



Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

SPRING 2022 | MARCH - MAY

Will the Ontario Airport Burrowing Owls Lose Their Homes?



PHOTO BY SHEILA BOLKA

Mamma Anna with eight of the juveniles outside of Burrow A.

world around them. Days and nights were spent learning how to hunt grasshoppers and pouncing on mice their parents delivered.

It's a dangerous life for owlets: hawks eyeing the family from above, coyotes out hunting, cars zipping by just outside their burrow entrance, and photographers who get too close and keep the parents from delivering food. All these are serious threats but there's a greater danger to all the owl families in the fields owned by the Ontario Airport: One that owl parents can't see or protect their families from: losing their homeland to development.

By Suzanne Thompson

It's June in the open fields near the Ontario Airport and family life is in full swing for the Burrowing Owl couple in Burrow A. Let's call them Anna and Abel.

They returned to this site in February and made the field their courtship stage. In time, Anna retreated into their burrow to lay 9 eggs. She sat in the dark, incubating her eggs, while Abel brought her tasty mice and beetles and stood guard outside their burrow.

In a couple of weeks, nine little puffballs emerged from their shells and stayed in the nest while Anna and Abel hunted day and night to feed themselves and their hungry chicks. Imagine how cramped it got in the burrow with nine growing juveniles and often a visiting parent.

At last, in April the juvenile owls emerged. Nine little heads with big eyes popped up in the burrow entrance to scope out the

The Ontario International Airport Authority (OIAA) Board has passed a resolution giving development and exclusivity rights to a warehouse developer who will gather information for the environmental review and obtain other permissions before starting construction.

Most likely, the owls that can be caught will be translocated to a site far from this home area. Burrowing Owls have nest-site fidelity, meaning that they will return to nest where they have raised chicks before. Some translocated owls will return to the land they know and find bulldozers have leveled the land and destroyed the burrows.

The PVAS Burrowing Owl Committee has been in contact with OIAA for several years and proposed that some of the acreage in the development area be set aside as a Burrowing Owl Preserve that would be managed to create the best habitat for the owls. The airport has not responded to our proposals.

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Papa Abel standing guard on the left, Mama Anna on the far right looking for dangers and the nine juveniles in between.



PHOTO BY CHASE BERRYMAN



PHOTO BY JIMMY CHERTKOW

Los Osos High School Garden Club students do a terrific job weeding the north slope of the College Park BUOW Preserve

Grants for PVAS Burrowing Owl Work

By Suzanne Thompson

Protecting Burrowing Owls (BUOW) and their nest sites requires a lot of dedicated volunteers and we are so lucky to have them. Some of the work also needs funding such as the digiscope we use to clean out burrows, expenses involved in bringing a team of local high school students to weed at the College Park BUOW Preserve, and lawyer fees to help us defend the owls near the Ontario Airport and elsewhere. Your membership fees and donations to PVAS fund much of the work but outside grants for larger expenses are a big help.

We are pleased to announce that PVAS received two grants recently to fund our Burrowing Owl conservation work. Last December, a \$2500 award came from a family foundation that wishes to remain anonymous. Recently, we received an Audubon In Action Grant for \$4600 from the National Audubon Society that will be used to improve owl habitat at the College Park Preserve and create a BUOW Ambassador program for Chaffey Chino college students.

Annual June Meeting/Party/Elections/Photography Show via Zoom

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Social half-hour starts at 6:30 p.m. Elections and announcements at 7:00 p.m. followed by our Member Slide Show. Enjoy the beautiful photography of fellow chapter members including our new photo challenge "Birds on Signs"! Photographers: If you'd like to present 15-20 of your best photographs, and/or your best photo of a bird on a sign for our photo challenge, please contact Seth Thompson at pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com. Photos are due by May 18, 2022.

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

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 _____



Field Trips

Chaparral Naturalist

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

COVID UPDATE: Carpooling should be restricted to members of the same household or fully vaccinated individuals who agree to carpool. You have the option to meet at Memorial Park and caravan to the site or you can meet at the site. Because distancing is difficult to maintain on a birding outing, unvaccinated participants are requested to wear a mask. Please no sharing of optics. Note some trips may be listed as vaccinated only.

March 5, 2022 – Saturday Prado Regional Park

16700 Euclid Ave., Chino, CA 91708

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

So close, yet so diverse, visiting this popular 2,000-acre park in Chino is one of the most reliable places to see and photograph Vermillion Flycatchers, as well as a variety of raptors (Bald Eagle), waterfowl and wintering vagrants. Meet at Memorial Park in Claremont at 7:00 a.m. (Est. driving 35 mi.)

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

March 10, 2022 – Thursday Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

15501 E. Arrow Highway, Irwindale, CA 91706

Difficulty: Moderate (walking up to 3 mi.)

Ken will lead us on this mid-week trip for year-round as well as over-wintering species. Carpool from Memorial Park in Claremont at 7:00 a.m. or meet in the first parking lot at the SFDR near the restrooms at 7:45 a.m. Bring snacks, water, 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. Est. driving 31 mi.

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

April 9, 2022 – Saturday

Carbon Canyon Regional Park

4442 Carbon Canyon Road, Brea, CA 92823

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

Carbon Canyon Regional Park is 124 acres with a 4-acre lake that is surrounded by undeveloped coastal sage and has a trail that leads to Orange County's only grove of redwoods; 3 acres of majestic Coastal Redwoods (*Sequoia sempervirens*). Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring water, snacks, and lunch for a full day trip. \$5 vehicle entry fee. (Est. drive 48 miles.)

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

April 15, 2022 – Friday

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. Contact trip leader for meeting location, time and important parking information. (Est. driving 17 mi.)

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

May 14, 2022 – 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 ops during our lunch stop at the bird feeders. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont (Note earlier start time!) We'll also 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

June 11, 2022 – Saturday

Big Bear Lake Area

(multiple locations)

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

Beat the summer heat and head up to the mountains with us. Enjoy birding the Big Bear Lake area and Bluff Lake 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

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

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)
- **Appropriate clothing** (Dress in layers and be ready for unexpected weather changes.)
- **Water**
- **Snacks/Lunch**
- **Walking/Hiking shoes**
- **Sunscreen/Repellent**
- **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.)



Meetings via Zoom

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www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

You will receive the meeting links via email, IF we have your address! If you've never received an email from PVAS, send your address to pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.

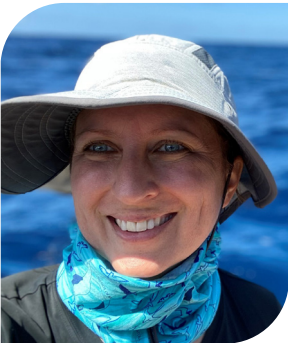


Thursday – March 3, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

Julie Skoglund – International Bird Rescue - Some Challenges Facing Local Coastal Nesters: Elegant Terns

Elegant Terns have been nesting in Orange County for many decades. With their unusual raucous calls, they bring attention to themselves. This summer brought more attention their way when a colony of thousands abandoned their nesting site on Tern Island in the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and then over 3,200 nestlings and chicks fell off two nesting barges into the chilly waters of the harbor and had to be rescued. International Bird Rescue (IBR), CA Department of Fish & Wildlife, and other groups assisted in their rescue. The young birds were either placed back on the barge after a full body exam or transferred to the care center and later released. Julie Skoglund, Director of Operations at IBR, will present information on this rescue effort.

Julie Skoglund received a Bachelor of Science in Biology from California State University Long Beach and has worked for International Bird Rescue (IBR) since 2004. She spent seven years as the Rehabilitation Manager at Bird Rescue's Los Angeles Center, eight years as the Operations Manager, and was promoted to the Director of Operations for Bird Rescue in 2020. She also serves as the Regional Representative for Southern California.



Thursday – April 7, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

Dr. Lindsay Young – No Net Loss: Saving Albatross and other species from Sea Level Rise

Most of the worldwide populations of Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses, Bonin Petrels and Tristram's Storm-Petrels nest on low-lying atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that are threatened by sea level rise. Establishing new colonies on higher islands is a priority conservation action for these species. From 2015 - 2021, Pacific Rim Conservation translocated several hundred individuals of these seabird species from the low-lying Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to Oahu. The "No Net Loss" initiative creates and restores resilient ecosystems that match acre for acre what is being lost to sea level rise. This is accomplished through predator exclusion fencing and the translocation of birds into newly protected areas. Dr. Young will discuss the outcomes of the project and future plans to protect seabirds against climate change.

Dr. Lindsay Young is the Executive Director and co-founder of Pacific Rim Conservation, a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving, and preventing the extinction of imperiled birds throughout the Pacific. A world expert on seabirds, she has published dozens of scientific papers, and recently authored a full-length book on the Conservation of Marine Birds. Her work has been featured on Nat Geo, BBC, the NY Times and Animal Planet. Originally from Vancouver, Canada, Lindsay has a BSc in Zoology from the University of British Columbia, and an MS and Ph.D. in Zoology from the University of Hawaii. Based in Hawaii, Lindsay spends her time with her own flock of children, chickens and guinea pigs.



Thursday – May 5, 2022 at 7 pm via Zoom

Kurt Leuschner - The Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail

Did you know that the Coachella Valley is located near some of the premiere wildlife-viewing areas in the country? The Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail is the idea of Kurt Leuschner, Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert. This useful guide/map highlights ten of the area's best-known birding and ecotourism sites. Resident and visiting birders and nature enthusiasts will want to visit all ten stops (not in one day!) and experience the natural wonders that make this area unique. During this talk you will hear more about each stop and get the latest updates on where to find birds in the Coachella Valley region. (Start planning your next field trip!) The latest information on the Salton Sea will also be discussed. A hard copy of the guide can be mailed to you for \$2 including postage. Just provide your mailing address to: KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu

Kurt Leuschner, M.S., is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert where he teaches courses on Conservation, Entomology, Field Ornithology, Native Plants, and GPS Navigation. Kurt also teaches weekend courses and workshops on birdwatching, insects, GPS, and backyard habitats for UCR Extension, the Desert Institute, the Desert Studies Center, and the Living Desert. His latest research project involves the sound recording of the various subspecies of North American Scrub-Jays.

Income

Recycling	474.68
Annual appeal	9,545.00
NAS Baseline funding	3,061.25
PVAS chapter memberships	140.00
NAS Bu Owl project Grant	1,000.00
Member Bu Owl donations	750.00
Miscellaneous donations	74.11
Promotional items sold	271.00
D.G. estate bequest	52,000.00
Interest income	<u>2,528.87</u>

Gross Income	69,844.91
Gain (loss) on investments	<u>4,508.89</u>
	74,353.80
Less Total Expenses	<u>-16,620.16</u>
Net Income (loss)	57,733.64

Assets

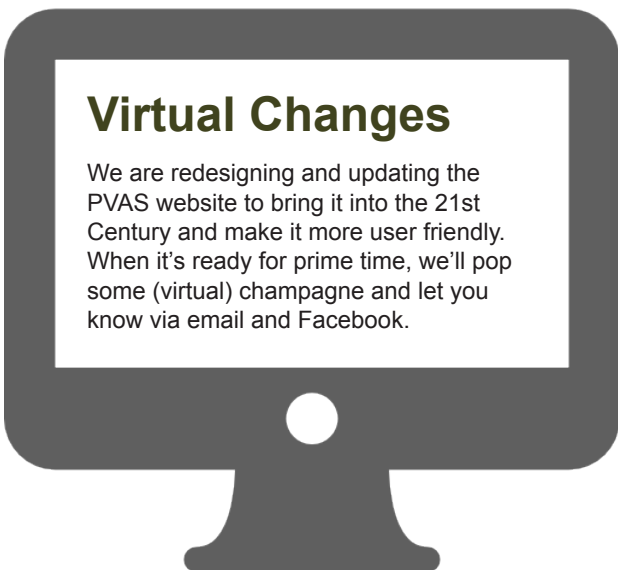
Cash in Bank	68,247.21
Investments	<u>61,571.01</u>
Total Assets	129,818.22

Operating Expenses

Insurance	2124.00
Postal permit #240	240.00
PMB #426	180.00
Annual Appeal	1,327.08
Membership expenses	88.00
Business Expenses	91.93
Promotional Items	<u>887.50</u>
	4938.51

Program Expenses

Speaker Honoraria	1600.00
Wild Wings support	2400.00
International Bird Rescue	100.00
Friends of the Island Fox	100.00
Burrowing Owl project	4739.05
D. Guthrie bird oasis	286.17
Education/Community outreach	136.34
Communication	1820.09
CA Botanic Garden	<u>500.00</u>
	11,681.65
Total Expenses	16,620.16



New Photo Challenge – Here's Your Sign



To spice up our June 2nd Member Slide Show we are adding a photo challenge with the theme "Birds on Signs." In addition to a slide show from each photographer, we'd like to create a compilation slide show of your best photos of birds perched on or near signs (road signs, instructional/informational signs, safety signs... whatever you have.) Don't wait, now is the time to start looking through your old photos and if you can't find any, we challenge you to take some new ones and submit them before May 18th. You do not have to participate in both the member slide show and the challenge. You can submit one bird on a sign photo or up to 20 of general photographs of birds. Some photographers avoid signs because they are not natural perches but, the right bird on the right sign can sometimes be quite interesting or downright humorous. We look forward to your submissions. Contact Seth Thompson at pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com.



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www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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General Meetings

Date: First Thursday in
September - June

Time: Social time - 6:30 p.m.
Meeting time - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Please email
pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com to
 receive a link to the meeting. Meetings
 begin with a bird identification lesson
 followed by announcements and our
 featured speaker.

Return Service Requested

PVAS CHAPARRAL NATURALIST | SPRING 2022

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The committee has been working with an environmental lawyer and consulted with experts on California Burrowing Owls. We now have several strategies for protecting the owls and we need your help.

Many of you have already made major contributions to protecting the owls through monitoring during the nesting season, sending comments to the airport to make the case for saving some of the land for the owls, joining work parties, and donating to the project.

For those who want to get involved, there are many ways you can help protect the owls:

- Join the Friends of the PVAS Burrowing Owls. You will receive opportunities to send the airport comments that support the owls and updates on the progress of owl protection.

- Find out about monitoring the owls during the nesting season. The more eyes on the nesting areas, the better we can identify and address threats.
- Donate to the PVAS Burrowing Owl Project to help cover lawyer fees, expenses involved in hiring an experienced writer to apply for additional state protections for the owls, and genetic analysis of local owls that can make a strong argument for protecting these owls.
- Share your concern for the future of the airport owls with your friends and family and social media contacts.

Contact the project at pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com for more information on any of these options.



PHOTO BY TINA STONER

2021 CBC
Thank you to our
80 volunteers
who counted 132
species and
11,125 individual
birds!
Complete results will
be available on our
webiste soon.

PVAS Board of Directors

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