



CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

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Pomona Valley Audubon Society

www.pomonavalleyaudubon.org


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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Volume 47, No. 5

BIRDS vs. CHAINSAW

By Anne Sonner



One day in late February my husband David was riding his bike at Legg Lake Park (Whittier Narrows Recreation Area) and noticed trees full of nesting great blue herons and double-crested cormorants. On the other side of the park he saw a tree service crew cutting off tree branches with chainsaws. He talked to one of the workers who said, "We're pruning everything." A few days later, David returned and took photos.

I showed the photos to a few people at the March Audubon meeting and asked for advice. Someone suggested calling the California Dept. of Fish and Game. David then did some legal research and found out what experienced birders know – nesting migratory birds are protected by both state and federal laws. The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act lists all the species covered, including the great blue heron and the double-crested cormorant. California Fish and Game Code, Section 3503 says, "It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird..." listed in the law.

I then called the Fish and Game number for "violations" (888-334-2258) and was referred to Warden Dave McNair. I told him that two eucalyptus trees near bathroom #8 had lots of nests, but other

trees scattered throughout the park

also did. He said he would conduct a physical inspection, contact the county, and deal with the tree service company. "This activity is a major problem this time of year, throughout California and especially in southern California," he said. He asked me to send a CD with the photos. "It gives me some proof to use with the county."

Later that month our family visited the park. We were happy to see the trees in that area had not yet been pruned and the birds were still there. The trees were busier than an airport with herons and cormorants taking off and landing several times a minute, incoming birds carrying sticks for their nest building. There were dozens of birds in these trees, some sitting on their nests. People in the park asked to look

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A Cloudless Sulpher?

Dick Moore

It was windy in the desert, but the 6 birders counting the leader, Dan Gregory, found no wind and ideal conditions at The Living Desert in Palm Desert on Wednesday, April

9. There were the usual birds, Golden Eagle, Ostrich, Hawks, Crested Caracara, Painted Bunting, etc. in the cages, but the wild birds included among others abundant Verdins, Abert's Towhees, Phainopeplas, and Cactus Wrens, plus occasional Nashville, Audubon and Orange-crowned Warblers, three species of Hummingbirds, and a beautiful pair of Hooded Orioles.

As we opened our lunch boxes we were visited by a half-dozen all yellow butterflies which remained unidentified until we returned home where my limited butterfly book indicated they may have been Cloudless Sulphers.



We Need Your Photos!

Do you have any local bird photos you'd like to see published? Believe it or not, it's time to start collecting photos for the 2009 PVAS Desk calendars. Photos should be high resolution and submitted in digital format. Call Pam Kling at 909-596-7604 with any questions or for more information. **Deadline for submission is July 1, 2008.**

Birds vs. Chainsaws

Cont'd. from pg. 1

in our scope. Kids and adults who had never looked at birds in a scope got excited. One person said, "I've never seen that before!" A father and his young son thanked us for "a great experience."

A few weeks later David called me from Legg Lake to say the tree cutters were cutting high branches, using chainsaws and bucket trucks, in trees right next to the two trees we identified for the Fish and Game warden. Branches with nests were gone and all the birds abandoned the pruned trees and their remaining nests. I made several agitated calls to Fish and Game, to the warden and to the general number. I left messages, but nobody called back that day, or ever. Disheartened, we gave up our quest to save the birds.

On April 30 David went to Legg Lake again. All the trees had been pruned, top to bottom, except the two we had identified. The remaining nests in the pruned trees were mostly abandoned, but our two trees near bathroom #8 were full of birds, their nests and their new babies who were making a racket demanding food. The birds had acquired a new fan club, not only binocularized birders and photographers with big telephoto lenses, but dog walkers and people just passing by.

The lesson for us was that even though the Fish and Game warden never called back, he was effective in saving the birds in the two trees we identified. However, we should have found a way to identify all the trees with nests of migrating birds for Fish and Game, and not trusted that they would do that.

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.

Alta Loma: Lorna Nyberg

Chino: Rosella Arnold, Emma Nine, Duane Nishiyori, Craig Wert, Jacqueline Williams,

Claremont: Laurel Arnseth, Ian Beardsley, Barbara Beretich, Robert Gustaveson, Lois Keith, Ruth Martindale, Dr. Fritz Moser, David Oxfofy, Marla Plyley, James Robinson

Corona: Mrs Mclean, Tammy Prizio

Covina: Charlotte Decker,

Glendora: Shirley Henderson,

Mira Loma: Marion Wright

Montclair: Edward Celaya,

Norco: Kristy Davidson

Ontario: Dag Lopez,

Pomona: Linda Tigner

Rancho Cucamonga: Alton Corey, Ray Strohfus

Upland: Mary Jo Fowler

Walnut: Akemi Kimura, Irene Kuo

West Covina: David Cowan, Linda Kim

New Pills for Birds *by Bristle "Thigh" Curlew, Special to THE AVIAN TIMES*

Bird alert! Avian corporate geniuses are out to get you. To quote Big Pharma spin, "What our feathered tribes need is an etiology to describe their personalities." In short, they want birds to buy more pills. They figure that if they can convince us that we are sick, we will look for their (pill) solution. Big companies have a special reason to find new customers for their wares. Many will lose their patient protection of their favorites this year, forcing them to find new medicines to replace their profitable blockbusters. We are the target.

Consider the shyness of your wood thrush neighbor, a benign - even desirable quality. The new term is *cerebral underactivity*. Surprise! Our friendly flock druggist has the remedy shown on TreeV screens to "activate the damaged portion of your brain". The pills are guaranteed to transform the most reticent of us into a party animal. How can we resist?

They've also done it to the mother-in-law conflict. You can no longer simply joke about your intrusive relative. Instead, you now suffer from brain stem neuronal annoyance. Luckily (for Big Pharma), it can be alleviated with a combination of trumpet vine laced with soy. Available, of course, as a handy pill. The soothing brand name is "We're All Friends II, now also available via E-market at *Galapagos.com*. Does it work? According to a TreeV informercial, 20 house finch son-in-laws given the medication felt 50% less discomfort the next time they were in the presence of their meddling relative. What the research did not reveal, however, was whether "next time" was a jovial jaunt to get their annual Christmas presents, or an attempt to explain why they stayed away from their traditional Thanksgiving get-together. You get my drift. It's not surprising that crucial testing is withheld. The marketing model worked miracles for the pharma bottom line, so why confuse the public with caution.

Try another. Pity the plight of ruby-crowned kinglets, flutterers by nature. We would expect them to act edgy in a boring nest or while feeding in public. But start worrying. They and their juveniles now have brain injury called sensory cosmetic disorder. It's supposed to sound crippling enough to keep chicklets from Avian Olympic tryouts and startle loving parents into action (Read: "We need pills").

Meanwhile, flock school teachers are sure to use the new label to explain why any of our fledged dynamos disrupt their classes. Hopefully, high cost of the recommended daily doses will get you questioning whether the problem is really your active offspring. How about bland teaching? Their makeover drug promises to transform you and your troublesome kidlets into perfect angels (Read: "dazed and comatose")

A final target. Did you know that the frugality trait, which keeps most of us from going broke, is actually a brain disorder? Sad to say, it results from damage to brain cells responsible for generosity. We tend to hold back because this cerebral area is too small. Our affliction is temporal lobe ischemia. Rationing food is a first stage; starvation is the fatal end result. If that doesn't scare you into buying the advertised pill to restore your bird brain, nothing will!

You won't like this tidbit either. Pills are not designed to cure the ailment but merely to reduce the symptoms. Guess why? They need to be taken daily and for years. Do you hear the continued clinking of silver in the till?

They say you're not okay. My advice: celebrate your cerebral inactivity, brain stem neuronal annoyance, sensory cosmetic disorder. Especially your ischemia. You're okay.

Columnist Curlew writes from Alaska and Hawaii on avian psychomedical topics. He can be reached at: BTCurlew@AlaskHawaii.nest

Out-of-State Field Trips

Our next out-of-state trip is to Southeastern Arizona in August. What places would you like to visit with PVAS? Possible destinations are Alaska (May/June); Florida; a spring migration trip to Texas or the mid-west; San Blas, Mexico; North Dakota; etc. Let us know by contacting Dan Guthrie, Pam Kling, or any of your PVAS board members. This is an excellent opportunity to explore new birding destinations and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow PVAS members.

PVAS SPRING/SUMMER FIELD TRIPS 2008

MAY

Sunday, May 4 – Beginner's Bird Walk – Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. 8 a.m.

Tuesday, May 6 – Glen Helen. 8 a.m.
Leader: Dan Guthrie

Saturday, May 24 – Galileo Hill and California City
6 a.m. Leader: Dan Guthrie

JUNE

Sunday, June 1 – Beginner's Bird Walk – Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. 8 a.m.

Saturday & Sunday, June 7-8 – Big Bear and Environs. 8 a.m. Leader: Pam Kling
RSVP if you plan to attend 909-596-7604.

Wednesday, June 11 – Carbon Canyon. 7:30 a.m.
Leader: Dan Gregory

JULY

Sunday, July 6 – Wrightwood Area 6:00 a.m.
Leader: Pam Kling

AUGUST

Wednesday through Sunday, August 6-10
– Southeastern Arizona Leader: Pam Kling
RSVP if you plan to attend 909-596-7604.

One day and half day trips start at Memorial Park, Indian Hill Blvd at 10th Street, Claremont. Weekend trips usually meet at the destination on Saturday morning. Bonelli Park trips meet at park headquarters on Via Verde, just off the 57 freeway.

The City as a Bird Sanctuary

by Dan Guthrie

I have been intrigued by signs as you enter Morro Bay that state that the City is a bird sanctuary. I did not know what that meant exactly (and I still don't know as their city web site doesn't mention it. However, our Board of Directors was enthusiastic enough about the idea for our local cities that I did a brief search on the web. I found several cities in which there was a bird sanctuary, but here is what I found of cities that were, as a whole, declared bird sanctuaries

Mesquite, Texas

In February 1991, Mesquite was declared a bird sanctuary in cooperation with the Dallas County Audubon Society. Audubon donated 1,000 hours to the project. The program has five parts: preservation of habitat; mitigation of development; protection of birds from harm; education of students in MISD; and public education and community involvement.

An ordinance was adopted declaring the entire City a bird sanctuary and that all city-owned property would be managed in such a manner as to promote the development of bird and wildlife habitat. The ordinance also provides that, wherever possible, the City will leave the environment in its natural state.

It is against the Bird Sanctuary Ordinance of the City of Mesquite to trap, hunt, shoot or attempt to shoot or molest in any manner any bird or wild fowl within the City. This ordinance extends to bird nests as well.

The City of Mesquite continues to maintain birdhouses and feeding stations. The M.I.S.D. continues to provide curriculum opportunities for bird and wildlife education. Keep Mesquite Beautiful provides educational information on planting native plants that are used for food source.

Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky

An ordinance of the Board of Trustees of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, establishing the entire area embraced within the corporate limits of said city as a bird sanctuary, and providing a penalty for the violation thereof

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, GREENUP COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

SECTION 1

That the entire area embraced within the corporate limits of the City of Bellefonte be and the same is hereby

designated and established as a bird sanctuary.

SECTION 2

That on and after the effective date of this ordinance, it shall be unlawful to trap, hunt, shoot or attempt to shoot or molest in any manner any bird or wild fowl or to rob the nests of same within the corporate limits of the city of Bellefonte, provided, however, that if starlings or similar birds are found to be congregating within said city in such numbers and in a particular locality that they constitute a public nuisance or menace to health or property in the opinion of the proper health authorities of Greenup County, then, and in such event, said health authorities shall meet with representatives of the garden club of said city, having given at least three days actual notice of the time and place of said meeting to the representatives of said garden club; and if, as result of said meeting, no satisfactory alternative is found to abate such nuisance, then said birds may be destroyed in such number and in such manner as is deemed advisable by said health authorities under the supervision of the Board of Trustees or its duly authorized officer, representative or agent, provided, however, that no such action shall be taken which may be in violation of any state law relating thereto.

SECTION 3

Any person who shall violate the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine in any sum not to exceed Fifty Dollars (\$50.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed ten (10) days, or both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court or jury trying the case. All moneys collected by reason of the enforcement of this ordinance, including fines, forfeitures and court costs, shall be paid into the general fund of the City and shall be used in defraying the expense of general government.

SECTION 4

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication, as required by law.

I am not sure we wish to fully copy these policies, but there are several things that we could do things to make Claremont, or other cities in our area more "friendly" for birds.

For instance:

- A policy about tree trimming during nesting season
- A policy about feral cats
- Use of native vegetation where possible
- Establishment of bluebird houses near athletic fields
- Educational programs for the schools.

Our board would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this matter, and ideas.



PVAS Annual Potluck on Friday, June 6, 2008



Join us for our annual Potluck, Friday, June 6, 2008. It's at the Alexander Hughes Community Center at 1700 Danbury Rd., Claremont. (*Danbury Rd. is off of Scripps Dr., between Towne Ave. and Indian Hill Blvd. Take the Towne Ave. off ramp of the 210 Freeway and go south to Scripps then left to Danbury.*) Admission is \$5 at the door.

Our evening will feature a Silent Auction, the annual Election of Officers, the presentation of the 2008 Flock Leader Award and the always popular Member's Slide Show. (*Please contact Dan Guthrie, 909-607-2836, if you'd like to make a slide or Powerpoint presentation – 10 to 20 images per person*)

6:00 to 7:00 p.m. – Happy Hour and Silent Auction. Enjoy appetizers, wine, beer, soft drinks, coffee and tea while making your bids.

7:00 to 7:45p.m. – Potluck Dinner

7:45 pm. – Meeting and Program

The Silent Auction ends and the winners will be announced at the end of the meeting. (Those lucky bidders should pay for and pick up their treasures before leaving.)

Please bring a favorite dish that serves 6 to 8 people, the necessary serving utensils, your own plates and dining utensils. Beverages will be provided.

Bring your own plate, utensils and a favorite dish to serve 6-8 people, and serving utensil.

If your last name begins with:

A - E = Appetizers (by 5:30 p.m. please)

F - L = Side and Main Dishes

M - Q = Desserts

R - Z = Salads

If you have items of a birding or nature interest you'd like to donate for Silent Auction, please see the accompanying articles.



Items Needed for Silent Auction

Donations are needed for the silent auction that will be held at the **June 6 PotLuck**. This is a fun event held each year to raise money for some of the on-going programs sponsored by PVAS such as Audubon Adventures for elementary school children. Items are bid on during a specified time period during the dinner. The last person to bid on an item before time is called is the lucky buyer. Often we have friendly bidding competitions over some of the "hot" items. Last year, thanks to the generosity of our donating members and buying members over \$700 was raised at this event.

Often the items donated are bird watching or nature related, but they don't have to be. In the past we have auctioned such things as bird prints, books and decorative items.

If you have something to donate, please call Karlene Campo at (909) 627-8191 to arrange for pick-up before the June meeting.

Field Trips

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, Sept. through June) bird walk at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. Bring binoculars if you have them. Adults and children welcome. The walk is flat and slow and takes about two hours. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front entry gate (north end of College Ave. north of Foothill Blvd. 1500 N. College Ave.) **Leader: Fraser Pemberton 909-624-6451.**

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

**Glen Helen and perhaps
Wrightwood**

A half day trip for western migrants and breeding birds. Meet at Memorial park at 8 a.m. **Leader: Dan Guthrie: 909-607-2836**

Saturday, May 24, 2008

**Galileo Hill and California
City**

Our annual field trip to the northern oases for migrants and eastern vagrants. Meet at Memorial Park at 6 a.m. and bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie: 909-607-2836.**

Sunday, June 1, 2008

Beginner's Bird Walk

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Join us for our monthly (first Sunday, Sept. through June) bird walk at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens. Bring binoculars if you have them. Adults and children welcome. The walk is flat and slow and takes about two hours. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front entry gate (north end of College Ave. north of Foothill Blvd. 1500 N. College Ave.) **Leader: Fraser Pemberton 909-624-6451.**

Saturday & Sunday, June 7 & 8, 2008

Big Bear Weekend

There's so much to see at Big Bear Lake we decided to turn this into a two-day trip. Saturday let's explore the meadows and back country, Bluff Lake, and the Champion Lodgepole Pine Trail. Sunday we'll head to Arrastre Creek then down

Hwy. 38 with a stop or two in the San Geronio Wilderness. Target species include Lincoln's and Fox Sparrows, Calliope Hummingbird, Green Tailed Towhee, lots of warblers, and perhaps a Hepatic Tanager or Indigo Bunting. Lodging is on your own but plan to potluck and BBQ on Saturday evening. Day trippers are also welcome. It is recommended to bring a lunch. Saturday morning meet at 8 a.m. at Aspen Glen Picnic Area (Hwy 18, right on Tulip Lane) **Call if you plan to attend. Leader: Pam Kling 909-596-7604.**

Wednesday, June 11, 2008

Carbon Canyon Regional Park

A half day trip for oak woodland nesters. Meet at Memorial Park at 7:30 a.m. **Leader: Dan Gregory 909-944-2259.**

Sunday, July 6, 2008

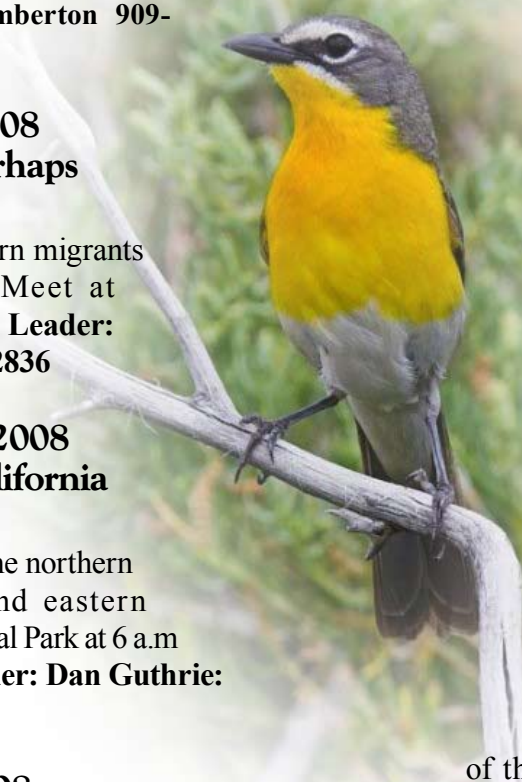
Wrightwood Area

This is a great time of year to observe fledgling mountain birds. Plan to stop at Blue Ridge Campground, Grassy Hollow, and perhaps Valyermo and Bob's Gap. Meet at Memorial Park at 6:00 a.m. and bring a lunch. **Leader: Pam Kling 909-596-7604.**

August 6-10, 2008

Southeastern Arizona

July in Southeastern Arizona signals the start of the monsoon season and brings a phenomenon known as "second spring". It's at this time the desert greens up and provides opportunities to observe several Mexican species in their northernmost range. Target species include Elegant Trogon, Montezuma Quail, Sulphur Bellied Flycatcher, Painted Redstart, and loads of hummingbirds. Spend the first three nights in Sierra Vista with visits to Fort Huachuca, Miller Canyon, Ash Canyon, and San Pedro River. We'll then travel to Green Valley and day trip to Madera Canyon, Patagonia, Kino Springs and even attempt a trip to California Gulch for the Five Striped Sparrow! *Pam has reserved block of rooms in Sierra Vista and Green Valley. Call 909-596-7604 if interested in reserving one of these rooms. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. RSVP no later than July 23, 2008 if you wish to participate. Leader: Pam Kling 909-596-7604 or 909-240-7604 cell.*





Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Starr Ranch Sanctuary!

**This FREE event will be held
Saturday, May 10th
7:00am - 2:00pm (drop in)**

Relax and enjoy a family picnic, see birds up close in bird banding demonstrations, participate in hawk research simulations, observe the birds of Starr Ranch on guided walks, try out & purchase new optics, watch a wildlife movie, receive a free Bird Day poster and more!

RSVP by e-mail (preferred!) to jweir@audubon.org or call Justin at 949-858-3537

Please provide group size and contact info in your RSVP

You **must** RSVP to get directions to Starr Ranch (internet directions do not work!). Space is limited.

PVAS OFFICERS 2007-2008

President.....	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Vice-President.....	Bruce Strang	626-339-6984
Secretary	Pam Kling	909-596-7604
Treasurer.....	Neil Gilbert	909-626-0334
Board Member	Nancy Strang	626-339-6984
Board Member.....	Dick Moore.....	909-626-1127
Board Member.....	Pat Higbie.....	909-599-6526
Board Member.....	Rod Higbie	909-599-6526

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation	Dick Moore.....	909-626-1127
Education.....	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Field Trips	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Membership	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
Volunteers.....	Open!	
Publications.....	Neil Gilbert	909-626-0334
Publicity	Shirley Harris.....	909-982-9727
Door Prizes	Karlene Campo..	909-627-8191
Hospitality.....	Gloria Slosberg ..	909-626-4754
Website.....	Open!	

CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

Editor..... Pam Kling596-7604

The **Chaparral Naturalist** is published bimonthly, except July and August by the Pomona Valley Audubon Society. Copy deadline is the last Thursday of the month. Articles may be reprinted without permission, but please give credit to the author and the **Chaparral Naturalist**. We encourage members to submit articles and photos by email at pamtone@verizon.net.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are available for \$10 per year to non-members. **Make checks payable to PVAS and mail to W. M. Keck Science Center, 925 N. Mills Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.**

National Audubon Membership

Annual membership in the National Audubon Society is \$30 per year. New membership dues are \$20. Members receive the *Audubon Magazine* and *Chaparral Naturalist* newsletter. Renewals of membership are computerized by National Audubon and should not be sent to PVAS. However, a new membership may be sent directly to PVAS.

Make checks payable to National Audubon Society. Mail payment with membership form below and mail to PVAS, W. M. Keck Science Center, 925 North Mills Avenue, Claremont, CA 91711. (Please note chapter code number, CO8, 7XCH on your check.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Chapter Code: **Pomona Valley Audubon CO8, 7XCH**

You may also join National Audubon via our website at:

<http://www.ca.audubon.org/chapters.html>

Membership Meetings

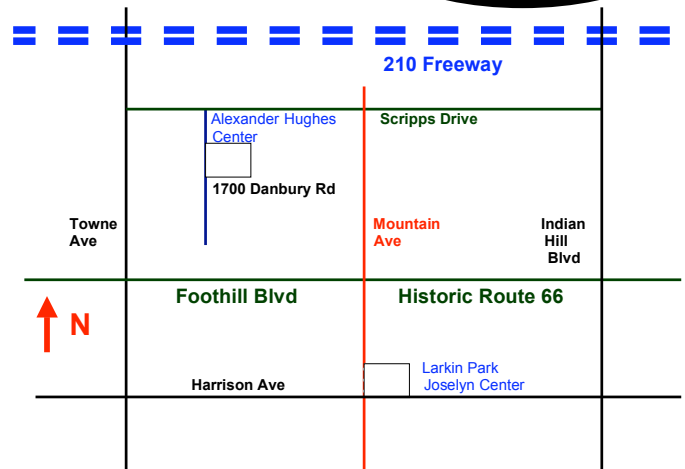
Don't miss our annual potluck!

Thursday, May 1, 2008

Dan Guthrie "Birding Argentina"

President **Dan Guthrie** will give us a tour of **Argentina Birding** based on his trip last November. This program will include some of the major tourist attractions of the country and cover from Iguazu Falls in the north to Ushuaia in Terra del Fuego in the south.

Meetings are held in Bauer Forum of Claremont McKenna College. Evenings begin with a bird identification session at 7:00 p.m., followed by refreshments, a short business meeting, and our evening program.

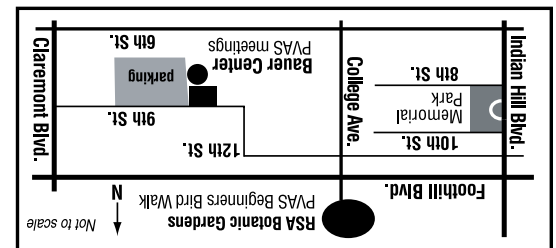


Pomona Valley Audubon Pot Luck Dinner Location Friday June 6, 2008

The Pomona Valley Audubon Society Annual Pot Luck Dinner will be held at Claremont's **Alexander Hughes Center** in the Padua Room.

To get there from the Joselyn Center, just drive north on Mountain Ave. to Scripps Dr. and turn left. Turn left on Danbury Rd. and the Hughes Center will be on the east side of the street.

Happy Hour starts at 6 pm and the dinner will start about 7 pm.



Pomona Valley Audubon Society
W.M. Keck Science Center
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Claremont, CA 91711

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