



# CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

A publication of

Pomona Valley Audubon Society

[www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org](http://www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org)

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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## Preparing for the Christmas Census... Neighborhood Birds

by Dan Guthrie

Last year we did very well on our Christmas Census, finding most of the mountain birds and ducks to be expected in our area. Pasadena, however, found more species. This was due, in large part, to knowing where vagrant and overwintering migrants were located.

When I remember a story, when I was a child, about "Crip" the brown thrasher with a bad leg who returned year after year to winter in a family's back yard. (I tried to look this up on the internet and found mostly stories about "crips" and "bloods" gangs!) Birds that usually migrate but are sick or injured often stay through the winter. Also, vagrants, birds that made mistakes during migration, may, when the migrating urge is over, stay in a spot for the winter. We have had several such birds in the past in our area. The Painted Redstart, which returned to the same trees at Bonelli Park for several winters and the Hooded Mergansers that seem to find the settling ponds near the Montclair Plaza every year are good local examples of this.

October and November are the end of fall migration, when our regular migrants and vagrants lose their migration urge and settle in for the winter. Now is the time to find them! Many species are represented on our Christmas Census by a single individual. Among



these are such things as Hermit, Black and White, and Black-throated Grey Warblers. All have been found on the Christmas Census in our area, and were present in the same trees for months both before and after the census. So, if you are walking your dog, jogging in your neighborhood, or visiting a local park, keep an eye out for such birds. Sapsuckers, Nuthatches, Warblers, and the odd Sparrow are all of interest. And let me know where they are so hopefully we can find them on our census!

### IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>Preparing for the Christmas Bird Count</i> .....	<b>Pg. 1</b>
<i>Goodbye to the Moorhen</i> .....	<b>Pg. 2</b>
<i>112th Christmas Bird Count</i> .....	<b>Pg. 3</b>
<i>Annual Report</i> .....	<b>Pg. 4</b>
<i>Field Trips</i> .....	<b>Pg. 5 &amp; 6</b>
<i>General Meeting Schedule</i> .....	<b>Pg. 8</b>

# *Goodbye to the Moorhen and Other Topics* by Dan Guthrie

I grew up with the Common Gallinule, which, many years ago, was changed to the Common Moorhen. The Purple Gallinule stayed gallinule. The Common Moorhen is very widespread, occurring throughout the Americas and also in Eurasia and Africa

Now, it turns out, the Old World moorhen is not the same species as the North American Moorhen. The result is that the Old World species retains the name moorhen, but is the Eurasian moorhen. South America has adopted the name Common Gallinule (again). The North American namers have not met yet, but will probably follow suit. So say goodbye to the moorhen!

On another note, the AOU has agreed to split the Snowy Plover of the U.S. from the Kentish Plover in the old world. Previously they were a single species.



## 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:** Bernardo Martinez

**Baldwin Park:** Rod Repp, J. Tantamco

**Chino Hills:** Brenda Kapila, Elizabeth Myers

**Claremont:** Gwendylin Bayer, Isobel Crump, Kristine Geurts, Jim Hoste, Olive Hutchison, Laura Jaqui, Ann Love, Ray Morales, Dora Sanders, Mary Sims, Judith Trimble, Edra Young

**Corona:** Becky Carr, Thomas Mc Clure, Joyce Still

**Covina:** Sharon Davidson, Hortense Graves, Carol Najjar

**Diamond Bar:** Virginia Czarnecki

**Glendora:** Bobby Chaney, Jeanne Crouthamel, Helen Dziuk, Dennis Howie, Agnes Johnson, Linda Snowberger, Kathlee Von Velasco

**La Verne:** Alfonso Arredondo, Irene Burgoyne, Carrie Coolbaugh, Andrea Cooper, Bonnie Moya, The Perkins, Michael Sifter

**Mira Loma:** Daniel Ortega

**Montclair:** Louise Hernandez

**Norco:** Arthur Camarillo, Barbara Crane, Linda Dielman, Audra Lopez, Donald Rhoades, Bryce Russell

**Ontario:** Lori Barnes, Thelma Tague

**Pomona:** Donald Huber, Harriet Land

**Rancho Cucamonga:** Barbara Anderson, Cheryl Maddux, Barbara Spriggs, Marjorie Thulemeyer, Yuko Yamaguchi

**San Dimas:** Donna Hebb, Barbara Miller

**Upland:** Robert Fowlkes, Shelley Kirkpatrick, A-1 Recycling, Mary Simko, Louise Wright,

**Walnut:** Han Hung, Jiro Kadoya

**West Covina:** Anita Alvarez, Sally Cornell, Linda Harris, Jean Holmes, Ruth Pauling, Marilyn Pinda, Judy Walters,



# 112<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt”: They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won.

Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientists were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition – a “Christmas Bird Census” – that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them.

So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied around 90 species on all the counts combined.

2011 will see the 112th annual Christmas Bird Count. For Pomona Valley Audubon, it will be our 40th count, having held our first one in 1972. Since the Christmas Bird Count began over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteer citizen scientists. In other words, it all starts with you!

The Christmas Bird Count season is December 14 through January 5 each year. Each local count occurs on one day between those inclusive dates. The PVAS count will be held on Saturday, December 17th. The count takes place within “Count Circles” 15 miles in diameter, which focus on specific geographical areas. The PVAS circle has its center approximately at the intersection of Mills Avenue and Mt. Baldy Road in northern Claremont. Each circle is led by a Count Compiler; Dan Guthrie is the PVAS compiler.

Anyone can help with the Christmas Bird Count; counters do not have to be experienced birders. If you are a beginning birder, you will be able to join a group that includes at least one experienced birdwatcher. In addition, if your home is within the boundaries of a Count Circle, then you can stay home and report the birds that visit your feeder once you have arranged to do so with Neil Gilbert [neil.gilbert@verizon.net](mailto:neil.gilbert@verizon.net) or 909-240-8547. There is a \$5 fee to participate in the CBC for all field participants aged 19 or older (the fee can be waived). If you have never been on a CBC before your first step is to contact Neil Gilbert to find out how you can volunteer. If you have taken part in the past, contact Neil or one of the other Team Leaders.

If you are willing to help out with this very important project, let us know. Hand me a note at the monthly meeting; send me a note by mail (Neil Gilbert, 183 E. Miramar Ave., Claremont, CA 91711); or (preferred) send an e-mail to: [Neil.Gilbert@verizon.net](mailto:Neil.Gilbert@verizon.net)

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011**



# Pomona Valley Audubon Annual Report

Presented below is a summary of the income and expenses of Pomona Valley Audubon Society for the Period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. On the right is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Society as of the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2011. Below that is a breakdown of the contributions made to various conservation programs and other causes throughout the State.

Pomona Valley Audubon Society Income & Expenses 07/01/10 through 06/30/11	
Category Description	12 Months Ended 6/30/11
<b>INCOME</b>	
Recycling Income	\$ 843
Other Fundraising	1,029
Contributions	6,225
NAS Chapter Share	2,716
Chapter Memberships	170
Wild Wings Support	890
Annual Meeting Income	270
Dividends/Interest	149
Other Income	5
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 12,297</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Insurance	\$ 1,719
Meeting Expenses	2,797
Newsletter Expenses	4,407
Office Exp. & Postage	289
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,212</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
Grants	\$ 2,750
Wild Wings Program	2,483
Volunteer Recognition	733
Other Projects	739
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,705</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 15,917</b>
Gain or (Loss) on Investments	(416)
<b>NET INCOME (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ (4,035)</b>

Pomona Valley Audubon Society Assets & Liabilities As of 06/30/11	
Category Description	Balance As of 6/30/11
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$ 21,257
Investments	49,669
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 70,925</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 70,925</b>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	
Memorial Funds	\$ 1,833
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 1,833</b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 69,092</b>

Grants Given 2010-2011	
PROGRAM	
Wild Wings of California	\$ 2,483
Endangered Habitats League	1,000
Kern River Preserve	1,000
The Nature Conservancy	250
Western Field Ornithologists	500
<b>TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN</b>	<b>\$ 5,233</b>

If you have any questions or comments concerning the above financial statements, or for information on how you can provide for Pomona Valley Audubon Society in your will or trust, contact Neil Gilbert, Treasurer, at: [Neil.Gilbert@Verizon.net](mailto:Neil.Gilbert@Verizon.net)

# 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, October 22, 2011 Village Venture

Plan to visit our booth on First Street!

## Sunday, October 23, 2011 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 Highbie 909-599-6526**

## Sunday, November 6, 2011 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, November 10, 2011 Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity

**NEW DATE!**

A trip to Mt. Baldy for migrants. Meets at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

## Sunday, November 27, 2011 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 Highbie 909-599-6526**

## Saturday & Sunday, December 3-4, 2011 Morro Bay Field Trip

**NEW DATE!**

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 or cell 909-239-5124.**

## Sunday, December 4, 2011 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.**

## Saturday, December 10, 2011 Coastal Orange County

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for car pooling to Bolsa Chica and other spots in Orange County for wintering ducks, shorebirds and herons. Bring your binoculars, a camera and a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836. or cell 909-239-5124.**

## Wednesday, December 14, 2011 Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet near Bathroom 8 off Via Verde in Picnic Valley (the painted redstart location) at 8:00 a.m. for a morning search for goodies prior to our Christmas Census. **Leaders: Bruce and Nancy Strang 626-339-6984**

## Thursday, December 15, 2011 Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for a morning visit to the Moreno Ponds and various parks and cemeteries in the Claremont- Pomona area searching for goodies for our Christmas Census. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836 or cell 909-239-5124.**

## Saturday, December 17, 2011 Annual Christmas Census *See article in this issue.*

## Sunday, December 25, 2011 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 Highbie 909-599-6526**

**CANCELLED**

## Saturday, January 7, 2011 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 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 the tropical kingbird will return this year?) **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**



## PVAS 2011-12 FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

### NOVEMBER

**Sunday, November 6 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

**Thursday, November 10 - Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity** 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

**Sunday, November 27 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk** 8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

NEW DATE!

### DECEMBER

**Saturday & Sunday, December 3 & 4 - Morro Bay Field Trip** Leader: Dan Guthrie

**Sunday, December 4 - Beginner's Bird Walk** Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

**Saturday, December 10 - Coastal Orange County** 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

**Wednesday, December 14 - Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas Trip** Leaders: Strangs

**Thursday, December 15 - Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas Trip** Leader: Dan Guthrie

**Saturday, December 17 - Annual Christmas Census**

NEW DATE!

### JANUARY, 2011

**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

**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.



## Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Morro Bay - CA January 13-16, 2012

Every January on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend, the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. A variety of tours take participants to a vast array of habitats, including deep water pelagic, oak woodland and riparian, wetland and estuary, and the unique grassland habitat of the Carrizo Plain. Workshops cover a vast array of topics ranging from beginner birding classes to gull identification. Outstanding Evening Speakers make presentations on Saturday and Sunday. A variety of vendors will be present with nature related artwork, books, field equipment and attire, and local merchant wares.

Morro Bay California is one of the few remaining estuaries on the Pacific flyway. Christmas Bird Counts on the bay have numbered above the 200 species mark, and the festival bird lists have totaled over 220 species for the weekend, making this area on the central California coast a prime birding destination.

For more information, and to register, please visit our website at <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org>.

The Santa Ana Watershed Association  
proudly invites you to the  
**2011 Fall Festival  
of Birds**



**November 5, 2011**  
**10:00am to 2:00pm**  
Chino Creek Wetlands & Educational Park  
15975 El Prado Rd., Chino, CA

**Free Admission!**

**Bird Encounters**  
**Meet Bird Experts**  
**Nature-themed Crafts**  
**Fun Games & Activities**



**For event details visit us at: [www.sawaedu.org](http://www.sawaedu.org)**



For more information contact Carrie Raleigh:  
[carrie@sawaedu.org](mailto:carrie@sawaedu.org) • (909) 280-1120



**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 ..... 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/Ed Babcock.... 909-626-4754  
Website ..... Mike Klein ..... 909-625-5510

**CHAPARRAL NATURALIST**

Editor..... Pam Kling ..... 909-240-7604

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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.

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

# Membership Meetings

Thursday, November 3, 2011

**Kathy Molina**  
**"Black Skimmers in the West"**

Kathy Molina, a research associate at the Los Angeles Museum of Natural History and wildlife biologist will report on the status of skimmers in southern California. First sighted in California in 1962, skimmers started nesting at the Salton Sea in 1968. Kathy has monitors this population, banding young to determine their population size, reproductive success, and movements. This should be a great introduction to one of our most fascinating species.

Thursday,  
December 1, 2011

**Scott Thomas**  
**"Owl Banding"**

Our program for December will be presented by Scott Thomas. Scott has worked with Pete Bloom and will present a program on his recent work in Sweden, banding and studying owls, including the Great Grey and Hawk Owl. This should be an excellent introduction to a fascinating group of birds and some of the work being done with them.



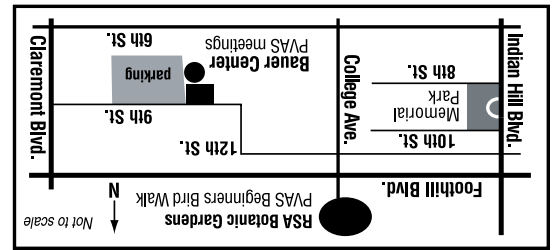
Thursday, January 5, 2012

**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.*



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W.M. Keck Science Center  
925 North Mills Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711

Return Service Requested  
[www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org](http://www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org)

