San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society WESTERN MEADOWLARK

Volume 58 — Number 3 January/February 2008

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT IS GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE

In February, volunteers throughout the U.S. and Canada are invited to "Count for Fun, Count for the Future!"

New York, NY & Ithaca, NY, 23 October 2007-Millions of novice and accomplished bird watchers can make their fascination with nature add up for science and for the future during the 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, led by Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. During "Presidents' Day" weekend, February 15-18, 2008, anyone can count birds from wherever they are and enter their tallies online at www.birdcount.org. These reports create an exciting real-time picture of where the birds are across the continent and contribute valuable information for science and conservation.

"These volunteers are counting not only for fun but for the future," said Tom Bancroft, Chief Science Officer for Audubon. "It's fun to see how many different kinds of birds can be seen and counted right in your backyard or neighborhood park. Each tally helps us learn more about how our North American birds are doing, and what that says about the health and the future of our environment."



Winner: Best Overall James Hendrickson of New Jersey captured the full splendor of this male Hooded Merganser with its crest raised and wings flapping

"The GBBC is a great way to engage friends, family, and children in observing nature in their own backyard, where

(Great Backyard Birdcount...Continued on page 3)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Hooked on Galapagos Birds

Presented By Tom Kaminski Wednesday, January 16, 2008, 7:30 PM

"Hooked on Galapagos Birds," which <u>Audubon Naturalist News</u> calls "stunning," will be presented at our January 16 meeting by award-winning nature video producer Tom

Kaminski. According to the News, it "captures in the most exciting way the sights and sounds of the birds of the Galapagos. His underwater shots of Galapagos penguins and his intimate views of the mat-



(Galapagos...Continued on page 2)

3rd Annual Dinner &

Conservation
Awards
Invitation

Date: Saturday night, March 22, 2008

Speaker: Jon Dunn

Location: San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands

Program:
"Wood Warblers of
North America"

details on page 5

Kenya: Birds & Wildlife in the Gem of East Africa

Presented By Roy Poucher Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 7:30 PM

Come along on a photographic safari to Kenya with Roy Poucher and Bird Odysseys...getting up close & personal with its flashy birds, charismatic large mammals, and breathtaking landscapes.

Your visual tour will transport you via stunning photography to the vast grasslands of the Serengeti and other wild locales. View life's dramas lived out by colorful and comical-looking birds and by the big game of hippos, rhinos, zebra, elephant, giraffes and lions.

Grasp the mind-boggling millions of Lesser Flamingoes blanketing Lake Nakuru in pink. Enjoy the antics of the gangly Secretary Bird and of the largest flying bird in the world, the

(Puerto Rico... Continued on page 2)

(Galapagos...Continued from page 1)

ing antics of boobies and albatrosses are highlights of a thoroughly enjoyable [DVD]...." Time permitting, a brief Q&A session will follow his presentation.

Kaminski owns and operates Avian Video Center. In addition to "Hooked on Galapagos Birds," his production credits include "Hooked on Hummingbirds," part of which appeared on Discovery Channel's <u>Animal Planet</u> program; "Hummingbirds! A Natural History;" "Hummingbirds of the Northwest Andes: A Sampler;" and other nature and travel videos. He launched his business in 2002 after 30 years in broadcast journalism, college teaching, and corporate communications for major aerospace firms. Kaminski and his wife, Jan, reside in Rolling Hills Estates.

Please come and enjoy this extraordinary program. Everyone is always welcome. Our doors open at 7:00 PM and our meeting starts at 7:30 PM.

Dori Myers, Program Chair

The program provides and eyeball-to-eyeball view of most of the birds that occur in the Galapagos Islands, as well as maps and a glimpse of Quito, Ecuador. Among the most amazing video sequences is one that in slow-motion shows a Frigatebird trying to steal a Boobie's food from it in mid-air. Time permitting, a brief Q&A session will follow his presentation.

(Puerto Rico... Continued from page 1)

Kori Bustard, as it displays for females.

Fish Eagles capture their dinner before your eyes and Weavers construct their nests. Warthogs, cape buffalos, elephants and hippos gently tend to their young close to your safari van. Visit beautiful and bird-rich Lakes Baringo and Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley, the verdant and biologically diverse Kakamega Forest, and famous Treetops Lodge, built above big game watering holes in Aberdares National Park.

Come to this fun presentation for the entire family! Feel as if you were on the journey with us!

Roy Poucher is an international tour leader and with his company, Bird Odysseys has led trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands and Kenya. He has also led groups to North Dakota, the Great Lakes, Southeast Arizona, and Texas. A trip to Thailand is planned for January 2008. Trips to Costa Rica and Australia are in the works.

Roy Poucher has been a Sea and Sage Audubon trip leader and field assistant in their introductory birding classes for 15 years. He leads multi-day trips to the Eastern Sierra, Arizona and Texas. His birding Big Years were major accomplishments (472 species in CA in 1996; 677 in the ABA Area in 1998).

Roy's trip assistant, Linda Oberholtzer will assist him in the presentation. Hope you can make this meeting I know that you will enjoy it and please bring a friend..



Lynne Marsho, FL, Laughing Gulls from Great back yard bird count photo contest

Audubon to host chapter workshop Taking Action for Birds in a Changing Climate

Gibbon, NE - Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary will host a Chapter Workshop titled *Taking Action for Birds in a Changing Climate*. Scheduled for Friday, March 14, 2008, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, Nebraska, the workshop is open to all Audubon chapter members and the general public.

Set against the backdrop of Nebraska's magnificent spring migration of sandhill cranes, attendees will have the opportunity to explore a number of topics including Chapter development, Important Bird Areas, Audubon's science programs and harnessing the power of Chapter resources.

Featured Speakers include John Cecil, Important Bird Area (IBA)- National Program Director; Tom Bancroft, Chief Scientist and V.P. at the National Audubon Society; Chris Canfield, V.P. and Executive Director of Audubon North Carolina; Genevieve Thompson, V.P. and Executive Director of Audubon Dakota; Karen Orenstein, National Outreach Coordinator; and Lynn Tennefoss, Vice President of State Programs and Chapter Services.

The workshop dovetails into the 38th Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration that starts later that evening. People are encouraged to attend both events. For more information on the Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, visit

www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm or call (402) 797-2301. Cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. The enrolment deadline is March 7. For more information or to register, visit Audubon Nebraska at www.audubon.org/states/ne/ or call (402) 797-2301.

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences.

(Great Backyard Bird Count) Continued from page 1)

they will discover that the outdoors is full of color, behavior, flight, sounds, and mystery," said Janis Dickinson, Director of Citizen Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

People of all ages and experience levels are invited to take part wherever they are-at home, in schoolyards, at local parks or wildlife refuges, even counting birds on a balcony. Observers count the highest number of each species they see during at least 15 minutes on one or more of the count days. Then they enter their tallies on the Great Backyard Bird Count web site www.birdcount.org.

The web site provides helpful hints for identifying birds. Participants can compare results from their town or region with others, as checklists pour in from throughout the U.S. and Canada. They can also view bird photos taken by participants during the count and send in their own digital images for the online photo gallery and contest.

In 2007, Great Backyard Bird Count participants made history, breaking records for the number of birds reported, and the number of checklists.

Participants sent in 81,203 checklists tallying 11,082,387 birds of 613 species.



Winner: Composition Serene winter beauty is on display in this lovely Fox Sparrow photo taken by Jean Kuns of Ohio.

"Literally, there has never been a more detailed snapshot of a continental bird-distribution profile in history," said John Fitz-patrick, Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. "Imagine scientists 250 years from now being able to compare these data with their own!" Already, the count results show how the numbers of some birds species have changed in recent years, such as a decline in Northern Pintails and an increase in Hooded Mergansers, consistent with trends from the Christmas Bird Count and Breeding Bird Survey.

"People who take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count see the results of their efforts in the news and in bird conservation work taking place across the country, said Audubon Education VP, Judy Braus. "Whether the counts occur at home, at schools or nature centers, they're more than engaging and educational science activities for young people and adults, they're a way to contribute to the conservation of birds and habitat nationwide."

Lt. Daniel Britt, who served in Iraq 16 months, is glad to be back home in Zimmerman, MN, where he and his sons plan to join the GBBC. "We get a bunch of birds in our backyard," Britt said, "but my oldest son, Daniel, and I may cross country ski into the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge to count birds there."

For more information on how to participate, including identification tips, photos, bird sounds, maps, and information on over 500 bird species,

Visit... http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

The Great Backvard Bird Count is sponsored in part by Wild Birds Unlimited.

COMMENTS FROM LAST YEAR'S PARTICIPANTS:

"I was thrilled to be part of something that would help shed light on the environment and the impact that humans have on this earth. It was a chance to use my hobby for a greater good."-Lauren, North Carolina

"My 4 1/2 year old grandson is very excited about it; he can already identify Northern Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, and woodpeckers in general. We're working on identifying Red-bellied and Downy woodpeckers. It's very rewarding for me, and it makes him very proud of himself."-John, Maryland

"I am eight years old and have loved birds since I was a baby. Birds are very beautiful and the backyard bird count is a lot of fun."

-Breanna, Ohio

"I had great fun participating. It is a quiet and peaceful project. In today's busy and exhausting lifestyle, everyone should sit still and observe birds."-Helen, Massachusetts

"I always feel honored that we citizens can contribute to science with our home observations."-Linda, Alaska

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in conservation. www.audubon.org

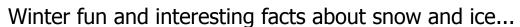
ALEUTIAN GOOSE FESTIVAL MARCH 28-30

Come celebrate Spring and the return of the once endangered Aleutian Geese to the extreme northern coast of California at the 10th Annual Aleutian Goose Festival, **March 28-30 2008** in Crescent City/Del Norte County, CA. Located in the home of Redwood National Park and the Smith River National Recreation area, the festival offers 60+ workshops/fieldtrips, Native American Heritage, birds-birds, Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelets, Pelagic trip, Smith River Drifts, Geology, Botany and more... To see it all...www.aleutiangoosefestival.org.

GODWIT DAYS APRIL 18-20

Join the flock at the 13th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival April 18-20, 2008 at the Arcata Community Center in Arcata, CA. Pre-and post-festival events are offered to extend your birding enjoyment. Choose from over 100 field trips and workshops and browse the vendors at the bird fair. An extraordinary birding adventure awaits you between the redwoods and Humboldt Bay!

Go to www.godwitdays.com for more details and to register on-line.



The websites are:

http://www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast/ http://www.gi.alaska.edu/snowice/sea-lake-ice/index.html http://www.arcticice.org/index.htm

Snowflakes

http://www.cco.caltech.edu/~atomic/snowcrystals/mailto:kgl@caltech.edu -- snowflake emails http://www.popularfront.com/snowdays/



Create your own snowflakes...
http://www.popularfront.com/snowdays/



http://www.zefrank.com/snowflake/ Snowflakes that you can generate and make them 2D or 3D...

3rd Annual Dinner & Conservation Awards Invitation

This year we honor

Wildlands Conservancy

whose dual mission

is to preserve

the beauty and biodiversity of the earth,

and to fund programs

so that children may know

the wonder and joy of nature.

Jon Dunn Our Conservation Award Dinner Speaker

Jon Dunn has lived much of his life in California where he became a birder at age eight, a life-altering event triggered, he says, by the appearance of a bright male Hooded Oriole in his garden. Jon lives near Bishop, California.

Jon has extensive knowledge of the identification and distribution of North American Birds and has written or co-written numerous papers on these subjects that have appeared in a wide variety of journals. Jon has been chief consultant/editor for all five editions to the National Geographic Society's Field Guide to the Birds of North America 1st to 5th editions, most recently published in 2006. In addition to being host and editor of Hummingbirds of North America he was co-writer and host of the two-video set Large and Small Gulls of North America in the Advanced Birding Video Series as well as co-author with Kimball Garrett of Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution and the Warblers of North America. His most recent publication, which he co-wrote with Jonathan Alderfer, is another National Geographic publication entitled Birding Essentials-All The Tools, Techniques, and Tips You Need To Begin and Become A Better Birder.

Jon is also a Wings tour leader and for many years has led innumerable trips all over the world. He is a member of American Ornithologists' Union Checklist Committee, the ABA Checklist Committee and has served over 20 years on the California Bird Records Committee. Beyond birds, Jon has a keen interest in politics and history (his "hobbies"), and the cinema.

His talk will cover all the species of Warblers that have occurred in North American, An emphasis will be placed on those western species that breed in or near California, but those that have occurred and might occur at a future date will also be covered. There will be some emphasis on identification issues such as Orange-crowned/Tennessee, Blackpoll/Bay-breasted/Pine, and the Oporornis genus. There will also be discussion of populations within this large family. Some species are increasing, but more are decreasing, and one species has likely gone extinct within the last 50 years.

Jon Dunn is a great educator, communicator and enjoys sharing his passion for birding with others. He is a long time supporter of habitat conservation and education of the young and is pleased to be able to honor The Wildlands Conservancy.

3rd Annual Dinner and Conservation Awards

"Wood Warblers of North America"
Presented by, Jon Dunn
Location: San Bernardino County Museum, Redlands
Saturday at 6:00 in the Evening, March 22, 2008

Our guest speaker for our 3rd Annual Dinner and Conservation Awards is Jon Dunn, who will speak about Wood Warblers of North America. Jon Dunn literally wrote the book on warblers along with Kimball Garrett. Their Peterson Field Guide "Warblers" is the definitive guide book on these often stunning and sometimes puzzling birds. He will cover all the species of Warblers that have occurred in North America with an emphasis on those western species that breed in or near California. He promises to entertain us with his stunning pictures and fascinating program.

For the third time San Bernardino Valley Audubon will present our chapter's Conservation Award. This meritorious service award honors a group or individual that has helped protect, conserve and preserve the environment in our area. This year we honor Wildlands Conservancy whose dual mission is to preserve the beauty and biodiversity of the earth, and to fund programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature. Wildlands Conservancy funds more free outdoor education programs for youth than any other nonprofit organization in Southern California.

Dinner: 6:30 PM / Program and Awards: 7:30 PM Tickets: \$30.00 per person

Our dinner will be held at the San Bernardino County Museum in the Fisk Auditorium in Redlands. The museum is located one block north of the I-10 at 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA 92374. Directions: From Interstate 10 take the California exit. Go north, proceed to Orange Tree Lane, make a right on Orange Tree Lane and follow the signs. The museum will be on your left.

Please mail your reservation forms to Dori Myers, Annual Dinner, 6011 Saddletree Lane, Yorba Linda, CA 92886. You can also deliver your form to her at our monthly general meeting or send it to SBVAS's mailing address. Dinner is \$30.00 per person. Reservations may be made until the 19th of March. Please reserve early since our meeting room has limited space and can accommodate no more than 60 for dinner. Questions call Dori at 714 779-2201.

Annual Dinner Reservation Form		
Name		
Name		
*Are you	a vegetarian? Yes	
Email ad	dress or phone number (In case we need to contact you)	
	vill be a self serve buffet with meats, salads, vegetables, rolls and butte es; punch, coffee, tea or decaffeinated coffee and cake for dessert.	
U	re a vegetarian please indicate on this reservation form.	
-	\$30.00 per person	
	ur check payable to SBVAS or San Bernardino Valley Audubon Societ	
Mail	or give to:	
	Dori Myers / Audubon Annual Dinner	
	6011 Saddletree Lane	
	Yorba Linda, CA 92886	

VERY BEGINNING BIRD WALKS... EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME

SALTON SEA GOOSE & CRANE TRIP

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008, 7:00 AM

LEADERS: CHET MCGAUGH (909) 781-3699

JOHN GREEN (951) 686-2956 OR E-MAIL BEWICKWREN@EARTHLINK.NET

GENE CARDIFF (909) 875-5358 - E.CARDIFF@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

This trip at times has been called the "waterfowl trip," the "goose trip," and "a wonderful field-trip." It is all of that, and more. Perhaps a glimpse at last year's list will help stoke the fires of desire: American white pelican, white-faced ibis, snow goose (thousands), Ross' goose (hundreds), surf scoter, white-winged scoter, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, sandhill crane (hundred), mountain plover (hundred and a half), and gila woodpecker. We tallied twenty species of waterfowl, and we didn't have to count individuals. (For an opportunity to count every single duck on the Sea, see Salton Sea - North CBC blurb elsewhere in this issue.) We will meet at the Wister Unit of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge at 7:00 a.m. Wister is on Highway 111, east side of the Sea, several miles before Niland. The turn-off is Davis Road. We will bird around the southern end of the Sea, then go south into "ag" lands to look for raptors, mountain plovers, and the always entertaining sandhill cranes.

SANTA BARBARA AREA FIELD TRIP

SATURDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 & 10

LEADERS: JOHN GREEN: PHONE (951) 686-2956, E-MAIL BEWICKWREN@EARTHLINK.NET AND

STEVE MYERS: PHONE (760) 843-4009, E-MAIL STEPHENMYERS@EARTHLINK.NET

This is a nice time of year to visit the Santa Barbara area. The full contingent of wintering regulars and rarities should be present and accounted for. Our coastal target birds will include a lot of gulls, including Glaucous-winged, Thayer's, and Mew; Royal Terns, lots of shorebirds including Snowy Plover, Black Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, both Turnstones, and Wandering Tattler; Wood Ducks, Surf Scoter, Pacific, Common, and Red-throated Loons; Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants, and much more. We'll expect plenty of land birds along the way too. We're starting further north this year, so will have an opportunity to see Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Yellow-billed Magpie as well.

The Santa Barbara area always has some fine rarities as well. We can't be sure what will be on hand, but last year at this time, rarities in the area included: Cackling, Ross's, and Snow Geese; Eurasian Wigeon, Laughing Gull, Zone-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, Eastern Phoebe, Tropical Kingbird, Black-throated Green Warbler, Painted Redstart, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. We'll plan on getting over 100 species during the weekend.

Arrive each day with a full tank of gas, lunch, your binocular, and anything else you'll need for a full day of birding. The leaders will have scopes, but more scopes are always welcome! We may be using FRS radios, so bring yours if you have them. Some of the places we visit may charge parking or entry fees, so be prepared for that as well.

This year's field trip will start at the northwestern corner of Santa Barbara County on Saturday. We will meet at 8:00AM at the Santa Maria River Estuary (Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve). Exit Highway 101 at Main Street (Highway 166) in Santa Maria and drive west 11 miles to the entrance of the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Preserve. Continue past the kiosk 2 miles to the parking lot. We will bird there, then work our way south birding until everyone has had enough, or until it is dark, whichever comes first.

Then on Sunday we will start in Santa Barbara at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge. Coming from the north, exit Highway 101 on the left at Cabrillo Blvd (exit 94b) toward Coast Village Road / Hot Springs Rd. Make a sharp right onto East Cabrillo Blvd / CA-225. Turn right on Los Patos then left into the parking area at the edge of the lake. Coming from the south, exit Highway 101 on the left at Cabrillo Blvd (exit 94C). Turn left onto E. Cabrillo Blvd, then right on Los Patos as above. We'll bird there then head out. Our route will be determined by where our target birds are, and where other birds of interest are being seen. IF YOU ARE COMING ON SUNDAY ONLY, call John's cell phone: (951) 751-0733 on Saturday evening to find out where and when we will start on Sunday.

You will need to arrange your own accommodations for Friday and/or Saturday nights. Friday night would be best in Santa Maria, Saturday in Santa Barbara. There are plenty of motels in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara and the surrounding communities, and a few campgrounds, but reservations are always a good idea.

If you'd like to prepare for your visit, online resources including bird checklists, seasonal distribution, and links to other resources and more are on the Santa Barbara County Birding Pages at http://mysite.verizon.net/res0d1yq/

SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2008 - 8:00 AM

LEADER: TOM PAULEK:(NO PHONE NUMBER)

CONTACT: GENE CARDIFF(FOR INFORMATION (909) 875-5358 - E.CARDIFF@WORLDNET.ATT.NET

We will meet at the San Jacinto Wildlife Area Headquarters. This day will be about waterfowl - ducks, geese, ibis, and birds of prey that make the beautiful San Jacinto Valley their winter home. Plan on staying all day (bring a lunch and water/drinks) or just come for part of the

VERY BEGINNING BIRD WALKS... EVERYONE IS ALWAYS WELCOME

OCTOBER TO FEBURARY / VERY BEGINNING BIRDWALKS 2007/08 FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH: OCTOBER - MAY

January 6 - San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Doug Karalun)

February 3 - San Jacinto Wildlife Area (Jennifer and Michelle Tobin)

March 2 - Hidden Valley Wildlife Area (Jennifer and Michelle Tobin)

April 6 - Louis Robidoux Nature Center (Jennifer and Michelle Tobin)

May 4 - Fairmount Park (Doug Karalun)

VBBW / SAN JACINTO WILDLIFE AREA

Sunday, Jan. 6 and Feb. 3 - 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin and/or Doug Karalun

We will meet at the main parking lot at the wildlife headquarters. From Riverside go south on Interstate 215 then east on Ramona Expressway. Turn north (left) on Davis Road, which soon becomes dirt. The entrance to the wildlife area is approximately 3 miles down Davis Road on the right. Turn here and the parking area will be on your left. You can no longer enter the wildlife area from the north. Please contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613 for further information. Rain or other conditions may cause last minute changes. You may call ahead to confirm location and time.

VBBW HIDDEN VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA

Sunday, March 2, 2006 - 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613 Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin Binoculars and bird guides will be provided for use during the walk. However, please bring your own if you have them. Wear comfortable walking shoes, hats and sunscreen and bring water.

that you will feel comfortable birding on your own or joining our longer birding trips throughout the year. We will introduce you to some of our local bird species. You may be surprised at what wonderful birds can be seen!

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

For those of you who are just begin-

ning the wonderful pastime of bird

watching, please join us for a fun, slowpaced morning of birding in some of

our local wildlife habitats. Our goal will

be to teach you enough basic birding

techniques and identification skills so

The walk is free and no reservations are needed. Everyone is welcome and student lists will be signed.

We will meet at the wildlife area's nature center. To get to Hidden Valley from the 91 freeway, take the Arlington Ave. exit and go west just over seven miles to the entrance, which is a signed.

VBBW / LOUIS ROBIDOUX NATURE CENTER

Sunday, April 6 - 8:00 A.M. until 10:00 A.M.

Contact: Cathy Tobin (951) 684-9613 Leaders: Jennifer and Michelle Tobin

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 half a 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 in. Be sure to pull well off the pavement. 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.

morning. As the North from Theodore is now closed, from Riverside go south on 215 then east on Ramona then north on Davis Road three miles to parking lot. From Hemet, go west on Ramona to Davis Road. from Redlands, go south on Redlands Blvd. east on 60, east on Gilman Springs, south on Bridge Street, west on Ramona and north on Davis Road. Call (909) 875-5358 if you have any questions. This route is not recommended if there have been recent rains. The dirt roads are too dangerous for normal travel. Everyone is always welcome and this is an especially good day for new birders and families. The weather could be cool, so dress accordingly.

BOLSA CHICA, ORANGE COUNTY COAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 8:00 A.M.

LEADER: DORI MYERS DoriMyers1@aol.com (714) 779-2201 Cell 714 336-1420.

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.

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 Goldenwest and Warner.

For Questions call Dori: at 714 779-2201or Cell 714 336-1420. 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.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Seeks Comment on Proposal to Allow Falconers to Remove and Possess Migratory Peregrine Falcons from the Wild

CONTACTS

Nicholas Throckmorton 202/208-5636

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released today (November 13, 2007) for public comment a Draft Environmental Assessment and Management Plan that proposes to allow the limited removal and possession of migrant first-year

"Northern" (predominantly Arctic subspecies) peregrine falcons from the wild for use in falconry. The falcons could be captured in areas and at times where their removal would have no significant impact on the population.

"A few decades ago, the peregrine falcon in North America was on the verge of extinction due largely to the effects of DDT, which affected both the American and Arctic peregrine falcon subspecies," said Service Director Dale Hall. "We recognize that falconers have long sought protection of wild raptor populations and played a significant role in the species' comeback. They were among the first to report the decline in peregrine populations and, in fact, contributed peregrines held for falconry to captive propagation efforts. Now that peregrine populations are healthy, the Service is considering once again allowing the traditional capture of migrant peregrine falcons for use in falconry."

There are three recognized subspecies of peregrine falcons in North America: the Arctic peregrine which nests in Alaska, northern Canada and Greenland and migrates south to Central and South America; the American peregrine which nests in parts of southern Canada, Alaska, and the conterminous United States, some of which migrate south; and the non-migratory Peale's peregrine which resides on the Pacific coast from Alaska to Oregon.

In the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA), the Service considers six alternatives for the removal and possession of migrant peregrine falcons in the United States. Four alternatives would allow capture and possession in different locations and at different times. The Service found that one alternative for take that was initially considered reasonable would not allow take under the rigorous restrictions adopted. Finally, the "no-action" alternative would mean that the current prohibition on take of migrating peregrines would remain in place. The preferred alternative is to annually allow removal of up to 105 first-year peregrine falcons split evenly between males and females, between September 20 and October 20, from southern Georgia, Florida, and the Gulf of Mexico coastal area, and expand authorization in Alaska to include migrants and fledged young of all subspecies. Because both American and Arctic peregrines nest in Alaska, the DEA considers take of nestlings, recently fledged young, and migrants there. However, take in Alaska is factored into the alternatives that allow take of migratory first-year peregrines elsewhere in the United States. The Service has concluded that any take that may be allowed is unlikely to negatively effect populations of peregrine falcons in North America or Greenland.



PHOTO FROM PEREGRINE FUND WEB SITE

The majority of peregrine falcons that migrate from North America to Central and South America (mostly Arctic and northern American peregrines) pass along the Atlantic coast and over the Gulf of Mexico. However, many other peregrines in the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada do not migrate far south. It is this difference in migration that allows the Service to consider take of migrants. The alternatives that would allow take of migrants are restricted so as to protect the continuing recovery of the eastern U.S. and southeastern Canada American peregrine falcon population. The Service has considered only levels of take that would ensure the continued growth of the population in this region.

Copies of the DEA and Draft Management Plan can be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4107, Arlington, VA 22203-1610. Written comments on the DEA can be sent to the same address, noting Attention - Migrant Peregrine EA. The Draft EA also is available at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/. Comments on the DEA also may be submitted electronically via the Division of Migratory Bird Management web site at http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/, where a link for comments is available. The due date for comments is February 11, 2008.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies

A Field Study of Birds: Winter Course: BIO X405.1

An introduction to the local birds in relation to their communities. Emphasis is placed on identification in the field and museum. Field trips include local mountains and valleys, San Diego Bay, High Desert, Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. Note: Visitors not permitted. Class meets at San Bernardino County Museum in Redlands for first meeting only. All other dates are field trips. 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 Date/Time: Tue. 7:30-9:30 pm, Jan. 8. Field trips all day Sat. Jan. 12, 19, Feb. 2, 16, Mar. 1. (6 meeting/s) Location: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY MUSEUM, REDLANDS Text:



"A Field Study of Birds of North America, 4th edition," J. W. Fitzpatrick (07922-6877-6) **Fee:** \$219 / \$199 each for couples and family members / \$180 each with PINE discount **Reg #:** 073-SCF-F23 http://www.extension.ucr.edu/

CALENDAR/FIELD TRIPS 2007-2008

Dec 14 2007 ~ Jan 5, 2008 - Christmas Bird Counts

Jan 6 - Sun - VBBW-at SJWA - J & M Tobin

Jan 12 - Sat - Salton Sea Goose & Crane Trip -

Chet McGaugh & John Green

Feb 3 - Sun - VBBW-at SJWA - J & M Tobin

Feb 9 & 10 - Weekend in Santa Barbara - Myers & Green

Feb 24 - Sun - San Jacinto Wildlife Area - Tom Paulek

March 2 - Sun - VBBW / Hidden Valley - J & M Tobin

March 8 - Sat - Bolsa Chica - Dori Myers

Apr 6-Sun - VBBW/Robidoux Nature Center-J & M Tobin

Apr 19-Sat - Torres-Martinez Ponds Salton Sea-

Dave Goodward

Apr 20 - Sun - Mojave Narrows - Steve Myers

May 3 - Sat - Big Morongo - Chet McGaugh

May 4 - Sun - VBBW - Fairmount Park - Doug Karalun

May 4 - Sun - Box Springs Mountain - John Green

May 10 - Sat - White Water Canyon - Steve Myers

May 17 – Sat – Baby Birds at Bear Paw – Cin Grayraven

June 7 -Sat - Wrightwood Field Trip - Gene Cardiff

July 19 & 20-Weekend trip-

South fork of the Greenhorns – Steve Myers

August 24 - Sun - Insane Jaunt/Salton Sea - John Green

VBBW... Very Beginning Bird Walk
SJWA... San Jacinto Wildlife Area
GO TO SBVAS.ORG FOR FIELD TRIP UPDATES...



Sharp-shinned Hawk, photo by Wendy Tarkon, WA, 2007 Great Backyard Bird Count Photo Contest participant

SBVAS Officers 2007/2008 www.sbvas.org & www.inlandplanet.org

President: Drew Feldmann						
drew-f@worldnet.att.net	(909) 881-6081					
First Vice-President: Dori Myers						
DoriMyers1@aol.com	(714) 779-2201					
Second Vice President:Tony Metcalf						
aemetcalf@earthlink.net	(951)-242-7038					
Treasurer: Nancy Higbee						
nlhigbee@earthlink.net	(951) 780-9236					
Recording Secretary: Cin Greyraven						
greyraven@wildmail.com	(909) 794-0509					
Corresponding Secretary: Deb Bennett						
aemetcalf@earthlink.net	(951) 242-7038					
DIRECTORS:						
Gene Cardiff e.cardiff@worldnet.att.net	t (909) 875-5358					
Pete Clark petec3@verizon.net.	(909) 657-7081					
Melissa Culley mculley515@hotmail.com	(909) 874-3301					
Dave Goodward davegoodward@earthlink.	net					
	(909) 783-2417					
Peter Jorris pjorris@juno.com	(909) 867-3536					
Tim Krantz tim_krantz@redlands.edu	(909) 794-5819					
Crispin Rendon crisrendon@earthlink.net	(951)-686-7121					
SBVAS Bookstore and Gift Shop:						
Nancy Manning (909) 337-9401						
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN						
CONSERVATION: Dave Goodward	(909) 783-2417					

CONSERVATION: Dave Goodward	(909) 783-2417
FUNDING & GRANTS: Pete Clark	(951) 657-7081
FIELDTRIPS: Gene Cardiff	(909) 875-5358
PROGRAMS: Dori Myers	(714) 779-2201
MEMBERSHIP: Crispin Rendon	(951) 686-7121
POPULATION Drew Feldmann	(909) 881-6081

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Editor:

Melissa Culley (909) 874-3301

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

BEARPAW RANCH: Cin Grayraven (909) 794-0509 greyraven@wildmail.com

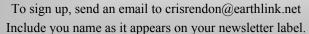
RARE BIRD ALERT: Kirk and Linda Stitt at secalrba@earthlink.net

earpaw Ranch is SBVAS's 70 acre nature sanctuary, operated by the San Bernardino Audubon Society and may be visited 7 days a week from dawn 'til dusk by members of Audubon and their guests. Bearpaw Ranch is nestled on the north slope of scenic Mill Creek Canyon at 4,500 feet elevation, surrounded by the towering peaks of the San Bernardino National Forest. To reach Bearpaw Ranch, take Highway 38 to the Forest Falls turnoff. Go only a few car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. We have a new paved road, the entry is easy for almost all normal passenger cars. There is a electronically operated entry gate. Members who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call ahead for the security code.

Access to the code may be had by calling— Bearpaw at (909) 794-0509. Bearpaw Sanctuary, 38801 Valley of the Falls Drive P.O. Box 88; Forest Falls, CA 92339 &

Faster More Colorful Western Meadowlark

Help us reduce the use of our natural resources by signing up to receive the Western Meadowlark newsletter by email.



San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands Take the California Street exit off the 10 Freeway and go north 1 block to Orange Tree Lane—turn right. The museum will be on your left...

All meetings in the San Bernardino County Museum 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands Board Meetings are the 1st Wed. General meetings are the 3rd



SBVAS Calendar

******January 9 7:00 **Board Meeting** January 167:30 General Meeting February 6.... 7:00 Board Meeting February 20.7:00 General Meeting

If you have questions please call or go on line to check current detail. www.sbvas.org Thanks

******* NOTE: date change to the 2nd Wednesday

Our Programs begin at 7:30 PM but the doors open at 7:00 PM so plan to come early to the San Bernardino County Museum to visit with friends, shop at our book tables and enjoy refreshments. Everyone is always welcome. Program Chair Dori Myers



National Audubon Society (NAS):

- □ NAS Introductory Membership* \$20
- 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

Aiso includes the Ivational issue		
	GREAT	SIF
IAME	GREAT	

San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society (SBVAS):

- SBVAS Membership &
- WESTERN MEADOWLARK only \$16
- Subscription to WESTERN MEADOWLARK only \$16
- First class subscription to
 - WESTERN MEADOWLARK \$21.00
- SBVAS Donation

Please make check payable to SBVAS

NAME	A GREAT GIL.	SBVAS Chapter
ADDRESS	MAKES A	C117XCH ————————————————————————————————————
CITY, STATE, ZIP		JAN 2000

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

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

<u>, vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv</u> Nonprofit Organization U. S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1774 San Bernardino, CA

