



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 65— Number 2
November-December 2014

Wednesday, November 19, 2014, 7:30 P.M.
**Singing With Feathers: The Fabulous Courtships
of Woodstars and Other “Bee” Hummingbirds**
Presented by Dr. Christopher J. Clark

Dr. Clark has traveled to 12 countries in 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.

Dr. Christopher J. Clark taught himself to birdwatch at age 15 in the Seattle Arboretum. Among his wintertime Seattle favorites were the male Anna’s Hummingbirds that held breeding territories despite 16 hour nights and sub-freezing temperatures. His decision to study hummingbirds crystallized after he graduated from Washington State University in 2001 with a degree in Zoology. He attended graduate school at UT Austin and then UC Berkeley, performing his Dissertation on hummingbird tail morphology.

In 2008 his publication of a paper “The Anna’s Hummingbird chirps with its tail” made headlines in India, Australia, and the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle. After completing his Ph.D. in 2009 Dr. Clark has continued his research on how bird feathers make sound as a postdoc with Richard Prum in Yale University’s Peabody Museum. He was a featured scientist in a PBS documentary, “Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air” that aired Jan. 10, 2010.

He presently studies how feathers of all kinds make sounds, with an emphasis on hummingbird courtship displays. A world expert on hummingbirds, he has traveled extensively in Latin America attempting to record the courtship displays of Sheartails, Woodstars, and other rare hummingbird species. He has authored 20 scientific papers and has recently joined the faculty in the Biology department at UC Riverside.



Please come enjoy what promises to be an interesting and entertaining program. Our doors open at 7:00PM so come early to visit with friends and shop our book tables. Plan to pick up some gifts for the holidays. Our meeting will start at 7:30 PM and everyone is always welcome.

Wednesday, December 17, 2014—6:30
Come and Celebrate the Holidays

Our traditional potluck dinner will be held at the San Bernardino county Museum at 6:30P.M. Turkey, ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service and your favorite dish to share: a salad, vegetable, casserole, side dish, or dessert.

Come early to visit with friends and to do a little last minute holiday shopping at our bookstore.

Our program will be provided by our members who should bring 10-15 nature pictures to show and share. We’ll also be having a silent auction to share the book collections of our members. If you have a nature-related book or two you would like to donate, please bring them to the potluck. Or, perhaps you’d like to bid on the treasured bird book brought by another member. Either way, plan on an enjoyable evening.



Help Us Weave Our Story!

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society has a long and rich history. It is long past time that we capture that history in a form that can be available to all of us and to generations to come. If you have photos, videos, old newspaper cut-outs about the chapter, or other written narratives to share, we need these threads to help weave a colorful tapestry.

What is your personal SBVAS story? Do you have a favorite field trip adventure tale? We want to know about both the good and the bad, because that is what makes history interesting. Do you remember a particular program presentation as especially meaningful... or dreadful? When did you join SBVAS and why? What roles have you played in the chapter? What battles have you fought? What chapter leaders or fellow members have been memorable to you?

There is no deadline on this. History is alive and every day adds to it. Contributions can be made by traditional mail (SBVAS P.O. Box 10973, San Bernardino, CA 92423-0973), by e-mail to the project coordinator Cin Greyraven (cgreyrav@craftonhills.edu), or in person to any of our chapter leaders at any of our general meetings or field trips.

November 13, 2014 is the day Riverside County will host a 24-hour web-a-thon to help raise awareness for local charities.



San Bernardino Valley Audubon, which covers both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, will be one of those local non-profits asking for your donations. This is a chance for you to support your Audubon association with very little effort. Please check out the website, GiveBIGRiverside-County.org, and consider your donation on November 13.

San Bernardino Valley Audubon 2014-2015 Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts

San Bernardino Valley Audubon will once again be sponsoring nine Christmas Bird Counts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Bird counts are a long-time tradition for both SBVAS and national Audubon, and the importance of so many years of rich data through citizen science has grown tremendously with the use of bird count data to create climate change maps. Everyone is welcome to participate in as many of these counts as he or she likes. Participation is free, and many counts end with good networking and social time at a local restaurant. At press time, we do not have dates for all the counts, so we are asking that you contact the compiler for the counts you will attend, or check the website (sbvas.org) frequently for updates.

Redlands (Mill Creek): Compiler: Gene Cardiff; email e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net or phone (909)875-5358

Morongo Valley: Compiler: Dee Zeller, birdee@verizon.net or phone (760)363-7190 and Margaret Hogan, mhandbb@earthlink.net

Idyllwild: Compiler to be determined. Please check the website for information

Santa Ana River Valley: Compiler: Larry LaPre, lflapre@aol.com, (951)276-1213 (home), (951)607-5218 (work)

San Jacinto Lake: Compilers: Tony Metcalf, almetcalf@csusb.edu, (909)242-7038 and Tom Benson, thomasben@aol.com, (909)648-0899

San Bernardino Valley: Compiler: Dori Myers, dori-myers88@gmail.com, (714)779-2201

Mojave River Valley: Compiler: Bill Deppe, bdeppe@gmail.com, (760)953-6947

Joshua Tree National Park: Compiler: Joe Zarki (760)367-5520 (work), (760)366-8913 (home)

Salton Sea North: Compiler: Chet McGaugh, chetmcgaugh@earthlink.net, (909)781-3599

Local Sightings

Fall migration—perhaps every birder's favorite time of year, with its expectations of vagrant warblers and potential for all kinds of off-course migrants. This fall has not been a disappointment, with quality trumping quantity, and it's only half over! The clear highlight of the fall season so far was the male BLUE-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD that spent the afternoon of Sep 18 at private feeders in Crestline in the San Bernardino Mountains, providing what is only the second record for the state. Even more impressive was that the bird was banded, revealing that it was initially captured in July 2013 at the Southwest Research Station in Portal, AZ as a hatch-year bird.

Non-passerines tend to dominate the rare bird alerts in the early part of fall migration. Notable among those reported was a MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD at the south end of the Salton Sea (SESS) Aug 11; this species has become exceedingly rarer as a vagrant to California over the last few decades. Three WOOD STORKS, another species that has declined dramatically as a post-breeding visitor to southern California, were at Ramer Lake Aug 13. During September at least two PARASITIC JAEGERs wandered around SESS, (cont. in next column)

Audubon Endorses No on Measure L Restoration of Bird and Wildfowl Sanctuary Threatened by Development Initiative

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society (covering Riverside County) board of directors voted unanimously to oppose Measure L on the City of Riverside's November 4th ballot.

"The opportunity to fulfill the potential of the Hidden Valley Wildlife Refuge as a regional bird sanctuary will forever be lost if Measure L passes. Building 1,950 houses directly alongside the refuge will deter migratory birds and inhibit visitors and schoolchildren from experiencing significant recreational and educational opportunities at one of the last unspoiled areas next to the Santa Ana River," said Drew Feldmann, SBVAS conservation chair.

"Water can be restored by the City of Riverside to the ponds that attracted many geese and ducks. The visitors' center on the adjacent river bluffs, with its majestic views from the river to the San Gabriel and San Bernardino mountains, is a prime spot to attract thousands of inland residents starved for the peace and beauty of nature. But it won't be able to draw birds or people if it is hemmed in by the dense urbanization Measure L allows", added another SBVAS board member.

Existing voter-passed laws Prop. R and Measure C, which the Audubon Society has long supported, provide flying space and perching spots for other birds along the top of the steep La Sierra Hills, so Measure L is simply unnecessary.

(Local Sightings, continued)

and a PARASITIC JAEGER and a LONG-TAILED JAEGER cruised Lake Havasu. Noteworthy SABINE'S GULLS included juveniles at Big Bear Lake Sep 10-14, the San Jacinto Wildlife Area Sep 25, SESS Sep 27, and Harper Dry Lake Oct 12. A COMMON TERN at UC Riverside was unusual for the coastal slope. In the category of rare shorebirds of annual (or nearly so) occurrence, a RUFF was at SESS Sep 25, Kramer Junction hosted a STILT SANDPIPER Sep 15 and one to two SANDERLINGS Sep 18-25, a SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER was along the Parker Strip Aug 17-18 and another was in Mecca Aug 28, and three BAIRD'S SANDPIPERS were scattered around SESS Aug 23 and Sep 5. And what was probably the best bird of the season that wasn't a hummingbird, a YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON at the Imperial Irrigation District Wetlands in Niland Sep 23-27 furnished only the second record for Imperial County and the Salton Sink. The only vagrant raptor this fall was a BROAD-WINGED HAWK flying over Montclair Oct 5.

Of course, fall migration also brings numerous vagrant passerines to southern California. PURPLE MARTINS made a good showing in the southern deserts with singles at Garst Road Aug 9, Niland Aug 23, and Big River Sep 13. Lake Tamarisk Golf Club (aka Desert Center) had its share of vagrants, including an early ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK Aug 9 and a BOBOLINK Oct 2. A GRAY CATBIRD that was at Cactus City rest area Oct 4-5 apparently moved down I-10 to Chiriaco Summit Oct 7-11. This is a much rarer bird in Riverside and Imperial Counties than it is to the north, where one was at Zzyzx Oct 15. Single BALTIMORE ORIOLES, inexplicably

(Cont. Local Sightings, page 3)



Bird of the Month: Verdin

By Steve Myers

The Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*) is the only New World species in the family Remizidae, which includes the Penduline-Tits of Africa and Eurasia. It is resident from southeastern California, southern Nevada, southwestern Utah, northwestern Arizona, southern New Mexico, south-

western Oklahoma, and southern Texas south to southern Baja California and central Mexico. It is not migratory. In the deserts of California, it is most common in the Colorado Desert, but is also found throughout most of the Mojave Desert. Its habitat preferences include desert wash vegetation (Smoketree, Palo Verde, Ironwood, Desert Willow, Mesquite, Desert Lavender, Salt-Cedar), Creosote Bush scrub and Joshua Tree woodland. Along the Mojave River, they also occur in cottonwood and willow woodland.

Nests are compact, intricately woven balls of stiff, woody twigs that are often about 5 to 7 feet high in small trees or large shrubs. While the female is incubating the eggs (which number between 3 and 6), the male builds additional nests nearby. The extra nests are used for roosting throughout the year. The incubation period is 14 days, and the nestlings fledge in about 3 weeks. They often have two broods per year, and may have as many as four.

Verdins are primarily insectivores, but they also eat berries, small fruits, seeds, and nectar. In date palm groves, they



are commonly seen eating ripe dates. Much of their foraging is done within the foliage, and they sometimes hang upside down while gleaning small insects. They also occasionally catch insects in mid-air, like flycatchers. Some authorities think that Verdins do not drink in nature (getting all their water from food items).

Identification of adult Verdin is not difficult. They are very small, about the size of a Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*). They are quite gray overall, with a yellow head, and small chestnut patches on the shoulders. Their bills are longer and sharper than those of Bushtits. Juvenile Verdins lack the yellow face and chestnut shoulder patches, and can easily be mistaken for female or young Lucy's Warblers (*Vermivora luciae*). Lucy's Warbler has a thinner bill; Verdins bills, though sharp, are thick at the base.

Verdins are among the easiest desert birds to observe. They are very vocal, their nests are conspicuous, and they are active to the point of being acrobatic.

Want to learn more?

Further reading:

Webster, Marcus D. 1999. Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed). Ithaca: Cornell lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/species/470>

(Local Sightings, continued)

rare in San Bernardino County, were also at Zzyzx Sep 15 and 30. And then we have the warblers, for which there are almost too many to list, but I'm going to try anyway. Lake Tamarisk had AMERICAN REDSTART (Sep 12), BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (Sep 17), and OVENBIRD (Oct 3). An AMERICAN REDSTART was at Chiriaco Summit Oct 4-12, while a BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER was a one day wonder at Cactus City Oct 5. Zzyzx hosted MAGNOLIA WARBLERS (Sep 20, Oct 6-11), VIRGINIA'S WARBLER (Sep 20), and BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER (Oct 14-15). Ryan Bonaminio Park in Riverside harbored CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (Oct 4-7) and TENNESSEE WARBLER (Oct 7-8). Additionally, there was a VIRGINIA'S WARBLER at Glen Helen Regional Park Sep 22, AMERICAN REDSTART at Cal State San Bernardino Sep 28-29, PALM WARBLER at Baker Oct 11, and CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER at Lake Skinner Oct 10-15. Imperial County's lone contribution to the warbler list was a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH in Niland Sep 11. Finally, a VERDIN was reported at UC Riveriside on Sep 10, returning for its fifth consecutive winter.



Blue-Throated Hummingbird in San Bernardino County. Photo and text of Local Sightings by Tom Benson.

**A Field Study of Birds: Winter
Course Number: BIOL X405**

Learn the natural history and how to identify the wintering birds of Southern California, including waterfowl, gulls and birds of prey. Many of the prime wintering areas are visited on the field trips.

132–CPF–F23 Starting Jan. 13, 2014 at San Bernardino County Museum

Instructor: Eugene Cardiff

Schedule: Tue. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 13; Field trips all day Sat. Jan. 17, 24, & 31; Feb. 14 & 28 (6 meetings)

Preregistration: Requested by January 17

Location: San Bernardino County Museum, REDLANDS [Map](#)

Textbook: "Field Guide to the Birds of North America," Jon L. Dunn & Jonathan K. Alderfer ISBN: 0792253140 [Buy Online](#)

Credit: 2 units

Notes: Visitors not permitted. Enrollment is limited. Class meets at San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands for first meeting only. All other dates are field trips. Trip times may vary.

Fees: \$255

(Optional) each for couples and family members. -\$20 For this discount, enroll by phone: 800-442-4990.

(Optional) PINE organization member discount -\$40

\$255.00 **Total Fees**

/ \$235 each for couples and family members / \$215 each with PINE discount (Refund deadline: September 18.)

To enroll in the class, contact UCR Extension by email at register@ucx.ucr.edu, or by phone at: (800) 442-4990

We like to praise birds for flying. But how much of it is actually flying, and how much of it is just sort of coasting from the previous flap?

Jack Handey, Deeper Thoughts: All New, All Crispy



Feed Your Yard Birds and Help SBVAS

Wild birdseed will be sold at all general meetings of SBVAS as a regular fundraiser for the organization. The seed is a good blend for the area and will be available in 25 pound bags for \$20.

To get your seed and help SBVAS maintain a regular monthly fundraiser, please pay at the sales table and get a receipt. Then see Kirk Stitt in the parking lot to load your seed.

If possible, you should preorder seed by phoning Kirk at (909) 886-5513. Leave a message about the type of seed you want (thistle, black-oil sunflower, or general purpose mix) and your seed will be ready for pickup at the next general meeting.

Why Audubon California supports Proposition 1 (and you should, too)

Even before California entered its third straight year of this brutal drought, California birds were suffering from poor water management and infrastructure.

- Central Valley refuges, the last strongholds of wetland habitat in the valley, were not getting the water promised to them by Congress in the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

- ▶ Funding has decreased for the types of habitat restoration and wildlife conservation that benefit birds that have been provided by a series of parks and conservation bonds.

- ▶ State’s system for water delivery (including levies) was inadequate and crumbling. This put habitat at risk, just as it threatened every other sector of the state.

California’s \$7.12 billion water bond (Prop. 1) contains numerous benefits for birds and habitat throughout California.

- ▶ Explicitly allocates \$475 million in funding for priority bird habitat in Salton Sea, Klamath, and Central Valley refuges (funding for Central Valley Project Improvement Act refuge water).

- ▶ Includes almost an additional \$1 billion for watershed protection, restoration, and habitat improvements.

- ▶ Includes funding for all of the conservancies throughout the state and the Wildlife Conservation Board--the principal land acquisition and restoration sponsors in the state.

- ▶ Makes critical investments in Delta habitat, through Department of Fish and Wildlife and Delta Conservancy, that will greatly benefit birds and ensures that bond funds cannot be spent on projects such as tunnels or canals described in the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan.

- ▶ Provides critical statewide watershed conservation funding in an environment where funds for conservation are diminishing.

- ▶ Will improve water quality and make supply more reliable – which is critically important for the environment and for birds.

With 170 California birds specifically threatened by global warming, the water bond provides critical funding for projects that will help our birds adapt to a warmer climate.

Like many conservation groups, we are concerned about the \$2.7 billion set aside for water storage, including potential new dams.

□ None of the funds are earmarked for specific projects and the funds can be spent on projects such as off-stream reservoirs and groundwater storage, which are much more environmentally sound and fiscally viable than new dams.

□ All bond-funded projects—including potential new dams—must undergo full environmental review, giving Audubon and our allies opportunities to challenge ecologically-dangerous projects.

□ No bond-funded projects—including potential dams—can threaten the quality of rivers protected by the federal Wild & Scenic Rivers Act.

To discuss your questions or concerns about Proposition 1 with Audubon California, please contact Mike Lynes, Director of Public Policy, at mlynes@audubon.org or (916) 737-5707 x. 102.

Bearpaw Ranch

is a 70 acre nature sanctuary, operated by the San Bernardino Audubon Society and may be visited 7 days a week from dawn 'til dusk by members of Audubon and their guests. Bearpaw Ranch is nestled on the north slope of scenic Mill Creek Canyon at 4,500 feet elevation, surrounded by the towering peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest. To reach Bearpaw Ranch, take Highway 38 to the Forest Falls turnoff. Go only a few car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. We have a new paved road, the entry is easy for almost all normal passenger cars.

There is an electronically operated entry gate. *Members* who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to visit. If the gate does not open because of mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or stop for birding along the creek bed.

Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 923396

Bearpaw Sanctuary is now on Facebook.

If you type "Bearpaw Sanctuary" into the SEARCH function, you'll find us. Bearpaw visitors are encouraged to report interesting wildlife sightings and share their favorite nature photos from their Bearpaw visits.



SBVAS Officers 2014/2015

www.sbvass.org &
www.inlandplanet.org

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Second Vice President: Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417
Treasurer: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236
Secretary, Meadowlark Editor: Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

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Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-3536
Pete Clark (951) 212-2467
Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417
Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038
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Seth Shtier (760) 332-9776
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tbenson@csusb.edu

SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:

Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: November 5 and December 3, 2014

General Meetings: November 19 and December 17, 2014

All meetings are in the San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands. Board meetings are the first Wednesday of the month, and General Membership meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month. To reach the museum, take the California St. exit off I-10, go north one block to Orange Tree Lane and turn right. The museum will be on your left. Meetings, except potlucks, start at 7:30 and doors open at 7. Potlucks begin at 6:30.



Photo of Verdin nest taken near Niland, ©2006 Chet McGaugh

Sunday, November 2, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area ([map](#))

Leader: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417

Visiting the wildlife area allows great opportunities to view waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water and binoculars. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on I-215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately three miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.

Sunday, November 16, 2014 - 7:00 am
Northern San Jacinto Valley
Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and
Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417

Ah, cooler weather. Wintering birds of prey and waterfowl, coastal sage scrub and wetlands, all close by. Please join us for our fall field trip to the northern San Jacinto Valley. We have two goals for this trip. First is to have fun. Second, is to see 100 species. We always accomplish the first goal and have come very close to the second. Maybe this is the year. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its high species diversity. We have ranked highest in number of bird species seen for inland areas in North America for Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts, and are usually in the top 1-2% for all counts. At the heart of the region is the public San Jacinto Wildlife Area. We will meet at the parking lot at the gates of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area ([map](#)). From Riverside go south on 215 then east on Ramona, then north on Davis road three miles to parking lot. From Hemet, go west on Ramona to Davis road. From Redlands, go east on 10, then south on 215, then east on 60 or go south on Redlands Blvd, east on 60, East on Gilman springs, south on Bridge Street, west on Ramona and north on Davis road. As Davis is a dirt road, it is not recommended if there have been recent rains. The dirt roads are too dangerous for normal travel when wet. You can call or e-mail Tony Metcalf or the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters (951-654-0580) for updated road info to the Wildlife Area.

Saturday, December 6, 2014 - 8:00 am
Daggett & Newberry Springs
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 or (951) 522-4933

We will look for wintering birds at Newberry Springs and Daggett areas in the alfalfa fields and ponds, with a particular interest in birds of prey. If we have the time we may head over to Silver Lakes and see what we can find there. We will meet at the Denny's on Lenwood Road in Barstow ([map](#)) at 7:00 am (before breakfast) or 8:00 am (after breakfast). To get there, take I-15 north to Barstow and turn right at the Lenwood Road offramp. Denny's will be on the right hand side. Bring a lunch, water, snacks and warm clothes, because summer may be over by then. After lunch we will caravan and do some more looking for hawks and other birds. For more information on weather etc., call Gene at the number above.

Sunday, December 7, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area ([map](#))
Kirk Stitt (909) 886-5513 , Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

Visiting the wildlife area allows great opportunities to view waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water and binoculars. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on I-215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately three miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead

Field Trip Checklist

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent..

A good Road Map,

Full fuel tank, drinking water, snacks and lunch, binoculars and or a scope, field guide

Come and Enjoy. Call Field Trip Leader for last minute cancellations, questions or changes... ☺

From One of Our Readers; Birding with Patricia Hurley

I had a wonderful birding time in Oceanside in September when I took a last minute "get-away retreat". I rented a condo right on the water and could watch the shore birds all day from the balcony. The first night there I spotted a bunch of sanderlings running up and down the beach, chasing the waves in and out. It was cool to see the bold white stripes when in flight because that confirmed my identification of them as sanderlings.

There were also a few other shore birds, including willets, marbled godwits, one long-billed curlew, and a whimbrel who appeared occasionally. They seemed mighty lonely as there did not seem to be a flock of any of them. Of course there were lots of gulls, pigeons, brown pelicans, a few terns and

(cont. page 7, readers)

Calendar for Field Trips 2014 to 2015

 **Sunday, November 2, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am**
Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area

 **Sunday, November 16, 2014 - 7:00 am**
Northern San Jacinto Valley

 **Saturday, December 6, 2014 - 8:00 am**
Daggett & Newberry Springs

 **Sunday, December 7, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am**
Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area

 **Christmas Bird Counts, December 13 through January 4; please see website or call compilers for more information**

Sunday, January 4, 2015 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Mill Creek Wetlands

Saturday, January 10, 2014 - 7:00 am
Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip

Saturday, January 17, 2015
Silverwood Lake Barge Trip

Sunday, January 25, 2015
San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris

Saturday, January 31, 2015
Seal Beach NWR

Sunday, February 1, 2015 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State San Bernardino

Sunday, March 1, 2015 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Regional Park

Saturday, March to be announced, 2015 - 8:00 am
Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast

(Readers, continued)

swallows. The swallows seemed to come out of the huge rocks that formed the breakwater in front of the condos. Swallows are hard for me to identify as they move so quickly, but I think they might have been cliff swallows.

I love watching the brown pelicans. They are one of my most favorite birds, perhaps because they are so gangly but also graceful as they surf the waves, plunge like rockets, or plop unceremoniously in the water between waves. To see a flock of them in the evening flying to their roost is wonderful.

Now gulls are another matter. I know that there are many different plumages for the same species depending on the age of the gull and the season. I am slowly trying to distinguish what is what! I did have a wonderful opportunity to observe a whole group of gulls on the beach one evening. They were not interested in leaving their chosen spot and I was able to get up quite close to observe. I found out later that the family near-by had been feeding them, so that was why they stayed. They were hoping for another hand-out.

I figured out that I saw Western gulls, adults and immature, possibly 2nd or 3rd plumage and California gulls. I have finally found a way to remember which is which. The sun sets in the west, so the Western gulls have pink legs.

Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12, 2015
East Mojave

Saturday, April 25, 2015 - 7:00 am
Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea

Sunday, April 26, 2015 - 7:00 am
San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Saturday, May 2, 2015 - 7:00 am
Big Morongo Preserve

Sunday, May 3, 2015 - 8:00 am
Box Springs Mountain

Saturday, May 9, 2015 - 8:00 am
Whitewater Canyon

Saturday, May 16, 2015 - 9:00 am
Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch

Sunday, May 17, 2014
Palm Springs Aerial Tramway/San Jacinto Mountains

Saturday, June 6, 2015
San Bernardino Mountains

Saturday, June 13, 2014 - 7:30 am
Wrightwood & Blue Ridge

Saturday, June 27, 2015
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea– PART I

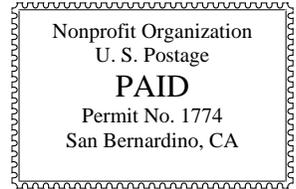
Saturday-Sunday, July 11-12, 2014
Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra

Saturday, August 29, 2015
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea– PART II

And California is the golden state, with Huell Howser's wonderful California Gold series, so the California gull has the yellow legs. I also identified an immature ring-billed gull and was tickled to see immature Heerman's gulls with black legs, red bills, dark bodies and lighter grey fronts.

These sightings were all treasures for me. But the greatest birding discovery was the lagoon just southeast of the Oceanside Harbor. I don't know if it has a name, but it borders the condo complex and can be easily reached from the nearby beach. As I walked up to the lagoon, I saw a myriad of tiny little black and white birds, skittering around the water. I had never seen them before and a local birder didn't know what they were either. I decided to cross the bridge on N. Pacific Street where it then ends at S. Harbor drive. I was astounded at the not only the number of birds but the vast variety of species that I saw. I saw coots (of course), mallards (of course), black-necked stilts, killdeer, pied-billed grebes, a juvenile black-crowned night heron, double crested cormorants, the same species of swallows I had seen before which were nesting under the bridge, brown pelicans, snowy egrets, great-tailed grackles, brewers black birds, gadwalls, ring-billed gulls, western gulls, California gulls, least sandpipers, short-billed dowitchers, willets, marbled godwits, red-winged blackbirds, pigeons and crows! All just by walking across the bridge and back!

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK
c/o San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
P. O. Box 10973
San Bernardino, CA 92423-0973



Everyone is always welcome!

All meetings in the San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands

Board Meetings are the 1st Wed.
General meetings are the 3rd Wed.
SBVAS Membership currently at 2,393

To reach the Museum, take the California Street exit off the 10 Freeway and go north 1 block to Orange Tree Lane—turn right. The museum will be on your left...



Chapter Only Membership Application
San Bernardino Valley Audubon

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SBVAS Membership @ \$24 a/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

I wish to receive the *Western Meadowlark* **only** electronically

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Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS



Membership Application
National Audubon Society (NAS)

NAS New Member/ Gift Membership \$20 (renewal will be \$35, includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine, 1 year Chapter membership, 1 year subscription to *Western Meadowlark* if in SBVAS area)

NAS Regular/Renewal Membership \$35 (includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine)

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Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
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Please clip and mail all memberships to: SBVAS Membership Chair
P.O. Box 10973
San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973

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