



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

# WESTERN MEADOWLARK



<https://www.facebook.com/SBVAudubon/>

Volume 70— Number 3

**General Meeting  
January 15, 2020**

**General Meeting  
February 19, 2020**

## Birding Down Under: Queensland and Northern Territory

## The Great Migration – Wildebeests in East Africa

**A Talk by Steve Myers**

**A Talk by Sherry Schmidt**

Steve and Vesta Myers spent late June and early July of 2019 in Australia, searching for its unique birds and other wildlife. They visited much of Queensland, and the Northern Territory’s “Top End,” including Darwin and Kakadu National Park.

This was the first trip out of the New World for them, and they were treated to a myriad of not only new bird species, but many new bird families. Guided by local experts, they observed nearly 300 bird species, about 95 percent of which were “life birds.” Australia is also home to other unique and fascinating wildlife, including incredible aggregations of fruit bats (flying foxes), kangaroos and their relatives, possums, large monitor lizards, and very large and potentially dangerous Saltwater Crocodiles.

**Australian King-Parrot**



**Photo Credit: Steve Myers**

**Laughing Kookaburra**



**Photo Credit: Steve Myers**

Steve will present photos of many of these bird, mammal, and reptile species, along with a few interesting facts about the “Land Down Under.”

**Spectacled Flying Foxes**



**Photo Credit: Steve Myers**

Sherry Schmidt will present a PowerPoint presentation on a trip she took to Kenya in 2019 to see the wildebeest migration. The presentation will mainly share images of what it is like to be in Masai Mara during the wildebeest migration. She will also discuss a bit of savanna ecology and provide tips on how to prepare for a photo safari to Africa. Tips will include gear to take and how to pack it.

**Africa-Kenya**



**Photo Credit: Sherry Schmidt**

Sherry Schmidt is a Professor Emeritus at Mt. San Antonio College. She retired after 33 years of service. She received her B.A. at University of Montana and her M.A. at C.S.U.

**Africa-Kenya**



**Photo Credit: Sherry Schmidt**

Fullerton. She still teaches Conservation Biology during the winter intersession. Her love of nature and travel have taken her to the world’s seven continents. She considers herself a conservation photographer and hopes that her images will stimulate an interest in nature and concern for the world’s vanishing species.

## January/February SBVAS Field Trips

**Sunday, January 5, 2020 - 8:00-10:00 am**  
**Beginning Bird Walk at Cal State San Bernardi-**  
**no Tom Benson [thomasabenson@aol.com](mailto:thomasabenson@aol.com)**

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, January 11, 2020 - 7:00 am**  
**Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip**  
**Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 & Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358**

**Note: New Meeting Place**

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. We will meet at 7:00 am

in the **Denny's parking lot** at 66th Street and the 86 Highway in Mecca. We will work South from Mecca on Highway 111 to North Shore, Salton Sea Recreation Area (SRA), toward Brawley, and our eventual terminus at Sonny Bono NWR Unit 1. Expect mud.

**Saturday, January 11, 2020 - 7:30 am (Tentative)**  
**Seal Beach NWR**  
**Brad Singer (909) 936-5087**

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. There is a two-week vetting process by the Navy for all visitors. For those wishing to attend, please email me at [bsinger@gmail.com](mailto:bsinger@gmail.com) by the end of December.

**January 18, 2020 - 8:00 am**  
**Malibu Lagoon to Point Mugu**  
**Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358 & Dori Myers (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.

**Saturday, February 1, 2020 - 8:30 am**  
**Silverwood Lake Barge Trip**  
*Steve Myers (951) 616-7578*  
*stephenmyers@earthlink.net*

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. Note: Since the barge only accommodates up to 25 people, this trip will be by reservation only. The leader will begin compiling a reservation list after January 1, 2010. Please email [stephenmyers@earthlink.net](mailto:stephenmyers@earthlink.net) or call (951) 616-7578. 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. Most winters, 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 one of the most reliable spots in Southern California to find wintering Lewis's Woodpeckers; hopefully, they will be 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 an 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 half-day trip, lasting until 1-2 pm.

**Sunday, February 2, 2020 - 8:00-10:00 am**  
**Beginning Bird Walk at Prado Regional Park**  
*Tom Benson (909) 648-0899*  
*thomasabenson@aol.com*

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 wel-

come. 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.

**Sunday, February 9, 2020 - 7:00 am**  
**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.

### Field Trip Checklist

Comfortable shoes or hiking boots, hat, sunscreen, insect repellent, a good map, full fuel tank, drinking water, snacks and lunch, binoculars and/or a scope, and field guide. Come and Enjoy. Call Field Trip Leader **or check website for last minute cancellations or changes.**

## San Bernardino Valley Audubon 2020 Sponsored Christmas Bird Counts

Once again the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring nine Christmas Bird Counts in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Everyone is welcome to participate in as many of these counts as he or she likes. For further information, please contact the compilers at the phone numbers or email addresses listed below. Reservations are not necessary, but it can't hurt to call the compiler for last minute changes in plans and also to give him or her an idea of how many participants to expect. National Audubon is no longer charging a participant fee, so the CBC is now FREE! Most counts finish the day at a local restaurant to eat supper and to compile the results. That's often half the fun! For more information call or e-mail your count compiler (listed below). Bring a friend and enjoy the day. Count compilers who wish to change their information should contact Brad Singer ([bcsinger@gmail.com](mailto:bcsinger@gmail.com)) to post it on the website.

**Joshua Tree National Park**  
**Friday, January 3, 2020 7:00 a.m.**  
**Compiler: Joe Zarki (760) 366-8913**  
**[jwzarki@gmail.com](mailto:jwzarki@gmail.com)**

The daily use fee for the park will be waived for the Christmas count participants. Bring layers of clothing, it can be cold and windy or it can be warm and calm, we've had everything from 78 degrees 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. Some Group 1 and Group 2 routes require hiking on trails or in rough, rocky terrain. We will meet at 5:00 p.m. at a restaurant in Joshua Tree to compile the results.

### **Group 1:**

Meet the group leader at 7:00 a.m. at the Indian Cove Ranger Station on Indian Cove Rd. This is off Hwy. 62 on the western side of Twentynine Palms at the entry of the park leading to Indian Cove Camp Ground. Birders meeting here will cover the north side of the count circle including the Indian Cove area, 49 Palms Oasis, the Oasis of Mara, and the North Park Entrance area of the park. In-town locations include Knott Sky Park, Luckie Park, the Twentynine Palms Inn, and any place birds can be found. Group 1 covers low elevation areas of the count so temperatures are fairly mild.

### **Group 2:**

Meet the group leader at 7:00 a.m. at the West Entrance of the Park. Take Park Blvd. from the town of Joshua Tree, parking is just behind the entry station. Areas covered include Hidden Valley, Lost Horse area, Barker Dam, Keys Ranch, Ryan Ranch area, Queen Valley, Jumbo Rocks, and the Geology Tour Road. Group 2 covers higher elevation habitats from 3000-5000 feet so temperatures are 5-10 degrees cooler.

**2020 UPCOMING  
SBVAS FIELD TRIPS**

**Sunday, March 1, 2020 8-10 am  
Beginning Bird Walk at Fairmount Park, River-  
side  
Dave Woodward (909) 783-2417**

**Saturday, March 21, 2020 - 8:00 am  
Bolsa Chica & Orange County Coast  
Dori Myers (714) 779-2201 (h) or (714) 336-1420  
(m)**

**Saturday March 28, 2020 - 8:00 am  
Lake Skinner County Park Field Trip  
Charity Hagen**

**Saturday, April 18, 2020 7:00 am  
Shorebird Migration at the Salton Sea  
Chet McGaugh (951) 781-3699 and Tony  
Metcalf (951) 242-7038**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 - 8:00-10:00 am  
Beginning Bird Walk at San Timoteo Canyon  
Matt Grube (909) 253-3867**

**Sunday, April 19, 2020 7:00 am  
San Jacinto Wildlife Area  
Tony Metcalf (951) 242-7038 and Chet  
McGaugh (951) 781-3699**

**Saturday, April 25, 2020 7:00 am  
Big Morongo Preserve  
Matt Grube (909) 253-3867**

**Sunday, May 3, 2020 8-10 am  
Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Rancho, Oak  
Glen  
Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211**

**Saturday, May 9, 2020 8:00 am  
Whitewater Canyon  
Steve Myers (951) 616-7578**

**Sunday, May 10, 2020 9:00 am  
Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch  
Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509**

**Saturday, May 16, 2020 8:00 am  
San Jacinto Mountains  
Gene Cardiff & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201**

**Saturday, Sunday May 31-June 1, 2020 7:30 am  
Eastside Sierra  
Brad Singer (909) 936-5087**

**Saturday, June 13, 2020 7:30 am  
Wrightwood & Blue Ridge  
Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358**

**Saturday, July 11, 2020 7:30 am  
Western San Bernardino Mountains  
Gene Cardiff, Dori Myers, Brad Singer**



Support our local Audubon Chapter by logging into Amazon.com via Amazon Smile.

Click on https://smile.amazon.com/ And choose San Bernardino County Audubon Society in the list of worthy groups. Amazon.com donates 0.5% of your purchase amount to our chapter!

SBVAS Officers 2018-2019 www.sbvas.org

President: Brad Singer (909) 838-7951
First Vice-President, Program Chair: Dori Myers (714) 779-2201
Second Vice President: Dave Goodward (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 (951) 522-6077
Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-3536
Membership: Pete Clark (951) 212-2467
Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038
Cin Greyraven (909) 327-8795

WESTERN MEADOWLARK Editor: Kathy Cardiff kathycardiff4088@gmail.com (714) 357-7959

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Brad Singer bcsinger@gmail.com

BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509 truthraven@verizon.net

RARE BIRD ALERT: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899



Photo Credit: Judith Sparhawk

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: Next Board meeting, First Wednesday of the month, Nov 6, 2019, 7 p.m.

General Meetings: Next General Meeting on November 20, 2019, 7:30 pm

All General 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. General meetings, except potlucks, start at 7:30 and doors open at 7. Potlucks begin at 6:30.

## BIRD WALKS IN THE COACHELLA VALLEY AREA

Check the website and/or call to make sure the walk is happening.  
Websites have maps/directions.

**SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE!!!**

- Big Morongo Canyon Preserve [www.bigmorongo.org](http://www.bigmorongo.org) Free bird walks are held each Wednesday throughout the year excluding Thanksgiving Eve, Christmas Eve, or day, and New Year's Eve or day. Bird walks start at 8:00 a.m. and generally last about 3 hours.
- Whitewater Preserve [http://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_whitewater.html](http://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_whitewater.html) Whitewater Canyon Road was severely damaged from winter storms in February, rendering it impassable. The preserve will reopen once the road has been repaired in fall/winter 2019. Free Bird Walk second & fourth Tuesdays of the month- 8:00AM.
- Coachella Valley Preserve <http://coachellavalleypreserve.org/> Bird Walk weekly; generally Sundays and Mondays. October- May; at 7:30AM or 8:00AM. Check site or call for day and times.
- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument <https://www.desertmountains.org/> Free Bird Walk first and third Mondays of the month, 7:30AM, November- April. Registration required. Call (760) 862- 9984. Check site or call for days and times.
- Sunnylands [www.sunnylands.org](http://www.sunnylands.org) Free Garden Bird Walk 8:45AM Fridays, November- May. Estate Bird Tours 8:45AM Thursdays and Saturdays, November- April. Tour the Annenberg estate with binoculars in a golf cart that stops to look at birds. Online reservations and fee (\$38 this season) required for Estate Bird Tours.
- Salton Sea State Recreation Area (northeast end of the Sea) <http://www.seaanddesert.org> Check the site or call to be sure. Free Bird Walk Saturdays, 9:00AM, January- April. Entrance fee: \$7/ person; \$5 for seniors.
- Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center <http://coachellavalleywildbirdcenter.org/> Free Bird Walk; first Saturday of the month, 8:00AM, October- May. Call (760) 347-2647

(Revised Sep 2019)

**CLUBS, BOOKS, ONLINE  
AND OTHER BIRDING AREAS**

- **Desert Cities Bird Club** has lots of information on local birding activities, a Palms-to-Pines Birding Trail map, and a newsletter. To get on their email list and/or to request a map, email Kurt Leuschner ([KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:KLeuschner@collegeofthedesert.edu))
- **San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society** ([www.sbvas.net](http://www.sbvas.net)) has lots of field trips. All are free and open to non-members as well as members. A few require pre-registration.
- **San Jacinto Wildlife Area** has a car route through water impoundment ponds. This is an excellent place for waterfowl as well as raptors. It is next to a duck-hunting club, so check the website CARE-FULLY to determine which days are for hunting and avoid them. About an hour west of Palm Springs. (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/San-Jacinto-WA> and/or <http://www.northfriends.org/sjwa.html>)
- **Inland County Birds** (<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/inlandcountybirds/info>) is the listserv for Imperial, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Yes, it is a Yahoo Group, and you do have to join, but we've never had any problems with it.
- **Indian Canyons** (<http://www.indian-canyons.com/palm.html>) in Palm Springs. Several easy, beautiful, and sometimes-birdy trails with a wonderful combination of desert habitat with year-round flowing water. Admission fees: \$9.00 per adult; \$7.00 for seniors. Open all year, but days vary- check website.
- **Borrego Springs Swainson's Hawk Watch** (<http://borregohawkwatch.blogspot.com/>) Every day, February 15 to April 15. Swainson's Hawk migration can be an unprecedented spectacle. Check the blogspot for recent information. And/or sign up for evening blog posts at [rap-torhal3@gmail.com](mailto:rap-torhal3@gmail.com) . Borrego Springs is about an hour-and-a-half from the Coachella Valley.
- **Mount San Jacinto State Park** ([http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=636](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=636)) Located near the top of Mt. San Jacinto, this park is accessed by the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway (<https://www.pstramway.com/>); heavy fee. There are many miles of hiking trails in the subalpine forests and fern-bordered mountain meadows.
- **Oak Glen Preserve** ([http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve\\_oakglen.html](http://www.wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_oakglen.html)) is about an hour-and-a-half west of the Coachella Valley. Owned and operated by the same organization that manages Whitewater Preserve

SBVAS board meetings convene the **first** Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, general meetings on the **third** Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm. Board meetings are held at 740 W. Mill, Unit A, in San Bernardino and all general meetings are held at the San Bernardino County Museum at 2024 Orange Tree Lane in Redlands. Everybody is welcome.

*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.*

<p align="center"><b>Chapter Only Membership Application</b> San Bernardino Valley Audubon</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>SBVAS Membership @ \$20 a/year (includes subscription to <i>The Western Meadowlark</i>)</p> <p>Email Address* _____</p> <p><b>Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS</b></p> <p><b>*We do not share your name, address or email address.</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Membership Application</b> National Audubon Society (NAS)</p> <p align="center">MAKES A GREAT GIFT</p> <p>NAS Gift/New/Regular/Renewal Membership \$20 (includes 1 year of <i>Audubon</i> magazine)</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p><b>Please make check payable to National Audubon Society</b></p> <p align="right">SBVAS Chapter C11</p>
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Please clip and mail all memberships to: SBVAS Membership Chair  
P.O. Box 10973  
San Bernardino, Ca. 92423-0973