



# Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of  
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

[www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org](http://www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org)

SUMMER BULLETIN 2020 | JUNE - JULY

## Greetings Everyone - We Miss You!

Welcome to our Summer Bulletin, a special mini edition of the Chaparral Naturalist created to let you know we are thinking about you and hoping that you are well. Without the personal contact of our monthly meetings, field trips/bird walks and other special events, the board of directors thought it was important to send a special mailing to help stay in touch.

We'd love to be able to tell you about our upcoming meetings and field trips, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unsure when our regular activities will resume. So, with that in mind, we thought we'd share some stories about what some of our members are doing to stay busy and keep their birding skills up as well as offer you a Summer Reading List on a variety of bird subjects that should appeal to all.

We want to encourage all of you to become a "Friend of the Pomona Valley Burrowing Owls" to show land owners and developers in our area that people DO care about these special little owls. Why should you join? Simply put, more members equals more bargaining power for preservation and mitigation. Also check out our new Burrowing Owl Project tab on our website with updates on the committee's activities, cool videos and activities for kids.

Even though our annual June Meeting and Party wasn't possible this year, the Member's Slide Show tradition is continuing virtually on our website. Look for the tab 2020 Slide Show to view wonderful photography submitted by your fellow chapter members.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, September 3rd for our first meeting via Zoom (or perhaps in person) featuring Benny Jacob Schwartz speaking on hummingbirds. Details to follow.


Wishing you good (and safe) birding. We hope to see you soon!


**PVAS Board of Directors**


## THE JOY AND COMFORT OF BIRDS


By Suzanne Thompson


We did a small survey to find out how PVAS members have put their passion for birds to good use during this stay-at-home time.


 **Point and Shoot:** The highlight for Stephanie Klem was to observe and photograph an active Great Horned Owl nest near her house. Sherry Schmidt read up on photographing swallows in flight and got some good shots of swallows at Prado Park.

 **Bird Education:** Mavis Streyffeler is taking a "Joy of Birdwatching" online class from Cornell. Portland Audubon online classes and ABA podcasts help Kim Dillbeck enhance her birding-by-ear and warbler and flycatcher ID skills. Laura Jaoui's neighborhood walks include birding and listening to The Genius of Birds.

 **Social Distance Birding:** Some members sought out uncrowded sites to bird. Jeff Stroger's workplace yielded 3 new species: Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Tanager, and Red-whiskered Bulbul. Brian Elliott found a bounty of CA Gnatcatchers at San Timoteo Canyon.

 **Conservation Work:** Hank Feilen tended to the bluebird and Tree Swallow nest boxes at Prado Park and in Chino Creek Wetlands. April Chertkow, Jeff Stroger, and Kim Dillbeck removed brush from burrow entrances in Chino and monitored nesting sites at Chaffey College. The Bakers (Linda and John), the Antoniaks (Jenny and Chuk), and Alan Davis continue to gather important information about Burrowing Owls near the Ontario Airport and in Chino.

 **Organizing a Bird Count:** Monthly bird walks were cancelled at Mount San Antonio Gardens, so Gloria Slosberg and Ed Babcock started a Front Porch Bird Count for residents. In the first week of April, 30 participants saw 33 species.

 **Sprucing Up Yard Habitat:** Birdfeeders were deep-cleaned and squirrel-proofed (Laura Jaoui), a birdbath and a solar fountain installed (Kim Dillbeck), and a bird feeder added to the front yard (Stephanie Klem).


We invite you to share your bird-related activity in the time of COVID. Send to [sthompson@pomona.edu](mailto:sthompson@pomona.edu). Activities will appear in the next newsletter or other media.


## Wish We Had Your Email Address





During unpredictable times like these it would be so much easier to communicate with you via email, but we only have email addresses for about 30% of you. Won't you please consider sharing your address with us (we promise not to share it or overload your inbox.) Send to [pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Summer Reading List

Have a little more time to read this summer? Here's some recommendations from the PVAS board. If you have a book you'd like to recommend, share it with us on our Facebook page. 

 **North on the Wing**  
by Bruce M. Beehler

 **What It's Like to Be a Bird:  
From Flying to Nesting, Eating to  
Singing--What Birds Are Doing,  
and Why**  
By David Sibley

 **Wesley the Owl: A  
Remarkable Love Story of an  
Owl and His Girl**  
By Stacey O'Brien

 **The Home Place: Memoirs of  
a Colored Man's Love Affair  
with Nature**  
By J. Drew Lanham

 **Saving Jemima - Life and  
Love with a Hard Luck Jay**  
by Julie Zickefoose




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## PVAS CHAPARRAL NATURALIST | SUMMER 2020

 **The Bird Way – A New Look at How Birds Talk, Work, Play,  
Parent and Think**  
By Jennifer Ackerman

 **Birding Without Borders**  
by Noah Stryker

## Become a Friend of Pomona Valley Burrowing Owls



**B**urrowing Owls are small owls that use underground burrows for nest sites and shelter. At one time these owls were very common in California and, even as recently as 10 years ago, they were a common sight in the Pomona Valley. However, loss of habitat, the use of pesticides, and the killing of burrow-excavating ground squirrels have drastically reduced their numbers. They are in danger of

disappearing from their native habitat in our area. The goal of our Eyes and Ears on Burrowing Owls Project is to maintain a healthy, viable breeding population of Burrowing Owls in the Pomona Valley. We monitor nesting success of the owls, identify threats to their survival, work to improve and protect the sites where the owls currently nest, and collaborate with other groups who are interested in owl conservation.

You can help the owls by becoming a Friend of Pomona Valley Burrowing Owls. No experience necessary! You will receive occasional news about the owls and about opportunities to participate. Our success in protecting

## An Invitation to Join Friends of Pomona Valley Burrowing Owls

the owls depends on having a large group of owl-lovers who are willing to sign a petition or send an email or letter to support our local owls if loss of their habitat or other threats are imminent. The more people who are aware of and care about the owls, the better chance that city and county administrators, corporations, and other property owners will pay attention to owl protection.

To join Friends of PV Burrowing Owls, send an email to Pomona Valley Audubon Society at [pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com) with your name, contact information, and any other information you would like to share about your experiences with Burrowing Owls.

THANKS, FRIEND!