



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 59 — Number 2
Nov./Dec. 2008

Birding Tibet and Mongolia

A Program by Dan Guthrie

Wednesday, November 19, 2008 7:30p.m.

Tibet and Mongolia share spectacular scenery, some beautiful birds, and both have opened up to ecotourism in recent years. Our speaker has visited both countries on birding tours and will take you on a birding and scenic journey to both countries and also comment on the conservation issues facing both places.

Dan Guthrie is Professor of Biology at Claremont McKenna, Scripps and Pitzer Colleges, where he teaches vertebrate anatomy, animal behavior and environmental science. His research on fossil birds involved several collecting trips to the California Channel Islands. He is President of Pomona Valley Audubon. Dan started birding at age 10 and is now into world birding with a life list of about 6000 species (out of the 10,000 known species.)

Dan's favorite places to bird involve impressive scenery as well as birds, and both Tibet and Mongolia are among his top favorite places. Please come join us for what should be an entertaining and enjoyable evening. Our doors open at 7:00p.m., so come early to browse our book tables and to do a little early holiday shopping while visiting with friends and enjoying refreshments. Everyone is always welcome.

Dori Myers, Programs

University Hills Project Moves Forward

University Hills is a planned 404 acre residential community that will accommodate almost 1000 residences situated in several neighborhoods. The development will also offer a range of living opportunities including estate, single-family detached, small-lot detached, cluster court homes, townhomes, and stacked flats. University Hills also includes a four acre parcel that has already been given to Cal State San Bernardino to accommodate up to 60 units for exclusive use as faculty housing. The development is being planned by Inland Communities Corporation, a Los Angeles based firm.

There are several issues with the planned development outside of the concern that these almost 1000 homes are being built in an area with the fourth highest foreclosure rate in the nation. Many concerns focus on fire, flood and seismic activity, but Audubon also has a concern with the designation of the habitat as chamise chaparral. Dave Goodward, former conservation chair for SBVAS, claims the research that resulted in the designation as chaparral was just wrong. He claims at least fifty acres of the site are riversidean coastal sage scrub, an imperiled habitat in Southern California. The firm that prepared the Environmental Impact Report did admit that their expert spent only one day on the site, making it difficult to look at all 404 acres. The expert also admitted that the visibility was bad that day. Dave also noted that previous

(Continued, pg. 3, University)

Be Wary of Warehousing

The community of Moreno Valley is currently being targeted by Highland Fairview Properties, the developer of the Aquabella residential project and the Skechers logistics facility, as a possible site for as much as 35 million square feet in distribution centers. The project would affect about 1,800 acres south of Highway 60 and between Redlands Boulevard and Gilman Springs Rd. and would reduce the number of homes allowable in the developers Specific Plan and increase the land devoted to industrial uses. The proposal to develop the area, known as Moreno Highlands, into a business park, would require a revision of the Moreno Highlands Specific Plan, and would also require the city Planning Commission and the City Council to hold public hearings prior to approval.

(warehousing—Continued on page 7)



Come and Celebrate the Holidays With Audubon!

Our traditional Potluck Dinner will be held at the San Bernardino County Museum on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at *6:30p.m.*. Turkey, Ham, and Beverage will be provided. Please bring your own table service and your favorite dish to share—a salad, vegetable, casserole, side dish or dessert. Come early to visit with friends and to do a little last minute holiday shopping at our bookstore.

*note the time is earlier than usual!

(University, cont.)

studies, including the gnatcatcher survey done one year ago, still maintain considerable sage scrub was present. According to Dave, the sage scrub portion of the project site supports at least eleven species of concern, among them the Los Angeles Pocket Mouse, Bell's Sage Sparrow, Western Spadefoot Toad, and Coast Horned Lizard. The DEIR provides mitigation for only two species of concern—Burrowing Owls, which don't occur on site, and Plummer's Mariposa Lily, which does.

The next concern with the EIR involves the risk of fires. The area is adjacent to the San Bernardino National Forest, an area of steep slopes and frequent high winds. Although the developer claims their fire mitigation plan will make the area 90% safe, and the same fire modeling was effective in the Santiago fire, Dave felt an ember analysis had not been done and feels it is a one-hundred percent certainty that more fires will occur in the area.

The development will sit on an active fault zone which the developer addresses with the creation of open space corridors. They also claim that, although the development sits on alluvial soils, the ground water is deep enough to prevent liquefaction in the event of a large quake.

The developer is trying to appeal to the University and claim cooperation by deciding not to develop the steeper canyon area, yet much of the area is too steep to develop anyway and also includes the drainage areas that cannot legally be developed. In fact, 239 acres have been given to the university, four of which are to be used for faculty and staff housing, the other 235 to be used as a natural preserve. The four-acre site is north of Badger Hill, and the 235-acre preserve is north of the planned housing development. This planned preservation of habitat doesn't ease the total habitat fragmentation problem.

Drew Feldmann, president of SVBAS, summed up the concerns by saying this development, like much urban development, fails to address the cumulative effects of increased traffic, pollution, and greenhouse gases. If this development is built, it will create one more piece of a fragmented mosaic of habitat.

The planning commission should meet regarding the specific plan by October 21, but there are many in the community who support this development. Chas Kelley, 5th Ward City Councilman, said, "University Hills is a quality project that compliments San Bernardino's dynamic university district."

Volunteers Needed

The September BLM e-newsletter announced a work day at Horse Thief Springs in the Eastern Mojave Desert on November 15. The notice, from the Needles Field Office, said volunteers will help replace a boardwalk, work on erosion control, secure a spring box cover and install spring box overflow pipes, and remove invasive plants.

In that many in the birding community are concerned about the condition of the springs, this would be a good opportunity to get involved. Bill Deppe, a desert birder, suggested volunteers might be best used to secure the fence.



Three flickers wait for a meal. Photo courtesy of Kirk Stitt

Calendar for Field Trips for 2008/2009

November 2: Beginning Bird Walk, Ford Park—Doug Karalun

November 16: Northern San Jacinto Valley—Tony Metcalf and Dave Woodward

December 6: Dagget and Newbury Springs—Gene Cardiff

December 7: Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

December 14-January 5: Christmas Bird Counts

January 4: Beginning Bird Walk, San Jacinto Wildlife Area—Doug Karalun

January 10: Salton Sea Goose and Crane Trip—Chet McGaugh and John Green

February 1: Beginning Bird Walk, San Jacinto—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

February 7 and 8: Weekend in Santa Barbara—Steve Myers and John Green

February 21: San Jacinto Wildlife Area—leader TBA

March 1: Beginning Bird Walk, Hidden Valley—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

March 7: Bolsa Chica—Dori Myers

March 14: Torres-Martinez Ponds/Salton Sea—Dave Woodward

April 5: Beginning Bird Walk, Rubidoux Nature Center—Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

April 11 and 12: Grouse Trip—Gene Cardiff

April 26: Mojave Narrows—Steve Myers

May 2: Big Morongo—Chet McGaugh

May 3: Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—Doug Karalun

May 3: Box Springs—John Green

May 9: White Water Canyon—Steve Myers

May 16: Baby Birds at Bear Paw—Cin Grayraven

June 6: Wrightwood—Gene Cardiff

July 11: Greenhorns—Steve Myers (this date is tenta-

Faster More Colorful Western Meadowlark

Please email Editor Linda Stitt at Linda-stitt@usa.net and let us know what you think. Add your photos to our newsletter.

Include your name as it appears on you Western Meadowlark newsletter

Thanks 🐦

Field Trip Schedule

BEGINNING BIRD WALK, FORD PARK—REDLANDS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2008 8:00-10:00A.M.

LEADER: DOUG KARALUN (909) 425-5355

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. Please contact Doug Karalun (909 425-5355) for further information and specific meeting directions. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time. To reach Ford Park, take I-10 east to Ford St. exit. Take the first right, the parking lot will be on your right.

NORTHERN SAN JACINTO VALLEY

NOVEMBER 16, 7:00AM

LEADERS: TONY METCALF (909 2427038 AND DAVE GOODWARD (909) 783-2417

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. 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. We will meet at the parking lot at the gate of the SJWA. From Riverside, go south on 215, then east on Ramona, then north on Davis Rd. 3 miles to the parking lot. From Hemet, go west on Ramona to Davis Rd. From Redlands, go west on I-10, then south on 91, then east on 60, east

on Gilman Springs Rd., south on Bridge St. west on Ramona and north on Davis Rd. Call ahead if you have questions. As Davis is a dirt road, it is not recommended if there have been recent rains.

Daggett and Newberry Springs

Saturday, December 6, 2008

LEADER: GENE CARDIFF (909) 875-5358

We will be looking for wintering birds in the Newberry Springs and Daggett areas in the alfalfa fields and ponds, especially birds of prey. We will meet at the Denny's restaurant at 7:00A.M. if you want to join us for breakfast, otherwise plan on meeting there at 8:00A.M. To get to Denny's take I-15 north to the Barstow outlets, take the Lenwood off ramp and go right toward the outlet stores. You will see the Denny's sign when you turn. 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.

Beginning Bird Walk, Fairmount Park—

Riverside

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2008 8:00-10:00A.M.

LEADERS: JENNIFER AND MICHELLE TOBIN

Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613

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

To reach Fairmount Park from downtown Riverside, take Market St. north to the signal at Fairmount Park and turn left (just before the train engine). 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: 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.

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... 

Choose your mountain, your desert, your marshland, your place of power, and stand by it because even as one piece of land is protected, the whole planet rejoices.

Lou Gold

San Bernardino Valley Audubon 2008/09 Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts

Redlands (Mill Creek): Sunday, December 14, 2008 7:00a.m.

Compiler: Gene Cardiff email: g.cardiff@worldnet.att.net

We will meet at the Mill Creek Ranger Station, just north of the intersection of Mill Creek Rd. (State Hwy. 38) and Bryant St. at 7:00a.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. At the end of the day, around 5:00p.m., 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 1827 Mentone Blvd. in Mentone, near the Post Office and the hardware store.

Morongo Valley: Sunday, December 14, 2008 7:00a.m.

Compiler: Dee Zeller (760)363-7190, birdee@verizon.net and Margaret Hogan, mhandbb@earthlink.net

Let's hope that this year brings a few more rarities, but more than that, let's hope that our regular birds continue to be found in healthy numbers. Please call Dee or his wife Betty for information, or simply arrive at the Parking Lot at Big Morongo, 11055 East Dr. at 7a.m. sharp. Note that volunteer counters may be assigned to any of the eight areas within a 1.5 mile radius of Big Morongo 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 14, 2008

Compilers: Sherri Stange (909)925-4007

Steve Adkison (909) 652-2907

Meet at the Lake Hemet Store at 8:00a.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 5:30p.m. to tally and admire who found what.* Come join us in the mountains.

Santa Ana River Valley: Sunday, December 14, 2008 6:45p.m.

Compiler: Larry LaPre (951) 276-1213(h) (951) 607-5218(w)

Email: lflapre@aol.com

The Santa Ana River Valley CBC covers most of the cities of Riversidem Corona, and Norco. Within the count circle are some outstanding riparian areas like Prado Basin and Rubidoux Nature Center, and some duck filled lakes, like Lake Norconian and Lake Matthews. Meeting places and time for the sub-groups are listed below.

Rubidoux Nature Center: Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at 6:45a.m. Take Riverview (Limonite) from Mission Ave. in Rubidoux to Riverview Dr. in Rubidoux (watch for 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 6:45a.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 16, 2008

Compilers: Tony Metcalf (909)242-7038 ametcalf@csusb.edu

Tom Benson (909)648-0899 thomasbenenson@aol.com

We will meet at 6:30a.m. on the corner of Bridge St. 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 CBCs. 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. We will try to have the 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

San Bernardino Valley: Saturday, December 20, 2008

Compiler: Dori Myers (714)779-2201 (home) dorimyrs@aol.com

Come and join San Bernardino Valley Audubon's longest running count. We will meet at 7:00a.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. Anyone can help and the more pairs of eyes out there in the field, the more birds we find. We will regroup around 5:30p.m. to share stories and tally the day's findings.

Mojave River Valley: Sunday, December 27, 2008

Compiler: Steve Myers (760)843-4009(h) or (950) 369-8060 (w)

steohenmyers@earthlink.net

The meeting place is the same as the past years. The Starbucks in the Vons shopping center parking lot on the northeastern corner of the intersection of Bear Valley Rd. and Hesperia Rd. This intersection is just over three miles east of I-15 (take the Bear Valley Rd. exit). We will meet at 6:30a.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.

Joshua Tree National Park: Tuesday, December 30, 2008

Compiler: Joe Zarki (760)367-5520(work) or (760)366-8913(home) lutzarki@roadrunner.com

Group 1: Meet the group leader at 7:30a.m. at the Indian Cove Camp Ground. After covering Indian cove, the group will go to parts of Twentynine Palms, the Oasis of Mara (the park headquarters), Luckie Park and the 29 Palms Inn. Group 2: Meet the group leader at 7:30a.m. at the West Entrance of the Park. Take Park Blvd. from the town of Joshua Tree, parking is just behind the entry station. This group will cover the campgrounds in the interior of the park, Hidden, Lost Horse, and Queen Valleys. This part of the park is 3,000 to 5,000 ft. with an abundance of rocks and Joshua Trees. And we hope to see a bird or two. The daily use fee of \$5 for the park will be charged to each Count participant. The Joshua Tree National Park Association is no longer able to cover the count participant fees. 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 pick up lunch in Twentynine 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 5:30p.m. at a restaurant, in Twentynine Palms to compile the results.

Salton Sea North: Saturday, January 3, 2009

Compiler: Chet McGaugh (909)781-3699 (home) or (909)369-8060(work) chetmgaugh@earthlink.net

We will meet at 6:30a.m. at the big ARCO just off of the expressway 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 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

A History of Christmas Bird Counts

More than 30,000 observers participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database representing over a century of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or “CBC”, is citizen science in action.

Prior to the turn of the century, people engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas “Side Hunt”. They would choose sides and go afield with their guns, whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered (and furred) quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages around the turn of the 20th century, and many observers and scientist were becoming concerned about declining bird populations. Beginning on Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, proposed a new holiday tradition—a “Christmas Bird Census” that would count birds in the holidays rather than hunt them. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the enthusiasm of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined.

What Do the Count Data Tell Us?

The primary objective of the Christmas Bird Count is to monitor the status and distribution of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere.

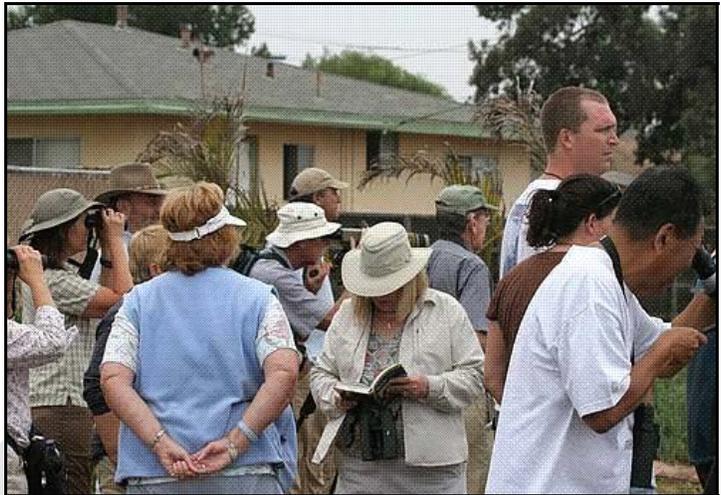
The count period, which is from December 14th to January 5th in North America is referred to as “early winter,” because many birds at this time are still in the late stages of their southward migration, so it is not “true” winter. When we combine these data with other surveys, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, we begin to see a clearer picture of how the continent’s bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years.

The information is also vital for conservation. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat, such as groundwater contamination or poisoning from improper use of pesticides.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition—and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation.

As long as there are birds to be counted, the Christmas Bird Count will go on being the most fun, and rewarding bird census the world over!

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC!



Leader Gene Cardiff and others enjoy birds at the Tijuana Estuary on the San Diego field trip on September 13. The group worked hard to locate a Light-footed Clapper Rail in the brush overhanging the water. Gene commented it was the first time he had to identify a bird by its reflection.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Common Loon | Hairy Woodpecker | House Finch |
| Horned Grebe | | Purple Finch |
| American Black Duck | Downy Woodpecker | American Goldfinch |
| Mallard | Northern Flicker | |
| Common Goldeneye | Say’s Phoebe | Red Crossbill |
| Turkey Vulture | Black Phoebe | Red-breasted Nuthatch |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | Blue Jay | Pygmy Nuthatch |
| Red-tailed Hawk | Scrub Jay | Black-capped Chickadee |
| Ferruginous Hawk | American Crow | Mountain Chickadee |
| Northern Goshawk | Fish Crow | Carolina Chickadee |
| American Kestrel | Black-billed Magpie | Tufted Titmouse |
| Northern Bobwhite | European Starling | Plain Titmouse |
| California Quail | Horned Lark | Bushtit |
| Greater Prairie-Chicken | American Pipit | Wrentit |
| Ruffed Grouse | Winter Wren | Ruby-crowned Kinglet |
| Killdeer | Carolina Wren | Golden-crowned Kinglet |
| Herring Gull | Brown Creeper | Northern Shrike |
| Great Black-backed Gull | White-breasted Nuthatch | Eastern Bluebird |
| Band-tailed Pigeon | White-throated Sparrow | Western Bluebird |
| Mourning Dove | White-crowned Sparrow | Hermit Thrush |
| Barred Owl | Golden-crowned Sparrow | Varied Thrush |
| Burrowing Owl | Fox Sparrow | American Robin |
| Common Poor-will | Dark-eyed Junco | Northern Mockingbird |
| Anna’s Hummingbird | Eastern Meadowlark | Hutton’s Vireo |
| White-headed Woodpecker | Western Meadowlark | Townsend’s Warbler |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | Red-winged Blackbird | Yellow-rumped Warbler |
| Lewis’ Woodpecker | Brewer’s Blackbird | Spotted Towhee |
| Yellow-bellied Sapsucker | Common Grackle | Canyon Towhee |
| | Pine Grosbeak | Northern Cardinal |

25 Total Counts in first CBC

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Scotch Lake, New Brunswick | Central Park, NY | Oberlin, Ohio |
| Toronto, Ontario | Englewood, NJ | Glen Elyn, Il. |
| Keene, NH | Moorestown, NJ | North Freedom, Wis. |
| Cambridge and Belmont, Mass. | Newfield, NJ | La Grange, Missouri |
| Boston, Mass. | Baldwin, La. | Pacific Grove, Ca. |
| Bristol, Conn. | Pueblo, Co. | Neshaminy Creek and |
| Norwalk, Conn. | Germantown, Pa. | Upper Delaware River, |
| Auburn, NY | Wyncote, Pa. | Pa. |
| | Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa. | Delaware River Mead- |
| | | ows, Pa. |

(Warehousing, cont.)

The Moreno Highlands plan was originally approved in 1992 and was expected to include 7,700 homes, a 600 acre business park, schools, golf courses and 120 acres of city parks. It was expected to add as many as 30,000 new residents to Moreno Valley and 21,000 jobs, according to estimates at the time.

Environmentalists sued the city over the plan, claiming traffic, air pollution, and potential earthquake hazards were not adequately addressed. Most importantly they also argued that the planned community threatened the nearby San Jacinto Wildlife Area. Because of economic issues at the time, the plan, though approved, was not built, but it has never been abandoned. The desired changes to the plan will undoubtedly play a role in the local council position on the November election.

Residents for a Livable Moreno Valley, a grass roots group, is currently leading the opposition to the Logistics Center proposal. This group has studied several issues associated with the project and has outlined several concerns. The first concern is with increased traffic. If all the warehouses are actually built and occupied, it is expected 40,000 more trucks every day will drive on the 60 freeway. Travel on the 60 is already challenging. 40,000 more trucks would create dangerous gridlock.

Many supporters of the project argue that, had the project moved forward as houses rather than warehouses, there would have been even more vehicles traveling the freeway. Although that may be true, it points out the second concern with warehousing, namely, pollution. Riverside County is on the receiving end of pollution generated at ports, freeways and factories in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Sea breezes push the pollution inland, and the chemicals react with each other on the way to create fine particles which can penetrate the body's normal defenses to cause a range of illnesses. Each of those 40,000 trucks makes 400 times the pollution of a single car. In fact, diesel pollution is the worst toxic air contaminant in California, responsible for 70% of the state's air pollution-related cancer risk.

Warehousing projects are usually sold to communities as jobs. In truth, warehouse jobs equate to one job per 2,250 square feet, less than other types of businesses that might be expected in a community of homes and retail. Warehouses also generate absolutely no sales tax, so they do not support community services, although the developer has contributed to a number of local activities and organizations.

Don't think because you don't drive the 60 or live in Moreno Valley you need not be concerned. For additional information and comments, you can visit residents4alivablemorenovalley.org

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www.inlandplanet.org

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CALENDAR

- November 5, 2008 Board Meeting
- November 19, 2008 General Meeting
- December 3, 2008 Board Meeting
- December 17, 2008 General Meeting
- 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. Pot-**

If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen.
Henry David Thoreau

If You Suspect West Nile Virus

Report dead birds to the California Department of Health Services WNV and Dead Bird Hotline by visiting www.westnile.ca.gov or calling toll free 1-877-968-BIRD (2473). If possible, be prepared to provide the location of the animal (city, zip code, street address or intersection), description of the animal (color, size and type), date found, and condition of the animal (e.g. intact, decomposed, etc.)

In Memoriam—Jessie Kniffen

Long time Audubon members will remember Jessie Kniffen, who was a cheerful presence at our monthly membership meetings, semi-annual potlucks, and field trips for decades. She and her husband Roy organized the Pancake Breakfast Bird Walks for many years and presided over the cooking—rain or shine. Jessie served as the chapter’s Membership Chair for what was probably a record-breaking term, and she and Roy helped get the Meadowlark labeled and mailed each month. The Christmas Bird Count for the San Bernardino Valley circle benefited from Jessie and Roy’s deep-rooted local knowledge of the land and its birds. Jessie and Roy assisted Gene Cardiff with collecting and preparing bird skins for the San Bernardino County Museum and helped the bird banding teams headed by Barbara Carlson. The Kniffen’s big black camper truck was a familiar sight on camping field trips, during which Roy many times hauled other drivers out of mud and ditches and Jessie shared her special camp recipes. In retirement, Jessie and Roy moved to Prunedale for several years and then relocated to Yreka. They remained active birders. In March 2007, they toured the Texas Gulf Coast with family for two weeks. The family gathered again this past June for birding outings in the Siskiyou Valley. When health problems struck, Jessie continued to enjoy watching birds come in to the feeders that Roy put up outside her hospice window. At age 90, on September 1, 2008, Jessie Kniffen passed away. Her husband Roy, age 91, is still living independently in Yreka.



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 1,743

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...

Everyone is always welcome
Program Chair Dori

Bearpaw 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 923396



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- NAS Regular Membership* \$35
- NAS Gift Membership \$20.
- Senior/Student (with id) Membership \$15

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

Includes chapter membership & Meadowlark if in SBVAS area

Also includes the National issue of Audubon magazine

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society (SBVAS):

- SBVAS Membership & WESTERN MEADOWLARK only \$16
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- First class subscription to WESTERN MEADOWLARK \$21.00
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SBVAS Chapter
C117XCH
May 2008

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

c/o San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

P. O. Box 10973

San Bernardino, CA 92423-0973

