



# San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society WESTERN MEADOWLARK



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Volume 72— Number 1

## Upcoming General Meeting SBVAS Programs

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 - 7:30 pm  
San Bernardino County Museum

### Birds of Sri Lanka: Pre-Pandemic Birding with Steve and Vesta Myers

By Steve Myers

Steve Myers is a semi-retired wildlife biologist, who has specialized in birds for over 40 years. Steve considers Gene Cardiff to be an important mentor. Steve and Vesta live in Moreno Valley.

In the weeks leading up to the Coronavirus literally taking over our lives, Steve and Vesta Myers joined a group of Australians on a terrific birding tour of Sri Lanka. This island nation, formerly known as Ceylon, sits just off the southern tip of India, with whom it shares many bird species.

Habitats in Sri Lanka vary from wet and moist tropical forest, to grasslands and wetlands, including extensive lagoons and estuaries along its coastlines. The country's avifauna includes 33 endemic species.



Steve Myers

Sri Lanka is also home to diverse cultures, languages, and ethnicities. Formerly in the British Commonwealth of Nations, it has been an independent country since 1948. Steve and Vesta found the people warm and welcoming.



Steve Myers

Steve will be sharing photos of many of the birds that were seen on the trip, including most of the endemic species.

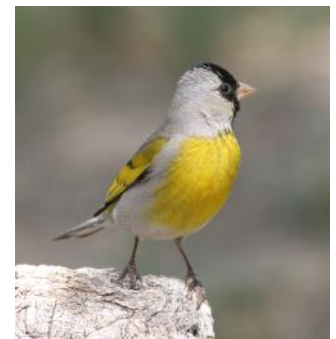
Wednesday, March 16, 2022 - 7:30 pm  
San Bernardino County Museum

### Special Birds of Anza-Borrego

By Kurt Leuschner

Kurt Leuschner is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert where he teaches courses on Conservation, Entomology, Field Ornithology, Native Plants, and GPS Navigation. Kurt also teaches weekend courses and workshops on birdwatching, insects, GPS, and backyard habitats for UCR Extension, the Desert Institute, the Desert Studies Center, and the Living Desert. His latest research project involves the sound recording of the various subspecies of North American Scrub-Jays.

The Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego County is the largest and most diverse state park in California. And yet most people have never been there and have no idea of the variety of habitats and the natural beauty that awaits. The area surrounding the small town of Borrego Springs is famous for many things: wildflower displays, geological wonders, the Swainson's Hawk migration, great hiking, dispersed (and civilized) camping opportunities, 4-wheeling and off-roading, star-gazing, an endangered bighorn sheep population, close proximity to the Salton Sea, the metal sculptures of Ricardo Breceda, apple pies in nearby Julian, and so much more. And it's only a little over two hours drive from San Bernardino.



Steve Myers

## Upcoming General Meeting SBVAS Programs (continued)

I've been visiting this area to camp and look for birds since my first overnight visit in 1988 - I can still remember the exact spot where I saw my first Lawrence's Goldfinch in a place called Culp Valley. A small charm was attracted to a roadside puddle that I just happened to park next to. That was over 30 years ago, and since that time I have moved much closer to the Park (I live in nearby Palm Desert) and visit frequently with multiple trips to Borrego every year.

Birds are obviously a big draw for me, and Anza-Borrego does not disappoint. Many of you remember that from the 1960's to the 1990's Tamarisk Grove campground in the Park was the place to go in southern California to see Long-eared Owls. Well they still occur there today, but not as regularly as before. Sometimes we find



Steve Myers

Barn or Great Horned Owls in their place. LeConte's Thrasher is always a challenge to find but they do live near "the dump" year-round! In the past two decades, thanks to dedicated volunteers like Hal Cohen, the annual spring migration of Swainson's Hawks through Borrego Springs is well documented (second half of March is best). If you are there on the "right" day you could be lucky enough to see hundreds or even a thousand! Gray Vireos were discovered wintering in the Park (only in Elephant Trees) about 20 years ago by Phil Unitt and his crew. Harris's Hawks were fairly regular in winter on our Christmas Bird Counts back in the 90's, but then disappeared (I'm excited to tell you that 3 Harris's Hawks were seen in Julian just a couple of weeks ago!). These are just some of the special birds of Anza-Borrego and in my presentation I'll tell you about many more!

Perhaps you can join me for a birding weekend in Anza-Borrego in the future (usually the third weekend in March with LA Audubon and the fourth weekend of October with the Desert Institute). See you March 16.



Steve Myers

**December SBVAS Field Trips****Field Trip Checklist**

**Saturday, December 4, 2021 - 8:00 am**  
**Daggett & Newberry Springs**  
*Dori Myers (714) 336-1420 and Gene Cardiff*  
*(909) 875-5358*

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

**Sunday, December 5, 2021 - 8:00-10:00 am**  
**Palm Springs Demuth Park**  
*Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211*

For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local parks. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water and binoculars. Everyone is welcome. Meet at 8 am at the parking lot near the tennis courts on E. Mesquite Blvd. near Vella Road.

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, a good map, full fuel tank, drinking water, snacks and lunch, binoculars and/or a scope, and field guide. Come and Enjoy. Call Field Trip Leader or check website for last minute cancellations, questions or changes.

## San Bernardino Valley Audubon 2021-2022 Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts

Once again the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring nine Christmas Bird Counts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Everyone is welcome to participate in as many of these counts as he or she likes. For further information, please contact the compilers at the phone numbers or email addresses listed below. Reservations are not necessary, but it can't hurt to call the compiler for last minute changes in plans and also to give him or her an idea of how many participants to expect. For more information call or e-mail your count compiler (listed below). Bring a friend and enjoy the day. Count compilers who wish to change their information should contact Brad Singer ([bsinger@gmail.com](mailto:bsinger@gmail.com)) to post it on the website. .

**Salton Sea North**  
Thursday, December 16, 2021 6:30a.m.  
*Compiler: Chet McGaugh*  
*email: chetmcaugh@gmail.com*  
*(951) 781-3699*

**Redlands (Mill Creek)**  
Saturday, December 18, 2021 7:00 a.m.  
*Compiler: Gene Cardiff*  
*email:ecardiff4084@roadrunner.com*  
*(909) 875-5358*

**Morongo Valley**  
Saturday, December 18, 2021 7:30 a.m.  
*Compiler: Joe Zarki*  
*email: jwzarki@gmail.com*  
*(760) 366-8913*

**Idyllwild**  
Saturday, December 19, 2021 7:00 a.m.  
*Compiler: Robin Roberts*  
*rober356@miamioh.edu*  
*(770) 856-4826*

**San Jacinto Lake**  
Tuesday, December 21, 2021 7:00 a.m.  
*Compiler: Tony Metcalf*  
*ametcalf@csusb.edu*  
*(909) 242-7038*

**San Bernardino Valley**  
Tuesday, December 28, 2021 7:00 a.m.  
*Compiler: Dori Myers*  
*email: dorimyrs88@gmail.com*  
*(714) 779-2201 (home)*

**Mojave River Valley**  
Wednesday, December 29, 2021 6:30 a.m.  
*Compiler: Bill Deppe*  
*email bdeppe@gmail.com*  
*(760) 953-6947*

**Santa Ana River Valley**  
Sunday, January 2, 2022  
*Compiler: Robert Packard*  
*email: packardr90@gmail.com*

**Joshua Tree National Park**  
TBA  
*Compiler: Joe Zarki*  
*email: jwzarki@gmail.com*  
*(760) 366-8913*



**SBVAS Officers 2018-2019**  
**www.sbvas.org**

President: Brad Singer (909) 838-7951  
First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers  
(714) 779-2201  
Second Vice President: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417  
Treasurer: Pat Cawunder (951) 687-9486  
Secretary: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236  
(951) 212-2211

**Directors**

Conservation Chair: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081  
Field Trips: Gene Cardiff (951) 522-6077  
Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris  
(909) 867-3536  
Membership: Pete Clark (951) 212-2467  
Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038  
Cin Greyraven (909) 327-8795

WESTERN MEADOWLARK Editor: Kathy Cardiff  
*kathycardiff4088@gmail.com* (714) 357-7959

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Brad Singer *bcsinger@gmail.com*

BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509  
*truthraven@verizon.net*

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



**Judith Sparhawk**

**Scarlet Tanager**

**CALENDAR**

**Board Meetings:** Next Board meeting, First Wednesday of the month, December 8, 2021, 7 p.m.

**General Meetings:** Next In-person General Meeting on February 16, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

All General 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 start at 7:30 and doors open at 7.



**Support our local Audubon Chapter by logging into Amazon.com via Amazon Smile.**

**Click on <https://smile.amazon.com/> And choose San Bernardino County Audubon Society in the list of worthy groups. Amazon.com donates 0.5% of your purchase amount to our chapter!**

SBVAS board meetings convene the **first** Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, general meetings on the **third** Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Board meetings are held at 740 W. Mill, Unit A, in San Bernardino and all general meetings are held at the San Bernardino County Museum at 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands. Everybody is welcome.

*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.*

<p align="center"><b>Chapter Only Membership Application</b> San Bernardino Valley Audubon</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>SBVAS Membership @ \$20 a/year (includes subscription to <i>The Western Meadowlark</i>)</p> <p>Email Address* _____</p> <p><b>Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS</b></p> <p><b>*We do not share your name, address or email address.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Membership Application</b> National Audubon Society (NAS)</p> <p align="center">MAKES A GREAT GIFT</p> <p>NAS Gift/New/Regular/Renewal Membership \$20 (includes 1 year of <i>Audubon</i> magazine)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p><b>Please make check payable to National Audubon Society</b></p> <p align="right">SBVAS Chapter C11</p>
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**Please clip and mail all memberships to: SBVAS Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 10973  
San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973**