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Volume 69— Number 5



WESTERN MEADOWLARK

**General Meeting
May 15, 2019**

Birding in Brazil: the Pantanal, Cerrado, and Southeast Atlantic Forest

Presenter: Steve Myers



Hyacinth Macaw
Steve Myers

When considering the country of Brazil, many people think of the vast Amazon River and its enormous basin. However, the southern portion of the country boasts several other distinct habitats, including the Pantanal (the largest wetland in the world), the shrubby Cerrado, and the remaining Atlantic Forest of southeast Brazil.

An intrepid group of Auduboners visited these southern regions during September and October of 2018, and saw an impressive number of bird species, along with some other spectacular wildlife. Several of the group are avid wildlife photographers, and had great photo opportunities of this fantastic trip.

Come out for what promise to be terrific programs. Our doors at the San Bernardino County Museum open at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is always welcome!

There will be no general programs in June, July or August 2019

Salton Sea's iconic pelicans and cormorants are quickly becoming a thing of the past

Garrett Frost, California Audubon

As bird species disappear from California's largest inland lake, Audubon report calls on state to restore crucial habitats.

Salton Sea, Calif. – As the Salton Sea's waterline continue to recede, California's largest lake is losing some of its iconic bird species, including pelicans and cormorants. The report released today, which aggregates several sources of bird monitoring data, shows how dramatic ecological change at the Salton Sea is forcing some birds out, resulting in fewer overall species of birds taking advantage of habitat.

One of the fastest disappearing species appears to be the American White Pelican which, according to surveys, has declined from a high of 20,000 birds in 2008 to fewer than 100 now, according to aerial surveys conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Audubon's own surveys shows a similar drop-off on recent years. This decline is largely the result of the Sea's increased salinity, which is killing off the tilapia upon which the birds feed.

Continued, p. 2

Continued from p. 1 "Pelicans and cormorants..."

“For a community that once held annual Pelican Days Birding Festivals, the decline of these great birds is certainly disheartening,” said Andrea Jones, Audubon California’s director of bird conservation, and principle author of the new report. “At its peak, the Salton Sea hosted a broad diversity of birds, and any habitat restoration that takes place here should serve that diversity.”

The Salton Sea is one of the most important places for birds in North America, and the larger region is home to about a million people. As part of the Colorado River Delta, the sea filled and dried for thousands of years prior to its current, 35-mile-long incarnation. The 350-square-mile sea has partially replaced wetland habitat lost to agricultural and urban conversion in the Colorado River Delta, California’s coast, and the San Joaquin Valley. For more than a century, the sea has served as a major nesting, wintering, and stopover site for millions of birds of nearly 400 species.

Since 2003, when Colorado River water that filled the Salton Sea in the form of agricultural runoff began to be diverted elsewhere, the state of California has been slow to complete promised restoration and dust control projects. This became ever more urgent at the end of 2017, when water to partially compensate for the loss was cut off, accelerating the falling sea level and increasing the danger of air pollution and habitat loss.

Recent months have brought hope for the Salton Sea. California for the first time has committed substantial funding, about \$280 million, for habitat restoration and dust mitigation. While several restoration projects are identified in the state’s 10-year restoration plan, those projects are far behind schedule.

Beyond the pelicans, the new report notes that the numerous Eared Grebe and Double-

crested Cormorant are also declining rapidly. Declines have occurred as recently as within the past couple of years. For example, Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count data show an average decline of 63% per year for the past few years for Eared Grebes (once occurring at the Sea in the millions and now at most in the thousands). Double-crested Cormorants, which once had a breeding colony of more than 5,000 nesting pairs on an island within the Sea, have all but disappeared.

But the report also notes significant increases, in the past two years, for shorebirds, such as the Western Sandpiper, and waterfowl, such as the Ruddy Duck. The report notes that these species are taking advantage of large numbers of insects being produced as the receding waterline exposes wet shoreline.

While some species are taking advantage of the current food resources, Audubon has documented an overall decline in diversity, with a 10% decline in species diversity in just the past two years. However, as the shoreline stabilizes in coming years, the Sea’s wet edges dry up, and the Salton Sea becomes more saline, fewer hospitable habitat conditions will persist. The Sea saw a potential preview of that this past January when more than 7,000 Ruddy Ducks died from avian cholera, a contagious disease that affects waterfowl in crowded and stressed conditions.

“Some birds will diminish and other birds will prosper – but the overall number of birds at the Sea is shrinking,” added Jones. “It is my hope that ten years from now, people can visit the Salton Sea and watch large formations of these magnificent birds flying along the shoreline and dropping down onto the water to feed on the fish below its surface.”

UPCOMING MAY JUNE 2019 FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, May 5

8-10 am

Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Rancho, Oak Glen

Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211

Come out to the foothills for fresh air and enjoy slow-paced birding at the Oak Glen Preserve. The transitional area contains mountain species as well as birds common in the valley. Expected birds include Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker and California Scrub Jay with the possibility of finding a few early migrants. Also, waterfowl may still be on the ponds. This is an excellent walk for beginning birders and no costs are involved. We will meet at the entrance to the Wildlands Conservancy at Oak Glen Preserve (Los Rios Rancho parking lot) at 8 a.m.. Please contact Pam Quittmeyer for further information. Rain or other conditions may effect last minute changes. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars.

Saturday, May 11

7am

Palisades Ranch-Helendale Field Trip

Steve Myers (951) 616-7578 and Bill Deppe

Palisades Ranch, situated along the Mojave River a few miles south of Helendale and Silver Lakes, is a new field trip location for SBVAS. It is a decades' old alfalfa ranch that has recently been purchased by a conservation organization, which plans extensive restoration of riparian forest and woodland. It is located downstream of the Victor Valley Water Reclamation Plant, and so receives abundant year-round water, resulting in very healthy riparian habitats. Developing a trail system will be an ongoing process at this site; therefore, be prepared for rugged walking that may involve getting your feet wet, including water that may be knee deep or more. Bring a change of footwear for after the bird walk. Species expected include Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bell's Vireo, the usual suite of riparian birds, and freshwater marsh birds. Following the morning's bird walk at the ranch, we will move to Silver

Lakes to scan for waterfowl. Meet at the Helendale Post Office parking lot at 7 am, and the group will caravan to Palisades Ranch. The post office is just south of the intersection of Vista Road and Helendale Road.

Sunday, May 12

9:00 am

Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch

Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509

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 and 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 monitoring data by average citizens across the continent can contribute to scientific research. Learn 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 close-up snapshots. Children are welcome. For additional information, call (909) 794-0509.

Saturday, May 18

8:00 am

San Jacinto Mountains

Gene Cardiff & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201

Meet in the parking lot across from Lake Fulmor just off highway 243 at 8:00AM. We will bird the area for about an hour and then drive from there stopping along the way. Eventually we will make it to Lake Hemet where we hope to be able to view Bald Eagles. We should find all the usual mountain species plus some. Pinyon Jay is one of our target birds. Dress in layers, bring snacks, water and your lunch. Please remember to fill you gas tank beforehand. A scope (if you have one) would be useful at the lakes.

Field trips, continued from p. 3.

Saturday, June 1

7:30 am

San Bernardino Mountains

Brad Singer (909) 936-5087

The San Bernardino Mountains trip will meet outside the Starbuck's located in the Vonn's shopping center on Big Bear Blvd. and Sandalwood Drive at 7:00 am. We will spend the morning at Cactus Flats and Arrastre Creek 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, Calliope Hummingbird, Plumbeous Vireo, Gray Vireo, and Pinyon Jay. About midday we'll bird around Big Bear Lake in search of any lingering shorebirds, terns, and raptors, and then spend the afternoon up either at Bluff Lake or 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. For more information, contact Brad Singer at (909) 936-5087 or bcsinger@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 15

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 7:30 am ([map](#)). 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).

Upcoming 2019 Field Trips

Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 8:00 am

Whitewater Canyon

CANCELLED - ROAD WASHED OUT

Sunday, May 5, 2019 - 8-10 am

Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Rancho, Oak Glen

Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211

Saturday, May 11, 2019 7 am

Palisades Ranch-Helendale Field Trip

Steve Myers (951) 616-7578 and Bill Deppe

Saturday, May 12, 2019 - 9:00 am

Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch

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Saturday, May 18, 2019

San Jacinto Mountains

Gene Cardiff & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201

Saturday, June 1, 2019

San Bernardino Mountains

Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

Saturday, June 15, 2019 - 7:30 am

Wrightwood & Blue Ridge

Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

Friday-Sunday, June 28-30, 2019

Greenhorn Mountains

Steve Myers (951) 616-7578

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. Cal Field Trip Leader for last minute cancellations, questions or changes... 🐦

May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 pm	2	3	4 Whitewater Field trip CANCELLED
5 BBW Oak Glen 8 am	6	7	8	9	10	11 Palisades Ranch-Helendale Field Trip 7 am
12 Baby Bird Field Trip, Bearpaw Ranch 9 am	13	14	15 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 pm	16	17	18 San Jacinto Mountains Field Trip 8 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 San Bernardino Mountains Field Trip 7:30 am
2	3	4	5 No Board Meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Wrightwood - Blue Ridge Field Trip 7:30
16	17	18	19 No General Meeting	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Dates and times subject to change for unforeseen circumstances, please check the website for any changes.

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. Cal Field Trip Leader for last minute cancellations, questions or changes...🐦



Male Sparkling Violetear

Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: First Wednesday of the Month, January 2, 2019, 7 pm

General Meetings: Next General Meeting on January 16, 2019, 7:30 pm

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

SBVAS Officers 2015/2016
www.sbvas.org

President: Brad Singer (909) 838-7951
First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201
Second Vice President: Dave Godward (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 (909) 875-5358
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:
Pam Quittmeyer duckypam@gmail.com (951)212-2211

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 or (909)-537-3309 or tbenson@csusb.edu

Bearpaw Ranch

Bearpaw Ranch is a 70 acre nature sanctuary, operated by the San Bernardino Audubon Society and may be visited 7 days a week from dawn 'til dusk by members of Audubon and their guests. Bearpaw Ranch is nestled on the north slope of scenic Mill Creek Canyon at 4,500 feet elevation, surrounded by the towering peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest. To reach Bearpaw Ranch, take Highway 38 to the Forest Falls turnoff. Go several car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. Our driveway is on the right, marked 38801. The driveway is paved and unpaved road that meanders across Mill Creek wash and up the bluff to an electronically operated entry gate. Members who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to visit. If the gate does not open because of mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or stop for birding along the creek bed.

Bearpaw Sanctuary,
38801 Valley of the Falls Drive
P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 92339

Bearpaw Sanctuary is on Facebook; message us with questions and comments. If you type "Bearpaw Sanctuary" into the SEARCH function, you'll find us. Bearpaw visitors are encouraged to report interesting wildlife sightings and share their favorite nature photos from their Bearpaw visits.

BIRD WALKS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY AREA

Check the website and/or call to make sure the walk is happening.
Websites have maps/directions.

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!!!

● **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve ALL YEAR www.bigmorongo.org**
Free Bird Walk all Wednesdays; third Saturday of the month; 8:00AM October- March; 7:00AM April- September (No Saturday walks June- September).

● **Whitewater Preserve ALL YEAR**
http://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_whitewater.html
Free Bird Walk second & fourth Tuesdays of the month- 8:00AM.

● **Coachella Valley Preserve <http://coachellavalleypreserve.org/>**
Free Bird Walk weekly; generally Sundays and Mondays. October- May; at 7:30AM or 8:00AM. Check site or call for day and times.

● **Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument**
<https://www.desertmountains.org/>
Free Bird Walk first and third Mondays of the month, 7:30AM, November- April. Registration required. Call 760 862- 9984.
Check site or call for days and times.

● **Sunnylands sunnylands.org**
Free Garden Bird Walk 8:45AM Fridays, November- May. Estate Bird Tours 8:45AM Thursdays and Saturdays, November- April. Tour the Annenberg estate with binoculars in a golf cart that stops to look at birds. Online reservations and fee (\$35 last season) required for Estate Bird Tours.

● **Salton Sea State Recreation Area (northeast end of the Sea)**
http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=639 Check the site or call to be sure.
Free Bird Walk Saturdays, 9:00AM, October- April. Entrance fee: \$7/person; \$5 for seniors.

● **Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center**
<http://coachellavalleywildbirdcenter.org/>
Free Bird Walk; first Saturday of the month, 8:00AM, October- May.

● **Living Desert www.livingdesert.org**
Members' monthly Bird Walk; second Thursday of month, October- May, 7:30AM.

(Revised 22 Aug 2018)

CLUBS, BOOKS, ONLINE AND OTHER BIRDING AREAS

- **Desert Cities Bird Club** has lots of information on local birding activities, a Palms-to-Pines Birding Trail map, and a newsletter. To get on their email list and/or to request a map, email Kurt Leuschner (KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu)
- **San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society** (www.sbvas.net) has lots of field trips. All are free and open to non-members as well as members. A few require pre-registration.
- **San Jacinto Wildlife Area** has a car route through water impoundment ponds. This is an excellent place for waterfowl as well as raptors. It is next to a duck-hunting club, so check the website CAREFULLY to determine which days are for hunting and avoid them. About an hour west of Palm Springs. (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/San-Jacinto-WA> and/or <http://www.northfriends.org/sjwa.html>)
- **Inland County Birds** (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/inlandcountybirds/info>) is the listserve for Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Yes, it is a Yahoo Group, and you do have to join, but we've never had any problems with it.
- **Indian Canyons** (<http://www.indian-canyons.com/palm.html>) in Palm Springs. Several easy, beautiful, and sometimes-birdy trails with a wonderful combination of desert habitat with year-round flowing water. Admission fees: \$9.00 per adult; \$7.00 for seniors. Open all year, but days vary- check website.
- **Borrego Springs Swainson's Hawk Watch** (<http://borregohawkwatch.blogspot.com/>) Every day, February 15 to April 15. Swainson's Hawk migration can be an unprecedented spectacle. Check the BlogSpot for recent information. And/or sign up for evening blog posts at rap-torhal3@gmail.com. Borrego Springs is about an hour-and-a-half from the Coachella Valley.
- **Mount San Jacinto State Park** (http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=636) Located near the top of Mt. San Jacinto, this park is accessed by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (<https://www.pstramway.com/>); heavy fee. There are many miles of hiking trails in the subalpine forests and fern-bordered mountain meadows.
- **Oak Glen Preserve** (http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_oakglen.html) is about an hour-and-a-half west of the Coachella Valley. Owned and operated by the same organization that manages Whitewater Preserve

Dates and times subject to change for unforeseen circumstances, please check the website for any changes.

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

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

Everyone is always welcome!

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

Board Meetings
are the 1st Tuesday

General meetings
are the 3rd Wednesday



SBVAS Membership
currently at 1900

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

Chapter Only Membership Application
San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Email Address* _____

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS

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

Membership Application
National Audubon Society (NAS)

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
C11

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