan Guthrie

Members Cathy McFadden and Paul Clarke reported back in August that the Nature Trail and scrub habitat along Davis Road opposite the headquarters of the Wister Wildlife unit at the Salton Sea had been burned and bulldozed. I must have missed the report. When we arrived there on our field trip we found only a Ladder-backed Woodpecker sitting on a burned branch of a tree. The area was almost completely barren. This is apparently a planned removal of vegetation not important to ducks as they revamp their duck ponds for hunters. It is a tragedy that they cannot accommodate any ‘non-game’ species. In the past our field trips always stopped here to meet, and were rewarded by Woodpeckers, an Eastern Phoebe one year, a Chestnut-sided Warbler another year, and I saw my first Orange-crowned Warbler here. A small oasis of trees and good desert riparian vegetation is no more.

Silent Auction Donations Needed

We are currently accepting donations for the silent auction that will be held at our annual Potluck Dinner on Friday, June 7. Donated items are often bird watching or nature related, but they don’t have to be. In the past we have auctioned such items as bird books, bird houses, bird prints, duck decoys and decorative items. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our members, over $380 was raised at this event.

Come and enjoy the delicious food brought by our members, and bid on the items of your choice. It’s a fun evening, and we hope to see many of you there.

If you have something to donate, please call Karlene Campo at 909-627-8191.

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: Janice Clever, Dorothy Paglia, Ann Terry
Chino: Linda Cleary
Chino Hills: Luca Delgrosso, Maria Jensen, Rose Kilpatrick, Roy Morales, Ava Rabago, Lindsey Williamson
Claremont: Leenore Brasher, Valerie Cressy, Isabel Crump, David Fawcett, Sharon, Gresswell, Paul Gronseth, Richard Hodges, Ardys Hunter, Nicole Kovalski, Lynn MacBride, John McGuire, Katharine Morsberger, John Ogers, Abigail Parsons, Chris Sayler, Elizabeth Smith, E. Vallianatos, Thomas White, Dorothy Wills
Corona: Emily Carr, Rita Easum, Bonnie Johnson, Beth Shirokawa
Covina: Kathryn Brann, Mary Brunholz, Carolyn Cullinane, Dennis Howie, Robert Low, Ross & Cathy Manzo, Diane Renfrow, Ana Rogers, Lone Sorensen
Diamond Bar: Carol Mendoza, Jim Miller
Etiwanda: Roy Bredlau
Glendora: Lee Brandon, Patti Crawford, Agnes C. Johnson, Janice Ormond, Vicky Saikali, The Wohlkers
La Verne: Monica Barragan, Sandra Hager, Gail Holladay, Lerna Loague, Barbara Patten, Jane Riggs
Mira Loma: Myrle Whiting
Mt. Baldy: Susan Lightfoot
Norco: Colleen Keehan
Ontario: Frances Keeney, Iline King
Phillips Ranch: Tom Mc Cabe
Pomona: John Avila, William Gendron, Margaret Fulmer, S.K. Taylor
Rancho Cucamonga: Mary Ballard
San Dimas: Max Burlew, Gerry Cox, Meredith & Pat Culligan, Sally Hall, Andrzej Jur, Sharon Lee, Nancy McDonald, Roberta Petry, Mary Poirier, N. Serrano, Constance Wertanen, Dawn Williams, Raoul Wood
Upland: B Bradley, Jo Ann Broecker, Paul Freendall, Yvonna Kean, Trudy Lapin, Faye Legrand, Paula Yamamoto
Walnut: Mr. Lynn Glover, Sharon Goyer, Rodolfo Rapadas, Linda Wilford
West Covina: Cathy Bradley, Carolyne Feldman, Judith Lum, Terry Rupp, A Sannes
My $6000 Evening Grosbeak!  

by Madeline Bauer

I’m a birder and in January I (finally) got hearing aids. These have made such an enormous difference in my birding that I would like to spread the word! Rest assured that I have no financial interest and obviously these are not cheap! There are a few points that I’d love to share with any birder who might have discovered that they don’t hear all the birds they used to.

First and foremost, not all audiologists (or heaving forbid, hearing aid salespeople) are created equal. I was fitted for mine by an independent audiologist who has a doctorate in audiology. For the $5,995, I have been seeing him weekly and he has been adjusting the aids every week as I report my experience with birding. The hearing aids have 4 “programs” and the standards are (1) normal speech and (2) speech in noisy environments (restaurants, etc.). My 3rd and 4th programs are for birding. Here’s where the fun begins!! I took a DVD with bird songs and the audiologist created the basic birding program based on songs I found hard to hear. The audiologist has been adjusting the birding programs at each weekly visit. I just met with him today and he tweaked the 2 bird programs yet again, this time to enhance my hearing of soft sounds ... like the “tik tik tik” that a Ruby-crowned Kinglet mutters to itself ... as he was preparing to do that, he said “Oh this is so much fun!”

One more key characteristic of hearing aids for birders ... make sure the aids are capable of hearing frequencies at least as high as 8kHz! This is much higher than normal human speech, but essential for hearing birds! And, it would be great to get higher to hear, for example, Blackpoll Warbler, but 8kHz was the limit for the aids my audiologist had access to. Friends in Australia have aids that go to 10kHz!

Good birding!!

Hang On! It’s time for our annual fundraising campaign – get ready to do your part! Watch for a special mailing from PVAS giving you the opportunity to support many conservation, environmental and educational programs both locally and throughout California.

Money raised from this and other sources is supports such valuable environmental activities as the Kern River Preserve, Endangered Habitat League, Wild Wings raptor rehabilitation, our Bluebird Box program, and other conservation efforts. Some is used by our chapter for educational projects such as providing the Audubon Adventures science program materials to local elementary schools, or providing owl pellets to elementary school teachers who use these valuable teaching aids in their classrooms.

Other popular chapter activities also have costs associated with them, such as our First Sunday Birdwalks, Bonelli Birdwalks, and free bird check-lists to area parks.

Some funds must also be used to meet the costs of running the Chapter, including our monthly membership meetings, the Annual Meeting, and the printing and mailing of this newsletter. There are also costs associated with our participation in such events as Claremont’s Village Venture, and the Earth Day Celebration.

So if you haven’t done so yet, please consider contributioning as much as you can, so we can keep all of these programs going.
A Trip to North Etiwanda Preserve
by Ed Babcock

Birding in the foothills of our own valley can be rewarding as fifteen Pomona Valley Audubon members discovered on Thursday, March 21st. After gathering in Memorial Park, we drove the short distance to Day Creek Ave., and headed north to the end of the road. Dan Gregory led a 3.2 mile hike along the primary trail loop of the North Etiwanda Preserve. The air was cool, the sky clear, the winds calm, and our birding spirits high.

The first mile provided us with some excellent sightings. Spotted Towhees, California Towhees, and California Thrashers were seen in abundance while the familiar calls of the California Quail, Wrentit, and Western Scrub Jay whetted our appetites for further sightings. Soaring above us we spotted a Loggerhead Shrike, Northern Harrier, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Cooper’s Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk.

As we gained elevation several of the better birders recognized the song of a the Black-chinned Sparrow. After a lengthy pursuit we ultimately had great views of this striking bird flitting on the hillside. Atop the hillside we watched a family of deer as they attentively watched us. We also had good looks at a Bell’s Sage Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and White-Crowned Sparrow. Indeed, a good day for sparrows.

In addition to numerous Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds we had a magnificent view of a Rufous Hummingbird perched on a stalk beside the trail. Many pictures were taken of its gorget shining brilliantly in the bright sunlight.

As we climbed in elevation, the group sited a Northern Flicker, Bewick’s Wren, Rock Wren, and Cassin’s Kingbird. We ate lunch at an overlook that offers an expansive view of the San Bernardino, Riverside, and Pomona Valleys. Afterwards, we returned to the parking lot and compared lists. All in all, our final count was thirty nine species. Dan then led a smaller group back up the trail to the waterfall but no new species were observed.

North Etiwanda Preserve, located at the top of Day Creek and Etiwanda Avenues in Rancho Cucamonga, consists of 1,176 acres of Riveridian alluvial fan sage brush. The preserve, once a hunting ground for the Tongva, Gabriélana, and Serano people and explored by Juan Batista de Anza, became a habitat preserve in 1998. The trail is rocky in places and climbs about 1,000 feet in elevation. The North Etiwanda Preserve provides for an excellent birding experience right in our valley. Join us on our next trip to the preserve or take in the beauty of the land and the bounty of birds on your own.
Family Bird Fest  
Plus Claremont  
Earth Day  
= Big Success!

On Sunday, February 17, more than 600 visitors flocked to Claremont from across the region to take part in the annual Family Bird Fest at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Bob Everett presented a live Great Horned Owl and a Red-tailed Hawk from Wild Wings. PVAS and RSABG volunteers were posted at five locations around the Garden to identify and tally bird species. The Family Bird Fest count was submitted to Cornell University’s Great Backyard Bird Count, adding to the compilation of world-wide bird counts taken that week. Many thanks to PVAS members who supported this event.

On Sunday, April 22, PVAS volunteers once again reached out to the masses at the 13th Annual Claremont Earth Day Celebration. The event, sponsored by Sustainable Claremont, was held in the village and featured music, talks, and displays from local community organizations. Once again Wild Wings generously brought along some of their birds to mingle with the crowds. A big thanks Wild Wings for always being there to help promote Audubon, conservation, and wildlife rehabilitation.

Winter Birding in Washington

Does bird watching give you chills? Visit Washington state in February and you are guaranteed chills AND thrills! Experiencing this area in the winter allows one the opportunity to see many Alaskan species in the southernmost part of their range.

I first got the itch to visit this area in the winter of 2012 for the Snowy Owl irruption but quickly learned there were far more goodies to be found by traveling inland, to the Okanagan Valley. White-Winged Crossbill, Bohemian Waxwing, Pine Grosbeak, Gray Jay, Ruffed Grouse, Bald Eagle, Pileated Woodpecker, Gray-Crowned Rosy Finch, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Shrike, and Common Redpolls are (funny enough) common. The Seattle vicinity boasts Pigeon Guillemot, Long-tailed Duck, Trumpeter Swan, Snow Goose, and gobs and gobs of hawks.

If there is enough interest, we may offer a trip prior to President’s Day weekend of 2014. Email me, Pam Kling, at pamtone@verizon.net if you might be interested. It is truly a unique birding experience and one I’m sure you’ll never forget.

2013 PVAS CALENDAR

Sunday, April 7 - First Sunday Bird Walk  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
8 a.m.

Saturday, April 13 - Living Desert Preserve  
Meet at 7 a.m. at Memorial Park  
Leader: Dan Gregory

Saturday, April 20 - Morongo/Whitewater Preserve  
Meet at 6 a.m. at Memorial Park  
Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, April 28 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk  
Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m.  
Leader: Rod Higbie

Saturday, May 4 - Big Morongo Canyon  
Meet at 6 a.m. at Memorial Park  
Leader: Dan Gregory

Sunday, May 5 - First Sunday Bird Walk  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
8 a.m.

Saturday, May 18 - Angeles Crest  
Meet at 6 a.m. at Memorial Park  
Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, May 26 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk  
Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m.  
Leader: Rod Higbie

Saturday/Sunday June 1 & 2 - Big Bear Weekend  
Call trip leader for meeting place.  
7 a.m.  
Leader: Pam Kling

Sunday, June 2 - First Sunday Bird Walk  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
8 a.m.

Sunday, June 23 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk  
Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m.  
Leader: Rod Higbie

Friday, June 28 - Owling on Angeles Crest  
Call trip leader for meeting place.  
4 p.m.  
Leader: Pam Kling

Saturday, July 6 & August 17 - Wrightwood  
Meet at 6 a.m. at Memorial Park  
Leader: Pam Kling

Sunday, August 25 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk  
Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m.  
Leader: Rod Higbie

Sunday, September 1 - First Sunday Bird Walk  
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden  
8 a.m.

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are open to all individuals. Please call trip leader to verify starting time, meeting location and to let them know you plan to attend. It is recommended to bring a snack (lunch if recommended), plenty of water, sun protection, and bug spray on all trips.
Field Trips

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are open to all individuals. Remember to call the trip leader if you plan to attend and to confirm starting time & meeting location. Sunday Monthly 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, April 7, 2013
First Sunday Bird Walk
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Join us for our monthly (September-June) bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced 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.

Saturday, April 13, 2013
Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden
A trip to the Palm Springs area for desert flowers, birds, hummingbirds and returning migrants. Meet at 5:30 a.m., call for meeting location. Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.

Saturday, April 20, 2013
Big Morongo Canyon / Whitewater Preserve
A trip for returning migrants, especially flycatchers (if good weather). Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu

Sunday, April 28, 2013
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.

Saturday, May 4, 2013
Big Morongo Canyon
A trip at the height of western migration for transient and returning species, including Summer Tanager, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and lots of orioles. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.

Sunday, May 5, 2013
First Sunday Bird Walk
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Join us for our monthly (September-June) bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced 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.

Saturday, May 18, 2013
Angeles Crest Highway
A trip for returning mountain species. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu

Sunday, May 26, 2013
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.

Saturday & Sunday, June 1 & 2, 2013
Big Bear Weekend
A two-day trip for mountain species, many of them nesting. Saturday we’ll visit Bluff Lake and the Champion Lodgepole Pine. Sunday visit the Arrastre Creek and Green Mtn. Trail. Lodging is on your own, but day trippers are also welcome. Bring plenty of food, water, and sunscreen. Trip will begin in Big Bear at 7:00 a.m. RSVP if you plan to attend and for meeting location. Leader: Pam Kling, pamtone@verizon.net or (909) 240-7604.

Sunday, June 2, 2013
First Sunday Bird Walk
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Join us for our monthly (September-June) bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced 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.

Sunday, June 23, 2013
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.

Friday, June 28, 2013
Owling on Angeles Crest
Join us for a night-time trip as we search for local owls including Western-screech Owl, Spotted Owl, Flammulated Owl, and Northern Saw-whet Owl. We’ll meet in the LaCanada area at 4:00 p.m. Be prepared to stay out late. You must RSVP if you plan to attend and for meeting location - this trip is limited to 8 participants. Leader: Pam Kling, pamtone@verizon.net or (909) 240-7604.

Saturday, July 6, 2013
Saturday, August 17, 2013
Wrightwood Area
Our two annual summer trips to Grassy Hollow, Blue Ridge Campground, and Table Mtn. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. Bring lunch and sunscreen. RSVP if you plan to attend. Leader: Pam Kling, pamtone@verizon.net or (909) 240-7604.
Out of Birdland comes *By George! The Birds are Copying Us*, a visit with birds by humorist George Roleder. In these stories birds contribute and enjoy articles in their Avian Times. This is a book of humorous stories that will challenge serious birders to check their handbooks, while supplying a chuckle to the general public of all reading ages.

George, a marriage and family counselor and former professor, taught at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, California, for over thirty years. He holds an M.A. in psychology from Claremont Graduate School, a Ph.D. in Higher Education from USC, and is a lifelong member of the Audubon Society. He uses these experiences to create his humorous short stories. Available at Amazon as a Kindle eBook, or from iBookstore on iPhone and iPad. Cost $5.99.
**Membership Meetings**

**Thursday, April 4, 2013**

**Elise Ferree**  
**Black Phoebes**

Elise Ferree, faculty member at the Keck Science Center in Claremont, will discuss her research on Black phoebes (Sayornis nigricans). These birds are traditionally found in riparian habitats, but also seem to have their basic needs for nest construction met in human-developed areas. Her research focuses on how the biotic and abiotic factors associated with human environments influence the behavior and hence survival and reproduction of black phoebes.

**Thursday, May 2, 2013**

**Dan Guthrie**  
**Birds, Parks and Tigers in Northern India**

President Dan Guthrie will present a program about his recent trip to northern India. He will introduce us to what one can expect on the ‘birder’s route’ through the major nature reserves around and north of Delhi.

**Friday, June 7, 2013**

**PVAS Annual Potluck and Member Slideshow**

Join us for our annual Potluck on Friday, June 7, 2013 at the Alexander Hughes Community Center at 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont. Admission is $5 at the door.

Our evening will feature a silent auction, the annual Election of Officers, the presentation of the 2013 Flock Leader Award and the now famous Member’s Powerpoint Photo presentation. More information to come in the June issue of the Chaparral Naturalist.