



# WESTERN MEADOWLARK



**Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:30 p.m.**

**From the Black Oystercatcher to Black Gold:  
Challenges and Opportunities in Alaska  
a program by Taldi Walter**

Alaska is the largest of our states, encompassing more than 600,000 sq. miles of rugged mountains, grinding glaciers, endless tundra, diverse temperate rainforest, and winding coast lines. From the Spectacled Eider and Yellow-billed Loon found in America's Arctic to the Black Oystercatcher and the Marbled Godwit found on the southern coastline, Alaska's birdlife diversity is astounding. Alaska also has an abundance of other iconic wildlife species including grizzlies, caribou, Bald Eagles, humpback whales and wolves, many of which are endangered elsewhere. The current administration and some members of congress have advocated vastly accelerating the extraction of oil, gas, and mineral deposits in this important ecological area. Audubon seeks a balance between resource extraction and protecting internationally critical habitat.

Taldi Walter joined the National Audubon Society's Washington DC Policy Office as the Alaska Field Coordinator, after the recent completion of her Masters degree in Biology. Taldi will present an informative slideshow showcasing some of the important natural areas and brilliant birds found in wild Alaska. The presentation will explore some of Alaska's natural treasures set aside decades ago for the benefit of wildlife and the American public. She will highlight the imminent and compelling challenges and opportunities facing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Tongass National Forest, Chugach National Forest, and National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Please join us at the San Bernardino County Museum.

Everyone is always welcome. Visit with friends, enjoy refreshments and shop for your holiday gifts at our book tables.

## **Come & Celebrate the Holidays**

Our traditional potluck dinner will be held at the San Bernardino County Museum, on  
Wednesday,  
December 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Turkey, ham and beverage will be provided.

Please bring your own table service & your favorite dish to share,

a salad, vegetable, casserole, side dish, or dessert.

Plan to do a little last minute Holiday Shopping at our Book Shop.

For our program please bring fifteen of your favorite nature slides to show.

Everyone is always welcome.

## ***Vote Yes on Proposition 84***

California is facing enormous population growth in the coming years, with 25 million new residents expected by 2040. But our investment in infrastructure is not keeping pace with our population growth. Current funding for natural resources and environmental protection programs is critically low. In fact, funding for resources makes up less than 1% of the overall state budget.

**Proposition 84 - the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act** makes the investments needed to ensure that all Californians will have:

- Access to safe drinking water
- Better protection from floods
- Opportunities to enjoy parks, natural landscapes and our rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and coastline.

A broad coalition of interests – water districts, conservation and environmental groups, local government entities, business organizations, museum and park interests, elected officials, and civic groups – has been formed to support Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act.

*Bond Measure Funds Water Cleanup Efforts in Inland Empire*

(Chino, CA) - Cleaning up area water sources are public health, economic and quality of life issues vital to the future of San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire, according to

*(Continued on page 6)*

***Christmas Bird Count schedules on pgs 2 & 3***

**San Bernardino Valley Audubon  
sponsored  
Christmas Bird Counts are as follows.**

*(The count period, set by the National Audubon,  
will remain the same every year.*

*The dates are December 14th through January 5th.)*

CBC schedule is available online at [www.sbvas.org/cbc.htm](http://www.sbvas.org/cbc.htm).

**Redlands (Mill Creek)**

**Saturday, December 16, 2006 7:00 a. m**

**Compiler: Gene Cardiff**

We will meet at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, just north of the intersection of Mill Creek Rd. (State Highway 38) and Bryant St. at 7:00 A.M. The portion of the count circle, which you would like to help count can be arranged at that time, or a prior choice can be made. Information and details regarding this count can be obtained by calling Doug at the number given above. At the end of the day, around 5:00 p. m., (with those coming in from the "boondocks" arriving slightly later), we will meet at the Casa Maya, Mexican restaurant to share the day's experiences, enjoy some good food (on a no-host basis - order from the menu) and do a quick tally of the count.

*Casa Maya is located at 1837 Mentone Blvd.*

*(Highway 38 - north side) in Mentone, near the Post Office and the hardware store.*

**Morongo Valley**

**Saturday, December 16, 2006, 7:00 a.m.**

**Compilers: Dee Zeller (760) 363-7190 (e) [bzeller@iols.net](mailto:bzeller@iols.net)  
& Barbara Carlson**

Lets hope this year brings a few more of the rarities, but more than that, lets hope that our regular birds continue to be found in healthy numbers. Please call Dee to coordinate those who want to bird White Water Canyon and Desert Hot Springs. But if you wish to simply arrive on count day, that's fine too. Meet at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in the parking area - 11055 East Dr. - at 7:00 a.m. sharp. Persons meeting at the preserve will likely end up working Big Morongo Wildlife Preserve and adjacent areas.

*We'll compile as a group by a cozy wood stove at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve office while munching pizza and seasonal treats.*

*Please note: It will probably be very cold during count day, so remember to wear warm clothing.*

**Idyllwild**

**Sunday, December 17, 2006**

**Compilers: Sherri Stange, (909) 925-4007**

**Steve Adkison, (909) 652-2907**

Meet at the Lake Hemet Store at 8:00 a. m. After viewing the birds on and around the lake we will divide into smaller groups and, with a leader, canvass the count circle. Expert or beginner, we need your eyes! Come prepared!

Although, over the years, the weather has been remarkably cold, clear, and mostly snow free, anything can happen. If the forecast is for very bad weather, the count will be postponed to the next possible day.

Call Sherri the night before if the weather looks questionable.

*Bring binoculars, field guide, sack lunch, and a hot drink.*

*Dress in layers.*

*We will regroup at the Anchor Restaurant in Hemet at 5:30 p. m. to tally and admire who found what.*

Come join us in the mountains.

**Santa Ana River Valley**

**Sunday, December 17, 2006, 6:45 a. m.**

**Compiler: Larry LaPre (909) 276-1213**

**(home) 369-8060 (work) (E-mail) [lflapre@aol.com](mailto:lflapre@aol.com)**

The Santa Ana River Valley CBC covers most of the cities of **Riverside, Corona, and Norco.**

Within the count circle are some outstanding riparian areas like Prado Basin and Robidoux Nature Center, and some duck filled lakes, like Lake Norcorian and Lake Mathews.

Meeting places and times for the subgroups are listed below.

**Lake Mathews:** Permission to enter the fenced lake and Ecological Reserve is pending and may not be granted.

**Rubidoux Nature Center:** Meet at the Nature Center Parking lot at 6:45 A.M. Take Riverview (Limonite) from Mission Ave. in Rubidoux to Riverview Drive (watch for a sign), then bear left and go about a mile to the Nature Center.

**Prado Basin, Lake Norconian and Hidden Valley Wildlife Area:** Meet at the gate to Hidden Valley, located at the dirt road entrance off Arlington Ave. across from the cemetery at 6:45 A.M.

(To enter Lake Norconian, the Navy requires the names of all participants in advance.)

*Call Larry LaPre to get the details.*

**San Jacinto Lake**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2006 @ 6:30 a.m.**

**Compilers: Tony Metcalf (909) 242-7038**

**(e) [ametcalf@csusb.edu](mailto:ametcalf@csusb.edu)**

**Tom Benson (909) 648-0899**

**(e) [tbenson@csusb.edu](mailto:tbenson@csusb.edu)**

We will meet at 6:30 a.m. on the corner of Bridge Street and the Ramona Expressway about three miles east of Lakeview. The San Jacinto Lake Count is in the top 1-2% of all North American Christmas Bird Counts, and regularly leads the nation in species diversity for inland CBC's. We average over 150 species. The San Bernardino Audubon Society is very fortunate in having so many talented and enthusiastic birders who regularly find the time to count birds all day on a certain brisk Tuesday in December. Call it the San Jacinto flu.

This year, as in past counts, we will be working closely with the San Jacinto Wildlife Area biologist in ensuring that we have another successful count. We will try to have group leaders in the same count areas as last year. Please notify Tony Metcalf prior to count week if you are interested in a particular area.

*So, for science, for the birds, and mostly for the fun, grab a friend and join us for another great count.*

*At the end of the day, we will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Coco's at the corner of Perris and Sunnymead Blvd., in Moreno Valley, to tally and compile our findings.*

**Mojave River Valley**

**Saturday, December 30, 2006 6:30 a.m.**

**Compilers: Steve Myers (760) 843-4009 (h) or (951)**

**369-8060(w)**

**e-mail [stephenmyers@earthlink.net](mailto:stephenmyers@earthlink.net)**

The meeting place is the same as the past years: the

Vons shopping center parking lot on the northeastern corner of the intersection of Bear Valley Road and Hesperia Road. This intersection is just over three miles east of Interstate 15 (take the Bear Valley Rd. Exit). We will meet at 6:30 a.m. *A post-count compilation will take place at a restaurant to be specified at the meeting place. It can get mighty cold (and windy) on the count, so bring plenty of layers.*

### San Bernardino Valley

**Saturday, December 23, 2006 7:00 a. m.**

**Compiler: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201 (h)**

**(e) dorimyrs1@aol.com**

Please come join San Bernardino Valley Audubon's longest running count. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the San Bernardino County Museum. From there we will form small groups to cover the count area. Remember, the counts are for pleasure as well as science and anyone can help.

*Last year we counted 141 species and 18240 individual birds.*

*We will regroup around 5:30 p.m. to share stories and tally the day's findings*

### Joshua Tree National Park

**Sunday, December 31, 2006 7:30 a.m.**

**Compiler: Joe Zarki (760) 367-5520 (w) (760) 366-8913**

**(h) (e) lutzarki@gte.net**

**Group 1:** Meet the group leader at 7:30 a.m. at the Indian Cove Ranger Station. This is off Highway 62 on the western side of Twenty-nine Palms at the entry of the park leading to Indian Cove Camp Ground. After covering Indian Cove the group will go to parts of Twenty-nine Palms, the Oasis of Mara (the park headquarters), Luckie Park and the 29 Palms Inn.

**Group 2:** Meet the group leader at 7:30 a.m. at the West entry of the Park. Take Park Blvd. from the town of Joshua Tree, parking is just beyond the entry station. This group will cover the campgrounds in the interior of the park, Lost Horse and Queen Valleys. This part of the park is 3-5,000 ft with an abundance of rocks and Joshua Trees. And we hope to see a bird or two.

#### **The daily use fee for the park will be waived for the Christmas count participants.**

The Joshua Tree National Park Association will cover the count participant fees. We can't make it any easier than that! Bring layers of clothing, it can be cold and windy or it can be warm and calm, we've had everything from 78 deg. to snow blowing straight at you. Also bring snacks, good walking shoes, lunch and drinks, or you can pickup lunch in 29 Palms if you choose group 1. Group 2 will have to rough it, no phones, no restaurants, but just beautiful country.

*We will meet about 5:30 p.m. at a restaurant in Twenty-nine Palms to compile the results.*

### Salton Sea - North CBC

**Tuesday, January 2, 2007 6:30 a.m.**

**Compiler: Chet McGaugh (909) 781-3699(H) or (909) 369-8060(W) (e) chetmcgaugh@earthlink.net**

We will meet at 6:30 a.m., at the confluence of highways 195, 111, and Lincoln Street, near Mecca. Dress warmly, it can be cold in the early morning hours. We will form six or seven groups and spread out over the count circle for a day of counting the multitudes of birds that spend the winter around the north end of Salton Sea.

Bird identification skills are helpful but not a prerequisite; the group leaders will handle any identification problems. Counting ability is a prerequisite. Each group leader needs people to count common birds (like Eared Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, American Coots, gulls), and someone to record the numbers, so that he/she can concentrate on finding the unusual and/or hard-to-find species.

If you want a mellow day of birding at Salton Sea, save yourself \$6 and we'll see you in January on the field trip. If you want a rather intense day of birding, and would like to contribute to the ever-growing (since 1969) data bank, come on out. You will see lots of birds. We typically record 130-140 species.

*After the count we will compile our results at a local restaurant.*

*It is our task in our time and in our generation, to hand down undiminished to those who come after us, as was handed down to us by those who went before, the natural wealth and beauty which is ours.*

*John F. Kennedy*

### Wildlife Art Festival 2006

The San Bernardino County Museum will host the 24th annual Wildlife Art Festival on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, November 17, 18, and 19, 2006 in Redlands, California.

Twenty-three prominent wildlife artists will exhibit their paintings, sculptures, carvings, and limited edition prints in the museum's Hall of History and Schuiling Gallery. Organized by the San Bernardino County Museum Association, the festival will also include top entries from this year's Federal Duck Stamp Contest, Junior Federal Duck Stamp Contest, and California State Junior Duck Stamp Contest. Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. The Wildlife Art Festival began when top paintings from the federal Duck Stamp Competition were first shown on the West Coast in 1983 at the San Bernardino County Museum. From this exhibit of small, exquisitely detailed paintings, the festival has grown and evolved over the years while maintaining its focus on wildlife and conservation.

Since 1987, an "Artist of the Year" is selected every year to produce a work of art as a signature piece for that year's event. This year, Gary R. Johnson from Encinitas, California, will present "The Trumpeters' Duet." Signed limited edition prints along with the original painting will be featured at the festival.

*The San Bernardino County Museum is at the California Street exit from Interstate 10 in Redlands. Admission is \$6 (adult), \$5 (student or senior), and \$4 (child aged 5 to 12). Children under five and Museum Association members are admitted free. Parking is free.*

*(Wildlife Art Festival... Continued on page 6)*

## VERY BEGINNING BIRD WALKS FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: OCTOBER - MAY

**8:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M.** *(Please note new start time from previous years)*

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin and Doug Karalun

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 some 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!

Binoculars and bird guides will be provided for use during the walks. However, please bring your own if you have them, as supplies are limited. Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water. The walks are free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome and student lists will be signed.

Please contact: **Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613** for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time. [www.sbvass.org](http://www.sbvass.org) for latest information

## NOVEMBER TO FEBRUARY VERY BEGINNING BIRDWALKS 06/07

### VBBW / LOUIS ROBIDOUX NATURE CENTER

Sunday, November 5, 2006 - 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

Leader: Doug Karalun (909) 425-5355 [dkaralun@adelphia.net](mailto:dkaralun@adelphia.net)

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 then left onto Riverview drive. The nature center will be on the left approximately 1.2 miles. The gate to the main entrance will be locked.

Turn left at the first driveway past the entrance to park at the grounds keeper's lot.

Please contact: Doug Karalun (909) 425-5355 for further information.

### VBBW / SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA

Sunday - Dec. 3, Jan. 7 and Feb. 4

8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin (Dec. 3 & Feb. 4) Doug Karalun (Jan 7)

We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on 215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately 3 miles down Davis Road on the right.

Turn here and the parking area will be on your left.

You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north.

Please contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613 or Doug Karalun (909) 425-5355 for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes.

### VBBW / HIDDEN VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

Sunday, March 4, 2006 - 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

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!

Binoculars and bird guides will be provided for use during the walk.

However, please bring your own if you have them as supplies are limited.

Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring 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.

## Fall to Winter Fieldtrips

### NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY

Sunday, November 19, 2006—7:00 am

Leader: Tony Metcalf (909) 242-7038 & Dave Woodward

Email: [aemetcalf@earthlink.net](mailto:aemetcalf@earthlink.net)

Ah, cooler weather, wintering birds of prey and waterfowl, coastal sage scrub and wetlands, all close by. Please join us for our fall field trip to the northern San Jacinto Valley. We have two goals for this trip. First is to have fun. Second, is to see 100 species. We always accomplish the first goal and have come very close to the second. Maybe this is the year -- Mystic Lake is full. The northern San Jacinto Valley is known for its high species diversity. We have ranked highest in number of bird species seen for inland areas in North America for Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts, and are usually in the top 1-2% for all counts. At the heart of the region is the public San Jacinto Wildlife Area.

From Riverside go south on 215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately 3 miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north.

The road can be extremely slippery if there have been recent rains...

So call ahead if you have any questions.

You can call or e-mail Tony Metcalf or the San Jacinto Wildlife Area headquarters (909 654-0580) for updated road info to the Wildlife Area.

### DAGGETT & NEWBERRY SPRINGS

Saturday, December 9, 2006—9:00 a.m.

Leader: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 - [e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net](mailto:e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net)

We will look for wintering birds at Newberry Springs and Daggett areas in the alfalfa fields and ponds, especially birds of prey.

If we have the time we may head over to Harper Dry Lake and see what we can find there.

We will meet at the Denny's restaurant at 9:00 AM (after breakfast). To get there, take I-15 north to the Barstow outlets, take the Lynwood off ramp and go right toward the outlets and you will see the Denny's sign.

Bring a lunch, water, snacks and warm clothes, because summer may be over by then. After lunch we will caravan and do some more looking for hawks and other birds.

*For more information on weather etc.  
call Gene at the number above*

### SALTON SEA GOOSE & CRANE TRIP

Saturday, January 13, 2007— 7:00 am

Leaders: Chet McGaugh (909) 781-3699

John Green (951) 686-2956 or e-mail [bewickwren@earthlink.net](mailto:bewickwren@earthlink.net)

Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 [e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net](mailto:e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net)

This trip at times has been called the "waterfowl trip," the "goose trip," and "a wonderful field-trip." It is all of that, and more. Perhaps a glimpse at last year's list will help stoke the fires of desire: American white pelican, white-faced ibis, snow goose (thousands), Ross' goose (hundreds), surf scoter, white-winged scoter, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, sandhill crane (hundred), mountain plover (hundred and a half), and gila woodpecker. We tallied twenty species of waterfowl, and we didn't have to count individuals.

(For an opportunity to count every single duck on the Sea, see Salton Sea - North CBC blurb elsewhere in this issue.)

We will meet at the Wister Unit of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge at 7:00 a.m. Wister is on Highway 111, east side of the Sea, several miles before Niland. The turn-off is Davis Road.

We will bird around the southern end of the Sea, then go south into "ag" lands to look for raptors, mountain plovers, and the always entertaining sandhill cranes.

*(Continued from page 1)*

leaders who gathered today in support of Proposition 84 - the Clean Water and Coastal Protection Bond Act. County Public Health Director Dr. Eric Frykman, Supervisor Josie Gonzales, State Senator Nell Soto and representatives from the Inland Empire Utilities Agency (IEUA) held a press conference at the IEUA's Desalter Facility in Chino to raise awareness of the funding resources that Proposition 84 will bring to the Inland Empire.

Proposition 84, on the November statewide ballot, is supported by San Bernardino County, City of Ontario, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Inland Valley Chamber Alliance, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, and the Cucamonga Valley Water District because it will help meet the water infrastructure needs of this fast growing area, and funds clean water programs for residents and businesses.

"Too little resources have been dedicated to monitoring and maintaining the safety of our local water supply," said Dr. Frykman. "Proposition 84 bolsters these resources thus continuing to ensure our families have safe water to drink. It further increases resources to build and preserve a healthy environment in which we raise our children."

"More than 450 ground water wells are polluted with perchlorate and other contaminants across California, and leaders across all party lines and constituencies are working together to find workable solutions," said State Senator Nell Soto, chair of the Senate Select Committee on Perchlorate Contamination. "Proposition 84 funds water quality programs to treat local water sources and to help clean up the Santa Ana River watershed."

In the Inland Empire, Proposition 84 provides \$114 million to the Santa Ana Sub-Region Integrated Regional Water Management District for water quality and water management efforts, and \$45 million to Santa Ana River Parkway improvements. "The county's new water treatment facility delivers clean drinking water to local homes and businesses, but much more needs to be done to expand and operate regional facilities," said Supervisor Gonzales. "Proposition 84 brings millions of dollars directly to local water agencies and municipalities to protect our drinking water sources. It's a win-win for everyone who has worked hard to solve this dangerous health issue."

Under Proposition 84, local governments and water interests can apply for money through the following funding sources:

- \$240 million Safe Drinking Water Fund to help meet local water quality needs, provide emergency safe drinking water, and to meet the new State standards to clean up water contamination;
- \$80 million for clean water needs;
- \$60 million to clean up groundwater contamination;
- \$90 million for stormwater cleanup; and
- \$180 million to smaller agricultural-based communities to clean up nitrate and other agricultural-based contaminants. "Water agencies simply need more resources to abate pervasive water contamination in the Inland Valley," said Angel

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*(Wildlife Art Festival...Continued from page 3)*



For more information, visit [www.sbcountymuseum.org](http://www.sbcountymuseum.org).

The San Bernardino County Museum is accessible to persons with disabilities. If assistive listening devices or other auxiliary aids are needed in order to participate in museum exhibits or programs, requests should be made through Museum Visitor Services at least three business days prior to your visit. Visitor Services' telephone number is (909) 307-2669 ext. 229 or TDD (909) 792-1462.

In 1934, with the passage of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp Act (Act), an increasingly concerned Nation took firm action to stop destruction of migratory waterfowl and the wetlands so vital to their survival. Under this Act, all waterfowl hunters 16 years of age and over must annually purchase and carry a Federal Duck Stamp. Most hunters willingly pay the stamp price to ensure the survival of our natural resources.

Approximately 98 cents of every duck stamp dollar goes directly into the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund to purchase wetlands and wildlife habitat for inclusion into the National Wildlife Refuge System - a fact that ensures this land will be protected and available for all generations to come. Since 1934, better than \$540 million has gone into that Fund to purchase more than 4 million acres of habitat. Little wonder the Federal Duck Stamp Program has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated.

In recent years, with the hunter population dwindling, three groups of Americans have had an increasing role in filling the gap in the purchase of Federal Duck Stamps - collectors, art enthusiasts and other conservationists. Collectors and art enthusiasts consider these stamps "miniature pieces of art."

The collection of duck stamps is a growing and constantly evolving phenomenon. A collector who had purchased each of the current stamps, at issue price, would have spent around \$300. This investment today would be worth well over \$4,000. Other conservationists buy the stamps as a way of ensuring that these wild places will be around for all generations. And, possession of the most recent Federal Duck Stamp provides free admission into all National Wildlife Refuges.

The purchase of a Federal Duck Stamp provides an opportunity for every United States citizen to take a stand in the preservation of our natural heritage. All of us, working together, can and have made a difference.

Each year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service sponsors the only Federally-mandated art competition at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. Wildlife artists, both professional and amateur, all across the United States vie for the coveted title of Federal Duck Stamp Artist. The wildlife artist who wins this competition knows that his or her career and fortunes will take wing! This winning design graces the next annual Federal Duck Stamp. The top 20 scored entries from each competition are enthusiastically exhibited around the country at various museums, festivals and expositions during the next year.

(Continued from page 6)

Santiago, Board Member for the Inland Empire Utilities Agency. "Proposition 84 funds will help finance construction of critically needed water supply projects, such as additional desalters for the Chino Basin and the regional Chino Basin Groundwater Recharge Program. The funds will also help pay for unfunded mandates to meet new water standards."

*Proposition 84 has bipartisan support from more than 500 organizations and leaders across California, including: Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Association of California Water Agencies, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Western Growers Association, League of California Cities, and the Southern California Public Health Association. For more information on Proposition 84, please go to <http://www.yeson84.com/>.*

#### CALENDAR OF FIELD TRIPS FOR 2006-2007

[www.sbvas.org](http://www.sbvas.org) for updates

VBBW—Very Beginning Bird Walks

SJWA — San Jacinto Wildlife Area

Nov 5/Sun/ VBBW Robidoux Nature Center; Doug Karalun

Nov 19/Sun - Northern San Jacinto Valley -

Tony Metcalf & Dave Goodward

Dec 3/Sun/ VBBW at SJWA - J & M Tobin

Dec 9/Sat/ Dagget & Newbury Springs Gene Cardiff

**December 14, 2006 ~ January 5, 2007 -**

**Christmas Bird Counts - page 2&3**

Jan 7/Sun/ VBBW at SJWA - Doug Karalun

Jan 13/Sat/ Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip -

Chet McGaugh & John Green

Feb 4/Sun - VBBW at SJWA - J & M Tobin

Feb 10 & 11/ Weekend in Santa Barbara -

Steve Myers and John Green

Feb 25/Sun/ Pancake Breakfast at SJWA - Tom Paulek

Mar 4/Sun/ VBBW at Hidden Valley - J & M Tobin

Mar 10/Sat/ Bolsa Chica Dori Myers & Tom Benson

Apr 1/Sun VBBW -Robidoux Nature Center - J & M Tobin

Apr 14 & 15 / Weekend trip /

Grouse Trip to the Owens Valley – Gene Cardiff

Apr 22/Sun/ Mojave Narrows - Steve Myers

May 5/Sat/ Big Morongo - Chet McGaugh

May 6/Sun/VBBW - Fairmount Park - Doug Karalun

May 6/Sun/ Box Springs Mountain - John Green

May 12/Sat/ Pancake Breakfast at

Cal State San Bernardino - Tony Metcalf

May 19/Sat – Baby Birds at Bear Paw – Cin Grayraven

Jun 9/Sat/ Wrightwood Field Trip – Gene Cardiff

Jun 16/Sat/ Owling in San Bernardino (evening - night)

Dave Goodward

Jul 21 & 22 / Weekend trip /

South fork of the Greenhorns – Steve Myers

Aug 26/Sun/ Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea – John Green

## SBVAS Officers 2006/2007

[www.sbvas.org](http://www.sbvas.org) &  
[www.inlandplanet.org](http://www.inlandplanet.org)

#### President:

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#### First Vice-President:

Dori Myers [ouzelm@aol.com](mailto:ouzelm@aol.com) (714) 779-2201

Tony Metcalf [aemetcalf@earthlink.net](mailto:aemetcalf@earthlink.net)  
(951)-242-7038

#### Second Vice President

Pete Clark [petec3@verizon.net](mailto:petec3@verizon.net) (951)-212-2467

#### Treasurer:

Nancy Higbee [nlhigbee@earthlink.net](mailto:nlhigbee@earthlink.net)  
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#### RARE BIRD ALERT:

Kirk and Linda Stitt

at [secalrba@earthlink.net](mailto:secalrba@earthlink.net) or call (909) 793-5599 option 3

to leave a report on the RBA phone machine. ✍

**B**earpaw 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 92339

San Bernardino County Museum  
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands  
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...

All meetings in  
the San Bernardino County Mu-  
seum  
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Red-  
lands  
**Board Meetings are the 1st**



**SBVAS Calendar**

Nov 1 ..... 7:00 .....Board Meeting  
Nov 15 .....7:30 General Meeting  
Dec 6 ..... 7:00 .....Board Meeting  
Dec 20 ..... 6:00/Holiday Potluck & General Meeting  
*If you have questions please call or go on line to check  
current detail. www.sbvass.org Thanks*

**November 12, 10 AM to 3 PM -  
RSB Chapter Annual Plant Sale!**

At the Riverside Museum.  
Hey!

Isn't that the day of the Riverside Run? Volunteer for the Plant Sale and watch all the runners go by. And speaking of runners, we need to transplant some of our plants to bigger cans.

Contact Lorrae Fuentes about this -  
[lorrae.fuentes@cgu.edu](mailto:lorrae.fuentes@cgu.edu), or 909-625-8767 x 243.

**Location:** Riverside Metropolitan Museum, corner Mission Inn Blvd and Orange, Riverside, CA.



**Faster More Colorful  
Western Meadowlark**

Please email Membership Chair Crispin Rendon at [crisrendon@earthlink.net](mailto:crisrendon@earthlink.net) and let him know. Include your name as it appears on you Western Meadowlark newsletter Thanks

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Please make check payable to **National Audubon Society**

Includes chapter membership & Meadowlark if in SBVAS area

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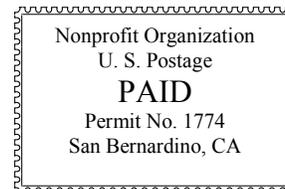
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