

Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

MARCH/APRIL 2014 / Volume 53, No. 4

Spring is in the Birds---

February Birds; end of Winter and beginning of Spring

Dan Guthrie



Winter birding often changes in February. In November we hope for Fall vagrants, like our two white-throated sparrows, staying around for our Christmas census. We also look for evidences of an invasion year; an influx of red crossbills or red-breasted nuthatches or varied thrush ...indications of bad conditons in the mountains or heavy snow to the north. Alas, no such influx in our census area.

By February, we often have a change in birds. First, a few Spring birds show up; birds like a yellow-breasted chat, the thick-billed kingbird in San Dimas and a vireo or two. Despite global climate change, it seems too early for these to be migrants. Were they here all winter and we missed them? Also, by February food sources are changing. The berries are beginning to ferment and a few buds are beginning to appear on our trees. Late winter storms to the north may cause some bird movement. The recent appearance of mountain bluebirds at Brackett Field near Bonelli Park and of purple finch at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden may be due to this. Finally, the ducks on our local ponds are molt into breeding plumage and the Clarke's and Western grebes at Bonelli are beginning to call and do their courtship dancing.

My indication of the coming of Spring is mourning doves at my feeder chasing each other around with mating in mind. Also, I am finding several small owl pellets a night under my backyard palm tree. I haven't seen them, but I suspect there are young barn owls there. Perhaps the need by their parents for more food will keep the rats from feeding on my bird food and the new buds on my apricot tree nearby. Certainly my yard gophers have disappeared.



In this issue...

- Spring is in the Birds
- President's M- Karlene Campo
- New Members
- Live Bird Cams
- Spring Bird Class
- PVAS Spring 2014 Field Trips
- Merlin Bird ID App
- Galapagos Trip anyone?
- Membership Meetings

President's Message by Dan Guthrie

I am sad to report that one of our most active and valuable members, **Karlene Campo**, has lost her battle with cancer. Karlene served our chapter as board member, field trip leader, and led a birdathon and a Christmas census team. She was active in the state burrowing owl, cactus wren and breeding bird surveys and also maintained a bluebird nesting box trail. She organized and ran our door prize drawing at membership meetings and at one time was an editor for the Chaparral Naturalist newsletter. She received the Flockleader award from our chapter for her outstanding service in 2005. Karlene is survived by her husband Hank Feilen.

Donations in Karlene's name may be sent to the following favorite organizations. All donations through April 30, 2014 up to \$5,000 will be matched by her estate so please give generously.

City of Hope: <http://ourhope.cityofhope.org/karlenecampo>

Anza-Borrego Foundation: Karlene Campo Memorial,
c/o Anza- Borrego Foundation, 587 Palm Canyon Dr. #110, Borrego Springs, Ca 92004

The Mono Lake Committee: Karlene Campo Memorial

c/o Mono Lake Committee, PO Box 29, Lee Vining, Ca 93541

Wild Wings of California: Karlene Campo Memorial

c/o Wild Wings of California, 1837 Fernridge Dr. San Dimas, Ca. 91773

REMINDER... The Naturalist is NOW Digital !!

This newsletter, the Chaparral Naturalist, is posted on our web site (<http://www.pomonavalley-audubon.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.

Chino Hills: **Neil Cramer**

Claremont: **Anne Bages, Ty Basinger, Phyllis Huss,**

David Oxtoby, Kevin Sea, Barbara Senn,

Michello Small, Beverly Stone, Werner Tillinger

Corona: **Karen Chavez**

Covina: **Robin Deschamps**

Glendora: **Bruce Barnes**

La Verne: **Monica Barragan, Josephine Giello,**

Betty Mellard, Sandy Zerillo

Norco: **Wanda Burkhardt, Jean Thill**

Ontario: **Ysabel Beeberfall, Ramona Lopez,**

Ivonne Quiroq

Rancho Cucamonga: **Jean Andreiko, Gregory Doonan,**

Marcella Jones, Eric & Lisbeth Koszut,

Eva Miller

San Dimas: **Daniel Bauer, Betty Borzage,**

Iris Cruse

Upland: **Hal Tanner**

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.

Spring Bird Class

April 2014 --- Introduction to Birds and Birding --- Instructor: Dan Guthrie

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 southern California and emphasize identification of migrant and resident species. Lectures by Dan Guthrie. Fee (\$45, includes a membership in Pomona Valley and National Audubon).

Wednesday Meetings: 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in Claremont (location pending)

Saturday Trips: meet at 7 am at Memorial Park

Weds. April 2 Birding in southern California

Bird origins, basic structure

Avian taxonomy; the water birds

Saturday: April 5 Field Trip – Bonelli Park

Weds. April 9 What is a species, subspecies, plumages, sex differences?

Avian taxonomy; the non-passerine land birds

Sat. April 12 Field Trip – Wrightwood and the mountains

Weds. April 16 Migration, bird song, nesting

Avian taxonomy; the passerines part I

Sat. April 19 Field Trip – Morongo Oasis

Weds. April 23 Mating systems, territory, birds and humans, conservation

Avian taxonomy; the passerines, part 2

Sat. April 26 Field Trip – Bolsa Chica

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

We will carpool as much as possible on field trips. Bring water, a snack. Back by 2 p.m.

LIVE BIRD WEBCAMS: Watch the activity----- Checkout others by Googling "live bird cams".

<http://owlsmatter.com/blog/barn-owl/> or starranch.org/owlcam.html

http://www.ventanaws.org/condor_cam/

<http://project.puffin.audubon.org/audubon-live-cams>

Barn Owls Nest at Starr Ranch.

Condor feeding station.

Project Puffin

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 - Spring 2014

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, 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, March 23, 2014

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Sunday, May 25, 2014

Day & weekend PVAS trips---- Check webpage for any changes.

Thursday, March 13, 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, 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 wintering hawks. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for car pooling.

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

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 7:30 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, April 26, 2014

Bolsa Chica

A trip for returning nesting terns and migrating shorebirds. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m.. **Leader: Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@yahoo.com**

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.**

Thursday, June 12, 2014

Carbon Canyon Regional Park

TOak woodland should a pleasant walk for nesting residents. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for carpooling. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

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.**

A New FREE iPhone app Suggests which Bird for You with Photos. You answer five questions about the bird and the app displays photos and names of birds that match your description--customized to your location and time of year.

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology in Ithaca, NY has released a FREE iPhone app to help beginning and intermediate bird watchers to identify 285 birds in North America. The app "Merlin" (named so because of its uncanny, almost magical, way of guessing which bird you saw) is the first to use data from the eBird citizen-science project to dynamically select the birds found within about a 30 mile radius of any given location at any time of year.

Additionally, bird watchers "trained" Merlin to understand how people see and describe birds. By participating in online activities to describe birds based on photos, they contributed more than three million data points that Merlin uses to deduce which birds are the most likely based on peoples' description of color, size and behavior.



The app then records your response when you confirm the bird you, saw, enabling researchers to identify successful interactions and improve Merlin's performance over time. It also displays photos, ID tips, sounds, and range maps for each species.

**Your eBird sightings are being used!!!!
Keep up the records and good work.**

The Merlin Bird ID app can be downloaded FREE from the Cornell App Store.

Merlin was created by Jessie Barry of Cornell Lab and team with Birds in the Hand and with support from the National Science Foundation, Pennington™ Wild Bird Food and will be available for Android and online use in coming months. For the Merlin App video and website, visit birds.cornell.edu/Merlin or contact Pat Leonard pel27@cornell.edu .

At left Merlin asks you to choose the approximate size of your bird sighted.

PVAS OFFICERS 2013-14

- PresidentDan Guthrie..... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
- Vice-PresidentBruce Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com
- SecretaryPam Kling..... pamtone@verizon.net
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- 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
- Publications.....Neil 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
- Website.....Mike Klein mklein14@verizon.net

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

EditorJudy 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.

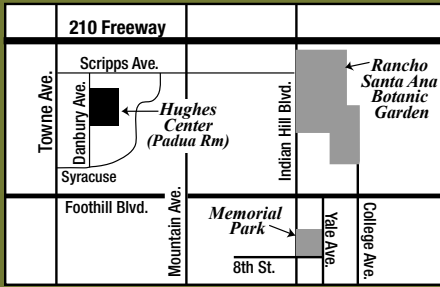
Chapter only memberships are available for \$20 per year. Make checks payable to PVAS and mail to:

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

Great Opportunity to visit the Galapagos!

Josephina Maduniich, our March speaker is leading a trip this summer to the Galapagos (**July 22 – August 4**). The trip is aboard a private yacht which berths 16 people. The yacht carries kayaks, snorkeling gear, and zodiacs for island access and will visit a good group of islands for birds, turtles, marine iguanas and have plenty of time for diving. There are four openings. Most of the other participants are Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden affiliates. The price is well below most similar trips. Please contact Josephina at pepymadunich@verizon.net or (909) 532-0580 for further information.





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.

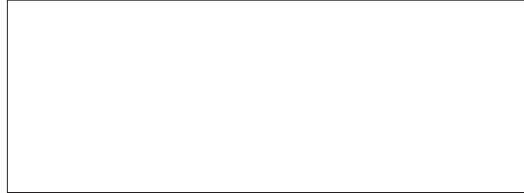


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PVAS Membership Meetings



Thursday, March 6, 2014

Wonders of the Galapagos

Presented by Josephina Madunich

Member Josefina Madunich will present a program about the wonders of Darwin's Islands. Josefina spent more than 17 years living in the Galapagos Islands and working as a naturalist guide in the **Galapagos National Park**. She knows the islands as few people do, and in this presentation Josefina will speak about all aspects of Galapagos Natural History, including the unique wildlife, geology, and conservation situation. Though she now lives in California, Josefina maintains strong connections with the islands and the people who live and work there, and regularly brings groups of visitors to see this amazing place. Please join us for an intimate and personal view of one of the world's great wildlife destinations.

Thursday, April 3, 2014

Western Australia and Christmas Island

President Dan Guthrie will present a program based on a recent trip to **Western Australia and Christmas Island**. Come and see the golden bosun bird and the giant land crabs of Christmas Island and the fairy wrens and "nearly invisible" scrub birds of western Australia.

Thursday, May 1, 2014

South Africa and Madagascar

Members Laura and Chuck Burt recently spent three months in **South Africa and Madagascar**. They had the good fortune to do birding in wetlands, savannah and coastal areas in South Africa and the diminishing rain forests of South Africa. Included in their presentation Travel and Birding in South Africa and Madagascar, will be slides of their travel experiences, interesting anecdotes and observations of the cultures in those two countries.