

Chaparral Naturalist

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

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Audubon makes push for **Salton Sea Protection**

The Salton Sea was a major recreational wonderland in the 1950's, with fishing, swimming and all the water sports. The shore was lined with motels, marinas and all the stuff associated with a tourist destination. Since then, things have gone downhill. Water salinity has risen to nearly double that of the ocean and the shoreline has fluctuated, first flooding and then leaving high and dry the shore businesses. Past plans to "save" the sea have focused on stabilizing the shoreline and reducing the salinity to a level that would allow fish to survive. Costs for such plans running to 8 billion dollars have found little legislative support.

Audubon thinks that now is a good time to push for a solution. The reason is as follows. Transfer of Colorado River water from the Imperial valley farms to San Diego in recent years has resulted in a sharp drop in sea level, exposing the sea bottom. The sea has long been a repository for agricultural waste, placing many fertilizer, pesticide residues in the bottom sediments. Winds now blow dust from the exposed bottom causing damage to agriculture and extremely high respiratory diseases among the local population. As mitigation for the water transfers, some water was pumped from the Colorado River directly into the sea ---but never enough to totally counteract the water transfers. This mitigation stops in 2017, meaning that sea level will drop even faster, exposing more bottom and increasing the severity of human health problems and crop damage. The cost of these problems is calculated at more than 20 billion dollars ---more than most schemes to fix the sea. The state legislature and federal government are more likely to work on this problem now that the economic costs are clear.












Audubon's concern is birds. Many fish eating birds: the cormorants, pelicans terns and eared grebes are affected by the salinity changes cultural wastewater enters the sea and cranes that we go to see in winter will be fresh water and grasses on the wildlife refuges near the sea. However there is a danger. One way to prevent blowing dust is to spread water on the exposed areas that were once sea bottom. This worked at Owens Lake, preventing the dust problems east of the Sierras. This would also work at the Salton Sea, and cost much less than any solution to restore water quality or stabilize the shoreline. Unfortunately, this solution would require water. Water is in short supply and important to townspeople and farmers as well as birds.

and loss of fish. However, there is still fresher water where agricultural fish do survive in these areas. All of the ducks, geese, ibis and unaffected by the sea's high salinity as they depend on the

Audubon would prefer a solution to the salinity problem that would restore the sea for fish and (Continued on page 2)

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Welcome to a new and exciting year of birding with Pomona Valley Audubon Society!

At our summer planning meeting each board member was asked to relate how they became a birder and then an active member of PVAS. As the new president of PVAS I would like to share my story so we can become better acquainted with each other.

My journey revolves around six birds: Western Meadowlark, Water Ouzel, Anhinga, American Woodcock, Rustic Bunting, and Piliated Woodpecker. Each of these diverse birds is a special marker on my path to becoming involved in the magnificent world of birds.

As a youngster my mother pointed out our backyard birds. She emphasized their size, shape, calls and nests. When we traveled my birding world expanded. To avoid driving through Los Angeles before freeways my father often took us north across the Mojave Desert. Riding with the windows down, it was easy to hear and learn the distinctive call of the Western Meadowlark. That sound became music to my ears.

As an adolescent, I joined Boy Scout Troop 13 in Riverside. The Troop was led by Doc Simmonds and his wife, both avid birders. Bird watching was one of the troop specialties and we were schooled well. Recently I was thumbing through field notes of a nature hike we took in the High Sierras and I came across a description of a unique bird we saw dipping under water for food. In those days it was named a Water Ouzel. Today we call him the American Dipper.



Like many of the current board members, my interest in birding declined during the years of building a career and raising a family. About fourteen years ago I met Gloria and quickly realized if I wanted to build a relationship with her I would have to get back into birding, as she was an active member of PVAS. Early on we enrolled in an Elderhostel trip, The Big Enchilada. The idea was to see the local and migrating birds around Port Aransas, Texas in the spring. We were treated to dozens of birds that were completely new to us. The Anhinga, swimming with only its' head exposed captured my attention, and when seen preening, was magnificent. I was now hooked on birding.

Several years ago we were fortunate to join Pam Kling on a week long PVAS trip to see the warblers in Michigan. While the story of the Kirtland's Warbler intrigued me, our quest to witness the special mating behavior of the American Woodcock became the highlight of the trip for me. Subsequently I wrote an article for the Chaparral Naturalist about the experience.

Two years ago, when Nancy Strang learned that we were going to San Francisco to visit my grandchildren, she challenged us to see a cute little vagrant that was hanging out in Golden Gate Park. We accepted the challenge and located the area in the park where this cutie had been seen. After forty-five minutes of waiting, a wayward Rustic Bunting from eastern Asia appeared. What a thrill.

While birding offers moments of sheer joy, I experienced disappointment in my ongoing pursuit of the Piliated Woodpecker. When Gloria and I were hiking in Mt. Lassen we heard his hammering but couldn't locate him. We left the trail in what I hoped would not be another futile search. Suddenly the Piliated flew to the left providing only a glimpse. The bird stopped at a dead tree trunk and began dismantling the bark on the tree. Finally, I got my wish, a clear view of a Piliated Woodpecker. Birders need to be patient.

PVAS has opened my eyes and ears to the world of birds. Please join me in participating actively in the programs and field trips offered by our chapter. We have a talented and devoted board working to help provide a vibrant calendar of events and opportunities for service in the coming year. I am looking forward to hearing your stories as to how you became an active PVAS birder. Together we can enjoy the world of birds.

Salton Sea Protection --- (Continued from page)

the birds that depend on them. However, if the State or Federal governments opt for a solution only to the dust problem, it must be a solution that does not decrease the fresh water habitat in the wildlife refuges.

You will be hearing more about this issue in the coming months. I am told that there is a ballot initiative to allow donations from your tax returns to the Salton Sea Restoration. This is a first small step to show the legislatures our concern with this issue and begin to arrive at a solution.

- -- Dan Guthrie

PVAS Participating in Community Events to Remember:

Friday & Saturday evenings,
October 14 - 15, 5:30p.m. to 9 p.m.

Things that Go Bump in the Night at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens

Night life at the Gardens including
wolves and owls!
Advance tickets: rsabg.



Saturday, October 22

Village Venture downtown Claremont, First Street between Harvard and Yale, south side of the street.

Owls, hawks & other birds by Wild Wings
Bird info for teachers, Tee shirts, etc.



PVAS President Ed Babcock awarded member Tina Stoner the 2015-16 Flock Leader award at our June meeting. Tina is leading several field trips this year as well as many other things. Come meet her.

Newsletter now limited to 2 issues per year.

We plan to publish the Chaparral Naturalist twice a year, in September and January. These issues will be sent to all members through the mail and will contain complete information about programs and field trips for the Fall and Spring. You should check with our website (www.pomona-valleyaudubon.org) for updates and information on current issues.

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.

NEW MEMBERS FOR MAY, JUNE, AND JULY

Chino: **Amanda Agosta**

Chino Hills: **Dave Master, Juli Jones, David Morgan, Renae Stueve**

Ontario: **John Baker, Nancy Rutherford, Lawrence Wedell, Ellen Law, John Kramer**

Pomona: **John Polce, James Gragg, Ms. Susan Erickson, Alice Oglesby, Michele D Ritchie, William T. Davis, John M Suchocki**

Claremont: **Helen Hung, Lori Wilkie, Roswitha Burwick, Emily Camp, Lucy Lynch, Erica Tyron, Jean Beckner, Eloise Cadman, Jeff Strogon, Catherine Mac Diarmid, Cameran Ashraf, Laura Jaoui, Larry Maass, Kam Kwok**

Covina: **Ray Forsyth, Roberta Huskey**

Rancho Cucamonga: **Kam Wong, Lydia Garcia, Joseph M Murphy, Joy Filippelli, Mia Dravis, Don Zabriskie, Alexandra Mirman, Richard G. Torres, Joyce Warhank**

Glendora: **Alexander Cruz, Rudolph Parzi**

Mira Loma: **Lee Johnson, Walter J Delise, Vickie Ahrberg**

Diamond Bar: **Debra White, Bruce Nelson, Robert Diederich**

Upland: **Ariane Lehew, Carol Bekendam, Fred Tinsley, Evelyn M. Tessier, Jady & Siena Vejarial, Glenn Black**

West Covina: **Rebecca Romo**

Corona: **Diana Gallisath**

San Dimas: **David Hostetter, Lauren Hill, Thomas R Arbogast**

Walnut: **Carol Coy**

Corona: **Catherine Amoss, Joe and Cecy Arndt**

Glendora: **Margaret Hundsdoerfer, Patricia E Humphrey**

Norco: **Kenneth & Geneva Larson**

Catalina Cherry by Angie Verma

Two years ago, I bought a two-foot-tall Catalina Cherry (*Prunus lyonii*) at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont. The little tree didn't grow at all the first few months. I was wondering if the high temperatures and little water were taking a toll on it when new glossy leaves began to emerge. The tree hasn't stopped growing since then. It has grown over 7 feet in two years! This fast growing tree produces clusters of tiny white flowers in early spring that attract butterflies and big dark cherries that attract every fruit-eating bird in the neighborhood. I've had dozens of Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Northern Mockingbirds, Western Tanagers, American Robins, House Finches to name a few. The birds ate all the cherries in a week or so. California Cherry is an evergreen tree that can grow up to 25 feet and has a compact oval shape. It can be grown as a hedge. The fruits are edible, but they're just skin and pit, although some people find them tasty. California Cherry likes poor sandy soil and partial to full sun.

The Value of Knowing A Bird's Age by Dan Guthrie

For nearly all bird species, very young birds look different from their parents. However, for many species, the young begin to look like their parents often before we ever see them. Young scrub jays, for instance, may look scruffy but are the size and color of their parents. I have mentioned that young white-crowned sparrows keep their brown crowns through the winter so it is possible, by comparing the number of brown to white crows to tell how successful the breeding season was. In fact, ebird allows you to sex and age species in their reports.

The value of this is currently being demonstrated by **Heerman's gull**. Alvaro Jaramillo reports that no immature Heerman's gulls are being reported along our coast. This species breeds on islands in the Gulf of California and last year and this year the reproduction of this species failed, probably due to lack of food and temperature changes. Young Heerman's gulls are all dark and don't develop the white head of adult birds until after the first winter. Much of the Heerman's gull population comes north to our coast in winter to feed on sand crabs.



The **Elegant tern**, another species that once nested exclusively on islands in the Gulf of California also has probably failed to reproduce there. However many elegant terns have moved north to San Diego and Bolsa Chica to breed and are successful there.

So keep an eye out this winter for immature Heerman's Gulls and also keep a record of numbers; two years of failed breeding should start to reduce overall population size. Be sure to keep a record of the numbers of young versus adult birds in species where you can tell the difference. It will give an indication of breeding success and whether the species are in trouble. This will be especially important for species that nest in the arctic, the area most affected by global warming.

Watch for Woodpecker Return

We usually watch for the return of white crowned sparrows and Audubon's warblers our two common wintering species. However, several woodpeckers are not here during the summer and will soon be returning.



Among these is the Flicker. Flickers nest in the mountains but in September begin to show up in our lowlands. Sapsuckers and on rare occasions Lewis's woodpecker also appear in our area in the lowlands. All these species depend on insects and when it gets cold in the mountains, insects are hard to find. So keep an eye out and an ear cocked for the flicker's characteristic call. **Dan Guthrie**

NEW THIS YEAR...

"Birding By Car" PVAS Field Trips

For those of us who are not walking well right now, but who would still like to get out and see new places and old feathered friends, PVAS leaders Dan Guthrie and Judy Sugden will offer mid-week, half day field trips once a month. We will try to have enough easily accessible cars so that everyone has a window from which to view the birds.

Depending upon the popularity of these trips, we will try to have a good birder in each car as well as walkie-talkies to communicate between cars. Expect one or two short stops during the morning for "stretch and breath" and restrooms. ...and I am sure we can find a little beastie to chase in a tree or bush if there is interest. Plan to be home for your lunch but water, snacks and binoculars are suggested. If you live near Memorial Park where we meet, we may be able to pick you up and return you home. Just ask. Call Judy if you have any special requests. 951 201-2344.



BIRD of the MONTH:

NORTHERN FLICKER, *Calaptes auratus*, (AKA Red Shafted Flicker)

Identifying Characteristics: Length 12.5 inches, wingspan 12.5 inches, weight 4.6 oz.

Year round residents of RSABG, Flickers are easy to identify due to their size, sleek plumage, and unique behavior. About the size of a Mourning Dove, their handsome brownish barred back, spotted belly, black breast-band, and mostly gray or brown head distinguishes them from other birds. In flight their white rump and salmon color underwings (hence, red shafted) are striking. Like other woodpeckers, they have stiff tails for clinging to bark and strong beaks for drumming to announce their territory. What differentiates the genders is one characteristic, males have a red mustache stripe otherwise they appear the same.

Flickers' eating and preening habits are unusual for woodpeckers; they forage on the ground rather than on tree trunks. On the ground they seek out their favorite food, ants. Squashing the ants onto their feathers releases formic acid from ants. Flickers preen themselves with the acid which serves a medicinal purpose: to eradicate parasites that live on birds. The process is called anting. Flickers also eat other insects and berries.

Noisy birds, especially during courting, you can hear their call of "wickawicka-wicka and a single "keer". An even drum beat from a resonant surface announces their territory. Flickers mate for life. Together, male and female, excavate hollow dead trees in which to drill a hole for their nest. All parenting responsibilities are shared by Mr. and Mrs. Flicker. **Gloria Slosberg**

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS
FOR PVAS JOBS BIG & SMALL.

National Audubon and Pomona Valley Audubon Chapter Membership

We invite you to become a member of the National Audubon Society and the Pomona Valley Audubon Society chapter. Members of National receive the monthly glossy Audubon magazine and our local PVAS Chaparral Naturalist newsletter (bi-monthly by email). A one year NEW MEMBERSHIP or a RENEWAL is \$20 for an individual or family. _____ JOIN or RENEW either online or by mail _____

1. ONLINE: At the Pomona Valley Audubon Society (PVAS) website: www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org click on "Membership" at the top of the page and then click on the link to the National Audubon membership page. With a donation of \$20 or more, you will automatically become a member of both National Audubon AND Pomona Valley Audubon Society.

2. BY MAIL: Use the form below and send it (with your check made out to NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY) to **PVAS, 2058 N. Mills, PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711**. Please put Chapter Code C08 on check.

Note that you also have the option to join ONLY our local Audubon chapter (PVAS) and NOT National Audubon with a \$20 donation for a one year individual or family membership. Fill in the form below and send it (with your check made out to POMONA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY) directly to: **PVAS, 2058 N. Mills, PMB426, Claremont, CA 91711**.

Name _____ Chapter Code C08
 Address _____ Telephone _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Email _____

PVAS Field Trips - Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

- **Binoculars/spotting scope/camera** (as desired)
- **Water**
- **Snacks and lunch**
- **Dress in Layers** (Bring extra clothing in case of unexpected weather changes.)
- **Walking/Hiking shoes**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Hat**
- **Full tank of gas**

RECOMMENDED ITEMS FOR
PVAS FIELD TRIPS

EVERYONE WELCOME !!!!

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. For your comfort and enjoyment, participants should plan to bring the suggested items:

Day & weekend PVAS trips----

Check with leader for any additions or changes.

First Sunday Birdwalk ----

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens

Join us for our monthly bird walk. Family friendly, the walk is slow paced and lasts approximately two hours. 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.) Entry fee is waived for all participants.

Leaders: PVAS members

Sunday, September 4, 2016
Sunday, October 2, 2016
Sunday, November 6, 2016
Sunday, December 4, 2016
Sunday, January 1, 2017 **CANCELED
Sunday, February 5, 2017
Sunday, March 5, 2017
Sunday, April 2, 2017
Sunday, May 7, 2017
Sunday, June 4, 2017

Fourth Sunday Nature Walks ----

Frank G. Bonelli Park

Join us for a monthly nature walk at the Frank G. Bonelli Park. This is an easy two hour walk for beginners as well as experts. The diverse habitat makes this a great place to find Greater Roadrunner, Cactus Wren and California Gnatcatcher, along with raptors and wintering water fowl. Contact the leader at warblerod@verison.net for meeting time and directions.

Leader: **Rod Higbie (909) 599-6526.**

Sunday, September 25, 2016
Sunday, October 23, 2016
Sunday, November 27, 2016
Sunday, December 18, 2016 **NOTE CHANGE
Sunday, January 22, 2017
Sunday, February 26, 2017
Sunday, March 26, 2017
Sunday, April 23, 2017
Sunday, May 28, 2

Saturday, September 3, 2016 -

Bolsa Chica

Dan will take us to the coast for shorebirds and local specialties. This is a great time of year to bird the coast. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259** or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Thursday, September 15, 2016

BirdingByCar - San Jacinto Wildlife Area



Returning water birds and raptors will be the focus of our first Birding By Car trip with very little ---if any--- optional walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. Carpool Memorial Park at 8 a.m. Return by noon so only snacks and water needed.

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

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Glen Helen Park

A trip during fall migration for western birds making their way through Cajon Pass. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park for a half-day trip. Bring water, snacks, and lunch so we can picnic after birding in the park.

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

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

San Dimas Canyon Park

Join Eric for a trip to San Dimas Canyon and Horsethief Canyon Parks great for local and migrants this time of year. Will the Thick-billed Kingbird return for a fourth year? Join us and find out. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks and a lunch if you'd like to picnic after the walk.

Leader: **Eric Smith 909 477-7976** or bird4life28@yahoo.com

Saturday, October 8, 2016

Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area

This is a good time of year for western migrant land birds such as sparrows, swifts, vagrant warblers and maybe a larkspur. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259** or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

PVAS Field Trips - 2016 - 2017

Thursday, October 13, 2016

North Etiwanda Preserve

Once again, PVAS will be conducting semi-annual bird population surveys for the NEP. This is a great opportunity to give back to the community by doing what we love – birding! It will be a long but fun day. Call the trip leader if you plan to attend. Bring snacks, water and a portable lunch.

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

Thursday, October 20, 2016

BirdingByCar - Chino Hills State Park



NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR! A trip for migrants, raptors and returning winter species, this is a Birding By Car trip with very little if any optional walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. Depart Memorial Park at 8 am. Return by noon.

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

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Lake Fulmor, Lake Hemet and the Idyllwild Nature Center

NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR! ... Join Dan on this new multi-stop trip where we'll look for montane species at Lake Fulmor and the Idyllwild Nature Center. Next we'll explore Lake Hemet for ducks, shorebirds and more. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259** or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Wednesday, November 9

BirdingByCar - Prado Regional Park



A good trip for wintering ducks, gulls and Vermillion Flycatchers, this is a birding by car trip with very little if any optional walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars. Depart Memorial Park at 8 a.m. Return by noon.

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

Thursday, November 17, 2016

Mt. Baldy Village and Vicinity

A trip to the Mt. Baldy area for species such as White-headed Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, nuthatches, and Mountain Chickadee. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park (we'll carpool from there) and trip is limited to 12 persons. Bring water, snacks, and lunch.

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

Wednesday, December 14

Pre-CBC Scouting Trip at Bonelli

A morning search for goodies prior to our Christmas Bird Count. Bring water and snacks. Contact trip leader for meeting instructions and time.

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

Thursday, December 15

BirdingByCar - Pre-CBC Scouting Trip: Parks & Ponds



A visit to various parks, settling ponds and other hot spots in the Claremont-Pomona area looking for wintering ducks, gulls, sparrows and other goodies before our Christmas census. Depart Memorial Park at 8 am. Return by noon. This is a birding by car trip with very little --- if any --- optional walking. We will have walkie talkies for communication between cars.

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

Saturday, January 7, 2017

Orange County Big Day

Eric will take us on a tour of multiple coastal migrant traps and hot spots for wintering specialties and help us start the New Year with a big list. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Eric Smith 909 477-7976** or bird4life28@yahoo.com

Saturday, January 14, 2017

Whittier Narrows and the San Gabriel River Settling Grounds

Join Dan as we search for wintering waterfowl, sparrows, and flycatchers. Both locations are a great place to find winter vagrants. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259** or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

Saturday, February 18, 2017

Lake Perris and San Jacinto Wilderness

We'll take a walk at Lake Perris and a drive at San Jacinto for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, sparrows and raptors including Peregrine Falcon and Bald and Golden Eagle. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259** or DanRCRenee@verizon.net

PVAS Field Trips - 2016 - 2017

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS
FOR PVAS JOBS BIG & SMALL.



Saturday, March 4, 2017

Peck Road Water Conservation Park

This hidden gem in Arcadia boasts a surprising variety of year-round and migrant species as well as an occasional surprise vagrant species. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net**

Saturday, March 25, 2017

Prado Regional Park

So close, yet so diverse, visiting this popular park in Chino will increase our chances of seeing Vermillion Flycatchers, hawks and wintering vagrants Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring water, snacks, and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net**

Saturday, April 8, 2017

North Etiwanda Preserve

This will be our second semi-annual bird survey for the season at the NEP. Enjoy a great day of local birding knowing you contributed to citizen science at its finest. Call the trip leader if you plan to attend. Meets 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and a portable lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net**

Saturday, April 29, 2017

Prado Wetlands

Bonnie Johnson, Orange County Water District biologist will once again conduct a private tour of the Prado Wetlands for PVAS. It's 45 shallow ponds provide ideal habitat for wading and shore birds, waterfowl, raptors and more including its large population of endangered Least Bell's Vireo. Trip is limited to 12 people. Contact trip leader to reserve your spot.

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

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

A famous desert oasis at the height of western migration with lots of local nesting activity too. Great photo opportunities at our lunch stop at the bird feeders. Meets 6:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net**

Saturday, June 3, 2017

Big Bear Lake Area

Beat the heat and head up the mountain. Enjoy birding the Big Bear Lake area during the breeding season of Montane species. Meet 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. Bring snacks, water and lunch.

Leader: **Dan Gregory (909)944-2259 or DanRCRenee@verizon.net**

Local PVAS phone

will be answered if anyone is at home.

909 625-5510

PVAS OFFICERS 2016-2017

PresidentEd Babcock..... ed.babcock@icloud.com
Vice-PresidentSeth Thompson..... polpsych@gmail.com
SecretaryAngie Verma rosegoddess@prodigy.net
TreasurerJim Herman..... jhfinwing@msn.com

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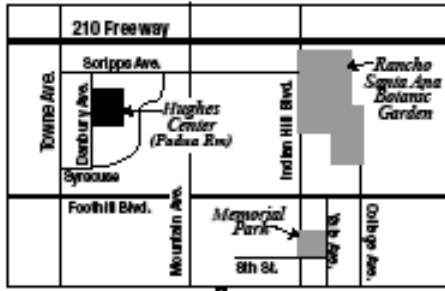
CHAPARRAL NATURALIST NEWSLETTER

EditorJudy Sugden..... eeyaa@uia.net

The Chaparral Naturalist is published bi-yearly by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the middle of the month before publication. 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 to Judy, 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:

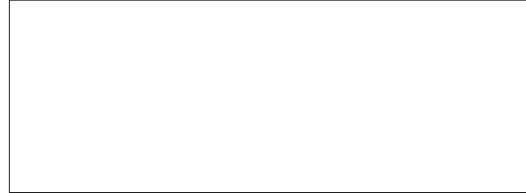
Pomona Valley Audubon
2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
Claremont, CA 91711



Pomona Valley Audubon Society
 2058 N Mills Ave., PMB426
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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, September 1, 2016

Singing with Feathers: Woodstar and other Bee Hummingbird Courtship

Presented by Christopher J. Clark, UC Riverside

Join us for our first general meeting of the fall. Christopher Clark will introduce us to "The fabulous courtships of woodstars and other 'bee' hummingbirds."

Dr. Clark has traveled throughout North, Central and South America to study various species of hummingbird. His particular focus has been courtship displays that males produce for females. Every species has unique ornaments and flies in unique patterns. Dr. Clark will play some of the more fantastic displays he has recorded, and tell stories about doing research in Brazil, Cuba and Guatemala. He will also describe some of the more interesting aspects of how feathers have evolved to generate sound.

Thursday, OCTOBER 6, 2016

Alaskan Birding with the Family

Presented by Dr. Daniel Guthrie

Dan Guthrie will take us on his June family birding trip to Alaska, with ideas for keeping the kids and non birders happy. We will visit the Anchorage area, Seward, Denali and Nome for wildlife and 'roadside' specials.

Thursday, NOVEMBER 3, 2016

Birding in Costa Rica

Presented by Brian and Janice Elliott

PVAS members, the Elliots, visited and birded four major life zones in the very birder friendly country of Costa Rica. They birded in the Pacific lowlands, Caribbean lowlands, Caribbean Middle Elevations, and the Highlands. The birding ranged from sea level to nearly 11,000 ft, where the view was both coasts from the top of a volcano. Base Lodges: Bosque del rio Tigre in the Pacific Lowlands, Selva Verde in the Caribbean Lowlands, Rancho Naturalista in the Caribbean Middle Elevations, and Sevegre Hotel at 7000 ft in the highlands provided many spectacular birds with 331 species identified.

Thursday, DECEMBER 1, 2016

Vocal Duets in the Jungle: Faithful mates or Faithless Dates

Presented by Rachel Levin, a Professor at Pomona College

The study of bird song has provided a rich array of information on animal communication, neural and endocrine control of behavior, and even the development of human language. However, most research has focused on avian species in the temperate zone where typically only male birds sing. I will describe my studies of the function and control of song in the bay wren, *Thryothorus nigricapillus*, a tropical wren in which females as well as males sing, and most song occurs in precisely-timed duets. I will place the results of this work in a broader context by also discussing my comparisons of song, mate fidelity, and breeding biology of temperate versus tropical house wrens.