



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 67— Number 2

Wednesday, January 28, 2017
7:30 p.m.
General Meeting

Meet the Birds
Presented by Steve Kaye

Join us for an enjoyable photo tour that shows how birds change lives. Celebrate the beauty in Nature, see uncommon views of birds, and discover how we all make a difference. Professional photographer Steve Kaye will show his photos of birds.

He'll also tell the stories behind the photos and offer practical tips on how to take better photos. This is an excellent program for anyone who wants to know more about birds. And it's a wonderful reminder of the extraordinary beauty that we have outdoors. So bring a friend.

See his photos and blog at: <http://www.stevekaye.com/>

Steve Kaye has been taking photos casually since 1965 and professionally since 2010. Now he uses his photos in talks and articles to inspire respect for Nature. He has spoken at photo clubs, judged photo contests, and conducted classes on Nature Photography. Two of his photos appear in *Woodpeckers of North America*, by Stephen A. Shunk (published May 2016).



Wednesday, February 15, 2017
7:30 pm
General Meeting

"The Audubon Journey. . . Evolution and Revolution of an Organization"
Presented by Dr. Vic Leipzig

Dr. Vic Leipzig, Sea & Sage Audubon Chapter President, will be giving us insight into the history of the Audubon movement with its major victories in the political and legislative arena--a highlight being the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which is now under attack.

He will give us a candid look at some of the things Audubon has gotten wrong along the way and focus on the current strengths and weaknesses of Audubon Society, while stressing the importance of chapters like ours within the Audubon organization.

Dr. Leipzig earned his Bachelor's in Political Science from Stanford University and his PhD in Biology from Wesleyan University. While living many years in Huntington Beach, he has worn many city government hats along the way: Planning Commission, City Council, and Mayor. He has served on the Boards of Directors for the: OC Sanitation District, OC Vector Control District, and Amigos de Bolsa Chica. He is the Founding Executive Director of the Bolsa Chica Conservancy. Vic has recently retired from teaching biology/ecology from Golden West College and currently teaches introduction to birding for Saddleback College. Prior to his Presidency, he has served Sea & Sage as field trip leader, Birdathon fundraiser, Conservation Committee co-chair, Events Committee chair and Vice-president. He is a Director of Audubon California.

His wife is Louann Murray, an environmental writer, and they are both devoted to citizen conservation. Please join us for a fascinating journey with Dr. Vic Leipzig.

We meet at the San Bernardino County Museum, in Redlands. The doors open at 7:00 for refreshments and fellowship, and the meeting and program begin at 7:30 pm. Everyone is always welcome.

New report offers roadmap for protecting birds at the Salton Sea **Written by Garrison Frost - California Audubon**

Study shows acreage of habitat state needs to provide to maintain area's role on the Pacific Flyway.

San Francisco, CA – As state officials continue to work on a plan for the Salton Sea that will address future habitat loss and dust, a new report details how much – and what type of – habitat the millions of birds that rely on California's largest inland lake use. Using data from two time periods, the report completed by Audubon California, Point Blue Conservation Science and Cooper Ecological Monitoring, Inc., shows that birds are currently using five distinct types of habitat, totaling approximately 58,000 acres.

"If the state wants to maintain the Salton Sea's importance to birds, it will need to keep an eye on this long-term goal of 58,000 acres as it plans to build and manage habitats at the sea," said Andrea Jones, Audubon California's director of bird conservation. "This information should act as a roadmap for the protection of birds at the Salton Sea."

State officials are under pressure to meet their commitment to address habitat loss and dust-related public health problems that will arise beginning in 2018 when the Salton Sea will start to receive significantly less water, eventually up to 40 percent less. The shrinking sea will expose up to 64,000 acres of the sea bed over the next 15 years, destroying tens of thousands of acres of habitat and kicking up massive dust storms.

More than 300 bird species rely on the deep water, shoreline, mudflats, and wetlands at the Salton Sea, as well as the river channels and agricultural drains leading into it. Tilapia live in the deeper waters, providing essential food for many species, including California Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, and Caspian Tern. Perhaps the sea's greatest value for birds is its ability to support very large numbers of waterbirds during the winter months, including in previous years up to 80% of North America's Eared Grebes, 50% of Ruddy Ducks, and 30% of the American White Pelicans. The mudflats and shorelines are also essential for hundreds of thousands of shorebirds. It has been declared an Audubon Important Bird Area of Global Significance. The report identifies and quantifies five spe-

cific habitat types that birds were documented as using: playa; mudflats and shallow water; mid-depth water; deep water; and permanent vegetated wetlands.

"One thing that this document reveals is the vital link between bird habitat and dust control," added Jones.

"With water being an essential element in four of the five habitat types, you can see the role that tens of thousands of acres of habitat can play in preventing dust from becoming airborne as the sea recedes."

At the time it signed the Quantification Settlement Agreement in 2003, the State of California committed to funding restoration at the Salton Sea to address the widespread habitat loss and dust emissions. Over the years, there have been legislative proposals, public hearings, and planning sessions – but little progress has been made. A task force created last year by California Gov. Jerry Brown set a medium-term goal for 25,000 acres restored, a number recently echoed in a memorandum of understanding between state and federal officials.

The state is expected to have its draft management plan for the Salton Sea in the coming months.

"Now is the best opportunity we've had in years to make a real difference for the more than 650,000 people who live around the Salton Sea, as well as the birds and other wildlife that depend on this place for their survival," said Audubon California Executive Director Brigid McCormack. "Audubon is committed to helping make progress, and we look forward to continuing to work with the state, the federal government and other stakeholders on this vital issue."

Bearpaw Ranch

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 several car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. Our driveway is on the right, marked 38801. The driveway is paved and unpaved road that meanders across Mill Creek wash and up the bluff to 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 92339

Bearpaw Sanctuary is on Facebook; message us with questions and comments. 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.



Olympic Peninsula April 7-9, 2017
BirdFest
 Come bird with us!



- ▣ San Juan Island Cruise
- ▣ Neah Bay Birding Excursion
- ▣ Guided Birding Trips
- ▣ Bird Drawing Class
- ▣ Photography Workshop
- ▣ Gala Banquet with Speaker
Bonnie Block

For more information:
www.olympicbirdfest.org
info@olympicbirdfest.org
 or 360-681-4076

 

For lodging and visitor information,
 call 800-942-4042 or click
www.olympicpeninsula.org
www.visitsunnysequim.com
 800-737-8462

Olympic Birdfest, April 7-9, 2017
 Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tours, live auction & raffle, gala banquet, and more. Our featured speaker: noted nature photographer Bonnie Block. Join our festival pre-trip: a three-day, two-night birding/sightseeing cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 4-6, 2017. Register separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon. Extend your festival with our Neah Bay post-trip on April 9-11, 2017: two days exploring northwest coastal Washington. BirdFest registration at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

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...🐦

SBVAS Officers 2015/2016

www.sbvass.org

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 First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201
 Second Vice President: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417
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truthraven@verizon.net

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

SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:

CALENDAR

KLAMATH BASIN WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL February 16-19

Featuring Paul Bannick, Chas Glatzer & Scott Weidensaul

Join us for the 38th Annual Winter Wings Festival

- NEW Photography and birding field trips, workshops, and the return of festival favorites too!

Board Meetings: No meeting in July. First Tuesday of the Month, September 6, 2016, 7 pm

General Meetings: September 21, 2016, 7:30 pm

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. General meetings, except potlucks, start at 7:30 and doors open at 7. Potlucks begin at 6:30.

UPCOMING JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017 FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, January 7, 2017 - 7:00 am
Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip
Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & John
Green (951) 686-2956

This trip at times has been called the "waterfowl trip," the "goose trip," and "a wonderful field trip." It is all of that, and more. Perhaps a glimpse at some of the species seen on previous trips will help stoke the fires of desire: American White Pelican (hundreds), American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Snow Goose (thousands), Ross's Goose (hundreds), Greater White-fronted Goose, Bald Eagle, four falcon species, Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Plover, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Burrowing Owl, Mountain Bluebird, and American Redstart. We usually tally over 100 species, and don't have to count individuals (for an opportunity to count every single bird on and around the sea, join us at the Salton Sea North Christmas Bird Count). We will meet at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters parking lot at 7:00 am. We will bird around the Imperial Valley and south end of the sea.

January 14, 2017- 8:00 am
Malibu Lagoon to Point Mugu
Gene Cardiff (951) 522-4933 & Dori Myers (714) 336-1420

Malibu is always a special place to visit. Meet at the entrance to the Malibu Pier at 8:00 AM, after breakfast. Try to park along the highway on the beach side up a little and across from the Jack In the Box. We will bird the pier and lagoon area in the morning and have lunch on the beach and then we will drive up the coast making several stops along the way. Be prepared for cool to cold conditions on the pier and hope that it warms during the day. We should stay to see the sunset so dress in layers, bring water and lots of snacks and a lunch. A spotting scope would be useful.

Saturday, February 4, 2017 8:30 am
Silverwood Lake Barge Trip
Steve Myers 951-616-7578

This trip will primarily be an "inland pelagic trip." The kind folks at the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area will motor us around all portions of the lake on a barge that can hold 25 people. Similar trips in the past have resulted in sightings of a wide variety of interesting water birds, including Common and Pacific Loon, Western, Clark's, Pied-billed, Eared, Horned, and Red-necked Grebes, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and uncommon to rare gulls such as Thayer's, Mew, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Each winter the lake is host to a handful of Bald Eagles. Following the voyage, we will bird at selected spots around the

lake. Silverwood Lake is perhaps the most reliable spot in southern California to find wintering Lewis's Woodpeckers, and there are several present this winter. Other landbirds that are possible include up to three species of sapsuckers, and an interesting mix of chaparral-mixed coniferous forest species. We will be meeting at the marina at 8:30 am. To reach the marina from the Inland Empire, go north on I-15 toward Cajon Pass, exiting at Highway 138. Go east on 138 approximately 11 miles to the Silverwood Lake exit. Turn left and follow the road to the park entrance. There is a \$10 entrance fee per vehicle (which the park may waive if you mention you are there for the "barge tour"). Past the entrance follow signs to the marina. This will be a long 1/2 day trip, lasting until 1-2 pm.

Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Regional Park (map)

Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

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 species. The walk is free, but there is an entry fee for the park; see below. No reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the marina parking lot in the center of the park. If you do not have a San Bernardino County Regional Parks pass, you will have to pay the \$10 daily entry fee for the park. Please contact Tom Benson for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes.

Sunday, February 5, 2017
San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris
Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & Tony
Metcalf (951) 242-7038

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) and the San Jacinto Valley have lots of birds all year. SBVAS leads a Fall trip, a Spring trip, and now a Winter trip to this remarkable birding hotspot. In addition to the high number of resident species, overwintering birds and the occasional spectacular occurrence, the diversity and number of birds of prey and gulls peak after the new year. So join us on a fairly intense but unstructured day. We will certainly cover the SJWA and adjacent lands, and we may go to Lake Perris and ...well, who knows. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area entrance.

Saturday, February 11, 2017 - 7:30 am
Seal Beach NWR

Brad Singer (909) 838-7951 and Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

Located next to the Pacific Ocean on the border of Orange and Los Angeles Counties, the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge hosts a wonderful array of

raptors, shorebirds, waders, herons, rails, ducks, and sparrows. Because the refuge sits on an active naval weapons base, access is by special permit only. Field trips to the refuge regularly see Pacific Golden-Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, Ridgway's Rail, Large-billed Savannah Sparrow, and the much sought after Nelson's Sparrow. Other rarities include Reddish Egret, Short-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur, and Cackling Goose. SBVAS has booked a trip during high tide, so that the sparrows and rails can be seen more easily. This is a half-day trip to the Refuge. Following our stay there, we will have lunch and then pursue wintering rarities in the nearby vicinity in the afternoon. Space is extremely limited on this trip. A sign-up sheet will be at the SBVAS December General Meeting (Potluck), December 16. Those not making it will be put on a waiting list. There is a two-week vetting process by the Navy for all visitors. Questions, email me at bcsinger@gmail.com.

SCHEDULED 2107 FIELD TIPS

Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 7 a.m.
Goose/Crane South End Salton Sea

Saturday, January 14, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Malibu

Saturday, February 4, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.
Silverwood Lake Barge Trip

Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 7 a.m.
San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Sunday, February 5, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Beginning Bird Walk Prado Regional Park

Saturday, February 11, 2017 at 7:30 a.m.
Seal Beach NWS

Sunday, March 5, 2017
Beginning Bird Walk
Cal State San Bernardino

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Bolsa Chica

Saturday April 1, 2017
Orange Coast

Sunday, April 2, 2017
Beginning Bird Walk Los Rios Ranch

Sunday, April 2, 2017 at 6 a.m.
East Mojave

Saturday, April 15, 2017 at 7 a.m.
Shorebird Migration Salton Sea

Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 7 a.m.
Shorebird Migration San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Laguna Beach

Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 7 a.m.
Big Morongo Preserve

Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Whitewater Canyon

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Box Springs Mountain

Sunday, May 7, 2017 at 8 a.m.
Beginning Bird Walk
San Timoteo Canyon

Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 9 a.m.
Bearpaw Ranch

Saturday, May 20, 2017 05/20/17
San Jacinto Mountain Area

Saturday and Sunday May 27 to May 28, 2017
Eastern Sierra Trip

Saturday, June 3, 2017 6:30 a.m.
Pelagic Trip - Dana Point

Saturday, June 17, 2017
Wrightwood Area

Saturday, June 24, 2017
Insane Jaunt - Salton Sea



BIRD OF THE MONTH
GADWALL

By Steve Myers

One of the most handsome of North American ducks is, in my opinion, the Gadwall (*Anas strepera*). From a distance, male Gadwalls may seem like a rather boring gray and brown duck, but up close they show beautiful intricate patterns throughout much of their plumage.

They can be identified by their black upper and lower tail coverts, mostly gray body, scaly pattern on the breast, mostly brownish head, elongated cinnamon-buff scapulars and silvery tertials. The black tail coverts can be seen at great distances. They have a white speculum, which is very evidence in flight. Females are very similar to female Mallards, and are best distinguished by smaller, more delicate bills, more steeply sloped foreheads, and (when on the water) a small white wing patch (often but not always seen).

Gadwalls are dabbling ducks, feeding primarily on aquatic plants, but occasionally grazing on land. In southern California, they are fairly common (locally) in winter.

They nest uncommonly throughout much of the region. In and near the Mohave Desert, they have been known to nest at Harper Dry Lake, near Lancaster, in the Owens Valley, and at Big Bear and Baldwin Lakes. Their overall range includes north America, Eurasia, and northern Africa. Most North American nesting is in prairie states and provinces. Population estimates from the mid 1970s through the late 1990s have ranged from 1.2 to 2.2 million individuals. The Mississippi flyway



hosts the bulk of migrating Gadwalls, and the largest wintering populations in the U.S. are in Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, eastern Texas, and Louisiana.

Nests are found in upland sites usually near water, but can be up to several hundred yards from water. Gadwalls nest in taller and denser vegetation than most other duck species. Nests are typically in rushes, nettle, tall grasses, and even alfalfa. Clutch size is from five to 13 eggs, with an average of ten. Incubation is by the female, and takes from 24 to 27 days. The next time you have the opportunity, take a really close look at a male Gadwall. I am sure you will be impressed by its subtle beauty.

January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	4	5	6	7 Salton See Goose & Crane 7 a.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Malibu Lagoon Field Trip 8 a.m.
15	16	17	18 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Silverwood Lake Barge Field Trip 8:30 a.m.
5 San Jacinto Valley 7:30 am BBW Prado Regional 8 am. a.m.	6	7 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	8	9	10	11 Seal Beach NWS 7:30 a.m.
12	13	14	15 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

**DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE -
CONSULT THE WEBSITE CLOSE TO THE TIME OF THE EVENT
Don't forget the CBC on January 2, 2017 at Joshua Tree National Park at 7 a.m.**

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 Tuesday

General meetings
are the 3rd Wednesday



SBVAS Membership
currently at 1900

To reach the Museum,
 take the California Street
 exit off the 10 Freeway
 and go north 1 block to

Chapter Only Membership Application

San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ SBVAS Membership @ \$20 a/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

Email Address* _____

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS

*We do not share your name, address or email address.

Membership Application

National Audubon Society (NAS)

____ NAS Gift/New/Regular/Renewal Membership \$20 (includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
 C11

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