



Chaparral Naturalist



A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

FALL 2019 | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

“Onward”

A Tribute to Dan Guthrie

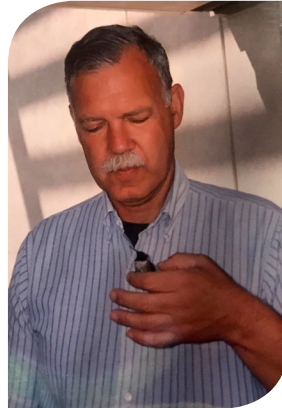
By Tina Stoner

Those who have been on a birding field trip lead by Dan Guthrie will immediately recognize the title. “Onward” was the word Dan used when he wanted us to stop what we were doing and move on to see new things. And so, he did.

On July 1st, 2019, Daniel Albert Guthrie passed away and PVAS lost a long-time leader and bird expert. Dan was a biologist, world-class birder, founding Pitzer College professor and later department chair for the Joint Science Department (now A.M. Keck Science Department) at the Claremont Colleges, lacrosse coach, avian paleontologist, author of more than 70 papers and studies in biology, environmentalist, father of three, grandfather of eight, and great-grandfather of three.

These are just a few of the many things that kept Dan busy outside of his 45 plus years as an active member of the Pomona Valley Audubon Society where he served in almost every capacity possible. He was president (longer than anyone else) and also served as our field trip chair leading countless local and out-of-area field trips. He served as conservation chair and was involved in fundraising. His class “Introduction to Birds and Birding” informed and inspired many new birders.

After retiring from both work and as President of PVAS, Dan remained an active member of our governing board as program chair, responsible for securing speakers for the monthly meetings. His ten-minute bird ID presentations at the start of each meeting were always engaging, often challenging, and always popular. He was our Christmas Bird Count compiler, regularly wrote articles for our newsletter (since 1974) and had been involved in its production and circulation. In the fall of 2016, he and Judy Sugden introduced the “Birding By Car” field trip series, leading nine trips each season. Dan also coordinated the owl pellet program providing free owl pellets to teachers promoting an appreciation of science in elementary school students. If you had a tricky bird ID, Dan graciously reviewed



your photographs and let you know what he thought you saw.

We received numerous condolences from the greater Audubon family but one that really summed up our loss was from Chuck Almdale from Santa Monica Audubon Society. He said, “We were all sad to hear that Dan had died. He’d been intimately involved with SoCal birds and Audubon chapters for decades, and he had made innumerable contributions of time and energy to the community. He is missed.”

“Innumerable Contributions” - that would have made a good title for this tribute as well. May Dan Guthrie’s innumerable contributions to PVAS inspire all of us to contribute time and energy to our chapter and carry Dan’s memory **onward**.



On Dan’s webpage from the WM Keck Science Center, he wrote, “**Pablo Neruda**, in a poem entitled, *A Poet Says Good-bye to the Birds*, summed up the reason I bird.”



Pablo Neruda

*“I’ve wandered the world in search of life:
bird by bird I’ve come to know the earth;
discovered where the fire flames aloft:
the expenditure of energy
and my disinterestedness were rewarded,
even though no one paid me for it,
because I received those wings in my soul
and immobility never held me down.”*



2019 Annual Report to the Members of PVAS

Pomona Valley Audubon Society Income and Expenses 07/01/2018 through 06/30/2019

INCOME

Recycling	780.00
Annual Appeal	6,720.00
June Mtg. attendance/donations	893.75
Wild Wings Chapter Mtg. donations	854.35
NAS Baseline Funding	3,276.25
NAS Grant for burrowing owls	1,000.00
PVAS chapter only memberships	620.00
Donations at meetings i.e. books	231.50
Promotional items sold	611.00
Total Income	14,986.85
Gain or (loss) on investments	443.16
	15,430.01
Less total Expenses	17,536.02
Net Income or (loss)	(2,106.01)

ASSETS

CASH IN BANK	22,641.22
Investments	63,338.17
Total Assets	85,979.39

OPERATING EXPENSES

Insurance	2,102.00
Meeting Expenses	2,012.41
Communications	3,369.63
Postal Permit & PMB 426	393.00
Annual Appeal	894.25
Membership	366.26
Brochures, Business cards	405.43
Promotional items	800.00
	10,342.98

PROGRAM EXPENSES

Speaker Honoraria	1,000.00
Wild Lands Conservancy	250.00
International Bird Rescue	250.00
Endangered Habitats League	100.00
Friends of the CA Condor	100.00
Pit toilet vent covers in Los Padres NF	340.00
In state Audubon Events	391.49
Wild Wings Support	2,400.00
TCT Bird Oasis	344.66
Education and Community outreach	633.69
Bird Walks, field trips, binoculars	1,383.20
	7,193.04

Total Expenses	17,536.02
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Field Trip Basics

Pomona Valley Audubon Field Trips are offered at no cost (unless otherwise specified) and are open to all. ALWAYS call the trip leader if you plan to attend and to verify time, location and 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 suggested items:

- **Binoculars/spotting scope/camera** (as desired)
- **Water**
- **Snacks/Lunch**
- **Walking/Hiking shoes**
- **Sunscreen/Repellant**
- **Appropriate clothing** (Dress in layers and be ready for unexpected weather changes.)
- **Hat**
- **Full tank of gas**

PVAS Field Trip Difficulty Levels – Trips rated Easy through Strenuous involve walking and standing for several hours.

Minimal – Little or no walking, option to exit car and walk short distances over relatively level terrain. Example: Drive-through wetlands.

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

Our Mission: To promote the protection, appreciation and enjoyment of birds and other wildlife through recreation, education and conservation.

PVAS Board of Directors

- PRESIDENT** - Tina Stoner - tinastoner@earthlink.net
- VICE-PRESIDENT** - Seth Thompson - sthompson@lmu.edu
- SECRETARY** - Patty Nueva-Espana - nuspain@icloud.com
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- PROGRAMS** - available (Tina Stoner)
- EDUCATION** - Laura Jaoui - ljaoui01@gmail.com
- COMMUNICATIONS** - Michael Klein - mklein1429@gmail.com
- CONSERVATION** - Brian Elliott - brianelli@aol.com
- FIELD TRIPS** - available (Tina Stoner)
- MEETING LOGISTICS DIRECTOR** - Maryanne Strehlow - aco50sig@gmail.com

Committees & Contacts

- WEBMASTER** - Michael Klein - mklein1429@gmail.com
- RECYCLING/PROMOTIONS** - Nancy Strang - bstrang51@aol.com
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR** - Tina Stoner - tinastoner@earthlink.net

Pomona Valley Audubon Society
2058 N. Mills Ave. PMB 426
Claremont, CA 91711

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org
email us at: pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com
Local PVAS phone number: (909) 625-5510



Field Trips

Chaparral Naturalist

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

September 14, 2019 – Saturday

Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve and adjacent Harriett Weider Park

18000 CA-1, Huntington Beach, CA 92648 and
19251 Seapoint Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Difficulty: Easy

We'll enjoy a morning at Bolsa Chica looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and local specialties. Then we'll drive next door and enjoy lunch at Harriett Weider Park where we can observe some of the back ponds of Bolsa Chica from the park fence line. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. drive 100 miles.)

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

September 27, 2019 – Friday

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area

11401 Arlington Ave. Riverside, CA 92505

Difficulty: Moderate (2 miles, estimated driving is round trip)

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area is located within the Santa Ana River Valley globally Important Birding Area (IBA). We will walk the Bobcat Trail out onto the old Santa Ana dry riverbed for riparian specialties, Common Ground Dove, water birds, raptors and more. Over 220 species have been recorded at this eBird hotspot. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont and return about noon. Bring water and snacks for a half day trip. Vehicle entry fee \$5. (Est. driving 52 miles)

Trip Leader: John Baker (909)240-1474

October 5, 2019 – Saturday

Meet The Birds on the Thompson Creek Trail Bird Oasis 9 - 11 am

Help trail users see, identify and appreciate the birds around them. Contact Suzanne Thompson.

October 11 and 12, 2019 – Thursday and Friday

Things That Go Bump In The Night at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. 5:30-9:00 pm.

Help children and families learn about birds of the night. Contact Tina Stoner, tinastoner@earthlink.net.

October 19, 2019 – Thursday

North Etiwanda Preserve Fall Survey

4890 Etiwanda Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Difficulty: Strenuous (3.5 miles, estimated driving is round trip)

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 30 mi.)

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

October 25, 2019 – Friday

Yorba Regional Park

7600 La Palma, Anaheim, CA 92807

Difficulty: Easy (2.5 miles, estimated driving is round trip)

This mile-wide park adjacent to the Santa Ana River has 140

acres of picnic tables, lakes, trails and plenty of bird species. We'll try to find Munia on the Santa Ana River and Wood Duck in the park. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont and return about noon. Bring water and snacks for a half day trip. Vehicle entry fee \$3. (Est. driving 62 miles)

Trip Leader: John Baker (909) 240-1474

October 26, 2019 – Saturday

Village Venture Arts and Crafts Faire 9 am – 5 pm in the Claremont Village.

Our largest public outreach event of the year. To help man our booth, contact Tina Stoner, tinastoner@earthlink.net.

November 16, 2019 – Saturday

San Juaquin Marsh and Mason Regional Park

5 Riparian View, Irvine CA 92612

Difficulty: Easy

The San Juaquin Wildlife Sanctuary is an amazing nature retreat in the center of suburban Orange Co. Managed cooperatively between Sea and Sage Audubon and the Irvine Ranch Water District, over 320 species have been recorded at this eBird hotspot. Nearby Mason RP has a reputation for some good vagrants seen around the lake in previous years and will provide us with great place to have lunch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. drive 100 miles.)

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

November 29 – December 1, 2019 - Friday through Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend

Eastern Sierras Weekend Trip

Easy to Strenuous (up to 4 mi./day.) Limited to 10 people.

Have you ever wanted to see a Short-eared Owl? Then this might be the trip for you. Scheduled a little later in the fall than trips in previous years, Eric is planning a weekend that should allow us to see a few new species this year. Lodging is on your own in Bishop. RSVP with trip leader before (Est. 520 miles round trip to Bishop, plus touring.)

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

December 11, 2019 – Wednesday

Pre-CBC Scouting Trip at Bonelli Regional Park

120 Via Verde Ave., San Dimas, CA

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (walking approx. 2 mi.)

A morning search for goodies prior to our Christmas Bird Count. Bring water and snacks. Contact trip leader for meeting instructions and time. Difficulty: Est. driving 16 mi.

Trip Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526 or
warblerod@verizon.net

December 14, 2019 – Saturday

Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

EVERYONE can help! The more eyes and ears, the better.

You can count from home, your local park or other nearby birding spot. Or you can be added to a team to count at specific locations within our counting circle.

To join our 2019 census, contact Tina Stoner, tinastoner@earthlink.net.



Meetings

Chaparral Naturalist

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Thursday, September 5, 2019

Brian Elliott and Gary Charlton – Birding Mongolia: the Gobi Desert and Beyond

Mongolia is legendary for many reasons which include its unique nomadic culture and Genghis Khan, the 13th century Mongol Empire leader. It is also a very interesting country for birding. Varied birding locales include the immense and beautiful Gobi Desert and its mountains, lakes and wetlands; the grass environment of the steppe, and the evergreen forests of the taiga. More than 400 bird species can be found in the country including many that migrate to and from Siberia. Domestic camel herds free range throughout the Gobi as well as herds of horses. Several species of wild antelope also make their home here. Lodging on the trip was primarily in gers, the traditional nomadic style of temporary shelter. PVAS members Brian Elliott and Gary Charlton took an 18-day birding trip to Mongolia in the summer of 2018 and will share their images from the trip and discuss the unique birding adventure they experienced in this fascinating country.



Thursday, October 3, 2019

Dr. John McCormack – History of Ornithology in Los Angeles and Historic Changes in Mexican Birds

John McCormack is Director and Curator of the Moore Laboratory of Zoology at Occidental College. The Moore Lab was founded in 1951 by Robert T. Moore and is the largest Mexican bird collection in the world at 65,000 specimens. The Moore Lab is investigating change in Mexico's birdlife between then and now using the specimens in the collection. Prof. McCormack will tie in this research with some colorful local history on the development of ornithology in Los Angeles.



Thursday, November 7, 2019

Dr. Eric Wood – The Importance of the Los Angeles Urban Forest to Resident and Migratory Birds

Eric Wood is the principal investigator of the Wood Lab of Avian Ecology and Conservation at Cal State L.A. He and his students are working on conservation-themed projects throughout southern California and southwestern Texas. Including researching the biodiversity of local urban forests and revealing how Los Angeles can better support resident and migratory birds. His presentation will address the role street trees play in providing habitat for feeding birds, as well as an in-depth view on bird diversity patterns throughout LA. In addition to detailing other research projects in the Wood Lab, this presentation will also focus on ways in which citizen scientists and the birding public can contribute to bird conservation.

Bird Walks

First Sunday Family Friendly Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 N. College Ave. Claremont,
CA 91711

Meet at the entrance at 8:00 a.m. for free admission. This family-friendly bird walk is approximately 2 hours long and is perfect for beginners and experienced birders alike. No binoculars? No worries! Loaner binoculars are available (limited number so first come first served.) You will receive instructions on their use as well. PVAS volunteers Ed Babcock, Gloria Slosberg, Ken Burgdorff and others will lead the walk.

- September 1**
- October 6**
- November 3**

Fourth Sunday Nature Walk

Bonelli Regional Park
120 E. Via Verde Dr., San Dimas,
CA 91773

New Meeting Instructions for Bonelli Park

We meet at the Equestrian Staging Area/ Raging Waters Parking lot on the west side of the park. Exit the 57 freeway (north or south) at Via Verde and turn left toward the park. At the first stop sign (before the entry kiosk) turn left on Raging Waters Drive. (Don't drive straight into the park.) Proceed north on Raging Waters Drive (disregard the "Raging Waters Traffic Only" sign since they are not operating when we are there) about 0.8 miles until the first stop sign. Stay to the left after the stop (don't cross the dam

even if the gate is open) and proceed down the hill about 0.3 miles to the large parking lot on your right. Please arrive between 7:30 am and 8:00 am when we will caravan into the park for the walk.

Trip leader: Rod Higbie,
warblerod@verizon.net, (909) 599-6526

- September 22**
- October 27**
- November 24**

Three Wednesdays With the Girl Scouts at Camp La Casita

by Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Tina Stoner)

Introducing children to birding is a goal all Audubon chapters share and PVAS has been fortunate to develop a special relationship with the Girl Scout leadership at Camp La Casita in Claremont. It's also why I'd like to extend a huge thank you to Condor, Cardinal and Canyon Wren for volunteering for a third straight year to lead Girls Scouts on bird walks. I'd also like to thank our new volunteers this year, Painted Bunting, Roadrunner and Turkey Vulture.

Who the heck am I talking about? Well you see, in Girl Scout camp tradition, leaders and volunteers go by their camp nickname, not their real names. Once I learned this, I remembered reading in Ken Kaufman's book, *Kingbird Highway: The Biggest Year*

in the *Life of an Extreme Birder*, that there is also a tradition among birders of using a bird species as your nickname. So, it seemed only fitting that each PVAS volunteer at Camp La Casita assume a bird species alias. So, thank you Condor (Ed Babcock), Cardinal (Gloria Slosberg), Canyon Wren (Valerie Wheeler), Painted Bunting (Laurie Borer), Roadrunner (Hank Feilen) and Turkey Vulture (Mike Klein) for helping lead bird walks on three consecutive Wednesday mornings attended by over 250 girls participating in day camp at La Casita. I'd also like to recognize from our previous two years, Red-shouldered Hawk (Natasha Walton), and Dipper (Martha Estes).



Jingle (Beverly Speak), La Casita Camp Director and some of our PVAS volunteers.

Happy Campers! Girl Scouts and leaders ham it up in front of the La Casita Camp entrance while on a bird walk.



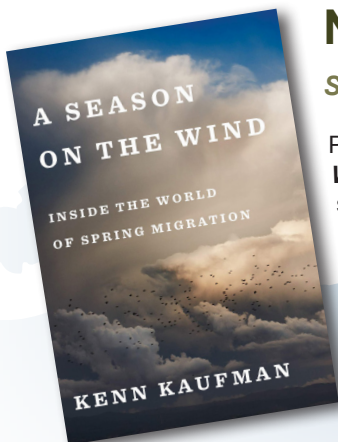
La Casita is situated perfectly for birding just off the Pomelo Ave. crossing of the Thompson Creek Trail. We show the girls both the food and water station at Pomelo Ave. and our bird oasis about a quarter mile down the trail. In addition to all the usual species seen on the trail, we were able to show the girls five kinds of bird nests including Bushtit, Phainopepla, Starling (with babies in an Acorn Woodpecker hole), Nuttall's Woodpecker and Western Bluebirds (at the nest box placed at the oasis.)

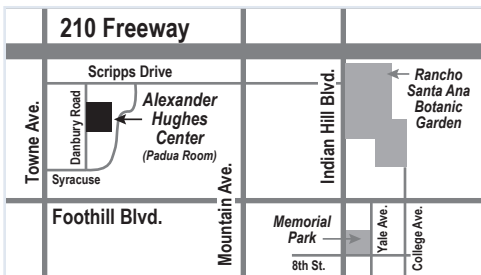
Due to our popularity with the scouts, La Casita directors have invited PVAS back to camp in June and July of 2020. I hope you'll join us, select a camp nickname and make a difference in a child's life. Robert Heinlein once said, "A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark." We hope we leave a mark of greater awareness and appreciation of all the nature around them, especially birds.

NEW!

SHARING OUR LOVE OF BIRDS and GREAT BIRD BOOKS

PVAS has selected **Ken Kaufmann's *A Season on the Wing: Inside the World of Bird Migration*** as our bird book of interest for our 2019-2020 season. We think you will love this beautifully written account of migration through the Americas. Copies of the book will be available to check out at meetings or can be obtained at local libraries. Members who read the book will have an opportunity to share some reactions (if they want). In keeping with our migration theme, Professor Nina Karnovsky will give us additional background on this amazing twice-yearly bird journey during our May 2020 meeting. More information will be available at our monthly meetings or contact Suzanne Thompson at sthompson@pomona.edu.





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 Claremont, CA 91711
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Return Service Requested

General Meetings

Date: First Thursday in Sept.-June
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Room: Padua Room
Address: Alexander Hughes Center
 1700 Danbury Drive
 Claremont, Ca 91711

Directions: From Foothill Blvd., head north on Mountain Ave. or Towne Ave. and turn onto Scripps Drive. Turn south on Danbury, the Alexander Hughes Center will be on the east side.

Meetings begin with a bird identification session, followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

PVAS CHAPARRAL NATURALIST | FALL 2019

To volunteer for either of these important public outreach events or to handle the birds from Wild Wings, contact Tina Stoner, tinastoner@earthlink.net

**2019 Village Venture
 Arts & Crafts Faire**
Saturday, October 26, 2019
9:00 a.m. -5:00 p.m.
Claremont Village

**Things That Go
 Bump In The
 Night**
**Thursday and
 Friday,
 October 11 & 12**
5:30 - 9:00 pm.
**Rancho Santa Ana
 Botanic Garden**

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY (NAS) AND POMONA VALLEY AUDUBON (PVAS) MEMBERSHIP

We invite you to become a member of both NAS and PVAS. You also have the option of joining just PVAS. For either option, a yearly individual or family membership is \$20.

Check one:

JOIN Join both NAS and PVAS ONLINE. On the PVAS website, click on "Membership" and then on link to NAS. Make a \$20 donation to NAS. Check Chapter Code: C08

Join both NAS and PVAS BY CHECK. Make out a \$20 check to NAS. Mail to PVAS with address slip below.

Join PVAS only, not NAS. Make \$20 check to PVAS and send to PVAS with address slip below.

RENEW Renew your joint membership in NAS and PVAS ONLINE. . . Use the renewal notice you receive from NAS or make a \$20 donation to NAS on the NAS website. *Use the same name as your membership.

Renew your joint membership in NAS and PVAS BY CHECK. Make \$20 check to NAS and send to NAS with address slip below.

Renew your PVAS only membership. Make \$20 check to PVAS and send to PVAS with address slip below.

NAS mailing address: **NAS, PO Box 97194, Washington DC 20090**
 PVAS mailing address: **PVAS, 2058 N. Mills, PMB246, Claremont, CA 91711**

Name _____ Chapter Code C08

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____