



Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

FALL 2021 | SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER

BURROWING OWLS HAVE THEIR OWN VIRTUAL FESTIVAL

Burrowing Owls were once common throughout Southern California but are fast disappearing.

PVAS is working to protect these little owls and their nesting grounds so they can thrive in our area for years to come. Join us in celebrating Burrowing Owls at the Virtual Festival that is free and open to all online. It is the place for curious minds of all ages to observe and learn about these unique and fascinating creatures, how to protect them, and how to get involved. The festival has videos, talks, and slideshows on Burrowing Owl biology, behavior,

and conservation with a special emphasis on owls in the Pomona Valley of Southern California. There are owl stories, videos, and activities for kids, including coloring pages and a Burrowing Owl mask to download. Visitors can learn how to help protect the little

owls, watch a live camera feed from the San Diego Zoo Burrowing Owl enclosure, see clips from recent, live festivals, and enjoy whimsical advice on love, life, and home decorating from Ms. Bea, foremost (and possibly only) Burrowing Owl advice columnist. Some content is available in Spanish as well. The festival store features t-shirts, pins, and decals. Visit the ongoing festival at: www.PVASBurrowingOwlFestival.com



PHOTO BY DONNA BEDELL

Too Good Not to Share

At one of the sites where we monitor Burrowing Owls, PVAS has partnered with Professor Nina Karnovsky from Pomona College who is using motion activated field cameras to record activity near burrows. Not all the activity is Burrowing Owls! Ground Squirrels, cottontail rabbits, coyotes, reptiles, amphibians and more have been photographed. Here's a few we thought you'd enjoy.

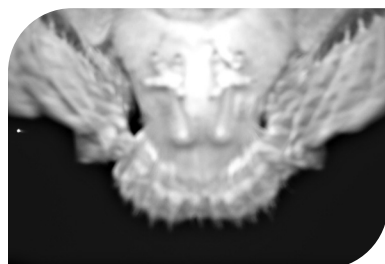


Thanks to infrared capabilities, the cameras record night activity too.



Greater Roadrunners have made guest appearances on the trail cameras several times, often with a lizard in their mouth.

If you are a mouse, this is the last thing you want to see! BUOW landing on the camera.



Red-tailed Hawks prey on Ground Squirrels (the architects of most owl burrows) and prey on the owls too.





Field Trips

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www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

Fall 2021

Field Trips - 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. Many of our trips originate at Memorial Park in Claremont but you have the option to meet on site. Distance estimates are from Memorial Park in Claremont and are round-trip. For your comfort and enjoyment, participants should plan to bring the following items: Binoculars, spotting scope, camera, water, snacks (check description for lunch needs), walking or hiking shoes, hat, sunscreen, weather appropriate clothing and a full tank of gas if driving. Trips are rated by difficulty to help you prepare.

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. NO sharing of optics, food or drink. Please note that some trips may be listed as vaccinated only.

Due to everchanging COVID restrictions all in-person events are subject to cancellation. Always contact the trip leader.

September 11, 2021 – 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 enjoy lunch at Weider Park and observe some of the back ponds of Bolsa Chica. 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

October 9, 2021 – Saturday North Etiwanda Preserve Fall Survey

(4890 Etiwanda Ave., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739 – Difficulty: Strenuous, 3.5 mi.)

This will be the first of two bird population surveys for the NEP this birding season. 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 15, 2021 – Friday Yorba Regional Park

(7600 LaPalma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92807 Difficulty: Easy 2.5 miles)

This mile-wide park adjacent to the Santa Ana River has a wide variety of bird species. We'll try to find Munia on the Santa Ana River, Wood Duck in the park and much more. 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

November 1-3, 2021 – Monday through Wednesday Bishop/Eastern Sierras Trip

(Difficulty: Easy to Strenuous (up to 4 mi./day))

By day, we'll be birding by car, especially at Owens Lake with some walking/hiking (hiking optional) and by night we'll be looking for owls including Short-eared Owls. Other target species include Tundra Swan, Prairie Falcon, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch and other area specialties. Lodging is on your own in either Big Pine or Bishop. Limited to 8 vaccinated people. RSVP with trip leader before October 9th. (Est. drive 520 miles round trip to Bishop, plus touring.)

Trip Leader Eric Smith (909) 477-7976 or bird4life28@gmail.com

November 12, 2021 – Friday Hidden Valley Wildlife Area

(11401 Arlington Ave. Riverside, CA 92505) Difficulty: Moderate (2 miles.)

Hidden Valley Wildlife Area is located within the Santa Ana River Valley Important Birding Area (IBA). We will look 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

November 13, 2021 – Saturday San Joaquin Marsh and Mason Regional Park

(5 Riparian View, Irvine CA 92612 - Difficulty: Easy)

The San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary is an amazing nature retreat in the center of suburban Orange Co. Over 320 species have been recorded at the marsh which is managed by the Irvine Ranch Water District and Sea and Sage Audubon. Nearby Mason RP has a reputation for some good vagrants seen around the lake in previous years and will provide us a 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



Meetings via Zoom (email pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com for link)

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Thursday – September 2, 2021 at 7 pm

Dr. Peter Hodum – Of Puffins and Petrels: Conserving Seabirds of the Salish Sea and Outer Coast of Washington

Although Washington is blessed with a rich community of breeding and wintering seabirds, relatively little is known about the ecology and conservation status of many of the species, particularly the burrow-nesters including iconic species such as the Tufted Puffin, recently listed as Endangered by Washington State. Dr. Hodum will share stories about a collaborative research program focused on improving our understanding of the ecology and conservation status of Tufted Puffins, Rhinoceros Auklets, Cassin's Auklets and Leach's and Fork-tailed storm-petrels. Dr. Peter Hodum is a professor in the Biology Department and the Environmental Policy and Decision Making Program at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, and the Chile Program Director for Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, a conservation non-profit organization. His research focuses primarily on the conservation and ecology of threatened seabirds and island ecosystems in Chile and Washington State. His work also has a strong focus on community-based conservation, including how communities can be more effectively and authentically involved in conservation.



Thursday – October 7, 2021 at 7 pm

Dr. Lisa Tell, DVM – The Ins and Outs of Hummingbird Research: A Small Bird with a Big Story to Tell

Dr. Tell will present the ins and outs of performing research to help hummingbirds. She will talk about how to capture, band and take samples from hummingbirds and the current studies that are being done at UC Davis. Methods for identifying the age, species and sex while the bird is in hand will also be covered. Please come with your questions to hear about one of the most popular backyard birds!! Dr. Tell is a professor of medicine and epidemiology at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners with an Avian Specialty and has a master banding permit for hummingbirds. Dr. Tell is the "principle" investigator for the Gottlieb Foundation: Support of UC Davis Hummingbird Health Conservation Program.



Thursday – November 4, 2021 at 7 pm

Natalia Doshi – Prado Wetlands and Conservation- Insight into the Orange County Water District's Natural Resources Programs

The Orange County Water District (OCWD) manages one of the largest groundwater basins in southern California, providing more than 75% of central and north Orange County residents' water supply. OCWD is internationally recognized for its Groundwater Replenishment System, an advanced water purification system. The district also manages over 2,000 acres of land behind the Prado Dam, called the Prado Basin which contain 465 acres of treatment ponds, called the Prado Wetlands. The Prado Basin provides a pristine riparian habitat to over 200 bird species, including one of the largest breeding populations of the endangered Least Bell's Vireo! Natalia Doshi, Wildlife Biologist and Environmental Specialist at OCWD, will provide an overview of the history, background, and conservation work of OCWD's Natural Resources Department. Learn about the biological monitoring programs, natural resources projects and the Prado Wetland's flora and fauna that OCWD manages and protects while supplying a reliable water source to CA residents. Natalia received her MS in Biology from CSUF, her BS from CSULB and studied abroad at Veritas University in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Bird Walks

California Botanic Garden

1500 N. College Ave. Claremont, CA 91711

Resumption of the California Botanic Garden First Sunday of the Month Family Friendly Bird Walks is being postponed until COVID restrictions lessen to a level more conducive to a safe and comfortable group walk at the garden.

Bonelli Regional Park

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

Pat and Rod Higbie have announced their retirement from leadership of the Bonelli Park Fourth Sunday of the Month Nature Walks. We are looking for a variety of volunteers to lead these walks on a rotational basis to spread out the load. If you feel it's important that the Nature Walks at Bonelli continue, please contact Tina Stoner at tinastoner@earthlink.net to ask how you can help. We will continue

to meet in the parking lot of Brackett Field (airport) at 1615 McKinley Ave., La Verne, CA (better known as the Norm's Hanger Coffee Shop parking lot.) To reach the parking lot, take McKinley Ave. west from Fairplex Drive to the parking area at the end of the road on the right. Meet at 7:45 a.m. to caravan into the park. Bring binoculars, comfortable shoes and your mask. Trip Leader: Various

September 26

October 24

November 28

December 26

Burrowing Owl Stickers!

Our two charming vinyl stickers for the Eyes and Ears on Burrowing Owls Project are free to Friends of the Burrowing Owls. We also created a business-sized card that can be handed out to people who are interested in the project or to educate photographers who are disturbing the owls on their nesting grounds. If you would like either or both the stickers and a few cards, let me know the best way to get them to you. If you want them mailed, please send your mailing address to Susanne Thompson sthompson@pomona.edu. If you want to pick up, email me for location. Keep Burrowing Owls in the Pomona Valley!



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

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PVAS CHAPARRAL NATURALIST | FALL 2021

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



PVAS Wants Your Email!

It's the best way to stay informed about upcoming meetings, especially when there is so much uncertainty about meeting in person or via Zoom, and to learn about special events, such as the virtual Burrowing Owl Festival. If you've gotten emails from us in the past, you don't need to do anything. If you'd like to be included in our email notifications, please send an email to pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com. Rest assured we will not clutter up your inbox with constant messages and we will not sell or share your email with anyone.

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 | <input type="radio"/> 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 |
| | <input type="radio"/> Join both NAS and PVAS BY CHECK. | Make out a \$20 check to NAS. Mail to NAS with address slip below. |
| | <input type="radio"/> Join PVAS only, not NAS. | Make \$20 check to PVAS and send to PVAS with address slip below. |
| RENEW | <input type="radio"/> 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. |
| | <input type="radio"/> Renew your joint membership in NAS and PVAS BY CHECK. | Make \$20 check to NAS and send to NAS with address slip below. |
| | <input type="radio"/> 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 _____

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