



Chaparral Naturalist

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How to Attract Goldfinches to Your Backyard

Angie Verma

Goldfinches live throughout the United States, a fact that makes attracting them to your backyard a bit easier. They eat mainly seeds and sometimes flowers, fruits, and insects. Goldfinches love fresh, dry Nyjer seeds. Nyjer is an annual herb from Ethiopia. The seeds are heat sterilized at 120°C for fifteen minutes before they are sold to prevent germination. Nyjer has a thin shell and is vulnerable to spoilage. Store it in an airtight container for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher food somewhere else. Avoid buying dry, dusty seeds. Offer Nyjer in a mesh, sock, or tube finch feeder and attach a bright yellow bow to it to attract the goldfinches' attention.

Create a goldfinch garden with plants they love such as native Sages, Chamise, White Alder, Pacific Willow, Sunflowers, and Cosmos.

Don't forget to add a water feature to your yard. All birds are attracted to water. And remember to have patience. Sometimes it can take a day to attract goldfinches to your yard, but sometimes it can take up to three months.



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Are Your Bird Feeders Safe for Band-tailed Pigeons? Dan Guthrie

As reported in the Los Angeles Times (2/9/2015) California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife is concerned about deaths of Band-tailed Pigeons and has recommended that birdbaths and feeders be removed from suburban yards. A parasite of birds is causing the disease outbreak. The source is thought to be domestic pigeons. I have a number of band-tails coming to my feeders but I have never had a domestic pigeon visit. Further, Band-tails are gregarious. They forage in flocks and roost together. Feeders are not the only place that they come in contact with each other. So clean your birdbath and keep your bird feed dry as the parasite needs a moist environment to survive.

If you do have domestic pigeons as well as band-tails at your feeders you might feed in such a way that pigeons are not attracted (food in a finch feeder, not on the ground). Keep an eye out for sick or dead pigeons. For most of us, however, I do not think there is a need for concern.

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.

Chino: **Linda Robles, Russell Swartzendruber**

Corona: **Jan Houck**

Claremont: **Hasan Celik, Wendy Divine,
Mary Freeman, Judy Hayami,
Patrick Mulcahy, Abigail Parsons,
Catherine Rowlee, Nancy Whitham**

Diamond Bar: **Marilyn Spears**

Glendora: **Don Berry, Dina Offen**

LaVerne: **Catherine Brooks, Kaasey Mimi Clifton**

Ontario: **Hank Pereraa Jr.**

Pomona: **Harold Jackson**

Rancho Cucamonga: **Kimberly Castellanos,
Danielle Leyton, David Tafoya**

San Dimas: **Gregory Carter**

Upland: **Michele Coyle, Brannon Garrett,
David Gish, William Huff,
Nicole Kovalski, Joe Vlietstra**

Walnut: **Ruth Mondt**

West Covina: **Bette Galvin, Sue Garland**

Help Monitoring Tree Swallow Nesting Boxes?

For the last two years we have been monitoring about 24 nest boxes weekly at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park just south of the Chino Prison. Hank Feilen is willing to do it again this year but needs some help. It takes about 2 hours once a week (usually am) and runs from now through the end of June. Last year we fledged about 60 swallows. Please contact us if you are interested.

Dan Guthrie: (909) 239 5124.

PVAS Christmas Bird Count Report: The numbers and what was fun! by Neil Gilbert

Well, we couldn't have asked for nicer weather for the Christmas Bird Count – a little cloudy, a little cool. But did the nice weather lead to outstanding results for the count? Let's look at some of the results.

On count day, December 20th, **we found 144 species; our average over the last 10 years was exactly 144**, so we had an "average" day. You can add to that the 2 subspecies that were seen: two Dark-eyed "Slate-colored" Juncos, and the Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flicker seen in Wheeler Park by Tom Miko.

We can also count any species we see during "Count Week" (3 days before to three days after Count Day) but not on Count Day. We added four species to the count, which, again, exactly matched the ten-year average.

So based only on species numbers we had an average day. But **based on number of participants, we had an outstanding day.** Our 10 year average for participants was 49; this year we had 60 people helping out. We have only exceeded that number one time in 43 years. More people counting meant more birds counted, 17,296 individual birds, which is about 1,000 more than average.

Those are the numbers; now some stuff about the birds.

We added one species to the cumulative list of species we have seen since we started in 1972. Red-masked Parakeets were reported by two different people in different places! Same ones? That gets our cumulative list up to 248 species. An exciting, but not new, species was Varied Thrush, which we have seen 15 times in 43 years, but not at all since 2002. **Six teams saw 20 of them this year.**

The Bonelli Team saw Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, and Canada Goose. Three teams saw a record number of Canada Geese (347). We also had record numbers of American Wigeon (1147) and Blue-winged Teal (7).

Great-tailed Grackles were seen for only the 3rd time, and 6 of them was a new record. Dan Gregory provided the second ever PVAS CBC sighting of Thick-billed Kingbird.

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 C08 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 C08

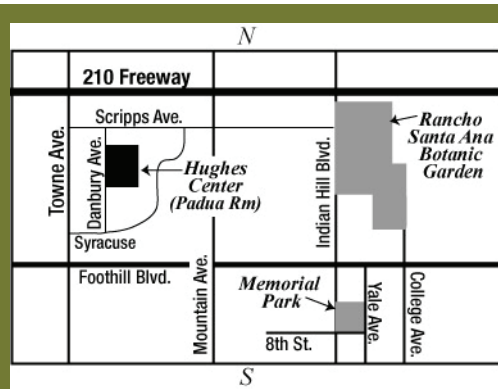
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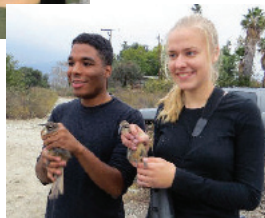
Return Service Requested



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, March 5, 2015

Research with Local SoCal Birds by Pomona College Students

Pomona College Professor Nina Karnovsky and her students will give brief presentations of their bird related research which ranges from a long term study of passerines at the Bernard Field Station, Hutton's shearwater conservation efforts in New Zealand, observations of the foraging behavior of pelagic cormorants in Sonoma County, investigations into the diving behavior of Cassin's auklets, video monitoring of Scripps's murrelets nesting on Santa Barbara Island and analysis of changes in the diets of South Polar skuas nesting on the Antarctic Peninsula.

Thursday, April 2, 2015

Hawks by Pete Bloom

I will talk about some of the results from my dissertation research that includes a hitherto undescribed migration of fledgling and young adult

Red-tailed Hawks from southwestern California to northerly latitudes at least as far as Yellowstone NP in Montana, and another component that looks at vagrancy (basically lost) in Red-shouldered Hawks also banded in southwestern California.

Pete Bloom is a local southern California raised and educated natural historian with a Bachelors and Master's degree from California State University, Long Beach, and a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho, Moscow. His research interests include studies

of birds of prey that lead to protecting the birds and their habitat. Much of his research over the last 40 years has been focused on raptor movements, both local as it relates to habitat and home range use, but also natal dispersal, philopatry, vagrancy, and migration.



Thursday, May 7, 2015

Local Cavity Nesters

by Gillian Martin

Friday, June 5, 2015

Annual Member's Slideshow