



# 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

Volume 50, No. 4

## Local Birding Hotspots

### *North Etiwanda Preserve*

by Dan Gregory

On February 17, 2011 I had the opportunity to make a visit to the North Etiwanda Preserve after I dropped the kids off at their perspective schools. I wasn't sure how to get there, especially since the 210 freeway has gone in. It used to be that all you had to do was go straight up Etiwanda Avenue from Baseline to get to the Day Creek area. Now, the best way to get to the preserve is to take the 210 freeway and take the Day Creek exit and go north. Day Creek then curves to the east; follow it until the street ends at Etiwanda Avenue. Turn left and within half a mile you are there.

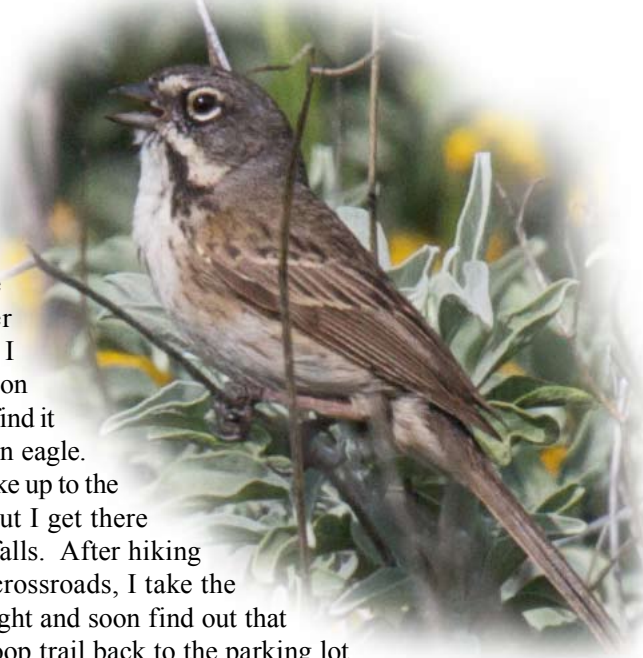
As I was pulling past the big sign for the North Etiwanda Preserve a Say's Phoebe fly past and I was hopeful for a good morning of birding. I parked my car in the dirt parking lot by the entrance and walked up to check out the map of the preserve posted by the entrance. I walked up the trail to the left and was hearing California Thrashers from the start. After seeing a couple of the thrashers sitting atop bushes singing away, I moved farther up the trail and spotted a singing rock wren, then a couple steps farther along I see the bird I was hoping to see here, the sage sparrow singing. It then takes off and seemingly chases the rock wren away from its territory. After that I start hearing and seeing the sage sparrows all over the place. Soon I come up to the visitors kiosk and check out the nice displays of flora, fauna and history of this area. It is really well done. From the kiosk I hear a bird calling that I don't recognize right away and set off to find the bird. It turns out to be a rufous-crowned sparrow, another good bird find. Soon I come to a fork in the trail and I take the trail going right because I hear the sound of rushing water and chorusing frogs. I come to the top of a bluff overlooking what I'm guessing is wild Day Creek. There is a large flock of western bluebirds sitting quietly on bare branches of a dead tree, and I soon find out why they are quiet. Not twenty feet further down the trail is a Cooper's Hawk sitting in a tree waiting for something to move. That trail dead ends at a display of indian culture in the area, so I turn around and head up the trail going to the waterfall that is up the canyon. As I am going up the canyon I am hearing wrentits and more sage sparrows. Then

I see a huge silhouette soaring over the foothills, I put my noes on the bird and find it to be a golden eagle.

It is a long hike up to the waterfalls, but I get there and see the falls. After hiking back to the crossroads, I take the trail going right and soon find out that it is a long loop trail back to the parking lot.

More hike than I wanted to do that day, so I turn around and back track to the trail I had originally taken. On the way back to my car I see a flock of Violet-green Swallows and then perhaps the best bird of the day (only because they are becoming increasingly difficult to find) a loggerhead shrike.

All told for the day I saw 28 species of birds in two and a half hours birding time. This place is a real diamond in the rough and I would recommend to anyone to go to the North Etiwanda Preserve.



#### **IN THIS ISSUE...**

<i>North Etiwanda Preserve</i> .....	<b>Pg. 1</b>
<i>Local Birding Recommendations</i> .....	<b>Pg. 2</b>
<i>PVAS Annual Appeal</i> .....	<b>Pg. 3</b>
<i>Field Trips</i> .....	<b>Pg. 5</b>
<i>General Meeting Schedule</i> .....	<b>Pg. 6</b>

## Oak Park Cemetery

by Dan Guthrie

Oak Park Cemetery is located in south Claremont between Mills Ave. and Sycamore Ave. with an entrance off Sycamore at East Oak Park Drive. The Cemetery is open during daylight hours and contains two areas, the Cemetery proper and an undeveloped area to the north. The Cemetery is well vegetated with flowering Eucalyptus, Cherry and a variety of evergreens and palms, while the northern area is mostly oak and sycamore plus weedy field. In winter the cemetery has had gray flycatcher, varied thrush, and black and white warbler along with yellow rumps and resident white-breasted nuthatch and visiting chipping sparrows. Migration is prime time at the cemetery, especially in the northern undeveloped area where most western migrants have been observed, including lots of buntings and sparrows in the grassy areas. The cemetery is a quiet area for a leisurely walk along the paved roads. Be respectful of any funerals and let us know what birds you find.

## Ely Basins

by Karlene Campo

This is a very good place to view ducks and shorebirds when winter rain runoff flows into the three basins. Late November, December and January are usually good months. Here you may see hundreds of American wigeons, mallards, northern shovelers, cinnamon teal and green-winged teal. Northern pintail, ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks, blue-winged teal and redheads can also be seen there. For several years now a male Eurasian wigeon has been found with the American wigeons. Other birds seen are black-necked stilt, long-billed dowitcher, great egret, greater yellowlegs, spotted sandpiper, and occasionally osprey, green heron, belted kingfisher and Bonaparte's gull.

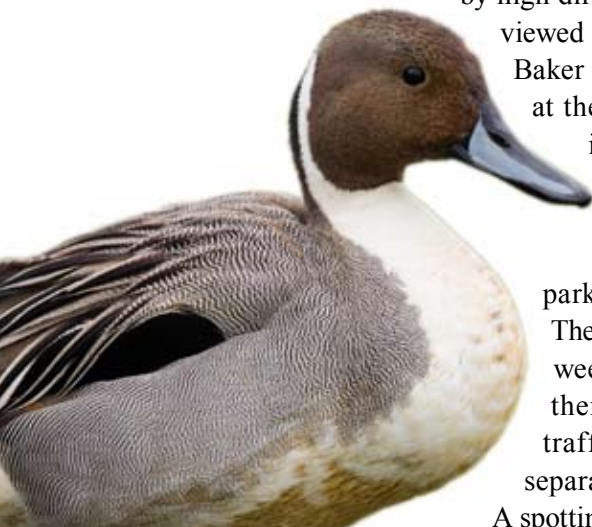
The basins are located along the 1500 to 2000 block on the north side of Philadelphia Street in Ontario. They are fenced and surrounded

by high dirt berms and can only be viewed from the cross streets of Baker Ave. and Vineyard Ave.

at the bridge railings. There is an industrial park on the north side of the eastern most pond and you can drive into their parking area to view birds.

The best time to visit is on the weekends; during the week there is very heavy truck traffic and no sidewalks to separate you from the traffic.

A spotting scope is a must.



## 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:** Margaret Chan, Vyca Cowan, Earl Davis, and Gloria Moran

**Chino Hills:** Bob Schneider and Carolyn Wilson

**Chino:** Sally Gose

**Claremont:** Amelia Ellison, Valerie Gustaveson, Lorna Haines, James Higdon, Noel Keller, Nan Keith, Violet Kinsey, Hallam Shorrocks, Daniel Skenderian, and Marion Tahan

**Corona:** Helen Graham and Sun Kim

**Covina:** Paul Bertiaux, Ray Forsyth, Phyllis Frymark, and Rebecca Guzak

**Diamond Bar:** Carol Campbell, Dan & Felicia Lovio, and Mahender Sahgal,

**Glendora,** Olga Decrescenzi, Ann Grave, Connie Long, Jody Marin, and Diana Rubidoux

**La Verne:** Deborah Felix, Linda Halliwell, and Lynn Madrid

**Montclair:** Nancy Johnson and Sheryll Robinson

**Norco:** Judith Downey and Randy Soderstro

**Ontario:** Anthony Enriquez, Sally Kapp, Teresa Mori, and Lisa Powers

**Phillips Ranch:** Mr. & Mrs. James Hales

**Pomona:** Cindy Anderson, Maria Barajas, Denise King, Helen Munter, Barbara Stanford, and Joanne Weiss

**Rancho Cucamonga:** Donnale De Voe, Donna Dudziak, Denise Mennitt, Sandra Shahan, Sandra Sonsie, Robert Strotjost, Colin Royse, and Rosalie Wright

**San Dimas:** Joseph Anthony, Art Doehla, Marvin & Cynthia Ersher, Chrissy Guy, Audrey Hagger, Kathleen Mahan, Irene Mazura, Michael Mohajer, John Morgan, Reuben Naples, and Dawn Williams

**Upland:** Louis Brenner, Sharen Cherbak, V. Christiansen, Joy Fontaine, Louise Gibson, Linda Hix, Ron Kostich, Pam Lawson, Cassandra Reynolds, and Terry Swope

**Walnut:** Bertha Johannsen, Sandra Mayhall, and Lee Simpson

**West Covina:** Dolores Cota, Carolyn Horowitz, and Joan Hurt



## **GET READY!**

It's time for our annual fundraising, so get ready to do your part! Watch your mailbox over the next two or three weeks 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 used to support 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 monthly Beginner's Birdwalks, the monthly Bonelli Birdwalks, and providing check-lists of birds 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 watch your mailbox and respond to this special mailing with as large a contribution as you can, so we can keep all of these programs going.***

### **13th Annual Great Salt Lake Bird Festival May 12-16, 2011**

This popular annual event spotlights birds of the Great Salt Lake and surrounding areas. The Festival features bus/van/car/boat tours to birding areas, workshops with expert speakers, artists, displays, booths and food.

Bus tours to Antelope Island Bus and van tours are scheduled to Antelope Island State Park, and special 'Behind the Gates' tours to Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, Gillmor Sanctuary, Inland Sea Shorebird Reserve, Farmington Bay, and Ambassador Duck Club are really popular also. Tours are also scheduled to sites in the Wasatch Mountains, Cache Valley, Utah Valley, and some urban trail and wetland sites. Field Trips are offered every day of the Festival. Past committee member and trip leader, Don Paul, with Intermountain West Joint Venture, says, "I applaud the Festival for its quality and comprehensive field trips. The birds and habitat in Utah rank equally to great birding areas around the world".

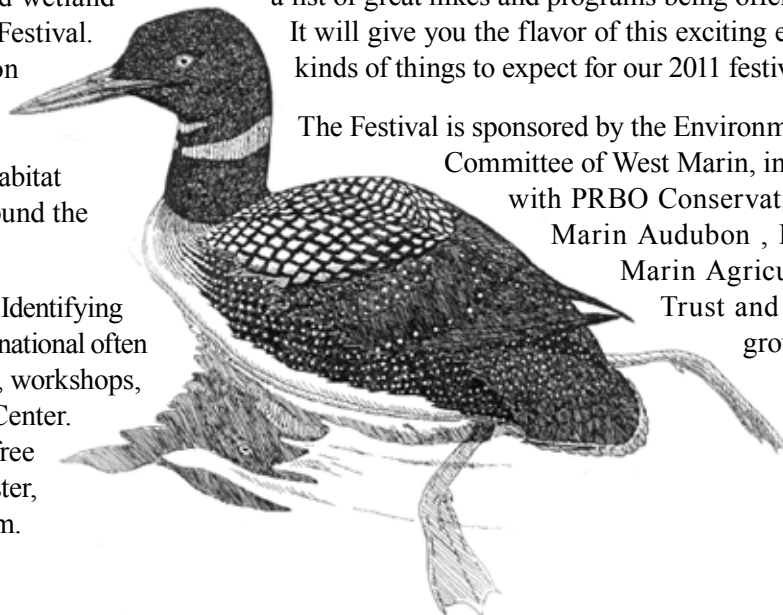
Workshop topics vary from Beginning Birding to Identifying Flycatchers. Tracy Aviary and Hawk Watch International often gives presentations with live birds. The booths, workshops, and food will be at the Davis County Events Center. The workshops, exhibits and presentations are free to the public. For more information and to register, visit us online at [www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com](http://www.greatsaltlakebirdfest.com).

### **Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival April 29-May 2, 2011**

Welcome to the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival! The Festival will be held April 29 - May 2, 2011. It will feature walks, instruction, fun events, great speakers and a silent auction. Such well known birders and naturalists as Al Jaramillo, Jules Evens, Lisa Hug, David Wimpfheimer, Sarah Allen and many others will lead field trips and give talks on everything you want to know. Our keynote speaker is world-renowned birder Alvaro Jaramillo, and we will also be showing the award-winning independent film, Ghost Bird.

Visit our website at [www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org](http://www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org) to view a list of great hikes and programs being offered this year. It will give you the flavor of this exciting event and the kinds of things to expect for our 2011 festival!

The Festival is sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin, in cooperation with PRBO Conservation Science, Marin Audubon, Bay Nature, Marin Agricultural Land Trust and many other groups.



# Field Trips

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

**Sunday, March 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 Higbie 909-599-6526**

**Sunday, April 3, 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.**

**Wednesday, April 13, 2011**

## **Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden**

A mid-week trip to Palm Springs area for desert species and bighorn sheep! Meet at Memorial Park at 7:30 am and bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

**Sunday, April 24, 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 Higbie 909-599-6526**

**CANCELLED DUE TO EASTER HOLIDAY**

**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

## **City of Claremont Earth Day Celebration**

Join PVAS and the Wild Wings birds on 2<sup>nd</sup> street in Claremont for an Earth Day Celebration.

**Sunday, May 1, 2011**

## **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**

This should be an excellent time for migrants and returning desert specialties. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. We will stop at Whitewater Preserve for lunch on the way home. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

**New Date!**

**Sunday, May 1, 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.**

**Wednesday, May 11, 2011**

## **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**

Summer tanagers and desert specialties along with the migrating warblers should all be there. Meet at Memorial Park in Claremont at 6:00 a.m. for car pooling.. **Leader: Dan Gregory. 909-944-2259.**

**Saturday, May 14, 2011**

## **Galileo Hill and the Northern Desert**

Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. for a trip to the northern desert oasis in search of migrants and possible vagrants. Bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

**Sunday, May 22, 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: TBA**

**Sunday, June 5, 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.**

**Wednesday, June 8, 2011**

## **Carbon Canyon Regional Park**

A mid-week trip for oak woodland and coastal sage species. Leave Memorial Park at 7:30 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

**Saturday, June 18, 2011**

## **Grassy Hollow Visitors Center**

A trip to the visitor's center above Wrightwood for mountain birds. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for car pooling. **Leader: Dan Guthrie 909-607-2836.**

**Saturday & Sunday, June 11&12, 2011**

## **Big Bear Weekend**

A two-day trip for mountain species. 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 (please call for Sunday meeting place). Bring plenty of food, water, and sunscreen. Saturday meet at 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park or 7:30 a.m. at Aspen Glen Picnic Area (Hwy 18, right on Tulip Lane) **Call if you plan to attend. Leader: Pam Kling 909-240-7604.**

**Saturday, June 25, 2011**

## **Angeles National Forrest Owling Trip**

A trip for owls and other nocturnal species along Hwy. 2. **Call if you plan to attend. Leader: Pam Kling 909-240-7604.**

**Sunday, July 3, and Saturday, August 13, 2011**  
**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. **Leader: Pam Kling 909-240-7604.**

## 2011 FIELD TRIPS

### APRIL

#### Sunday, April 3 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

#### April 9 -16 - Texas Coast Migration Trip

Leader: Pam Kling

#### Wednesday, April 13 - Living Desert Zoo and Botanic Garden 7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

#### Saturday, April 30 - City of Claremont Earth Day Celebration - Stop by and visit our booth!

### MAY

#### Sunday, May 1 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

#### Wednesday, May 1 - Big Morongo Nature Preserve

6 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

#### Saturday, May 14 - Galileo Hill and Northern Desert

6 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

#### Sunday, May 22 - Bonelli Park Bird Walk

8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

### JUNE

#### Sunday, June 5 - Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

#### Wednesday, June 8 - Carbon Canyon Regional Park

7:30 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

#### Saturday & Sunday, June 11-12 - Big Bear Lake Area

Leader: Pam Kling

#### Saturday, June 25 - Owling Trip 5 p.m. Leader: Pam Kling

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### PVAS OFFICERS 2010-2011

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

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

### CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

Editor..... Pam Kling .....

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Code COZC080Z**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Membership Meetings

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Dan Guthrie

## "Birding and Conservation in Bolivia"

Bolivia is less well known as a birding destination or even a tourist mecca than most of the other countries in South America. They do have, however, some wonderful scenery, and endemic species in need of protection. Based on a tour to the country in 2010, this program will introduce us to one of the less known countries for birding as well as to some high country birds.

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Nina Karnovski

## "Murrelets on the Move: Adventures in Understanding the At-Sea Behavior of Xantus' Murrelets"

Nina, a faculty member at Pomona College and a specialist on the biology of sea birds will present a program on some of her work on the Channel Islands of California. This should be an excellent introduction to one of our southern California species that is almost never seen from the mainland.

Friday, June 3, 2011

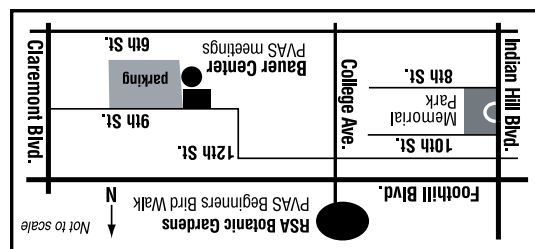
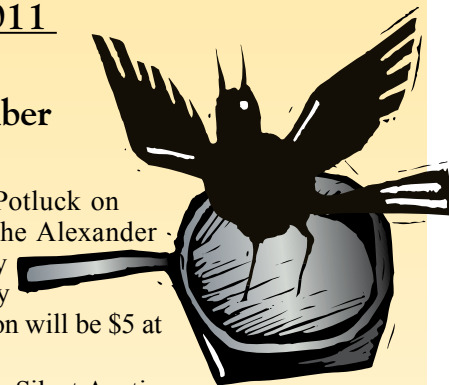
PVAS Annual

## Potluck and Member Slideshow

Join us for our annual Potluck on Friday, June 3, 2011 at the Alexander Hughes Community Center at 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont. Admission will be \$5 at the door.

Our evening will feature a Silent Auction, the annual Election of Officers, the presentation of the 2011 Flock Leader Award and the now famous Member's Powerpoint Photo presentation. More information to come in the June issue of the Chaparral Naturalist.

*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.*



Pomona Valley Audubon Society  
W.M. Keck Science Center  
925 North Mills Avenue  
Claremont, CA 91711

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