



General meetings
are now held at the
Hughes Center
1700 Danbury Dr.,
Claremont

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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Song of the Ouzel

by Martha Estus

If you are old enough, you remember the Ouzel, now referred to as the American Dipper. When I was young my parents took our family camping in the Colorado Rockies. I was sitting on a bridge over a creek when I saw my first Ouzel in the water. For a person from Oklahoma I might as well have been in a foreign country. That bird made such an impression on me I've never forgotten it. Birding was sporadic in the years following, but by the time I arrived west I fell in love with the Ouzel—the American Dipper—all over again. A moment which has stuck with me was at McGee Creek, high up on the east side of the Sierras. It was a cold, clear day at the end of September 1986, with early snow on the mountains. I sat high above the creek where I watched a Dipper sing frequently for about twenty minutes. Locally I have watched Dippers nesting in May and June on a ledge under a waterfall in the creek up Ice House Canyon and you can usually see them in winter when they come down to Mt. Baldy Village along the creek by the bridge.

The American Dipper, an aquatic songbird found only along bodies of water, is one of five species in the world. Dippers are located in the mountains of the Americas, Europe, Asia, and North Africa. The American Dipper is the only member of its family to live in the United States in the western mountains. It may be more closely related to Thrushes than to Wrens.

Dippers are unique because of their ability to swim and dive underwater where they catch their food. Some of the interesting characteristics a Dipper uses in a watery environment are as follows: a moveable flap over each nostril to keep the water out when it is swimming; a well-developed muscular eye which helps to see underwater (also has a nictitating

membrane, which all birds have, which is transparent and protects the eye); a preen gland, ten times the size of any other songbird, which keeps the feathers waterproofed; and a capacity for storing more oxygen than other land birds which allows it to stay under water for up to 30 seconds.

The Dipper bobs and dips its entire body up and down (thus the name Dipper) while standing on a boulder in a stream. It also has tiny white feathers on the eyelids which flash when it is blinking rapidly—both of these actions thought to be useful in courtship, as a territorial display, and possibly to seek its food (water insects and larvae of fish). The Dipper sings its clear bubbling wren-like song throughout the year. Its voice is louder than the roar of the water so it can be heard. It's surprising when you do hear it.

I feel fortunate to be able to see and enjoy the American Dipper here in the mountains of southern California.

Any thoughts? I'd like to hear: leighestus@aol.com



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Beginners Bird Class - Spring 2013

Our Fall beginner's bird class was a great success, with about 16 participants. The course consisted of 4 Wednesday evening meetings (7-9) and four Saturday half day field trips. The course was so successful that we are offering it again this coming spring from Wednesday, April 24 to May 15. The evening meetings will cover some basic bird biology including evolution, taxonomy, behavior, physiology and conservation. The field trips will visit shore, mountains local parks and Morongo Oasis, a hotspot for migrants. This is the best time of the year for migrants and birds in breeding plumage. **If interested in joining the class (fee \$45 plus help pay drivers for gas when car pooling) contact Dan Guthrie at dguthrie@jdsd.claremont.edu or (909) 239-5124.**

Wednesday Meetings: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Keck Science, corner of 9th and Mills, Claremont

Fee: (\$45, includes a membership in Pomona Valley Audubon)

Instructor: Dan Guthrie (909) 239- 5124 (cell); Call if you can't attend a meeting or field trip

Saturday Field Trips: 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. meet at Memorial Park - plan to carpool. Bring water, snacks, and sun protection.

Class Schedule:

Wednesday, April 24:

- Birding in southern California
- Bird origins, basic structure; avian taxonomy – water birds

Saturday, April 27: Field Trip to Bolsa Chica

Wednesday, May 1:

- What is a species, subspecies, plumages, sex differences?
- Avian taxonomy – non-passerine land birds

Saturday, May 4 - Field Trip to Prado Regional Park

Wednesday, May 8

- Migration, bird song, nesting
- Avian taxonomy – passerines part I

Saturday, May 11 - Field Trip to Big Morongo Canyon

Wednesday, May 15:

- Mating systems, territory, birds and humans, conservation
- Avian taxonomy – passerines part II

Saturday, May 18: Field Trip to Wrightwood and Mountains

2013 PVAS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 6 - First Sunday Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Saturday, January 12 - Big Day Trip to Orange County

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

Thursday, January 24 - Whittier Narrows Regional Park

7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Sunday, January 27 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

Sunday, February 3 - First Sunday Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Thursday, February 14 - Prado Regional Park

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Leader: Dan Gregory

Sat/Sun, February 23-24 - Salton Sea Weekend

Meet at 5 a.m. at Memorial Park Leader: Dan Guthrie

Sunday, February 24 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

Sunday, March 3 - First Sunday Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden 8 a.m.

Saturday, March 16 - Antelope Valley & Piute Ponds

Meet at 7 a.m. at Memorial Park Leader: Dan Guthrie

Thursday, March 21 - North Etiwanda Preserve

Meet at 7 a.m. at Memorial Park Leader: Dan Gregory

Sunday, March 24 - Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk

Bonelli Park HQ at 8 a.m. Leader: Rod Higbie

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

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.

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: Steven Cobos

Baldwin Park: Ellen Ko

Chino Hills: Rolando Ingkom

Claremont: Peter Castro, Deborah Hutton, Ray Magdziarz, Susan Pitts, Kim Ridder, Mavis Streyffeler

Covina: Anne Marie Bartolotti, Margaret Fortner, V.V. Koth, Joan Mattson

Diamond Bar: William Hudson

Glendora: Carmen Rincon, Donald Rippon

La Verne: Mary Lou Schneider

Ontario: Jenny Hanley

Pomona: Ronald Balber, Phyllis Case Bennett, Catherine Gibbs, Deborah Samarin

Rancho Cucamonga: Jeanne Hansen, Yuko Yamaguchi

San Dimas: David Hostetter, Cynthia Stuart, Zuhair Yahya

Upland: Kevin Carter, Constance Doran, Cora Ingold

Walnut: Ruth Mondt, Elizabeth Remanick

West Covina: Denise Walker, Leslie Ward

2012 Christmas Bird Count Results *by Neil Gilbert*

2012 marked the 113th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and the 41st year that Pomona Valley Audubon has taken part. December 15th was an overcast day that was a little bit on the cold side. Above Baldy Village the roads and trails were covered with ice which made them impassable and kept us from searching for mountain birds such as White-headed Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Cassin's Finch, Pygmy Nuthatch and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

In spite of that, we found 141 species on count day plus 3 additional species during count week (3 days before and after count day). Those numbers are higher than the last two years, but are lower than our 10-year average of 145 plus 4. At least partially offsetting the low species count were two new species we added to our cumulative list: Hammond's Flycatcher and Red-throated Loon. They bring the cumulative total of

species seen in 41 years of participation to 247.

The 14,577 individual birds reported this year was considerably lower than our 10-year average of 17,028. Birds of interest seen this year included: Blue-winged Teal, Red-breasted Merganser, Pacific Loon, Bald Eagle, Western Gull, Hammond's Flycatcher, and Western Kingbird. Birds we did not see but should have, based on prior years' results, included: Common Merganser, Mountain Quail, Bonaparte's Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, American Dipper and Phainopepla.

A listing of the species we tallied is printed below. Results will soon be posted online at: www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html and on our website. Thank you to the 49 birders who helped with this year's count!

Species	2012 TOTALS
Canada Goose	92
Wood Duck	1
Gadwall	89
American Wigeon	658
Mallard	510
Blue-winged Teal	4
Cinnamon Teal	8
Northern Shoveler	59
Northern Pintail	23
Green-winged Teal	57
Canvasback	9
Redhead	8
Ring-necked Duck	60
Lesser Scaup	118
Bufflehead	32
Hooded Merganser	10
Red-breasted Merganser	1
Ruddy Duck	317
California Quail	61
Pacific Loon	1
Pied-billed Grebe	29
Horned Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	9
Western Grebe	76
Clark's Grebe	5
American White Pelican	7
Double-crested Cormorant	167
Great Blue Heron	11
Great Egret	26
Snowy Egret	17
Green Heron	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	6
Turkey Vulture	24
Osprey	4
White-tailed Kite	5
Bald Eagle	1
Northern Harrier	8
Sharp-shinned Hawk	5
Cooper's Hawk	16
Red-shouldered Hawk	14
Red-tailed Hawk	97
Ferruginous Hawk	2
Golden Eagle	CW
American Kestrel	32
Merlin	4
Peregrine Falcon	4
Common Gallinule	1
American Coot	943
Killdeer	87
Black-necked Stilt	317
Spotted Sandpiper	12

Species	2012 TOTALS
Greater Yellowlegs	7
Least Sandpiper	30
Long-billed Dowitcher	99
Wilson's Snipe	25
Ring-billed Gull	2
Western Gull	1
California Gull	11
..... Gull Species	16
Caspian Tern	1
Rock Pigeon	114
Band-tailed Pigeon	688
Eurasian Collared Dove	3
Mourning Dove	350
Lilac-crowned Parrot	7
Greater Roadrunner	2
Barn Owl	1
Great Horned Owl	10
Northern Pygmy-owl	1
White-throated Swift	155
Anna's Hummingbird	238
Costa's Hummingbird	1
Allen's Hummingbird	50
Belted Kingfisher	4
Acorn Woodpecker	182
Red-breasted Sapsucker	6
Nuttall's Woodpecker	43
Downy Woodpecker	4
Northern Flicker (R.S.)	114
Hammond's Flycatcher	1
Black Phoebe	179
Say's Phoebe	19
Cassin's Kingbird	56
Western Kingbird	1
Loggerhead Shrike	2
Hutton's Vireo	7
Steller's Jay	42
Western Scrub Jay	203
American Crow	262
Common Raven	43
Violet-green Swallow	1
Mountain Chickadee	73
Oak Titmouse	55
Bushfit	787
Red-breasted Nuthatch	6
White-breasted Nuthatch	27
Brown Creeper	5
Cactus Wren	16
Rock Wren	7
Canyon Wren	6
Bewick's Wren	59
House Wren	7

Species	2012 TOTALS
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
California Gnatcatcher	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	130
Wrenitit	58
Western Bluebird	166
Townsend's Solitaire	3
Hermit Thrush	33
American Robin	194
Varied Thrush	CW
Northern Mockingbird	159
California Thrasher	37
European Starling	329
American Pipit	34
Cedar Waxwing	789
Orange-crowned Warbler	9
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Aud.)	1293
Townsend's Warbler	12
Hermit Warbler	1
Black and White Warbler	1
Common Yellowthroat	8
Spotted Towhee	88
Rufous-crowned Sparrow	8
California Towhee	245
Chipping Sparrow	49
Lark Sparrow	80
Savannah Sparrow	2
Fox Sparrow	4
Song Sparrow	46
Lincoln's Sparrow	8
White-crowned Sparrow	830
Golden-crowned Sparrow	30
Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)	348
Red-winged Blackbird	84
Western Meadowlark	147
Brewer's Blackbird	79
Brown-headed Cowbird	12
Scott's Oriole	CW
Purple Finch	5
House Finch	636
Pine Siskin	45
Lesser Goldfinch	353
American Goldfinch	28
House Sparrow	108
Total Species Count Day	142
Count Week Only	3
Total Reported Species	145
Total Individuals	14577
High Counts (41 years)	3
New Species This Year	2
Number of Participants	49

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 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, January 6, 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.**

Thursday, January 12, 2013

Big Day Trip to Orange County

Every year some good birds turn up along our coast and stay through the winter, hopefully to be found on the Orange County Christmas bird counts. This trip will search for these birds, which in the past have included some good eastern warblers and flycatchers. We should also find a good collection of water birds and shorebirds. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. and bring a lunch. We should return about 2-3:00 p.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124.**

Thursday, January 24, 2013

Whittier Narrows Recreation Area

Site of Legg Lake and several recent wintering goodies (Tropical Kingbird and Chestnut-sided Warbler) this is a neat place to visit. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for a half day of birding. Bring a snack. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Sunday, January 27, 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.**

Sunday, February 3, 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.**

Thursday, February 14, 2013

Prado Regional Park

A visit to this popular park in Chino, where this winter there was a high count of 18 vermillion flycatchers! Also good for hawks and two wintering eastern phoebes which may still be there. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Saturday/Sunday, February 23/24, 2013

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) for the geese and Sandhill Crane morning flights. The rest of Saturday will be spent visiting Cattle Call Park in Brawley and spots along the south end of the Salton Sea for winter rarities including Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird and lots of Burrowing Owls. If you wish to bird only on Saturday, we should be done by 3-4 pm. If you plan to stay over, we will spend the night in Brawley (Brawley Inn) and on Sunday, bird our way north along Hwy. 111 with stops at the Wister Unit and the north end of the sea. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Sunday, February 24, 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.**

Sunday, March 3, 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, March 16, 2013

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 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 21, 2013

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.**

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Family Bird Fest February 17, 2013

Grab your binoculars for a fun afternoon in the Garden learning about our feathered friends. An educational celebration of the diversity of birds, this annual event highlights the behaviors and physical traits that enable them to survive. Birdwatchers of all ages can flock to the Garden for a day filled with activities and information for both beginners and enthusiasts. Attendance to the festival is free with your paid admission to the Garden.

The Family Bird Fest features knowledgeable birding exhibitors and bird life displays, drop-in family activities, and identification tips. Visitors can help with the "Great Backyard Bird Count," a national citizen-science project that recruits people across the U.S. and Canada to count birds to create a real-time snapshot of where birds are across North America.

For more information, please call (909) 625-8767 or visit www.rsabg.org.



PVAS OFFICERS 2012-13

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.....	626-335-8327
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

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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:**

Pomona Valley Audubon
2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
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, 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.
 Please send me the Chaparral Naturalist electronically. **Do not** publish my information in the chapter directory.

Name _____ **Chapter Code C3ZC080Z**
Address _____ Telephone _____
City, State, Zip _____ Mobile _____
Email _____

Membership Meetings

Thursday, January 3, 2013

Tom Ryan

Geolocators and Avian Populations

Avian biologist Tom Ryan will present program on Geolocators. These are lightweight devices that can be attached to animals to give an indication of their movements. They have revolutionized the study of bird migration, and Tom will bring us up to date on some of the information we have learned from their use. Tom is President of Ryan Ecological Consulting and Southern California Center for Avian Studies, and is a Senior Biologist/Ornithologist for SWCA Environmental Consultants.

Thursday, February 7, 2013

Nina Karnovski

Seabirds in a Warming Ocean

Nina Karnovski, a professor at Pomona College and long time researcher on marine birds, will present a program on some of the recent work by herself and her students off the Channel Islands of California. The subject will be about climate change and our sea birds.

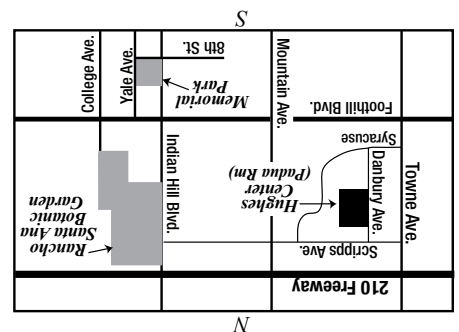
Thursday, March 7, 2013

Jim Herman

South American Cloud Forest

One of our very own, Jim Herman, will present a program on a recent visit to the cloud forests of South America.

General meetings are held in the **Padua Room at 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 to Hughes. The evening will begin with a bird identification session at 7 p.m. followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.



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