



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK



March/April 2010
Volume 60—Number 4

Birds and Forest Conservation on Coffee Farms in Central America a Presentation by Dan Cooper

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

Coffee, as most people know, comes from a bean, which comes from a small tree, which grows mainly on steep mountainside farms in some of the most biodiverse regions of earth. Since the 1990s, a major push has been made to promote sustainable practices on farms, including the planting of shade trees that also support large numbers of migratory songbirds. However, farms still use up a lot of land, and the birds that use these shade trees are mainly widespread types, and don't include most forest-dependent species that contribute to the unique biodiversity of the world's tropics. What's less well known is that many of these same farms also contain patches of native forest, including large patches of cloud forest filled with rare, endemic species, rivaling that found in national parks in the same area.

Since 2006, Dan Cooper has been working with coffee growers and importers to survey these forest patches on properties throughout Central America. This project has grown to include an annual "coffee conservation award", which launched in 2009 in El Salvador, and which recognizes contributions of individual farms to bird conservation, including a forest guide/internship program in Nicaragua, with varying success. In this talk, he will discuss the challenges and rewards of finding a bird-friendly cup of coffee.

Dan Cooper is a southern California native, and until 2005, was the Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California. He is the author of "Important Bird Areas of California", has taught courses at UCLA Extension school, and has led professional birding tours throughout North and Central America. Currently, he runs his own consulting firm, Cooper Ecological Monitoring, and is based in Culver City.

Please come to our program. Our doors open early at 7 P.M. to visit with friends and shop at our Book Tables. Everyone is always welcome.

Impacts of Climate Change A Program by Kassie Siegel

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Kassie Siegel, director of the Center for Biological Diversity's Climate, Air and Energy Program, will give a special presentation to Audubon about the impacts of climate change. Please join us for this special presentation. It will include photos, an overview of the effects of global warming on bird life and case studies of high-risk species ranging from reef-building corals to polar bears and penguins. Kassie, a nationally recognized authority on global warming and biodiversity, will also highlight the policy implications of climate-change science and discuss the status of government and nonprofit efforts to reduce global warming and protect the diversity of

life on Earth.



Kassie Siegal with her dog, Trina

Kassie Siegel, Senior Counsel, Climate Law Institute Director, develops and implements campaigns for the reduction of greenhouse gas pollution and the protection of plants and animals threatened by global warming, including the Center's petition to protect the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act. Prior to attending Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law and working for the Center, she was a natural-history guide leading wilderness trips in Alaska.



SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA THREATENED, VIA VILLAGES OF LAKEVIEW PROJECT, WITH COMPLETE URBANIZATION OF NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY, INCLUDING CHANNELIZATION OF SAN JACINTO RIVER , RE-OPENING AND PAVING OF DAVIS ROAD, AND DECOMMISSIONING OF LAKE PERRIS DAM.

The FRIENDS OF THE NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY was formed in 1991 by board members of Audubon (San Bernardino Valley Audubon) and Sierra Club (San Gorgonio Chapter). The Friends of the Northern San Jacinto Valley is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the protection, preservation, restoration and enjoyment of the northern San Jacinto Valley's biological, geological, anthropological, historical and cultural resources. (www.northfriends.org). Since 1991 we have conducted bird, plant, bug, geological and archeological walks on the SJWA, including the Audubon monthly beginning bird walks. In addition, we have been involved with several very successful lawsuits against the City of Moreno Valley/Moreno Highlands; the Metropolitan Water District; and the CA Department of Fish and Game to protect the integrity of the California Environmental Quality Act and the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

For more than five years, we have been talking to Friends, Audubon and Sierra Club about the Villages of Lakeview project, which is a proposal for 11,000 dwelling units (mostly apartments) located adjacent to the southern border of the SJWA. (Information on the February 23, 2010, approval of this project can be found at http://www.rctlma.org/planning/content/temp/villages_of_lakeview.html). Over 300 acres and 1500 units of the VOL will be located north of the Ramona expressway and will be bisected by Davis Road, the only entrance to the SJWA. The destruction of the SJWA as endangered species habitat for the Stephens' kangaroo rat, several rare and endangered plants and over 100 other species protected by the multi-species habitat conservation plan [MSHCP] on the SJWA) is inevitable. However, the EIR for the VOL states that environmental impacts to the SJWA do not need to be investigated or mitigated for, the VOL developer only needs to pay money to the Regional Conservation Authority.

The VOL is only the first step in the County's plan to completely urbanize the northern San Jacinto Valley and completely surround the SJWA with cities. The map for the new City of Lakeview includes 1,000 acres of the SJWA and spreads from the City of Perris on the west, to the City of San Jacinto and Hemet on the east, and south for many many miles. While the Villages of Lakeview would add over 30,000 people to the area, the City of Lakeview would add over 100,000 people to the southern boundary of the SJWA.

Friends feel the very existence of the SJWA is at stake. In order to allow the VOL and the City of Lakeview to be built partially in the floodplain, there are plans to substantially channelize the San Jacinto River, directing all of the water into Mystic Lake and the SJWA; this will necessitate the damming of the river at the Ramona Expressway in order to allow floodplain development downstream, using the entire SJWA as a giant flood control basin. There is talk of forcing the state to re-open and pave Davis Road as a through road; and the decommissioning of Lake Perris and the State Park is not a remote possibility.

The Friends have hired a renowned environmental law firm (Shute Mihaly & Weinberger-SMW) to make comments on the EIR. The Center for Biodiversity has also made extensive comments on the EIR. This project will almost certainly be approved by the County of Riverside on February 23, 2010, and the Friends will have 30 days to have SMW file a lawsuit on our behalf. We are extremely confident, as we have been in all the other lawsuits we have filed and won, that we will prevail and the VOL project approval will be vacated by the courts. As you know, this lawsuit will cost tens of thousands of dollars. We are asking Audubon members, on behalf of the San Jacinto Wildlife Area and all the wonderful birding trips that you plan on taking with your grandchildren throughout the 21st century, to support the Friends with your check to: FNSJV, P.O. Box 9097, Moreno Valley CA 92552-9097. Thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

Sue Nash, Friends Board Member and former SBVAS President

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.

Solar Showdown in California Tortoises' Desert Home

By Michael R. Blood, Associated Press Writer

On a strip of California's Mojave Desert, two dozen rare tortoises could stand in the way of a sprawling solar-energy complex in a case that highlights mounting tensions between wilderness conservation and the nation's quest for cleaner power.

Oakland, Calif.-based BrightSource Energy has been pushing for more than two years for permission to erect 400,000 mirrors on the site to gather the sun's energy. It could become the first project of its kind on U.S. Bureau of Land Management property, leaving a footprint for others to follow on vast stretches of public land across the West.

The construction would come with a cost. Government scientists have concluded that more than 5 square miles of habitat for the federally threatened desert tortoise would be permanently lost.

The Sierra Club and other environmentalists want the complex relocated to preserve what they call a near-pristine home for rare plants and wildlife, including the protected tortoise, the Western burrowing owl and bighorn sheep. "It's actually a good project. It's just located in the wrong place," said Ileene Anderson of the Center for Biological Diversity, a Tucson, Ariz.-based environmental group.

The dispute is likely to echo for years as more companies seek to develop solar, wind and geothermal plants on land treasured by environmentalists who also support the growth of alternative energy. In an area of stark beauty, the question will be what is worth preserving and at what cost as California pushes to generate one-third of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

The Bureau of Land Management has received more than 150 applications for large-scale projects on 1.8 million acres of federal land in California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah. In California alone, such projects could claim an area the size of Rhode Island, transforming the state into the world's largest solar farm.

BrightSource Energy wants permission to construct three solar power plants on the site that together would generate enough power each year for 142,000 homes, potentially generating billions of dollars of revenue over time.

The sun's power is used to heat water and make steam, which in turn drives turbines to create electricity. Built in phases, the project would include seven, 459-foot metal towers, a natural gas pipeline, water tanks, steam turbine generators, boilers and buildings for administration and maintenance. Each plant would be surrounded by 8-foot high steel fencing.

The site has virtually unbroken sunshine most of the year, and is near transmission lines that can carry the power to consumers.

In November, federal and state biologists reviewing the plan proposed that the company catch and move the tortoises and preserve them elsewhere on 12,000 acres, a proposal that could cost BrightSource an estimated \$25 million.

The company declined to comment directly on those issues.

It will likely be months before state and federal regulators considering the plan make a decision on the tortoises' fate.

BrightSource President John Woolard warned in government filings released last month that heavy-handed regulation could kill the proposal. He did not mention the tortoises directly but referred to "unbounded and extreme" requirements being placed on the company.

At a time when the White House is pushing for the rapid development of green power, Woolard predicted the outcome in the California desert would reverberate widely.

The large-scale solar industry "is in its infancy, with great promise to complete with conventional energy," Woolard wrote. "Overburdening this fledgling industry will cause it to be stillborn, ending that promise before it has truly begun."

The Sierra Club wants regulators to move the site closer to Interstate 15, the busy freeway connecting Los Angeles and Las Vegas, to avoid what it says will be a virtual death sentence for the tortoises. Estimates of the population have varied, but government scientists say at least 25 would need to be captured and moved.

The group argues that the reptiles are the "most genetically distinct" of all of California's desert tortoises and point to a 2007 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report that found the tortoise population is dropping in parts of a four-state region that includes California.

"The project must not contribute to additional loss of habitat," the Sierra Club said in government filings.

Roy Averill-Murray, the Fish and Wildlife Service's desert tortoise recovery coordinator, said there are insufficient data to make judgments about the population on the BrightSource site.

Tortoise "populations across the board have declined, but we don't have the same kind of information for this particular patch of ground," Averill-Murray said.

In a statement, BrightSource spokesman Keely Wachs did not address proposals to move all or part of the complex, pledging that the company "will continue to work with the environmental community to ensure that we establish a good example for projects that follow."

In government filings, the company depicts the site near the Nevada line as far from untouched. It has been used for livestock grazing, has been crisscrossed by off-roaders and the boundary of a golf club is a half-mile away.

Except for the tortoise, no other federal or state threatened or endangered animal or plant is on the site, the company said. In 1994 the federal government designated 6.4 million acres as "critical habitat" for the tortoise in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah, but the BrightSource site was not included "and is by no means in an area critical to the survival of this species," the company concluded.

The complicated review is being watched closely.

"At this point there are zero solar-energy projects on public land," said Monique Hanis of the Solar Energy Industries Association, a trade group. "We are looking for ways to expand the market and reduce barriers...and get more of these projects moving."



A lawn is nature under totalitarian rule.

Michael Pollan, Second nature, 1991

Nature will not be admired by proxy.

Winston Churchill

UCR Extension: A Field Study of Birds: Spring Course: Bio X405

An introduction to the birds of Southern California with special emphasis on identification and natural history of waterfowl, gulls and birds of prey. Many prime areas are visited on the field trips.

Note: This course may be taken twice for credit toward the Specialized Study Program in Field Ornithology. Visitors are not permitted. Enrollment is limited. Vertebrate course for Certificate in Field Ecology Elective for Specialized Study Program in Field Ornithology.

Instructor: Eugene A. Cardiff, B.A., retired Curator of Natural History, San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands. Cardiff is Extension's longest-standing instructor. He has taught over 100 ornithology classes since 1968

Credit: 2 units

Dates/Times: Tues., 7:30-9:30 p.m., April 13. Field trips all day Sat. April 17, 24; May 1, 15 and June 5. (6 meetings)

Location: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM

Text: "Field Guide to the Birds of North America," 5th edition, Jon L. Dunn and Jonathan K. Alderfer ISBN

To enroll online, go to: https://www.extension.ucr.edu/enroll/catalog/olr_course_details.php?crisd=459

To enroll by phone, call: 800-442-4990 (**note:** to receive a discount for couples and family members, registration must be done by phone.) **If you are a member of Audubon you are eligible for a PINE (Partners in Nature Education) discount.**



This Peregrine Falcon was spotted sitting on a power pole just south of the Sonny Bono Visitor Center at the Salton Sea Wildlife Area on January 9, 2010. Chet McGaugh identified it as a member of the Tundra population, something worth documenting.

The photo was taken and submitted by Larry Watson.

If you spot and identify an unusual bird, please submit your photos to the Western Meadowlark for publication.

Thank You for Donations

San Bernardino Valley Audubon would like to thank and honor the following people for their generous donations.

Dale Powell for the donation of a car. This is our first donated car!

Arlene Rheinish for donating a framed print for our very successful silent auction in December.

Barbara Carlson for the donation of 35+ hummingbird feeders.



Chuck Bernard for a cash donation.

Get Your Newsletter Directly From the Website

If you would like to help SBVAS with printing and mailing costs for the Western Meadowlark, but don't want the newsletter to fill up your email account, you can opt to download the Meadowlark directly from the website. Simply go the www.sbvashome.com and click on Western Meadowlark on the upper right of the home page. You will see a list of Meadowlarks dating back several years. Click on the top edition to see the most recent newsletter. You will then be able to view a pdf copy of the newsletter which you can read right from your computer or, if you choose, you can print a copy to read later. Be sure to notify board member Brad Singer if this is your choice.

Climate Change and the California Desert Conference

by Seth Shtier

The National Parks Conservation Association and Defenders of Wildlife are pleased to announce the Climate Change and the California Desert Conference. The conference is free of charge and will be held on Friday, March 12, 2010 at the Yucca Valley Community Center in Yucca Valley California. The purpose of the conference is to educate citizens, elected officials, students and the staff of land management agencies about how climate change will affect our California desert and Joshua Tree National Park. Sponsors include The Mojave Desert Land Trust, The Living Desert, The Desert Protective Council, The National Park Service, Copper Mountain College, The Sun Runner Magazine and The Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council. Registration for the conference will take place at 8:30am and the conference will be from 9:00am-4:30pm.

The presentations at the Climate Change and the California Desert Conference will examine how climate change will affect the California Desert, but it will also explore how renewable energy initiatives can help protect the resources of our desert while saving businesses and homeowners money. Our featured speakers will include Dr. Debra Hughson, Science Advisor to the Mojave National Preserve, speaking about how climate change will affect the Mojave Desert's seeps and springs; Dr. Cameron Barrows presenting on the effects of climate change on the desert tortoise; Dr. Lori Hargrove on desert birds and Jim Ferguson discussing how AB811 can help counties and municipalities offer low interest loans to business and homeowners for energy upgrades like rooftop solar, energy efficient air conditioning and much more!

We are also organizing a climate change art contest and show after the conference at the High Desert Nature Museum, which will draw upon the works of artists from all over the Morongo Valley.

Please RSVP to Seth Shtier,

Senior Program Coordinator
National Parks Conservation Association
Joshua Tree, Ca 92252
760-366-7785
sshtier@npca.org

[&](http://www.sbvash.org)

President & Program Chair: Dori Myers

[\(714\) 779-2201](mailto:dorimyers1@aol.com)

First Vice-President & Conservation Chair: Drew Feldmann

[\(909\) 881-6081](mailto:drewf3@verizon.net)

Second Vice President & Funding & Grants: Pete Clark

[\(951\)-212-2467](mailto:petec3@roadrunner.com)

Treasurer: Nancy Higbee

[\(951\) 780-9236](mailto:nlhigbee@earthlink.net)

Recording Secretary: Cin Greyraven

[\(909\) 794-0509](mailto:greyraven@wildmail.com)

Hospitality: abeni9@earthlink.net

DIRECTORS:

Gene Cardiff [\(909\) 875-5358](mailto:ecardiff4084@roadrunner.com)

Dave Goodward [\(909\) 783-2417](mailto:davegoodward@earthlink.net)

Deb Bennett Hospitality [\(951\) 242-7038](mailto:(951) 242-7038)

Tom Benson

Anthony Metcalf [\(951\) 242-7038](mailto:aemetcalf@gmail.com)

Peter Jorris [\(909\) 867-3536](mailto:pjorris@juno.com)

Mountain Conservation Issues

Brad Singer [\(909\) 838-7951](mailto:bcsinger@gmail.com)

Kirk Stitt [\(909\) 886-5513](mailto:kstitt@earthlink.net)

SBVAS Bookstore and Gift Shop:

Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

MEMBERSHIP: Crispin Rendon [\(951\) 686-7121](mailto:(951) 686-7121)

FIELD TRIPS: Gene Cardiff [\(909\) 875-5358](mailto:(909) 875-5358)

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Editor:

Linda Stitt (909) 886-5513

linda-stitt@usa.net

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899 or (909)-537-3309 or tbenson@csusb.edu

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: March 3, April 7

General Meetings: March 17, April 21

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.

March/April 2010

Sunday, March 7, 2010 - 8:00-10:00 am

Beginning Bird Walk at Hidden Valley

Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

For those of you who are just beginning the wonderful pastime of bird watching, please join us for a fun, slow-paced morning of birding in one of our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will be to teach you enough basic birding techniques and identification skills so that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen! Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

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

Saturday, March 13, 2010 - 8:00 am

Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast

Dori Myers (714) 779-2201(h) or 714-336-1420(m)

Please join us for what should be a great day of birding in the wetland areas of Orange County. Expect to see a large variety of wintering birds including ducks, shorebirds, grebes, herons, egrets, terns, cormorants, etc. We ought to find gulls and raptors and some song birds. With any luck we will see 50 or more species just in the morning. After birding Bolsa Chica (until around noon) we will go to Newport Back Bay or the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary to eat our lunch and finish the day.

We will meet at the PCH parking lot of Bolsa Chica at 8:00 am. To reach Bolsa Chica, take the 91 freeway south to the 55 (Newport freeway). Continue on the 55 to the 405 and go north towards Long Beach. Exit at Beach Blvd. (south) and continue to Pacific Coast Highway. Turn right and head north on PCH, past Huntington Beach. We will meet in the parking lot of the Ecological Preserve (Bolsa Chica) on the inland side of Pacific Coast Hwy at the signal between Seagate and Warner. Please bring a lunch if you intend to stay for the day. Also bring binoculars, bird book and a scope if you have one. It can get cold along the coast in winter so dress in layers.

Sunday, April 4, 2010 - 8:00-10:00 am

Beginning Bird Walk at Rubidoux Nature Center

Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

6

Western Meadowlark

Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring binoculars and water. The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome.

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

Saturday-Sunday, April 10-11, 2010

Owens Valley and Lake Crowley

Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

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

Saturday, April 24, 2010

North End Salton Sea

Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699

SBVAS has the Insane Jaunt (too hot) and the CBC (a bit chilly) but April is just right, the best time to go to the Salton Sea—great weather, shorebirds in breeding plumage en route north, migrant warblers, tanagers, grosbeaks, flycatchers. We will bird the shoreline, the open sea, trees, and scrub habitats

(continued on page 7)

We will meet at the "Big Arco" truck stop at the corner of 66th and 86S in Mecca at 7:00AM on Saturday, April 24. Weather will likely be perfect; bring water/drinks and pack a lunch.

Calendar for Field Trips 2009-2010

-  **March 7:** Beginning Bird Walk, Hidden Valley—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin
-  **March 13:** Bolsa Chica—Dori Myers
-  **April 4:** Beginning Bird Walk, Rubidoux Nature Center—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin
-  **April 10 and 11:** East Mojave—Cancelled
-  **April 10 and 11:** Owens Valley Grouse Trip—Gene Cardiff (**Please note change in dates**)
-  **April 24:** Salton Sea—Chet McGaugh
- May 1:** Big Morongo—Chet McGaugh
- May 2:** Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—Doug Karalun
- May 2:** Box Springs—John Green
- May 8:** White Water Canyon—Steve Myers
- May 29:** Baby Birds at Bear Paw—Cin Grayraven
- June 5:** San Bernardino Mountains—Brad Singer
- June 12:** Wrightwood—Gene Cardiff
- June 26 and 27:** Greenhorns—Steve Myers
- July 17:** Hummingbirds at Bear Paw—Cin Greyraven
- August 7:** Insane Jaunt/Salton Sea—Tom Benson



Safeguarding California State Parks Once and for All

Audubon California and local Audubon chapters have a long history of support for California State Parks, and it has been heartbreaking watching this valuable treasure threatened year after year by state budget cuts. Audubon California is helping secure the future of California State Parks by supporting a ballot initiative that will provide dependable funding for the parks.

If ultimately approved by the voters, the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 will increase the vehicle license fee by \$18, and in exchange give Californians free access to state parks. This proposal would generate \$500 million in annual funding for state parks, wildlife areas, and marine protected areas. It should be noted that 50 state parks include Audubon Important Bird Areas.

Audubon California is part of a rapidly growing coalition of initiative supporters including the California State Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, Sierra Club California, Save the Redwoods League, Defenders of Wildlife, Surfrider Foundation, California State Park Rangers Association, California State Lifeguard Association and Ocean Conservancy.

Before this initiative can go before the voters, it has to gain enough signatures to get on the ballot. Audubon California has taken a leadership role in the effort, which has set a goal of collecting 475,000 signatures by April 15. Please help by signing one of the ballot initiative petitions at a general meeting.

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...



Bearpaw Ranch

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 turn-off. Go only a few car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. We have a new paved road, the entry is easy for almost all normal passenger cars. There is an electronically operated entry gate. Members who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call ahead for the security code. Access to the code may be had by calling—Bearpaw at (909) 794-0509. Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 923396

March/April 2010

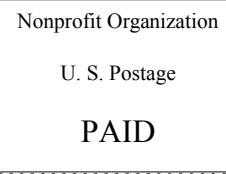
8

Western Meadowlark

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

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

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Everyone is always welcome!

All meetings are held in
the San Bernardino
County Museum 2024
Orange Tree Lane, Red-
lands, Ca.



Board Meetings are the
1st Wed.

General meetings are the
3rd Wed.

SBVAS Membership cur-
rently at 1,795

Chapter Only Membership Application

San Bernardino Valley Audubon-

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

SBVAS Membership @ \$16/year (includes subscription
to *The Western Meadowlark*)

I wish to receive the *Western Meadowlark* **only** elec-
tronically _____

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 _____

SBVAS Chapter

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society C97C110Z

Please clip and mail all memberships to: SBVAS Membership Chair

P.O. Box 10973

San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973

DATED MATERIAL - Please Expedite