



Chaparral Naturalist

A Publication of
Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2024

PVAS Board Votes to Change Chapter Name

By Sam Atwood, *Chaparral Naturalist* Editor

In July, the Pomona Valley Audubon Society board voted to drop “Audubon” from the chapter’s name and start a process to develop a new name.

“The board, in consultation with membership, has been considering this issue for the past 12 months,” said chapter president Tina Stoner. “Moving toward adoption of a new chapter name and brand that clearly reflects our commitment to birds and conservation is critical. It also positions our chapter as inclusive and welcoming, an important step in appealing to a broader spectrum of the community.”

The next steps for the board are to review the processes used by other chapters that have also dropped Audubon from their name, and to develop a list of possible new names for our chapter. It is generally agreed that the name should express our focus on birds, be clear and concise, consistent with our mission statement, and reflect our geographical location, Stoner said.

Although the chapter’s new name will no longer include “Audubon,” it will remain an official local chapter of the National Audubon Society (NAS) with no change in the benefits of being part of more than 500 chapters nationwide.

The name change follows similar actions by at least 30 local U.S. chapters due to the controversy in recent years surrounding John James Audubon owning enslaved people and being resolutely opposed to the abolition movement.

Audubon also committed academic fraud and plagiarism and once stole human remains and sent the skulls to a colleague to help argue that whites were superior to non-whites.

Audubon (1785-1851), a French American artist and explorer, “revolutionized the depiction of birds,” said Seth Thompson, PVAS chapter vice president. “He painted them in natural settings and altered perspective so that the bird appeared as it would to an observer in the wild. His paintings are valued today for both their artistic beauty and scientific value.”

Indeed, Audubon’s seminal *The Birds of America*, a collection

of 435 life-size prints, is considered the gold standard of bird illustration. We can still value John James Audubon’s contributions as an artist and naturalist without his name being part of our organizational identity, Stoner said.

Among local chapters that have dropped the name “Audubon” are the Golden Gate Audubon Society in the San Francisco Bay Area, which rebranded itself last year as the Golden Gate Bird Alliance, and Seattle Audubon, which is now Birds Unite Seattle.

Name changes in the bird world have not been limited to Audubon chapters. The American Ornithological Society announced last year that birds will no longer be named after people. For example, the society in 2020 renamed McCown’s Longspur, referring to Confederate Army general John P. McCown, to the Thick-billed Longspur.

The PVAS board started the process of considering a name change in July 2023, when it established an ad hoc name committee to investigate members’ opinions about retaining or removing “Audubon” from the chapter’s name.

The committee conducted an informal poll at the November 2023 monthly meeting and followed up with an email survey to all members. Of those responding to the survey, 56 percent said that dropping Audubon from the chapter’s name would have no effect on their participation and 24 percent said it would make it more likely they would contribute money to the chapter and participate in its activities.

Another reason for the name change is to better identify the chapter’s mission. While “Audubon” is a household word to many, others hearing the word confuse it with its homophone “Autobahn,” the German high-speed highway system.

The board also will be planning for the significant work involved in changing the chapter’s name and logo on its website, brochures, this newsletter and other outreach material.

“It’s going to take a lot of work, but it will be well worth it to have a name that is easy to understand, reflects what we do and makes our chapter more inclusive of everyone in our community,” Stoner said. “We want to attract new members with fresh ideas that will help us promote the protection, appreciation and enjoyment of birds by all.”



Audubon’s illustration of Pileated Woodpeckers

Courtesy of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Montgomery County Audubon Collection, and Zebra Publishing

2024 Member Photo Showcase



At the June chapter meeting, attendees viewed the annual members' Photo Showcase. PVAS member Jason Flaugh won the 2024 PVAS Photo Challenge, this year themed "Celebrating Baby Birds," with his photo of a baby Moorhen. Here is a selection of those stunning photos.

Jason Flaugh captured a photo of a baby Common Gallinule being fed by its older sibling at Whitter Narrows on Aug. 10, 2023, photographed with a Sony A7RV and Sony 200-600mm lens with 1.4x teleconverter attached with an effective focal length of 900mm.

"I basically watched a family of two adults, four juveniles and four babies swim to the shore as the parents fed the juveniles and babies," Jason said. "The juvenile mimicked its parents' behaviors and fed their younger siblings."

Scott Marnoy captured this photo of a Black Skimmer at San Joaquin Marsh on July 30, 2023. The photo was taken in the morning when the light is best, and water tends to be calm before the breeze picks up. Scott used his Canon EOS R7 with a 100-400 IS lens; 1/5000 second at f/6.3; ISO 800.



While on a 21-day "Best of Kenya" Safari with the California Digital Arts Center of Santa Ana, **Linda Wilford** and **Carol Coy** saw and photographed several brightly colored birds. Linda photographed this Lilac-breasted Roller -- the national bird of Kenya -- at Lake Nakuru National Park on Sept. 2, 2023, with a Canon EOS R7 and a RF 100-400mm F5.6-8 IS lens. The Roller's eight colors are said to represent the many different tribes within the country.



Carol spotted this Red-and-Yellow Barbet popping out of a huge termite mound in East Tsavo National Park in Kenya in August 2023. She made this image with a Canon EOS 7D Mark II and her favorite 100-400mm Canon L lens.



Jhoneil Centeno photographed an Allen's hummingbird family in his backyard guava tree. The photo was captured with a Sony A7R4 using a Fujifilm XH2S using a Fujifilm 150-600mm lens.



Rod Higbie photographed a Yellow-footed Gull and a Herring Gull on the north side of Puddingstone Lake on March 25. The photo was taken with a Nikon COOLPIX 1000 at 102 mm; 1/640 second at f/5.



Ken Burgdorff captured this Dusky Grouse near the top of Signal Mountain in Grand Teton National Park on May 31, 2023. Ken said, "I had seen the female fly and was trying to get a better look at her when I almost tripped on this guy who was also interested in the female. A life bird for me!"

Brian Elliott shot this sunset photo of Sandhill Cranes on Dec. 29, 2023, at the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge Unit One observation deck at the south end of the Salton Sea. He used a Sony A1 with Sony 100-400mm lens set at 400mm, 1/1250 second at f/5.6, ISO 10000.



Meetings

PVAS meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Padua Room of the Alexander Hughes Center at 1700 Danbury Dr. in Claremont, generally on the first Thursday of each month from September through June.



Thursday, September 5, at 7 p.m.

Dr. Eric Wood “The Effects of Over a Century of Urbanization on the Avifauna of the Los Angeles Basin”

Los Angeles is a megacity that has experienced a meteoric rise in population and global stature since the early 1900s. Few appreciate the loss of grassland, riparian, and wetland ecosystems resulting from this urbanization. Using natural history records from the turn of the 20th century, Dr. Wood’s lab was able to characterize the pre-urbanization bird communities of Los Angeles between 1870 and 1930 and compare that to Los Angeles Breeding Bird Atlas data from 1995-1999. Come learn how more than 100 years of urban growth have changed the birds of L.A.



Thursday, October 3, at 7 p.m.

Dr. Steven Bryant – Milkweeds and Monarchs

Milkweed is critical for the survival of monarchs. Without it they cannot complete their life cycle and suffer population declines. Milkweeds are a diverse group of plants, of which 13 species are native to California. Are you curious about which species are preferred by monarchs in our area? Do you want to learn how to care for the host plants and the butterflies that use them in your yard? Then join CalBG volunteer and milkweed expert Steve Bryant for an introduction to the amazing world of California native milkweeds and the butterflies who love them.



Thursday, November 7, at 7 p.m.

Nina Karnovsky and students – Avian Conservation in Tanzania: Undergrad Bird Research with Eli Taub and Zora Beaty

Pomona College students Zora Beaty '25 (left) and Eli Taub '25 went to different areas of Tanzania last spring and designed and carried out bird conservation projects. Zora will present how she compared bird diversity between the Moyo Hill Community Forest and the Lake Manyara Airport to make recommendations about reducing bird-airplane collisions. Eli will discuss his findings from the 40 ethnoornithological interviews he conducted with people in Pemba Island that highlight the different ways ornithology takes place around the world and how local knowledge is critical for effective conservation.

See www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org for full details of presentations and presenter bios.

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 NAS 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, PMB 426, Claremont, CA 91711**

Name _____ Chapter Code C08

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Field Trips

You have the option to meet at Memorial Park in Claremont and carpool or caravan to the site or you can meet us at the site.

Saturday, September 7

Field Trip to Bolsa Chica Ecological Preserve and adjacent Harriett Weider Park

18000 CA-1, Huntington Beach, and 19251 Seapoint Street, Huntington Beach - *Difficulty: Easy (up to 3 miles)*

Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont or meet at Bolsa Chica about 8 a.m. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a full day trip. (Est. driving 100 miles.)

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

Saturday, October 5

Field Trip and Survey of North Etiwanda Preserve

4890 Etiwanda Ave, Rancho Cucamonga -- *Difficulty: Strenuous (rocky, uneven terrain, 3.5 miles, 800+ ft elevation gain) with a moderate option to survey the southern edge of the park.*

Twice a year we gather bird population data for the County of San Bernardino by doing what we love - birding! Join us for all or part of the day. Specialties include Bell's Sparrow, Loggerhead Shrike, and other open country species. We will be taking our usual counterclockwise route on the main trail making us easy to find, so feel free to join us at any time. Meet at Beryl Park at the West Parking Lot, 6501 Carnelian St, Rancho Cucamonga for a 7 a.m. departure to the preserve. This is a hike and not a walk, please bring sturdy footwear, a portable lunch, water, snacks, and layered clothing for about 6 hours in the field. (Est. driving 30 miles.)

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

Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17

Morro Bay and the Central Coast Weekend Trip

Multiple Locations - Difficulty: Moderate.

It's been 10 years since we went to the Central Coast on a chapter field trip! Let's go find the famous Morro Rock Peregrine Falcons and maybe even see a Nelson's Sparrow while enjoying coastal

specialties and birds found in open fields. We'll meet at the base of Morro Rock on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. and bird multiple locations along the coast (Morro Bay Marina, Sweetwater Springs, Montana de Oro State Park) returning to Morro Bay via Turri Road to look for inland species. Sunday, we'll head south and bird the Oceano Campground, Oso Flaco Lake and Guadalupe Dunes. Final itinerary based on weather and birds in the area. Lodging is on your own in Morro Bay or nearby. Limited to 20 people. (Estimated Driving: 465 mi to Morro Bay (RT) plus touring: approx. 135 miles.)

Trip Leaders: Eric Smith and Tina Stoner. RSVP by email to tinastoner@earthlink.net

Saturday, November 23

Field Trip to San Joaquin Marsh

Parking Lot, 5 Riparian View, Irvine -- *Difficulty: Easy (up to 2.5 miles)*

An Orange County gem consisting of a series of reclaimed freshwater ponds. Species may include herons, rails, ducks, raptors and even Roadrunners. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Memorial Park in Claremont. Bring snacks, water and lunch for a half-day trip.

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

Field Trip Basics

Pomona Valley Audubon Field Trips are offered at no cost (unless otherwise specified) and are open to all. ALWAYS contact 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. Driving mileage estimates are round-trip from Memorial Park in Claremont. For your comfort and enjoyment, participants should plan to bring the following suggested items:

- **Binoculars**/spotting scope/camera (as desired)
- **Water**
- **Snacks/Lunch**
- **Walking/Hiking shoes**
- **Sunscreen/Repellant**
- **Appropriate clothing** (Dress in layers and be ready for unexpected weather changes.)
- **Hat**
- **Full tank of gas**

Bird Walks

First Sunday of the Month Family-Friendly Bird Walks at the California Botanic Garden

1500 N. College Ave. Claremont

Meet at the entrance at 8:00 a.m. for free admission. This family-friendly bird walk is approximately two hours long and is perfect for beginners and experienced birders alike. A limited number of loaner binoculars are available, and you will receive instructions on their use! PVAS volunteer Ken Burgdorff (gwrencaps@gmail.com) and others will lead the walks.

Please RSVP for desired date using these links:

September 1: <https://tinyurl.com/SeptemberBirdWalk>

October 6: <https://tinyurl.com/OctoberBirdWalk>

November 3: <https://tinyurl.com/NovemberBirdWalk>

December 1: <https://tinyurl.com/DecemberBirdWalk>

Fourth Sunday of the Month Bonelli Bird Walks

Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park in San Dimas -

Difficulty: Moderate

Enjoy one of the richest birding sites in Southern California! We meet in the parking lot of Brackett Field Airport/Norm's Hangar Coffee Shop, at 1615 McKinley Ave., La Verne. Meet at 7:45 a.m. to caravan into the park for free entrance and an 8:00 AM walk lasting two to three hours. Don't forget your binoculars and comfortable shoes.

RSVP with leaders for desired date:

September 22: Kris Janicki, Starlite07kmj@yahoo.com

October 27: Dan Stoebel, dstoebel@mac.com

November 24: Scott Marnoy, gopherus2@gmail.com

Fall Volunteer Opportunities

To help in the PVAS booth at any of these events, contact Tina Stoner at tinastoner@earthlink.net



Saturday, October 12: Halloween Nature Crawl -- San Dimas Canyon Nature Center



Friday and Saturday, October 18-19: Things That Go Bump in the Night -- California Botanic Garden



Saturday, October 26: 42nd Annual Village Venture - Claremont Village



Saturday, November 23: Fall in the Farm, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Fairplex



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

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLAREMONT, CA
PERMIT NO. 240

PVAS CHAPARRAL NATURALIST | FALL 2024

LA County Opens San Dimas Raptor Rescue Center

Filling a highly anticipated need, Los Angeles County officials opened a raptor rescue center in July at the San Dimas Canyon Natural Area and Nature Center.

The Pomona Valley Audubon Society has supported wild bird rehabilitation in our area for many decades by providing financial support to Wild Wings of California, which closed last fall after being in operation since 1987. The new San Dimas Raptor Rescue will help fill the void left by the closure of Wild Wings.

Our chapter regularly receives inquiries from the public asking where they can take ill, injured or orphaned raptors. The raptor rescue center in San Dimas has already received more than 70 raptors and hopes to rehabilitate and return to the wild more than 250 injured or orphaned raptors annually, including owls, hawks and falcons.

Raptors, which are predatory and carnivorous, become ill, injured or orphaned for numerous reasons, including collisions with power lines, building glass and vehicles; and being shot by pellet or BB guns. Poisoning from pesticides and rat poison has significantly impacted their populations. Birds also are impacted when their nests are damaged or destroyed by tree-trimming crews.

PVAS member Laura Dugan spoke on behalf of our chapter at the grand opening on July 20, reminding the crowd that birds of prey help maintain the balance of nature by controlling populations of rodents and other small animals.

Bird rehabilitation and conservation is not just about saving individual birds or even individual species; it's about preserving the intricate web of life that sustains our planet.

If you have an ill, injured or orphaned raptor, call (626) 559-5732. To help support the center, donations can be made at our community meetings each month (September through June) or by visiting <https://www.lacpf.org/sandimas-raptorrescue>.



PHOTO BY CAROL COY

Volunteer rehabilitation manager Kristine Koh cradles a rehabilitated Red-tailed Hawk released in July during the center's grand opening.

PVAS Board of Directors

PRESIDENT - Tina Stoner - tinastoner@earthlink.net
VICE-PRESIDENT - Seth Thompson - sthompson@lmu.edu
SECRETARY - Patty Nueva-Espana - nuspain@icloud.com
TREASURER - Patty Anis - pattyanis@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP - Janice Elliott - j1elliott@aol.com
PROGRAMS - available (Tina Stoner)
EDUCATION - Laura Jaoui - ljaoui01@gmail.com
COMMUNICATIONS - Sam Atwood - twoatwoods@gmail.com - and Jackie Legazcue - jacqueline.legazcue@gmail.com
CONSERVATION - Brian Elliott - brianelli@aol.com
FIELD TRIPS - Scott Marnoy - gopherus2@gmail.com
MEETING LOGISTICS - Kimberly Hardison - hardlykim7@gmail.com

Committees & Contacts

WEBMASTER - Seth Thompson - polpsych@gmail.com
OWL PELLETS FOR EDUCATORS - Kathy McPherson - kathleenamc@yahoo.com
NEWSLETTER EDITOR - Sam Atwood - twoatwoods@gmail.com

Connect With Us!

Email: pomonavalleyaudubon@gmail.com

Web: www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org

FB: facebook.com/pomonavalleyaudubon

IG: instagram.com/pomonavalleyaudubon/

