



WESTERN MEADOWLARK

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Birding and Living in the Kimberley: Landscapes and Birds of Northwestern Australia

By Stephen Lorenz

Program will be presented on March 18, 2009 at 7:30P.M.



Australia combines a richness of wild- life with incredible and sometimes alien landscapes. In a country with many far- flung places, the Kimberley region with its endless savannas and rugged sandstones mountains remains one of the most remote areas of the continent. The grasslands, marshes, and riparian woodlands of northwestern Australia harbor a diverse array of bird and other animal species.

The program will concentrate on the ecology of endemic bird species and families with a focus on the rare Purple-crowned Fairy Wren and Gouldian Finch, featuring original photographs of landscapes, birds, and fieldwork. It will also discuss the diversity of habitats found in North- western Australia and current conservation issues.



Stephan Lorenz spent three months working and birding in the Kimberley at the remote Mornington Sanctuary. He participated in a study on the reproductive behavior and ecology of the threatened Purple-crowned Fairy-Wren conducted by the Max- Planck Institute. In addition Stephan assisted with research projects in such diverse places as Jamaica, through the Smithsonian Institute, Costa Rica, through a Cornell- funded project and numerous areas throughout the United States. Currently, he works at the Audubon Star Ranch sanctuary as the Biologist-Educator for Bird Programs and spends his spare time rock-climbing at Joshua Tree or chasing the latest rare bird rumor in Southern California.



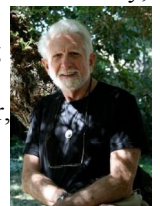
Attracting Wildlife to Your Garden

By Alan Pollack

Program will be presented on April 15, 2009 at 7:30p.m.

Alan Pollack, M.D. has been a long time member of the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy. After retiring from the practice of psychiatry in 1995, his interest in woodworking led him to volunteer with Habitat For Humanity for several years. For the past 10 years, he has been a volunteer with Wildlife Care of Ventura County, which rescues and rehabilitates injured or orphaned birds and small mammals. It was through them that he learned about the training given by the National Wildlife Federation to become a Wildlife Habitat Steward. Having been a life-long gardener and having a knack for landscape design, he was delighted to be able to wed two of his passions: the love of gardening and of wildlife. His yard immediately became certified as an official , wildlife habitat site and for the past 4 years, he has been giving free consultation and landscape designs to homeowners, churches, and schools who wish to create a garden that is attractive to wildlife as well as humans. More recently, he has been leading the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's Audubon-at-Home Project and has been giving power-point slide show presentations to various groups who are interested in the goal of preserving and restoring wildlife habitat as well as writing articles on that subject.

The first half of the presentation is a discussion of the four basic elements necessary for wildlife: food, water, shelter, and places to raise young, plus a discussion of sustainable gardening practices, including use of native plants. The second half is a virtual tour of his garden. Questions are encouraged and he provides a handout that enables you to apply for certification of your garden as an official wildlife habitat site.



Aviphilia

By Randy Horvath

A thing of beauty is a joy forever.
—John Keats

When I first took up birding, I was immediately struck by the multiplicity of new words I had to learn. There was so much terminology: words relating to avian anatomy, such as *remiges*, *rectrices*, *semipalmated*, *supercilium*; words descriptive of a bird's appearance, such as *glaucous*, *ferruginous*, *variegated*, *leucistic*; and a slew of basic words and phrases one must know in order to comprehend field guide information, such as *diurnal raptor*, *shallow dihedral*, *intergrade*, *crepuscular*. Fortunately, my linguistic education had prepared and equipped me well, and my study of the natural history of birds was almost as rewarding as birding itself.

I remember too, in those early days, learning the difference between two seemingly synonymous and interchangeable words: birder and birdwatcher. Both terms refer, of course, to someone, male or female, who derives pleasure from watching birds, typically through binoculars. Although the beauty of birds is their chief attraction and the primary motive for observing them, the birder/birdwatcher is truly taken with everything about them. Birds are well worth the trouble and expense that are sometimes necessary just to find them.

Nevertheless, there is, I learned, an important distinction. "Birdwatcher," the term that had always been used to signify someone who "watches" birds, had come to possess a connotation that some cerebral folk disliked. In their minds, it evoked the stereotypical image best exemplified by Jane Hathaway of *The Beverly Hillbillies*—someone eccentric, derisive, perhaps even to be pitied. Since birdwatchers by and large are not eccentric, derisive, or pitiable, those for whom the pastime was decidedly serious opted to be known as "birders" instead.

To this day, the semantic distinction persists. "Birdwatchers" genuinely enjoy watching birds and find the experience, above all, aesthetic. They tend to view birds with wonder and fascination, much like wide-eyed children who delight in the natural world. "Birders," on the other hand, are evidently those whose interest in birds transcends awe or amusement. While they have not lost their sense of wonder entirely and certainly do marvel at the beauty of (most) birds, their interest, however intense, is often more scientific.

That, and they love to keep lists. Lots of lists.

Perhaps this distinction is oversimplified, as many will doubtless allege. No matter. What concerns me is not the difference between "birder" and "birdwatcher"; rather, it is what birders and birdwatchers have in common that I wish to emphasize. However you regard yourself (and regardless of the number of lists you keep), your reasons for spending so much time watching birds are grounded in the fact that you love them—right?

Years ago, while pondering which of these two terms I preferred, I realized that neither was really satisfactory. "Birder" or "birdwatcher"—each seems to focus the mind's attention on *what* we do and not *why* we do it. And then came a revelation, the answer I had been seeking. I was an *aviphile*—a "lover of birds," plain and simple.

I had never heard this word before, nor had I encountered it anywhere. It was as though it had been whispered in my ear or had emerged from the depths of my subconscious mind. I looked up the word, and found that it does not "officially" exist: The *Oxford English Dictionary* has no record of it. The earliest instance of this word that I am aware of comes to us courtesy of Roger Tory Peterson, who used the term "aviphile" in a charming essay ("What Are You Really?") that appeared in the March/April issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*. In any event, "aviphile" seems to me a word that aptly describes me and those I habitually "bird" with. We love the activity because we love birds.

As anyone familiar with Latin and Greek can infer, an aviphile is one who "suffers" from—if you will—*aviphilia*. From the Latin word for bird (*avis*) and the Greek word for love or friendship (*philia*), *aviphilia* is a condition that affects birders and birdwatchers alike. It is thought to be incurable, but no one seems to mind. Although it may eventually spawn an obsession with listing and its many attendant behaviors (let's not go there), *aviphilia* is a benign condition one can only wish were contagious.

How does one diagnose this salutary affliction? There are many symptoms: some psychological, others behavioral. Below are a baker's dozen, in no particular order.

You may be an aviphile if...

1. You will go just about anywhere to enjoy the beauty of birds. This includes visiting garbage dumps for gulls and sewage lagoons for shorebirds.

2. You enjoy watching birds year-round. The dead of winter, the dog days of summer—it really doesn't matter.

3. Inclement weather conditions are rarely a deterrent. You simply dress accordingly.

4. Mosquitoes, biting flies, poison ivy, and other natural hazards cannot diminish your enthusiasm. You do what it takes to minimize your suffering, knowing full well that a great day in the field sometimes carries a price.

5. You believe that waking up long before sunrise to start your birding day is neither unreasonable nor insane.

6. You occasionally sacrifice personal hygiene to the necessity of getting out the door as fast as you can.

7. You are grateful for every new bird you see, every novel behavior you witness. You appreciate finding rare hybrids, for example, despite their not being "countable."

8. You are content to leave a bird unidentified when you lack essential knowledge or expertise. It may have been a vagrant for all you know, but this will not rob you of sleep.

9. It does not matter that others refuse to believe you when you find a rare bird but cannot prove it.

10. You maintain bird feeders, place bird baths in your yard, and do whatever else will attract birds to your property.

11. You are saddened when you find dead birds or their remains, particularly when their deaths are clearly unnatural.

12. You care enough to participate in "citizen science" projects and to support research, education, and conservation programs.

13. Watching a bird constructing its nest or feeding its young can never bore you.

If most of these symptoms do not pertain to you, I cannot imagine how you even came to read this article. But if, as I suspect, you found yourself nodding and saying, "Yep, that's me alright," some eight or ten times, then congratulations! You have *aviphilia*.

Somehow, I think Jane Hathaway would approve.

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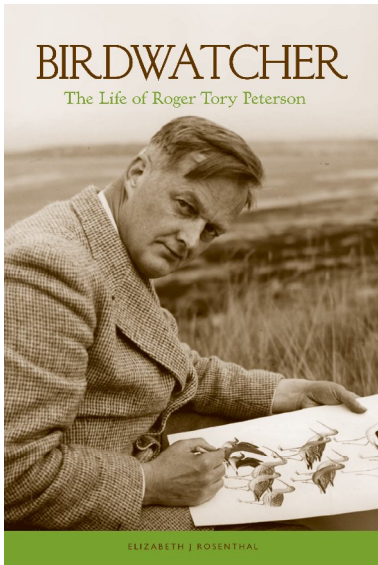
Would you like to get the Western Meadowlark days earlier and save SBVAS the cost of printing and postage? If so, email Membership Chair Crispen Rendon at crisrendon@earthlink.net and tell him you want the Western Meadowlark delivered by email.

Book Review:

Birdwatcher

The Life of Roger Tory Peterson

By Elizabeth J. Rosenthal



Like many who come to use birding as a hobby, I started by realizing the simple pleasure of watching birds. They were so varied, had such interesting behaviors, and were virtually everywhere. As time allowed and I was able to devote more time to the science and research of birding, I learned more about the importance of the man who gave his name to the handy field guides that gave names to my passion. I also came to realize, with some degree of sadness, that I had missed the opportunity to meet or

hear the man who had done so much to foster an interest in birds and nature and conservation.

This very satisfying biography allows the reader the opportunity to meet both the man and the hero. It balances the down-to-earth tales of how Roger Tory Peterson became interested in art and birds with the more amazing tales of his skills as a birder and his ability to identify so many birds by sound and focus so intently on the perfect picture. Most importantly, it outlines his unselfish ability to share his knowledge and educate any who were interested, and with that teaching, it documents the phenomenal groundswell of passionate people and "citizen scientists" numbering in the millions who have made birding and nature their avocation. Reading the Chapter titled "Worldwide Progeny" completely establishes the significance of Peterson's continuing legacy. His efforts spawned generations of heroes.

Perhaps the best quote comes in Chapter 3 with these words: *We invent systems, Socialism, Fascism, Communism and Capitalism. Each despises the other. Yet, as Professor Aldo Leopold of the University of Wisconsin pointed out, they all espouse one creed: salvation by machinery. Is it any wonder that when these systems prove faulty and men detect the synthetic nature of the civilization of their devising they turn to nature? In a world that seems to have gone mad is it any wonder birds have such appeal? Birds are, perhaps, the most eloquent expression of reality.*

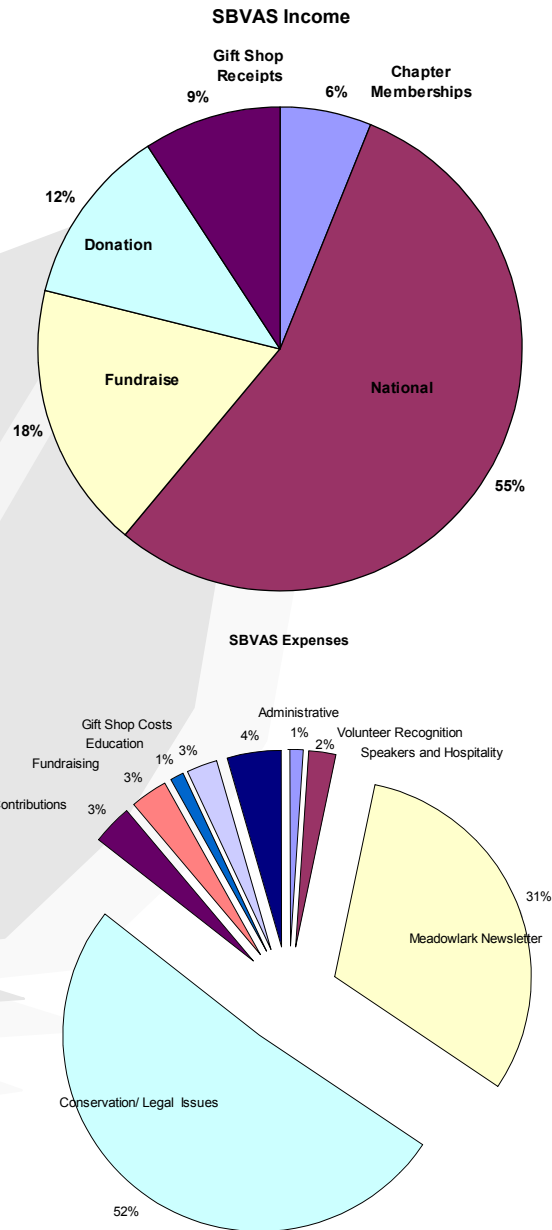
Additional information about the book and/or questions may be addressed to the author at her web site:

www.petersonbird.com.

An Anna's Hummingbird feeds young in the cactus garden at the UC Riverside Botanical garden.

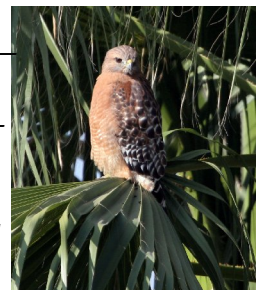


2008 Income and Expenditures for San Bernardino Valley Audubon



We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect. —Aldo Leopold

A Red-shouldered Hawk graces a palm tree in Fairmount Park.



The earth we abuse and the living things we kill will, in the end, take their revenge; for in exploiting their presence we are diminishing our future. —Marya Mannes

From Screen Space to Green Space: NWF is Reconnecting Families to the Wonder of Nature One Hour at a Time!

Today's child spends an average of six hours a day electronically connected—watching TV, playing video games or using a computer—simple pleasures in life such as climbing a tree, playing tag, sharing stories around a campfire, or chasing lightning bugs, are beginning to be forgotten. America's families have moved indoors. Time spent outdoors has declined by 50% in the past 20 years. The important connection between being outdoors and caring for nature is being broken.

In 2005 author Richard Louv aptly described this troubling American trend as “nature deficit disorder.” Over-scheduled lives for parents and child, fears for safety from strangers, worries of stings/cuts/bites, threat of busy roads or concern of injury limit a child's opportunity for unstructured play in nature.

Additionally, research indicates that this trend of our children toward inactivity and confinement to the indoors directly impacts their health. In turn, those health problems are having an impact on America's economy as well as the future of conservation. As statistics show, the rate of childhood obesity and diabetes has risen to alarming numbers. Some estimates indicate that the cost of remedying these issues could reach \$100 billion annually. Perhaps the greatest threat posed by the growing disconnect between children and nature is a diminished appreciation and respect for the natural world. How are we to continue the movement for conservation without an investment in nature and the environment from our children? Research indicates that children need to have a significant engagement with nature by age 11 to develop their own environmental ethic. Without this important connection, the continued preservation of our nation's lands and the animals that inhabit them is at risk.

Outdoor activity has a wide variety of benefits. Children who spend more time outside play more creatively, have lower stress levels, have more active imaginations, develop stronger immune systems, increase testing scores, and may experience fewer symptoms of Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder.

As one of the largest conservation organizations in the country, National Wildlife Federation is committed to leading the fight to reverse this terrible deficit and seeing American families benefit from a healthy, active outdoor lifestyle. NWF recognizes that this problem is one that needs to be combated on both a programmatic and legislative level. Utilizing NWF's long history for providing people with sound programs and events, including the *Certified Backyard Habitat* and award winning children's magazines, NWF continues to work to encourage individuals and families to create safe green places that provide opportunities to get outdoors. In addition this past month NWF scored a victory with the passage of *No Child Left Inside Act*—a bill written to better prepare teachers for using hands-on environmental education to engage students in learning in the great outdoors. These successes showcase how NWF continues to bring this pressing issue to the forefront of the minds of America's citizens and political leaders.

For more information—and inspiration—on how to reconnect your

2008-2009 Christmas Bird Counts

The San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society has concluded another successful season of Christmas Bird Counts. We sincerely thank the 70+ participants who came out for our nine CBCs – we could not do it without you! Joshua Tree recorded its fourth highest total of individuals (3,353) and its first American Crow. Mojave River Valley turned up a Winter Wren and a Spotted Dove. San Jacinto Lake counted 33,271 individuals including two count-firsts: a Lesser Black-backed Gull and several Nutmeg Mannikins. Santa Ana River Valley also recorded two new species, Allen's Hummingbird and Solitary Sandpiper, and had a Horned Grebe. Salton Sea North tallied 141 species including a White-winged Scoter, a Mountain Plover, a Palm Warbler, a Swamp Sparrow, and a count-first Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Redlands-Mill Creek found a Black-throated Green Warbler and a Varied Thrush, and San Bernardino Valley saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, a Vermilion Flycatcher, and a Black-throated Sparrow. Several counts recorded Glaucous-winged Gulls and Plumbeous Vireo, and many also had high counts of Eurasian Collared-dove and Cassin's Kingbird. For a complete listing of all species and participants, please read the *Western Meadowlark's* CBC supplement. If you receive the Western Meadowlark via email, the supplement will be emailed directly to you. If you receive a hard copy, an electronic copy of the supplement will be available soon on the chapter's website at <http://www.sbvas.org/meadowlark.htm>. Thank you again to all the CBC participants and we can't wait to do it again next year!

Climate change will prompt significant declines in up to a third of California bird species

Sacramento, CA – Up to 110 of 310 California native bird species will experience significant reductions in their geographic range in the next several decades due to climate change, according to new research from Audubon California. These reductions will be part of massive range shifts to all of the state's bird species caused wholly or in part by the effects of climate change. The full report can be seen at <http://www.ca.audubon.org/>. These predictions come at the same time that new research from the National Audubon Society shows that a majority of birds in the U.S. in the last 40 years have moved further north and inland in an attempt to adapt to climate change.

Models produced by Audubon California's science team indicate that the magnitude of losses in California depends in large part to the steps we take now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a roadmap for ensuring that the conservation investments we make today have maximum value in an environment that is seeing major shifts due to climate change. Looking at individual species, the results are startling:

- The California Gnatcatcher, long an important species for conservation in California, could lose as much as 56 percent of its range, or as little as 7 percent, depending on how well climate change is addressed.
- The Chestnut-backed Chickadee, a popular bird in the Bay Area, could lose as much as 49 percent of its range, or as little as 16 percent.
- The Yellow-billed Magpie, a striking bird that only lives in California's Central Valley and Coast Ranges, could lose as much as 75 percent of its range, or as little as 9 percent, depending on what measures we take to address climate change.

(Cont....California, page 7)

Art at the Oasis

Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival

Subject: Seventeenth Annual Joshua Tree National Park Art Festival

When: April 3, 4 & 5, 2009 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day)

Where: Joshua Tree National Park Visitor Center
74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA
92277
(760) 367-5500

Enjoy the arts in an outdoor setting at the Oasis of Mara Visitor Center. The Sixteenth Annual Art Festival will be held at Joshua Tree National Park's Headquarters in Twentynine Palms on April 3, 4, and 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You'll have the pleasure of seeing the work of more than twenty artists under the visitor center patio next to the .8 mile historic Oasis of Mara nature trail. A love and respect for the Joshua Tree National Park is the common bond between these artists and you can't escape the feelings of camaraderie that exist at this festival!! Each artist will have work for sale and enjoy sharing their very personal interpretation of the Joshua Tree National Park with you. Painting, sculpture, photography, ceramics, and jewelry are some of the media included in this year's Art Festival.

Joshua Tree National Park Association, sponsor of the Art Festival, is a nonprofit organization that provides support and assistance to the Park's interpretive, educational and scientific programs. Open to the public, there is no fee to attend the Art Festival.

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For more information about this press release contact: Nancy Downer, Executive Director, JTNP, 760-367-5537

**Sea and Sage Announcement**

Sea and Sage Audubon is pleased to announce that Paul Lehman, avid birder, senior range map researcher and biogeographer, will be the guest speaker at their Annual Dinner. He will speak on "Migrant and Vagrant Traps in North America." The evening's program will also include the

presentation of their chapter's Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation, the Gallagher Award, and Silent Auction. On the following morning, Paul will conduct a workshop on "Weather and Bird Migration." Full information on the events and how to sign up for them can be found on the Sea and Sage website at www.seaandsagefeaudubon.org. For further information contact Nancy Kenyon at nacykenyon@cox.net or at 949 786-3160.

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CALENDAR

March 4, 2009 Board Meeting
March 18, 2009 General Meeting
April 1, 2009 Board Meeting
April 15, 2009 General Meeting

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.

Field Trip Schedule

Beginning Bird Walk—Hidden Valley
Saturday March 1, 2009 8:00-10:00A.M
 Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613
 Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

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 binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome and student lists will be signed.

We will meet at the wildlife area's nature center. To get to Hidden Valley from the 91 freeway, take the Arlington Ave. exit and go west just over seven miles to the entrance, which is a signed, gated dirt road on the right. (The entrance is about one mile past the intersection of Arlington and La Sierra avenues.) Follow the dirt road down and to the right and up to the nature center building on the left. Please contact Cathy Tobin for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.


Saturday, March 7, 2009 - 8:00 am
Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast
Dori Myers (714) 779-2201

Please join us for what should be a great day of birding in the wetland areas of Orange County. Expect to see a large variety of wintering birds including ducks, shorebirds, grebes, herons, egrets, terns, cormorants, etc. We ought to find gulls and raptors and some song birds. With any luck we will see 50 or more species just in the morning. After birding Bolsa Chica (until around noon) we will go to Newport Back Bay or the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to eat our lunch and finish the day. To reach Bolsa Chica, take the 91 freeway south to the 55 (Newport freeway). Continue on the 55 to the 405 and go north towards Long Beach. Exit at Beach Blvd. (south) and continue to Pacific Coast Highway. Turn right and head north on PCH, past Huntington Beach. We will meet in the parking lot of the

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... 

Ecological Preserve (Bolsa Chica) on the inland side of Pacific Coast Hwy at the signal between Seagate and Warner. Please bring a lunch if you intend to stay for the day. Also bring binoculars, bird book and a scope if you have one. It can get cold along the coast in winter so dress in layers.

Saturday, March 14, 2009 - 8:30 am
Torres-Martinez Ponds/Salton Sea
Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417

We will meet at 8:30 at the west gate to the Whitewater River delta. Come down Highway 86S from Indio, turn left at the Arco Station where the sign says Mecca/Hwy111. Take the first right after the Arco Station, which is Lincoln Avenue, just before you get to Mecca/Hwy111. Follow Lincoln to where it ends. Cross the Whitewater River and turn left into the Torres-Martinez Reservation, immediately after the levee. Park along the right side of the road in front of the gate. The Torres-Martinez Ponds are on the west side of the Whitewater Delta. They were recently created by the Torres-Martinez Tribe, and have been generally off-limits to the public. Now that the riparian vegetation is growing and the birds have discovered the ponds, the tribe has generously agreed to allow a SBVAS field trip. Expect to see many of the usual duck and grebe species, a smattering of shorebirds, hopefully a Peregrine or Merlin, and nesting Great Blue Herons. The stroll around the ponds should take about two hours. Energetic birders can then take the half mile hike out to the Whitewater delta, for hordes of gulls and pelicans as well as shorebirds molting into breeding plumage. This is a great chance to visit what is becoming a great birding location at the north end of the Salton Sea. Bring sunscreen, hats and water.

Beginning Bird Walk—Rubidoux Nature Center
April 5, 2009 8:00-10:00A.M.

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin
Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613

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 binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome and student lists will be signed.

The nature center is located at 5370 Riverview Drive in Rubidoux. From Highway 60, 2.7 miles west of the junction of Interstate 215 and Highway 60, exit at Rubidoux Blvd and go south to Mission Blvd and turn right. Turn left onto Riverview Drive (Limonite Avenue) and drive a half mile and turn left again onto Riverview Drive. The nature center will be on the left approximately 1.2 miles. If the gate is locked, please park outside and walk into the Nature Center. Be sure to pull well off the pavement. Please contact Cathy Tobin for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.



Saturday-Sunday, April 11-12, 2009
Owens Valley and Lake Crowley
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

Participants should meet on Saturday at 8:00 am at Lone Pine Park. The park is at the north end of Lone Pine, next to Carl's Jrs. (approximately 4 hours from San Bernardino). From there we will caravan to Big Pine Creek to look for American Dipper, Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Goshawk, and Sooty Grouse (of course). Along the way, we hope to see nesting Osprey, tule elk, and Black-billed Magpie. On Sunday, we plan to regroup at 5:30 am at the corner of Whitmore Hot Springs Road and Highway 395, just south of the Convict Lake turnoff and about 30 miles north of Bishop. Look for the little church at this corner as a landmark. From this point, we will caravan to the Greater Sage-grouse strutting grounds, in order to arrive before break of day. The grouse are active just a short time after dawn. After viewing the sage grouse, our next stop will be Mammoth Village for warm-up and breakfast. The remainder of the day will be spent birding different areas on the way home, looking for Sage Thrasher, Bald Eagle, Tundra Swan, Gray-crowned Rosy-finch, or a Common Loon in breeding plumage. The sage-grouse do their strutting and dancing in cleared areas of the sagebrush (called leks) at this time, regardless of weather. There is a possibility of snow, so it might be wise to consider making a reservation (well in advance) at a

Sunday, April 26, 2009 - 7:30 am
Mojave Narrows
Steve Myers (760) 843-4009

Our (nearly) annual trip to Mojave Narrows Regional Park will take place on April 26. We will meet at Pelican Lake at 7:30 a.m. From San Bernardino, go north on Interstate 215 toward Barstow. Continue over Cajon Pass to the Victorville area. Take the Bear Valley Road exit, and turn right (east). Go approximately 4 miles and turn left on Ridgecrest (watch for County Regional Park sign). After entering the Park (there is an entrance fee), turn right on a dirt road just past the horse stables, and follow this road to Pelican Lake.

Be prepared for an entire day of walking: bring sturdy shoes or boots (trails can be muddy), water, lunch, and snacks. There is a snack bar (with bare minimums) at the Park. Because we hike a rather long loop trail in the morning, we typically eat lunch fairly late (1:30- 2:00), so it's best to come prepared with snacks. The last few hours before sunset we will likely visit other birding spots in the Victor Valley, including Jess Ranch, Spring Valley Lake, and the pond at Victor Valley College. For more information call Steve at (951) 634-9767 (days), or (760) 843-4009 (evenings). Migration should be in full swing and we expect to see a lot of warblers, flycatchers (including Vermilion), tanagers (including Summer) and a variety of desert and riparian species. Come for the morning or stay all day. See you there!

Calendar for Field Trips for 2008/2009

- March 1:** Beginning Bird Walk, Hidden Valley—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin
- March 7:** Bolsa Chica—Dori Myers
- March 14:** Torres-Martinez Ponds/Salton Sea—Dave Goodward
- April 5:** Beginning Bird Walk, Rubidoux Nature Center—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin
- April 11 and 12:** Grouse Trip—Gene Cardiff
- April 26:** Mojave Narrows—Steve Myers
- May 2:** Big Morongo—Chet McGaugh
- May 3:** Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—Doug Karalun
- May 3:** Box Springs—John Green
- May 9:** White Water Canyon—Steve Myers
- May 16:** Baby Birds at Bear Paw—Cin Grayraven
- June 6:** Wrightwood—Gene Cardiff
- July 11:** Greenhorns—Steve Myers (this date is tentative)
- August 22:** Insane Jaunt/Salton Sea—John Green

(California, cont.)

Not only do these results show the potential benefits of aggressive action to mitigate the effects of climate change, but they also should prompt policymakers and land managers to better plan investments in habitat conservation.

“With all of these ranges shifting, providing a hospitable environment for these birds becomes a important consideration,” said Graham Chisholm, director of conservation for Audubon California. “This is going to be invaluable information for any land manager – public, private or non-profit – looking to unlock any habitat’s greatest conservation value.”

The authors note that California can promote climate change mitigation through State Assembly Bill 32 (AB32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act. They specifically note strategies such as a market-based program such as cap-and-trade, or more traditional solutions such as reducing our oil consumption and clean energy.

“We also need to find ways to help birds adapt to changes in the climate that are already underway,” added Monahan. “We can do this by setting aside critical habitat for wildlife, improving water resources, building connectivity among habitat areas, and manage land ecosystems to take advantage of carbon sequestration.”

“Birds are showing us how the heavy hand of humanity is tipping the balance of nature and causing ecological disruption in ways we are just beginning to predict and comprehend,” said report co-author and Audubon Director of Bird Conservation, Greg Butcher, Ph.D. “Common sense dictates that we act now to curb the causes and impacts of global warming to the extent we can, and shape our policies to better cope with the disruptions we cannot avoid.”

Audubon is asking that members sign a petition demanding aggressive federal policy action. The petition can be found at www.birdsandclimate.org.

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 1,743



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...

Everyone is always welcome
Program Chair Dori Myers



Bearpaw Ranch

Bearpaw Ranch is SBVAS's 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 ahead for the security code. Access to the code may be had by calling—Bearpaw at (909) 794-0509. Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 923396

A Field Study of Birds: Spring

Birds during the spring migration and in their breeding territories. Emphasis on identification of breeding plumages in the field and museum. Field trips include Mystic Lake, Imperial Beach, Salton Sea, Imperial Valley, Morongo Valley, High Desert and San Jacinto Mountains. This course may be taken twice for credit toward the Specialized Study Program in Field Ornithology. Visitors not permitted.

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

Date/Time: 7:30—9:30p.m., Apr. 14; Field trips all day Sat. Apr. 18, 25; May 2, 16, and June 6 (6 meetings)

Location: San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands

Test: "Field]Guide to the Birds of North America, 5th Edition," ISBN: 9780792253143

Fee: \$219/\$199 each for couples and family members/\$185 each with PINE discount

Reg #: 084-SCF-F23

National Audubon Society (NAS):

NAS Introductory Membership* \$20

NAS Gift Membership \$20.

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