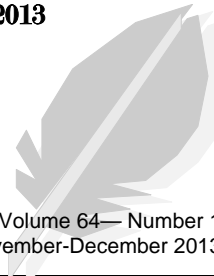




San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 64— Number 1
November-December 2013



Careful Learning and Teaching About Birds For All:

Absolute Beginners to Amazing Experts

Presented by Bob Barnes

Wednesday, November 20, 2013

This program is designed for all those interested in birds, from absolute beginners to amazing experts. In a comprehensive presentation, Bob Barnes will help attendees strengthen their foundations for observing birds, learning birds, learning bird vocalizations, leading field trips (especially for beginners), teaching bird/birding classes, backyard birding, rare bird observation, beginning birding, classroom teaching of birds and birding, and more. Based on immediate to two years later feedback from participants in Bob's "Careful Observation in the Field" workshops and field trips at the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, this interactive discussion with San Bernardino Audubon Society program attendees will yield significant positive results for all. Please bring binoculars and a variety of field guides (e.g. Kaufman, National Geographic, Peterson, Sibley, Stokes, etc.) so YOU can decide through careful observation which guide is best at representing specific bird species. Success guaranteed for all attendees who participate! You can't beat that!

Bob Barnes was awarded Mentor Teacher recognition in the first two years of that California program. He is past Director of Bird Conservation Programs for Audubon California, has 35+ years experience leading over 250 formal birding field trips to Arizona, California, Costa Rica and Texas, and has taught beginning birding extension classes for California State University Bakersfield.

Doors open at 7PM and the meeting starts at 7:30. Come early for refreshments, a visit with friends, and to visit our



Surfbird
Taken at Montano de Oro, October 4, 2013

Photo by Kirk Stitt



Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 18, 2013—6:30

Come and Celebrate the Holidays

Our traditional potluck dinner will be held at the San Bernardino county Museum at 6:30P.M. Turkey, ham and beverages will be provided. Please bring your own table service and your favorite dish to share: a salad, vegetable, casserole, side dish, or dessert. Come early to visit with friends and to do a little last minute holiday shopping at our bookstore.

Our program will be provided by our members who should bring 10-15 nature pictures to show and share. We'll also be having a silent auction to share the book collections of our members. If you have a nature-related book or two you would like to donate, please bring them to the potluck. Or, perhaps you'd like to bid on the treasured bird book brought by another member. Either way, plan on an enjoyable evening.

Local Sightings

Tom Benson

BOOBIES! BOOBIES!!! BOOBIES!!!! This year's booby sensation started with a juvenile **BROWN BOOBY** at **Lake Havasu** Aug 13+. This was the third record for San Bernardino County, with the two prior records also coming from the Colorado River region in 1957 and 1977. This was followed by a major influx of **BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES** into southern California in mid September that has persisted into October. An astounding 104 were counted at the **Salton Sea** on Oct 6, with high counts of 63 at the **Whitewater River delta** and 36 at **Obsidian Butte** on that date. A few have been noted at other locations scattered around the Salton Sea. Also impressive for being inland away from the Salton Sea were up to six **BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES** at **Lake Skinner** Sep 13+, one near **Desert Center** Sep 11, and up to three at Lake Havasu Sep 27+ (also the third record for SBE). If you didn't see any boobies in southern California this summer/fall, you must have had your eyes closed!

The first southbound fall migrants start to appear in late June, with shorebirds dominating the scene throughout the summer months. **Harper Dry Lake** was especially productive this year in contrast to the normally dismal fall shorebird scene in San Bernardino County. The clear highlight was the adult **RED-NECKED STINT** there Aug 7-8 that provided a first county record. Other notable migrants included a couple **SEMPALMATED SANDPIPERS** (Aug 2-7), **SANDERLINGS** (Aug 10
(continued, page 6, Local)

Bird of the Month: Lincoln's Sparrow

By Steve Myers

The Lincoln's Sparrow (*Melospiza lincolni*) breeds from western Alaska east across most of Canada to the Atlantic Ocean, and south along the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada as far as New Mexico and southern California. In southern California, it nests in the San Jacinto, San Bernardino, and San Gabriel mountains, and on Mount Pinos.

Its nesting habitat in western U.S. mountains is wet meadows containing dense thickets of willows or other shrubs. It nests on the ground, usually under the cover of a willow or other dense plant. The photo below shows a Lincoln's Sparrow nest in dense grass within a stand of Corn Lily in the Greenhorn Mountains.

Known nesting localities in southern California include many meadows in the San Bernardino Mountains (e.g., Wildhorse Meadows, Bluff Lake, around Big Bear Lake, and Metcalf Meadows), Round Valley in the San Jacinto Mountains, meadows near Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mountains, and on Mt. Pinos.

The female builds the nest, usually taking 2-3 days. Three to five eggs, most commonly four, are incubated about 11 days before they hatch. Both male and female feed the hatchlings, who fledge in 10-11 days.



Their diet varies seasonally. During nesting they eat primarily arthropods, including adult insects and their larvae. They switch to mainly seeds during the winter months.

In southern California, Lincoln's Sparrows are fairly common during migration and in winter. Its winter range includes extreme southwestern British Columbia south down the Pacific Coast to the tip of Baja California, and from southeastern California east to the Mississippi River and south to Honduras. Occasionally, a few birds even make it as far south as Costa Rica and Panama.

Identification of Lincoln's Sparrows is made somewhat difficult by their habit of staying within dense vegetation. They will sometimes respond to "pishing" or other noises, and will tee up on shrubs or low in trees (but generally not for long). They are a moderately sized sparrow, and are finely streaked on the breast. A fairly broad light buffy wash extends across their mid breast, and their bellies are whitish, and unstreaked. The most distinctive field mark on the head is the broad, gray superciliary line ("eyebrow"). The most similarly appearing North American sparrow is the juvenile Song Sparrow, which also has a buffy wash across a streaked breast. They, however, do not have the broad, gray eyebrow, and have a longer tail.

Winter With the Birds of Costa Rica Field Study of Birds: Costa Rica

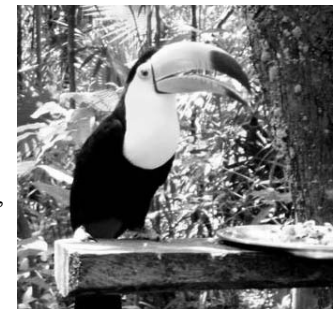
Stephen Myers, a long time Audubon member and author of our Bird of the Month articles, will be leading a trip to Costa Rica through UCR Extension in February 2014. Costa Rica, a country in Central America, is roughly the size of West Virginia and is home to about 900 species of birds—more than can be found in all of North America. The sixteen-day trip will provide participants with ample time to study many of the birds and to enjoy the other wildlife (monkeys, sloths, agoutis, frogs, snakes, crocodiles, etc. in this tropical ecosystem).

The trip will focus on the avifauna of several different areas, each with unique habitats and birds including: Rancho Naturalista, Selva Biological Station, Arenal Observatory Lodge, Savegre, Carara National Park and an ecolodge on the Osa Peninsula.

You will search for the diminutive Snowcap hummingbird, the must-be-heard-to-be-believed Three-wattled Bellbird, the Resplendent Quetzal (which many feel is the most beautiful bird in the world), and along the way encounter oropendolas, tanagers, antbirds, trogons, motmots, toucans, tinamous, jacamars, and puffbirds. Besides the fun of ticking off birds on our checklists, the group will discuss habitat relationships, tropical weather, and life history characteristics of Costa Rican birds.

For more information, visit www.extension.ucr.edu/success, or email success@ucx.ucr.edu

Adult Lincoln's Sparrow, photographed at Bentson-Rio Grande Valley State Natural Area, TX, on January 12, 2007. ©2007 Stephen J. Myers



San Bernardino Valley Audubon 2013-2014 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. National Audubon is no longer charging a participant fee, so the CBC is now FREE! Most counts finish the day at a local restaurant to eat supper and to compile the results. That's often half the fun! 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 to post it on the website.

Redlands (Mill Creek): Saturday December 14, 2013

7:00a.m. Compiler: Gene Cardiff email: e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net, (909) 875-5358

We will meet at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, just north of the intersection of Mill Creek Rd. (State Hwy. 38) and Bryant St. at 7:00a.m. The portion of the count circle, which you would like to help count can be arranged at that time, or a prior choice can be made. At the end of the day, around 5:00p.m., we will meet at the Casa Maya Mexican restaurant to share the day's experiences, enjoy some good food (on a no-host basis—order from the menu) and do a quick tally of the count. Casa Maya is located at 1837 Mentone Blvd. in Mentone, near the Post Office and the hardware store.

Morongo Valley: Date TBD 7:30a.m. Compiler: Dee Zeller (760) 363-7190, birdee@verizon.net and Margaret Hogan, mhandbb@earthlink.net

Let's hope that this year brings a few more rarities, but more than that, let's hope that our regular birds continue to be found in healthy numbers. Please call Dee or his wife Betty for information, or simply arrive at the Parking Lot at Big Morongo, 11055 East Dr. at 7:30a.m. sharp. Note that volunteer counters may be assigned to any of the eight areas within a 15 mile radius of Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. We'll compile as a group by a cozy wood stove at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve Office while munching pizza and seasonal treats. Please note: It will probably be very cold during count day, so remember to wear warm clothing.

Idyllwild: Date TBD. Compiler to be determined. Contact Steve Adkison (951) 652-2907 for information.

Meet at the Lake Hemet Store at 8:00a.m. After viewing the birds on and around the lake we will divide into smaller groups and, with a leader, canvass the count circle. Expert or beginner, we need you eyes! Come prepared! Although, over the years, the weather has been remarkably cold, clear, and mostly snow free, anything can happen. If the forecast is for very bad weather, the count will be postponed to the next possible day. Call Sherri the night before if the weather looks questionable. Bring binoculars, field guide, sack lunch, and a hot drink. Dress in layers. We will regroup at the Anchor Restaurant in Hemet at 5:30p.m. to tally and admire who found what. Come join us in the mountains. After 20 plus years off compiling the Idyllwild CBC, Steve and Sherri have retired as compilers of the Idyllwild CBC. If you are interested in taking over as a CBC compiler, please contact Steve at the phone number above.

Santa Ana River Valley: Sunday, December 15, 2013, 6:45p.m.

Compiler: Larry LaPre (951)276-1213 (home) (951)607-5218 (work) email: lflapre@aol.com

The Santa Ana River Valley CBC covers most of the cities of Riverside, Corona, and Norco. Within the count circle are some outstanding riparian areas like Prado Basin and Rubidoux Nature Center, and some duck filled lakes, like Lake Norconian and Lake Mathews. Meeting places and time for the sub-groups are listed below.

Rubidoux Nature Center: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at 6:45a.m.

Take Riverview (Limonite) from Mission Ave. in Rubidoux to Riverview Dr. in Rubidoux to Riverview Dr. (watch for sign), then bear left and go about a mile to the Nature Center.

Prado Basin, Lake Norconian and Hidden Valley Wildlife Area: Meet at the gate to Hidden Valley, located at the dirt road entrance off Arlington Ave. across from the cemetery at 6:45a.m. **To enter Lake Norconian, the Navy requires the names of all participants in advance. Call Larry LaPre to get the details.**

San Jacinto Lake: Tuesday, December 17, 2013

Compilers: Tony Metcalf (909) 242-7038 ametcalf@csusb.edu Tom Benson (909) 648-0899 thomasbenenson@aol.com

We will meet at 7:00a.m. on the corner of Bridge St. and the Ramona Expressway about three miles east of Lakeview. The San Jacinto Lake Count is in the top 1-2% of all North American Christmas Bird Counts, and regularly leads the nation in species diversity for inland CBCs. We average over 150 species. The San Bernardino Audubon Society is very fortunate in having so many talented and enthusiastic birders who regularly find the time to count birds all day on a certain brisk Tuesday in December. Call it the San Jacinto flu. This year, as in past counts, we will be working closely with the San Jacinto Wildlife Area biologist in ensuring that we have another successful count. We will try to have group leaders in the same count areas as last year. Please notify Tony Metcalf prior to count week if you are interested in a particular area. So, for science, for the birds, and mostly for the fun, grab a friend and join us for another great count. At the end of the day, we will meet at 6:00p.m. at Coco's at the corner of Perris and Sunnymead Blvd. in Moreno Valley to tally and compile our findings.

San Bernardino Valley: Friday, December 21, 2013

Compiler: Dori Myers (714)779-2201 (home) dorimyrs88@gmail.com.

Come join San Bernardino Valley Audubon's longest running count. We will meet at 7:00a.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum. From there we will form small groups to cover the count area. Remember, the counts are for pleasure as well as science. Anyone can help and the more pairs of eyes out there in the field, the more birds we find. We will regroup around 5:30PM at the Denny's in Redlands to share stories and tally the day's findings.

Mojave River Valley: Sunday, December 29, 2013, 6:30a.m.

Compiler: Bill Deppe (760) 953-6947 or email bdeppe@gmail.com The meeting place is the same as the past years: The Starbucks on the southwest corner of the inter-section of Bear Valley Rd. and Hesperia Rd.

This intersection is just over three miles east of I-15 (take the Bear Valley Rd. exit). We will meet at 6:30a.m. A post count compilation will take place at a restaurant to be specified at the meeting place. It can get mighty cold (and windy) on the count, so bring plenty of layers.

Joshua Tree National Park: TBD, 7:00a.m.

Compiler: Joe Zarki (760)367-5520 (work) (760)366-8913 (home)

(continued on page 4, CBC)

(CBC continued)

The daily use fee for the park will be waived for the Christmas count participants. Bring layers of clothing, it can be cold and windy or it can be warm and calm., we've had everything from 78 degrees to snow blowing straight at you. Also bring snacks, good walking shoes, lunch and drinks., or you can pick up lunch in Twentynine Palms if you choose Group 1. Group 2 will have to rough it, no phones, no restaurants, but just beautiful country. Some Group 1 and Group 2 routes require hiking on trails or in rough, rocky terrain.. We will meet at 5:30 p.m. at a restaurant in Joshua Tree to compile the results.

Group 1: Meet the group leader at 7:00a.m. at the Indian Cove Ranger Station on Indian Cove Rd. This is off Hwy. 62 on the western side of Twentynine Palms at the entry of the park leading to Indian Cove Camp Ground. Birders meeting here will cover the north side of the count circle including the Indian Cove area, 49 Palms Oasis, the Oasis of Mara, and the North Park Entrance area of the park. In-town locations include Knott Sky Park, Luckie Park, the Twentynine Palms Inn, and any place birds can be found. Group 1 covers low elevation areas of the count so temperatures are fairly mild.

Group 2: Meet the group leader at 7:00a.m. at the West Entrance of the Park. Take Park Blvd. from the town of Joshua Tree, parking is just behind the entry station. Areas covered include hidden Valley, Lost Horse area, Barker Dam, Keys Ranch, Ryan Ranch area, Queen Valley, Jumbo Rocks, and the Geology Tour Road. Group 2 covers higher elevation habitats from 3000-5000 feet so temperatures are 5-10 degrees cooler.

Salton Sea North : Date TBD. 6:30a.m.

Compiler: Chet McGaugh (909)781-3699 (home) or (951)369-8060 (work) chetmcgaugh@earthlink.net

We will meet at 6:30a.m. at the big ARCO just off of the expressway near Mecca. Dress warmly. It can be cold in the early morning hours. We will form six or seven groups and spread out over the count circle for a day of counting the multitudes of birds that spend the winter around the north end of Salton Sea. Bird identification skills are helpful but not a prerequisite; the group leaders will handle any identification problems. Counting ability is a prerequisite. Each group leader needs people to count common birds (like Eared Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, American Coots, gulls), and someone to record the numbers, so that he/she can concentrate on finding the unusual and hard-to-find species. If you want a mellow day of birding at Salton Sea, save yourself \$6 and we'll see you in January on the field trip. If you want a rather intense day of birding, and would like to contribute to the ever-growing (since 1969) data bank, come on out. You will see lots of birds. We typically record 130-140 species. After the count we will compile our results at a local restaurant.



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.

If possible, you should 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.

UCR Extension: A Field Study of Birds: Winter

Course: Bio X405.1 Section 103-SCF-F23

An introduction to the wintering birds of Southern California with special emphasis on identification and natural history of waterfowl, gulls and birds of prey. Many of the prime wintering areas are visited on the field trips.

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

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

Credit: 2 units

Dates/Times: Tues., 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 7. Field trips all day Sat. Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8 and 22. (6 meetings)

Location: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM in Redlands, 2024 Orange Tree Lane

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

Fee: \$255/\$235 each for couples and family members/ \$215 each with PINE discount

How to enroll: Online at www.extension.ucr.edu, Phone: (951) 827-4105; (760) 834-0997, Toll free (800) 442-4990. In person: 1200 University Avenue, Riverside, Ca. **Note: to receive a discount for couples and family members, registration must be done by phone. Please check the website to confirm meeting dates.**



January 17-20, 2014

Every Martin Luther King weekend over 450 birders visit Morro Bay, Ca. a Globally Important Bird Area, to see, photograph, and learn more about birds. Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds. Over 200 species are usually sighted during the Festival weekend—211 species in 2013. Besides birds, the festival has booked Kimball Garrett as the keynote speaker on Saturday, Jan. 18 and Jon Young will follow him on Sunday evening.

To stay in touch with the Festival and birding in SLO county, "like" their Facebook Page. Information is also available by calling Toll Free: 866-464-5105. Registration opens November 2, 2013 at 6AM, but schedules are already posted on line.



17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium

**November 21-24, 2013
Stockton Hilton Hotel,
Stockton, Ca.**

Birders: Please join us for a full set of engaging programs and bird-filled field trips at this year's Central Valley

Birding Symposium. The Stockton Hilton Hotel is in tip-top shape, and we look forward to returning to our "home" for the symposium. Among the wide range of vendors are the top optical manufacturers in the world alongside magnificent art displays of birds. Come and enjoy the camaraderie of birding friends both old and new, all under one roof.

Registration is available online by going to the CVBS website <http://www.2013cvbs.org>

Call For Volunteers

Many of you realize how wonderful our field trips can be even though they sometimes venture into rough terrain, dirt roads, etc. Some members, however, are uncomfortable or un-equipped to venture into those areas in their own vehicle. To help coordinate some ride-sharing, please contact Linda Stitt at 909 886-5513 or by email at linda-stitt@usa.net if you would be interested in sharing a ride or if you would like to be connected with someone willing to drive others on a field trip. If you leave a message, specify whether you would be a driver or would like to ride with someone. Also specify the field trips you are most interested in and leave a contact number.

Governor Signs AB711

On October 11, 2013, Governor signed AB711, a bill to end the use of lead ammunition by hunters, The bill was strongly supported by Audubon as lead left behind by hunters was proving fatal to California Condors and a major impediment to a future of flying free. Thanks to all those who contacted a lawmaker in favor of this bill.

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.



SBVAS Officers 2011/2012
www.sbvass.org &
www.inlandplanet.org

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First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201
Second Vice President: Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417
Treasurer: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236
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Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-2526
Pete Clark (951) 212-2467
Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417
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SBVAS BOOKSTORE AND GIFT SHOP:
Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: November 6 and December 4, 2013
General Meetings: November 20 and December 18, 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.

Passing of Former SBVAS President

Retired physician Harold M. Hill, one of Redlands' well-known philanthropists, died October 17 from complications of a seizure, a family member said. He was 94.

After retirement, Hill became active on a number of panels for the San Bernardino County Museum and Redlands' parks. An advocate of natural history, especially ornithology and botany, Hill published several papers on the natural history of the San Bernardino Valley and on waterfowl hunting. He was also one of the founders of the San Bernardino Valley Chapter of the Audubon Society and lectured on National Screen Tours.

The family asks that donations be made to the Caroline Park Endowment Fund, c/o Jo Lessard, treasurer, 31543 Highview Dr., Redlands, Ca.. 92373

and 29), and a STILT SANDPIPER (Aug 13). The **San Jacinto Wildlife Area** was graced with the presence of two RUFFS, a juvenile Sep 17-25 and an adult on Sep 24. A BLACK TURNSTONE, found on the SBVAS Insane Jaunt field trip, was at the north end of Poe Road (SESS) Aug 17-18. Other notable water birds included a RED-NECKED GREBE on the CA side of Lake Havasu (Aug 17-Sep 7), five NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS at Parker Dam (Oct 7), and individual BROWN PELICANS were especially notable at Lake Silverwood (Sep 28) and **Prado Regional Park** (through Sep 9), while others were seen at Lake Elsinore, Lake Skinner, and Lake Havasu. A LITTLE GULL was seen near Desert Center Sep 17. At the north end of the Salton Sea, a juvenile LITTLE GULL was a nice find at the end of 84th Avenue Aug 20-31, while a REDDISH EGRET was there Aug 27-28 and an adult LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was there Sep 1.



The south end of the sea was productive this fall, as usual. Another LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL was at the Alamo River mouth Sep 20. This area also produced a PARASITIC JAEGER Sep 22, while another PARASITIC JAEGER and a LONG-TAILED JAEGER were in the vicinity of Obsidian Butte on Sep 20 and 22, respectively. NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS continued with up to seven at the north end of Lack Road, and smaller numbers elsewhere on the sea as well as at Fig Lagoon and Ramer Lake. Coincident with the booby invasion, an immature MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD was seen flying over Obsidian Butte Sep 21. There were a few non-water bird rarities as well. A ZONE-TAILED HAWK at Prado Regional Park Aug 17-Sep 17 was very possibly the same individual that was present here February-April, and may in fact have been continuously present. A BROAD-WINGED HAWK was seen at the 29 Palms Inn on Sep 21. And a RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD was seen at Cactus City on Sep 9, providing the first county record for Riverside. In the next issue we'll continue our coverage of fall migration with an emphasis on passerines.



Sunday, November 3, 2013 - 8:00-10:00am; Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area
Leader: Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417

Visiting the wildlife area allows great opportunities to view waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. 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 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. 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. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on I-215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately three miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.



Sunday, November 17, 2013 - 7:00 am
Northern San Jacinto Valley
Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417

Ah, cooler weather. Wintering birds of prey and waterfowl, coastal sage scrub and wetlands, all close by. Please join us for our fall field trip to the northern San Jacinto Valley. We have two goals for this trip. First is to have fun. Second, is to see 100 species. We always accomplish the first goal and have come very close to the second. Maybe this is the year. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its high species diversity. We have ranked highest in number of bird species seen for inland areas in North America for Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts, and are usually in the top 1-2% for all counts. At the heart of the region is the public San Jacinto Wildlife Area. We will meet at the parking lot at the gates of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area ([map](#)). From Riverside go south on 215 then east on Ramona, then north on Davis road three miles to parking lot. From Hemet, go west on Ramona to Davis road. From Redlands, go east on 10, then south on 215, then east on 60 or go south on Redlands Blvd, east on 60, East on Gilman springs, south on Bridge Street, west on Ramona and north on Davis road. As Davis is a dirt road, it is not recommended if there have been recent rains. The dirt roads are too dangerous for normal travel when wet. You can call or e-mail Tony Metcalf or the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters (951-654-0580) for updated road info to the Wildlife Area.

Calendar for Field Trips 2013 to 2014



October 12, 2013 - 8:00 am Bearpaw Ranch
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 and Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038



November 3, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area (map)



November 17, 2013 - 7:00 am, Northern San Jacinto Valley Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417



December 1, 2013, 8:00-10:00am, Beginning Bird Walk, leader TBA



December 7, 2012 - 8:00 am, Daggett & Newberry Springs Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 or (951) 522-4933



December 14, 2013 - January 5, 2014 114th Annual Christmas Bird Count

January 5, 2014- 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk, location and leader TBA

January 11, 2014 - 7:00 am, Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & John Green (951) 686-2956

January 26, 2014, San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038

February 1, 2014, Seal Beach NWR, Brad Singer

February 2, 2014 8:00-10:00am, Beginning Bird Walk, Cal State, Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

!!!Special Notice Regarding Field Trips!!!

High School students and other underage minors will not be allowed on field trips without a parent or a teacher/advisor with a parent permission slip accompanying them.



Sunday, December 1, 2013 - 8:00-10:00 am Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area (map) Kirk Stitt (909) 886-5513, Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513, and Gene Cardiff (909)

875-5358

Visiting the wildlife area allows great opportunities to view waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. 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 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. 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. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on I-215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately three miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.

March 2, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk at San Jacinto Wildlife Area (map), Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

March 15, 2014 - 8:00 am, Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast Dori Myers (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) 336-1420 (m)

April 6, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk, Glen Helen Regional Park, Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

April 5-6, 2014, East Mojave John Green (951) 686-2956

April 12-13, 2014, Sage Grouse, Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

April 19, 2014, Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699

April 20, 2014, San Jacinto Wildlife Area Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038

May 3, 2013 - 7:00 am, Big Morongo Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699

May 4, 2014 - 8:00-10:00 am, Beginning Bird Walk location and, leader TBA

May 4, 2014 - 8:00 am, Box Springs Mountain John Green (951) 686-2956

May 10, 2014 - 8:00 am, Whitewater Canyon Steve Myers (951) 634-9767

May 17, 2014 - 9:00 am, Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509

May 18, 2014, Dos Palmas-NESS, John Green (951) 686-2956

June 7, 2014 - 7:30 am, Wrightwood & Blue Ridge Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

June 15, 2014, San Bernardino Mountains Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

July 12-13, 2014, Greenhorn Mountains & the Southern Sierra Steve Myers (951) 634-9767

July or August, 2014 - 6:00 am, Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea Tom Benson (909) 648-0899(951) 656-

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... ☺

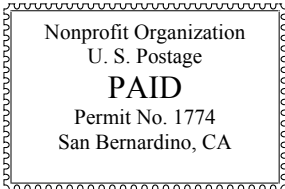


Saturday, December 7, 2013 - 8:00 am Daggett & Newberry Springs

Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 or (951) 522-4933

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 (map) 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.

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

DATED MATERIAL - Please Expedite