

Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2013 / Volume 53, No. 2

Talking About Birds

Time to Look for Boobies (the birds)

by Dan Guthrie

More than 20 years ago both brown and blue footed boobies were reported at the north end of the Salton Sea. I drove down the white-water River dike (end of Lincoln Street), which was open to the public then and at the end, looked out to rocks off the dike in the sea. There were the boobies! I waded out to them, getting to within about 10 feet. They simply looked at me while I took photos. Since then I have learned that boobies are fairly tolerant. I've gotten close to them whenever I have found them standing on shore.



Since that year long ago, when a booby even showed up at Bonelli Park, boobies have been mostly absent from southern California. Not this year! The latest count was of nearly 30 blue-foots at the north end of the Salton Sea, sitting at the end of nearly every street on snags and rocks just off shore. Blue-foots have also shown up through September and October on just about every rock jetty along our coast, from San Diego as far north as San Simeon. Why so many have come north from Mexico, where they breed, is not known, nor is it known how long they will stay.

Other Mexican breeders, namely Heerman's gulls and elegant tern have moved north, the terns now nesting commonly at Bolsa Chica. Whether this is a range expansion or an anomaly won't be known for some time. It would be nice if the boobies, which have visited Anacapa Island and sat on the arches these with the pelicans and cormorants, would stay. However, if you want to be sure to see them, visit our local coast and scan the rock jetties. You should find a few.

In this issue...

- Time to Look for Boobies
- President's Message
- New Members
- 2013 Christmas Bird Count
- West Nile Virus in Claremont
- Audubon Adventurer Material
- Local Bird Festivals
- 2013 - 2014 Field Trips
- Membership Meetings

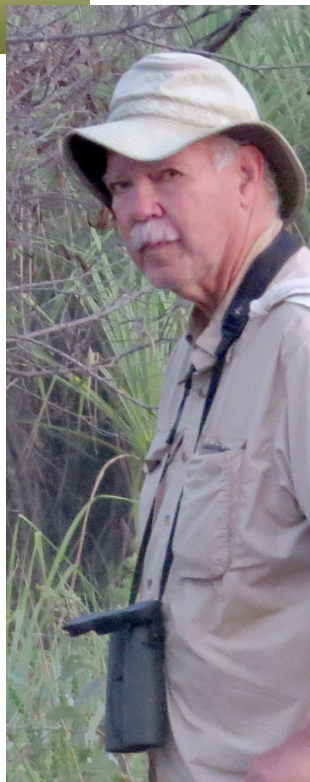
President's Message by Dan Guthrie

Audubon members letters and e-mails were important in getting the legislature to pass and Governor Brown to sign the **bill banning lead in bullets in California**. We are the first state to do this and this will significantly decrease the deaths of California Condors within the state. A major cause of their deaths has been the ingestion of lead bullet fragments when eating carrion; especially dead deer that were wounded and escaped the hunters, later to die. Also, this will eliminate lots of lead shot from shotgun pellets, which sprinkle every California lake during duck hunting season. This shot can be ingested by ducks which bottom feed.

This issue of the Naturalist lists all our field trips for the remainder of the year. Let us know if there are **other places you would like us to visit**; we can always add a trip.

We are **still looking for some volunteers**. Is there anything you would like to do? Door Prize Coordinator? School Liason? Newsletter Editor? Board Member? Conservation?

Audubon has an excellent **educational program for 4-6th graders, Audubon Adventures**, and we will provide it free to teachers in our area. However, we need to get the word out to them about the availability of this program. It is described on Page 5.



PVAS President Dan Guthrie birding in Western Australia in October, 2013.

Once an avid chaser and lister like many youngsters, he says he has slowed down to "watch" the birds. Dan enjoys sharing the hobby with others on field trips.

The Naturalist is Going Digital !!

This newsletter, the Chaparral Naturalist, is posted on our web site (<http://www.pomona-valleyaudubon.org>).

This Spring we plan to distribute the newsletter mostly electronically. **Paper copies will be sent ONLY to those who request it.** You can continue to get the newsletter by either visiting our web page for the latest copy or by providing your email address for email delivery.

Send address to me at dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu We promise not to give your e-mail address to anyone else, and to use it very sparingly.

Dan Guthrie

Alta Loma: **Pam Bekendam, Kathryn Gutierrez, Wanda Turner, Evelyn Wheeler**

Baldwin Park: **Marie Markers**

Chino:

Chino Hills:

Claremont: **Lovelle Beaman, Faye Carpenter, Ilse Feitsma, Martha Hill, Jo Lewis, Delores Pulliam, Susan Rankaitis, Barbara Rogers**

Corona:

Covina: **John Kendall, Diane Stilley**

Diamond Bar: **Lori Pastucha, Marcia Mings, Brittany Poloni**

Etiwanda:

Glendora:

La Verne: **Betty Freymond, Meredith Summers**

Mt. Baldy: **Pam Walton**

Montclair: **Wilma Cumberland, Louse Hernandez**

Norco: **Amber Burnett, Bill Gayk**

Ontario: **Jose Ayala**

Pomona: **Grace Elias**

Rancho Cucamonga: **Linda Costamagna, Lou Robbins**

San Dimas: **Lori Melching**

Upland: **Peter Mow, John Wallace, Steven Wilson, Larissa Yates**

Walnut: **Jennifer Chao**

West Covina: **Lew Johnson, Emma Reyes**

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.

Christmas Bird Count

THE Christmas Census - Offer Hints to Important Questions

Christmas censuses, held throughout this country and in most Central and South American Countries provide one of the very few annual "snapshots" of bird populations and distributions (breeding bird censuses in May are the other major national census effort). As such they are invaluable for the information that they provide.

We tend to emphasize the number of species we find, but just as important are numbers. West Nile virus has been found in a chicken in north Claremont. Crows and other corvids, including our jays, are also particularly vulnerable. Have their populations declined, or are most crows now survivors of the virus, with antibodies from past infections? Numbers of common birds such as these will tell us something about the viruses effect. Are there more fox sparrows and woodpeckers? Have they moved out of mountain burn areas and into our valley? How successful was the breeding season this past summer? Are there more or fewer white-crowns and yellow-rumps? And how are the parrots and collared doves faring? Are there populations growing, and are the Allen's hummingbirds starting to replace or

live with the Anna's hummingbirds? Christmas census data, taken from across the nation and from southern California help answer these questions. So please come out and participate. It's not only fun, but can provide valuable data about the status of our birds.



OUR PVAS Christmas Census -

Come Enjoy, See, Count - December 14th

by Neil Gilbert and Judy Sugden

Join us for the 114th Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 14th. For Pomona Valley Audubon, it will be our 42nd count. Our first count was in 1972. The people have changed and in some ways the birds have also changed as conditions change and land use changes. The dedication and excitement however has endured as we go out to see what we can see each December.

Our 15 mile diameter "Count Circle," centered at approximately the intersection of Mills Avenue and Mt. Baldy Road, contains a marvelous mix of habitats. Would you like to join a group wandering the campuses and sidewalks of Claremont counting the robins, cedar waxwings, warblers, etc. that we live with in town during the winter? Perhaps the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens wander in our native chaparral and desert habitats for Costa Hummingbird, Coopers Hawk, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Brown Towhee, etc. would be fun. Can count the wintering hawks and eagles sitting on telephone poles in the valley? Check out the dairy ponds for black-necked stilt, avocet, and shorebirds among the sleeping ducks? Walk the foothill mountain trails for Golden-crowned Kinglet and chickadee, etc? Or bundle up for the trek up Mt. Baldy for the winter wren, canyon wren and maybe even the white-headed woodpecker? The more people we have the more groups we can have and the more areas we can cover.

Anyone can come out and look for the birds; the counters do not have to be master birders. If you are a novice birder, you will be able to join a group with at least one experienced birder. The more eyes and ears we have in the field, the more birds we find. Even if you are not interested in going out in a group, then you can sit and report birds coming to a feeder or park or neighborhood within the count circle. Yes, even Starbucks has English sparrows! ;)

So come on out and help us see the most birds and species ever for our count.

To participate on any level or area, contact Neil Gilbert at 909-240-8547 or Neil.Gilbert@verizon.net to co-ordinate so we don't count the same birds twice.

Fight the Bite! Protect Against West Nile Virus



The San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District has announced that mosquitoes infected with West Nile Virus were found in northeast Claremont. While the District is continuing its efforts to detect and fight the presence of infected mosquitoes (including specific, targeted application of insecticides), residents are strongly encouraged to take action to avoid mosquito bites and eliminate potential mosquito breeding grounds around their homes.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes. However, most people who are bitten by infected mosquitoes will NOT develop any symptoms, and less than 1% of those who are infected will develop severe illness.

The best way to protect against the virus is to avoid mosquito bites by:

- Applying insect repellent containing DEET to exposed skin;
- Wearing light-colored long sleeves, long pants, and socks when outdoors - spray them with DEET for extra protection;
- Avoiding or reducing outdoor activity at dawn and dusk (2 hours after sunset);
- Repairing and/or installing screens on windows and doors;
- Eliminating mosquito breeding sites by regularly finding and draining ALL sources of standing water around your home, including pails and containers, and inoperative pools & spas; and,
- Ensuring water movement in fountains, ponds and other decorative water features, and stocking them with mosquito fish, if appropriate. Mosquito fish are available free of charge from the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Residents are encouraged to contact the District if they find standing water that can not be easily removed, are having problems with adult mosquitoes, or find dead birds. Birds, especially



crows, are highly susceptible to WNV. Residents can help track and control WNV by reporting recently dead birds to the District at (626) 814-9466. (From the City of Claremont Web page.)

Every Martin Luther King weekend over 450 (540 in 2013!) birders visit Morro Bay, California, a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. **Over 200 species are usually sighted during the Festival weekend -- 211 species in 2013.** Find out more about the Festival by visiting their web page <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org>. REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 2, AND THEIR FIELD TRIPS DO FILL UP. Their web page also lists self guided trips of any time you are near Morro Bay. Members who attended in past years report an excellent program.

Audubon Adventurers newest Classroom Resource Kit is called "Sharing Our World With Birds."

"Audubon Adventures" materials can be used across your teaching curriculum and include correlations to Common Core Language Arts Standards and Next Generation Science Education Standards. You will also receive student assessment material.

Student Magazines. You will receive 4 separate magazine sets (32 of each). Each set has vibrant photos and lively illustrations that bring the natural world to life in your classroom. This year's titles:

- Seabirds: Feathered Ocean Travelers (featuring Project Puffin)
- Hooray For Hummingbirds!
- Raptors: The Birds of Prey
- Caring For Our Planet: Join in the Action

Educator Resource Materials. You will receive Classroom Guides and online resources for each magazine. This format will help you easily navigate your way through each topic and present the material to students in an appealing way.

Teacher resources include:

- Step-by-step teaching plan for the topic
- Instructions for hands-on activities with easy-to-remove reproducible pages
- Background facts and information
- Interactive student assessments
- Glossary words, recommended resources, and correlations to national language arts and science standards.

Pomona Valley Audubon will provide Audubon Adventures free of charge to teachers in our area.
If interested, contact Dan Guthrie at 909 239 5124 or Preferred, dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu

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 a digital copy of the Chaparral Naturalist newsletter. **Renewals of membership for National 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, 2058 N. Mills Ave., PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711.** (Please note chapter code C3ZC080Z 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.

I would like the print version of the Chaparral Naturalist.

Do not publish my information in the chapter directory.

Name _____

Chapter Code C3ZC080Z

Address _____

Telephone _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mobile _____

Email _____

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. Most other trips meet at Memorial Park in Claremont. It is recommended to bring a snack (lunch if recommended), plenty of water, sun protection, and bug spray to all trips. Car pooling is usually possible.

First Sunday of each month ----

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Bird Walks--

Join us for our monthly 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, November 3, 2013

Sunday, December 1, 2013

Sunday, January 5, 2014

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Sunday, April 6, 2014

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Sunday, June 1, 2014

Fourth Sunday of each month ----

Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walks---

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, October 27, 2013

Sunday, November 24, 2013

Sunday, December 22, 2014

Sunday, January 26, 2014

Sunday, February 23, 2014

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

Day & weekend PVAS trips----

Check webpage for any changes.

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity

A trip to Mt. Baldy for migrants. Meets at 7:30 a.m. at Memorial Park.

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.

Saturday, November 16, 2013

Orange County Parks

We will visit Bolsa Chica, Huntington Central Park, and the San Jacinto Refuge, searching for ducks and wintering species. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 am and bring a lunch..

Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu

Saturday, December 7, 2013

Antelope Valley

A high desert trip for raptors and to collect owl pellets for school children. Bring a lunch. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m.. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet near Bathroom 8 off Via Verde in Picnic Valley 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 12, 2013

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) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Saturday, December 14, 2013

Annual Christmas Census

Saturday, January 11, 2014

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) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Thursday, January 16, 2013

Santa Fe Dam

Look for wintering sparrows and flycatchers. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Prado Regional Park

A visit to this popular park in Chino for Vermillion Flycatchers, Hawks and wintering vagrants. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Saturday/Sunday, February 15 & 16, 2014

Salton Sea Weekend

Our annual jaunt to the Salton Sea. Meet at 5:00 a.m. at Memorial Park or at 8:00 a.m. at Unit 1 (Vendel Road and Bannister off Hwy 86). We'll visit Cattle Call Park in Brawley and spots along the south end of the Salton Sea for winter rarities including Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird and Burrowing Owl – plan to finish by 4 p.m. We'll overnight in Brawley (Brawley Inn) and bird our way north Sunday along Hwy. 111 with stops at the Wister Unit and the northern end. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Saturday, March 15, 2014

Antelope Valley & Piute Ponds

A trip for returning shorebirds desert species and remaining wintering ducks. We will visit Apollo Park, Piute Ponds on Edward's Air Base, and possibly the Lancaster Sewage Ponds. Our return to Claremont will be through the Antelope valley looking for Sage and Leconte's Thrashers and

2014 Field Trips continue0

wintering hawks. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m for car pooling. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Thursday, March 20, 2014 North Etiwanda Preserve

This canyon area is home to Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows as well as chaparral and coastal sage species. Chance for good wrens and Golden Eagle. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for carpooling. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Saturday, April 12, 2014 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 19, 2014 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**

Saturday, May 3, 2014 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.**

Saturday, May 17, 2014 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**

Saturday & Sunday, May 31 & June 1, 2014 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.**

Friday, June 27 2014 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 5, 2014 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.**



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

PVAS OFFICERS 2013-14

PresidentDan Guthrie..... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
Vice-PresidentBruce Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com
SecretaryPam Kling..... pamtone@verizon.net
TreasurerNeil Gilbert.....neil.gilbert@verizon.net
Board MemberKen Burgdorff..... wrencaps@charter.net
Board MemberJim Hermanjhfinwing@msn.com
Board MemberPat Higbie..... birderpat@verizon.net
Board MemberRod Higbie warblerod@verizon.net
Board MemberNancy Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

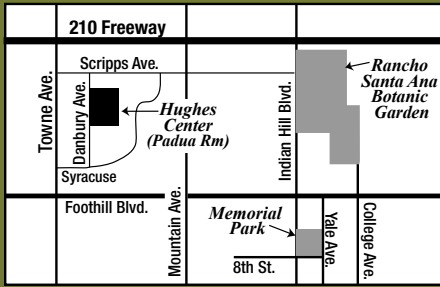
ConservationAvailable
EducationAvailable /Dan.... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
Field TripsAvailable /Dan.... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
MembershipAvailable /Dan.... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
PublicationsNeil Gilbert.....neil.gilbert@verizon.net
Publicity.....Shirley Harris909-982-9727
Door Prizes.....Karlene Campo..... henry.feilen@verizon.net
Hospitality
Gloria Slosberg/Ed Babcock gslosberg@mac.com
WebsiteMike Klein mklein14@verizon.net

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

Editor (NOV/DEC)....Judy Sugden dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
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, however we require the author and **Chaparral Naturalist** be credited. We encourage members to submit articles and photos by email at **dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**. Photos should be saved at 300 dpi and in jpg format. Articles should be provided in .doc, .rtf, or .xls format. Sorry, we cannot retype your copy.

Chapter only memberships are available for \$20 per year. Make checks payable to PVAS and mail to:

Pomona Valley Audubon
2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
Claremont, CA 91711



General Meetings are held in the **Padua Room** in the **Alexander Hughes Center, 1700 Danbury Drive, Claremont.** From Foothill Blvd., head north on Mountain or Towne Ave. and turn onto Scripps Drive. Turn south on Danbury, the Alexander Hughes Center will be on the east side. Our meetings begin with a bird identification session at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

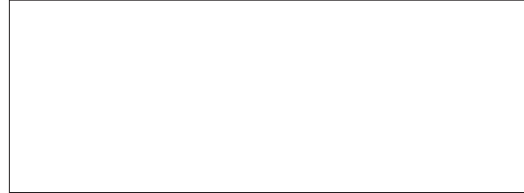


Pomona Valley Audubon Society

2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
 Claremont, CA 91711
www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 CLAREMONT, CA.
 PERMIT NO. 240

Return Service Requested



PVAS Membership Meetings



Thursday, Dec. 5, 2013

Its an Amazing World

Presented by Dave Weeshoff

Dave Weeshoff, Board Chair of the International Bird Rescue Research Center in San Pedro will present a program based on his recent trip to Midway Island. Midway is home to over two million seabirds, including the largest nesting colonies of Laysan and Black-footed Albatross and the only breeding pair of Short-tailed Ablatross outside of Japan. He will discuss the effects of the recent Japanese tsunami, WWII and modern day pollution on the island and its birds, Monk seal, Green Sea Turtles and Spinner dolphins

Thursday, January 2, 2014

Wild Wings

Presented by Judy Everett

Judy Everett will present a program about the activities of her bird rehabilitation program Wild Wings

Thursday, November 7, 2013

From Melbourne to Adelaide, the Southwest Coast of Australia

Presented by Jim Herman

Member Jim Herman will present a program based on his recent trip to Australia, entitled "From Melbourne to Adelaide, the Southwest Coast of Australia." Jim is a great photographer and this should be an excellent introduction the the wildlife and landscape of the region.