



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 62— Number 4
May-June 2012

Adventures in Bird Conservation with the national Audubon Society

Glenn Olson

Wednesday May 16, 2012 7:30 p.m.

This program will focus on some of the great conservation victories we have had in California, in North America, and hemispherically in our efforts to conserve birds and the essential habitats needed to sustain them. This includes the efforts to save the Tejon Ranch and the California Condor, the wetlands of the Pacific Flyway and the globally significant Important Bird Areas in the Western Hemisphere with Audubon's global partner, Birdlife International. There will also be a focus on legislative matters in front of this Congress—the Treaty to Conserve Albatross and Petrels that must be ratified by the US Senate, the reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and the extension of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Glenn Olson is the Donald C. O'Brien Chair in Bird Conservation and Public Policy of the National Audubon Society. His main goal in that position is catalyzing big vision bird conservation at the Flyway and landscape level. He also serves on the American Wetlands Conservation Act Council and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Committee, both appointments made by US Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar. Glenn Olson was a found-



ing member and chairman of the Central Valley Joint Venture which was formed to address the loss of wetlands across the North American continent in 1988. He has also served as Executive Director of Audubon Ca and as Audubon's National Field Director.

Glenn Olson holds a master's degree in public health from UCLA and a bachelor of science degree in zoology from UC Santa Barbara. He studied in the Galapagos Islands and inventoried Golden Eagle populations in Southern California.

June Potluck Dinner Annual Meeting, Installation of Officers & Nature Photography Program

Wednesday, June 20, 2012 6:30 p.m.

Help celebrate the end of our chapter year, the beginning of summer and the joy of nature at our June potluck dinner. We will begin our evening of camaraderie at **6:30p.m., an hour earlier than usual** at the San Bernardino County Museum. The potluck will be held in the Fisk Auditorium. SBVAS will supply a turkey and a ham as well as beverages. Please bring a dish to share—either a salad, vegetable, casserole, or dessert. If possible, plan to share with twelve or more. Please remember to bring your own table service. We will be hosting another silent auction, so bring your bird and nature related books and items you would like to donate for sale. Officers will be installed. This usually takes only a few minutes. Then our members will provide the program by bringing 10-15 of their favorite nature slides to share. This is a great annual event and is fun for everyone. *Come enjoy good friends, food and what is certain to be a terrific evening.*

Thank You In Memoriam

San Bernardino Valley Audubon wishes to thank Barbara Carlson and Paul Lehman for their generous contribution in memory of Michelle Matson.

Michelle was a birder in the San Diego area. Two and a half years ago, Michelle found out she had lung cancer, and yet, even with bad news, her email updates were still full of humor and optimism. Someone asked how she did it. She wrote, "Each morning when I wake up, I can choose to be happy or sad. I choose happy."

She loved people, being in the center of things, and birding. She loved causes and would hope that this gift will help with the causes of the local Audubon.

BILLIONS OF BIRDS WINGING THEIR WAY NORTH

Audubon Offers Tips on How You Can Help Birds

Each spring from March to June, birds of every kind—songbirds, raptors, and shorebirds—fly from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in places as far north as the Arctic. Along the way they encounter many perils including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns.

(Continued on page 4 Billions)

By Brad Singer

Welcome to the second in the series of photo quizzes, a column used to better your identification skills, and ultimately, a way in which to become more accustomed to perusing our wonderful online newsletter at <http://www.sbvas.org/meadowlark.htm>. If you would like to participate in our quiz, email your answers to sbvasbird.id@gmail.com. Please include your name, home city, and the common name of the bird as it appears in the ABA checklist. To further encourage participation, answer correctly the next five quizzes, and you will receive a free copy of the new (sixth edition) National Geographic Field Guide to Birds of North America.



The May/June mystery photo involves two species. Both photos were taken in Arizona in April.

March/April photo quiz answer:

Identifying gulls can be a frustrating experience. Even most gull experts throw their hands up at times and say I don't know! However, this individual seems rather straightforward. Two things are obvious. First it's a member of the large white-headed gull family, and second, it's a first-winter bird based on its brownish/cream plumage. If we look at its bill, we see that it is completely black and of smaller size. Its crown is fairly rounded, and its iris dark. Its short legs are a nice bright pink and the primaries a dark coffee brown that are edged with white crescents. The primaries extend a good distance past its tail, implying long elongated wingtips. We can eliminate California Gull in that they show either yellow or gray legs, but never pink in any plumage. Western Gull is much darker overall and has a larger bill. Glaucous-winged gulls are larger and stockier (heavy-bodied) with long, thick, powerful bills. They also have wing tips that are never darker than their tertials. First-winter Glaucous Gulls are similar in profile to Glaucous-winged and have a bicolored bill. That leaves us with Herring Gull or Thayer's Gull. Herring Gull has a large bill with a fairly flat crown. Its primaries tend to be blackish and show much less white on its edges. The primaries also tend to be shorter, about the same length or slightly longer than its tail. By January, many Herring Gulls bills start to become pale at the base. I took this picture of the **THAYER'S GULL** at a small lagoon in Oceano, near the town of San Luis Obispo. Thayer's Gulls were originally part of the Iceland Gull complex and were determined to be a separate species about 40 years ago. Much of the scientific data used to separate the species has been highly disputed, and many experts believe that the two may be lumped together again in the near future.

You might be a birder if

watching movies you notice those Wood Thrushes singing in the middle of the night in Africa.

if your neck hurts except when you're looking up.

if you know the real name for shopping center pigeons.

you look forward to hard northern winters so you can get frostbitten while looking for northern owls.

By Bruce Bowman, Ann Arbor Michigan

Bird of the Month: Ladder-backed Woodpecker

By Steve Myers

Three species of woodpeckers are associated with the desert habitats of the American Southwest: Gilded Flicker (*Colaptes chrysoides*), Gila Woodpecker (*Melanerpes uropygialis*), and the Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*). Of these, the Ladder-backed is the only one that occurs in the southern California's western deserts (Mojave and Colorado deserts). Ladder-backed Woodpeckers occur throughout much of the arid southwestern United States, and south as far as Nicaragua.

In the Mojave Desert, Ladder-backs are most often encountered in areas with Joshua Trees (*Yucca brevifolia*), which are used for nesting. In the Colorado Desert, they are often seen in microphyll woodland habitats that contain Palo Verde (*Parkinsonia florida*) and mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.).

Trees such as mesquite, Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), or willows (*Salix* spp.) can be used for nesting, and even wooden power poles if trees are lacking. Smaller yucca species, such as Mojave Yucca (*Yucca schidigera*) can also contain nest cavities. Cavities are located between 4 and 20 feet above the ground. Clutches are usually 3 or 4 eggs. Both sexes share the duties of incubation and feeding of the young. Insects are far and away the most common items in their diets, although fruits (including cactus fruits) are also eaten. Males tend to peck and probe into bark more than females, who often glean insects from bark surfaces.

In addition to the Mojave and Colorado deserts, Ladder-backed Woodpeckers also occur at a few locales that are more associated with "coastal" habitats. Lower Mill Creek and the Santa Ana River, near Mentone, is one of these locations. Another interesting locality is in eastern San Diego County, such as in McCain Valley, where the habitat is primarily dense scrub oak chaparral habitat.

The Ladder-backed Woodpecker can be confused with the Nuttall's Woodpecker, which is quite common in the riparian forests and woodlands at desert locales such as Morongo Valley and along the Mojave River. Ladder-backs occasionally nest in the cottonwood-willow habitats. Both species

have the distinctive black and white "ladder" barring on their backs, but the Ladder-backed's white and black bars are roughly the same thickness, whereas in the Nuttall's the black bars are much thicker than the white ones. The Nuttall's also has a wide black area on and just below its nape, outer tail feathers sparsely spotted rather than barred, and whitish underparts. Ladder-backs have even black barring on the outer tail feathers and light buffy underparts. Ladder-backs also have sharper call notes than Nuttall's. The two species are known to occasionally hybridize, and Morongo Valley and Victorville are among the localities from which hybrids have been observed.

I always marvel at desert species such as the Ladder-backed Woodpecker, who manage to survive in what can be a very harsh environment.

Want to learn more? Here is some further reading:

Backhouse, F. 2005. Woodpeckers of North America. Flyfly Books, Buffalo, N.Y.

Lowther, Peter E. 2001. Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*), The Birds of North America Online (A. Poole, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America Online: [http://](http://bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/)

bna.birds.cornell.edu.bnaproxy.birds.cornell.edu/



Making Your Own Suet

Many people have asked about a good homemade suet recipe for those ravenous spring visitors to your yard. The following is a recipe from Mary Jo Ballester who runs Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast in Hereford, Arizona. It makes a good amount of suet and stores for a long time in the refrigerator. It can also handle the warmer weather—to a degree—without melting.

Mary Jo's Suet Recipe

Melt on low heat, and stir to blend:

- 2 cups chunky peanut butter
- 2 cups lard

When fat is melted, turn off heat. Add dry ingredients one at a time, mixing well after each addition:

- 2 cups flour
- 4 cups corn meal
- 4 cups "Quick" oatmeal (not "Old Fashioned")

Blend all ingredients thoroughly. Press mixture into a 9 x 13 inch pan. Cool and cut into squares. Or, press into empty plastic commercial suet containers. Chill. Store in freezer or refrigerator. Remove from containers as needed and place in suet baskets.

Feed Your Yard Birds and Help SBVAS

Wild birdseed will be sold at all general meetings of SBVAS as a regular fundraiser for the organization. The seed is a good blend for the area and will be available in 25 pound bags for \$20.

To get your seed and help SBVAS maintain a regular monthly fundraiser, please pay at the sales table and get a receipt. Then see Kirk Stitt in the parking lot to load your seed.

You can also preorder seed by phoning Kirk at (909) 886-5513. Leave a message about the type of seed you want (thistle, black-oil sunflower, or general purpose mix) and your seed will be ready for pickup at the next general meeting



You might be a birder if...

your spouse thinks DEEP WOODS OFF is your cologne.

you don't think of elections when you hear the word primaries.

you have trouble following movies, because whenever they have a scene with birdsong in the background, you try to ID all the songs and then lose track of the plot.

your idea of a day off is a visit to either the local marsh or sewage ponds.

you listen to tapes or CDs of bird songs and calls every night to help you relax at night, so you can sleep.

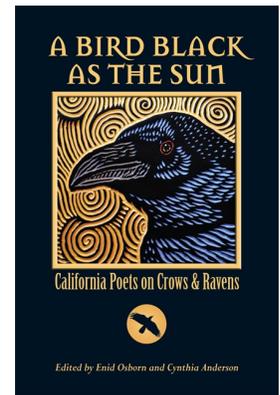
By Cody Burkett, Phoenix, Az.

(*Billions, cont.*) Fortunately, people can help ensure a safer journey for migrating birds. Backyards and parks, often key stopover points for many species, can become bird-friendly rest stops with a few simple steps. Audubon urges people to take the following actions this spring:

1. Reduce or eliminate pesticide and herbicide use.
2. Plant native plants. Natives provide birds with food in the form of fruit and seed and are also home to tasty invertebrates.
3. Keep cats inside.
4. Make your windows visible to birds to prevent collisions. Put up screen, close drapes and blinds when you leave, or stick multiple decals on the glass.
5. Let your yard get messy!
6. Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using.
7. Create or protect water sources in your yard.
8. Use lots of layers—understory, ground cover, shrubs, and trees.
9. Help Audubon create healthy habitat in your community.
10. Take the Audubon At Home Healthy Yard Pledge. When you do, you commit to conserving water, planting native species, removing invasive plants, reducing pesticide use, protecting water quality and keeping birds safe in your yard.

**An Evening of Poetry
at the Red Arrow Gallery
61597 29 Palms Hwy.,
Joshua Tree**

**Saturday May 5, 7 pm
Featuring Poets from a New Anthology:
A Bird Black As the Sun:
California Poets on Crows &
Ravens**



**Readers will include Jim Natal, Jeanette Clough,
Ruth Nolan,
Noreen Lawlor, Halie Rosenberg, Enid Osborn,
and Cynthia Anderson**

**Book Sale and Signing • Refreshments • Open Mic—
Come read your own crow
and raven poems! • Crow and raven-inspired attire en-
couraged!**

\$3 Donation to Transmission Joshua Tree Appreciated

On Saturday, May 5, at 7p.m., the Red Arrow Gallery in Joshua Tree will present a half dozen poets reading from a new anthology. Anthology co-editors Enid Osborn and Cynthia Anderson will host the event. The anthology features 80 of the golden State's finest poets holding forth on the theme of crows and ravens, offering passionate, vivid, and sometimes humorous views of these common yet mysterious birds, called "black as the sun" by Gary Snyder.

A Bird Black as the Sun invites poetry lovers, bird lovers, and readers everywhere to enjoy a lively and unprecedented exploration of these fascinating birds and their quirky relationships to human society. The anthology is available online at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com.



Local Sightings

By Brad Singer

March and early April saw mild temperatures and mostly clear skies, with birding on the slow side. Once again **Riverside County** had the majority of sightings. The highlight was a second only record of a Red-necked Grebe in the Salton Sink area, found at North Shore by Chet McGaugh. Chet also found another Red-necked Grebe at Lake Perris a week earlier. Continuing birds in the San Jacinto Valley were the Rough-legged Hawks through March 4, the Gyrfalcon through March 9, and the Short-eared Owls, Eastern Phoebe, and Swamp Sparrow through March 10. A Sandhill Crane was seen in the area March 4. Horned Grebes were more than plentiful this season with at least 20 being observed at Lake Perris and another 8 at the north end of the Salton Sea. Also at the sea were high counts of Red-breasted Mergansers, mostly males. The wintering Rusty Blackbird at the Coachella Valley Preserve was last seen toward the end of February along with a Townsend’s Solitaire. A very early Indigo Bunting was seen at Whitewater Canyon Reserve at the end of March. The west end of Riverside County yielded a pair of Solitary Sandpipers, one in the Prado Basin and the other at Lake Elsinore. Finally, a pair of Gilded Flickers were seen in Blythe at the end of March.

San Bernardino County’s highlights included two raptor sightings. First, a nesting pair of Bald Eagles was discovered on February 21 at the west end of Big Bear Lake with an eaglet in the nest. Second, a Common Black Hawk, second county record, was observed as a flyover along the Colorado River just south of Parker Dam. The west end of the county produced a continuing (?) Spotted Dove on Haven Avenue near Chino, and continuing Tropical Kingbird at Prado Regional Park. A one-day wonder Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was also seen at the park in late March along with Grasshopper Sparrows and a Purple Finch.

The winter has seen some exceptional sightings of northern species, no doubt fueled by lack of food in the extremely harsh conditions of the northern latitudes. Common Redpoll, Red-necked Grebes, and the mega-rare Gyrfalcon are just a few of the species that headed far south. Rough-legged Hawks and Short-eared Owls, far less common in recent years, were nice to see this winter. Hopefully the year will continue with some more excellent sightings. Now, if we can just get a snowy owl to pop down.....

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 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 any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to

SBVAS Officers 2011/2012
www.sbvass.org &
www.inlandplanet.org

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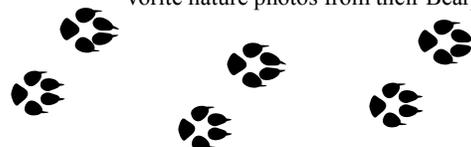
CALENDAR

Board Meetings: May 2, 2012 and June 6, 2012
General Meetings: May 16, 2012 and June 20, 2012
 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.

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 923396



Bearpaw Sanctuary is now on Facebook. 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.



Saturday, May 5, 2012 - 7:00 am**Big Morongo****Chet McGaugh** (951) 781-3699**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

The first week in May is about the best time for observing migrant land birds in Southern California and Big Morongo is one of the best places for it. In addition to migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers, we expect to see the breeding specialties including Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Blue Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole and Hooded Oriole.

Join us for a morning birdwalk on the trails and roads of the preserve and surrounding areas. We will meet at the preserve parking lot at 7:00 a.m.. To get there, take I-10 to Highway 62, go north ten miles to Morongo Valley, then turn right on Park Avenue to Covington Park. Turn left at Covington Park, then do a quick right-left-right into the preserve. Weather is typically good this time of year. Bring water, snacks and lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Some of us will probably stay out all day. Who knows where the afternoon will lead us?

Sunday, May 6, 2012 - 8:00-10:00 am**Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount Park ([map](#))****Doug Karalun** (909) 425-5355**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

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 water and binoculars. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

To reach Fairmount Park from downtown Riverside take Market Street north to the signal at Fairmount Park and turn left, then turn immediately to the left towards the tennis courts then right into the parking lot. Follow the lot all the way to the end and park near the bandstand. Please contact Doug Karalun for further for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.

Sunday, May 6, 2012 - 8:00 am**Box Springs Mountain****John Green** (951) 686-2956**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

Our main target birds here will be Black-chinned, Rufous-crowned, and Bell's Sage Sparrows, which should be present and singing. We'll look for them and more while going on a figure eight loop hike through the fragmented chaparral and sage scrub and past several springs. A few of the other resident and/or breeding birds to be expected on the trip include Greater

Roadrunner, Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Wrentit, Rock and Canyon Wrens, California Thrasher, and Bullock's and Hooded Orioles. We will, of course, also be hoping for a nice crop of migrants including flycatchers, vireos, warblers, buntings, grosbeaks, and ??? Over 170 species of birds have been recorded in the Box Springs, but 40 species is a more realistic goal for this trip. We should also see some wildflowers and shrubs in bloom, and a variety of butterflies, reptiles, mammals, etc, as well. THIS INCLUDES RATTLESNAKES, which have been encountered on the trip in recent years. Other concerns include ticks, poison oak, and stinging nettle. None of these are abundant, and can be avoided with reasonable care. The walk is all on official trails, but some are narrow. The full hike is about 3.5 miles, with a couple of climbs, and a maximum elevation gain of about 650 feet. Those not wanting the full walk can break back to the parking lot at the end of the first loop of the figure eight (that first loop is about 1.25 miles and 450 elevation gain). Expect to arrive back at the parking lot by lunchtime.

We will meet at 8:00a.m. at the upper parking lot of Box Springs Mountain Reserve. From Highway 60 in Moreno Valley take the Pigeon Pass Road/Frederick Street exit. Take Pigeon Pass north and continue for about 4.2 miles. When Pigeon Pass makes a sharp turn to the right, you will continue straight on Box Springs Mountain Road for about 1.3 miles to the parking area. There is a \$2 per person parking fee box. We will do a lot of walking, so wear appropriate shoes and dress comfortably in layers. Some trails may be overgrown, long pants are advised. Carry water and snacks. There are picnic tables at the parking area, so bring a lunch if you'd like to eat after the hike. See you there!

Saturday, May 12, 2011 - 8:00 am**Whitewater Canyon****Steve Myers** (951) 634-9767**NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY**

Portions of Whitewater Canyon have long been more or less closed to public access, but the former trout farm is now the "Whitewater Canyon Preserve," managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. If you visited the trout farm in the past, you will not know the place now. Most of the facilities have been removed, and habitat restoration is under way. There are still a few ponds with trout, but riparian and desert scrub habitat should be teaming with birds on this trip. The canyon hosts nesting summer Tanagers and Brown-crested flycatchers, and migrants should be easy to find. In addition to the Preserve, we will visit Bonnie Bell, a small community in the canyon that contains excellent cottonwood and willow forest and woodland, somewhat reminiscent of Big Morongo.

Meet at the Whitewater Canyon Preserve at 8:00a.m. To reach the Preserve, go east on I-10, past the turn-off for Highway 111, and take the Whitewater exit. Turn left, pass over I-10, and watch for Whitewater Canyon Road on your left. The Preserve is at the end of Whitewater Canyon Road, approximately 5 miles north of I-10. Bring sturdy footwear, water, lunch, and the usual essentials.

Saturday, May 26, 2012 - 9:00 am

Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch

Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509

NORTH H.S. STUDENT CREDIT POLICY

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, June 9, 2012 - 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 a.m. 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 the 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).

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, 2012

San Bernardino Mountains

Brad Singer (909) 838-7951

The San Bernardino Mountains trip will meet at the U.S. Forest Service Station on Highway 38 and Bryant St. in Mentone on Saturday at 6:45a.m. We will make brief stops at Thurman Flats, Seven Oaks and Barton Flats in the morning. We will continue to Heart Bar and briefly bird around the campground area. Next, we'll head across the road up to Wildhorse Meadows and bird around the springs. From there we'll descend to Green Canyon and finish off the afternoon. Expected species are Red-breasted Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Purple Finch, Cassin's Finch, McGillivray's Warbler, 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 Whip-poor-wills and owls. Sunday we will meet outside the Starbuck's located in the Von's shopping center on Big Bear Blvd. and Sandalwood Drive at 6:30a.m. We will spend the morning at Arrastre Creek and environs. Besides the expected species that 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. That afternoon we'll bird around Big Bear Lake in search of any lingering shorebirds, terns, and raptors, and finish the trip up at beautiful Bluff Lake in search of Williamson's Sapsucker, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Warbler, and Red Crossbill.

For those wanting to spend both days in the mountains, I highly recommend booking a room in Big Bear Lake Saturday night and/or camping at one of the nearby campgrounds. If only one day works for you, please feel free to meet us at either morning location. Expect long days, bring plenty of water, lunch, and sturdy hiking shoes. A vehicle with high-clearance is recommended but not required. Please don't forget that you will need a National Forest Adventure Pass. For more information, contact Brad Singer at (909) 838-7951.

Calendar for Field Trips 2011 to 2012



May 5: Big Morongo—Chet McGaugh



May 6: Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—Doug Karalun



May 12: Whitewater—Steve Myers



May 6: Box Springs—John Green



May 26: Baby Birds at Bearpaw—Cin Greyraven



June 9: San Gabriel Mountains, Wrightwood—Gene Cardiff



June 16 and 17: San Bernardino Mountains—Brad Singer (cooperative trip with Pomona Valley Audubon)

July 14-15: Greenhorn Mountains—Steve Myers

August 18: Insane Jaunt—Tom Benson

Field Trip Checklist

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent..

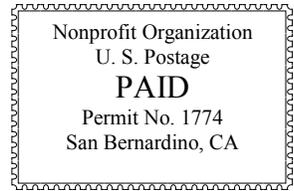
A good Road Map,

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... 🐦

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 Wed.
General meetings are the 3rd Wed.
SBVAS Membership currently at 2,000

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...



Chapter Only Membership Application
San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ SBVAS Membership @ \$24 a/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

____ I wish to receive the *Western Meadowlark* **only** electronically _____

Email Address _____

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS



Membership Application
National Audubon Society (NAS)

____ NAS New Member/ Gift Membership \$20 (renewal will be \$35, includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine, 1 year Chapter membership, 1 year subscription to *Western Meadowlark* if in SBVAS area)

____ NAS Regular/Renewal Membership \$35 (includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
C2ZC110Z

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

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