

Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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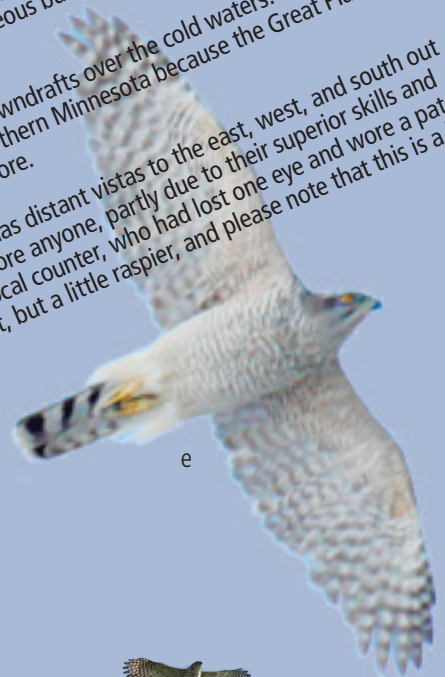
Hawk Watch, Minnesota

by Stephen Marks

I was able to check a major item off my "bucket list" this fall: taking advantage of my year-long sabbatical from Pomona College, I went to Duluth Minnesota to see hawks, Northern Goshawks in particular, at the Hawk Ridge Observatory there. I was not disappointed, seeing eight Goshawks, or "Gos" for short, over four full or partial days, along with scores of Bald Eagles, hundreds of Red-Tails, a couple dozen Rough-Legs, a few Golden Eagles, and various other great stuff. Oh, and the fall colors were spectacular. Lake Superior was gorgeous but frequently changed its mood—from sparking to mysterious to ominous—depending on the light and weather.

Raptors funnel down the north shore of the lake, attracted by the thermals over land versus the downdrafts over the cold waters. Northern Goshawks, fierce residents of mature boreal forests, are even more inclined to funnel through northern Minnesota because the Great Plains to the west are not their preferred habitat. I had seen a few in the east years ago, but wanted to see more.

One of the advantages of being at the official lookout point on the ridge is not only that one has distant vistas to the east, west, and south out over the lake, but that the official counters are also present. Typically, they see birds well before anyone, partly due to their superior skills and competitive nature, but also because they use telescopes as well as binoculars. One older local counter, who had lost one eye and wore a patch, but made great use of his other eye, was typical. Imagine a voice sort of like an airline pilot, but a little raspier, and please note that this is a bird I could not see (Continued page 3)



Can you identify the raptors? See page 2.

In this issue...

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Chapter News

**TELL US
YOUR MAILING PREFERENCE**
.....(AGAIN)

My computer crashed, losing my list of members who wish to receive print copies of our newsletter. We will continue to send e-mail copies to all members for whom we have e-mail addresses. We also will continue to send paper copies in September and January to everyone. However, if you would also like a paper copy of our other newsletters (Nov., March, and May) give me your address (email me at dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu or phone 909 239 5124

**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: **Maureen Burney**
Chino Hills: **Sherry Schmidt**
Claremont: **Angela Bakzadian, Patti Espana,
Dave & Julie Lannom,
Michelle Mitchell,
Gesine Robinson, Susan Seymour**
Corona: **Tasy Bensiak, Richard Fleming**
Covina: **Roberta Huskey**
Diamond Bar: **Cheri Owings**
Glendora: **Katherine Barnett**
Norco: **Rithcey family**
Ontario: **Ellen Law**
Pomona: **Max Carman Jr., Janet Nameth,
Ron Sasse, Tuan Tran, Lorna Vaccari,
Pat Woeste**
Cucamonga: **Biroezky, Pei Chang,
Victoria & Frank Glavan,
Hilde Jameson,
Ruth Kniesley, Diana Tosha**
Riverside: **Margaret Laney**
Upland: **Jenny Gibson, Linda Hix, Alan MacKey,
Janet Watson,**
Walnut: **Hester Taliaferro**

Answers to Raptor
Flight I.D. quiz page 1

- a) Im. Golden Eagle,
b) Red-tailed Hawk,
c) Rough-legged Hawk, d) Red Shouldered Hawk, e) Goshawk,
f) Cooper's Hawk, g) American Kestrel, h) Red-tailed Hawk.



Marcyn Del Clements

26 February, 2010

SNOW GEESE

South End of the Salton Sea

Ten white geese
still here.

Thought they'd
have flown.

They should have
migrated by now.

I sneak out
of the car,

muffle the sound of
the camera opening,

creep up behind
a salt bush


so as not to
spook them,

focus, breathe,
move out from

around the bush,
press the shutter,

capture the moment
of ten wooden decoys.

Olympic Peninsula 2015
BirdFest
Come bird with us!



- San Juan Island Cruise
- Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- Guided Birding Trips
- Bird Drawing Class
- Auction & Raffle
- Photography Workshop
- Gala Banquet with speaker
Lynsy Smithson-Stanley

April 10 - 12, 2015
For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
or 360-681-4076

OLYMPIC PENINSULA
SEQUIM WASHINGTON
JAMESTOWN REGIONAL TRIBE
First Federal

Hawk Watch: Continued from page 1) either with the naked eye or 10x binoculars: "Ahhhhh, I have a Rough-Leg over the pagoda [a house that was one of their landmarks on the northeast horizon]... adult... female... dark morph" (I still could not see it!). Fortunately, many of those birds eventually drifted overhead or in front of us nearer the lake.

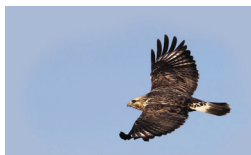
The book *Hawks at a Distance*, by Jerry Liguori, is quite useful for hawk watches, which I have also done at Raccoon Ridge, New Jersey, and Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania. Perhaps he will write a sequel: *Hawks at an Extreme Distance in Clouds or Backlit by the Sun*. Actually, some of our views of the birds were excellent. I was listening to a nature program on the Northern Goshawk when a shadow passed over my face—yup, the very same, circling over the Great Horned Owl decoy they have put at the top of a nearby fir tree. I did find that judging distance, and bird size, can be quite a challenge, especially in a cloudless sky. What I really learned is to keep my mouth shut, especially in the presence of all those experts, like when I said, "I guess there's a Sharp-Shinned Hawk above that Red-Tail overhead." OMG. I was quickly corrected: it was a Red-Tail above an immature Bald Eagle. Oh well, easy come, easy go!

One day I took a morning off from hawk watching and drove out to the Sax-Zim Bog northwest of Duluth. This had been spectacular for my family and me back after Thanksgiving in 2005, when we had seen two Northern Hawk Owls, calmly posing on utility poles near the road. This time I saw nine Ruffed Grouse, a life bird, along with several Black-Billed Magpies, some Canada Jays, and a male adult Merlin perched on a fence post, about a hundred feet away. (First time I had ever seen a motionless Merlin!) They also have Great Gray Owls in there, but autumn seems to be the down season for them, according to the Bog's bird list (which, along with a really useful map, is available online from "Friends of Sax-Zim Bog").

For trip planning, you can go to "http://www.hawkridge.org/" and check out their count data. In the case of Goshawks, and probably other raptor species, it tends to be the young birds that head south first. Of the Goshawks I saw over October 16-19, only one was an adult. Next time I go to Hawk Ridge (it does get addictive), I might aim for later in October. It can be a little spottier for the hawks, but Northern Shrikes, Pine Grosbeaks, Black-backed Woodpeckers, Bohemian Waxwings, and White-winged Crossbills become better possibilities (just to name a few birds on my wish list, though I have seen a few of those species previously).

The hawk flights tend to be best on a north or northwest wind, but there can also be great flights on an east or northeast wind at Hawk Ridge. A south or southwest wind typically is not as good, though sometimes the birds can be lower in the sky.

Finally, also for trip planning, it turns out that the Goshawk population is on a ten-year cycle, which reflects the ten-year cycle of the Snowshoe Hare. There were huge years for Goshawks in 1972, 1982, and even 1992, but recent peak activity has been less. I can only wonder if the decline is at all related to the difficulty the hares face in being (seasonally) an all-white animal in a landscape without snow due to global climate change. In any case, I'm thinking I'll take my next sabbatical in 2022.....



PVAS on Facebook and Instagram

Pomona Valley Audubon now has it's own Facebook and Instagram pages. We are cool (er) now. PVAS member, Brian Elliott, has been appointed by the board to be our Social Media Coordinator and he administers our new Facebook and Instagram page so that members and anyone interested in PVAS can share their birding adventures, comment on local issues, and post pictures for others to enjoy.

All of our events will be highlighted on Facebook. Photos from field trips will be a prominent feature of the site. It is a place on the Internet that can become a community for birders in the area to connect. Like us and follow us on Facebook!

A link to the Facebook page can be found on the PVAS website or going to www.facebook.com/pomonavalleyaudubon

In addition to Facebook, Instagram is a photo sharing site and PVAS will be regularly posting images that we find interesting and that are related to birding and nature. It is found at www.instagram.com/pomonavalleyaudubon

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!**
- I would like the print version of the Chaparral Naturalist.
- Yes, I am renewing my membership.**
- Do not publish** my information in the chapter directory.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email _____

Chapter Code C3ZC080Z

Telephone _____

Mobile _____

PVAS Field Trips --- Winter & 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 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.

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.**

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. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259.**

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

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 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, January 25, 2015

Sunday, February 22, 2015

Sunday, March 22, 2015

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Sunday, May 24, 2015

Sunday, June 28, 2015

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, 2014

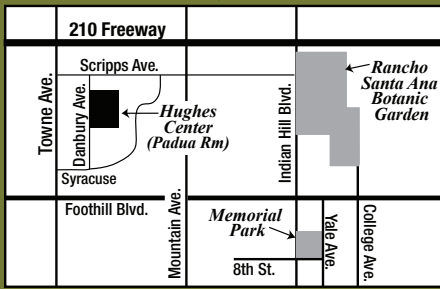
San Dimas Canyon

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.**



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 members enjoying a winter day's birding in Evey Canyon... and then the documenting on eBird.



Pomona Valley Audubon Society

2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
Claremont, CA 91711

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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PVAS General Membership Meetings

Thursday, January 8, 2015 (NOTE DELAY OF ONE WEEK)

eBird; What is it? ...and What can it do for you?

by Tom Benson

Join us to explore the new computer world of citizen science documentation and compilation of bird sightings world wide. You too can not only list sightings of your common neighborhood birds but offers you access to a wealth of information amassed from millions of observations by users around the world. Launched in 2002, eBird is an online checklist program hosted by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For most users it functions as a free listing software used 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 the information. From Range Maps to Bar Charts to the Hot Spot Explorer, eBird offers data visualization tools to sort thru the data constantly accruing.

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Babblers, Barbets and Bristleheads: Birding in Borneo,
by Cathy McFadden and Paul Clarke

The world's third largest island is home to its tallest rainforests, abundant wildlife, 50 species of birds found nowhere else on earth, and excellent tourism infrastructure. PVAS members Cathy McFadden and Paul Clarke will present a multimedia show of their recent birding trip to Malaysian Borneo.

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Research with Local SoCal Birds by College Students

Thursday, April 2, 2015

Hawks by Pete Bloom

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Local Cavity Nester Conservation by Gillian Martin

Friday, June 5, 2015 ---- Annual Pot Luck & Meeting