



# Chaparral Naturalist



A Publication of  
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2013 / Volume 53, No. 1

## Talking About Birds

# Nectar Feeding

by Martha Estus

One day, as I was walking in the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden I saw a Nuttall's Woodpecker sipping nectar from a (Fremontia) flannel bush flower which is bright yellow and shaped like an open cup. I could see the nectar glistening on the Nuttall's bill. That seemed unusual to me, but I've also seen several other species doing a variation of the same thing. Occasionally Orange-crowned Warblers will stop by my Cape Honeysuckle shrubs and nibble at the base of the red tubular flowers to get the nectar. According to Sibley, "Nectar is another important source of energy for Wood-Warblers, particularly in winter, and many species are often seen at flowers and even known to visit hummingbird feeders." A person in the Bay Area recently reported that a Townsend's Warbler kept coming to her Hummingbird feeder to sip on the nectar. I did other research and found that many birds, besides Hummingbirds, use nectar as an energy source. Flickers, House Finches, Western Tanagers, Phainopepla, Bushtit, Verdin, and Mockingbirds will drink nectar from the open cups of flowers. Other Finches bite off the flowers to get at the base and squeeze out the nectar.



We are all aware of Hummingbirds and orioles that benefit from our Hummingbird feeders, but once I saw an Anna's Hummingbird sipping fluid from the sap wells that a Sapsucker had drilled in a tree. Other Hummingbirds, some Woodpeckers, and birds such as Warblers, Nuthatches, Kinglets, etc. also visit sap wells. Some birds may also be searching for small insects attracted to the sap.

According to *The Audubon Society of North American Birds Encyclopedia* (1980) 2000 bird species worldwide use "energy-giving nectar as a food source." Perhaps you have similar examples to tell about this interesting behavior of birds. To me it is another example of their versatility.

Thoughts to share? I'd like to hear at [leighestus@aol.com](mailto:leighestus@aol.com)

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## Our Regular Activities

This is the beginning of another year for our chapter (July 1 – June 30). For this reason, this issue of our newsletter contains the majority of our annual field trip schedule and a report on our finances for the past year. In addition, I would like to remind you

- Bring recyclables to our meetings – aluminum recyclable plastics and beer bottles are all welcome. They funds go directly to our local rehabilitation center, Wild Wings
- We are happy to receive any dead birds. I hate to see them go to waste so if a bird hits your window or is brought in by you cat, freeze it in a plastic bag and bring it to a meeting or ask that it be picked up by phoning me (909) 239-5124.
- We also welcome donations of books and birding equipment. The books are recycled to our members and the equipment is donated internationally to bird organizations.
- Finally, we hope to see you on some of our field trips!

## Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to take over some activities of our chapter. Take a look at the list and let us know if you would like to volunteer!

- **Door Prize Coordinator:** Purchase prizes and run the door prize drawing at our monthly meetings.
- **School Liason:** Help publicize and distribute *Audubon Adventures* to local grade schools
- **Newsletter Editor:** Format materials for our bimonthly newsletter.

These are important jobs for the continued quality and maintenance of our chapter. I hope you will consider one of them.



## Summer Visitor at Bonelli Park

by Rod Higbie

A non-breeding (winter) plumage Arctic Loon has been observed on the lake at Bonelli Park since Friday May 31, 2013. It is extremely rare in Southern California with only 2 previous sightings in Southern California. All previous sightings were along the immediate coast. This is the first inland sighting of an Arctic Loon in California.

Arctic Loons breed across Arctic Eurasia, but the likely source of the Bonelli bird is the subspecies *viridigularis* which breeds in NE Siberia, the Russian Far East, and very locally in western Alaska. They normally winter along the Pacific Coast of Asia from Eastern Russia to Japan and Eastern China. The Arctic Loon at Bonelli Park appears to be molting and cannot fly until the molt is completed.

The loon has been most frequently observed on the southern part of the lake, most often from Sailboat Cove, but also from Swim Beach and East Shore. The Arctic Loon has attracted birders from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Ohio, Michigan, and Texas.

## 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.

Baldwin Park: Gloria Bruno

Chino: Janseen Aceto

Chino Hills: Natalie Gaglio

Claremont: Josefina Madunich, Linda Pry, James Vaj Cleve

Diamond Bar: Tania Soo, Irene Wiles

Glendora: C. Hovencamp

La Verne: Manjia Kaur

Norco: Lisa Bowe

Pomona: Edith Flores, Barbara Lee, Erik Peterson

Rancho Cucamonga: Lisa Jorgensen, Bonnie Martinez

Upland: Josephine Van Balgooy

Walnut: Kathleen Maxted

West Covina: Donald Backofer, Warner Boston

# 2013 PVAS Annual Report

Presented below is a summary of the income and expenses of Pomona Valley Audubon Society for the Period July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. On the right is a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Society as of the end of our fiscal year, June 30, 2013. 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 07/01/12 through 06/30/13	
<u>Category Description</u>	<u>12 Months Ended 6/30/2013</u>
<b>INCOME</b>	
Recycling Income	\$ 1,283
Books, Must-haves, Auction	937
Birding Classes	1,165
Annual Fundraising	7,551
Memorial Gifts	100
NAS Chapter Share	2,876
Chapter Memberships	100
Wild Wings Support	1,866
Annual Meeting Income	225
Dividends/Interest	2,411
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 18,513</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	
Insurance	\$ 1,845
Meeting Expenses	2,589
Newsletter Expenses	3,899
Office Exp. & Postage	459
Memberships	200
Web Site Expense	107
Miscellaneous	42
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 9,141</b>
<b>PROGRAM EXPENSES</b>	
Grants	\$ 2,000
Wild Wings Support	4,620
Bird Walk Expenses	216
Other Projects	398
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,234</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 16,375</b>
Gain or (Loss) on Investments	1,191
<b>NET INCOME (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>\$ 3,329</b>

Pomona Valley Audubon Society Assets & Liabilities As of 06/30/13	
<u>Category Description</u>	<u>Balance As of 6/30/2012</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash in Bank	\$ 21,223
Investments	54,260
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 75,483</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 75,483</b>
<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	
Memorial Funds	\$ 3,846
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 3,846</b>
<b>AVAILABLE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 71,637</b>

Grants Given 2012-2013	
<u>PROGRAM</u>	
Wild Wings of California	\$ 4,620
Kern River Preserve	1,000
Endangered Habitats League	1,000
<b>TOTAL GRANTS GIVEN</b>	<b>\$ 6,620</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)**

# Noise Typical Of A Heronry

by Beryl Williams

What a racket we heard when walking early one July morning outside the Portofino Hotel & Marina in Redondo Beach. It sounded like barking dogs or revelers still partying at sunrise. Then we saw them: three juvenile Black-crowned Night Herons perched on a second story balcony railing, calling for food. We were unable to identify the birds until an adult landed in a near-by palm tree, showing the characteristic black feathers on its crown and back. Juveniles are brown, spotted and streaked with white. It was a lucky break to have a good view of these birds in the morning. This nocturnal species usually roosts during the day in trees or marshes. At night they forage in shallow ponds and marshes, eating mainly fish.

“They belong to the family Ardeidae. Ardeids have a diverse repertoire of foraging behaviors, with researchers describing more than 30. Standing in wait is the most widespread and common foraging behavior. While standing, some species extend one or both wings to shade the water’s surface. This activity reduces glare off the surface, which may allow birds to see prey more easily; fish may be attracted to the shade, which would usually indicate safety! Perhaps the most interesting is ‘bait-fishing’ or ‘baiting’, which is used worldwide by Green and Striated Herons and has been reported in the Black-crowned Night Heron. The heron attracts fish by placing bait—insects, flowers, seeds, twigs, bread, even popcorn—on the water’s surface. Ardeids are strictly carnivorous and have adaptations for exploiting a wide variety of live prey. Their long legs and necks allow them to forage in aquatic habitats, and their bills are adapted for spearing and grasping prey. Modification of the sixth cervical vertebra lets them draw the neck into an “S” shape and shoot the head and bill forward with lightning speed.”<sup>1</sup>

“In the past, Ardeids were shot for food, but only a are currently shot—as a control measure at fish farms or when a colony achieves ‘pest’ status. After World War II, the use of persistent pesticides, especially DDT, caused eggshell thinning and reproductive problems.

With the ban of these pesticides in the 1970s, reproductive problems have declined, although pesticide residues still show up in birds that winter in Central and South America, where DDT is still used. Given their position at the top of the food chain, Ardeids are considered excellent biological indicators of the health of wetland ecosystems.”<sup>2</sup>

Our time in Redondo Beach was enhanced by our encounter with these birds. We are encouraged by the reproductive success of Black-crowned Night Herons who find much to like on the grounds and marina at this hotel.

Footnoted material was taken from *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior*.



## You May Have Added A Bird To Your Life-List Without Knowing It!

The AOU (American ornithologist’s Union) has split the Sage Sparrow into two species. The ones we see here, in summer, are now Bell’s Sparrow. Bell’s includes the birds that breed along the coast (Day Canyon for instance) as well as those that breed at places like the Antelope Valley. Some day these two groups may also be split into two species. The remainder of the old Sage Sparrow is now the Sagebrush Sparrow, which is a Great Basin bird but is found in the Owens Valley.

If you have seen a Sage Sparrow in the Owens Valley or anywhere east of there (Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, etc.) then you have a new species for your list. Bell’s sparrow as far as is known, does not go east. However, a few Sagebrush Sparrows can come west and winter in our area. Telling the two species apart in winter according to the experts is very difficult. The situation is similar to the titmice, where the old Plain Titmouse (insulting name) was split into the Oak and Juniper Titmice, the Oak being coastal and the Juniper being a great basin species. So Sagebrush sparrow is another reason to take a trip to Lone Pine and Mono Lake. The birds may look similar, but apparently can tell each other apart.

# Beginners Birding Class

This is series of 4 Wednesday lectures and 4 Saturday morning field trips. The lectures will cover bird biology; taxonomy, migration, plumages, mating systems, and why birds are neat! The field trips will visit four different habitats in our local area and emphasize identification of wintering and resident species. **Lectures by Dan Guthrie. Fee (\$45, includes a membership in Pomona Valley Audubon)**

**Wednesday Meetings:** 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Keck Science  
(corner of 9th & Mills, Claremont)

**Fee:** \$45, includes PVAS membership.

**Instructor:** Dan Guthrie (909) 239- 5124  
Call if you are unable to 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, October 23:

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

### Saturday, October 26: Field Trip to Bonelli Park

### Wednesday, October 30:

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

### Saturday, November 2 - Field Trip to Wrightwood

### Wednesday, November 6

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

### Saturday, November 9 - Field Trip to Prado Basin

### Wednesday, November 13:

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

### Saturday, November 16 - Field Trip to Bolsa Chica

## Tropical Migrants... Whose Birds Are They?

The development of a new technology, termed geolocators, has greatly increased our knowledge of bird migration. A geocator is a small device attached to a bird that senses light and can record time of sunset and sunrise as well as light intensity. When the bird is recaptured, these data can be analyzed by a computer which gives the location of the bird to within 80 kilometers. The result is the exact pattern of a migratory bird's flight path can be determined as well as how long it takes to make the flight and where it stops over during migration.

Geolocators are typically attached on the breeding grounds and then recovered a year later from the bird when and if it returns to the same area. While devices for satellite tracking are used for large birds like geese and shearwaters, geolocators can be used for birds down to warbler size.

Some interesting findings are for how birds cross the gulf of Mexico. Birds of the same species can fly directly over the gulf non stop, or via Cuba, or even by land along the Mexican coast. Northern Wheatears that nest in Alaska fly across the Bering Straight, across Russia, the middle east and eventually to Sudan where they winter! Most interesting to me are findings about some of our local birds. Swainson's thrush spends only 16% of the year on its breeding grounds, about two months. Yellow-billed Cuckoos spend 21% of the year on the breeding grounds, a little over two months. The rest of the times these species live in sunny, wet, and buggy Mexico!

Given this, why do they come north to breed. There are a number of suggestions, most of which have to do with greater competition for nesting sites, and greater numbers of predators in the south. Whatever the reason, it helps explain why some species are so hard to find here.



**We  
Have  
A New  
Look!**

At the end of last spring, your board approved a new design for our chapter logo. The desire was to simplify and modernize our logo yet have a symbol that reflects the geographical area of our chapter – the Acorn Woodpecker. This fall, we will be offering t-shirts, caps, and coffee mugs featuring the new logo, for purchase at our general meetings. This is a great way to help promote our chapter throughout the surrounding community!

# Field Trips

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

## **First Sunday Bird Walk Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden**

**Sunday, September 1, 2013**

**Sunday, October 6, 2013**

**Sunday, November 3, 2013**

**Sunday, December 1, 2013**

**Sunday, January 5, 2014**

**Sunday, February 2, 2014**

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.**

## **Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walk**

**Sunday, September 22, 2013**

**Sunday, October 27, 2013**

**Sunday, November 24, 2013**

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**

**Sunday, February 23, 2014**

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.**

## **Thursday, September 12, 2013**

### **Midweek Trip to Glen Helen Park**

This is a good time of year for western migrant land birds. Meet at Memorial Park at 8 a.m. for a half day trip. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

## **Saturday, September 14, 2013**

### **Antelope Valley/Holiday Lake/Apollo Park**

A visit to the Antelope Valley for migrants, Hawks, and Barn Owls. Meet at Memorial Park at 6 a.m. and bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

## **Thursday, October 10, 2013**

### **Santa Fe Dam and Recreation Area**

This is a good time of year for western migrant land birds. Meet 7 a.m. at Memorial Park. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

## **Saturday & Sunday, October 19 & 20, 2013**

### **Morro Bay Field Trip**

Our annual trip north for rocky shore birds, Magpies and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Meet Saturday at the base of Morro Rock at 8 a.m. We'll bird the Morro Bay area Saturday and work our way south on Sunday with stops at Oceano and other sites. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu for car pooling and motel information.**

## **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**

A visit to Huntington Central and other parks for returning migrants. Bring a lunch. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

## **Saturday, December 7, 2013**

### **Coastal Orange County**

Returning shorebirds, Fall migrants, and the Tern colonies at Bolsa Chica. 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**

(More info in the next issue of the newsletter)

## **Thursday, January 9, 2014**

### **Whittier Narrows Regional Park**

Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. for a half day trip for wintering Geese, Sparrows, Flycatchers and perhaps the Tropical Kingbird? **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

## **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, 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**



# Membership Meetings

**Thursday, September 5, 2013**

## **Birds, Parks and Tigers in Northern India**

*Presented by Dan Guthrie*

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

**Thursday, October 3, 2013**

## **A Naturalist Says Why**

*Presented by Jess Morton*

Jess Morton, long-time Auduboner and naturalist, will present a program of anecdotes, nature photography, poetry and musings about the amazing world in which we find ourselves. "All I wanted to know was what lived in my back yard," says Jess, who will speak about his subsequent journey into the joined worlds of nature and conservation. Starting from that "simple" premise, he has gone on to become a general naturalist, written hundreds of poems and essays on nature, taken tens of thousands of photographs, and has had an active role in many conservation organizations, recently wrapping up six years of service as the Western Regional Director of the National Audubon Society. Along the way, he has met the three B's, birds, butterflies and bugs, some of which you too will meet during his presentation.

**Thursday, November 7, 2013**

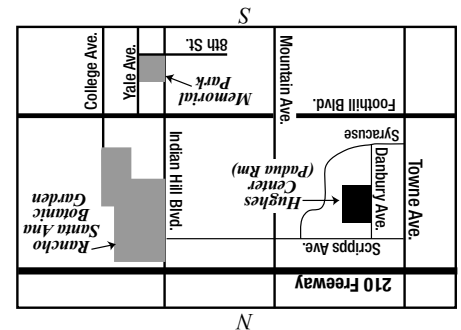
## **From Melbourne to Adelaide, the Southwest Coast of Australia**

*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 to the wildlife and landscape of the region.

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, 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.

*Printed on recycled paper by Moore-Bergstroma Co., 1341 W. Brooks, Ontario, CA*



*Return Service Requested*

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