



# WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 63— Number 5  
May-August 2013



**Wednesday, May 15, 2013  
The Deserts of North America  
Presented by Sylvia Gallagher**

For many people the word DESERT produces an image of desolate, barren sand—or glorious carpets of spring wildflowers among towering green saguaros. Both images are correct, but they are far from the whole picture. At May's general meeting, Sylvia Gallagher will take you on a slide tour of the deserts of North America. She will address such questions as: Why are the deserts located where they are? How many deserts are there, and how do they differ from one another? What are some of the birds typical of each desert, and how are they adapted to life in their severe environment? Her talk will be illustrated with slides from the Sea and Sage Audubon Library of Nature Slides.



Black-throated Sparrow

Sylvia is Sea and Sage Audubon's bird expert and she has been teaching classes in her home in Huntington Beach since the 1980's. She is a recordist and a sound expert and teaches Birding By Ear classes. Over the years she has taught a wide range of birding classes including Gulls, Sparrows, Birds of Southern California and Beginning Birding. She currently has 105 students in 5 sections coming to her home every week in Huntington Beach studying the "Desert."

We are in for a wonderful and informative program so please come and enjoy Sylvia and learn about our deserts and the birds that are found there.



Gambel's Quail

We meet at the San Bernardino County Museum. Our doors open at 7:00 P.M. and the meeting starts at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is always welcome.

Dori Myers, Program Chair

**Wednesday June 19, 2011 6:30 P.M.**

**June Potluck Dinner  
Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Nature  
Photography Program**

Help celebrate the end of our chapter year, the beginning of summer and the joy of nature at our June potluck dinner. We will begin our evening of camaraderie at 6:30 P.M., an hour earlier than usual at the San Bernardino County Museum. The potluck will be held in the Fisk Auditorium. SBVAS will supply a turkey and a ham as well as beverages. Please bring a dish to share— either a salad, vegetable, casserole, or dessert. If possible, plan to share with twelve or more. Please remember to bring your own table service. We will be hosting another silent auction, so bring your bird and nature related books and items you would like to donate for sale. Officers will be installed. This usually takes only a few minutes. Then our members will provide the program by bringing 10-15 of their favorite nature slides to share. This is a great annual event and is fun for everyone. *Come enjoy good friends, food and what is certain to be a terrific evening.*



A special thank you to long-time Audubon member John Butkis who has taken his hobby of searching thrift stores for treasures into a way to help Audubon. Jim has found several excellent birding books that he has purchased and donated to Audubon. Look for them on our silent auction table at the June potluck.

**Names of Groups of Birds Collective Nouns to Describe Bird Flocks**

On a good day in the field, a birder might see a raft, a band, a host, a chime and even a kettle. But what exactly are they seeing? Different types of birds have different collective nouns to describe large groups, and while many of the terms are obsolete and seldom used, they are still familiar to birders. Many of the terms are descriptive not only of the group of birds but also of their behavior or personalities, and birders who understand these esoteric words and can apply them to the appropriate birds will enjoy birding even more.

Several collective nouns can apply to all bird (continued, Groups, page

**Photo Quiz**  
**By Brad Singer**

Welcome to the eighth 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.sbvas.org/meadowlark.htm>. If you would like to participate in our quiz, email your answers to [sbvasbird.id@gmail.com](mailto:sbvasbird.id@gmail.com). Please include your name, home city, and the common name of the bird as it appears in the ABA checklist.



**Photo taken in Redlands in April**

**Last issues answer (by Tom Benson):**

One of the biggest steps one can take toward identifying birds correctly is understanding status and distribution, or when and where birds are expected to occur. While most field guides deal primarily with identification by including stunning illustrations or photographs, they also include range maps indicating where birds typically occur, usually by season (breeding, wintering, or migration). Even better for learning status and distribution on a finer scale (both temporally and geographically) are regional guides aimed specifically at this subject. Such guides locally (all excellent) include *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* (Garrett and Dunn, 1981), *Birds of the Lower Colorado River Valley* (Rosenberg, et al., 1991), *The Birds of Orange County, California: Status and Distribution* (Hamilton and Willick, 1996), *Birds of the Salton Sea: Status, Biogeography, and Ecology* (Patten, et al., 2003) and *San Diego County Bird Atlas* (Unitt, 2004). Perhaps one day someone will even write and publish a status and distribution guide for San Bernardino and/or Riverside Counties. But I digress, back to the photo.

At first glance we can easily see that this is a small, streaky, grayish brown songbird with a conical bill. If you have even a little bit of birding experience you have probably already narrowed down the identification to some type of sparrow or perhaps a *Haemorhous* (formerly *Carpodacus*) finch. Now, thinking about status and distribution, let us consider first those species that are expected at the Salton Sea in winter. After all, there is a much greater probability that any species we encounter is common rather than rare. The list of expected brown, streaky sparrows and finches includes Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow,

*(continued, Quiz, page 3)*

(Quiz, continued)

Savannah Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and House Finch. We can quickly eliminate House Finch (is grayer overall with blurrier streaks on the under parts and a deeper bill) and Lincoln's Sparrow (has buff coloration on the breast), leaving us with three rather similar species. Vesper Sparrow has a distinct white eye ring and a white border below and behind the auriculars (cheeks), both of which our bird does not have. A typical Song Sparrow is much darker overall with lots of blackish streaking, whereas Song Sparrows resident at the Salton Sea would have a pale gray face with a reddish-brown crown and striping and streaking on the face and under parts, and a gray bill. That leaves us with **Savannah Sparrow**, but it is not the typical Savannah Sparrows that we see throughout most of southern California in the winter, with dark streaking on the under parts, medium brown upper parts, a small pinkish bill, and a distinct yellowish loreal spot. Rather, this bird is a Large-billed Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis rostratus*), with the large, mostly pinkish bill, pale grayish-brown upper parts, and pale brown streaking on the under parts, and an indistinct head pattern. This subspecies occurs regularly at the Salton Sea (and also locally along the southern California coast) from July through February, having dispersed northward after breeding in the Gulf of California.

### Help Keep Local Park Bird-Friendly

What do Brown-crested Flycatchers, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, American Kestrels and Western Bluebirds all have in common? If you guessed that they all use holes in dead trees for nesting, you're right. As trees die, fungi and insects begin the decomposition process, weakening the wood and making it possible for woodpeckers to excavate their nest holes. Later, other species can move in and use the holes abandoned by the woodpeckers. These dead trees, called snags by biologists, are essential to a diverse ecosystem.

If Robin Kobaly, the first manager of the Big Morongo Preserve and Co-director of Summertree Institute is successful, all these birds will have a better chance to survive and thrive at Covington Park, located next to the Preserve. Robin has a plan to help the Morongo Valley Community Services District (CSD) accomplish their goal of public safety at Covington Park without sacrificing the birds that draw visitors from all over California.

At issue are those huge cottonwood trees that provide park visitors with shade and the birds with shelter and nesting sites. The CSD has to ensure that as the trees age and start to die, that they don't pose a threat to park visitors by falling over or shedding heavy branches. Park districts everywhere tend to be very cautious and promptly remove all dead trees and branches. This maintains a safe environment, but greatly reduces biological diversity.

Robin is a proponent of a national trend to shift park management toward a more natural approach by allowing some snags, to remain in place. Critical to this approach is placing

educational signs by the snags explaining their important biological role to park visitors. Covington is a perfect place to implement this strategy, as most birders who visit Big Morongo include Covington in their ramblings, and will appreciate the effort to increase the birdlife in the park. And these same birders will then add their dollars to the local economy at gas stations, stores and restaurants in Morongo Valley! Posting long-term educational signs on each of the park's wildlife snags also creates an ongoing reminder to current and future CSD board members and their constituents about the continuing value of snags in the park. This project will hopefully begin a lasting legacy of protection for a continuum of snag in the future.

Robin and Dee Zeller, the manager of Big Morongo, have met with members of the CSD, and have convinced them of the benefits of this approach. And as you may have guessed, the sticking point is money. The signs will be costly, and the CSD has had offers from private individuals who would strip the park of all aging trees for a minimal or no charge and the rights to the firewood.

Like most municipalities, Morongo Valley has a bare bones budget. The CSD will need financial help to adopt the more ecological approach, which would entail minimal pruning of unbalanced trees, pruning but retaining snags and providing educational signage. SBVAS has already pledged \$4,000 toward the project, and other Audubon chapters are asking their members for support as well. Please join us in supporting this effort by making a generous donation to The Summertree Institute's Covington Park Tree Conservation program. To donate, or for more information, you may contact Robin at RobinKobaly robin@summertree.org. Please log on to www.Summertree.org to learn more about the organization, and look for changes coming soon that will fully explain the Covington Park Tree Conservation program.

Dave Goodward, Conservation Committee



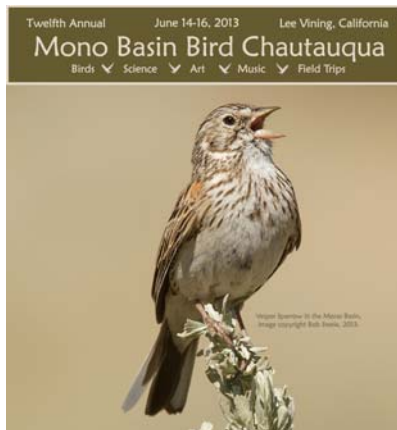
Some of Covington's bird-friendly cottonwoods

*I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?*

—Robert Redford, *Yosemite National Park dedication*, 1985

*The packaging for a microwavable "microwave" dinner is programmed for a shelf life of maybe six months, a cook time of two minutes and a landfill dead-time of centuries.*

—David Wann, *Buzzworm*, November 1990



## The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is June 14-16, 2013

### 2013 Jeff Maurer Chautauqua Research Grant

Each year a portion of the proceeds from the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua fund a small grant that supports continuing research and education connections. The grant is named in honor of Jeff Maurer, a dedicated field biologist, educator, and long-time Chautauqua presenter. This year we will make \$4,500.00 available for relevant research. Check the RFP (available above) for more information.

**This year's musical guest: The Tresspassers** This performance is free and open to the public on Sunday, June 16 at 12:30pm at Mono Lake County Park!

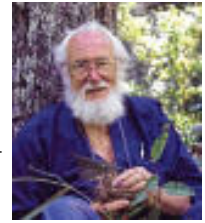
**Bird Chautauqua Mission:**  
To enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people.

The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua—not your ordinary bird festival!

**For information contact: [www.birdchautauqua.com](http://www.birdchautauqua.com)**

### In Memory of Oscar Clarke

OSCAR CLARKE passed away on March 2nd, peacefully, in his own home with his wife Marsia nearby. Born in Colton, CA, in 1919, Oscar was a "self-taught walking encyclopedia of local natural history," active in education and conservation groups including the California Native Plant Society, Audubon Society, Sierra Club, and Tri-County Conservation League. Oscar founded the UCR Herbarium and was curator from 1966 to 1979. A memorial service will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 17, 3 p.m., at the UCR Botanical Gardens. In lieu of flowers, Marsia asks for donations to be directed to the UCR Herbarium via Professor Giles Waines, Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, UC Riverside, 92512. Arlington Mortuary, Directors (800) 275-4648



### *Groups, continued*

species, such as flock, fleet, parcel and dissimulation. These words can describe a group of birds of any species, but more distinctive terms are often used for specific types of birds in large groups. For example:

A gulp of cormorants: A murder of crows: A host of sparrows: A bouquet of pheasants: A pandemonium of parrots: A siege of bitterns: A charm of finches: A chattering of starlings: A convocation of eagles: A paddling of ducks, A wedge of geese: A party of jays: An exaltation of larks: A deceit of lapwings: A descent of woodpeckers: A tidings of magpies: A wisp of snipe: A flamboyance of flamingoes: A squadron of pelicans: A chain of bobolinks: A wake of buzzards: A pitying of turtle doves: A fling of dunlins: A parliament of owls: A stand of plovers: An ascension of skylarks: A spring of teal: A mutation of thrushes: A company of widgeon, and a committee of vultures.

### Join the Fight Against the Proposed World Logistics Center

The World Logistics Center (WLC) project is a proposal to build 41.6 million square feet of warehouse and associated used on 2,710 acres of existing agricultural lands located in the east end of Moreno Valley. The SLC southern project boundary will immediately abut the California Department of fish and Wildlife (CDFW), San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA), the principal Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Conservation Reserve and the most important biodiversity conservation site in western Riverside County. The Friends of Northern San Jacinto Valley oppose this project as does:

- The Center for Biodiversity ([www.biologicaldiversity.org/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/))
- San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society ([www.sbvas.org](http://www.sbvas.org))
- The Natural Resources Defense Council ([http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amartinez/southern California city, wants.html](http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/amartinez/southern%20California%20city,%20wants.html))

- Sierra Club (<http://sangorgonio.sierraclub.org/moreno-valley/index.html>)
- Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice ([www.ccae.org](http://www.ccae.org))
- Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Residents-For-a-Livable-Moreno-Valley/3801665374793>)

The WLC project description is fatally flawed: The SJWA is owned in fee by the CDFW and has never been owned by Mr. Benzeevi; the SJWA is not part of the WLC Specific Plan—the Moreno Highlands Specific Plan expired in 2011; the alleged “conservation buffer” is a falsehood and does not exist.

All these groups are concerned about the significant impacts to human health due to an increase in mortality and illness from some of the worst air quality in the world made worse by diesel exhaust, the increase in greenhouse gases and global warming, the agricultural land, the use of the publicly-owned San Jacinto Wildlife Area as mitigation for this private project, violations of state planning and zoning laws and the project’s growth-inducing and cumulative impacts.

The draft environmental impact report (DEIR) comments submitted so far are listed below and will shortly be organized under organizations and topics for your ease in reviewing. Comments on the WLC DEIR may be made in writing or in person up until the time the City adopts or denies this project. [Accomondo comments.pdf](#)

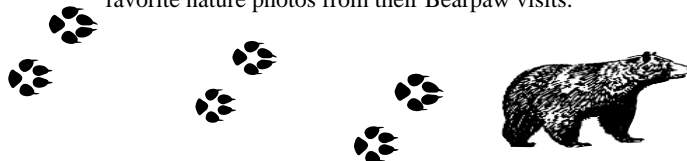
- American Lung Association Comments
- Amino Comments
- Ana Hernandez Comment
- Ballmer Comments
- California clean Energy Committee Comments
- Center for Biological Diversity-Audubon Comments

### Bearpaw Ranch

is a 70 acre nature sanctuary, operated by the San Bernardino Audubon Society and may be visited 7 days a week from dawn 'til dusk by members of Audubon and their guests. Bearpaw Ranch is nestled on the north slope of scenic Mill Creek Canyon at 4,500 feet elevation, surrounded by the towering peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest. To reach Bearpaw Ranch, take Highway 38 to the Forest Falls turnoff. Go only a few car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. We have a new paved road, the entry is easy for almost all normal passenger cars. There is an electronically operated entry gate. Members who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to visit. If the gate does not open because of mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or stop for birding along the creek bed.

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

Bearpaw Sanctuary is now on Facebook. If you type “Bearpaw Sanctuary” into the SEARCH function, you’ll find us. Bearpaw visitors are encouraged to report interesting wildlife sightings and share their favorite nature photos from their Bearpaw visits.



### SBVAS Officers 2011/2012

[www.sbvas.org](http://www.sbvas.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

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- 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
- Kyri Freeman (831) 239-2917
- Steve Myers (951) 634-9767
- Deb Bennett (951) 544-2650
- Cin Greyraven (909) 720-0138
- Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

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- CONSERVATION: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081

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BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Grayraven (909) 794-0509  
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SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:  
Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

### CALENDAR

**Board Meetings:** May 8 and June 5, 2013

**General Meetings:** March 15 and June 19, 2013

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 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.

To assure seed is available, 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.

**Saturday, May 4, 2013 - 7:00 am****Big Morongo Chet McGaugh** (951) 781-3699**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

The first week of May is about the best time for observing migrant land birds in Southern California and Big Morongo is one of the best places for it. In addition to migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers, we expect to see the breeding specialties including Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole and Hooded Oriole.

Join us for a morning birdwalk on the trails and roads of the preserve and surrounding areas. We will meet at the preserve parking lot at 7:00A.M. To get there, take I-10 to Highway 62, go north ten miles to Morongo Valley, then turn right on Park Avenue to Covington Park. Turn left at Covington Park, then do a quick right-left-right into the preserve. Weather is typically good at this time of year. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Some of us will probably stay out all day. Who knows where the afternoon will lead us?

**Sunday, 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**

Please join us for a slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water and binoculars. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

To reach Fairmount Park from downtown Riverside take Market Street north to the signal and turn left, then turn immediately to the left towards the tennis courts then right into the parking lot. Follow the lot all the way to the end and park near the bandstand. 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.

**Sunday, May 5, 2013 - 8:00 am****Box Springs Mountain John Green** (951) 686-2956**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

Our main target birds here will be Black-chinned, Rufous-crowned, and Bell's Sage Sparrows, which should be present and singing. We'll look for them and more while going on a figure eight loop hike through the fragmented chaparral and sage scrub and past several springs. A few of the other resident and/or breeding birds to be expected on the trip include Greater Roadrunner, Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Wrentit, Rock and Canyon Wrens, California Thrasher, and Bullock's and Hooded Orioles. We will, of course, also be hoping for a nice crop of migrants including flycatchers, vireos, warblers, buntings, grosbeaks, and ??? Over 170 species of birds have been recorded in the Box Springs, but 40 species is a more realistic goal for this trip. We should also see some wildflowers and shrubs in bloom, and a variety of butterflies, reptiles, mammals, etc. as well. THIS INCLUDES RATTLESNAKES, which have been encountered on the trip in recent years. Other concerns include ticks, poison oak, and stinging nettle. None of these are abundant, and can be avoided with reasonable care. The walk is all on official trails, but some are narrow. The full hike is about 3.5 miles, with a couple of climbs, and a maximum elevation gain of about 650 feet. Those not wanting the full walk can break back to the parking lot at the end of the first loop of the figure eight (that first loop is about 1.25 miles and a 450 foot elevation gain). Expect to arrive back at the parking lot by lunchtime.

We will meet at 8:00A.M. at the upper parking lot of Box Springs Mountain Reserve. From Highway 60 in Moreno Valley take the Pigeon Pass Road/Frederick Street exit. Take Pigeon pass north and continue for about 4.2 miles. When Pigeon Pass makes a sharp turn to the right, you will continue straight on Box Springs Mountain Road for about 1.3 miles to the parking area. There is a \$2 per person parking fee box. We will do a lot of walking, so wear appropriate shoes and dress comfortably in layers. Some trails may be overgrown, long pants are advised. Carry water and snacks. There are picnic tables at the parking area, so bring a lunch if you'd like to eat after the hike. See you there!

**Saturday, May 11, 2013 - 8:00 am****Whitewater Canyon Steve Myers** (951) 634-9767**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

Portions of Whitewater Canyon have long been more or less closed to public access, but the former trout farm is now the "Whitewater Canyon Preserve," managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. If you visited the trout farm in the past, you will not know the place now. Most of the facilities have been removed, and habitat restoration is under way. There are still a few ponds with trout, but riparian and desert scrub habitat should be teeming with birds on this trip. The canyon hosts nesting Summer Tanagers and Brown-crested Flycatchers and migrants should be easy to find. In addition to the Preserve, we will visit Bonnie Bell, a small community in the canyon that contains excellent cottonwood and willow forest and woodland, somewhat reminiscent of Big Morongo.

Meet at the Whitewater Canyon Preserve at 8:00A.M. To reach the Preserve, go east on I-10, past the turn-off for Highway 111, and take the Whitewater exit. Turn left, pass over I-10 and watch for Whitewater Canyon Rd. on your left. The Preserve is at the end of Whitewater Canyon Road, approximately 5 miles north of I-10. Bring sturdy footwear, water, lunch, and the usual essentials.

**Saturday, May 18, 2013 - 9:00 am****Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch Cin Greyraven** (909)794-0509 **NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

Join us for a trip into the hidden world of nesting birds at Bearpaw Nature Sanctuary in Forest Falls. Biologist Cin Greyraven will lead the group in its search for evidence of breeding behavior in the common birds of the chaparral forest. Since 1994, Bearpaw Sanctuary has been part of the National Nest Box Trail system, offering homes to Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmice, House Wrens, Mountain Chickadees, and Ash-throated flycatchers. Learn what types of nest boxes work best and how to monitor a nest box without disturbing the nesting effort. Enjoy a peek inside the usually inaccessible world of cavity nesters, and learn to recognize different species by their nests, eggs, and chicks. Bring binoculars for long-distance viewing and cameras for a close-up snapshot. Children are welcome. For additional information, call (909) 794-0509.

**Saturday, June 8, 2013 - 7:30 am****Wrightwood & Blue Ridge Gene Cardiff** (909) 875-5358

The San Gabriel Mountains trip will start at the California Department of Forestry Mormon Rocks Station on Highway 138 at 7:30A.M. Take I-15 north from San Bernardino or south from the Victor Valley and turn toward Palmdale on Highway 138. The CDF Station is located 1.5 miles up Hwy 138 on the left side of the road, opposite the large sandstone formation called the Mormon Rocks (There are no restrooms at the CDF Station, use the restrooms at the gas stations near the off ramp. After birding that area for 30-45 minutes, we will proceed up Lone Pine Canyon Rd. into Wrightwood to Big Pines and eventually wind up at 8000 feet and Blue Ridge Campground for

lunch. Bring a lunch, liquids and a good pair of shoes We will look for mountain birds such as the Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, and Williamson's Sapsucker. Please don't forget: you will need an Adventure Pass (we will stop at the ranger station).

### Sunday, June 16, 2013 San Bernardino Mountains

Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

The San Bernardino Mountains trip will meet outside the Starbucks located in the Von's shopping center on Big Bear Blvd. and Sandalwood Dr. at 6:30A.M. we will spend the morning at Arrastre Creek and environs where expected species include Black-chinned Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, Scott's Oriole, and Mountain Quail. We will also search for Hepatic Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Caliope Hummingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Gray Vireo., and Pinyon Jay. About midday we'll bird around Big Bear Lake in search of any lingering shorerbirds, terns, and raptors, and then spend the afternoon up at Wildhorse Meadows in search of Williamson's Sapsucker, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire, and Clark's Nutcracker. For those wanting to continue on, we will stop in Big Bear for an early dinner and then head to Green Canyon in search of Mexican Whip-poor-wills and owls. Expect a long day, bring plenty of water, lunch,, and sturdy hiking shoes. A vehicle with high clearance is recommended but not required. Please don't forget that you will need a National Forest Adventure Pass. For more information, contact Brad Singer at (909)838-7951.

### Saturday-Sunday, July 13-14, 2013

#### Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra

Steve Myers (951) 634-9767

We will meet at 7:00A.M. (for breakfast), or 7:45A.M. (if you don't want breakfast) at Cheryl's Diner in Kernville (11030 Kernville Rd., Kernville, Ca. 93238-9765. From Kernville we will head up into the Greenhorn Mountains. The Greenhorns are at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, and offer extensive coniferous forests,, wet meadows, and spectacular views. We expect to see many of the typical high mountain birds, and the Greenhorns are the southern range limit of birds such as the Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Goshawk, and Pacific Wren. On Saturday night, we will be camping at the Long Meadow group campground (toilets, but no water), just north of the Trail of 100 Giants (Sequoias!). We will visit nearby Holey Meadow, which is a great place for Flammulated Owl. Among the other localities visited on this trip will be the Trail of 100 Giants, Portuguese Pass, Tiger Flat, Sherman Pass, and possibly Kennedy Meadows. Be sure to have adequate food and water to last from Saturday morning until Sunday afternoon. We usually plan to stop at a restaurant for an early dinner before heading back to the Inland Empire on Sunday. This trip can be terrific for montane birds, butterflies, small mammals, and herps, and the scenery is unsurpassed!

### Saturday, August 17, 2013 - 6:00 am


#### Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea

Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

How would you like to see birds like Wood Stork, Stilt Sandpiper, Laughing and Yellow-footed Gulls, Gull-billed and Black Terns, Burrowing Owl,, Gila Woodpecker, and Bronzed Cowbird? All those and more may be yours at the mere price of 110 degree average daily highs in the pungent glory and spectacle of the Salton Sea in summertime. With luck, perhaps something like an Anhinga, Tricolored Heron, Roseate Spoonbill, or Magnificent Frigatebird will appear (or is it just the heat?) **DO NOT COME ON THE TRIP WITHOUT: LOTS OF WATER, a large ice chest, lots of ice and snacks, a hat and sunscreen, a working air conditioner, and a full tank of gas (top off in Indio).**

## Calendar for Field Trips 2012 to 2013

 **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 Grevraven (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)

 **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

Meeting place will be at the Salton Sea NWR Headquarters. Going south on Hwy 111 along the east shore of the Salton Sea, turn right at Sinclair Road which is signed for the Sonny Bono Salton Sea Nat'l Wildlife Refuge and Red Hill. Salton Sea NWR Headquarters is at the end of Sinclair Road 5.5 miles from Hwy 111. If you reach the town of Calipatria on Hwy 111 you have gone 3 miles too far. We'll meet at 6:00A.M., just before sunrise to beat the heat as much as we can,, and we'll bird until we've had enough. We will stop for lunch in Brawley at some place with air conditioning. Our route will be determined by where the birds of interest are being seen. Motels are available in Calipatria and Brawley for those wishing to spend Friday night in the area

#### 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... ☺

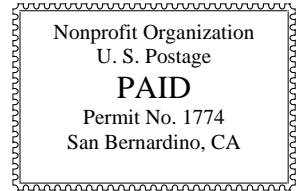
- *May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome,, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds*

*Edward Abbey*

May-August 2013

Western Meadowlark

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



Everyone is always welcome!

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

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

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



**Chapter Only Membership Application**  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_SBVAS Membership @ \$24 a/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  
C2ZC130Z

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

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