

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 63— Number 1
September-October 2012



Birding Texas

Presented by Brad Singer
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

This program will cover birding the unique state of Texas with focus on the lower Rio Grande Valley. The state is home to one of the most diverse populations of bird species found within the lower 48. Many species found in the Rio Grande

Valley are found nowhere else in the United States. The ease of access, friendly atmosphere, mild weather and diverse habitat make birding in Texas fun throughout the year. A discussion of traveling Texas with recommended places to visit along with many photos of birds will be presented.

Brad Singer has been a board Member of the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society for the last three years. He leads Audubon Field trips to various locations throughout California during the year and enjoys sharing his experiences with anybody who will listen. He is also the moderator for Inland County Birds. He and his wife Cherie live in Lake Arrowhead.

Photo Quiz

By Brad Singer

Welcome to the fourth in the series of photo quizzes, a column used to better your identification skills, and ultimately, a way in which to become more accustomed to perusing our wonderful online newsletter at <http://www.sbvass.org/meadowlark.htm>. If you would like to participate in our quiz, email your answers to sbvassbird.id@gmail.com. Please include your name, home city, and the common name of the bird as it appears in the ABA checklist. To further encourage participation, just answer (correctly or incorrectly) the next three quizzes, and you will receive a free copy of the new (sixth edition) National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America.

Mystery bird photo was taken along the Southern California coast in early fall. (All three are the same species).



Answer to July/August mystery bird: Flycatchers are never easy and especially small flycatchers in the Empidonax family. Our mystery bird has grayish-olive upperparts, whitish underparts with a faint yellow wash on its belly, whitish throat, and whitish edges on its outer retrices. Its bill is of medium size, with a dark upper mandible and a slight orange tinge at the basal end of the lower mandible. Its eye ring is small but conspicuous. Based on location, five candidates are possible. We can rule out Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers based on eye ring, bill size, and coloration. That leaves Gray Flycatcher, Dusky Flycatcher, and Hammond's Flycatcher. Gray Flycatcher tends to be overall paler in color with a slightly larger bill,

longer tail, yellowish or pink lower mandible, and slightly more pointed wings. Because the photo is slightly distorted, Gray would be an excellent guess, however incorrect. Hammond's Flycatcher has a slightly smaller bill, moderately forked tail, longer primary projection, and large head. Its body appears rounder and more compressed. Most Hammond's also tend to migrate in April. I took this picture of the Dusky Flycatcher at Chet Huffman Park in Baker. Separating these three species in the field can be extremely difficult. Adding Least Flycatcher to the mix only compounds the problem. In hand, measurements can be taken, and the species sorted. However, when I am not sure, I have no problem putting Empid, sp. on my bird list!

Restoring Desert Wetlands at the McCallum Oasis

Presented by Ginny Anne Short
Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Our October general meeting program will feature Ginny Short, Manager of the Center for Natural Lands Management Preserve in the Coachella valley. Her talk will focus on restoration of a desert oasis at the McCallum Grove just east of Palm Springs.

Fall is one of the best times of year to visit the Preserve: migrant birds will be passing through and the weather should be comfortable. So please come hear Ginny speak about one of our local treasures and find out about a wonderful place to visit.

Ginny is a raptor biologist and avian ecologist living in the Coachella Valley region of southern California. She is the Preserve Manager for the Coachella Valley Preserve. Her interests include photography and birdwatching and she is a certified wildlife rehabilitator.



View along the McCallum trail

Thank You

San Bernardino Valley Audubon thanks the family of William Wood and his bridge club for their generous donations in his memory. Dr. William Wood, Jr. was born Nov. 4, 1929, and passed away peacefully in his sleep May 29, 2012. He was 82. He left behind a legacy of love through his wonderful wife, Skipper, and his five children. Debbie (George), Mignon (Tom), Tim (Kris), Karen (Jay), and Andy (Beena), and five grandchildren; Keley, Corey, Sahana, Ben, and Tyler. Bill and Skipper were about to celebrate their 60th anniversary. He will always be remembered for his love, great wit, and kindness. An agricultural economist, he retired from UC cooperative extension in 1991. After retirement, Bill became involved with the Riverside Bridge Club where he served as president. He loved gardening and creating an environment for watching local birds at home. Mrs. Wood has been a member of the National Audubon Society since 2005, and his daughter Mignon felt he would have been pleased to know that donations were going to the local chapter of Audubon in his name.

This article originally appeared in *Winging It*, the newsletter of the American Birding Association, which has granted permission for this one-time reprinting. <https://www2aba.org/join>

Hanging By a Thread: Birds and Conservation on Kaua'i

Oscar Johnson Alex Wang

Kaua'i. The "Garden Isle". To most the name of this place conjures images of lush verdant landscapes as seen by helicopter in Jurassic Park, or perhaps long stretches of unpopulated white sandy beaches lining the jungle.

Some think of it as paradise, a place where people go to "get away from it all". A place full of life, enriched with gaudy-colored birds, redolent with exotic flowers, and surrounded with aquamarine waters that teem with fish of every color.

In reality, Kaua'i is nothing short of an ecological disaster. There is hardly a single native plant or animal below 1,000 feet. To see even a shadow of what this island once was requires an expedition to remote highlands, where the final native denizens of Kaua'i still cling to existence. They find refuge in the Alaka'i Swamp, almost exclusively above 3,000 feet in elevation. A misnomer really, the "Swamp" is a montane rainforest sitting on a large plateau that has some bogs but not the flooding or standing water characteristic of a swamp. Regardless, the Alaka'i is just over 5,000 feet at its highest. That doesn't leave too much room for the birds.

Native Hawaiian birds are restricted to high elevations because of human influences. Extant honeycreeper species are following the same patterns of range restriction that led to the decline and eventual extinction of other honeycreeper species before them. Hawaii has the ignominious title of the extinction capital of the world. This is especially unfortunate considering Hawaii once boasted the greatest adaptive radiation of birds amongst islands. Just to highlight one of Hawaii's avian groups, the Hawaiian "honeycreepers" once numbered greater than 55 species, all descended from finch-like ancestors. Today there are only 17 species remaining, 11 of which are listed as endangered. It is a mistaken belief to think that these extinctions were an artifact of the past or that a country armed with the Endangered Species Act and as prosperous as the United States could not be culpable for letting these conspicuous species go extinct. A bizarre snail-eating finch-turned-chickadee, the Po'o-uli, went extinct as recently as 2004. And more species are slated for extinction in just the next few years if their rates of decline hold steady.

The physical threats to Hawaii's avifauna are certainly difficult but not impossible to manage. The spread of diseases such as avian malaria and avian pox are probably the most devastating, but introduced mammalian predators and habitat change due to human use and invasive plants are also major factors in the birds' decline. Hawaii's endemic avifauna evolved in absence of these diseases as well as the vector that spread them, the Southern House Mosquito, so the birds are especially sensitive. Species such as the 'I'iwi have 90% mortality if bitten by a single infected mosquito. What a staggering statistic! That's why almost all native passerines are restricted to high elevations, where it is too cold for mosquitoes to reproduce. For the majority of their evolution, Hawaii's native birds were also naïve to mammalian predators, but now the onslaught is in full effect. Introduced rats and feral cats are proficient nest predators, and introduced mongooses (originally and ironically brought in as biological control for the rats) also take their toll.

The forest itself, with a smorgasbord of unique and endemic plant species, is also under siege. Huge tracts were logged or cleared for agriculture after both Polynesian and European arrival. What is left is under attack from aggressive invasive plants such as Strawberry Guava and Kahili Ginger. These species create choking monocultures that prevent native plants from regenerating and drastically

change the forest composition. In addition, feral pigs have a taste for Strawberry Guava and help spread it around while simultaneously uprooting native plants, thereby creating wallows that provide ideal breeding sites for mosquito larvae. Add to the mix global warming, which promises to raise the elevation mosquitoes can live at, and it is no surprise that the native birds are in a tight squeeze.

And forest birds are not the only ones under fire. Hawaiian Petrels once nested from *mauka* to *makai* (from mountaintop to the coast). But humans and their mammalian companions have put an end to that. It is said that the species used to be so numerous that upon its crepuscular arrival to its nesting burrows it would blanket the sky akin to the Passenger Pigeon of lore. Their population has been decimated and is still declining for reasons both known and controllable. In April 2012 Oscar visited a colony of Hawaiian Petrels that had not been surveyed in the past few years and found five carcasses that had been killed by cats. One was only a few days old. Another seabird, Newell's Shearwater, has declined by an estimated 14.7% per year from 1993-2001, and there is no indication that the decline has slowed. There are no current population estimates, but there could be as few as 5,000 breeding pairs. Every year, hundreds of seabirds (mainly Newell's Shearwaters and Hawaiian Petrels) succumb to nocturnal fallout due to light attraction (and disorientation) and powerline collisions. This used to take down thousands of birds per year, but is now down to just a few hundred. On the surface, this sounds positive, but it's due to population crashes, not anything we humans have done to help the birds. The threat has not been reduced significantly; there are just fewer birds to be harmed. As daunting as the physical threats are, it just may be that the greatest threat to these birds is our collective ignorance.

Perhaps because it no longer appears in field guides to North America, the avifauna of Hawaii is forgotten if not rightly shunned by many American birders. Similarly, while Hawaii has a third (34 of 91) of the U.S.'s listed endangered avian species, it receives only 4.1% of federal and state spending on listed birds. When you combine Hawaiian-language names with a complete lack of coverage in North American field guides, it's no wonder that most birders from the U.S. and Canada have no idea even what a particular species looks like. Can you differentiate an 'Akikiki from an 'Akeke'e? Or an 'Anianiau from an 'Amakihi? Can you pronounce them? The names are as bewildering and exotic as the birds themselves. After seeing the glowing neon-orange-on-black plumage of the 'Akohekohe, and hearing its low-pitched, guttural "kohe" croak, you won't soon forget that it is pronounced AH-KOH-hay-KOH-hay. Keeping traditional Hawaiian names for Hawaiian birds need not be an obstacle to their conservation, but our knowledge and awareness of these species are instrumental to their salvation. Something as simple as reintroducing these species to North American field guides (along with a pronunciation key) could do wonders for the public's awareness for these species and, thus, their conservation.

Back up on the Alaka'i Plateau lives the 'Akikiki, a honeycreeper that has filled the niche of a nuthatch. Just a decade ago this two-toned woodsprite, formerly known as the Kaua'i Creeper, ranged from Koke'e State Park east to Mt. Wai'ale'ale (a contender for the wettest place on Earth.) Finally listed as endangered in 2010 along with the 'Akeke'e—Kaua'i's take on a crossbill—the 'Akikiki has almost completely disappeared from the western half of its range and no one really knows why. It could be due to the litany of threats that wiped out its brethren, but its recent range contraction may suggest something else. No matter, as the populations of these species continue to decline, they likewise disappear from the public mindset.

To be sure, the plight of the Hawaiian avifauna is a many-headed beast, but there are also many avenues available toward protection of these birds. One of these is the Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project, which is conducting research on three of the listed endangered species. This organization is responsible for spearheading the research

component of these species' conservation efforts in an effort to better direct management. By researching aspects of the native birds' basic ecologies, some of which are still unknown (!) this group hopes to be better prepared to diagnose the threats to these birds. Some of KFBRP's ongoing work includes population surveys, installing rat-proof nest boxes for the endangered Puaiohi, and mitigation in the form of sterilizing mosquito wallows and attempting to reduce rat populations. Likewise, the Kaua'i Endangered Seabird Recovery Project monitors seabird population, explores the birds' dispersal and diets, and searches for breeding colonies hidden away in remote mountainous parts of highland Kaua'i. More research will prove invaluable for some of these species. For instance, there is still a breeding seabird in the United States about which almost nothing is known! While detected regularly coming inland at night, no active nest of a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel has ever been found in the state of Hawaii, and this endemic population may well be a full species.

KFBRP and KESRP are also partnered with many other conservation-minded organizations, such as The Nature Conservancy, which just last year fenced in 8,000 acres of the Alaka'i to protect native forest from feral pigs and goats. This tried and tested technique has proven extremely effective in protecting native birds on other islands because it makes such a significant difference in preserving the native understory of the forest. Another organization, the Koke'e Resource Conservation Project, helps by removing invasive plant species throughout the Alaka'i. And then there is the Hawaii Endangered Bird Conservation Program, which admirably attempts to boost population numbers through captive breeding, but this should not be considered a failsafe! Many of our threatened species have very complicated life history strategies which make it challenging or even impossible to raise them in captivity. For instance, the Kiwikiu, or Maui Parrotbill, lays only one egg a year, and its young are so altricial that a fledgeling may spend up to 18 months dependent on its parents. Thankfully, the parrotbills seem to make up for this by being relatively long lived (if not depredated by an introduced mammal): the oldest known banded bird is at least 16 years old and believed to still be breeding.

Many people come here on family vacations, but how many people specifically come to go birding, or even get some birding in on the side? Relatively few—which is a shame because birders are excellent advocates of conservation and preservation of native species. Conversely, the islands' strong hunting lobby has joined forces with the state of Hawaii to make the eradication of many invasive species nearly impossible via drawn out judicial avenues. For instance the continued presence of Mouflon Sheep may deal the final blow to the highly-specialized Palila by overgrazing the birds' only food source, Mamane, in the next three years. The species' population declined from 4,000 to 1,200 individuals between 2007 and 2012. Tragically, the erection of a sheep-proof fence is likely all it would take to stabilize the population. And most birders are scarcely aware of, never mind involved in, the fight to save this bird. The result may be the extinction of the last finch-billed honeycreeper in the main Hawaiian Islands. We birders, with increased travel to an area, provide large ecotourism incentives and change the opinions of locals who come to depend on our expendable income. Right now, it's the hunters of exotic mammals and gamebirds who have that cachet.

Although thinking of what it once was can be a depressing thought there are still some awesome birds here in Hawaii that make it a worthy travel destination for both casual and dedicated birders—and an even better destination if you want to combine it with typical rest and relaxation. In between lounging on the beach and overfilling your plate at a luau, it's worth it to make some time to see the glorious beauty and diversity native Hawaii has to offer. And even if you can't pay us a visit, consider contributing to one of the hard-working conservation organizations that fight extinction on a daily basis by studying birds, restoring the habitat and eliminating alien invaders. They need all the help they can get, and there may be no easier way of help

ing Hawaii's birds. Or just maybe you have the time and adventurous spirit necessary to volunteer for one of our conservation organizations; there is no better way of coming face-to-face with, and intimately knowing, some of the planet's rarest birds.

Help Bring Back the Catalina Christmas Bird Count

By Carolyn Vance, CBC Co-Chair
El Dorado Audubon

El Dorado Audubon is trying to bring back a Christmas Bird Count to Catalina Island. It hasn't been counted since 2006. I am putting out feelers to those of us "mainlanders" to see if there is enough interest to set things up.

The Count has been scheduled for Sunday, December 23rd. However, we need to get over to the Island the day before, so plan on being gone the weekend. We need counters, drivers, spotters and talliers.

If you are interested, want to volunteer to do a unique location or just want more information, contact: Carolyn Vance, CBC Co-Chair, El Dorado Audubon 562-594-7589 or email: drabduck@yahoo.com



Local Sightings

Summer birding season has been somewhat slow, although not much different from past years. Cooler temperatures have prevailed, interspersed by a few hot, muggy spells. Once again, Riverside County has had the majority of rare sightings. Be it that the county has more birders, or *better* birders, who knows? Chet McGaugh has been on the rampage again (does he really work?), finding many of the rarities.

Riverside County: Two Brant and two continuing Red-breasted Mergansers were seen at the north end of the Salton Sea (NESS). Brown Pelican, found inland away from the Salton Sea, are rare. Three were found at Lake Perris and two at Lake Elsinore. Peregrine Falcons continue to reside in urban land, occupying their building ledge in downtown Riverside. A juvenile Tri-colored Heron was seen at NESS. A single Ruddy Turnstone, very rare inland, was found at San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA). Also sighted there were Stilt, Semipalmated and Baird's Sandpipers. A Baird's was also found in Blythe. One, possibly two Heerman's Gulls along with several Western Gulls were found at NESS. A Western Gull was also sighted in the Prado Basin. Up to eight Laughing Gulls, rare away from the Salton Sea, were found at SJWA. Black Skimmers and a single Black Tern were sighted at a private lake in the Prado Basin, and two more Black Terns were found at SJWA. Yellow-billed Cuckoos continue to reside at the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve (PVER) in Blythe, with possible breeding taking place. Speaking of breeding, up to four Purple Martins were located at Hurkey Creek in the San Jacinto Mountains with at least one pair producing fledglings. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was seen in the lowlands at Rancho Jurupa Regional Park. A Bendire's Thrasher was found at Joshua Tree National Park. An American Redstart was located at Hurkey Creek. Finally, many Indigo Buntings spent the summer at the PVER and a Dickcissel was found migrating through.

San Bernardino County: A Brown Pelican, on its way home from Las Vegas, got sidetracked and was found flying over the I-40 between Barstow and Ludlow. At least two Least Bittern have been seen at Prado Regional Park. A Bald Eagle was located at Lake Gregory in the San Bernardino Mountains, possibly the same one spending time

(cont. on page 5, Local)

A Field Study of Birds: Fall Course Number: 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.

122–CPF–F23 Starting Sep 18th, 2012 at San Bernardino County Museum

Instructor:	Eugene Cardiff
Schedule:	Tue. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Sept. 18; Field trips all day Sat. Sept. 22; Oct. 6 & 20; Nov. 3 & 17. (6 meetings)
Preregistration:	Requested by September 14th
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:	\$215
	(Optional) each for couples and family members. For this discount, enroll by phone: 800-442-4990.
	-\$20
	(Optional) PINE organization member discount
	-\$40
	\$215.00 Total Fees
	/ \$195 each for couples and family members / \$175 each with PINE discount (Refund deadline: September 19.)

Burkett's Law of Birding:

- *The first Law of Birding: The greater the time spent searching for a rarity, the greater the chances it will be sitting on your car when you return to the parking lot*
- *The second Law of Birding: There are two side of a tree; the side facing you and the side where the bird is.*
- *The third Law of Birding: When you see the bird that you have always wanted to see, it will be in the last spot you thought of looking for it*



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.

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.

Bird of the Month: American Dipper *By Steve Myers*

One of the creatures that most fascinated John Muir during the time he spent in Yosemite and other portions of the Sierra Nevada was the Water Ouzel, or as it is now known, the American Dipper. In *The Mountains of California*, Muir devotes a chapter to the dipper, and describes its natural history like no one else could.



The American Dipper occurs from the Rocky Mountains westward, from northern Alaska south to Panama. Its habitat is rushing rivers and streams, and it is virtually never seen away from water. It feeds on aquatic insects, which it captures by probing from rocks or the shore. It also commonly dives into pools, where it swims (using its wings) and even walks on the bottom, searching for prey. Birders most often see dippers flying from rock to rock in a stream bed, bobbing continuously (hence the name "dipper"). The nests of American Dippers, made primarily of mosses, are domed-shaped and up to 12" across, and are placed under waterfalls or cascades. The nests are situated so that mist constantly keeps the nest wet. Clutches are usually 4 or 5 eggs, and the 13-17 day incubation is by the female. Both parents feed the nestlings. Upon fledging, the young can dive and swim almost immediately. For the most part, American Dippers are permanent residents, but some move downslope during cold winter months.

In southern California, the American Dipper is locally uncommon in mountain canyons. In the San Gabriel Mountains it is known to occur in Santa Anita Canyon, Day Canyon, East Etiwanda Canyon, Lytle Creek, Cucamonga Canyon, and other canyons. In the San Bernardino Mountains, birders can see dippers at Mill Creek, Bear Creek, the Whitewater River, and the Santa Ana River. It also occurs in the San Jacinto Mountains, such as at Tahquitz Creek, Snow Creek, and the North Fork of the San Jacinto River.

In some areas American Dippers have disappeared from streams where they formerly occurred, due to water pollution. As a young man, I was a hiker and backpacker (before I became a birder). On almost every trek into the high Sierra Nevada, I saw dippers cavorting along the rivers and streams. Even though I had only a casual interest in birds at that time, I always made time to watch the fascinating behavior of the

“Ouzels.” A few years ago, I had the chance to watch a pair of dippers with their three recently fledged young feeding along Mill Creek, near Forest Falls. The young were feeding on their own, but were also not above begging for a treat from the parents (see photo below).

John Muir certainly said it better than I ever could:

“He is the mountain streams’ own darling, the humming-bird of blooming waters, loving rocky ripple-slopes and sheets of foam as a bee loves flowers, as a lark moves sunshine and meadows. Among all the mountain birds, none has cheered me so much in my lonely wanderings, nor so unfailingly. For both in winter and summer he sings, sweetly, cheerily, independent alike of sunshine and of love, requiring no other inspiration than the stream on which he dwells.”



Both photos: ©2007 Stephen J. Myers.

Protecting Birds From Window Strikes

Audubon chapters throughout California have been informed that there is a new and effective way of preventing bird window fatalities. It has already saved hundreds of birds’ lives in the Sonoma County area where it was invented, and it has the potential to save thousands more.

The device consists of a “curtain” of monofilament lines that mount outside of windows. Birds see and avoid them; yet you barely notice the lines from inside. The concept is not novel. In fact, is similar to the method Allen Sibley described that “totally eliminated” the problem of birds hitting his windows. However, he noted that ‘it was not easy to do.’ Thus, what is “new” in this product is that it is incorporated in an easy-to-mount kit.

The “Bird Crash Preventer” is offered in packaged kit form and is available in sizes and colors. Further details and purchase information can be found at BirdieBeware.com.



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 92339
 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.



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www.sbvass.org &
www.inlandplanet.org

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CALENDAR

Board Meetings: September 5 and October 3, 2012

General Meetings: September 19 and October 17, 2012

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.

Local, continued

at Lake Arrowhead. Both Baird’s and Semipalmated Sandpiper have been seen at the Parker Strip along the Lower Colorado river. Another Baird’s was found at Big Bear Lake. The biggest find, a Black Skimmer, was found at Prado Regional Park (fourth county record). A Black Tern was spotted in late June at Big Bear Lake. Common Nighthawks and Mexican Whip-poor-will continue at Green Canyon along with Black Swifts at Monkeyface Falls in the San Bernardino Mountains. A Common Nighthawk was also seen at Arrastre Creek. Many Northern Parulas migrated through in June with one seen at Zzyzx and another one at Chet Huffman Park in Baker. A beautiful male Blackburnian Warbler was seen and photographed by an out of state birder at the Kelso Depot. A Black-and-white Warbler was seen at Arrastre Creek along with summer and late arriving Hepatic Tanagers. Finally, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak spent some time in San Timoteo Canyon in Redlands, a Dicksissel was seen in Kelso, and a Bronzed Cowbird was found along the Parker Strip.



Saturday, September 15, 2012 - 8:00 am
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.



Saturday, September 29, 2012 - 7:00 am
East Mojave Migrant Traps [Steve Myers](#)
 (951) 634-9767

This trip will visit Zzyzx, Baker, Horse Thief Springs, Beck Spring, Crystal Spring, China Ranch, and perhaps the Ivanpah Valley, Nipton, and Kelso. Meet at 7:00 am at the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx ([map](#)). 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.



Saturday-Sunday, October 6-7, 2012
Riverside County Desert Oases [John Green](#)
 (951) 686-2956

We'll be birding some oases in the Riverside County desert looking for migrants, residents, and rarities. Hope springs eternal for some nice fall weather, but be prepared for heat! Locations visited may include the Dos Palmas Preserve, Salton Sea/State Recreation Area, Cottonwood Spring in Joshua Tree National Park, Cactus City, Corn Spring, Desert Center/Lake Tamarisk, Chiriaco Summit, and Thousand Palms Oasis. We will meet at the giant AM/PM Arco Station complex in Mecca at the intersection of the 86S Expressway and Highway 195 (66th Avenue). From the San Bernardino Valley take Interstate 10 east then take the expressway south and turn left on 66th. We'll be at the southeast corner of the complex if parking is available there. If not, we'll try to be somewhere obvious with a scope set up or something like that.



We expect to depart at 6:30 am, so plan to arrive a few minutes early to top off the gas tank and make any last minute purchases. You can get about anything you need here! Gas, drink, and food stops will be few and far between, so make sure you have enough for the whole trip. We will visit and hike Dos Palmas, followed by a few looks at the Salton Sea, and maybe a date shake at Oasis. We'll then head northeast and see where we can get before evening. We will camp Saturday night at Corn Spring. This BLM campground has tables, grills, and outhouses, but be prepared for camping in the open desert in the unlikely event that the campground is full. We'll bird the Corn Spring area Sunday morning, then depart for points west, starting with Desert Center. We'll continue birding either until all my participants quit, or we have run out of places to go.

Note that some of the places that we visit will have day use/camping fees, so be prepared for that as well. If you have an FRS Radio, bring it along for easier communication between vehicles. See you in the desert! Questions? Best way to reach me is by e-mail: bewickwren@earthlink.net



Sunday, October 7, 2012 - 8:15-10:15 am
 (Note late start) **Beginning Bird Walk at Los Rios Rancho - Oak Glen** ([map](#)) [Doug Karalun](#)
 (909) 425-5355

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. Please contact Doug Karalun for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.



Saturday, October 13, 2012 - 8:00 am
Bearpaw Ranch [Gene Cardiff](#) (909) 875-5358 and [Tony Metcalf](#) (951) 242-7038

This is a beautiful spot and very accessible from the Riverside/San Bernardino area so we expect to see a lot of you there ([map](#)). Birding in the area will be led by Gene Cardiff and Tony Metcalf. To really enjoy the day, bring binoculars, sturdy shoes, water and maybe a jacket for the mountains, depending on the weather, and don't forget a lunch if you are planning to stay for awhile. Again, all are welcome. Please call Gene at home if you have any questions.

Calendar for Field Trips 2012 to 2013

-  September 15, 2012 - 8:00 am, San Diego, Tijuana Estuary [Gene Cardiff](#) (909) 875-5358
-  September 29, 2012 - 7:00 am, East Mojave Migrant Traps [Steve Myers](#) (951) 634-9767
-  October 6-7, 2012—Riverside County Desert Oases [John Green](#) (951) 686-2956
-  October 7, 2012 - 8:15-10:15 am (Note late start) Beginning Bird Walk at [Los Rios Rancho](#) - Oak Glen [\(map\)](#) [Doug Karalun](#) (909) 425-5355
-  October 13, 2012 - 8:00 am [Bearpaw Ranch](#) [Gene Cardiff](#) (909) 875-5358 and [Tony Metcalf](#) (951) 242-7038
- November 4, 2012 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at [San Jacinto Wildlife Area](#) [\(map\)](#) [Brad Singer](#) (909) 838-7951
- November 18, 2012 - 7:00 am, Northern San Jacinto Valley [Tony Metcalf](#) (951) 242-7038 and [Dave Woodward](#) (909) 783-2417
- December 2, 2012 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at Glen Helen Regional Park [\(map\)](#) [Tom Benson](#) (909) 648-0899
- December 8, 2012 - 8:00 am, Daggett & Newberry Springs [Gene Cardiff](#) (909) 875-5358
- December 14, 2012 - January 5, 2013 [113th Annual Christmas Bird Count](#)
- January 6, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at [San Jacinto Wildlife Area](#) [\(map\)](#) [Doug Karalun](#) (909) 425-5355
- January 12, 2013 - 7:00 am, Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip [Chet McGaugh](#) (951) 781-3699 & [John Green](#) (951) 686-2956
- January 27, 2013, San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris [Chet McGaugh](#) (951) 781-3699 & [Tony Metcalf](#) (951) 242-7038
- February 3, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State San Bernardino [\(map\)](#) [Tom Benson](#) (909) 648-0899
- February 9, 2013, Silverwood Lake [Brad Singer](#) (909) 838-7951
- March 3, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at [San Jacinto Wildlife Area](#) [\(map\)](#) [Brad Singer](#) (909) 838-7951
- March 16, 2013 - 8:00 am, Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast [Dori Myers](#) (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) 336-1420 (m)
- April 7, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at [Rancho Jurupa Park](#) [\(map\)](#) [Doug Karalun](#) (909) 425-5355 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- April 13-14, 2013, East Mojave [John Green](#) (951) 686-2956
- April 20, 2013, Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea [Chet McGaugh](#) (951) 781-3699 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- April 21, 2013, San Jacinto Wildlife Area [Tony Metcalf](#) (951) 242-7038 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- May 4, 2013 - 7:00 am, Big Morongo [Chet McGaugh](#) (951) 781-3699 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- May 5, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount Park [\(map\)](#) [Doug Karalun](#) (909) 425-5355 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- May 5, 2013 - 8:00 am, Box Springs Mountain [John Green](#) (951) 686-2956 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- May 11, 2013 - 8:00 am, Whitewater Canyon [Steve Myers](#) (951) 634-9767 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- May 18, 2013 - 9:00 am, Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch [Cin Greyraven](#) (909) 794-0509 [NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY](#)
- June 8, 2013 - 7:30 am, Wrightwood & Blue Ridge [Gene Cardiff](#) (909) 875-5358
- June 15, 2013, San Bernardino Mountains [Brad Singer](#) (909) 838-7951
- July 13-14, 2013, Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra [Steve Myers](#) (951) 634-9767
- August 17, 2013 - 6:00 am, Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea [Tom Benson](#) (909) 648-0899

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...🐦

Collective bird Nouns from *Wild Bird News*:

- A parliament of owls
- A paddling of ducks
- A worm of robins
- A contusion of Black-throated Green Warblers
- A zipper of flycatchers
- A dash of bitterns
- A stool of pigeons
- A gallon of petrels
- A Rockefeller of oystercatchers


SBVAS Bulletin Board
ROOM FOR RENT

SBVAS member and former Pomona Valley AS board member has house in north SB with room for rent; includes private bath & use of kitchen. Back yard opens onto foothills. Non-smoker \$600/month Call 909-804-2811

- A pack of Larks
- A U of terns
- A marathon of roadrunners
- A family of partridge
- A spread of eagles
- A civilization of Inca Doves
- An academy of Sage Sparrows
- An inferno of Lucifer Hummingbirds
- A liturgy of Vesper Sparrows



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

Nonprofit Organization
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San Bernardino, CA

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 Cali-
fornia 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 @ \$24 a/year (includes subscription
to *The Western Meadowlark*)

____ I wish to receive the *Western Meadowlark* **only** elec-
tronically _____
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
C2ZC120Z

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

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