



Chaparral Naturalist



A Publication of
Pomona Valley
Audubon Society

SEPTEMBER- NOVEMBER 2017 58 #1 www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

PVAS MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017
Cathy McFadden & Paul Clarke
Ethiopia —

Thursday, Oct. 5
Brian Elliott
Nepal —

Thursday, Nov. 2
Marcyn Clements
Winter Japan —

Thursday, Dec. 7
Nina Karnousky
Japanese Murrelet —

EYES AND EARS ON Burrowing OWLS Suzanne Thompson

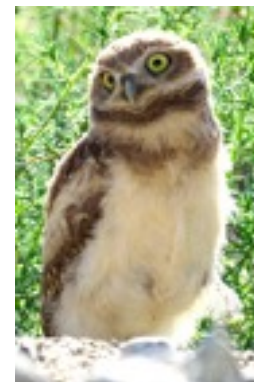


At one time Burrowing owls were very common in California and, even as recently as 10 years ago, they were a common sight in the Chino area. However, loss of open grassy habitat and ground squirrels holes along with the use of

pesticides reducing their insect prey and poisoning the birds themselves have reduced their numbers drastically.

Last spring, PVAS started The Eyes and Ears on Owls project which involves a survey of Burrowing Owls in our area during their nesting season. Over the course of several months, PVAS volunteers visited likely nesting areas in Chino and Ontario to count the adult and juvenile owls and take note of any dangers to the nesting area. We were able to document two very active nesting areas with a large number of burrows and several sites with just one or two nests. The next step in this project is to determine how to protect these sites and to determine the viability of suitable artificial burrows to expand nesting areas near the last remaining possible habitats. If locating and observing amusing owls and/or helping to protect their nesting areas interests you, become a volunteer. Contact Suzanne Thompson (sthompson@pomona.edu) for more information.

Burrowing Owls are small ground dwelling owls that use underground burrows for nest sites and shelter. These appealing birds have bullet-shaped bodies and long legs, giving the appearance of an owl popsicle, and engage in amusing antics such as turning their heads almost upside down to get a good look at birders who are trying to look at them. Males are somewhat lighter in color than the females. Availability of food will often limit up to 6 eggs hatching to fewer fledging. The burrowing owls are often out in day time (especially around dawn and dusk) and thus are easier to observe than the other owl species.



Burrowing Owl Trip on Sunday, Sept. 17th to find, watch and photograph!

No walking. !6 owls found mid-August at 3 area sites!



PVAS and our local rehabilitation center, **WILD WINGS**, partner again:

Things that Go Bump in the Night.
@ Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens
Friday & Saturday, October 13th & 14th

Village Venture
Claremont, CA downtown
Saturday October 28th

New PVAS PRESIDENT TINA STONER

Never been birding with us? ... or attended a meeting? I used to be like you!

I enjoyed my Audubon magazine, felt like my money was going to a good cause, but that was it. I didn't realize that unlike other national conservation groups I belonged to, Audubon was different. I didn't realize that the network of local chapters, like Pomona Valley Audubon, had *real* opportunities for learning about and experiencing the natural world, right in my local area!

It was a major fire that got me started. Two weeks before a scheduled hike with a friend, a wildfire ripped through the Chino Hills State Park from the 91 to the 57 freeways. 90 percent of the park was burned and it would be closed for months. My friend said, "Well, they have that free nature walk at Bonelli Park, do you want to try that instead?" I said yes, and it changed my life. I couldn't believe that so much knowledge about our natural world was being shared so enthusiastically and free of charge. The trip leaders really wanted me to see the birds and learn their names and field marks. They pointed out California native and ornamental park plants the birds would use for food and shelter. They taught me about migration patterns and seasonal changes to watch for. I felt like I was having a major wilderness experience (and lesson) but instead of being in some exotic location, I was in a regional park just a few miles from home! Instead of enjoying birds vicariously through the pages of a magazine, I was outdoors experiencing them fully and completely with all of my senses. Who knew?

That was almost nine years ago and the leaders of that nature walk, Pat and Rod Higbie, are



Tina at Village Venture 2016

still leading walks at Bonelli Park, still active members of PVAS, and still inspiring and encouraging new birders and nature lovers. But it was still a couple years before I attended a meeting. When I finally did, Dan Guthrie opened the meeting with a session of useful bird identification tips from field markings to seasonal arrivals and departures. Between Dan's ID tips and the monthly guest speakers, I now had an easy (and free) way to

learn more and become a better birder! Again, who knew? Well, now YOU do. So, here's my challenge. *Put down that magazine, grab your binoculars and join us birding.* (Don't have binoculars? Loaner binoculars are available at our family friendly bird walks at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Mobility issues? Join us for our Birding By Car series.) Do you enjoy the birds at your backyard feeder but want to learn more? Attend one of our monthly meetings. Pomona Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of National Audubon, but we are here, locally, for YOU.

**Come and get to know us.
You'll be glad you did.**

Tina Stoner
President – Pomona Valley Audubon Society

Girl Scouts deciding "What makes a bird a bird?" See page 3.



“Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles would like to thank Pomona Valley Audubon Society for visiting La Casita day camp. Our scouts thoroughly enjoyed the nature hike, educational presentation on local bird species, as well as being able to see a bird habitat up close. The experience was enriching for all! It is gratifying to meet individuals who are dedicated to doing their job well. Your willingness to volunteer your time and share your knowledge is sincerely appreciated.”

Michelle Geathers, M.B.M. Program Manager, *Life Skills*



PVAS Introduces...

Girl Scouts to the Wonderful World of Birds

June 27, 2017 saw PVAS volunteers leading over 50 Girl Scouts through a two-hour program including both indoor instruction and birding in the field.

The scouts went on a one-hour bird walk with two teams of PVAS volunteers made up of Ed Babcock and Gloria Slosberg, Valerie Wheeler and Natasha Walton. The scouts became familiar with the children’s binoculars purchased by the Girl Scouts just for this event as well as our PVAS loaner binoculars and a spotting scope. The Thompson Creek Trail was perfect for a bird walk to both the original bird oasis at the Pomelo Dr. crossing and the new bird oasis (created by PVAS and the City of Claremont) further down the trail. Our interpretive sign with photographs helped the girls recognize local species. Tina Stoner turned the camp lodge into a hands-on learning classroom for the girls who thought about **“What Makes a Bird a Bird?”**

— Feathers!” (Continued page 4)



The question of the day...

“Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?”

PVAS volunteer Laura Jaoui assists a student from Sumner Danbury Elementary School (in Claremont) as he prepares to examine a Barn Owl wing with a hand lens to see the feather’s microscopic structure. PVAS was invited to participate in the school’s **5th Grade Science Fair** on 5-5-17. Volunteers Patty Nueva Espana and Tina Stoner also guided the explorations.

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 _____

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

PVAS Field Trip

Difficulty Levels – Trips rated Mild through Strenuous involve walking and standing for several hours. Birding usually occurs at a pace of 1 mph or less so you can use the trip description to estimate the distance if not listed.

Minimal – Little or no walking, option to exit car and walk short distances over relatively level terrain. Example: Birding By Car series.



Easy - Walking on relatively level terrain, paved or maintained dirt roads (many locations wheelchair accessible.) Example: Artificial wetlands, botanic gardens.

Moderate – Some elevation change, stairs, walking on sloped grass, rolling hills, open fields or groomed hiking trails with mild trip hazards (tree roots, rocks, etc.) Example: Regional Parks with lakes and hiking trails.

Strenuous – Irregular or rocky terrain, > 500ft. elevation change, some off trail walking. Example: Natural areas and preserves (North Etiwanda Preserve.)

Volunteers needed for any and everything!!! Check out the committees, projects, conservation issues, etc. --- or imagine your own way to help.

Scouts (Continued from page 3)

Feathers on loan from the Pomona College Biology Department were examined using hand lenses to see microscopic structure of different types of feathers, revealing their various functions. Scouts and staff alike took turns writing with feather pens.

Smiles all around! We were thrilled to show them some of the wonders of nature around them, especially birds. Perhaps we planted some seeds of interest that will sprout into future PVAS members.

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

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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, September 3, 2017
- SUNDAY, October 1, 2017
- SUNDAY, November 5, 2017
- SUNDAY, December 3, 2017
- SUNDAY, January 7, 2018
- SUNDAY, February 4, 2018

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 warblerod@verison.net for meeting time and directions.

Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.

- SUNDAY, September 24, 2017
- SUNDAY, October 22, 2017
- SUNDAY, November 26, 2017
- SUNDAY, December 31, 2017 (note date)
- SUNDAY, January 28, 2018

September 9, 2017 – Saturday

Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve and Huntington Central Park

Hwy 1, Huntington Beach & Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (up to 5 mi.)

Dan will take us to the wetlands for shorebirds, waterfowl and local specialties and then to Huntington Central Park home of exotics and sometimes surprise vagrant species.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. driving 100 mi.)

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net



September 17, 2017 – Sunday

Ontario Burrowing Owls

(multiple locations) Difficulty: Minimal - a Birding By Car trip with very little if any walking & radio communication between the cars.

We will visit some of the sites our chapter has been monitoring. Burrowing Owls are best observed from the cover of the car and many burrows are very close to the road with good photo opportunities.

Depart from Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. Return by noon. (Est. driving 22 miles.)

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

October 7, 2017 – Saturday

North Etiwanda Preserve Fall Survey

4890 Etiwanda Ave., Rancho Cucamonga Difficulty: Strenuous (3.5 mi.)

This will be the first of two bird population surveys for the NEP this birding season and a great opportunity to give back to the community by doing what we love – birding! It will be a long, but fun day.

Bring enough water for a 6 hour walk on rocky terrain, snacks, and a portable lunch. Sun protection and appropriate shoes recommended. Recent parking issues make it

more essential that you contact the trip leader if you plan to attend. (Est. driving 16 mi.)

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net



October 19, 2017 – Thursday

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

15501 Arrow Hwy, Irwindale, CA 91706 Difficulty: Minimal - a Birding By Car trip with very little if any walking & radio communication between the cars.

This is a good time of year for western migrant land birds such as sparrows, swifts, and vagrant warblers.

Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon. (Est. driving 32 mi.)

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

November 11, 2017 – Saturday

Wrightwood/Grassy Hollow

(multiple locations) Difficulty: Moderate (up to 5 mi.)

Join us for a day in the mountains where we'll look for montane species at Grassy Hollow Visitor Center and other spots in the Wrightwood area.

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. driving 130 mi.)

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net



November 16, 2017 – Thursday

Mojave Narrows Regional Park

18000 Yates Rd., Victorville, CA - Difficulty: Minimal - a Birding By Car trip with very little if any walking and radio communication between the cars.

MNRP is an oasis of multiple habitats in the high desert . Help find desert, grassland and riparian species as well as water birds.

Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon. Dress warmly in layers. \$8 vehicle entry fee. (Est. driving 105 mi.)

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

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Ethiopian Brush Crow — McFadden & Clarke — General Meeting
~~~~~2018~~~~~

**November 17-19, 2017 - Friday - Sunday**  
**Big Pine/Eastern Sierras Weekend**

*Moderate to Strenuous (up to 5 mi./day.)*

Eric Smith will lead us on a weekend of birding adventures in the Eastern Sierras near Big Pine — Fish Springs Hatchery, Big Pine Creek, Klondike and Sabrina lakes. Targets are Black-billed Magpie, Sooty Grouse, Tundra Swan, Grey-crowned Rosy Finch and much more! We'll have an opportunity to go owling both Friday and Saturday evenings. We'll be feeder watching, birding by car, and trying optional "hard walking" in some canyons. Trip includes a complementary dinner Saturday night at the Copper Top BBQ.

Lodging is available in Big Pine and nearby Bishop (about 15 minutes away.) RSVP with trip leader before November 15. (Est. driving one way to Big Pine 490 mi. plus touring.)

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

**December 13, 2017 – Wednesday**  
**Pre-CBC Scouting Trip at Bonelli Regional Park** 120 Via Verde Ave., San Dimas, CA  
*Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (approx. 2 mi.)*

Enjoy a morning search for goodies prior to our Christmas Bird Count.

Bring water and snacks. Contact trip leader for meeting instructions / time. (Est. driving 16 mi.)

Leader: **Rod Highbie (909) 599-6526** or [warblerod@verizon.net](mailto:warblerod@verizon.net)



**December 15, 2018 – Thursday**  
**Pre-CBC Scouting Trip to Parks & Ponds**  
*Difficulty: Minimal - a Birding By Car trip with very little if any walking and radio communication between the cars.*

Visit various parks, settling ponds and other hot spots in the Claremont-Pomona area looking for wintering ducks, gulls, sparrows and other goodies before our Christmas census.

Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon. (Est. driving 35 mi.)

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

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**January 6, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Orange County Big Day**

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

**January 13, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Whittier Narrows and the San Gabriel River Spreading Grounds**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**January 18, 2018 – Thursday**  
**Bonelli Regional Park**



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

**February 8, 2018 – Thursday**  
**Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area**

Leader: Ken Damon (909) 263-1875 or [spsanah@yahoo.com](mailto:spsanah@yahoo.com)

**February 10 - 11, 2018**  
**Saturday - Sunday**  
**Salton Sea Weekend**



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

**February 17, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Lake Perris and San Jacinto Wilderness**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**March 3, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Peck Road Water Conservation Park**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**March 15, 2018 – Thursday**  
**San Jacinto Wildlife Area**



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

**March 17, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Prado Regional Park**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**April 7, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**April 19, 2018 – Thursday**  
**Prado Regional Park**



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

**April 26, 2018 – Thursday**  
**North Etiwanda Preserve**

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

**May 5, 1917 – Saturday**  
**Big Morongo Canyon Preserve**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)

**May 12, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Prado Wetlands**

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

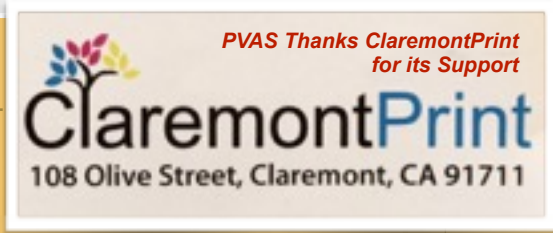
**May 17, 2018 – Thursday**  
**Chino Hills State Park**



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

**June 3, 2018 – Saturday**  
**Big Bear Lake Area**

Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 456-4994 or [DanRCRenee@verizon.net](mailto:DanRCRenee@verizon.net)



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In Memoriam  
PVAS lost a cherished friend and long-time member with the passing of Cap van Balgooy on June 29<sup>th</sup> of this year. Cap rarely missed a meeting and will also be remembered for his enjoyable slide show presentations during the annual June meeting. Our hearts are with his wife Lizelot.



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

**PVAS OFFICERS 2017 - 2018**

- President.....Tina Stoner...[tinastoner@earthlink.net](mailto:tinastoner@earthlink.net)
- Vice-President.....Seth Thompson...[sthompson@lmu.edu](mailto:sthompson@lmu.edu)
- Secretary.....Patty Nueva-Espana...[nuspain@icloud.com](mailto:nuspain@icloud.com)
- Treasurer.....Jenny Antoniak...[antoniaks.cj@verizon.net](mailto:antoniaks.cj@verizon.net)

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- Programs.....Dan Guthrie....[dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu](mailto:dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu)
- Education .....vacant.....
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- Conservation.....BrianElliott.....[brianelli@aol.com](mailto:brianelli@aol.com)
- Field Trips .....vacant.....
- Meeting Logistics....Maryanne Strehlow.....[aco50sig@gmail.com](mailto:aco50sig@gmail.com)

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**CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER**

The Chaparral Naturalist is published tri-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, [eeeyaa@uia.net](mailto:eeeyaa@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



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.



Pomona Valley Audubon Society  
2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426  
Claremont, CA 91711  
www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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**PVAS General Membership Meetings**

**Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017**

Cathy McFadden & Paul Clarke

**Ethiopia**

**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

**Nepal — Brian Elliott**



Brian in Nepal — Mt. Makalu

**Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017**

Marcyn Clements

**Winter Japan**

**Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017**

Nina Karnousky

**Japanese Murrelet**

**Thursday, September 7, 2017**

**Wildlife of Ethiopia — Cathy McFadden & Paul Clarke**

Topographically, biologically and culturally unique, Ethiopia is home to almost 40 species of birds and a number of mammals found nowhere else on earth, including the rare Ethiopian Wolf and bizarre Gelada Baboon. The exotic Prince Ruspoli's

**P** Turaco, unique Stresemann's Bush-crow and rare Liben Lark are just three of the 440 species of birds they recorded and

**V** photographed as they drove from the Rift Valley to the 13,000ft Sanetti Plateau.

**A** **Thursday, October 5, 2017**

**S** **Trekking & Birding in Nepal — Brian Elliott**

Sierra Club member & or Conservation Director, Brian Elliott and a friend trekked for 20 days on the Makalu Base Camp Trek route into and out of the Makalu Barun Conservation Area in the Himalaya Mountains of eastern Nepal. From a lower elevation of 2500 ft to a high of 20,250 ft at Sherpani Col, the trekking route passed through lowland tropical forests, rhododendron forests, and then finally into the high alpine zone of the Himalaya Mtns. This area of Nepal is rich in Tibetan Buddhism and Sherpa culture. Following the trek, Brian spent four days birding and wildlife viewing at Chitwan National Park in southern Nepal near the Indian border.

**I** **Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017**

**W** **Winter Japan — Marcyn Clements**

**N** Join Marcy recounting her adventures — Two weeks on Miyaki-Jima and Amami-Osh to find the island endemics (including the most unique and strange Amami Rabbit.) Then two weeks of organized birding with Field Guides — five species of cranes, including the famous Red-crowned cranes, dancing in the snowy fields. They also enjoyed the iconic macaques in their own hot springs.