NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

BIG MORONGO CANYON PRESERVE



Species seen on the 2025 Morongo Valley Christmas Bird Count. Clockwise from upper left: Scott's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Vermiion Flycatcher. Oriole photo by Joe Zarki, Sparrow by Steve Myers, Quail and Flycatcher by Roxanne Evans.

This year **Big Morongo Canyon Preserve** will hold the 45th annual Morongo Valley Christmas Bird Count

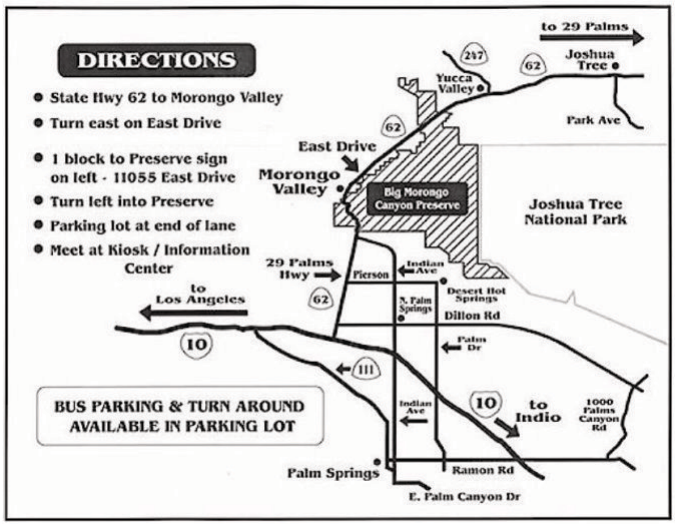
✔ When: Saturday, December 19, 2026, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

✔ Where: Big Morongo Canyon Preserve visitor parking lot at 7:30 a.m. We'll break up into groups, review count instructions, and take a group photo.

✔ What to bring: Lunch, water, binoculars, field guides, warm clothing (that you can shed).

✔ Other Info: Count instructions will be provided in a later email. Each group should choose a recorder who will tabulate birds encountered throughout the day, and report results to me as soon as you can following the count.

❄ For more information, contact Joe Zarki at 760-401-3903, ❄
or by email: jwzarki@gmail.com



SAFETY INFORMATION FOR MORONGO VALLEY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT PARTICIPANTS

Recommended Items for All Count Participants

- Provided (electronically) by BMCP: field data sheets, count circle and zone maps, and supplemental information.
- Provided by participants: appropriate field clothing including sturdy footwear, sunglasses, sunscreen, water, snacks.
- Field guides, cameras, and binoculars are optional but definitely add to the experience.

Hazard Analysis

Though unlikely, the following threats or dangers may be present during the count. Participants should exercise caution and be aware of hazardous conditions or other potential risks:

- Participants should be prepared and physically able to handle easy to difficult hiking. Terrain will vary depending on assigned zone of coverage and specific locations visited.
- Environmental dangers may be present including extreme temperatures, dehydration, heat exhaustion or hypothermia, sunburn, and/or windburn. Sunscreen and proteective clothing should be used as needed.
- If participant is driving, s/he should drive defensively and adjust driving behavior to road conditions encountered. Driving hazards may include heavy traffic, vehicle accidents, reckless drivers, pedestrians, wildlife, unmaintained roadways, debris on roads, and rain or snow.
- Injuries related to hiking, scrambling in steep or rocky terrain, wildlife, and plants are possible. Examples include: slips, falls, splinters, cuts, scrapes, cuts, bee stings, insect bites, poisonous animal bites, or cactus related mishaps, and all possible occurrences in our local desert environment.
- In popular recreation areas, participants should be prepared to deal with large numbers of weekend visitors and impeded traffic flows.
- Flash flooding and washed out roads can become impassable. Windstorms, blowing sand, and snowstorms can occur.