

General Meeting March 20, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

50 Years of River Protection Presented by Steve Evans, Wild Rivers Director for CalWild

Last year marked the 50thanniversary of the passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the landmark law that has protected nearly 2,000 miles of rivers and streams in California. Steve Evans, the Wild Rivers Director for the California Wilderness Coalition, has spent dec-



ades working to protect the state's waterways.

and how they protect free flowing streams and endangered fish and wildlife throughout the state. and entertain, this presentation will leave you He will also explore the opportunities in 2019 for with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, river protection in Congress for streams in the and knowledge about where some of our back-San Bernardino County region, despite the anti- yard birds spend their winters!



Steve Evans

environmental policies of the Trump Administration.

In addition, Evans will explain how streams and rivers are evaluated for possible protection through the federal land and resource planning process. His presentation includes more than 30 high quality pictures of existing and pro-posed wild and scenic rivers throughout California. Born and raised in southern California, Evans has lived in northern California for more than 40 years and

was the former General Manager of the Butte Environmental Council in Chico (1984-88) and the Come out for what promise to be terrific proformer Conservation Director of Friends of the grams. Our doors at the San Bernardino County River in Sacramento (1988-2011).

General Meeting April 17, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Feathers and Flight: A Journey to the **New World Tropics** Presented by Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Our speaker this month, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, is a bird guide, naturalist and photographer and he will share his dazzling bird photos, captivating videos, and animated story-telling with us and bring a slice of the tropics to California.



Touching on topics of migration, speciation, and He will present a historical overview of both the bio-diversity, this media rich journey will share state and federal wild and scenic rivers systems some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics. Sure to both educate



Museum open at 7 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is always welcome!

March April 2019 Field Trips

Saturday, March 9, 8:00 am **Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast** Dori Myers (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) visitors mixed with early arrival breeders 336-1420 (m)

of birding in the wetland areas of Orange species during the field trip, with rarities al-County. Expect to see a large variety of win- ways a possibility. Most areas can be actering birds including ducks, shorebirds, cessed by vehicle, but be prepared to walk grebes, herons, egrets, terns, cormorants, up to a mile in search of the best birding loetc. We ought to find gulls and raptors and cations. some song birds. With any luck we will see Meet at 8 am at the Alamos Schoolhouse Na-50 or more species just in the morning. After ture Center just inside the park birding Bolsa Chica (until around noon) we trance. There is a \$6 per person fee to acwill go to Newport Back Bay or the San cess the park. Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to eat our lunch and finish the day.

We will meet at the PCH parking lot of Bolsa Canyon Chica at 8:00 am (map). To reach Bolsa Chi- Matt Grube (909) 253-3867 ca, take the 91 freeway south to the 55 (Newport freeway). Continue on the 55 to Our goal will be to teach you enough basic the 405 and go north towards Long Beach. birding techniques and identification skills so Exit at Beach Blvd. (south) and continue to that you will feel Pacific Coast Highway. Turn right and head comfortable birding on your own or joining north on PCH, past Huntington Beach. We our longer birding trips throughout the year. will meet in the parking lot of the Ecological We will meet at the dirt lot along San Timo-Preserve (Bolsa Chica) on the inland side of teo Canyon Rd just south of Fern Ave at 8 Pacific Coast Hwy at the signal between am. The walk is free, and all are invited to Seagate and Warner. Please bring a lunch if join. Expect to walk 2-3 miles on level dirt you intend to stay for the day. Also bring bin- paths as we look for spring migrants and oculars, bird book and a scope if you have summer one. It can get cold along the coast in winter nesting birds. Please contact Matt Grube by so dress in layers.

Saturday March 23, 8:00 am Lake Skinner County Park Field Trip Charity Hagen

Lake Skinner County Park is an oasis for birds. In the many wild and manicured areas Metcalf (951) 242-7038 of the park, birders can expect to see a wide range of birds. The park contains oak woodlands, Riversidian sage scrub, riparian areas, exotic trees and shrubs, and a reser-This combination of habitats has atvoir. tracted well over 200 species to the park. The reservoir is an important wintering ground for species such as Common Goldeneye, Common Loon, Bald Eagle, and multiple other duck and grebe species. In the riparian areas and manicured trees of the park, many wintering passerine species can be found, with such notable birds as sapsuckers, thrushes, multiple sparrow species, and the occasional wintering eastern warbler. On this Continued on p. 3

field trip we will scour the many different habitats and multiple shoreline access points to find as many of these birds as possible. In early spring expect to see lingering winter such as orioles, along with year round residents such as Acorn Woodpecker and Califor-Please join us for what should be a great day nia Gnatcatcher. Expect to see from 50-70

en-

Sunday, April 7, 8:00-10:00 am Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo

email at mattgrube@gmail.com for guestions.

Saturday, April 20, 7:00 am Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 and Tony

Tony Metcalf and Chet McGaugh will be leading back-to-back San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society field trips on the weekend of April 20-21 to the north end of the Salton Sea (Saturday) and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Sunday). As we both are big fans of the shorebirds, and the date is excellent for a good migration experience, we intend to spend most of the weekend searching mudflats. marshes, slop ponds, wet fields, barnacle beaches, and open sea and sky. It is our hope

that we can provide some knowledge about this **Upcoming 2019 Field Trips** fascinating bunch of birds, stimulate appreciation and interest in them, and mitigate some of Sunday, March 3, 2019 8-10 am the phobias. And have fun. As usual, the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society field trips Dave Goodward (909) 783-2417 are open to all. We will meet at 7:00 am on Saturday at the "Big Arco" on the corner of 66th Saturday, March 9, 2019 - 8:00 am Avenue and the 86S Expressway in Mec-The study of shorebirds is greatly enca. hanced by the use of spotting scopes so we hope there will be plenty besides our own. Sunday, April 7, 2019 - 8:00-10:00 am Though not necessary, we suggest having rubber boots for those hard to get to spots, particularly at the Salton Sea (short wades, slogging Saturday, April 20, 2019 - 7:00 am through deep mud, barnacles). Bring lunch and Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea snacks and drinks. Weather is likely to be excellent, and there will be many birds to see besides the waders.

Sunday, April 21, 7:00 am San Jacinto Wildlife Area Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699

Tony Metcalf and Chet McGaugh will be leading back-to-back San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society field trips on the weekend of April 20-21 to the north end of the Salton Sea (Saturday) and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area Sunday, May 5, 2019 - 8-10 am (Sunday). As we both are big fans of the shorebirds, and the date is excellent for a good migration experience, we intend to spend most of the weekend searching mudflats, marshes, slop Saturday, May 11, 2019 7am ponds, wet fields, barnacle beaches, and open sea and sky. It is our hope that we can provide some knowledge about this fascinating bunch of birds, stimulate appreciation and interest in Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch them, and mitigate some of the phobias. And Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509 have fun. We will meet at 7:00 am at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters on Davis Road, a few miles north of Lakeview and the Ramona Expressway. The study of shorebirds is greatly enhanced by the use of spotting scopes so we hope there will be plenty besides our own. Though not necessary, we suggest having rubber boots for those hard to get to Saturday, June 15, 2019 - 7:30 am spots, particularly at the Salton Sea (short Wrightwood & Blue Ridge wades, slogging through deep mud, barnacles). Bring lunch and snacks and drinks. Weather is likely to be excellent, and there will be many Greenhorn Mountains birds to see besides the waders.

Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount Park, Riverside

Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast Dori Myers (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) 336 -1420 (m)

Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo Canyon Matt Grube (909) 253-3867

Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 and Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038

Sunday, April 21, 2019- 7:00 am San Jacinto Wildlife Area Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699

Saturday, April 27, 2019 - 7:00 am **Big Morongo Preserve** Matt Grube (909) 253-3867

Saturday, May 4, 2019 - 8:00 am Whitewater Canyon Steve Myers (951) 616-7578

Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Rancho, Oak Glen Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211

Palisades Ranch-Helendale Field Trip Steve Myers (951) 616-7578 and Bill Deppe

Saturday, May 12, 2019 - 9:00 am

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

Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

Friday-Sunday, June 28-30, 2019 Steve Myers (951) 616-7578

Local Sightings: Winter 2018-19 by Tom Benson

This issue of local sightings covers most of the winter season, from mid December 2018 to mid February 2019, including the Christmas Bird Counts, which turned up a number of good birds.



Tom Benson

The highlight of the season for San Bernardino County was the first record of BLACK-HEADED GULL at the Agua Mansa sewage ponds in Colton on Dec 23. It was found on the San Bernardino Valley CBC with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, but unfortunately was a one-day wonder. The sewage ponds also hosted three MEW GULLS, an immature on Dec 23 and up to two adults Jan 12-Feb 15. Elsewhere on the coastal slope, notable birds included a LADDER-BACKED WOODPECKER at CSU San Bernardino Dec 14, a VERDIN in Loma Linda Dec 24, and a WILLIAMSON'S SAP-SUCKER at Glen Hel-

en Regional Park Jan 30. With only nine records for the coun-

ty, a wintering RED-NECKED GREBE at Papoose Lake Dec 20-Jan 31 was a welcome surprise in the mountains. Morongo Valley hosted two good wintering birds: an OVENBIRD Jan 3-6 was likely one of two continuing from the fall, and a male BALTI-MORE ORIOLE Dec 15-Jan 19 was apparently returning for its third winter. Finally, Lake Havasu got a number of good birds this winter, including a BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE Dec 21-Jan 20 (with a second individual present Jan 5-12), a MEW GULL Jan 19, a PACIFIC LOON Dec 31-Jan 5, and a RED-THROATED LOON Red-necked Grebe



Jan 5. Just down the road, a BLACK SCOTER spent the winter Tom Benson below Parker Dam Nov 4-Jan 26.

We move on to Riverside County, where the highlight was a LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH at California Citrus State Historic Park Dec 16-Jan 13, that was found on the Santa Ana River Valley CBC. This is actually the third record for the county, but the first two were in 1908 and 1960, so this was the first in most current birders' lifetimes. Other notable passerines on the coastal slope included a BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER at Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Dec 14-15, and two VERDIN along Gilman Springs Road and a CASSIN's VIREO at Morongo Golf Club on Dec 18. Single LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULLS away from expected areas of occurrence were at Lake Elsinore Dec 29 and Ryan Bonaminio Park Feb 6. A WESTERN GULL at Lake Perris Dec 1-Jan 5 was likely the same as one at San Jacinto Wildlife Area Feb 12. Lake Perris also hosted a wintering BROWN PELICAN through Jan 21, and up to four PACIFIC LOONS Nov 13-Feb 11. A RED-THROATED LOON was at Lake Matthews Dec 16, and a

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT, still quite rare on the coastal slope, was at UC Riverside Jan 30. As expected, the north end of the Salton Sea was a productive region this winter. A returning BLACK-HEADED GULL was at North Shore Jan 3 and then at Oasis Feb 13-20. The fish farm at Oasis also provided a GLAUCOUS GULL Dec 29 and a very unseasonal VAUX'S SWIFT Feb 13. Elsewhere around the north end of the Salton Sea were a RUFF Dec 25-26, a REDDISH EGRET Dec 29, a LAUGHING GULL Feb 16, and two LONG-TAILED DUCKS Feb 17. Moving east to the Colorado River, up to five RUDDY GROUND-DOVES, rare anywhere in southern California, were at Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Dec 15-Jan 19. Other notable birds at this location included two BELL'S VIREOS Dec 15, a CASSIN'S VIREO Dec 24-29, and a ZONE-TAILED HAWK Dec 29.



Tom Benson

Good birds in Imperial County found on the Salton Sea (south) CBC on Dec 18 included a BARROW'S GOLDENEYE at the Alamo River mouth, a SOLITARY SANDPIPER at Wister, a FOX SPARROW at Brandt and Bowles Roads, and a HARRIS'S SPARROW near Wiley Reservoir that continued through Feb 18. Notable gulls included a MEW GULL at Young Reservoir Dec 12-18 and a LAUGHING GULL at Finney Lake on Jan 27. A RUFF was wintering at Unit 1 of the Salton Sea NWR through Feb 17, and a PLUM-BEOUS VIREO was at Evergreen Cemetery Feb 3-18.

March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6 SBVAS Board Meeting, 7 pm	7	8	9 Bolsa Chica Field Trip 8 a.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	21	22	23 Lake Skinner Field Trip 8 a.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	4	5	6
7 BBW San Timoteo Canyon 8 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20 North End Salton Sea Shorebird Field Trip 7 a.m.
21 San Jacinto Wild- life Area Shorebird Field Trip 7 a.m.	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.

5

Field Trip Checklist

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots,hat, sunscreen, insect repellant, 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... 1



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 Secretary: Nancy Higbee	(951) 687-9486 (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					

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 92339ó

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 <u>http://coachellavalleypreserve.org/</u> 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 <u>https://www.desertmountains.org/</u> 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 <u>sunnylands.org</u>

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) <u>http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=639</u> 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 <u>http://coachellavalleywildbirdcenter.org/</u> Free Bird Walk; first Saturday of the month, 8:00AM, October- May.

•Living Desert <u>www.livingdesert.org</u>

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. (<u>https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/San-Jacinto-WA</u> and/or <u>http://www.northfriends.org/sjwa.html</u>)

•Inland County Birds (<u>https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/inlandcountybirds/info</u>) 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 (<u>http://www.indian-canyons.com/palm.html</u>) 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.

Swainson's Hawk Watch Borrego Springs (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 for evenina blog at sian up posts raptorhal3@gmail.com . Borrego Springs is about an hour-and-a-half from the Coachella Valley.

•Mount San Jacinto State Park (<u>http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=636</u>) Located near the top of Mt. San Jacinto, this park is accessed by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (<u>https://www.pstramway.com/</u>); heavy fee. There are many miles of hiking trails in the subalpine forests and fern-bordered mountain meadows.

•Oak Glen Preserve (<u>http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/</u> 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 Or- ange Tree Lane, Redlands Board Meetings are the <u>1st Tues-</u> day General meetings are the <u>3rd</u> 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 Univ Membership Application	Membership ApplicationTNational Audubon Society (NAS)
<u>City</u> <u>State</u> <u>Zip</u> SBVAS Membership @ \$20 a/year (includes subscription to <i>The Western Meadowlark)</i>	NAS Gift/New/Regular/Renewal Membership \$20 (includes 1 year of <i>Audubon</i> magazine) Name Address
Email Address <u>*</u> Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS *We do not share your name, address or email address.	City State Zip Please make check payable to National Audubon Society SBVAS Chapter C11
Please clip and mail all members	hips to: SBVAS Membership Chair P.O. Box 10973

San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973