

Chaparral Naturalist



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PHOTOS: Luke Tiller

In Praise of 'Patch Birding' by Luke Tiller

The day I discovered that my dog didn't like romping in the off-leash portion of the dog park on Orange Grove, but was happy to stroll Vina Vieja Park's limited grounds on-leash I knew that my new Southern Californian birding patch had been born.




Patches are an all important part of birding back home in the UK. They are that neighborhood spot that you earn your birding stripes watching Blue Tits, Blackbirds and European Robins for endless days on end in the hope that at some point you'll find something at least vaguely noteworthy that will bring you fame... and well not fortune, but fame at least among the local birding scene. I remember in South London a local birder joyously declaring that he'd finally produced a patch record nineteen Mallards that morning rather than his previous record eighteen, and it's that kind of small victory that should drive your passion for your patch (OK even I think getting excited about nineteen Mallards is a bit sad).






Here in the US, though patch birding is becoming more popular, I'm not sure some birders have quite grasped patches as an idea. Here are the three keys to the concept as I see them: one, they can't already be heavily birded, two, they have to be local and perhaps most importantly three, they are supposed to be a little rubbish. I read a blog post recently where a transplanted California birder was talking about their new patch in Texas: a known site, with an eBird checklist of over 230 bird species including rarities like Tropical Parula included in that extensive list! The key to 'real' patch birding is the excitement you get when you discover that you aren't looking at a House Finch or Mourning Dove for the millionth time that day.

The key to picking a patch is it has to have just enough habitat to make it intriguing but not enough to make it actually any good. In New York City my patch was a little sliver of park in among a sea of concrete next to Chelsea Pier. What it had in common with Vina Vieja Park was that almost any migrant bird that you dug out of there felt like a little treasure. This kind of birding helps even your most jaded birder find new value in the commonest of our feathered friends. There Downy Woodpeckers, Black-capped Chickadees and Northern Cardinals, all non-breeders, took on a level of excitement that would have been hard to muster almost anywhere else.

Though Americans are generally more mobile than Brits (when I lived in the UK we used to visit my grandmother a couple of times a year as she lived an incredible 180 miles away!) I still believe the second key to patch birding is that it has to be local to your work or home. My personal preference has always been for spending time birding over spending time driving to where I am birding, so this suits me fine. In LA I don't want to drive anywhere anyway, at least during the majority of any weekday, and that's beyond any consideration of conservation issues. So sorry, no, your patch can't be Apollo Park if you live in Pasadena. (Continued on page 2)

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We are up and running for the new season with lots of programs, field trips, and up coming projects. 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.

For our September program, Dan Guthrie took us to the Galapagos Islands, and October had Pasadena Audubon's Lance Benner helping us learn to identify the 10 types of Red Crossbills by listening to their flight calls. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the monthly programs for the rest of the year.

Your Board of Directors is at full strength again. Rod and Pat Higbie "retired" after many years of faithful service, but we have added two new members. Chris Verma will take on the Education Committee, while Gabriel Sandoval has joined us as our first ever youth member. Gabe is a senior at Claremont High School where he has helped start a birding club.

Is there anything you would like to do? There are many committees that are tackling different concerns and many could use your help. **Contact Pam Kling at secretary@pomonavalleyaudubon.org** for more information.

Note: We are still looking for a few good people to fill some key roles. If you are interested in brainstorming/ organizing, or if you want to volunteer some time and energy to club activities /teaching birdy things, etc. Contact Pam Kling (above).

Welcome New Members!

We extend a warm welcome to all of our 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: **R.A. Malafa, Amanda Salsgiver**

Baldwin Park: **Gail Priddy**

Chino Hills: **Elsa Lyman**

Claremont: **Linda Goodman, Walter Hannum, David Lull, Lynn Smith, Mrs. Jay Slosberg**

Corona: **Ernest Valfre**

Diamond Bar: **Mary Cope**

Glendora: **Gayle Ehrlich, John McElwee, Pamela Stettner, Marcia Viviano,**

Ontario: **Tomas Schutter**

Rancho Cucamonga: **Helen Flores, Anita Undercoffer**

Walnut: **Ray Fanning, Jean Steele**

West Covina: **Jason Jimenez, Patricia Shaw**

Patch Birding... (Continued from page 1) The third important key, and another reason you can't pick Apollo Park, is that no-one else should be going there much (at least at first). In the UK that's hard to do: there are more active birders and much less space to fit them in to. Here in the vastness of the US that feels much more achievable. I've always liked the idea of birding

places that no-one else is covering rather than the regular spots because it means that birds that otherwise wouldn't be found may be (and who knows what waif or stray might turn up in your little habitat oasis during migration), some fresh eBird data is being created and it may become somewhere that becomes of value for something like a Christmas Bird Count in the not ever so distant future.

Of course there is always the chance your patch will start to become overrun with other birders. My first local spot in Connecticut was almost too good for my own good, and though just some ball fields and a community gardens, after a couple of years of solid birding it quickly became the go to place to find uncommon open country migrants in the county. The site became even more popular after I found Connecticut's first chaseable Harris's Sparrow for 20 years there. Luckily sharing is the best part of birding and I was just thrilled when friends found a Northern Wheatear there one morning – well at least after I skipped work and successfully twitched it.

Of course I haven't dug up anything quite as rare as a Harris's Sparrow at Vina Vieja yet just a smattering of nice birds in the shape of a Brewers Sparrow or two, a Clay-colored, a Lewis's Woodpecker and a Swainson's Hawk. It's been cool to over time run into a few members of Pasadena Audubon that have taken notice of the spot. In fact last winter thanks to a somewhat regular Gray Flycatcher I even ran into my first out of state visitors: from Ohio – I'm guessing they didn't fly in specially! I'm not sure about Northern Wheatear, but this fall it's Red-throated Pipit or bust!

LUKE TILLER is a Southern California birder and photographer (Townsend's warbler & Grey flycatcher above) with a blog at: www.underclearskies.com

115th Annual Christmas Bird Count

By Neil Gilbert

- **Saturday, December 20th** is our count date. Mark your calendars now so you don't forget!
- **EVERYONE can help.** The usual teams to be out there counting birds throughout our circle, and we could certainly use more eyes if you are willing to drive, walk, or sit for a couple of hours on count Saturday.

Our PVAS teams cover only a small percentage of the count circle. They visit most of our proven important areas or hot spots, but much of the circle is not looked at all, especially the more urban areas. You can volunteer to watch your back yard, your city block, your neighborhood, and/or your local park down the street. Join a team or agree to watch locally for the whole day, for half of the day, or just one hour.

A GREAT Birder, you do NOT have to be. Identify only the most common species and we will provide backup if you think you have found an unusual bird. Most of the "good" birds require confirmation, anyway.

Let me know if you would like to count in any capacity. We need to coordinate groups and individuals so that no one overlaps. Please hand me a note at the monthly meeting in November or December; or send me a note by mail (Neil Gilbert, 183 E. Miramar Ave., Claremont, CA 91711); or (preferred) send an e-mail to: President@pomona-valley-audubon.org with Christmas Bird Count in the subject line.

Our Census circle (dating from 1972, long prior to the 210 freeway) is a 7 mile radius circle drawn around a point such that the most varied and accessible habitats in our area would be included. In those days much of the eastern part of the valley north of Foothill Blvd. was citrus groves, grape vineyards and native chaparral. It was easy to find Cactus and Rock Wren, Mountain Bluebird, Barn and Burrowing owl, Ground Dove, Greater Road Runner and many others. The southeastern quadrant of dairy pasture and pond yielded Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, cowbirds, shorebirds and lots of ducks. In the good old days though we did not see Cattle Egret, Allen's Hummingbirds or collared doves which are common now.

Each year we hope to find rare species in our area, such as dipper, roadrunner, and Golden Eagle. We also hope for eruptive species such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Lewis Woodpecker, Pine Siskin and Red Crossbill. If we get really lucky we may find a vagrant such as Hooded Warbler or Brown Thrasher seen on a past census. We always hope to find a few overwintering birds such as Western Tanager or an oriole.

It is amazing to me that we can still find about 140 species in our now mostly built up areas. Our numbers of individuals per species are definitely not as high as they once were, however. Do help us search. Who knows what possibilities may be lurking in your local park or back yard!



Anyone have another "Every little bit helps" story?
Email it to Judy at eyyaa@uia.net

Monarch or ?butterflies, Anyone?

Ben Benneddsen of Mount San Antonio Gardens asked for a very narrow strip of lawn bordering a parking lot to beautify. At the end of his row of sunflower seeds (for his bird feeders?) He planted a milkweed (or was it a mallow?) plant. It has been striped bare twice (going on three times) by certain caterpillars, presumably giving life to more than a few butterflies.

Every little bit helps!



Conservation News

The western population of Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. A species of riparian forests such as those found along the Kern River and in the Central Valley, the cuckoo is especially threatened by water diversion for grazing and agriculture. Cuckoos are also killed by flying into radio towers during migration. Programs are planned to provide financial incentives to adopt modern lighting on these towers known to reduce collisions. The customarily used red lights attract many birds to their deaths. With the additional assistance that this listing will provide to the species and its riparian habitat, PVAS members hope that one day cuckoos will again be found in ancestral habitats along the Santa Clara and Santa Ana rivers. Locally there MAY be a few pair nesting along the Santa Ana River and Prado area.

A good news story...

Peregrine Falcons have recovered on our Channel Islands.

Peregrines disappeared from the Channel Islands and from most of the United States due to egg shell thinning from DDT pollution. DDT was banned in the United States and recovery programs for the Peregrine were started. By the 1980's the Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group began releasing captive raised Peregrines on the Islands. This year there were 48 pairs of Peregrines on the islands which raised 73 chicks. Their numbers are higher now than the historic numbers of Peregrines on the islands prior to DDT usage. This increase is due in part to current near absence of Bald Eagles, which are also being repatriated to the islands but are still in low density. The increase in Peregrines on the islands and elsewhere in California is a real conservation success story.

Here is a casual shot of a Peregrine Falcon taken by Dan Guthrie. We hope that the Perigrines return to the Pomona County Courthouse this winter.



Keeping Records, eBird and Climate Change by Dan Guthrie

I grew up on Long Island, New York and started a bird notebook about 1952, first with daily counts of birds and then weekly (I called English sparrows Black-capped Chickadees for several weeks before I learned better.) By the time I left for college in 1956 I had never seen a mockingbird, Red-bellied Woodpecker or American Oystercatcher on Long Island. ...and not from lack of watching. Today they are common. The change occurred in the 1970's and was probably due to climate change, but an ancient one. Prior to about 12,000 years ago all of New England was covered by the continental ice sheet. Long Island was formed at that time as a terminal moraine made of sediments pushed south by the ice sheet into the Atlantic Ocean. As the ice sheet retreated birds moved north into the new habitat. As most mockingbirds are non-migratory, it has taken time for winters to become mild enough to accommodate them year round. On our coast, mockingbirds are also moving north and have begun nesting in Oregon.

The above story shows why it is valuable to keep record of birds seen, not just species but numbers. Audubon has embarked on a program to use the effects on birds by climate change to enroll all of us in the fight against global warming. Of the over 500 species examined by Audubon, nearly 300 will be affected by global warming. Several species with restricted ranges or living on mountain tops may not be able to move to new areas and may go extinct. Many others may see a decrease in numbers. Audubon would like all of us to get involved.

Audubon has used Christmas Bird Counts and national breeding bird censuses to show how species are doing in their breeding and wintering ranges. This approach is national in scope and says nothing directly about Southern California, Claremont or your back yard. A notebook showing dates of first arrival, passing migrants, and numbers of each species seen can tell us what is happening locally. Several people have phoned about not seeing as many jays this year, or about White-crowned Sparrows arriving weeks early.

eBird is an international database where one can record observations from field trips and even your backyard. The advantage of this recording is that the data is available to everyone. It will allow us to know whether a sighting is simply an oddity or part of a regional or national trend. Our January general meeting program will be on the use of this system. Birding your "patch" of backyard or park regularly and keeping records of our common birds on eBird is an ideal way to help the effort and contribute toward important Citizen Science.

There are plenty of places in California where birds are threatened. Most immediate threats are not related to global warming. Snowy Plovers are having a hard time finding nesting beaches safe from dogs and ravens. White-tailed Kites are running out of native grasslands and Loggerhead Shrikes have diminished greatly as undisturbed valley habitat has been replaced by houses. In Claremont (continued page 7)

Preserve our Local Birds ---

by Dessi Sieburth

Did you know there are 500 different species of birds in Los Angeles? Los Angeles is unique as it offers a wide range of habitat for birds such as mountains, deserts, beaches, and wetlands. The Pasadena (and Claremont - *Editor*) area, with its oaks and proximity to the mountains, supports many beautiful birds.

However, many of our local birds, such as White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow Warblers, and Barn Owls, are declining due to the impact of humans. Birds lose their habitat because of housing development and climate change. Many birds in our neighborhood get killed by cats, window crashes, and rat poison. You can help the birds by doing a few simple things in your house and backyard to make the Pasadena area a safer environment for birds.

Our cuddly kitties are the #1 predator of birds. Scientists from the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and the Fish and Wildlife Service estimate that cats kill approximately 2.5 billion birds and 12 billion mammals each year in the United States. You can help keep birds and other wildlife safe

by keeping your cat inside. A cat's natural instinct is to hunt and, even if it is well fed, it will still kill. Cats kept indoors will usually live longer and they are less prone to fleas, mites, and diseases. Feral cats are also a problem for birds. If you see a feral cat, call your local shelter, and they will trap and neuter it. Keeping your cat indoors helps the birds and your cat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that about 1 billion birds are killed every year from flying into windows on our buildings. Windows are highly reflective and birds may not see them if they are reflecting trees and sky. Birds can fly extremely fast, some reaching speeds up to 200 miles per hour. Birds are fragile due to their hollow bones, and when they hit a window, they usually break their necks or injure their wings. There are things you can do help prevent window collisions. For example, you can make cut-outs of hawk shapes and paste them on your window. Just draw the outline of a hawk on black paper, cut it out, and tape it to the window. You can also move your bird feeders away from windows so birds have space to fly away safely when they get startled. You can help save many birds by using these simple solutions. Rat poison is another big threat to birds. It takes a rat four to ten days to die after ingesting the poison. Live rats are one of the main sources of food for hawks and owls. Owl and hawks eat the poisoned rats, which makes them die from internal bleeding. A study by the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme in England found that 91% of dead Barn Owls had high levels of rat poison in them. Even poisoned dead rats are a threat to birds because birds eat the insects that decompose dead rats. When we kill our owls by poison, we are actually increasing the rat population, as the average owl eats up to 1,000 rats a year. Rats can be controlled by putting traps out and sealing all holes in the house. You can make a difference for birds and help decrease rat population by avoiding rat poison.

Many bird species are declining in recent decades in the United States and all around the world. Our foothill areas are no exception. We need to help the birds starting in our own neighborhoods. Keep cats indoors, prevent collisions with windows, and don't use rat poison! The birds will thank you.

Dessi Sieburth *Dessi Sieburth is a Montrose resident and a 7th grader at St. Elizabeth School in Altadena. Dessi has been birdwatching and actively helping birds since he was 8 years old. He has given many presentations about bird conservation in schools.*



Dessi Sieburth ---Making a difference---

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

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Telephone _____

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PVAS Field Trips --- Fall 2014 - Summer 2015

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. Check the PVAS website for last minute trip additions and changes.

Day & Weekend PVAS Trips---- Check webpage for any additions or changes.

Saturday & Sunday, November 8 & 9, 2014 Morro Bay Field Trip

Our annual trip north for rocky shore birds, Magpie, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Nelson's Sparrow. Always a great trip - in recent years we've had such rarities as Ivory Gull! Meets Saturday at 8:00 a.m. at the base of Morro Rock. We'll bird the Morro Bay area 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 carpooling and motel information.**

Thursday, November 13, 2014 Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity

A trip to the Mt. Baldy area for mountain birds. Meets 7:30 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Wednesday, December 17, 2014 Bonelli Parks Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet near Bathroom 8 off Via Verde in Picnic Valley at 8:00 a.m. for a morning search for prior to Christmas Census. **Leader: TBA**

Thursday, December 18, 2014 Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas Trip

A morning visit to the Moreno Ponds and various parks and cemeteries in the Claremont- Pomona area searching for goodies for our Christmas Census. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Saturday, December 20, 2014 Annual Christmas Census

See page 3 for write up.

Thursday, January 8, 2015 Whittier Narrows

Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for a half day trip for wintering Geese, Sparrows, Flycatchers and perhaps the Chestnut-sided Warbler and Tropical Kingbird? Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

Saturday, January 10, 2015 Orange County Area

A tour of coastal migrant traps and hot spots for wintering specialties and a New Year start with a big list. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@yahoo.com.**

Thursday, February 12, 2015 Prado Regional Park

A visit to this popular park in Chino for Vermillion Flycatchers, Hawks and wintering vagrants. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

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 2, 2014
Sunday, December 7, 2014
Sunday, January 4, 2015
Sunday, February 1, 2015
Sunday, March 1, 2015
Sunday, April 5, 2015
Sunday, May 3, 2015
Sunday, June 7, 2015**

Fourth Sunday of each month ----

Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walks---

Join us for our monthly (4th Sunday walk) at Bonelli Park. This is an easy, two-hour walk for beginners and experts. Great for shorebirds and passerines. We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 Fwy

Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.

**Sunday, November 23, 2014
Sunday, December 28, 2014
Sunday, January 25, 2015
Sunday, February 22, 2015
Sunday, March 22, 2015
Sunday, April 26, 2015
Sunday, May 24, 2015
Sunday, June 28, 2015**

Saturday/Sunday, February 14 & 15, 2015 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**

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

This hidden gem in Arcadia boasts Orange Bishop and Red Whiskered Bulbul. More in January. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

PVAS Field Trips --- 2014 - 2015

Saturday, March 14, 2015

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. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling - Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

Thursday, April 9, 2015

North Etiwanda Preserve

This canyon area is home to Rufous-crowned and Sage Sparrows as well as chaparral and coastal sage species. Chance for great birds including Golden Eagle. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**



Records, eBird & Climate Change Continued from page 4).... and other foothill communities we have lost the Cactus Wren and California Gnatcatcher except for a few protected areas such as Bonelli Park.

We are lacking data on the effects of suburban development on birds. The suburbs around Tucson and Phoenix have Cactus Wrens, Verdins, and Gila Woodpeckers as many homes have native and drought resistant cactus and Palo Verde in their yards. Our current trend of replacing grass with drought resistant plants and wood chips or gravel is not very helpful to native birds as our plantings are mostly from Australia and South Africa. There are plants and trees native to our own distinctive chaparral habitat which could better serve.

There are many unanswered questions about this change of our southern California climate and urban plantings on our wildlife. For instance it would be nice to know whether local robins and mockingbirds, which hunt on grassy lawns will decrease in number or adapt to ground cover, etc. Indeed will our chaparral be able to move north (and take it's birds with it) and what will replace it? Baja Desert? Can we help to document any of these changes? This is our local citizen science at work... help us find out the trends in our bird life by looking and listening and then recording NOW--- for others to make sense of ASAP when they have enough of our data. There may then be time for us to help our birds.

Saturday, April 18, 2014

San Dimas Canyon

Join Eric for a walk in the canyon to look for local species and migrants. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@yahoo.com**

Saturday, May 2, 2015

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. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

PVAS LEADERS 2014-2015

PresidentNeil Gilbert.....neil.gilbert@verizon.net
Vice-PresidentEd Babcock..... ed.babcock@icloud.com
SecretaryPam Kling..... pamtone@verizon.net
TreasurerMike Klein mklein14@verizon.net

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Field TripsPam Kling pamtone@verizon.net
MembershipSuzanne Thompson.....SThompson@pomona.edu
Seith ThompsonSeith.Thompson@lmu.edu
WebmasterMike Klein..... mklein14@verizon.net
Publicity.....Shirley Harris..... 909-982-9727
HospitalityGloria Slosberg gslosberg@mac.com
Chapter Promotions.Nancy & Bruce Strang.....bstrang51@aol.com
CBC CompilerDan Guthrie.....dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
EducationChris Verma cna325@prodigy.net
ConservationDan Guthrie.....dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
Social Media Coordinator.....open
Meeting Activities ... Hank Feilen..... henry.fellen@verizon.net

Board Member Jim Hermanjhfinwing@msn.com
Board Member Ken Bergdorff wrencaps@charter.net
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Board Member Gabrel Sandoval gsandoval2015@stumail.cusd.claremont.edu

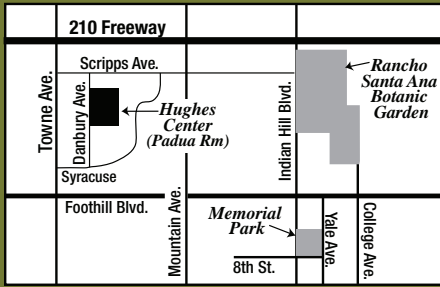
CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

EditorJudy Sugden dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu

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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



Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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 Claremont, CA 91711
www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org



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.

Bring a friend?

Non-members are welcome!



PVAS General Membership Meetings

Thursday, November 6, 2014

BIG YEAR Strategies, by Tom Benson

Have you ever wondered what goes into a Big Year--what kind of effort, planning, and preparation are necessary to succeed? Young or still young at heart, do you have what it takes? Tom Benson has done two county Big Years in the past five years, and he is going to share his insights on the strategies and execution of the county Big Year, based primarily on his most recent Big Year in Orange County in 2013.

Tom is an avid birder who lives (and works, despite rumors to the contrary) in San Bernardino, and birds extensively throughout southern California, and occasionally beyond. He is the compiler of the Southeastern California Rare Bird Alert, and is the eBird reviewer for Orange and San Bernardino Counties.

Thursday, December 4, 2014

TEXAS Coast & Rio Grande Valley Birding, by Pam Kling

Beautifully illustrated with her fantastic digital photographs, our program will highlight birds and places visited on the February PVAS trip to the Texas Coast and Rio Grande Valley.

Thursday, January, 2014

eBird : What is it? and What can it do for you? by Tom Benson

Launched in 2002, eBird is an online checklist program hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For most users, it functions as free listing software that birders can use to keep track of the various life, county, patch, and year lists. But it can provide so much more if you just know how to look for it. From Range Maps to Bar Charts to the Hot Spot Explorer, eBird's data visualization tools offer birders access to a wealth of information amassed from millions of observations by users around the world. Join us tonight as we explore eBird, from checklist submission to the review process, yard lists to year lists, and more.



Whooping Crane Photo by Pamela Kling