



Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley
Audubon Society

JANUARY - JUNE 2017 / 57, NO. 2

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

New

PVAS Members...

Claremont:

Margaret Fulmer
Karen R. Chapman Len
David Levering

Rancho Cucamonga:

Dennis Degroot
Edward Cooney
Raymond Bonser
Biroczky

Family

Jackie Dilley
Dee Cody Lloyd
Forsyth
Melinda Dvorak
Susan Magri

San Dimas:

Denise Reedy
Deborah Soursby

Upland:

Paula Yamamoto
Luz Graue
Marilyn Kessler
Philip Anderson

Walnut:

Audrey Marrs Bianco
Richard Saretsky

West Covina:

Victoria Vega
Carolyn J Horowitz
Aida Holley

An Oasis for the Birds on Thompson Creek Trail in Claremont — Suzanne Thompson

Next time you walk the Thompson Creek Trail in Claremont, look at the group of native shrubs just across the flood channel at Pomello Avenue. Chances are you will see a nice variety of local birds. Scrub-jays, California Quail, White-crowned Sparrows, California Thrashers, Spotted Towhees, and Mourning Doves are some of the regular visitors who come to drink the water and eat the seed that has been set out for them. Often a young Cooper's Hawk is perched nearby, looking for a meal that probably does not involve bird seed.

This "Bird Oasis" is the work of Anne Stoll, a PVAS member, who was concerned about the effects of drought on birds and other animals in the foothills. Over a year ago, she started bringing water and sometimes seeds to this area. Other walkers on the trail joined in, so it is now a group effort.

Anne contacted PVAS last spring to see if we could help out and the Board embraced the project. Because the ownership



of that corner of Pomello is contested, PVAS began working with the city of Claremont to place the oasis on city land along the trail, about a block further west of Pomello, near the water fountain and bench. The irrigation system, plants, and watering hole (with a solar pump) are now installed. Peter Evans of Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens selected the bird-friendly California native plants and designed their placement. Chris Verma put together the watering pan and Anne and George Stoll and Seth Thompson installed it. Signage, a bench, and a short path will be added later.

To visit the bird oasis, park free in the Indian Hill parking lot, and walk east (right) up the trail about one-half mile. The new oasis will be on your right, just after the bench. Go about a block further for the Pomello Avenue bird oasis. Any birds?

New Acting

PVAS PRESIDENT

January will see a change in leadership for Pomona Valley Audubon Society. The PVAS Board will vote an interim President on January 10th as Ed Babcock has had to resign for personal reasons. If you have any interest in filling in this office until June please contact a Board member.

PVAS and our local rehabilitation center, WILD WINGS, prove popular with the public again this year at Village Venture and Bump in the Night.



Local PVAS phone
will be answered if anyone is at home.
909 625-5510

PVAS OFFICERS 2016-2017

President
Vice-President Seth Thompson..... polpsych@gmail.com
Secretary Angie Verma rosegoddess@prodigy.net
Treasurer Jim Herman..... jhfinwing@msn.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Field Trips Tina Stoner..... tinastoner@earthlink.net
Membership..... Suzanne Thompson... sthompson@pomona.edu
Communications..... Mike Klein mklein14@verizon.net
Promotions..... Nancy & Bruce Strang..... bstrang51@aol.com
Programs..... Dan Guthrie..... dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu
Education Chris Verma..... wbu.claremont@verizon.net
Conservation..... Brian Elliott..... brianelli@aol.com
Meetings..... Gloria Stosberg..... gslosberg@mac.com

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

Editor Judy Sugden..... eeyaa@uia.net

The Chaparral Naturalist is published bi-yearly by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the middle of the month before publication. 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 to Judy, eeyaa@uia.net. 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

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 then click on the 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 **PVAS, 2058 N. Mills, PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711**. 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 _____

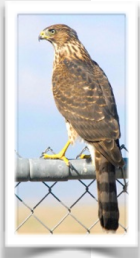
Email _____

SUBURBAN RAPTOR SURVEY

Much of our area is now covered by suburbs and several hawks and owls, which need open fields for hunting, have disappeared. However, three species still occur regularly in suburban areas. Great horned owls and Barn owls now hunt rats in our suburbs while Cooper's hawks hunt for their sparrow and dove prey at our bird feeders. We would like to have more knowledge about how these species are doing. Are they commonest near the foothills? Are their populations stable, rising or declining? How many are there? All three species are non-migratory as far as we know and should be present in our area year round.

The next few months are the beginning of nesting season for these birds so it is a good time for surveying these species. Here is what we would like you to do.

Cooper's hawk. If you see a hawk attacking birds at your bird feeder or in your yard, let us know the location. Cooper's hawks are aggressive and try to scare humans away from their nests. One nested several years ago in the Eucalyptus trees near the Claremont railroad station parking lot and often dove at commuters. (Continued Page 4)



CHRISTMAS CENSUS

PVAS 44th annual

report: Sat., Dec.17.2016

The day was clear and cold, especially with freezing temperatures in the mountains. Also, due to the Thursday storm the Glendora Ridge Road was closed to traffic, which may have caused us to miss Golden Eagle on our count.

Special birds were as follows. Cathy McFadden and crew found **White-throated Sparrow** and **Yellow-breasted Sapsucker** in Baldy village. Tom Miko and crew finally found a **Dipper** in lower San Antonio Creek. **White Pelicans** were on every water body with fish, probably due to their usual wintering area at the Salton Sea having fish populations reduced and restricted to fewer areas due to increasing salinity. Bonelli Park also had **all three mergansers, a Bald Eagle, and the Eastern Phoebe**, present for a month, was also sighted. Nearby Brackett Field hosted over 30 **Mountain Bluebirds** as well as **Horned Larks**, two species we seldom find. The **Red-crowned Parrots** were plentiful at their roost on the west side of Garey Ave. south of Foothill Blvd. and a few **Red-masked Parakeets** were near Jaeger Park in north Claremont. Dalton Canyon continues to be our best place for **Rufous-crowned Sparrow**, found by Tom Ryan, and Dan Gregory made an early morning trip into the San Dimas Experimental Forest for **Western Screech Owl**. He also found a **Gray Flycatcher** at Horsethief Canyon Park. Hank Feilen had a **Peregrine falcon** and **Blue-winged Teal** at the ponds on Philadelphia south of Ontario Airport. Chris Verma found a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** in the Botanic Garden in Claremont.

The suburbs had very high numbers of Band-tailed Pigeons, presumably down to the valleys for acorns. Numbers of Allen's Hummingbirds and Collared Doves continue to increase, but this was a bad year for Robins as the berry crop is not yet ripe.

We missed a few species. In addition to Golden Eagle we could not find a White-tailed Kite, a species usually at Bonelli. Also missing were snipe and dowitcher as well as brown creeper, species we usually find.

Our total, if you count domestic garganays and swan goose was a **quite respectable 145 species**, quite a number considering how much of our area is houses. Hopefully everyone had a good time. Thanks to those who brought cookies to our compilation meeting at the end of the day. Hope to see you all next year.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

RAPTOR SURVEY continued

Great horned owl. This is the hooting owl (hoo whoo hohoo) with both males and females calling. If you hear these owls in our area at night, tell us where.



Barn owl

These owls do not hoo but rather make a hissing noise. So named because of their nesting in barns, our local barn owl regularly roost and nest in the untrimmed skirts of palm trees and occasionally in attic crawl spaces. One way of locating them is to look for rat bones under untrimmed palm trees or hay barns. If you find bones, let us know the location.

We hope, with your help, to learn more about the local populations of these species. **Contact me, Dan Guthrie, by phone (909 239 5124) or email (dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu) with any information on these species.**

P V A S F I E L D T R I P S

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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 suggested 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**

RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR PVAS FIELD TRIPS

First Sunday Birdwalk ----

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 waved for all participants.

Leaders: PVAS members

- Sunday, January 1, 2017** CANCELED
- Sunday, February 5, 2017**
- Sunday, March 5, 2017**
- Sunday, April 2, 2017**
- Sunday, May 7, 2017**
- Sunday, June 4, 2017**



Fourth Sunday Nature Walks

Frank G. Bonelli Park

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. Contact the leader at warberod@verison.net for meeting time and directions.

Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.

- Sunday, January 22, 2017**
- Sunday, February 26, 2017**
- Sunday, March 26, 2017**
- Sunday, April 23, 2017**
- Sunday, May 28, 2017**

**January 7, 2017 – Saturday
Orange County Big Day**

Eric will take us on a tour of multiple coastal migrant traps and hot spots for wintering specialties and help us start the New Year with a big list. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Contact Leader **Eric Smith 909 477-7976** or **bird4life28@yahoo.com**

**January 12, 2017 – Thursday
BBC San Jacinto Wildlife Area**

17050 Davis St., Lakeview (Perris)



Depart Memorial Park at 8 am. Return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little if any walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. A good trip for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors.

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden (909) 239-5124**

**January 14, 2017 – Saturday
Whittier Narrows and the San Gabriel River Settling Grounds**

Join Dan as we search for wintering waterfowl, sparrows, and flycatchers. Both locations are a great place to find winter vagrants. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

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

**February 9, 2017 – Thursday
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area**

15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale

With grass, trees, open water, rocky slopes and undeveloped areas, Santa Fe Dam provides a wide variety of habitat for birds. Join Ken on this mid-week trip for year-round as well as over wintering species. Carpool from Memorial Park at

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7:00 a.m. or meet in the first parking lot at the SFDRA near the restrooms at 7:45. Bring water snacks, and a lunch if you'd like to stay in the park to eat after birding. No vehicle entry fee on weekdays this time of year.

Leader: **Ken Damon 909-263-1875** or **spsanah@yahoo.com**

**February 16, 2017 – Thursday
BBC Prado Regional Park**

16700 Euclid Ave., Chino



Depart Memorial Park at 8 am. Return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little if any walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. A good trip for wintering ducks, gulls and Vermillion Flycatchers. \$8 vehicle entry fee.

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden (909) 239-5124**

**February 18, 2017 – Saturday
Lake Perris and San Jacinto Wilderness**

We'll take a walk at Lake Perris and a drive at San Jacinto for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, sparrows and raptors including Peregrine Falcon and Bald and Golden Eagle. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch. \$10 vehicle entry fee (\$9 if 62+) at Lake Perris State Recreation Area.

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



**February 25- 26, 2017 – Saturday & Sunday
Salton Sea Weekend**

Our annual jaunt to the Salton Sea. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at The Brawley Inn. 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 and bird our way north Sunday along Hwy. 111 with stops at the Wister Unit and the northern end. Contact trip leader for carpooling information and to RSVP.

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden (909) 239-5124**

**March 4, 2017 – Saturday
Peck Road Water Conservation Park**

5401 Peck Rd., Arcadia

This hidden gem in Arcadia boasts a surprising variety of year-round and migrant species as well as an occasional surprise vagrant species. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

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

**March 16, 2017 – Thursday
Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve**

19400 Clinton Keith Rd., Murrieta

Back by popular demand! The plateau protects unique ecosystems such as Engelmann oak woodlands, riparian wetlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, bunchgrass prairie, and vernal pools as well as more than 200 species of native birds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks and lunch. \$4 per person entry fee.

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

**March 23, 2017 – Thursday
BBC Mojave Narrows Regional Park**

18000 Yates Rd., Victorville, CA

Depart Memorial Park at 8:00 a.m. and return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little if any walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. MNRP is a great place for grassland and riparian species as well as water birds.



\$8 vehicle entry fee.

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden (909)239-5124**

**March 25, 2017 – Saturday
Prado Regional Park**

16700 Euclid Ave., Chino

So close, yet so diverse, visiting this popular park in Chino will increase our chances of seeing Vermillion Flycatchers, hawks and wintering vagrants Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. \$8 vehicle entry fee.

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

**April 8, 2017 – Saturday
North Etiwanda Preserve**

4890 Etiwanda Ave., Rancho Cucamonga

This will be our spring semi-annual bird survey at the NEP. Spring migrants will highlight this day of great local birding while contributing to citizen science. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park or on site at 7:30. Bring enough water for a 6 hour walk on rocky terrain, snacks, and a portable lunch. Sun protection and appropriate shoes recommended. Call the trip leader if you plan to attend.

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

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April 20, 2017 – Thursday
BBC Bonelli Regional Park



120 Via Verde Ave., San Dimas

Depart Memorial Park at 8:00 a.m. and return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little if any walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. A trip for spring migrants, water birds and more. \$10 vehicle entry fee so carpooling is encouraged.

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden (909)239-5124**

April 26, 2017 – Wednesday
Fairmount Park in Riverside and the **San Bernardino County Natural History Museum in Redlands**

Celebrate John James Audubon's birthday with us by birding Fairmont Park in Riverside in the morning. Then we'll drive 12 miles to the museum to view their outstanding collection of mounted birds, eggs and nests. Specimens are arranged by habitat with one hall dedicated to land birds and another to water birds. Bring water, snacks and lunch.

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

April 29, 2017 – Saturday
Prado Wetlands

14980 River Rd., Corona

Bonnie Johnson, Orange County Water District biologist will once again conduct a private tour of the Prado Wetlands for PVAS. It's 45 shallow ponds provide ideal habitat for wading and shore birds, waterfowl, raptors and more including its large population of endangered Least Bell's Vireo. Trip is limited to 12 people. Contact trip leader to reserve your spot and discuss the need for carpooling.

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

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May 6, 1917 – Saturday
Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

A famous desert oasis at the height of western migration with lots of local nesting activity too. Great photo opportunities at our lunch stop at the bird feeders. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. After the preserve we'll visit Covington Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

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

May 11, 2017 – Thursday
BBC Chino Hills State Park



New location! Depart Memorial Park at 8 am. Return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little if any walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. A trip for migrants, grassland birds and raptors. \$5 vehicle entry fee (\$4 if 62+)

Leaders: **Dan Guthrie & Judy Sugden (909) 239-5124**

May 18, 2017 – Thursday
Mill Creek Wetlands and Chino Creek Wetlands

Let's go to Chino for a morning of birding at the new Mill Creek Wetlands and the nearby Chino Creek Wetlands. We'll look for spring migrants, local nesting water birds and more. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park to carpool. Bring water, snacks and lunch.

Leaders: **Tina Stoner (909)292-3900 or tinastoner@earhtlink.net and Brian Elliott brianelli@aol.com**

June 3, 2016 – Saturday
Big Bear Lake Area

Beat the summer heat and head up the mountain. Enjoy birding the Big Bear Lake area during the breeding season of montane species. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

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



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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PVAS Membership Meetings

Thursday, Jan. 5, 2017
Gabriel Sandoval —
Southeastern Oregon

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017
Vic Leipzig —
Salton Sea

Thursday, March 2, 2017
Eric Smith —
Eastern Sierra Birding

Thursday, April 6, 2017
Nina Karnovsky & students
Their Bird Research:
Local & Otherwise

Thursday, May 11, 2017
Chris Verma —
PVAS Bird Education in
Local Schools

Thursday, June 1
Member's Slide Show
Share a dozen of your favorite slides with fellow PVAS members. Bring on a flash drive

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Thursday, January 5, 2017 **Southeastern Oregon**

Gabriel Sandoval was an active youth member of our group to whom we gave a scholarship for college. He is now at Oregon State University and active in their birding club. From March 19-22, 2016, he was given the opportunity along with many other students to visit Malheur NWR and the surrounding region in Southeastern Oregon. In this four-day field trip, the target bird was a Greater-sage grouse along with many other Southeastern Oregon bird specialties. Students also conducted avian point count training and contributed to ongoing research, as well as practiced many techniques for identifying species by song, visual ID, and call. Gabriel will be discussing all the birds observed in the area, the importance of this region for both birds and wildlife, as well as the armed occupation that occurred at the Malheur NWR and how it impacted the refuge.

Thursday, February 2, 2017 **The Salton Sea**

Vic Leipzig, President of Sea and Sage Audubon will present a program on the Salton Sea. The restoration of the Salton Sea in order to maintain it as an important wintering area for birds on the Pacific Flyway is major goal of Audubon. Vic will discuss the importance of the sea, its history and Audubon's effort to save this unique place.

Thursday, March 2, 2017 **Eastern Sierra Birding**

Eric Smith, one of our young birders and discoverer of the Horsethief Canyon thick-billed kingbird, is discussing the birding opportunities in eastern Sierras. [More description online...](#)