



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 68— Number 1



**General Meeting
7:30 PM Wednesday
September 20, 2017**

Four Talented Photographers Share Their Work

After our long summer break, San Bernardino Valley Audubon's year officially begins at our meeting in September. At the beginning of the meeting we will introduce and install the officers and board of directors that were elected by the membership last May. This will take just a short while and then after a few brief announcements we will be treated to a program presented by four of our most talented nature and bird photographers. Each will have 15 minutes to entertain us.

Please come join us for what promises to be a fun and informative program.

Everyone is always welcome and we hope to see you there.

**General Meeting
7:30 PM Wednesday,
October 18, 2017**

Important Birds of Ancient Lake Cahuilla and the Salton Sea

A program presented by Kurt
Leuschner

Before the Salton Sea, there was Ancient Lake Cahuilla. Only hundreds of years ago this giant fresh-water lake filled the entire Salton Sink and most of the Coachella Valley. Birds and people depended on this body of water just like they do today. In this program you'll learn about the special birds associated with this lake that was six times bigger than today's Salton Sea.

Kurt Leuschner is a Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert. Among all the courses he teaches are courses in Field Ornithology and Native Plants. He is extremely well traveled and has taken groups on safaris to Africa, New Zealand, Tasmania, Cuba and the Galapagos and places closer to home.

Kurt also teaches weekend courses and workshops on bird watching, insects, GPS, and backyard habitats for UCR Extension, the Desert Institute, the Desert Studies Center and the Living Desert.

Kurt is a wonderfully engaging and informative speaker and his previous presentations have been extremely well received.

Everyone is always welcome. Come early and bring friends.

Local Sightings: Spring and Summer 2017 by Tom Benson

This issue of local sightings covers spring migration and the summer season from mid April to mid August. Due to space limitations, this report covers only the very rare or more interesting sightings from spring and summer, with marginally rare or regularly occurring rarities omitted. Before we get into spring migration, though, here is a list of late dates for continuing wintering rarities that lingered past mid-April: WINTER WREN at Big Morongo, Apr 15; GRAY CATBIRD at Thousand Palms Oasis, Apr 16; AMERICAN REDSTART at IID Wetlands, Apr 19; DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER at Cucamonga-Guasti Reg. Pk., Apr 21; AMERICAN REDSTART at Lake Skinner, Apr 23; RUFF in the Prado Basin, Apr 25; two WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS at Lake Arrowhead, Apr 26; and two NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS in Ontario, Apr 27.

Spring migration was fairly quiet for most of April and May, with western migrants passing through in what seemed to be below average numbers. A BRANT was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area on Apr 27; this species is rare on the coastal slope away from the immediate coast. A RED-THROATED LOON was at Fig Lagoon on Apr 24 & May 6; this seems to be the rarest of the three common loons in the deserts. Notable spring shorebirds included an AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER at Mystic Lake on May 6 and two at Obsidian Butte on May 7. Rare passerines included a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH in Niland Apr 14, a PAINTED BUNTING at Desert Center May 13, an ORCHARD ORIOLE in Baker May 21, and a GRAY CATBIRD at Zzyzx May 24. A VARIED THRUSH at Chet Huffman Park May 2-10 was also quite unusual, especially given that this was not an irruptive winter for this species.

Spring vagrants really started to pick up after Memorial Day. The highlight in Riverside County was a singing WOOD THRUSH present at Thousand Palms Oasis May 29-Jun 10, providing the second county record. In San Bernardino County, a pair of CHIMNEY SWIFTS was seen over a yard in Grand Terrace on Jun 4. In nearby Redlands, a singing RED-EYED VIREO appeared in a residential yard on Jun 12. Even more surprisingly, a YELLOW-GREEN VIREO appeared in the same yard a month later on Jul 13, providing the second county record. YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS, a typically late migrant, also made a good showing with individuals found in a yard in Yucaipa on Jun 20 and at Lakeview GC on Jul 2, and one found dead at Dos Palmas Preserve Jul 13.



Wood Thrush
Tom Benson

There were a number of noteworthy reports of breeding/summering birds in the region this year. Two MEXICAN WHIP-POOR-WILLS returned to Green Canyon in the San Bernardino Mountains, representing the 9th consecutive summer one or more has been present at this location. There are still no confirmed breeding records for California. COMMON NIGHTHAWKS were also reported regularly from Green Canyon; this species has become a rare (presumed) breeder in the San Bernardino Mountains over the past few decades. A single GRASSHOPPER SPARROW was reported from Chino Hills State Park on Jun 4; this is likely the only remaining breeding location in San Bernardino County. Likewise PURPLE MARTIN bred successfully in the Cajon Pass; this species is barely hanging on as a breeding bird in San Bernardino County. Both HAIRY WOODPECKERS and SUMMER TANAGERS bred in the Prado Basin (Riverside County) this year; neither species has been documented nesting here previously, at least not in the recent past. Banning had two BLACK-TAILED GNATCATCHERS on Jul 3 and two VERDIN on Jul 10; these birds are on the western edge of these species' ranges.



Red-eyed Vireo

Matt Grube

In the hard to categorize section, a ZONE-TAILED HAWK flew over Lake Arrowhead on Jul 22; this location is far away from any known breeding areas. An EASTERN KINGBIRD was photographed at Zzyzx on Jul 3. Given the date, it is hard to know if this was a late spring migrant, a summering bird, or an early fall migrant; it was not seen again. A EURASIAN GREEN-WINGED TEAL was at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area Jun 18-26. There are few records of this subspecies inland, and most occurrences in the state are in winter rather than summer.

Finally, we'll end with a few summer strays or early fall migrants. The highlight of the season in Imperial County was a SOOTY SHEARWATER that was unfortunately found dead at Sunbeam Lake on July 29. Also of note in that county was a GLOSSY IBIS in Calipatria on Jun 30. At the north end of the Salton Sea a SABINE'S GULL was flying south on Jul 9. And a NEOTROPIC CORMORANT was in the Prado Basin (Riverside County) on Jun 26; despite its expanding range it is still quite rare on the coastal slope.

Upcoming September/October 2017

Saturday, September 16
San Bernardino Mountain Field Trip
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201

Meet at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, 34701 Mill Creek, Mentone, CA 92359 located on the Corner of Bryant and Highway 38 at 8 a.m. A few of our target species are: Clark's Nutcracker, White-headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire and Bald Eagle. Be prepared for a full day of birding. We will bird the foothills, then higher elevations and most likely finish the day at Big Bear Lake. Please have a Forest Service Pass with you and bring your lunch, snacks, water and a full tank of gas.

Friday-Monday, September 22-25,
Baja California Field Trip
Brad Singer 909-838-7951

This will be a four-day journey into the beautiful countryside of Baja California, Mx. Birding at this time of year is outstanding with a wide variety of species to be seen including the endemic Gray Thrasher. We will spend the first three days birding the coastal plains, foothills, and mountains on the western side of the peninsula, from Ensenada to Rosario. The last day will be spent birding the desert (eastern side) from San Felipe to Mexicali. Details can be had from me at bcsinger@gmail.com. or call me at the number above. Space is very limited so if interested please respond before September 1. Remember, a passport is required to enter Mexico.

Sunday, October 1, 2017 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Glen Helen
Dave Woodward 909-783-2417

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 species. The walk is free, but there is an entry fee for the park; see below. No reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

We will meet at the Ash Cove parking lot at the north end of the park. If you do not have a San Bernardino County Regional Parks pass, you will have to pay the \$10 daily entry fee for the park. Please contact Dave Woodward for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes.

Saturday, October 7, 2017 - 7:00 am
East Mojave Migrant Traps
Steve Myers (951) 616-7578

This trip will visit Zzyzx, Baker, Horse Thief Springs, Beck Spring, Crystal Spring, China Ranch, and perhaps the Ivanpah Valley, Nipton, and Kelso. Meet at 7:00 am at the Desert Studies Center at Zzyzx. Follow the I-15 freeway north and east from Cajon Pass to the Zzyzx Road exit. Turn right, and follow the road to its end at the Desert Studies Center. From the intersection of I-215 and I-15 at Devore, it is 114 miles to Zzyzx Road, so allow about 2 hours from there (depending on how fast you drive).

Be sure to bring plenty of food and water on this trip. This weekend should be at the peak of fall migration, and there is potential for all sorts of interesting migrants.

Saturday, October 14, 2017 - 8:00 am
Bearpaw Ranch
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358
and Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038

This is a beautiful spot and very accessible from the Riverside/San Bernardino area so we expect to see a lot of you there ([map](#)). Birding in the area will be led by Gene Cardiff and Tony Metcalf.

To really enjoy the day, bring binoculars, sturdy shoes, water and maybe a jacket for the mountains, depending on the weather, and don't forget a lunch if you are planning to stay for awhile. Again, all are welcome. Please call Gene at home if you have any questions.

Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 8 a.m.
High Desert Field Trip
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201

Meet at 8 a.m., at Covington Park, on Park Ave., in Morongo Valley. We will spend the morning in the park and surrounding area and then travel stopping on the way at various parks and venues looking for migrants and resident species.

We will probably end the day, at sunset, in Twentynine Palms. Bring a lunch, snacks, water and all birding essentials including a scope if you have one.

2017 - 2018 FIELD TRIPS

**Saturday, September 16, 8 a.m.
San Bernardino Mountain Field Trip**

**Friday-Monday, September 22-25,
Baja California Field Trip**

**Sunday, October 1, 2017 - 8:00-
10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Glen Helen
Regional Park**

**Saturday, October 7, 2017 - 7:00 am
East Mojave Migrant Traps**

**Saturday, October 14, 2017 - 8:00
am
Bearpaw Ranch**

**Saturday, October 21, 2017 - 8 a.m.
High Desert Field Trip**

**Sunday, November 5, 2017 - 8:00-
10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo
Canyon**

**Sunday, November 12, 2017 - 7:00
am
Northern San Jacinto Valley**

**Saturday, December 2, 2017 - 8:00
am
Daggett & Newberry Springs**

**Sunday, December 3, 2017 - 8:00-
10:00 am
Palm Springs Demuth Park**

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 - 7:00 am
Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip**

**Sunday, January 7, 2018 - 8:00-
10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Re-
gional Park**

**January 13, 2018- 8:00 am
Malibu Lagoon to Point Mugu**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018
San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris**

**Saturday, February 3, 2018 8:30 am
Silverwood Lake Barge Trip**

**Sunday, February 4, 2018 - 8:00-
10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State**

**Saturday, February 17, 2018 - 7:30
am
Seal Beach NWR (by reservation)**

**Sunday, March 5, 2018 8-10 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount
Park, Riverside**

**March 2018 (date TBD)
49 Palms Oasis**

**Saturday, March 11, 2018 - 8:00 am
Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast**

**Sunday, April 8, 2018 - 8:00-10:00
am
Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo
Canyon**

**Saturday, April 21, 2018 - 7:00 am
Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea**

**Sunday, April 22, 2018- 7:00 am
San Jacinto Wildlife Area**

**Saturday, April 28, 2018 - 7:00 am
Big Morongo Preserve**

**Saturday, May 5, 2018 - 8:00 am
Whitewater Canyon**

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 - 8-10 am
Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Ran-
cho, Oak Glen**

**Saturday, May 12, 2018 - 9:00 am
Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch**

Continued Field Trips 2017-2018**Saturday-Sunday June 2-3, 2018
Eastside Sierra Field Trip****Saturday, June 16, 2018 - 7:30 am
Wrightwood & Blue Ridge****August 2018 (date TBD), 6:00 AM
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea****Saturday, May 19, 2018
San Jacinto Mountains****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...🐦

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: No meeting in July.
First Wednesday of the Month, September 6, 2017

General Meetings: Next General Meeting on September 21, 2017, 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 Woodward (909) 783-2417
Treasurer: Pat Cawunder (951) 687-9486
Secretary: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236 (951) 212-2211

Directors

Conservation Chair: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081
Field Trips: Gene Cardiff (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.

September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 San Bernardino Mountains Field Trip 8 a.m.
3	4	5	6 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	21	22 Baja Mexico Field Trip	23 Baja Mexico Field Trip
24 Baja Mexico Field Trip	25 Baja Mexico Field Trip	26	27	28	29	30

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Beginnign Bird Walk Glen Helen Regional Park 8 a.m.	2	3	4 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	5	6	7 Eastern Mojave Migrant Traps Field Trip 7 a.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Bearpaw Ranch Field Trip 8 a.m.
15	16	17	18 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	19	20	21 High Desert Field Trip 8 a.m.
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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