

A Publication of Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

MARCH-APRIL 2015 / Volume 54, No. 4

Goldfinches to Your Backyard

Goldfinches live throughout the United States, a fact that makes attracting them to your backyard a bit easier.

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They eat mainly seeds and sometimes flowers. fruits. and insects. Goldfinches live throughout the United States, a fact that makes attracting them to your backyard a bit easier.

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Goldfinches love fresh, dry Nyjer seeds. Goldfinches love fresh, dry Nyjer seeds. 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Store it in an airtight container to spoilage. Store it in an airtight container from the seeds are heat sterilized at 120°C for fifteen minutes before they are sole in an airtight container to spoilage. 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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 foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. Once seed starts to dry out and become stale, the goldfinches will look for fresher foot for a longer shelf life. 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somewhere else. Avoid buying dry, dusty seeds. Offer Nyjer in a mesh, sock, or tu 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 Don't forget to add a Water feature to your yard. All birds are attracted to Water. And stract noldfinches to your yard. All birds are attract noldfinches to your yard. All birds are attracted to Water. And Von t torget to add a water teature 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. Here months are attracted to water. And the remember to have patience. Alder, Pacific Willow, Sunflowers, and Cosmos.

yard, but sometimes it can take up to three months.

In this issue...

- Attracting Gold Finch
- **New Members**
- **Monitoring Tree Swallow Nests**
- 2014 XMAS Count Report
  - Band-tail Pigeon Feeders Safe?
- **PVAS Spring 2015 Field Trips**
- Spring Membership Meetings

# 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.

# **PVAS Chapter News**

# 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 though 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 20<sup>th</sup>, **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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 <u>new membership may be sent directly to PVAS.</u> 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 CO8 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.

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☐ Yes, Please sign me up as a new member!	☐ Yes, I am renewing my membership.	
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Address	Telephone	
City, State, Zip	Mobile	
Email		

# **PVAS Field Trips --- Spring 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 Memborial 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.

### 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. Free admission with our PVAS group. (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 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. Free admission with our group. 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, March 22, 2015 Sunday, April 26, 2015 Sunday, May 24, 2015



# <u>Day & Weekend PVAS trips</u>---- Check webpage for any additions or changes.

# Thursday, March 12, 2015

# Peck Road Water Conservation Park

Join us for a trip to this five=acre park for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, and some of our local specialties. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.** 

### Saturday, March 14, 2015 San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Note change of destination for this trip.

A great trip for raptors, ducks, shorebirds and usually Mountain Bluebirds. Especially good for folks who would rather bird from the car rather than on foot. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 239-5124.** 

## 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.** 

### Saturday, April 18, 2015 San Dimas Canyon Park

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 and Yellow-breasted Chat. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch.

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.

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#### CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

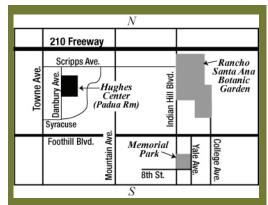
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The **Chaparral Naturalist** is published bimonthly, except July and August by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the second to last Thursday of the month. Articles may be reprinted without permission, however we require the author 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.

# **Bring a friend?**

Non-members are welcome!





## **Pomona Valley Audubon Society**

2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426 Claremont, CA 91711 www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

Return Service Requested

# **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 an 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

Thursday, May 7, 2015
Local Cavity Nesters
by Gillian Martin
Friday, June 5, 2015
Annual Member's Slideshow

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.

