



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

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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 | SPRING 2019

Annual June Meeting and Party

Thursday, June 6, 2019

Starts at 6 p.m. (not 7 p.m.)

- Enjoy tasty food
- Socialize and shop the silent auction
- Member Slide Shows - Enjoy the photography of fellow chapter members
- Elections
- \$5 entry donation. If you'd like to donate to the silent auction, contact Laura Jaoui at 909-706-7031 or ljaoui01@gmail.com. If you'd like to present 15-20 of your best photographs, contact Seth Thompson at sthompson@lmu.edu.

11th Annual Earth Day Claremont Celebration

Sunday, April 14, 2019

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Second Street, Claremont Village

PVAS and Wild Wings will share a booth at this annual event. Please contact Tina Stoner to volunteer to work our booth or handle the birds from Wild Wings: tinastoner@earthlink.net (909) 292-3900

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 _____



Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

SPRING 2019 | MARCH - JUNE

The Inside Scoop on Wild Bird Rehabilitation: An Interview with Bob and Judy Everett of Wild Wings of California

By Suzanne Thompson

How did you get into wild bird rehab?

It started with Spunky, a mockingbird that our family rescued in the 1970s. At the time, there was no published information on how to feed and treat an injured songbird. Orphaned nestlings, in particular, need a special diet and cannot survive on human food. We did the best we could, but Spunky didn't make it, which was hard on us and our three daughters. That got us interested in bird rehabilitation. Fortunately, a lot more is known now about how to take care of injured birds and the diet that nestlings need.

What are your most memorable rescues?

Someone from Roland Heights called to report an albatross in their back yard. That seemed unlikely, so imagine our surprise when a very stressed out Laysan Albatross was brought to our door. He recovered on a steady diet of emulsified anchovies and when it was time to release him, Jo and Craig Gerth took him down to the Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve. An albatross with a wingspan of 6-7 feet is a sizable bird, so they attracted a lot of attention carrying it through the parking lot and ran into a young woman coming out of the nature center, leading a tour. It turned out that she had just completed her PhD thesis on the Laysan Albatross but had never seen one up close. She was thrilled

to see the bird and even got to touch it. When it was time for the release, Craig threw the bird in the air and had a breath-taking few seconds when it fell almost to the ground before it spread its wings at the last moment, circled around the bay a few times, and glided out toward the ocean.



PHOTO BY JIM BRAKE

Another interesting rescue involved pelicans who were covered with oil from the 1990 Huntington Beach British Petroleum (BP) oil spill that released 250,000 gallons of oil. We volunteered to help clean the many birds, including Brown Pelicans and Arctic Loons, who were covered with oil. The cleaning went all day long. Another group blow-dried the birds and then the BP people released them in front of the news camera. Unfortunately, the birds were not waterproof at that point, so most were unlikely to survive when they

got wet. We volunteered to take and rehabilitate 27 mostly juvenile pelicans, who were starving and had problems such as entanglement in fishing lines. They were a hungry group who ended up consuming \$8000 of frozen mackerel. The pelicans were comical and endearing, but there was one bird that was ostracized and had to stand in a corner by himself. We never knew what he did that got him in trouble with the other pelicans. When the group was healthy again, they were released in the Malibu area and adult pelicans showed up and took over feeding the juveniles.

What is most difficult about being a wild bird rehabilitator?

It is difficult to see injuries that are due to gunshot or pellet wounds or diseases that could be prevented if feeders and bird baths were cleaned thoroughly and regularly. Also, it is always hard to have to put down a bird whose injuries are not treatable.

Are you looking for volunteers to help out?

Definitely. When the spring nesting season is underway, we are inundated with baby birds that need to be fed. We are looking for volunteers to help raise a bird in their own homes. It is not easy work. Some baby birds need to be fed once an hour, 12 hours a day. And we need someone who will stick with the job until the bird is ready to be released. Raising a baby hummingbird is even more demanding as their food needs to be prepared and fed to them every 15 minutes for 14 hours a day. If you are up to the challenge and interested in volunteering, call (909) 592-4900.

In addition to volunteer help, donations to support the cost of food are always appreciated. Donations can be made at our website: <http://www.wildwings.org/>





President's Message

A Sense of Seasons

by Tina Stoner

Does anyone ever ask you why you like birds or birding? I get asked that question on occasion and have several answers, but as spring migration approaches, I'd like to share one of my favorite answers,

birding gives me a sense of seasons.

As a native of Southern California, I didn't grow up raking fall leaves or shoveling winter snow. I think of the four seasons as a hotel chain or the group that sang with Frankie Valli, not as a cyclic event characterized by major weather changes throughout the year that the majority of North Americans experience. I was taught that our seasons change because Earth tilts on its axis, and the angle of tilt causes each of the hemispheres to be closer to the sun half the year and farther from the sun the other half, but the seasons here are so subtle I never have a strong sense of change. Sure, I'd notice the days were shorter in the winter, but I still can't relate to weeks and weeks of curling up by the fire with a good book when our January temperatures are often in the 80s.

But birding invites us to really pay attention to nature, and when you do, you come to realize that there are seasons in Southern California. Some birders may argue that there are only two seasons, birding season (Sept – June) and non-birding season (July and August) which is exactly how our chapter activities are scheduled on the calendar. I've come to think of the four seasons as summer residents and visitors, fall migration, winter visitors and spring migration.

Thanks to Dan Guthrie's bird identification sessions at the beginning of each of our monthly meetings, and to our excellent field trip leaders, I've learned to watch more closely for different species' arrivals and departures during the seasons. So, while family and friends in the Northeast are using the arrival of beautiful autumn colors as a signal for fall, I'm enjoying the changing species of birds in my backyard and paying closer attention to who is passing through and who is here to spend the winter with us. That's one of the best parts of living somewhere with mild winters, the birds don't just pass through, many come to stay for the season.

This increased awareness of nature reminds me that, as a mammal living on Earth, I am part of this cyclic seasonal phenomenon too and that seasonally appropriate behavior (like getting a little extra rest in the winter) should be encouraged.

I may have to look at photographs to see colorful autumn foliage or to visualize the expression, "April showers bring May flowers" but thanks to birds, I have a sense of seasons, even here in Southern California.

Happy Spring (Migration) Everyone!

So why do YOU like birds and birding? Share your thoughts on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pomonavalleyaudubon/>



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
- Appropriate clothing (Dress in layers and be ready for unexpected weather changes.)
- Walking/Hiking shoes
- Sunscreen/Repellant
- 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: Birding By Car series.

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.)

PVAS Board of Directors

PRESIDENT - Tina Stoner - tinastoner@earthlink.net

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

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Claremont, CA 91711

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email us at: pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com

Local PVAS phone number: (909) 625-5510

Our 2018 Christmas Bird Census Results

By Dan Guthrie

On December 15, 76 volunteer bird counters found 12,497 birds belonging to 134 species. Several counts in Southern California reported fewer birds than usual and we were no exception. Our total number of species and total number of birds were both lower this year. We missed several regular mountain species (Pygmy Nuthatch and White-headed Woodpecker)

and except for Pine Siskin, wintering birds from the north were also missing (such as Red-breasted Nuthatch, Varied Thrush and Golden-crowned Kinglet). Probably due to lack of rain, many of our regular waterbirds could not be found (Dowitchers, Terns, Horned Grebe, Greater Scaup) and grassland birds (Shrike, Harrier) also could not be found. We did add some new birds to the 249 species that we have seen over the years. These were Pin-tailed Wydah

and Mitred Parakeet. There are about 70 species that we see every year but another 20 or so species where we only found 1 or 2 individuals. We had new high counts for Anna's Hummingbird, Snowy Egret, Red-masked Parakeet and Raven but numbers of several of our common species (Crow, Robin, Scrub Jay, House Finch) were lower than usual. Special thanks to Sheila White, our compiler for the count and to all who participated. ■

2018 Christmas Bird Count - Pomona Valley Audubon Society (CACM), Claremont, CA

Snow Goose	2	Western Screech-Owl	2	Western Bluebird	105
Canada Goose	208	Great Horned Owl	19	Mountain Bluebird	4
Muscovay Duck (Domestic)	13	White-throated Swift	9	Townsend's Solitaire	4
Gadwall	22	Anna's Hummingbird	249	Hermit Thrush	17
American Wigeon	415	Costa's Hummingbird	5	American Robin	165
Mallard	380	Allen's Hummingbird	45	California Thrasher	17
Northern Shoveler	34	Belted Kingfisher	2	Northern Mockingbird	140
Northern Pintail	9	Acorn Woodpecker	284	European Starling	192
Green-winged Teal	9	Red-naped Sapsucker	2	American Pipit	64
Ring-necked Duck	59	Red-breasted Sapsucker	9	Cedar Waxwing	359
Lesser Scaup	10	Nuttall's Woodpecker	44	Phainopepla	7
Bufflehead	28	Downy Woodpecker	2	Orange-crowned Warbler	6
Hooded Merganser	3	Hairy Woodpecker	2	Common Yellowthroat	cw
Ruddy Duck	324	Northern (R.S.) Flicker	120	Yel.-rump. Warbler (Myr.)	1
Peacock	1	<<Northern (Y.S.) Flicker	1	Yel.-rump. Warbler (Aud.)	780
Mountain Quail	16	American Kestrel	25	Blk.-throated Gray Warbler	1
California Quail	91	Merlin	4	Townsend's Warbler	1
Pied-billed Grebe	19	Peregrine Falcon	5	Spotted Towhee	49
Eared Grebe	5	Prairie Falcon	1	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	6
Western Grebe	50	Red-masked Parakeet	75	California Towhee	177
Clark's Grebe	14	Red-crowned Parrot	100	Chipping Sparrow	69
Double-crested Cormorant	296	Mitred Parakeet	10	Lark Sparrow	34
American White Pelican	6	Black Phoebe	178	Savannah Sparrow	4
Great Blue Heron	9	Say's Phoebe	27	Fox Sparrow	5
Great Egret	14	Cassin's Kingbird	75	Song Sparrow	24
Snowy Egret	45	Plumbeous Vireo	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Black-crowned Night-heron	9	Hutton's Vireo	3	White-crowned Sparrow	503
Turkey Vulture	9	Steller's Jay	25	Golden-crowned Sparrow	11
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	California Scrub Jay	238	<<Drk-eyed Junco (Slate-col.)	2
Cooper's Hawk	12	American Crow	130	Drk-eyed Junco (Oregon)	239
Red-shouldered Hawk	12	Common Raven	83	Red-winged Blackbird	8
Red-tailed Hawk	72	Horned Lark	6	Western Meadowlark	88
Golden Eagle	2	Mountain Chickadee	44	Brewer's Blackbird	72
American Coot	904	Oak Titmouse	46	Great-tailed Grackle	1
Black-necked Stilt	5	Bushtit	537	Brown-headed Cowbird	6
Killdeer	64	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	House Finch	564
Spotted Sandpiper	8	White-breasted Nuthatch	27	Purple Finch	20
Greater Yellowlegs	8	Brown Creeper	1	Pine Siskin	1
Least Sandpiper	48	Rock Wren	4	Lesser Goldfinch	337
Wilson's Snipe	19	Canyon Wren	4	American Goldfinch	17
Ring-billed Gull	60	House Wren	9	House Sparrow	52
California Gull	17	Bewick's Wren	42	Pin-tailed Wydah	1
.....Gull Species	1200	Cactus Wren	17	Scaly-breasted Munia	20
Rock Pigeon	58	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	8	Total Species	134
Band-tailed Pigeon	436	California Gnatcatcher	2	Total Individuals	12,497
Eurasian Collard-Dove	20	American Dipper	1	Count Week Only	2
Mourning Dove	495	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	75		
Barn Owl	1	Wrentit	32		



Field Trips

Chaparral Naturalist

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March 9, 2019 – Saturday Peck Road Water Conservation Park

5401 Peck Rd., Arcadia, CA 91006

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (up to 3 mi.)

This hidden gem in Arcadia boasts a surprising variety of year-round and migrant species as well as an occasional 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 38 mi.)

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



March 21, 2019 – Thursday BBC – Mojave Narrow Regional Park

18000 Yates Rd., Victorville, CA

Difficulty: Minimal

This is a Birding By Car trip with little or no walking, and radio communication between cars. Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon. MNRP is a great place for grassland and riparian species as well as water birds. \$8 vehicle entry fee. (Est. driving 105 mi.)

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

April 6, 2019 – Saturday North Etiwanda Preserve

4890 Etiwanda Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739

Difficulty: Strenuous (3.5 mi.)

This will be our second 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 17 mi.)

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



April 18, 2019 – Thursday BBC - Glen Helen Regional Park

2555 Glen Helen Pkwy, San Bernardino, CA 92407

This is a Birding By Car trip with little or no walking, and radio communication between cars. Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon.

A trip for April migrants making their way through the Cajon Pass. \$8 vehicle entry fee. Difficulty: Minimal. Est. driving 45 mi.

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

April 27, 2019 – Saturday Prado Wetlands

14980 River Rd, Corona, CA 92880

Difficulty: Moderate (up to 4 mi.)

Normally closed to the public we are fortunate to have Bonnie Johnson, Orange County Water District biologist, conduct a private tour of the Prado Wetlands for PVAS. It's 45 shallow ponds provide ideal habitat for wading and shore birds,

Remember this tip – If the trip name is “Big” (Big Morongo and Big Bear) we start at 6:00 a.m.

waterfowl, raptors and more including its large population of endangered Least Bell's Vireo. Walk from 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. with option to picnic lunch there. Meet at Prado Wetlands. Trip is limited to 12 people so please contact trip leader to reserve your spot and discuss the need for carpooling.

Trip Leader: Tina Stoner (909) 292-3900 or tinastoner@earthlink.net (Est. driving 38 mi.)

May 4, 2019 – Saturday Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

11055 East Dr, Morongo Valley, CA 92256

Difficulty: Moderate (up to 4 mi. but optional feeder watching only.)

A famous desert oasis at the height of western migration with lots of local nesting activity too. Great photo opportunities during our lunch stop at the bird feeders. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont (Note earlier start time!) After the preserve, we'll visit Covington Park next door. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. driving 167 mi.)

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

May 11, 2019 – Saturday Mill Creek Wetlands and Chino Creek Wetlands

Chino-Corona Road, Eastvale and
5899 Kimball Ave, Chino, CA 91708

Difficulty Easy (up to 3 miles)

Let's go to Chino for a morning of birding at the Mill Creek Wetlands and the nearby Chino Creek Wetlands. We'll look for spring migrants, baby water birds with their parents and more. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park to carpool. Bring water, snacks and lunch. (Est. driving 34 miles.)

Trip Leader: Hank Feilen (909) 325-2154 or henry.feilen@verizon.net



May 16, 2019 – Thursday BBC Chino Hills State Park

4721 Sapphire Rd, Chino Hills, CA 91709

Difficulty: Minimal

This is a Birding By Car trip with little or no walking, and radio communication between cars. Depart Memorial Park in Claremont at 8 a.m. and return by noon. A trip for grosbeaks, buntings, tanagers, vireos and flycatchers as well as spring migrants, and raptors. \$5 State Park vehicle entry fee (\$4 if 62+) (Est. driving 37 mi.)

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

June 8, 2019 – Saturday Big Bear Lake Area – (multiple locations)

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous (up to 4 mi.)

Beat the summer heat and head up the mountain. Enjoy birding the Big Bear Lake area during the breeding season of montane species. Meet at 6:00 a.m. (Note earlier start time!) at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day of birding. (Est. driving 150 mi.)

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



Thursday, March 7, 2019

Larry LaPré – Big Bad Birds of the Mojave Desert

This tale of desert survival involves a threatened tortoise and several of our favorite species of birds, Common Ravens, Golden Eagles, Great-horned Owls and Prairie Falcons. Larry LaPré received a PhD in biology from the University of California in 1979 and worked as a biological consultant for 19 years. He also worked as a District Wildlife Biologist for the BLM for seventeen years, retiring in 2015. He now serves as a Board member on the Desert Tortoise Council. A biologist for life, Larry's first love has always been birds. He has led eco-tours in Veracruz, Mexico highlighting raptor migration and in the California desert, he has monitored golden eagle nests, performed raven nesting surveys, and banded Prairie Falcons. Near his home in Riverside, he counts roosting winter crows and has been the compiler for the local Christmas Bird Count for 38 years.



Thursday, April 4, 2019

Benny Jacobs-Schwartz - Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the New World Tropics

Bird guide, naturalist and photographer, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz will share his dazzling bird photos, captivating videos, and animated story-telling to bring a slice of the tropics to California. Touching on topics of migration, speciation, and bio-diversity, this media rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics. Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters!



Thursday, May 2, 2019

Nina Karnovsky – Japanese Murrelet Update and Puffins

Professor Nina Karnovsky from Pomona College and her senior thesis student, Clare Flynn, will be presenting their latest seabird adventures. Nina Karnovsky will update us on her research on Japanese Murrelets, assisted in part by a donation from PVAS. Some of you may remember last year's presentation which included the priority of locating nests in remote locations on Japanese Islands by utilizing listening devices known as Song Meters. PVAS donated a Song Meter which was deployed on an island in the Seto Sea, Japan. Come learn what secrets it revealed about these charming little birds. In addition, Pomona College senior, Clare Flynn, will share her research studying seabirds on Seal Island in the Gulf of Maine as part of National Audubon Society's Puffin Project.

Thursday, June 6, 2019 - Starts at 6 p.m. (not 7 p.m.)

Annual June Meeting and Party

See Page 6 for details.

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 (first come, first served.) You will receive instructions on their use as well. PVAS volunteers will lead the walk.

March 3

April 7

May 5

June 2

Fourth Sunday Nature Walk

Bonelli Regional Park

120 E. Via Verde Dr., San Dimas, CA 91773

New Meeting Instructions for Bonelli Park

Effective with the September 2018 Bonelli Park bird walk we will meet at the Equestrian Staging Area on the west side of the park. To reach this area take the 57 freeway north or south exiting at the Via Verde exit. At the end of the ramps turn left toward the park. At the first stop sign, turn left on Raging Waters Drive (Do not enter the park at this point). After you turn onto Raging Waters Drive (disregard the "Raging Waters Traffic Only" sign since they are not operating when we

are there) continue on Raging Waters Drive to the first stop sign (do *not* cross the dam even if the gate is open). At this point turn left and follow the paved road down the hill to the large parking lot. We will meet at the parking lot between 7:30 am and 8 am and caravan into the park for the walk.

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

March 24

April 28

May 26

