



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK



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Volume 68— Number 3

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

The Andes of Northern Ecuador: Birds and More!

Presented by Steve Myers, Matt Grube, and
Jennifer Tobin

The relatively small country of Ecuador boasts a bird list of over 1,600 species. The country contains a myriad of habitats, including lowland tropical forest along its Pacific coast, and the vast forest of the Amazon Basin in eastern Ecuador. Contributing greatly to the tremendous biological diversity of the country is the presence of the Andes Mountains, bisecting the country from north to south. These mountains, reaching over 20,000 feet in elevation, contain numerous life zones on both its western and eastern slopes.

A group of intrepid birders, several of whom are SBVAS members, explored both slopes in August, and tallied impressive lists of birds. If one carefully observes the vegetation along the trails, many beautiful species of reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates can also be found; Jennifer and Michelle Tobin are especially good at finding gorgeous bugs and other tiny creatures. Join Steve, Matt, and Jennifer as they share a few of their sightings.

GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

"ANCIENT PLANTS, ANCIENT SOILS... AND OUR FUTURE"

Presented by Robin Kobaly | Botanist,
Executive Director of
The SummerTree Institute

Many of our southwest native plants have been growing since pre-historic times and will be alive long after we are gone. Normal

life-spans of some of our iconic southwest plants, including yuccas, nolinias, junipers, and even creosote, are hundreds to thousands of years old.

Robin will reveal the incredible ages of the long-lived native plants of the southwest and explore how ancient native plants and their life-long mycorrhizal root partners contribute to the stability of their community. She will discuss why these underground root partners, together with their ancient plant hosts, are vital in helping desert soils sequester carbon from our atmosphere. Robin will demonstrate how to estimate the age of native plants in our region and surrounding mountains. She will also discuss how these ancient survivors can enhance your own landscape for many decades to come, introducing local ancient plants that you can incorporate into your yard not just for your enjoyment, but for future generations of humans, native songbirds, and wildlife.



Learn how you can become part of the solution by contributing to an attractive, environmentally sustainable landscape – right in your own yard!

Meeting start at 7:30 p.m. at San Bernardino County Museum. All are welcome.

Dori Myers, Program Chair

Local Sightings: Late Fall 2017 by Tom Benson

This issue of local sightings covers the latter half of fall migration from mid October to mid December. As hoped for after the lackluster start to fall, unusual migrants started to appear in greater numbers in November.

Riverside County seems to have done the best of the three counties this fall, with the highlight being an adult male RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD at Desert Center Nov 10-13. This is only the second county record and notably late for an adult male. Other vagrants at Desert Center included a LAPLAND LONGSPUR on Oct 28, an EASTERN PHOEBE on Nov 2, and a CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER Nov 18-21. Elsewhere in the desert, the north end of the Salton Sea hosted a BLACK-HEADED GULL at North Shore Dec 5-9 (likely the same bird seen in Oasis last winter), a pair of TUNDRA SWANS Nov 29-Dec 7, and a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER on Dec 13; also, a NORTHERN PAULA was at the Living Desert on Dec 9. The coastal slope enjoyed some good finds as well, with a WHITE-WINGED SCOTER at Lake Perris on Oct 31, a LARK BUNTING near Diamond Valley Lake Nov 8-10, a very late STILT SANDPIPER at Mystic Lake through Nov 16, and a PAINTED REDSTART in Moreno Valley Dec 2-10.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Tom Benson

San Bernardino County also fared rather well, with Silver Lakes and Harper Dry Lake being surprisingly productive. The former hosted two TUNDRA SWANS on Nov 30 and up to two WHITE-WINGED SCOTERS Dec 1-11, while the latter had a TUNDRA SWAN on Nov 17 and a CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR on Dec 1. Other desert locations were equally good. A HARRIS'S SPARROW (Nov 10-11) and a RUSTY BLACKBIRD (Dec 1-3) were both seen in Baker, while another HARRIS'S SPARROW was seen in Kelso on Nov 21. A NEOTOMIC CORMORANT at Mojave Narrows Regional Park on Nov 3 provides the first record for the county in the Mojave Desert, while one at Havasu Landing on Dec 10 provides the first report from Lake Havasu in a while. And Barstow Community College produces again, this time with a RUFOUS-BACKED ROBIN Nov 25-Dec 3. The lone highlights from the mountains and coastal slope were a BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER at Lake Arrowhead Oct 25-27 and a GRASSHOPPER SPARROW at Cal State San Bernardino on Nov 6.



Rufous-backed Robin

Tom Benson

In Imperial County, the ROSEATE SPOONBILL continued at the south end of the Salton Sea through Nov 5, and CASSIN'S FINCHES were last reported in the Imperial Valley on Nov 9. A PURPLE FINCH, exceptionally rare in the county, was seen with Cassin's Finches in Niland on Nov 9. Notable waterfowl included a BLACK SCOTER on Sheldon Reservoir Oct 25-Nov 9 and two LONG-TAILED DUCKS at Wiest Lake on Nov 12. Also at Wiest Lake on Nov 18 was an AMERICAN REDSTART. Finally, a CURVE-BILLED THRASHER, probably wintering, was at Senator Wash Reservoir along the Colorado River Nov 22-24.



Rusty Blackbird

Matt Grube

January and February 2018 Field Trips

Saturday, January 6, 2018 - 7:00 am
Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip
Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & Gene
Cardiff (909) 875-5358

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 some of the species seen on previous trips will help stoke the fires of desire: American White Pelican (hundreds), American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Snow Goose (thousands), Ross's Goose (hundreds), Greater White-fronted Goose, Bald Eagle, four falcon species, Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Plover, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Burrowing Owl, Mountain Bluebird, and American Redstart. We usually tally over 100 species, and don't have to count individuals (for an opportunity to count every single bird on and around the sea, join us at the Salton Sea North Christmas Bird Count). We will meet at the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters parking lot at 7:00 am (map). We will bird around the Imperial Valley and south end of the sea.

Sunday, January 7, 2018 -
8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Regional
Park
Tom Benson (909) 648-0899

Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local species. The walk is free, but there is an entry fee for the park; see below. No reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome. We will meet at the marina parking lot in the center of the park. If you do not have a San Bernardino County Regional Parks pass, you will have to pay the \$10 daily entry fee for the park. Please contact Tom Benson for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes.

January 20, 2018- 8:00 am
Malibu Lagoon to Point Mugu
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 & Dori My-
ers (714) 336-1420

Malibu is always a special place to visit. Meet at the entrance to the Malibu Pier at 8:00 AM, after breakfast. Try to park along the highway on the beach side up a little and across from the Jack In the Box. We will bird the pier and lagoon area in the morning and have lunch on the beach and then we will drive up the coast making several

stops along the way. Be prepared for cool to cold conditions on the pier and hope that it warms during the day. We should stay to see the sunset so dress in layers, bring water and lots of snacks and a lunch. A spotting scope would be useful.

Sunday, January 28, 2018
San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris
Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & Tony
Metcalf (951) 242-7038

The San Jacinto Wildlife Area (SJWA) and the San Jacinto Valley have lots of birds all year. SBVAS leads a Fall trip, a Spring trip, and now a Winter trip to this remarkable birding hotspot. In addition to the high number of resident species, overwintering birds and the occasional spectacular occurrence, the diversity and number of birds of prey and gulls peak after the new year. So join us on a fairly intense but unstructured day. We will certainly cover the SJWA and adjacent lands, and we may go to Lake Perris and ...well, who knows. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area entrance.

Saturday, February 3, 2018 8:30 am
Silverwood Lake Barge Trip
Steve Myers 951-616-7578

This trip will primarily be an "inland pelagic trip." The kind folks at the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area will motor us around all portions of the lake on a barge that can hold 25 people. Similar trips in the past have resulted in sightings of a wide variety of interesting water birds, including Common and Pacific Loon, Western, Clark's, Pied-billed, Eared, Horned, and Red-necked Grebes, Long-tailed Duck, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Hooded Merganser, and uncommon to rare gulls such as Thayer's, Mew, and Glaucous-winged Gulls. Each winter the lake is host to a handful of Bald Eagles. Following the voyage, we will bird at selected spots around the lake. Silverwood Lake is perhaps the most reliable spot in southern California to find wintering Lewis's Woodpeckers, and there are several present this winter. Other landbirds that are possible include up to three species of sapsuckers, and an interesting mix of chaparral-mixed coniferous forest species. We will be meeting at the marina at 8:30 am. To reach the marina from the Inland Empire, go north on I-15 toward Cajon Pass, exiting at Highway 138. Go east on 138 approximately 11 miles to the Silverwood Lake exit. Turn left and follow the road to the park entrance. There is a \$10 entrance fee per vehicle (which the park may waive if you mention you are there for the "barge tour"). Past the entrance follow signs to the marina. This will be a long 1/2 day trip, lasting until 1-2 pm.

Continuing upcoming Field Trips -**Sunday, February 4, 2018 - 8:00-10:00 am
Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State San Bernardino****Tom Benson**

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, however, all participants must sign a liability waiver. You may print one out ahead of time and bring it with you, or the trip leader will have forms available on site. Everyone is welcome.

We will meet at the northeast corner of parking lot G near the Student Recreation and Fitness Center (map). If you do not have a Cal State San Bernardino parking permit you must purchase a daily parking permit (\$5) from the kiosk attendant on Coyote Drive or from the automated permit dispensers. Please contact Tom Benson for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes.

**Saturday, February 10, 2018 - 7:30 am
Seal Beach NWR, Brad Singer (909) 838-7951 and Tom Benson**

Located next to the Pacific Ocean on the border of Orange and Los Angeles Counties, the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge hosts a wonderful array of raptors, shorebirds, waders, herons, rails, ducks, and sparrows. Because the refuge sits on an active naval weapons base, access is by special permit only. Field trips to the refuge regularly see Pacific Golden-Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, Ridgway's Rail, Large-billed Savannah Sparrow, and the much sought after Nelson's Sparrow. Other rarities include Reddish Egret, Short-eared Owl, Lapland Longspur, and Cackling Goose. SBVAS has booked a trip during high tide, so that the sparrows and rails can be seen more easily.

This is a half-day trip to the Refuge. Following our stay there, we will have lunch and then pursue wintering rarities in the nearby vicinity in the afternoon. Space is extremely limited on this trip. A sign-up sheet will be at the SBVAS December General Meeting (Potluck), December 16. Those not making it will be put on a waiting list. There is a two-week vetting process by the Navy for all visitors. Questions, email me at bcsinger@gmail.com.

2018 FIELD TRIPS**Saturday, January 6, 2018 - 7:00 am****Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip****Sunday, January 7, 2018 - 8:00-10:00 am****Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Regional Park****January 13, 2018- 8:00 am****Malibu Lagoon to Point Mugu****Sunday, January 28, 2018****San Jacinto Valley and Lake Perris****Saturday, February 3, 2018 8:30 am****Silverwood Lake Barge Trip****Sunday, February 4, 2018 - 8:00-10:00 am****Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State****Saturday, February 17, 2018 - 7:30 am****Seal Beach NWR (by reservation)****Sunday, March 5, 2018 8-10 am****Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount Park, Riverside****March 2018 (date TBD)****49 Palms Oasis****Saturday, March 11, 2018 - 8:00 am****Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast****Sunday, April 8, 2018 8:00-10:00 am****Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo Canyon****Field Trip Checklist**

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat,
sunscreen, insect repellent,
a good road map,
Full fuel tank, drinking water,
snacks and lunch, binoculars and/or a scope,
field guide.

Come and Enjoy. Cal Field Trip Leader
for last minute cancellations, questions or
changes...🐦

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday-Sunday June 2-3, 2018
Eastside Sierra Field Trip

Saturday, June 16, 2018 - 7:30 am
Wrightwood & Blue Ridge

August 2018 (date TBD), 6:00 AM
Insane Jaunt to the Salton Sea

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: Next Board meet-
 ing, First Wednesday of the month, Jan-
 uary 3, 2018 at 7 p.m.

General Meetings: Next General
 Meeting on January 17, 2018, 7:30 pm

All General meetings are in the San Ber-
 nardino 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 Califor-
 nia 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.sbvass.org

President: Brad Singer (909) 838-7951
 First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers
 (714) 779-2201
 Second Vice President: Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417
 Treasurer: Pat Cawunder (951) 687-9486
 Secretary: Nancy Higbee (951) 780-9236
 (951) 212-2211

Directors

Conservation Chair: Drew Feldmann (909) 881-6081
 Field Trips: Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358
 Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris
 (909) 867-3536
 Membership: Pete Clark (951) 212-2467
 Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038
 Cin Greyraven (909) 327-8795

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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, op-
 erated 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 Ber-
 nardino 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 mean-
 ders across Mill Creek wash and up the bluff to an
 electronically operated entry gate. Members who
 wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board
 member in advance to get the gate code. It is not
 a requirement that the caretaker is at home for
 you to visit. If the gate does not open because of
 mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or
 stop for birding along the creek bed.

Bearpaw Sanctuary,
 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive
 P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 92339

Bearpaw Sanctuary is on Facebook; message us
 with questions and comments. If you type
 "Bearpaw Sanctuary" into the SEARCH function,
 you'll find us. Bearpaw visitors are encouraged to
 report interesting wildlife sightings and share
 their favorite nature photos from their Bearpaw
 visits.

SALTON SEA BIRD FESTIVAL

The Salton Sea Bird Festival will occur January 13-14, 2018 at the Salton Sea State Recreation Area at North Shore.

\ There will be field trips to the South End of the Sea, the CV Wild Bird Center, and more.

Also updates on the ten year plan for the Salton Sea and birding at the State Recreation area. Their phone number is [760-289-9455](tel:760-289-9455)

For more information email info@seaanddesert.org

Olympic BirdFest 2018 Come Bird With Us Sequim, Washington, April 13-15, 2018

Grab your binoculars and join the 15th annual **Olympic BirdFest 2018** celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 13-15, 2018.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready ... Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration.

Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, Claudio Vidal has been exploring & birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding/nature tours & photo safaris through Patagonia, Chile & South America.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula ...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online (www.olympicbirdfest.org).

Olympic Birdfest, continued

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular **San Juan Islands** on April 10-12, 2018.

Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort.

ALSO - Extend your Birdfest weekend with the **Neah Bay post-trip**, April 16-17, 2018:

two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders.

Contact us by phone, at 360-681-4076, E-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org , Or write to us at:

Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450
Sequim, WA 98382



Allen's Hummingbird

Pam Quittmeyer

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 a.m.	3	4	5 Joshua Tree National Park Christmas Bird Count	6 Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip 7 a.m.
7 BBW Prado Regional Park 8 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	18	19	20 Malibu Lagoon - Point Mugu Field Trip 8 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 San Jacinto Valley Lake Perris Trip	29	30	31			

February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Silverwood Lake Barge Trip 8:30 a.m.
4 BBW Cal State San Bernardino 8 a.m.	5	6 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Seal Beach NWR Trip 7:30 a.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 SBVAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

Dates and times subject to change for unforeseen circumstances, please check the website for any changes.

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

c/o San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society
 P. O. Box 10973
 San Bernardino, CA 92423-0973

Everyone is always welcome!

All meetings in the San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands

Board Meetings
are the 1st Tuesday

General meetings
are the 3rd Wednesday



SBVAS Membership
currently at 1900

To reach the Museum,
 take the California Street
 exit off the 10 Freeway
 and go north 1 block to

Chapter Only Membership Application

San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

____ SBVAS Membership @ \$20 a/year (includes subscription to *The Western Meadowlark*)

Email Address* _____

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS

*We do not share your name, address or email address.

Membership Application

National Audubon Society (NAS)

____ NAS Gift/New/Regular/Renewal Membership \$20 (includes 1 year of *Audubon* magazine)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
 C11

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