



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

# WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 61— Number 1  
September/October 2010

**Hummingbirds: More Than Just Eye Candy**  
**Sheri Williamson**  
**September 15, 2010**  
**7:30p.m.**

“Singing” feathers, streamlined genomes, and continent-spanning migrations are some of the latest mind-boggling discoveries that rank hummingbirds among the world's most amazing birds. Explore the marvels and mysteries of southern California's backyard jewels with the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Hummingbirds of North America.



Sheri L. Williamson grew up with a passion for wildlife, chasing lizards from the time she could walk and taking up birding at age 10. She has lived in the birders' paradise of southeastern Arizona since 1988, when she moved with husband Tom Wood from their home state of Texas to become resident managers of The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve. In 1996, Sheri and Tom left TNC to expand their efforts on behalf of birds, their habitats, and the people who care about them,

Sheri is co-founder and director of the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory, a columnist for WildBird magazine, and an award-winning science blogger. Her research interests include raptors, trogons, and mannikins as well as hummingbirds. She relaxes by watching birds and butterflies, reading, gardening, spoiling her pet chickens, making jewelry, and playing Led Zeppelin on the autoharp.



Alandra Palisser

**In Pursuit of the California Condor**  
**A Program Presented By Dr. Harold M. Hill**  
**October 20, 2010**  
**7:30p.m.**

Dr. Harold Hill will present a two part program; in the first half he will show a photographic study of condor nesting from the egg to fledging with some remarkable views of adults in the nesting area. This film was produced over 60 years ago for National Audubon's popular screen tours series and was silent and narrated by the photographers, usually ornithologists. The original 16 mm film has been converted to DVD, updated, had a sound track added to it and has been generally enhanced and improved for our enjoyment. For the second half of the program Harold will reminisce on his involvement in the early phase of the amazing condor recovery program and about historical reports of condors in the San Bernardino Valley and mountain areas. He will also share with us some history of his long involvement with this chapter and the Redlands area.

A third generation Redlander and a fourth generation physician, his life time avocation has been natural history, especially ornithology. He was one of the founders of San Bernardino Valley Audubon and this chapter's first President. He has been a Commissioner of the San Bernardino County Museum and a member of the Board of Directors of the Museum Association. And, he has published several papers on natural history. He authored one paper with Gene Cardiff, “An Historical Review of the Birds of the San Bernardino Valley” which was published by the San Bernardino County Museum Association quarterly publication series. Come out and enjoy an evening with Condors and Dr. Hill. Everyone is always welcome. Come early to enjoy refreshments, shop our book tables and to visit with friends.



## State Parks Initiative Qualifies for November Ballot

—reprinted from Calparks.org

California's state parks are falling apart because of decades of chronic underfunding. Budget cuts are causing them to fall severely behind in needed maintenance and repairs—a backlog of more than \$1 billion already exists. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of closure. Only a last-minute budget reprieve kept them open, however because of budget cuts, nearly 150 state parks have been shut down part-time or suffered deep service reductions. California's parks are becoming less available to the public and are at serious risk of irreversible damage. It's clear that the powers that be in Sacramento aren't riding to the rescue for state parks. In response, we're taking our case to the people.

On November 2, 2010, California voters will have the opportunity to save state parks by approving Prop 21, which would create the *State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010*. Rather than living on a budget roller coaster, the fund would provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.

### Initiative Basics:

- ▶ The Trust fund revenues could only be spent on state parks, wildlife, natural lands and ocean conservation programs.
- ▶ The Trust fund would be funded by an \$18 annual State Park Access Pass surcharge on all California cars, motorcycles and recreational vehicles that would be collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles as part of the annual vehicle license fee. Larger commercial vehicles (those subject to the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act), mobile homes and permanent trailers would be exempt.
- ▶ Vehicles subject to the surcharge and all occupants of those vehicles would have free day use admission to all state parks throughout the year.
- ▶ Trust Fund revenues would amount to approximately \$500 million each year (based on about 28 million registered vehicles) and 85 percent would be allocated to state parks and 15 percent to other state wildlife and ocean protection agencies.
- ▶ With a new dedicated revenue stream in place, approximately \$130 million of General Fund dollars—that provide a portion of overall state parks funding—would now be available for other vital needs, like schools, health care, social services or public safety.
- ▶ The Trust Fund would be subject to an independent audit by the State Auditor and a Citizens' Oversight Committee would be created to ensure funds are spent appropriately. Audit, oversight, and administrative costs of this measure would be limited to one percent of the annual revenues.

### How you can help the campaign: Spread the word and stay updated!



*The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.*

Jon Hammond



## The Legal Eagle: Saving the San Jacinto Wildlife Area

By Drew Feldmann, Conservation Chair

This column is written to inform chapter members of our different legal actions, their prospects, and results. This particular column will try to explain the importance of our recent suit concerning the Villages of Lakeview Project, or VOL, which is our most important current case.

VOL is a development by Lewis Homes, Inc. one of California's largest and best-funded developers, to build approximately 11,400 housing units along both sides of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. In effect, the development will create a new city of some 30,000 people adjacent to the most important non-marine Important Bird Area in southern California (counting the Salton Sea as marine) and a site with which this chapter has a long connection. Important Bird Areas, or IBAs, are scientifically designated by Audubon California biologists based on objective evidence. To qualify, a site can't just be a nice place to go birding. It has to be important to the health and survival of specific species of birds by measureable criteria. The San Jacinto Wildlife Area meets the requirements many times over.

This chapter was among the founding bodies of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area, contributing some acreage won as mitigation in a lawsuit over three decades ago. (Our name is on the sign near the entrance.) Since then the chapter has used the wildlife area for regular field trips, beginning bird walks and Christmas bird counts.

The most obvious impact of the VOL development would be "edge effects". These are the impacts of having thousands of people living next to an area used by wildlife. They include a marked increase in feral cat populations and incursions by resident house cats out hunting, light pollution from house and street lights, so that natural darkness will not occur; dumping of trash, particularly in bodies of water; setting of fires, vandalism, and other misconduct; and numerous ordinary peaceful citizens hiking, biking, or picnicking in the area as if it were a city park. Any one of these would degrade the quality of the wildlife area.

However, even if the development were only south of the Ramona Expressway, we would still have grave causes for concern. The birds don't know that only the wildlife area has been set aside for them. The land south of the expressway is mostly farm land, so it is used by many species of birds for forage and nesting. You may remember that a few years ago, one of the few remaining southern California flocks of tricolored blackbirds, about 5,000 in all, nested not in the wildlife area but in a nearby farmer's field, and Audubon California paid the farmer for the crop to save the birds. That sort of opportunity for birds will disappear along with the farms. The San Bernardino Audubon Society, as directed by its Board, therefore joined the Center for Biological Diversity this spring in suing the County of Riverside and Lewis Homes over the Villages of Lakeview Project. For technical reasons, our other usual allies, the Sierra Club and the Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley, filed a separate suit against the County. We have kept ourselves informed of (continued on page 6, Legal)



Photo by S. Liptay  
Steven W. Cardiff of Louisiana State University kneels by an oystercatcher nest on a shell berm near Point au Fer Island.

### A count and countdown

Louis Sahagan  
Reprinted from the LA Times

The dozen biologists on Point Au Fer Island were on an 11th hour mission to count what was there before it was gone. Nearly two months into the Deepwater Horizon oil disaster, which has dumped millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico, they were counting birds guarding chicks and eggs. Trying to ignore the sweltering heat and stinging deerflies, the biologists strode across the island's remote beaches and sandbars for two days last week to take stock of avian life before oil comes ashore. Essentially, they wanted to estimate the populations of American oystercatchers, common nighthawks, least terns, Wilson's plovers and other species for use in charting what they fear could be a drastically downward trend over the next several decades.

Environmentalists are wary that a shift in weather and ocean currents will bring oil and toxic chemicals from the breakdown of petroleum into Atchafalaya Bay, about 75 mile southwest of New Orleans.

The data collected during the two-day survey may help answer crucial questions at the heart of the disaster: What effect will oil and dispersants have on one of the nation's biggest breeding grounds for birds, and how long will it take to recover? Or will it?

"There is a sense of urgency to get remote places like this thoroughly surveyed before the oil hits," said Steven Cardiff, collections manager of birds and mammals at Louisiana State University's Museum of Natural Sciences. "A high tide with oil and a strong wind, and it's all gone."

The oil slick has already despoiled coastal estuaries a few miles east of this 20-mile-long island, killing untold numbers of birds, fish, turtles and mammals, and ruining their delicate bayou habitat, perhaps for years to come. Compounding problems,

using booms, earth movers and shovels have inadvertently crushed nests, eggs and newly hatched chicks.

Against a backdrop of oil rigs rearing skyward, the island's windswept shores were strewn with clutches of speckled gray eggs resting in slight depressions in the sand.

Scads of fiddler crabs—a favorite food of Wilson's plovers—scuttled across mud flats pocked with tracks of coyotes and raccoons. Butterflies flitted over knee-high grass. Male nighthawks swooped under roiling thunderheads. On all sides, the air was filled with bird calls: the throaty trills of orchard orioles, the raspy calls of terns bringing fish to their demanding young.

Steve Liptay, assistant director of Coastal Bird conservation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to research and survey work, jotted down every sighting—species, location, date, time—on a clipboard.

"Some people are proposing that surveys like this one be conducted every 10 days in order to track the impacts as closely as possible," Liptay said. "At the very least, I hope we can return soon with signs to warn people away from known nesting sites."

A few yards away, as Cardiff made his way along the shoreline, he spied a dark glob just a few inches away from a least tern nest harboring a single egg. His face fell. "It's a tar ball," he said, shaking his head.

By the survey's end team members had trudged across 30 miles of beaches and counted roughly 120 pairs of Wilson's plovers, 500 pairs of least terns, 750 individual nighthawks and six pairs of American oystercatchers.

Habitat for these and many other migratory birds was already in distress long before crude oil began bursting from BP's blown-out well on April 20. Louisiana loses about 25 square miles of coastal marshlands each year because of development, petroleum exploration and altered flows of Mississippi River sediment.

The survey was only one of many started in recent weeks by environmental organizations, Louisiana State University and state and federal agencies to track the oil's destructive force.

"The whole ecological system is falling apart," said Richard DeMay, senior scientist with the Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program, and captain of one of two vessels used to ferry biologists to the shores of Point Au Fer Island.

"This survey and others will help us get a handle on what we have out there now, and what we may lose over time," he said.



Photo by Steve Liptay  
A juvenile least tern near Point Au Fer Island. Biologists hope their data will help measure the effects of the oil disaster in the Gulf.

**UCR Extension: A Field Study of Birds: Fall  
Course: BIOL X405**

Through field trips to local mountains and valleys, San Diego Bay, the High Desert, Salton Sea and Imperial Valley, you will learn how to identify birds in the field and gain an understanding of their behavior and habitats.

**Note:** This course may be taken twice for credit toward the Specialized Study Program in Field Ornithology. Visitors are not permitted. Enrollment is limited. Vertebrate course for Certificate in Field Ecology Elective for Specialized Study Program in Field Ornithology.

**Instructor:** Eugene A. Cardiff, B.A., retired Curator of Natural History, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands. Cardiff is Extension's longest-standing instructor. He has taught over 100 ornithology classes since 1968

**Credit:** 2 units

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

**Dates/Times:** Tues., 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sept. 21, Field trips all day Sat. Sept. 25, Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 6 and 20. (6 meetings)

**Location:** SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM, Redlands

**Text:** "Field Guide to the Birds of North America," 5th edition, Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan K. Alderfer ISBN 0792253140

**Fee:** \$215/\$195 each for couples and family members/ \$175 each with PINE discount

**Reg #:** 102-SCF-F23

Preregistration: Requested by September 21st

To enroll online, email: [register@ucx.ucr.edu](mailto:register@ucx.ucr.edu)

To enroll by phone, call: (951) 827-4105 or (800) 442-4990 (note: to receive a discount for couples and family members, registration must be done by phone.)

## Lead lobby defeats bill to protect birds from lead contamination in state wildlife areas

### Audubon California vows to take issue with lead shot on state wildlife

Sacramento, CA – Representatives of Audubon California today expressed deep disappointment after its bill to prohibit the use of lead shot in state wildlife areas was defeated in the State Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. The bill, Assembly Bill 2223 (Nava), passed the State Assembly just last month, but failed to garner sufficient votes to move on in the Senate.

Audubon California Director of Public Policy Dan Taylor blamed the loss on a forceful and misleading campaign by gun interests and ammunition manufacturers.

"The lead lobby will declare victory today, but it is not a victory for California's wildlife," said Taylor. "They somehow managed to convince legislators that lead is not a threat to California wildlife. But the science on the dangers of lead is abundantly clear, and we'll continue to press that point."

Taylor said that, with their legislative options closed for now, Audubon California and its partners will continue to press for an administrative solution before the State Fish & Game Commission. The Commission has already indicated that it will take the issue up for discussion at its August meeting.

Audubon California pressed for the ban on lead shot in state wildlife areas in an effort to remove a loophole in the law that creates a dangerous environment for birds and other wildlife. Due to widespread consensus that the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting poses a significant danger in wetland environments, federal law bans such use. However, the use of lead shot for upland game is currently allowed on most state wildlife areas, and often results in lead being introduced into wetland environments anyway. Research now shows that both wetland and upland birds will ingest spent lead shot, and that this creates the potential for devastating effects on these bird populations.

More than 25 states currently have laws on the books similar to Assembly Bill 2223. Lead shot is also banned in all federal wildlife areas in California.

"It's pretty stunning to think that California is behind South Dakota and Nebraska in protecting its wildlife from lead contamination," said Taylor. "Allowing this situation to continue is inconsistent with the state's mission to manage these wildlife areas to the highest standards, and I expect that the Fish & Game Commission will understand that."

In pushing for the passage of AB 2223, Audubon California always noted the crucial role hunters play in wildlife management and conservation, particularly in funding through licenses and excise taxes on sporting equipment sales. This policy change should appeal to hunters, given that inaction stands to erode both wetland and upland bird populations – and diminish hunting opportunities.

## 7 Ways Animals Beat the Heat

From Birds to Amphibians to humans, animals have developed strategies for keeping cool in hot weather

—reprinted from National Wildlife Federation, Roger DiSilvestro

### 1. Sweating

People do it, and so do horses. Sweating helps animals cool because drying sweat cools the skin. Some canines—members of the dog family—sweat from their feet, but that is not a large enough surface area to cool the whole animal. What do dogs do? See panting, below.

### 2. Radiating heat

Elephants can radiate heat from their ears, which they hold out from their bodies; jackrabbits do the same thing with their long ears. Blood flow into the ears carries heat out of the body, and cooler blood re-enters the bloodstream, reducing the effects of heat.

### 3. Estivation

This is the opposite of hibernation. Some animals, such as toads and snails of various species, will go into a state of dormancy (call it sleep, but it is much deeper than sleep) during hot weather, to avoid heat and drying; they may burrow underground, just like a hibernating ground squirrel (hibernation is a winter dormancy to escape cold and hunger). Probably the most famous estivators are the lungfish of Africa, Australia and South America, which burrow into the mud of drying lakes and create a cocoon of mucus for shelter; they revive when rains refill their lakes.

### 4. Hiding out

Many animals seek shelter during the hot part of the day. Reptiles such as lizards and snakes are especially susceptible to heat and can die after only a few hours' exposure to hot summer sun; these animals seek shelter under rocks and in burrows. The survival of some lizards is threatened because of heat; A recent study shows that rising temperatures from global warming have driven 12 percent of Mexico's lizard populations to extinction and have caused lizard population losses on five continents because the animals have to spend so much time hiding from the sun that they are not feeding and breeding adequately. Turtles, which also are reptiles, will go into deeper water during heat waves. Freshwater fish such as bass also seek cooler, deeper waters during summer heat. Cats sweat through their feet, but not enough to help them cope with summer temperatures. Felines, from the house variety to the mighty lion, seek shade when they want to cool down.

### 5. Panting

As we all know, our breath is hot—hot enough to make clouds in winter air. Many animals get rid of excess body heat by breathing rapidly—by panting. Almost everyone has seen dogs do this. Have you ever seen birds walking around in summer with their beaks open? They're panting. Birds have an elaborate breathing system that includes air sacs in addition to lungs and that helps them get rid of excess heat by panting.

### 6. Shedding

Losing body hair is a major way that mammals—most of which are covered with fur—cope with heat. In winter, animals in temperate zones put on heavy coats for combating frosty cold and biting winds, but in summer they need lighter wear. Hormones in the body cause their dense winter coats to fall off, usually in patches, to be replaced with lighter summer coats

### 7. Taking a dip

Many animals seek water to cool down. Elephants often cool off in a pond or stream. Tigers (unlike most house cats) enjoy a dip in hot weather. Domestic pigs, which don't sweat, wallow in water or mud on hot days; mud also protects them from sunburn. If you provide water for backyard wildlife, you will find that birds, too, like to splash around, both to cool off and to clean feathers and skin. Other backyard animals, such as toads and turtles, will also benefit from access to water, especially as temperatures climb.

SBVAS Officers 2010/2011  
[www.sbvass.org](http://www.sbvass.org) &  
[www.inlandplanet.org](http://www.inlandplanet.org)

President: Kirk Stitt (909) 886-5513  
 First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201  
 Second Vice President: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417  
 Treasurer: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236  
 Secretary, Meadowlark Editor: Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

### Directors

Field Trips: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358  
 Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-2526  
 Pete Clark (951) 212-2467  
 Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417  
 Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038  
 Brad Singer (909) 838-7951  
 Doug Karalun (909) 425-5355  
 Steve Myers (951) 634-9767

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP: Crispin Rendon (951) 686-7121  
 FIELD TRIPS: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358  
 CONSERVATION: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081

### WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Editor:

Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

[linda-stitt@usa.net](mailto:linda-stitt@usa.net)

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899 or (909)-537-3309 or  
[tbenson@csusb.edu](mailto:tbenson@csusb.edu)

BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Grayraven (909) 794-0509  
[greyraven@wildmail.com](mailto:greyraven@wildmail.com)

RARE BIRD ALERT: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899 or (909)-537-3309 or  
[tbenson@csusb.edu](mailto:tbenson@csusb.edu)

SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:  
 Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

### CALENDAR

**Board Meetings:** Sept. 1, October 6

**General Meetings:** Sept. 15, October 20

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.

### Feed Your Yard Birds and Help SBVAS

Wild birdseed will be sold at all general meeting 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.

You can also 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



### September 11: San Diego, Tijuana Estuary Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

At the peak of fall migration, San Diego can offer extraordinarily interesting birding prospects. Why not join us for possible views of as many as 20 different species of shorebirds, several varieties of rare warblers, and maybe a chance sighting of a Tropical Kingbird, Bobolink, or Yellow-green Vireo. To get there, take I-15 south to Highway 163, south to I-8 and south again on I-5 to Chula Vista, west on the J Street off ramp, to the boat launch. We will gather at 8:00 am at the boat launch ramp on Marina Way ([map](#)). Please join us and don't forget to bring a sack lunch and something to drink. It will probably be sunny so don't forget your hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. We should be able to see lots of shorebirds and plus a great day at the beach. Please call Gene at home if you have any questions. As always, everyone is welcome to come and join in.

### September 18: Birding and Biking Bolsa Chica Steve and Vesta Myers (951) 634-9767

This trip will combine birding (shorebirds, terns, other water birds) with bicycling. Meet at the "boardwalk parking lot" at 8:00a.m. (on east side of Pacific coast Highway, 1.4 mile south of Warner—note that if you are driving south from Warner, a u-turn is necessary a short distance after the boardwalk parking lot in order to make the turn into the parking lot). Just want the birding? That's okay, too—we usually bird until lunch time, have lunch at a local deli, and then ride along the beach (on the bike trail) for a couple of hours. Bolsa Chica is one of the best places for bird photography on the West Coast.

### October 2-3: East Mojave Migrant Traps Steve and Vesta Myers (951) 634-9767

This overnight trip will visit Zzyzx, Baker, Horse Thief Springs, Beck Spring, Crystal Spring, China Ranch, and perhaps the Ivanpah Valley, Nipton, and Kelso. We will camp on Saturday night, with the location depending on the progress made during the day on Saturday. Be prepared to camp in the open desert, including potentially at Zzyzx. Follow the I-15 freeway north and east from Cajon Pass to the Zzyzx Road exit. Turn right, and follow the road to its end at the Desert Studies Center. From the intersection of I-215 and I-15 at Devore, it is 114 miles to Zzyzx Road, so allow about 2 hours from there (depending on how fast you drive). Be sure to bring plenty of food and water on this trip.

This weekend should be at the peak of fall migration, and there is potential for all sorts of interesting migrants.

If you come on the San Diego field trip on Sept. 11, you might get to see a Black-throated Magpie Jay like the one at left. This one was seen at the Butterfly and Hummingbird garden near the Tijuana River in early June.



### October 3: Beginning Bird Walk—Los Rios Rancho Doug Karalun (909) 731-0597

Please join us for a slow-paced morning of birding along the nature trail at Los Rios Rancho. 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 binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. October is apple season in Oak Glen and there will be plenty of activities to explore on your own after the walk.

We will meet at the parking lot for the nature trail (the main gate into Los Rios Rancho will not be open until 8:00 am). From Redlands, go east on I-10. Exit at Live Oak Canyon/Oak Glen Road and go north approximately 9 miles through Oak Glen. Turn right into Los Rios Rancho then right again into the nature trail parking lot. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time

#### *(Legal, continued)*

each other's position and situation. Both groups have taken a "No project" stance, not to drive a hard bargain, but because we really do not want to see the project AT ALL. Currently we are in discussions with the County and the developer, a required step in the litigation process in case actually going to court can be avoided. Such discussions are completely confidential, so I cannot say more than that.

The County was also sued by the City of Riverside because of traffic and other issues. We are not connected with that action.

As I said in an earlier column, the Board only votes for litigation that it thinks it has a good chance of winning, and this case is one of those. We have several strong points, including major weaknesses in the DEIR, but I only have space to describe one. The project was approved by the county by means of "an extraordinary amendment" to the General Plan. However, such extraordinary amendments are reserved for things that need immediate action, while the developer has stated that, because of the economy, building will not begin for several years. Therefore the adoption process was in error. For these reasons, we believe that we will ultimately prevail, though we can never be sure. One thing we can be sure of is that it will cost money. The Friends and Sierra Club expect to spend tens of thousands of dollars on their case. Since CBD are both their own attorneys and ours, our expenses will be lower, but they will still mean a substantial outlay of funds. In contrast, our opponents have almost unlimited resources. Any donations to help save the wildlife area would certainly be appreciated. No amount is too small. Just make out a check to SBVAS, indicate what it's for, and mail it to SBVAS, PO Box 10973, San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973.

If anyone has questions about this development or wants to help in some way, I can be emailed at [drewf3@verizon.net](mailto:drewf3@verizon.net), or you can speak to me at one of the meetings. Thanks so much.

## Calendar for Field Trips 2010 to 2011

 **September 11:** San Diego—Gene Cardiff

 **September 18:** Birding and Biking Bolsa Chica—Steve Myers

 **October 2-3:** East Mojave Migrant Traps—Steve Myers

 **October 3:** Beginning Bird Walk—Doug Karalun

**November 7:** Bear Paw Field Trip—Gene Cardiff and Cin Grayraven

**November 14:** Northern San Jacinto Valley—Tony Metcalf and Dave Woodward (trip subject to change if it conflicts with pheasant hunting)

**November 26-28:** Morro Bay—Gene Cardiff

**December 4:** Dagget and Newberry Springs—Gene Cardiff

**December 5:** Beginning Bird Walk—Tom Benson

**December 14—January 5:** Christmas Bird Counts

**January 2:** Beginning Bird Walk—Tom Benson

**January 8:** Salton Sea—Chet McGaugh

**January 15 and 16:** Weekend in Santa Barbara—Brad Singer



### Bearpaw Ranch

is SBVAS's 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 ahead for the security code. Access to the code may be had by calling—Bearpaw at (909) 794-0509. Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 923396

**February 6:** Beginning Bird Walk—Tom Benson

**February 12:** Salton Sea—TBA

**March 6:** Beginning Bird Walk—Brad Singer

**March 19:** Bolsa Chica—Dori Myers

**April 3:** Beginning Bird Walk—Doug Karalun

**April 16-17:** Owens Valley—Brad Singer

**April 23:** Salton Sea—Chet McGaugh

**April 30:** Big Morongo—Chet McGaugh

**May 1:** Prado Big Day—Howard King

**May 1:** Beginning Bird Walk—Doug Karalun

**May 7:** White Water Canyon—Steve Myers

**June 4-5:** San Bernardino Mountains—Brad Singer

**June 11:** Wrightwood—Gene Cardiff

**July 9-10:** Greenhorn Mountains—Steve Myers

**August 13:** Insane Jaunt—Tom Benson

#### Field Trip Checklist

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

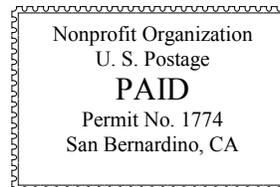
A good Road Map,

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... 🐾

**THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK**

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



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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 1,795

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SBVAS Membership @ \$16/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

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

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter  
C97C110Z

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

DATED MATERIAL - Please Expedite