



Chaparral Naturalist

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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Where to Go for Migrant Passerines.

Dan Guthrie

Most hawks and water birds migrate during the day. Since it is daylight, they can pick out suitable habitat relatively easily. Small land birds usually migrate at night. They know the general direction to go, but don't have regular stops. When dawn approaches they drop to the ground to spend the day feeding and resting. They might turn up anywhere. I have over the years received two sora rails from members' yards ---not the best rail habitat..

But how do birds select where to drop in? They often have moonlight, and can see the moon's reflection on water. If it is not cloudy, this keeps them from flying out over the ocean. On foggy nights many birds stray out to sea. When dawn comes they come down to the water surface and land on any hard object; boats, islands and even floating seaweed. Gulls eat many but this makes our offshore islands great places to bird in April, May and September, October. Island Packers trips to Santa Barbara and Anacapa Islands have been birders favorites at these times as the islands are small with no trees where the birds can hide.

If you can't make it to the islands there are concentration spots on the mainland for migrants as well. The whole coastline receives birds returning from flights over the ocean, especially those in sight of land. In the desert, clumps of trees are accumulation points for most migratory species that are inhabitants of forests. From the air, dark areas seem preferable to lighted suburbs. As a result parks get more migrants than other areas, especially if they contain a pond. Put this together and areas like Huntington Central Park and the coastal camping areas north of Santa Barbara seem to attract many migrants. Moreover, these areas are heavily birded so migrants are more likely to be found. Probably the best local coastal birding during migration is Point Loma in San Diego. California City Central Park is one of the best nearby desert areas. However, even your local park or tree lined street can have migrants in April and May. Consider taking your binoculars on your regular morning dog walk. You might be surprised to find migrant grosbeaks, tanagers and warblers in your neighborhood. ---and e-bird birders would like to hear about them!



PVAS Bolsa Chica field trip looking for migrants.

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President's Message by Ed Babcock



Ed Babcock, PVAS Vice-President, is acting President until June's General Meeting election of new Officers.

Spring has Sprung!!!!
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While you were out birding, the PVAS board has been busy updating our bylaws. The new bylaws call for some major changes in our organizational and leadership structure. Under the new bylaws there will be eleven elected board members that include four officers and seven committee chairs. The board feels that the new bylaws promote transparency in its policy making, improves accountability in our programming, and expands opportunities for members to participate in service and leadership roles. Each board position will have specific term limits thus encouraging both turnover and continuity.

Chapter officers will defined as: President,
 Vice-President
 Secretary
 Treasurer.

Each officer will be elected for a term of two years and be limited to three consecutive terms.

The seven standing committees will be led by a board member elected to a two year term.

- The **membership** committee will maintain rosters and provide general membership services.
- The **program** committee will obtain speakers and coordinate the Christmas bird count.
- The **education** committee will promote the study and protection of birds.
- The **communications** committee will coordinate all of our media and publicity.
- The **conservation** committee will inform the membership of Audubon initiatives affecting the conservation of natural resources.
- The **field trip** committee will organize and lead field trips.
- The **meeting logistics** committee will provide hospitality and organize activities such as the drawings and promotions.

spring has Sprung!!!!

.....If **YOU** are interested in serving or chairing any of the committees described above please talk to any of our current board members. The board will be appointing a nominating committee in March to establish a slate of officers and committee chairs to be presented at our annual meeting in June.

- Chino: **Dan Garcia, Steve Moody**
- Chino Hills: **Terry Reeser**
- Claremont: **Jean Collinsworth, Aida Hughes, Katrina Keil, Nan Keith, Scott & Susan Marnoy, James Miller, Joyce Ride, Hans Rindisbacher, Anne & George Stoll**
- Corona: **Andrea Puga**
- Covina: **D. Baca**
- Diamond Bar: **Cheri Owings**
- East Vale: **Joanne Peacock**
- Glendora: **Lindsay Bruggman, Bonnie Shier, Ron Theders,**
- La Verne: **Chris Dahle, Kathleen Kiely, Rose Martin, Robert Watanabe**
- Pomona: **Gayle Brenenstall, Jane Green**
- Rancho Cucamonga: **Tom Arbuckle, David Chang, Diana Cosand, Anthony Mule, Wendy Rodgers, Miki Smirl, Marcus Smith, Kimberly Willborn**
- San Dimas: **Eileen Weston**
- Upland: **Ratan Agarwal, Dawn Comstock, Helen Mace, Robert Shepherd, Natasha Walton,**
- Walnut: **Allen Remanick, Earnest Rooks**
- West Covina: **Peter Chen, Sarah Havens, Frances Hayden, Doris Hayes, Harry Woodward**

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.



Preventing Window Collisions by Angie Verma

Some say birds can't see glass, but people can. The truth is that birds and people can't see glass. Each year, people are injured by colliding with unmarked glass doors. Once I watched a man run through a glass door at an airport! Birds in zoos have learned to avoid striking the glass walls of their exhibits. We have learned to recognize glass and avoid glass doors and windows. But wild birds haven't. **Up to a billion birds die in collisions with glass in the United States each year.**According to a 2014 study by Scott R. Loss, Sara S. Loss, and Peter Marra of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute and Tom Will of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, published in *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* in January 2014.

Five things you can do to prevent window collisions:

- **At night, turn off your lights or draw your curtains.**
- **Place decals (either colored or UV clear to us) on your windows. They come in different shapes. ABC Bird-Tape can be cut into different patterns. Window decals should be placed no more than 4 inches apart.**
- **Apply tempera paint with a brush or sponge on your windows or use a stencil. You can use tempera alone or combine them with window decals to create intricate designs. Tempera comes right off with a wet rag.**
- **If you don't like decals or paint on your window, you can consider screening them.**
- **Place your bird feeders no more than 3 feet away from your window. This will decrease the likelihood of birds injuring themselves if they do hit your window. Otherwise, place your feeders no less than 10 feet away.**

National Audubon and Pomona Valley Audubon Chapter Membership

We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Pomona Valley Audubon Society chapter. Members of National receive the monthly glossy Audubon magazine and our local PVAS Chaparral Naturalist newsletter (bi-monthly by email). A one year NEW MEMBERSHIP or a RENEWAL is \$20 for an individual or family. _____JOIN or RENEW either online or by mail_____

1. ONLINE: At the Pomona Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) website: www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org click on "Membership" at the top of the page and link to the National Audubon membership page. With a donation of \$20 or more, you will automatically become a member of both National Audubon AND Pomona Valley Audubon Society.

2. BY MAIL: Use the form below and send it (with your check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY) to **National Audubon Society, 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014. Attn: Chance Muehleck.** Please put Chapter Code C08 on check.

Note that you also have the option to join ONLY our local Audubon chapter (PVAS) and NOT National Audubon with a \$20 donation for a one year individual or family membership. Fill in the form below and send it (with your check made out to POMONA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY) directly to: **PVAS, 2058 N. Mills, PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711.**

Name _____ Chapter Code C08
 Address _____ Telephone _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email _____

Field Trips - Spring 2016

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are offered at no cost (unless otherwise specified) and open to all individuals. ALWAYS call the trip leader if you plan to attend and to verify start time, meeting location, and confirm trip status. In case of rain, call the trip leader the night before. For your comfort and enjoyment, participants should plan to bring the following items:

- **Binoculars/spotting scope/camera** (as desired)
- **Water**
- **Snacks and lunch**
- **Dress in Layers** (Bring extra clothing in case of unexpected weather changes.)
- **Walking/Hiking shoes**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Hat**
- **Full tank of gas**

First Sunday Birdwalk ----

at the **Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens**

Join us for our monthly bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced and lasts approximately 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.) Entry fee is waived for all participants.

Leader: Fraser Pemberton (909) 624-6451.

Sunday, March 6, 2016

Sunday, April 3, 2016

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Fourth Sunday----

Frank G. Bonelli Park Nature Walks---

Join us for a monthly nature walk at the Frank G. Bonelli Park. This is an easy two hour walk for beginners as well as experts. The diverse habitat makes this a great place to find Greater Roadrunner, Cactus Wren and California Gnatcatcher, along with raptors and wintering water fowl. Meets at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 Fwy. Entry fee is waived for all participants.

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

Sunday, March 27, 2016

Sunday, April 24, 2016

Sunday, May 22, 2016

Rod Higbee reports that on the Bonelli Park bird walk on 1/24/16 there were 22 people and observed 68 species during the 3 hour walk. The highlights were a male Common Goldeneye, adult Bald Eagle flyover, and a Great Horned Owl on a nest.

Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Join Eric for a walk at this botanic garden as we search for early spring migrants.

Leader: Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@yahoo.com

Saturday, March 12, 2016

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

This hidden gem in Arcadia boasts a surprising variety of year-round and migrant species.

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Saturday, April 16, 2016

San Dimas Canyon Join Eric for a moderate walk in the canyon to look for local species and migrants.

Leader: Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@yahoo.com

Saturday, April 23, 2016

North Etiwanda Preserve

PVAS will conduct a semi-annual bird survey at the NEP. Enjoy a great day of local birding knowing you contributed to citizen science at its finest.

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Saturday, May 7, 2016

Big Morongo Canyon

A famous desert oasis at the height of western migration.

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Saturday, May 14, 2016

Prado Wetlands

Bird the largest constructed wetlands on the west coast with our host Bonnie Johnson, Orange County Water District biologist. Prado Wetlands supports the largest population of endangered Least Bell's Vireo, while its 45 shallow ponds provide ideal habitat for wading and shore birds, waterfowl, raptors and more. Last spring we even saw baby Western Screech and Barn Owls in nesting boxes placed by the district's biologists. Our walk is about 4 hours over 3 miles of good trail. Lunch will be at outdoor shaded tables. Bring lunch, snacks and water. Trip is limited to 12 people. Call for start time, carpooling and trip status.

Leader: Tina Stoner (909) 292-3900 or tinastoner@earthlink.net

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Big Bear Lake Area

A trip to the Big Bear Lake area during breeding season.

**Leader: Dan Gregory
(909) 944-2259 or
DanRCRenee@verizon.net**



Lake Perris & San Jacinto Wildlife Area

by Dan Gregory

We started with three but ended with six cars in our caravan to Lake Perris. We started at the Marina and headed over to the peninsula closest to the dam. There was a Bewick's wren, California towhee, several blue-gray gnatcatchers on the peninsula. western grebes, lesser scaup, double-crested cormorants, ruddy ducks, many California and ring-billed gulls, mallards, coots and one common loon were seen in the lake. We then headed over to the other side of the marina where we had long excellent views of a peregrine falcon plucking a bird and eating it. From that peninsula overlooking the boat launch, we had Clark's grebe and a bald eagle that flew overhead to add to our count. Driving over to the furthest parking lot at the east end of the lake, a handful of sparrows took us some discussion to come to a consensus that they were savannah sparrows (no tell tale yellow supercilium stripe). Looking to the lake, we added black-necked stilts and turkey vultures. A big shady grove of trees with picnic tables proved the perfect lunch area where we added Nuttall's Woodpecker.



On our drive along Davis Road, we stopped the caravan when a Loggerhead shrike was spotted. After good long looks at the shrike, we excitedly stopped again for good looks at a white-tailed kite. The driving tour in the preserve immediately rewarded us with northern shovelers, green-winged teals, Say's phoebe, Cassin's kingbird, several red-tailed hawks and a flyby of a golden eagle. We had rock wren, northern harrier, cinnamon teal, Downey woodpecker, American avocet, Cooper's hawk and a few American kestrels. All in all we had more than 60 species of birds on a warm day in early February.

BACKYARD FEEDER REPORT: FEBRUARY 15, 2016

Claremont Backyard by Dan Guthrie

The warm weather has affected my feeder birds. Species which migrate from further north time their migration by season. Their genes tell them when day length is such that conditions in northern California and Oregon are good for them. So my white crowned sparrows are content to stay here, even though its warm. Not so for local down slope migrants. My Fox sparrows and chickadees have disappeared. They probably nest in our local mountains and going back home early gives them a head start on nesting. All the local yard nesters, lesser goldfinch and house finch are also still here as are the jays. They know a free lunch when they see it.



PVAS LEADERS 2016

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SecretaryAngie Verma rosegoddess@prodigy.net
TreasurerChuck Burt chuckburt6@hotmail.com

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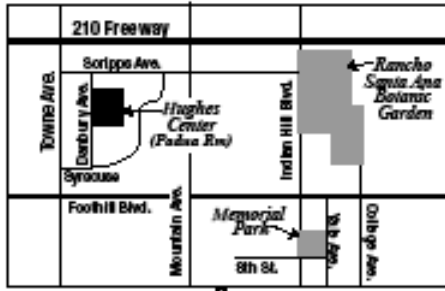
CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

EditorJudy Sugden.....eeyaa@uia.net

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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



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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 Claremont, CA 91711
www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

Return Service Requested

Bring a friend?

Non-memebers are welcome!

PVAS General Membership Meetings

Thursday, MARCH 3 2016

TERN Research Locally and in Chile

Presented by Tom Ryan

Tom will present on his recent studies of least terns and snowy plovers. This will include the most recent population studies of snowy plovers and recent advances in efforts to protect them on Los Angeles and Orange County Beaches. The least tern research has taken many directions in recent years. He will discuss efforts to teach American Crows not to eat least tern eggs as well as research into least tern migratory patterns using geolocators and a recent trip to Oaxaca to try and find them.

Tom Ryan grew up in Claremont and began his birding with PVAS. During college (Long Beach State U.) he worked on swifts in Venezuela and now runs his own consulting firm and has worked on various beach birds. His talk will be about local Least terns and some work with terns in Chile.



Thursday, APRIL 3, 2016

Research on Local Birds

Presented by Students of

Nina Karnovsky from Pomona College



Thursday, MAY 5, 2016

Hummingbird Foraging Research

Presented by Dr. Elise Ferree

Thursday, JUNE 2, 2016

PVAS Annual Desert & Members' Slide Show