

# Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of  
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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

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## Talking About PVAS

## We have been busy this fall...

### 2013 Annual **Morro Bay Trip** Report by Tina Stoner

Seventeen PVAS members met at the base of Morro Rock at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> to find it foggy and cool. "It was warm and sunny when we arrived yesterday afternoon," I replied when people asked why I was wearing shorts. Playful sea otters and barking sea lions could be seen and heard just behind us while we parked our cars and waited for everyone to arrive. Wrens (Bewick's, House and Canyon) and a Hermit Thrush kept us entertained at the base of Morro Rock while we waited for the fog to lift, and it did, enough for us to see one of the Rock's famous Peregrine Falcon pair. After noting the usual gulls and shore birds in the area, we headed North for a couple stops in Cayucos. A single rock sitting in the surf yielded Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Surfbirds, Willets and Spotted Sandpipers. My growing list of life birds this trip included Red-throated Loon and Royal Tern.

A full moon and maximum high tide led us to our next stop. This was the highlight of the trip and turned out to be the reason why Dan Guthrie planned this year's Morro Bay trip for October instead of the usual November. Our destination was the southern tip of Morro Bay's Marina to see Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, a secretive sparrow with a bright pumpkin-colored face. It's typically found along freshwater marshes of the mid-West and salt marshes along the northern Atlantic Coast. Lucky for us it is also a rare but regular wintering bird in coastal salt marshes in California. Dan was maximizing our chances of seeing the bird by allowing the full moon high tide to flood the bird's salt marsh foraging areas with water, forcing the bird closer to shore, and it worked like magic. The birds (we saw two) came right into the area of a newly constructed boardwalk by the marina. We parked our cars, walked a short distance to the boardwalk and spotted some photographers with extra long lenses which signaled the bird was in the area. It was almost too easy. Everyone got good looks and many took photographs as well. As we returned to our cars, I also got a kick out of seeing my first Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the campgrounds adjacent to where we parked.

After a great lunch at the Back Bay Café near the Baywood Pier, and a brief stop at Sweetwater Springs Nature Preserve in Los Osos, we headed for



**The PVAS booth at Claremont's Village Venture** brought our volunteers out to offer special avian and conservation oriented opportunities to an interested public. Wild Wings drew people in with unreleasable wild hawks and owls for closer looks and questions of all kinds. (Our January meeting will feature the rehabilitation efforts of Wild Wings.) We handed out newsletters and invited everyone to join a field trip or come to hear a speaker. Through contacts made with educators at Village Venture, we established Audubon Adventurer in 16 schools. Dozens of owl pellets were distributed to 40 local teachers for hands-on natural science classroom projects linking field and lab research on habitat, predator-prey relationships, owl and rodent anatomy. There was also PVAS paraphernalia, bird lists, and experts to good naturedly identify the vague descriptions, offer resources and suggestions to solve bird problems, and just to appreciate enthusiastically told stories of personal experiences with our feathered neighbors.

Montana de Oro State Park where we learned the differences between Double-crested, Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants. Then we saw my second favorite bird of the trip, a pair of Black Oystercatchers. Once you trained your eye to look for that bright red bill against the dark rocks, it became much

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## The Naturalist is Going Digital !!

This newsletter, the Chaparral Naturalist, starting this next issue, (March/April), May be received in any one of three ways. It is posted on our web site <http://www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org>. **Paper copies will be sent ONLY to those who request it.** or you may have us send you a digital copy to your email. For any of the later two methods I need you to tell me which way we are to get it to you. Send email address to me at [dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu](mailto:dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu) or call me to continue snail mail paper copy. We promise not to give your e-mail address to any-one else, and to use it very sparingly.

January General Meeting is changed to SECOND THURSDAY ---  
just for this month.... **January 9th**



*Alta Loma:*

*Anaheim:* Sean Deyo

*Chino:* Sue Hunnicutt, Brenda Rankin

*Chino Hills:* Rachelle Gardea

*Claremont:* Shirley Bangert, Constance Blumenthal,  
Mary Diaz, L. Doose, Robert Flick, Marvin Frankel,  
Eric Halbeisen, Richard Heppner, Judith Hill,  
Reed Johnson, Bill Landrey, Jeff Levy,  
Deborah McKean, Ray Morales, Sarah Orr,  
Peter Pellitier, Samuel Tannenbaum, Ursula Ort

*Corona:* Nita Thorpe Clemmer, J. Riche

*Etiwanda:* Ehab Elgandy

*Glendora:* Serena Lin, Carla Prado

*Jurupa Valley:* Veronica Koch

*La Verne:* Sheila Berdan, Lynn Madrid

*Montclair:* Rudy Salazar, Phyllis Smith, Glenda Stoner

*Norco:* Karen & Jerry Eagans, Ida Kane, Janet Wolf

*Ontario:* Mary Linda Wilkins

*Rancho Cucamonga:* Sylvia Toste Rodgers

*San Dimas:* Deborah Soursby

*Upland:* Monica Dalton, Patisa Lambert,

Conchita E. Murphy, Ginger Rudisill

*Walnut:* Annabelle Marlow, Lee Simpson

*West Covina:* Bach Ngoc Vu

### *Bird Food Color Mystery*

*(Apologies to Ogden Nash)*

*by Jean S. Mill*

*Robins eat earth worms  
as pink as can be,  
While flycatchers grab insects  
black as ebony.*

*Sea birds eat fishes  
of various hues,  
While grey or black mammals  
raptors pursue.*

*Field birds seek grain  
gold as sun light.  
So why is bird poop  
inexplicably WHITE?*

## 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.

# 2014 Local & West Coast Bird Festivals

## Morro Bay Birding Festival,

January 17 – 20, 2014 --- <http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org>

## Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden --- Family Bird Fest

February 16, 2014 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ---- [http:// www.rsabg.org](http://www.rsabg.org)

Grab your binoculars for some fun-filled time in the Garden. Family Bird Fest is an educational celebration of our feathered friends. This annual event highlights the behaviors and physical traits that enable birds to survive in diverse habitats and calls attention to the avian adventure we call migration. Birdwatchers of all ages, beginners and enthusiasts, can flock to the Garden for activities and information.

Attendance to the festival is included with general admission or Garden membership. Visitors can help experienced birdwatchers with the annual "Great Backyard Bird Count," an international citizen-science project. People around the world will be counting birds during one designated week in February. Family Bird Fest counts will be submitted to the Ornithology Department at Cornell University and help create a real-time global snapshot of the migration patterns and populations of birds. Grow Native Nursery will feature plants to attract birds into your home landscape.

## Texas Rio Grande Valley - February 8-16, 2014

...and do not forget this fantastic opportunity for a group trip to Southeastern Texas with PVAS leader Pam Kling. See page 5 for details.

# 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 – 8:30 p.m. in Claremont (location pending)

Saturday Trips: meet at 7 a.m. at Memorial Park

**Weds. April 2. Birding in southern California**

**Bird origins, basic structure**

**Avian Taxonomy – the water birds**

**Sat. April 5. Field Trip – Bonelli Park**

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

**Avian taxonomy; non-passerine land birds**

**Sat. April 12. Field Trip – Wrightwood and the mountains**

**Weds. April 16. Migration, Bird song, Nesting**

**Avian taxonomy; passerines part 1**

**Sat. April 19. Field Trip – Morongo Oasis**

**Weds. April 23. Mating systems, territory, Birds and humans, conservation**

**Avian taxonomy; passerines, part 2**

**Sat. April 26. Field Trip – Bolsa Chica**

.....  
**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.*

# Preliminary Results of our 2013 Christmas Census -

Neil Gilbert

Species	2013 TOTALS
Canada Goose	83
Wood Duck	2
Gadwall	62
American Wigeon	1075
Mallard	573
Blue-winged Teal	1
Cinnamon Teal	7
Northern Shoveler	390
Northern Pintail	197
Green-winged Teal	127
Canvasback	-
Ring-necked Duck	42
Lesser Scaup	100
Bufflehead	67
Hooded Merganser	6
Common Merganser	16
Red-breasted Merganser	6
Ruddy Duck	800
Mountain Quail	1
California Quail	60
Pied-billed Grebe	35
Eared Grebe	42
Western Grebe	127
Clark's Grebe	65
American White Pelican	11
Double-crested Cormorant	289
Great Blue Heron	11
Great Egret	25
Snowy Egret	31
Green Heron	2
Black-crowned Night-heron	16
Turkey Vulture	15
Osprey	3
Bald Eagle	1
Northern Harrier	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2
Cooper's Hawk	8
Red-shouldered Hawk	14
Red-tailed Hawk	70
American Kestrel	17
Peregrine Falcon	6
Sora	1
Common Gallinule	1
American Coot	1546
Killdeer	51
Black-necked Stilt	227
American Avocet	2
Spotted Sandpiper	6
Greater Yellowlegs	7
Western Sandpiper	2

Species	2013 TOTALS
Least Sandpiper	27
Long-billed Dowitcher	227
Wilson's Snipe	2
Bonaparte's Gull	12
Ring-billed Gull	41
California Gull	5
Rock Pigeon	72
Band-tailed Pigeon	466
Eurasian Collared-Dove	28
Mourning Dove	248
Greater Roadrunner	-
Barn Owl	2
Great Horned Owl	8
Northern Pygmy-owl	1
White-throated Swift	107
Anna's Hummingbird	197
Costa's Hummingbird	6
Allen's Hummingbird	55
Belted Kingfisher	5
Acorn Woodpecker	165
Red-naped Sapsucker	9
Red-breasted Sapsucker	5
Nuttall's Woodpecker	41
Northern (R.S.) Flicker	98
Northern (Y.S.) Flicker	1
Black Phoebe	133
Say's Phoebe	24
Cassin's Kingbird	57
Hutton's Vireo	1
Steller's Jay	18
Western Scrub Jay	229
American Crow	217
Common Raven	31
Tree Swallow	-
Mountain Chickadee	13
Oak Titmouse	44
Bushtit	548
White-breasted Nuthatch	1
Brown Creeper	3
Cactus Wren	10
Rock Wren	2
Canyon Wren	4
Bewick's Wren	29
House Wren	5
Pacific Wren	2
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	6
California Gnatcatcher	2
American Dipper	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	104
Wrentit	49

Species	2013 TOTALS
Western Bluebird	84
Townsend's Solitaire	2
Hermit Thrush	34
American Robin	497
Northern Mockingbird	114
California Thrasher	7
European Starling	259
American Pipit	1
Cedar Waxwing	237
Phainopepla	11
Orange-crowned Warbler	5
Yel.-rump. Warbler (Aud.)	1055
Blk.-throated Gray Warbler	1
Townsend's Warbler	5
Common Yellowthroat	8
Spotted Towhee	73
California Towhee	175
Chipping Sparrow	122
Vesper Sparrow	3
Lark Sparrow	50
Savannah Sparrow	6
Fox Sparrow	5
Song Sparrow	49
Lincoln's Sparrow	5
White-throated Sparrow	2
White-crowned Sparrow	568
Golden-crowned Sparrow	34
Drk-eyed Junco (Slate-col.)	4
Drk-eyed Junco (Oregon)	275
Drk-eyed Junco (Pink-sided)	1
Drk-eyed Junco (Gray-headed)	-
Western Tanager	2
Red-winged Blackbird	22
Western Meadowlark	112
Brewer's Blackbird	94
Brown-headed Cowbird	5
Purple Finch	7
House Finch	483
Lesser Goldfinch	244
American Goldfinch	117
House Sparrow	120
<b>Total Species Count Day</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>Count Week Only</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total Reported Species</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Sub-species</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Individuals</b>	<b>14504</b>
<b>High Counts (42 years)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>New Species This Year</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>45</b>

## What was interesting...

### Our PVAS Christmas Count, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013

30 of us found 134 species in the 7.5 mile radius circle centered at the top of Mills Ave. in Claremont. It was a bad year for mountain birds, with hardly any nuthatches, no siskins, or white-headed woodpecker. It was also a bad year for waterbirds; few gulls, terns and shorebirds and most of the settling basins dry. The changes through the years are interesting. We usually can find one shrike, one roadrunner, and one white-tailed kite and several downy woodpeckers. These year these were absent. The nearly complete disappearance of fields in Ontario means no more habitat for mountain bluebird, ferruginous hawk and golden eagles. On the other hand, **bald eagle** is now a regular at Bonelli Park and the numbers of **Eurasian collared doves** continue to increase. Tom Miko alerted us to the value of Wheeler Park in Claremont, where he found our **only black-throated grey warbler and western tanager**. Cathy McFadden and Paul Clarke braved the crowds of hikers in ice house canyon to find **Pacific, Canyon and Bewicks wren** within 300 yards of each other. Judy Sugden braved the crowds going to the Nutcracker performance on the Pomona College campus to find an **orange-crowned warbler**. Nancy Strang put in long hours, driving the Glendora Ridge road in the evening to find a **northern Pygmy owl**, My best bird, while I sat in my front room watching my bird feeders, was a **white-throated sparrow**. All in all a pleasant weather, good day to reacquaint ourselves with our local birds.  
Dan Guthrie

Not all work---

#### Fun Tiny Stories from this Count

Those who want to find out what was seen (you are invited next year) meet at the end of Count Day to tally up our finds. While we are waiting for the late group representatives (someone always has to check that last one spot as dusk falls), we sip hot cider and trade stories.

Dan Guthrie cruised the Montclair Plaza at 4:54 p.m. looking for the flocks of Brewers Blackbirds swirling as they came into roost in the thick trees. He was hoping to catch a glimpse of a Merlin trying to catch dinner. The previous day's timing of 4:41 p.m. showed the importance of just a few minutes--- there was only a last strag-gler frantically flying in. Judy Sugden found a Great Horned Owl perched on the blinding lights of one of the standards. Great de-bate of feathers or plastic then ensued. No matter as Dan Gregory had found 8 in his owl patrol. We will check it in the morning.

Tom Miko was skimming territories to find life birds for his visiting birder friend from Hungary. Cathy McFadden directed Tom to the dipper after they had missed it all day, so then Tom left a note written on the back of a grocery slip under the wiper on Cathy's car telling her where he had seen solitaire. Over cookies she looked at Paul Clarke and then laughed and said that they had just thrown away that trash that the very strong wind must have lodged on their windshield. We were all glad that at least Tom had seen the solitaire... and they got 4 life birds for Hungary.

Neil Gilbert is still trying to turn one of his sapsuckers into a better sapsucker... He will look hopefully again tomorrow, armed with a camera this time.

Census day is the most important but we also turn in Count Week finds as it is important that we find and report the things that we know are there but may not have been able to squeek out the day of. Some of us will go out informally as above to try to find missed and unverified birds on Sunday thru Tuesday. Judy Sugden



A vagrant White Throated Sparrow was a welcome stake-out in Claremont.  
Photo by Dan Guthrie

Olive Sparrow is a specialty of the scheduled Texas trip.



### Texas Rio Grande Valley

February 8-16, 2014

Leader: Pam Kling

The lower Rio Grande Valley area is home to many tropical bird species found nowhere else in the United States. It is a major bird migration corridor; the convergence of two major flyways (the Central and Mississippi) affords the birder an abundance of Northern species migrating to avoid the winter cold. Southern-most Texas boasts a collection of specialty birds (Plain Chachalaca, Green Jay, Great Kiskadee, Ringed and Green Kingfishers, Altimira and Audubon's Orioles, Olive Sparrow, Common Pauraque, and White-tailed Hawk – to name a few) along with a wintering population of Whooping Cranes at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. We plan to fly in to Houston with stops at Aransas and possibly King Ranch (for the Ferruginous Pygmy Owl) then on to the Rio Grande Valley area. With the exception of the first two days, we will be based in McAllen and visit most of the World Birding Center sites in the area. This will give us 8 full days and a half-day of birding! To make things easier and facilitate carpooling, rooms will be blocked for our group at a local hotel and suggested flight and motel information will be provided to interested participants. Please contact Pamela Kling at 909-240-7604 if interested in participating. The trip will be limited to 12 persons. More information on south Texas birding, can be found by visiting the following websites:

The World Birding Center <http://www.theworldbirdingcenter.com/>  
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/aransas/>

# 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, January 5, 2014**

**Sunday, February 2, 2014**

**Sunday, March 2, 2014**

**Sunday, April 6, 2014**

**Sunday, May 4, 2014**

**Sunday, June 1, 2014**

## Fourth Sunday of each month ----

### **Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walks---**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 Fwy. for our monthly walk (4th Sunday, about 2 hours) at Bonelli Park.

**Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.**

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**

**Sunday, February 23, 2014**

**Sunday, March 23, 2014**

**Sunday, April 27, 2014**

**Sunday, May 25, 2014**

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

**Thursday, January 9, 2014**

### **Whittier Narrows Regional Park**

A half day trip looking for water birds. Tropical kingbird is a possibility. Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. **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, January 23, 2014**

### **San Dimas Canyon Park**

Lark Sparrows and Cactus Wren as well as other sparrows and winter migrants are targets here. We may also drive down to Puddingstone Dam for a quick search for rock wren and woodpeckers. Meeting time 7.00 a.m. at Memorial Park or at 7:30 at San Dimas Canyon Park. Contact **Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or email [bird4life28@yahoo.com](mailto:bird4life28@yahoo.com)** if you plan to attend.

**Thursday, February 13, 2014**

### **Prado Regional Park**

We visit this popular park in Chino for Vermillion Flycatchers, hawks,

and wintering ducks and vagrants. Bald eagle is a possibility. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

**February 8-16, 2014**

### **Southeast Texas Week**

Plan ahead for this great trip. See write-up page 6. **Leader: Pam Kling**

**Saturday/Sunday, February 15 & 16, 2014**

### **Salton Sea Weekend**

Our annual jaunt to the Salton Sea. Various spots along the south end of the Salton Sea should yield views of thousands of snow geese, many sandhill cranes, gila woodpeckers and winter rarities including Mountain Plover, Mountain Bluebird and Burrowing Owl.

Meet Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. at the Poe Road Turnoff from Hwy 86 on the west side of the Sea and bird our way east to national wildlife refuge headquarters. We will spend the night in Brawley (Brawley Inn is a good place) Sunday we will bird our way east to Hwy 111 and return to Claremont about mid-afternoon. Notify me if you are planning to attend or need a ride. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

**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. There is a chance for good wrens and Golden Eagle. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:00 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 7:00 a.m. for carpooling. **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 and hummingbirds as well as 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 weather is good. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 or dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

**Saturday, May 3, 2014**

### **Big Morongo Canyon**

A trip at the height of western migration for transient and returning species, including Summer Tanager, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat and lots of orioles. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

easier to **Morro Bay Trip Report** (Continued from page 1 )

spot them. We took a detour on the way home to Morro Bay on Turri Road to look for inland species and it did not disappoint: Kestral, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Bluebird, Meadowlark, Northern Harrier, and Audubon's Warbler were all seen in the fields and pastures.

Sunday, it was time to say goodbye to Morro Bay and head to points south. A flock of Wild Turkeys and a family of deer were seen on Hwy 1 just outside of town as we caravanned to the Oceano Campground at Pismo State Beach. We listened to Marsh Wren and Wrentits along the trail while scanning the trees for Warblers. A vagrant Blue-winged Warbler had been reported in the area, but it didn't show itself. What we did see, in very large quantities, were Townsend's Warblers. Oso Flaco Lake was our next stop. The beautiful boardwalk out over the water provided great close views of birds both on the water and on the shore. Several species of ducks were plentiful including Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teal. Raccoons ambled past Dowitchers and Avocets. We played peek-a-boo with a Sora along the shore and when playing a recording of its call to entice it back out in the open, we got a response from another Sora that was directly below us in a clump of cattails. We leaned over the boardwalk railing and got fabulous close-up looks at those amazing feet, no binoculars required! We finished our weekend in the stark but beautiful environment of the Guadalupe Dunes. The wind cooperated and no one got sand in their sandwiches while we enjoyed our lunch listening to the surf and watching flocks of shorebirds fly by. One flock of Surf Scoters included a single White-winged Scoter. Soon it was time to bring out the scope one last time for the weekend to find the tiny Snowy Plovers in a nearby pond.

I recorded 72 species on Saturday and another 20 on Sunday for a total of 92 species for the weekend.



The Morro Bay trip is scheduled for an unusually high tide in the fall to catch the rare Nelsons Sharp-tailed Sparrow forced out of the pickle weed and into a specific plot of bushes. It is very secretive and this is a fantastic photo by PVAS member John Dickson.

### Imagine!

**We saw more than 25 Townsends Warblers in Oceano Campground alone. They were a TRASH bird that day.**

### 2014 Field Trips continued...

#### **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 dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

#### **Saturday & Sunday, May 31, 2014 Big Bear**

A full day trip for mountain species, many of them nesting. We may visit Bluff Lake, the Champion Lodgepole Pine, the Arrastre Creek and/or Green Mtn. Trail. Bring plenty of food, water, and sunscreen. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124 dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**

#### **Thursday, June 12, 2014 Carbon Canyon Regional Park**

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

#### **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 ors (909) 240-7604.**

### **PVAS OFFICERS 2013-14**

President .....Dan Guthrie..... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu  
Vice-President .....Bruce Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com  
Secretary .....Pam Kling..... pamtone@verizon.net  
Treasurer .....Neil Gilbert..... neil.gilbert@verizon.net  
Board Member .....Ken Burgdorff..... wrencaps@charter.net  
Board Member .....Jim Herman ..... jhfinwing@msn.com  
Board Member .....Pat Higbie..... birderpat@verizon.net  
Board Member .....Rod Higbie ..... warblerod@verizon.net  
Board Member .....Nancy Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

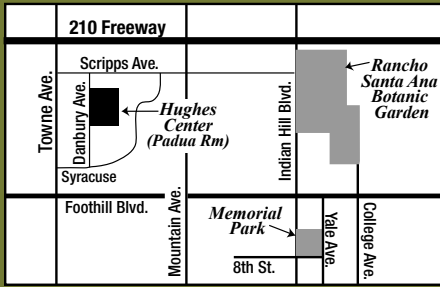
Conservation .....Available  
Education .....Available /Dan.... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu  
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### **CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER**

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The **Chaparral Naturalist** is published bimonthly, except July and August by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the last Thursday of the month. Articles may be reprinted without permission, however we require the author and **Chaparral Naturalist** be credited. We encourage members to submit articles and photos by email at **dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu**. Photos should be saved at 300 dpi and in jpg format. Articles should be provided in .doc, .rtf, or .xls format. Sorry, we cannot retype your copy.

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

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



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

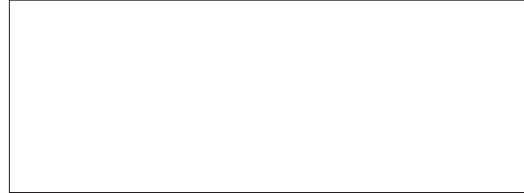


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*Due to the unavailability of the Hughes Center on our usual meeting night, Please note the **delay of one week** for the first meeting of the new year.*



**Thursday, January 9, 2014**

**Wild Wings**

*Presented by Judy Everett*

Hawks, owls, hummingbird babies and other rescues--- Judy Everett will present a program about the activities of her local bird rehabilitation program Wild Wings.

**Thursday, February 6, 2014**

**Birding at the End of the World**

*Presented by Cathy McFadden & Paul Clarke*

Members Cathy McFadden and Paul Clarke will present a program on a recent birding trip to **Patagonia**, the southern tip of South America. This is a land of stark and stunning scenery where it's possible to see rheas, flamingos, penguins and Andean condors all on the same day!

**Thursday, March 6, 2014**

**Wonders of the Galapagos**

*Presented by Josephina Madunich*

Member Josephina Madunich, who worked for several years as a tour guide in the **Galapagos Islands** will present a program about the wonders of the islands. She still arranges tours there

**PVAS Membership Meetings**

**Happy Birding  
 & New Year,  
 Everyone!**

