



Chaparral Naturalist

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A Great Time to Look for Northern Migrants

by Dan Guthrie

I had hoped to take a family vacation to Alaska this June but alas, I did not realize how popular Alaska has become as a tourist destination. Some of the good birding places where I had planned to stay, such as Nome, Seward, and Denali, were booked solid. I will have to plan earlier for next year. This does not mean that I have to miss out on many of the birds I would like to see. While it is necessary to go to Alaska for Asian birds such as Bluethroat or species that stay north of us, like Emperor Goose and Hawk Owl, one of the reasons I like Alaska is the opportunity to see birds in their breeding plumage. I was at Bolsa Chica a few years ago and saw a small peep shorebird with a rusty head and shoulders. I forgot the cardinal rule of birding (don't tell other birders what it is unless you are certain). Instead of saying "there is an interesting bird over there," I said, "There is a Red-necked Stint here." One of the other birders- a California expert, correctly identified the bird as a Sanderling. I had never before seen one in breeding plumage. Lucky for us, we don't have to go to Alaska to see our passage migrants in breeding plumage. Phalaropes, Black-bellied Plover, Dunlin and the other shorebirds gain their breeding plumage before they leave us. They also gain their male aggressiveness. My backyard White-crowned Sparrows have new brightness to their crowns and new intolerance of other close males.



Dunlin in summer plumage above and winter plumage left.



Sanderling in summer plumage left and winter plumage below.

In addition to the shorebirds, loons, grebes, and even gulls change into breeding plumage before leaving us. Late April and May are good times to see why a Horned Grebe and Eared Grebe are named and see that Red-throated Loons actually have red throats. So if Alaska isn't in your plans for this summer, take a look at some of our shorebirds in their new breeding plumage. You may have a hard time recognizing them.

Remember our usual drab grey Black-bellied Plover? Summer plumage below is an exciting treat during migration. Join us May 6th for a birding day trip to Bolsa Chica.



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Share your pictures

Taken any trips lately or had good birds at your feeders? Our June program is a members photo show. Bring your favorite pictures (digital on a flash drive) to share with our members. Please limit to 30 images. Dan Guthrie (dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu) or 909 239-5124.

**Welcome
New Members!**

We extend a warm welcome to all new members. Subscribers to Audubon Magazine from our area are automatically enrolled in our chapter and receive the Chaparral Naturalist at no additional charge. You are welcome to all our events.

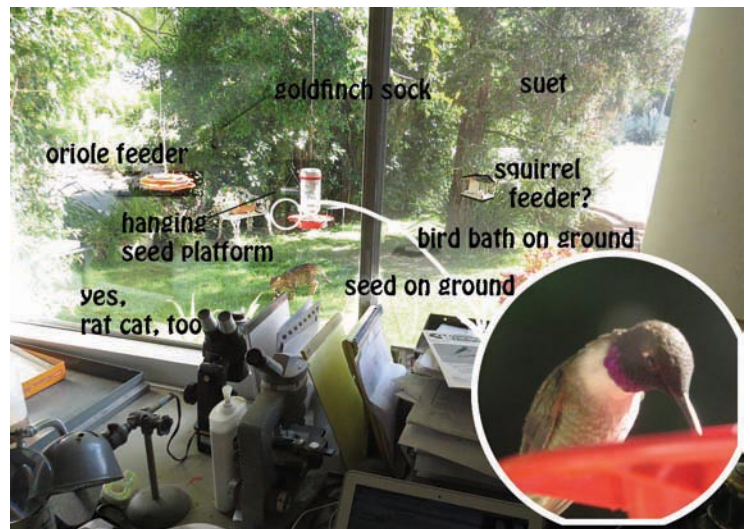
- Alta Loma: **Audrey Crabtree**
- Claremont: **Mary Banwart, Bill Landrey, Mark Palmer, Joseph Schulz, William and Mary Sims**
- Corona: **Joseph Thornburgh**
- Covina: **Margaret Chase**
- Diamond Bar: **David Bodin, Brittany Poloni**
- Glendora: **D. Butler, Hendrika Namikas, Sarah Petersen**
- La Verne: **Amanda Horak**
- Montclair: **Sheryll Robinson**
- Norco: **James Burns, Michele Kluge, the Schindelbeks**
- Pomona: **Phyllis Maslow, Betty Barnes Msag**
- Rancho Cucamonga: **Stephen Butters, Lisa Jorgensen, Riley Strickland, Amy Weidman**
- Upland: **Deborah Bowser, Grace Clark, Lida Schneider**
- West Covina: **John Dobrenen, Kimberly Segal**

At My Feeder..... by Dan Guthrie

April 14 -15: White-crowned Sparrows that came to my bird feeders all winter have dwindled to two. The 30 plus flock of Band-tailed Pigeons have disappeared --- gone back to the mountains to nest. I am left with Mourning Doves and English Sparrows! The first Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers have shown up in southern California, but not in my yard. The early ones usually are found in the mountains or along the coast.

In the past we held big day counts around April 25th. This was early enough to get lingering ducks and sparrows but late enough for returning migrants. Now, thanks to global warming, the best big day date is probably a week earlier. Despite a couple of squirrels that empty my feeders, I will photograph the hummingbirds while I wait impatiently for my first grosbeak and Lazuli Bunting.

PS: I am monitoring and reporting everything I see at the front yard feeders right out side my desk window two days of each week for Citizen Science. Let me know if you would like to participate starting in November.



National Audubon Membership / Membership Information Update

Annual membership in the National Audubon Society is \$30 per year. **New membership dues are \$20.** Members receive the Audubon Magazine and a digital copy of the Chaparral Naturalist newsletter. **Renewals of membership for National should NOT be sent to PVAS.** However, a new membership may be sent directly to PVAS. Checks should be made payable to National Audubon Society. Mail payment with membership form below and **mail to: PVAS, 2058 N. Mills Ave., PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711.** (Please note chapter code C08 on your check.)

Information such as mailing address, email address and telephone numbers are used for sending email notifications, electronic versions of the newsletter, and are published in our membership directory. Membership information may be updated by filling out this form and turning it in to any board member. This information will be distributed only to members and will not be sold to other organizations.

- Yes, Please sign me up as a new member!**
- Yes, I am renewing my membership.**
- I would like the print version of the Chaparral Naturalist.
- Do not publish** my information in the chapter directory.

Name _____ **Chapter Code C08**

Address _____ Telephone _____

City, State, Zip _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

**Our resident birds are nesting,
so watch those babies grow!**

Pomona Valley Audubon field trips are open to all individuals. **Remember to call the trip leader if you plan to attend and to confirm starting time & meeting location.** Sunday Monthly Bird Walks meet at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Bonelli Park trips meet at park headquarters on Via Verde, just off the 57 freeway. Most other trips meet at Memorial Park in Claremont. It is recommended to bring a snack (lunch if recommended), plenty of water, sun protection, and bug spray to all trips. Car pooling is usually possible. Check the PVAS website for last minute trip additions and changes.

First Sunday of each month ----

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden Bird Walks--

Join us for our monthly bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced and lasts approx. two hours. Free admission with our PVAS group. (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.)

Leader: Fraser Pemberton (909) 624-6451.

Sunday, May 3, 2015

Sunday, June 7, 2015

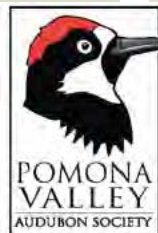
Fourth Sunday of each month ----

Bonelli Park Monthly Bird Walks---

Join us for our monthly (4th Sunday walk) at Bonelli Park. This is an easy, two-hour walk for beginners and experts. Free admission with our group. We'll meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 Fwy

Leader: Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.

Sunday, May 24, 2015



Day & Weekend PVAS trips---- Check webpage for any additions or changes.

Saturday, May 2, 2015 Big Morongo Canyon

Join us for a trip at the height of western migration for transient and returning species, including Summer Tanager, Brown-crested Flycatcher and Yellow-breasted Chat. **Meet 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park** for carpooling. Bring water, snacks, and lunch. **Leader: Dan Gregory (909) 944-2259**

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 Bolsa Chica

This is a trip to view the tern colony and late shorebirds. Low amount of walking and good opportunities for photography. Meet at Memorial Park 7:00 a.m. for a half day trip.

Leader: Dan Guthrie (dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu)

Saturday, June 13, 2015 Grassy Hollow Visitor Center

Mountain birding above Wrightwood and a few stops in the desert, anyone? Low amount of walking and good opportunities for photography. Meet at Memorial Park 7:00 a.m. and bring water and a lunch. Back near 2:00 p.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (dguthrie@jsd.claremont.edu)**

**Silent Auction
Donations Needed**



We are currently accepting donations for the silent auction that will be held at our annual June Meeting on Friday, June 12. Donated items are often bird watching or nature related, but they don't have to be. In the past we have auctioned such items as bird books, bird houses, bird prints, duck decoys and decorative items. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our members, over \$500 was raised at this event. If you have something to donate, please call Hank Feilen at 909-627-8191.

Come and enjoy the delicious food brought by our members, and bid on the items of your choice. It's a fun evening, and we hope to see many of you there.

Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

This bird festival should prove to be an absolutely wonderful event. Full of talks, tours and birding information. Check out their website <http://www.birdchautauqua.org/> for complete information. Even if you can't attend, you can download the birding trail info for the eastern Sierra area.

PVAS LEADERS 2015

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Vice-PresidentEd Babcock..... ed.babcock@icloud.com
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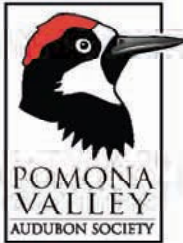
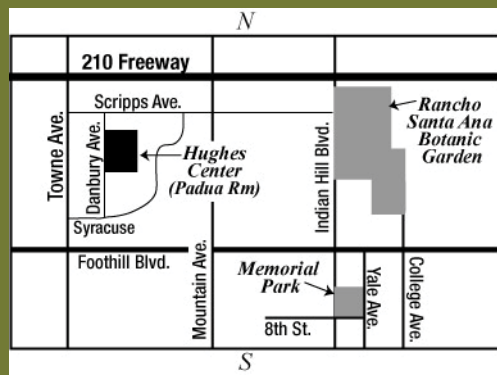
CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

EditorJudy Sugden eeyaa@uia.net

The **Chaparral Naturalist** is published bimonthly, except July and August by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the second to last Thursday of the month. 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 at 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:

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Return Service Requested

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.

Bring a friend?

Non-members are welcome!

PVAS General Membership Meetings

**Thursday, May 7, 2015
 Local Cavity Nesters
 by Gillian Martin**

Gillian Martin, Audubon member and Program Director of the Cavity Conservation Initiative (CCI), will talk about the value of dead trees to cavity-nesting birds and to habitats. She will persuasively illustrate that dead trees are generally an under-valued natural resource, even in urban forest, and that their steady removal forecasts increasing challenges for some species. Gillian shares the CCI's efforts, success and challenges in addressing this complex and contentious issue.



Friday, June 12, 2015 *Note: the June meeting is moved to the **SECOND Friday of the month.***
Annual Member's Slideshow

COME CELEBRATE!

2015 ANNUAL June MEETING is a DESSERT AND WINE social!

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN EVENING OF FUN, FOOD, LIBATIONS, PRIZES, SILENT AUCTION, MEMBER POWERPOINT PHOTOS, AWARDS, AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PVAS BOARD WILL PROVIDE --
HORS D'OEUVRES, DESSERT AND LIBATIONS (beer, wine, soft drinks, coffee, tea) (if you have a bottle of wine you'd like to share or want to try a new appetizer or dessert recipe, bring it along!)

WHEN: FRIDAY JUNE 12th
WHERE: ALEXANDER HUGHES CENTER
TIME: 6:00PM TO 9:00PM

\$5.00 PER PERSON **HOPE to SEE YOU THEN!!!!**

*See you in the fall ---
 the first Thursday in
 September!!!*