



CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

A publication of

Pomona Valley Audubon Society

<http://faculty.jsd.claremont.edu/dguthrie/pvas/>

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

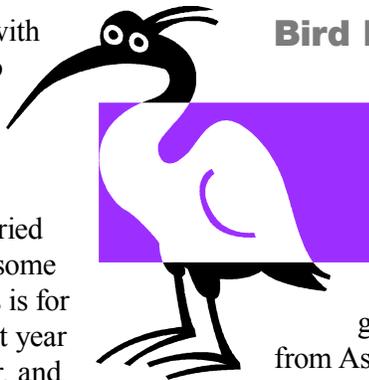
Volume 46, No. 2

Bird Disease by Dan Guthrie Update

Many who watch and come in contact with birds have expressed concern about two avian problems, West Nile Virus and Bird Flu. Here are a few comments on each.

West Nile Virus is an infection carried by mosquitoes that kills both birds and some humans. The typical course of the virus is for a few cases to develop in a State the first year followed by many cases the second year, and then few cases the third or fourth year. For instance, in Colorado there were 17 cases and no deaths in 2002, 2947 cases and 63 deaths in 2003, 291 cases and 4 deaths in 2004 and 106 cases and 2 deaths in 2005.

The virus started on the East coast and is moving west, so California is behind Colorado in the appearance of the disease. In California there were 3 cases and no deaths in 2003, 779 cases and 28 deaths in 2004 and 880 and 19 deaths in 2005. So far this year there are no human cases or deaths and, based on the above data, I would predict that we will have much fewer cases this year, especially in southern California. Many of us probably were infected with west Nile and thought we just had the sniffles. We are now immune as are a large percentage of our bird population, which shows antibodies in the blood for the virus. Also in our favor is the fact that the mosquitos that typically prey on birds are not particularly good at biting humans. We are a relatively new addition to the fauna of North America and mosquitoes do not specialize on biting us they way they do in Africa, where they have lived with humans for a much



longer period. Our area, being dry during the summer, has few mosquitoes, unless your neighbor has an untended and uncleaned swimming pool. In sum, avoid stagnant water areas that breed mosquitoes and keep your pools and ponds clean or full of mosquito fish, but don't worry too much about this one.

Bird Flu developed in Asia in domestic chickens and ducks and has spread to humans who are in very close contact to these birds. There is much worry in the press that a mutant strain will develop which allows the flu to spread from human to human. So far this has not happened and will require several mutations if it occurs. Wild birds in contact with domestic birds have gotten the flu and died from it. Birds migrating from Asia have spread the flu to Europe and Africa. So far the flu has not appeared in the United States. It is possible that some birds that associate with barnyards and farms might pick up the disease and carry it to North America. A mallard, for instance, might associate with barnyard birds in south China in winter, then migrate north to Russia to breed. If it passed the disease on to other birds before dying, these birds might migrate south into the United States. Several species, such as snow geese, brant and

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

<i>Bird Disease Update</i>	Pg. 1
<i>Piute Ponds Trip Report</i>	Pg. 2
<i>New Members</i>	Pg. 2
<i>107th Christmas Bird Count</i>	Pg. 3
<i>Cats Indoors Update</i>	Pg. 4
<i>Salton Sea Tours and Events</i>	Pg. 5
<i>Announcements</i>	Pg. 7
<i>Field Trips</i>	Pgs. 6 & 8

Bird Disease Update

Continued from page 1

mallards nest in northern Russia and migrate south into the United States. If bird flu is to appear in the U.S. by this method, therefore, it most likely will appear in late Fall and winter, after southward migration. Birds of these most likely species are being tested for bird flu by various governmental agencies. In this country wild birds are not usually in close association with domestic birds. Most scientists think it is more likely that trade in domestic birds; pigeons, chickens, ducks, etc. is a more likely way for flu to enter the U.S. In sum, reading the press leads one to believe that bird flu will, someday, be a very serious problem. This may be, the same way earthquakes may be serious. It is good to prepare, but in my opinion, there is not need to worry unduly, especially before fall migration.



Field Trip Reports Piute Ponds and Prado Regional Park

Our trip to **Piute Ponds** in the Antelope Valley produced a large number of **red-necked phalarope** and lovely **harriers** hunting over the marsh. A pair of **white pelicans**, circling overhead and a **barn owl** an lots of barn owl pellets, plus **sage sparrow** at Apollo Park completed the day.

The mid week trip to **Prado Regional Park** found two vermilion flycatchers and the returning (if they ever left) **Ross and white-fronted geese**. No ducks yet but lots of **vultures** roosting in the early morning and a **Eurasian collared dove**.

The Canyon Wren by Gary Snyder

We paddle forward, backstroke, turn,
Spinning through eddies and waves
Stairsteps of churning whitewater.
above the roar
hear the song of a Canyon Wren.

A smooth stretch, drifting and resting.
Hear it again, delicate downward song

ti ti ti tee tee tee

Descending through ancient beds.

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: Kent Galloway, Sharon Griffith

Chino: Ann Fetchen

Chino Hills: Dorothy Thomas

Claremont: Robert Knell, John Sullivan,
John Washington

Corona: Ramesh Gupta, Paul Willenborg

Covina: Sydney Berner, David Stel

Glendora: Marion Egly, Albert Kraght

La Verne: Nancy Capps, Diane Temple

Mira Loma: Barbara Hoffman

Norco: Madeline Allinder

Ontario: Kenneth Howard, Ilene King,
Kathy Roth, Maureen Smith

Pomona: Richard Barker, Donald Huber

Rancho Cucamonga: Marilou Abiera,

San Dimas: Christine Harbin, Tayde Perez

Upland: Natalie Johnson

Walnut: Ernest Rooks, Paul Sonner, Kenneth Taw

West Covina: Anna Gerhardt, Martha Neale,
Barbara Williams

107th Christmas Bird Count



Mark your calendars for this year's Christmas Bird Count. It will be held on Saturday, December 16^h, the first Saturday of the Count period. Plan now to join in the fun.

Contact Neil Gilbert (contact information below) or Dan Guthrie if you are able to help with the count.

We can use your help in a number of ways. The teams cover only a small percentage of the circle. They cover all the important parts or hot spots, but much of the circle is not visited at all, especially the more urban areas. We are looking for volunteers to do their back yards, their city block, their neighborhood, the local park down the street. We are looking for people who will volunteer for the whole day, for half of the day, or just one hour.

If you are willing to help out with this very important project, let us know. Hand me a note at the monthly meeting; send me a note by mail (**Neil Gilbert, 183 E. Miramar Ave., Claremont, CA 91711**); or (preferred) send an e-mail to: **Neil.Gilbert@verizon.net**

Congress Approves Migratory Bird Conservation Law

Washington, DC, October 2, 2006 – Late last week, Congress approved legislation backed by the National Audubon Society designed to protect America's native migratory birds when they travel south to Latin America and the Caribbean during their migrations.

Known as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act, its chief backer, Wisconsin U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D) introduced it last year. By updating six year old bird legislation, it earned the immediate support of the National Audubon Society, and subsequently passed through Congress without major opposition. Its two main achievements are that it increases conservation program funding from \$5 million to \$6.5 million; and it allows Canada to apply for conservation grants.

"Neotropical migratory birds are important to America's more than 40 million bird watchers, vital to the United States' economy, and critical to the western hemisphere's environment," said Mike Daulton, Director of Conservation Policy for Audubon. "We applaud Representative Kind for guiding this important legislation through Congress with bipartisan support."

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), and Sens. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) and Jim Jeffords (I-VT) have also been strong

advocates of the bill. The bill is also supported by several other prominent conservation groups.

Neotropical migratory birds breed in North America and travel south to Latin America and the Caribbean during their migrations. Many of these birds can be seen in Wisconsin. In the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge alone there are more than 200 bird species that spend at least part of each year in the neotropics. When these birds travel to Latin America, they face a range of serious threats, from the clear-cutting of forests to harmful pesticides in agricultural fields.

Audubon has lobbied for three years to pass the bill. For more information, Audubon's official 2005 testimony before Congress on the bill can be found at <http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/>.

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation.



San Francisco Bay Campaign: Under a grant from the Northern Coastal California Restoration Fund, Golden Gate Audubon Society (GGAS) has re-vitalized the San Francisco Bay Cats Indoors! Campaign. Their new web page is at www.goldengateaudubon.org/html/catsindoors.htm. ABC led a Cats Indoors! workshop at the Bay Area Audubon Council meeting on June 10, 2006 at the Richardson Bay Audubon Center in Tiburon, CA. The new report: Impacts of Feral and Free-ranging Cats on Bird Species of Conservation Concern: A Five-state Review of New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, and Hawaii www.abcbirds.org/cats/NFWF.pdf was highlighted. Representatives from 8 Bay Area Audubon Chapters attended and are distributing Campaign materials in their communities. Santa Clara Valley, Ohlone and Marin Audubon chapters have information about keeping cats indoors and links to ABC's Cats Indoors! web page on their web sites. GGAS is currently distributing brochures and flyers to over 300 small animal vets in the Bay area.

Comprehensive Cat Study: A recent study was conducted to estimate cat population size, management, and outdoor fecal deposition by free-roaming cats in Cayucos, Los Osos, and Morro Bay, CA. In addition, 294 residents were surveyed to determine attitudes of cat owners and nonowners toward stray pets, wildlife, and water pollution. The region's cat population was estimated at 7,284 owned and 2,046 feral cats. Owned cats contribute an estimated 76.4 tons of feces and feral cats could be contributing 29.5 tons of feces to the environment each year in these three cities. This amount of fecal deposition is a serious concern in California because *Toxoplasma gondii*, a protozoan parasite shed only in the feces of cats, caused 16% of southern sea otter deaths that were evaluated from 1998 to 2001. In addition, 52% of dead and 38% of live sea otters sampled from 1998 to 2004 were infected with

T. gondii. On September 18, Governor Schwarzenegger signed a law that requires all cat litter sold in California to carry a warning label advising cat owners not to dump their pet's droppings into toilets or storm drains.

Twenty-four of the 294 respondents (8.2%) said they fed strays; the mean number of strays fed per household was 2.6. The researchers estimated that 6.4% of all households in the area were feeding stray cats. However, this estimate did not account for the approximately 10 feral cat feeding stations in the area.

Mean age of the 263 owned cats was 7.5 years; 92% of females were spayed and 96% of males were neutered. Only one third of pet cats were kept exclusively indoors. Cat owners were more likely to oppose cat licensing and impounding stray cats and support TNR for stray cats and less likely to be concerned about water pollution, than were noncat owners. For all respondents, 76% strongly or mostly supported TNR programs for stray animals and 73% strongly or mostly supported trapping and impounding stray pets. (Dabritz, H.A., E.R. Atwill, I.A. Gardner, M.A. Miller and P.A. Conrad. 2006. Outdoor fecal deposition by free-roaming cats and attitudes of cat owners and nonowners toward stray pets, wildlife, and water pollution. *J. Amer Vet Med Assoc*, Vol. 29(1); 74-81.)

The Cat's Den Outdoor Cat Enclosures: "The Cat's Den" is a unique solution to the dilemma of feline freedom, indoor and outdoor cat exercise and protection. Manufactured and developed in Canada, "The Cat's Den" is an enclosure that can attach to the side of an exterior house or apartment wall. "In developing The Cat's Den we took into account the fact that no two cats or spaces are exactly the same," said Kris Kischer, President, The Cat's Den. "To address that issue we designed seven different models, all of which can be customized to a specific situation. We will be happy to design a custom enclosure if the need arises." The Cat's Den is constructed from cedar wood and galvanized rust proof mesh making it maintenance free and built to last. All kits ordered in Southern Ontario can be installed by the Company's professional installers, or they will ship your Cat's Den anywhere in North America. Each kit comes complete with how to directions and is easy to install. The Cat's Den can be purchased online at www.thecatsden.com.

New ABC Store Online: ABC has opened its online Nature Mall store, where you can conveniently and securely shop for birding, backyard birdfeeding, and gift needs. A portion of all sales goes to support ABC's conservation projects, so shop big and shop often! Check out www.onlinenaturemall.com for cool gifts and ABC's new bird postage stamps.

Salton Sea Tours and Events

Why all the interest in the Salton Sea right now? Why should we care about its future? Join us in a weekend of field tours, pontoon boat rides and Artist Open House at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area and discover the magic for yourself.

Note: Tours and events are offered by the Anza-Borrego Institute in cooperation with California State Parks, with the generous support of California State Parks Foundation and the US Bureau of Reclamation. Call us at 760.767.4063 or visit us on-line at www.theabf.org for details.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2006

Active Faults And Geology Of The Eastern Salton Sea

9 am to 2 pm

Fee: M: \$35, NM: \$45 (lunch optional)

Pontoon Boat Tour on the Salton Sea

Tour One: Noon to 2 pm; Tour Two: 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Fee: M: \$25, NM: \$30

Curiosities of the Salton Sea, 9 am to 3 pm

Fee: M: \$35, NM: \$45 (lunch optional)

Salton Sea- Photo Safari, 2:30 pm to Sunset

Fee: M: \$25; NM: \$35

Fire! Water! and the Grand Mixing, Noon to 5 pm

Fee: M: \$25; NM: \$35

Desert Skies: The Other Half of our Desert, 7:30 pm

Fee: M: \$10; NM: \$15

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Photo Safari: From Riviera To Ruin: An Abstract Photo Tour Through History, 7 am to 10 am

Fee: M: \$25; NM: \$35

Pontoon Boat Tour on the Salton Sea

Fee: M: \$25; NM: \$35

Time: Tour One: 8 am to 10 am; Tour Two: 10 am to noon;

Tour Three: Noon to 2 pm; Tour Four: 2 pm to 4 pm

The Salton Sea - Birding and Natural History, 7 am to 3 pm

Fee: M: \$35; NM: \$45 (lunch optional)

Tour of Dos Palmas, 9:30 am to Noon

Fee: M: \$25; NM: \$35

Ancient Cahuilla Tour, 9 am to 2 pm

Fee: M: \$35; NM: \$45 (lunch optional)

Fossil Watermarks Of Lakes Long Gone: Old Shorelines In And Around The Dynamic Salton Basin, 9 am to 4 pm.

Fee: M: \$35; NM: \$45 (lunch optional)

Sunday, November 12, 10 am to 4 pm

Open House at Salton Sea State Recreation Area Visitor Center

Please visit our website at www.theabf.org for additional activities throughout the weekend.

PVAS FALL/WINTER FIELD TRIPS 2006-07

NOVEMBER

Sunday, Nov. 5 – Beginner's Bird Walk,
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 4-5 – Morro Bay Weekend
Field Trip. Leader, Dan Guthrie.

Tuesday, Nov. 7 – Santa Fe Dam, Irwindale.
Leader, Dan Guthrie

Tuesday, Nov. 14 – Bolsa Chica Preserve.
Leader, Dan Guthrie

Saturday, Nov. 18 – Eaton Canyon Nature Center,
Pasadena. Leader, Valerie Wheeler

Sunday, Nov. 26 – Bonelli Park Monthly Hike. Leader,
Rod Higbie

DECEMBER

Sunday, Dec. 3 – Beginner's Bird Walk,
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Wednesday, Dec. 13 – Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas
Trip. Leaders, Bruce and Nancy Strang

Thursday, Dec. 14 – Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas
Trip. Leader, Dan Guthrie

Saturday, Dec. 16 – Annual Christmas Census

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Bonelli Park Monthly Hike.
Leader, Rod Higbie

JANUARY 2007

Saturday, January 6 - Big Day with Dan Guthrie

Sunday, January 7 – Beginner's Bird Walk,
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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.

Field Trips (Continued from pg. 8)



Tuesday, November 7 Santa Fe Dam Area, Irwindale

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for a half day visit to Santa Fe Dam. Perhaps the scissor-tailed flycatcher will return, and if not, cactus wrens and snow geese should keep us occupied. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 607-2836.**

Tuesday, November 14 Bolsa Chica Preserve

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for a half day visit the newly reconstructed Bolsa Chica tidal area. A good trip for ducks, shorebirds and perhaps a peregrine. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 607-2836**

Saturday, November 18 Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for a half day visit to this Pasadena nature center. A good trip for chaparral birds and a possible wintering rarity. **Leader: Valerie Wheeler**

Sunday, November 26 Bonelli Park Monthly Hike

Meet at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 freeway at 8 a.m.

**Leader:
Rod Higbie**

Sunday, December 3

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 Garden. 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**

Wednesday, December 13 Bonelli Park Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet at the Picnic Valley area on Via Verde at 8 a.m. for a half day pre-Christmas count search for rarities. **Leaders: Bruce and Nancy Strang (626) 339-6984**

Thursday, December 14 Claremont Parks Pre-Christmas Trip

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for a half day search of our local area for Christmas rarities. We will visit the Montclair ponds, various cemeteries, and perhaps the campuses. **Leader: Dan Guthrie (909) 607-2836**



Saturday, December 16 Annual Christmas Census

See page 3 for details

Sunday, December 24 Bonelli Park Monthly Hike, Rod Higbie

Meet at the Bonelli Park headquarters on Via Verde near the 57 freeway at 8 a.m. **Leader: Rod Higbie**

Saturday, January 6, 2007 Dan Guthrie's Big Day Trip to Orange County

Meet at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. for a trip to Orange County in search of rarities found on recent Christmas censuses. We will shoot for 100 species. Bring a lunch. **Leader: Dan Guthrie: (909) 607-2836**

Sunday, January 7 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 Garden. 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.**

Tenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

Where will you be Nov. 16-19? How about learning the story of “Birds on the Wind”- the “where, why, and when” of bird migration with Kevin Karlson- or taking his workshop on “Birding Made Simpler”? Marvel at the “Falcons of North America” by noted photographer John Hendrickson and consider the environmental implications of “\$4.00 a Gallon Birding” discussed by Kimball Garrett. Interested in raptors? Simone Whitecloud will help you out with “Raptors Demystified”. How about attending a program by Joe Morlan about the “Birds and Wildlife of Eastern Australia” if you want to wander farther afield? If not, Ed Harper’s program on “Sharing the Experience” of Central Valley Birding will be a delight.

Have you guessed yet? Come to the Tenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, CA Nov. 16-19 and experience all these things as well as field trips, the “Birder’s Market”, and more. Brochures will be on the way soon, and information is now available on our website, <http://cvbs.org>

Hope to see you there!

Sparrow Workshop Taught by Sylvia Gallagher



This intermediate/advanced workshop will cover the identification, occurrence, and some of the behavior of all of the members of the family Emberizidae that have occurred in North America, except the towhees and juncos, which have been covered more recently in other workshops.

Prerequisite: Sylvia’s introductory Birding Skills Workshop or field experience with a variety of Passerines.

A total of five sessions will be offered, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings; and Tuesday, and Thursday mornings.

Complete information on this workshop will be posted on November 1st. Registration will begin in early December.

PVAS OFFICERS 2006-2007

President.....	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
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Field Trips	Dan Guthrie	909-607-2836
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Publications.....	Neil Gilbert	909-626-0334
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Hospitality.....	Open!	
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CHAPARRAL NATURALIST

Editor..... Pam Kling.....596-7604

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/>

Calendar and Field Trips

Membership Meetings

Thursday, November 2, 2006

Nina Karnovsky

"Asking the Arctic Auks about Climate Change"

Nina Karnovsky, a faculty member at Pomona College will present an illustrated talk on her work. This will be an excellent review of some of the latest climate change indicators and what they mean for our bird life.

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Tom Kaminski

"Hooked on Galapagos Birds"

Tom Kaminski, who presented an excellent program on hummingbirds last year, has created a new DVD, entitled "Hooked on Galapagos Birds". Swim with Galapagos penguins, storm petrels walking on water, and visit with the finches and flightless cormorant that are specialties of the islands. There will also be some of the mainland Ecuador hummers.

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Larry Arbanis

"California Birds"

Filmmaker **Larry Arbanis** shoots high definition footage of bird behavior for the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Come to see white-tailed kites, burrowing owls, clapper rails, pygmy nuthatches and dancing western grebes, to name a few.

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

Saturday, October 28, 2006

Village Venture -

The Claremont Street Fair

Come and visit the Pomona Valley Audubon booth!

Sunday, November 5

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 Garden. 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,

November 4 & 5

Morro Bay Weekend

Field Trip led by

Dan Guthrie

We will meet at Morro Rock at 8 a.m. on Saturday and bird the Morro Bay area. Sunday we will drive south, birding at Oceano and at Oso Flacco Lake. Tides should be very high on Saturday morning for a chance to see a spectacle of thousands of shorebirds, the bay brant flock, and a possibility of sharp-tailed sparrow as well as the Morro Rock Peregrine falcons. Leader: Dan Guthrie. (909) 607-2836.

(Field trips continued on page 6)



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W.M. Keck Science Center
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