



San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society

WESTERN MEADOWLARK



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SBVAudubon/](https://www.facebook.com/SBVAudubon/)

Volume 68— Number 5

GENERAL MEETING
May 16, 2018 at 7:30 pm

BIRDS OF MEXICO
Presented by Brad Singer and
Matt Grube

Last year, Brad Singer gave a presentation on birding in Mexico. Mexico is enriched with a wonderful diversity of habitat that is home to over 1000 species of birds. Many are either endemic, resident, or migrate through. Brad has still been actively birding Mexico and Matt Grube teamed up with Brad on two short trip earlier this year; one to the Yucatan Peninsula and one to Western Mexico in the states of Jalisco and Nayarit.



American Pygmy Kingfisher

Matt Grube

Matt and Brad will present a photo rich update of these recent trips. Please join us to learn a little bit more about birding in Mexico and to enjoy the photos.

Everyone is always welcome.
Dori Myers, Program Chair

**There will be no June 2018
General Meeting.**

Volunteer Opportunity

Least Tern Monitoring at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge:

By Carolyn Vance, USFWS Volunteer,
Seal Beach NWR

Eyes on the Colony (EOTC), the Least Tern predator monitoring program, needs your help! Last year was not as successful as it could have been with no more than 16 fledglings ever seen at one time out of 120+ chicks. This was primarily due to all the predation by Peregrine Falcons and Red-tailed Hawks. After battling Great-horned Owls and Kestrels the last couple of years, and having a great 2016 year, we are dismayed with last year's results.

We need to document any predation to the terns. Permitting standards require that we thoroughly document and identify avian predators which are taking Least Terns before requesting their removal. So, the Refuge needs more help observing avian predators at times when they are active.

If you can commit to a **minimum** of 4 hours a week to EOTC, or just want more information, please contact Refuge Manager Rick Nye via email at: Richard_nye@fws.gov.

Historically, we watched in four hour shifts from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. You must obtain a badge from the Navy to access the Refuge by filling out some background paperwork and must be a U.S. Citizen. Training and equipment is provided.

I adore doing EOTC! A car is the best birding blind, and besides watching our wonderful Least Terns going back and forth, you get up close looks at *Belding's* Savannah Sparrows, swallows, and all the other birds and critters that call the Refuge home and/or breed here.

Local Sightings: Winter 2017-2018 by Tom Benson

This issue of local sightings covers the winter period from December 2017 through March 2018.



White Wagtail

Tom Benson

The standout highlight for the season was a wintering WHITE WAGTAIL at Prado Regional Park Dec 21-Jan 30 (take that Riverside County!). This little gem was mostly cooperative as it strutted up and down the spillway, allowing good views, though it would disappear for long periods of time. A MEW GULL (Jan 25) and a HEERMANN'S GULL (Jan 8), both difficult to find in San Bernardino County, were also at Prado Regional Park, while a NORTHERN PARULA (Jan 1-19) was a short distance away at Chino Creek Wetlands. At the opposite end of the county, a LAUGHING GULL at Lake Havasu on Feb 10 provided only the fourth county record; it stayed on the AZ side of the lake for at least three months. Lake Havasu also hosted a BARROW'S GOLDENEYE (Jan 14) and a RED-THROATED LOON (Jan 14-Feb 10), while another BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was downstream at Parker Dam Dec 24-Jan 13. Working our way back west, two WHITE-WINGED

SCOTERS were at Silver Lakes Dec 1-Jan 16. And back on the coastal slope, a SHORT-EARED OWL (Dec 15) was at Cal State San Bernardino, four TUNDRA SWANS (Dec 17) were flying over Mentone, another NORTHERN PARULA (Dec 23-26) was along the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino, and a WILLIAMSON'S SAPSUCKER (Mar 23-24) was at Glen Helen Regional Park.

There were a number of good finds down in Imperial County this winter. Notable warblers included a NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (Dec 18) at the IID Wetlands and a PALM WARBLER (Feb 1) at Finney Lake. Single BELL'S VIREOS, quite rare in winter, were at the IID Wetlands (Dec 28) and Cattle Call Park (Jan 25). A GOLDEN-CROWNED SPARROW at the Salton Sea NWR headquarters Dec 18-Feb 3 may have been continuing from fall. A GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, rare anywhere in the county, was at Picacho SRA Feb 9. Among non-passerine rarities, a BARROW'S GOLDENEYE was in Bard Dec 16. Single MEW GULLS were at the south end of the Salton Sea Dec 18 and Mar 14, and in El Centro Mar 17. Finally, a REDDISH EGRET was at the south end of the Salton Sea Dec 19-Jan 26 and a RUFF was in Calipatria Dec 19-28, both found on the Christmas Bird Count.



Heerman's Gull

Roger Woodruff

The highlight in Riverside County was likely the CAPE MAY WARBLER in Blythe Feb 3; unfortunately, it was a one-day wonder seen by a single person. Likewise,

a HEPATIC TANAGER on private property in Aguanga during March was also seen only by a single person. A PAINTED RESTART in Moreno Valley, however, was quite cooperative as it pleased observers all winter with its foraging antics Dec 2-Mar 6.



Painted Redstart

Tom Benson

Elsewhere on the coastal slope, a BLUE GROSBEAK at Fairmount Park Dec 23 was a good find by the late, great Howard King. A MEW GULL was at the same location Feb 8, while an EASTERN PHOEBE was downstream in the Prado Basin Mar 11-14. Further inland, a LARK BUNTING was at Lake Skinner Jan 25-Feb 10, and single PALM WARBLERS were in Lake Elsinore (Dec 30-Jan 3) and near Mecca (Dec 30). A WESTERN GULL was in the San Gorgonio pass Mar 15, another EASTERN PHOEBE was at Desert Hot Springs Jan 20, and a NORTHERN PARULA was at the Whitewater River delta Dec 30. NEOTROPIC CORMORANTS, while fairly common at the south end of the Salton Sea, are still rather rare in Riverside County, so birds at the north end of the Salton Sea (Mar 6) and Desert Hot Springs (Feb 3 and Mar 31) were notable. Finally, a MEW GULL was at the north end of the Salton Sea on Mar 6.



Western Rivers Bird Count

Goal

Collect bird counts to inform baseline estimates of bird abundance along rivers across the southwestern US.

Why

Trees and shrubs along rivers are a critical component of healthy watersheds and are a main source of biodiversity in the Southwest.

When and How?

The bird count can occur any time during May and June. Submit your counts to eBird.

Protocol



STEP ONE

- Identify an area to survey from the priority site map or from the list provided by your local coordinator.
- Priority locations can be found by visiting gis.audubon.org/westernriversbirdcount

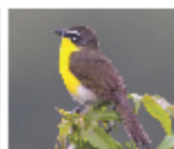


STEP TWO

Once at the site, record your observations on a datasheet or enter them directly into the eBird application on your smart phone.

0.6 mile (1km)

5-60 mins.



Left to right: Yellow Warbler, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo

STEP THREE

Conduct either a stationary count (standing in one place) or a traveling count (walking) with the following limitations

- Traveling count may not cover more than 1 km (0.6 mi) of distance
- Counts, both stationary and traveling, must be between 5 and 60 minutes.
- If you bird for more than 60 minutes or travel more than 1km, submit separate checklists for each 60-minute period or 1km of distance traveled.
- Record counts for all bird species seen, but particularly these target species: Yellow Warbler, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Bell's Vireo

FOR EACH EBIRD CHECKLIST, PLEASE RECORD:

- Start time
- Number of observers (preferably 1 or 2)
- Latitude and longitude (automatically generated if using eBird app)
- Total number of each species you see or hear.
- In eBird, please answer "yes" to the question "Are you submitting a complete checklist of the birds you were able to identify?"
- Submit a checklist regardless of whether or not you saw any target species during your counts.



NOTES:

- If you collect data on a datasheet, enter the finished tally to eBird.org
- Share your eBird checklists to westernwater@audubon.org

Contacts

General: Joey Kahn, jkahn@audubon.org
Colorado: Abby Burk, aburk@audubon.org

Arizona: Tice Supplee, tsupplee@audubon.org or Jennie MacFarland, jmacfarland@tucsonaudubon.org
New Mexico: Desiree Loggins, dloggins@audubon.org

April and May 2018 Field Trips**Saturday, May 5, 2018 - 8:00 am
Whitewater Canyon
Steve Myers (951) 616-7578**

Portions of Whitewater Canyon have long been more or less closed to public access, but the former trout farm is now the "Whitewater Canyon Preserve," managed by The Wildlands Conservancy. If you visited the trout farm in the past, you will not know the place now. Most of the facilities have been removed, and habitat restoration is under way. There are still a few ponds with trout, but riparian and desert scrub habitat should be teaming with birds on this trip. The canyon hosts nesting Summer Tanagers and Brown-crested Flycatchers, and migrants should be easy to find. In addition to the Preserve, we will visit Bonnie Bell, a small community in the canyon that contains excellent cottonwood and willow forest and woodland, somewhat reminiscent of Big Morongo. Meet at the Whitewater Canyon Preserve at 8:00 am (map). To reach the Preserve, go east on I-10, past the turn-off for Highway 111, and take the Whitewater exit. Turn left, pass over I-10, and watch for Whitewater Canyon Road on your left. The Preserve is at the end of Whitewater Canyon Road, approximately 5 miles north of I-10. Bring sturdy footwear, water, lunch, and the usual essentials.

**Sunday, May 6, 2018 - 8-10 am
Beginning Bird Walk; Los Rios Rancho,
Oak Glen
Pam Quittmeyer (951) 212-2211**

Come out to the foothills for fresh air and enjoy slow-paced birding at the Oak Glen Preserve. The transitional area contains mountain species as well as birds common in the valley. Expected birds include Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker and California Scrub Jay with the possibility of finding a few early migrants. Also, waterfowl may still be on the ponds. This is an excellent walk for beginning birders and no costs are involved. We will meet at the entrance to the Wildlands Conservancy at Oak Glen Preserve (Los Rios Rancho parking lot) at 8 a.m.. Please contact Pam Quittmeyer for further information. Rain or other conditions may effect last minute changes. Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars.

**Saturday, May 12, 2018 - 9:00 am
Baby Birds at Bearpaw Ranch
Cin Greyraven (909) 794-0509**

Join us for a trip into the hidden world of nesting birds at Bearpaw Nature Sanctuary in Forest Falls (map). Biologist Cin Greyraven will lead the group in its search for evidence of breeding behavior in the common birds of the chaparral and forest. Since 1994, Bearpaw Sanctuary has been part of the National Nest Box Trail system, offering homes to Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmice, House Wrens, Mountain Chickadees, and Ash-throated Flycatchers. Learn what types of nest boxes work best and how monitoring data by average citizens across the continent can contribute to scientific research. Learn how to monitor a nest box without disturbing the nesting effort. Enjoy a peek inside the usually inaccessible world of cavity nesters, and learn to recognize different species by their nests, eggs, and chicks. Bring binoculars for long-distance viewing and cameras for close-up snapshots. Children are welcome. For additional information, call (909) 794-0509.

**Saturday, May 19, 2018
San Jacinto Mountains
Gene Cardiff & Dori Myers (714) 779-2201**

Meet in the parking lot across from Lake Fulmor just off highway 243 at 8:00AM. We will bird the area for about an hour and then drive from there stopping along the way. Eventually we will make it to Lake Hemet where we hope to be able to view Bald Eagles. We should find all the usual mountain species plus some. Pinyon Jay is one of our target birds. Dress in layers, bring snacks, water and your lunch. Please remember to fill you gas tank beforehand. A scope (if you have one) would be useful at the lakes.

**Saturday-Sunday June 2-3, 2018
Eastside Sierra Field Trip
Brad Singer (909) 838-7951**

Prized for its natural beauty let alone the outstanding bird life it hosts, the Sierra Eastside gives birders the chance to enjoy both waterfowl and montane species on the same trip. The first day we explore the beautiful Owens Valley and neighboring canyons. The second day will center around Mammoth Lakes and surroundings. We will meet in Lone Pine at 7 am on Saturday at the

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Interagency Visitor Center on the corner of Highways 395 and 136. Some of the species we will look for are both Sooty and Sage Grouse, Clark's Nutcracker, Red Crossbill, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch, Mountain Bluebird and Sagebrush Sparrow. This is also a good time for spotting vagrants passing through the area. I suggest booking a hotel in Bishop for Saturday night and possibly Sunday night (if you do not want to make the long trip back on Sunday). Space is limited, if you plan to go please contact me at bcsinger@gmail.com or 909.838.7951.

COME ON THE TRIP WITHOUT: LOTS OF WATER, a large ice chest, lots of ice and snacks, a hat and sunscreen, a working air conditioner, and a full tank of gas.

Meet at the overlook at the south end of Fig Lagoon at 6:00 AM. The easiest way to reach this location is to go south on Drew Road from I-8, turn west onto Diehl Road, and then north onto Derrick Road. We will stop for lunch in Brawley at some place with air conditioning. Our route will be determined by where the birds of interest are being seen. Motels are available in El Centro for those wishing to spend Friday night in the area.

2018 FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, June 16, 2018 - 7:30 am Wrightwood & Blue Ridge Gene Cardiff (909) 875-5358

The San Gabriel Mountains trip will start at the California Department of Forestry Mormon Rocks Station on Highway 138 at 7:30 am (map). Take I-15 north from San Bernardino or south from the Victor Valley and turn toward Palmdale on Highway 138. The CDF Station is located 1.5 miles up Hwy 138 on the left side of the road, opposite the large sandstone formation called the Mormon Rocks. (There are no restrooms at the CDF Station, use the restrooms at the gas stations near the off ramp.) After birding that area for 30-45 minutes, we will proceed up Lone Pine Canyon Rd into Wrightwood to Big Pines and eventually wind up at 8000 feet and Blue Ridge Campground for lunch. Bring a lunch, liquids and a good pair of shoes. We will look for mountain birds such as the Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, and Williamson's Sapsucker. Please don't forget: you will need an Adventure Pass (we will stop at the ranger station).

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

How would you like to see birds like Neotropical Cormorant, Stilt Sandpiper, Laughing and Yellow-footed Gulls, Black Terns, Burrowing Owl, and Gila Woodpecker? All those and more may be yours at the mere price of 100+ degree average daily highs in the pungent glory and spectacle of the Salton Sea in summertime. With luck, perhaps something like a Wood Stork or Magnificent Frigatebird will appear (or is it just the heat?). DO NOT

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

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

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

Saturday, May 19, 2018 San Jacinto Mountain

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

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

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

Field Trip Checklist

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

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



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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!

Bearpaw Ranch

Bearpaw Ranch is a 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 several car lengths on Valley of the Falls Dr. and look for our small wooden sign on the right. Our driveway is on the right, marked 38801. The driveway is paved and unpaved road that meanders across Mill Creek wash and up the bluff to an electronically operated entry gate. Members who wish to visit the Sanctuary should call any board member in advance to get the gate code. It is not a requirement that the caretaker is at home for you to visit. If the gate does not open because of mechanical failure, you are welcome to walk in or stop for birding along the creek bed.

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

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

SBVAS Officers 2015/2016

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 (909) 875-5358
Mountain Conservation Issues: Peter Jorris (909) 867-3536
Membership: Pete Clark (951) 212-2467
Anthony Metcalf (951) 242-7038
Cin Greyraven (909) 327-8795

WESTERN MEADOWLARK: Editor:
Pam Quittmeyer duckypam@gmail.com (951)212-2211

SBVAS WEBMASTER: Brad Singer bcsinger@gmail.com

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

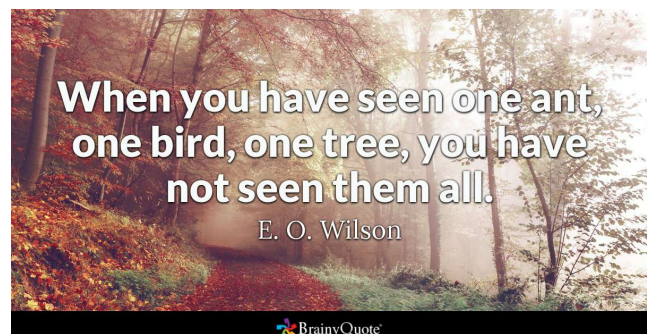
RARE BIRD ALERT: Tom Benson (909)-648-0899 or (909)-537-3309 or tbenson@csusb.edu

CALENDAR

Board Meetings: Next Board meeting, First Wednesday of the month, May 2, 2018 at 7 p.m.

General Meetings: Next General Meeting on May 16, 2018 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



May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 SBVAS Board Meeting 7 p.m.	3	4	5 Whitewater Field Trip 8 a.m.
6 Beginning Bird Walk Los Rios Rancho 8 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11	12 Bearpaw Ranch Baby Birds Field Trip 9 a.m.
13	14	15	16 SBVSAS General Meeting 7:30 p.m.	17	18	19 San Jacinto Mountains Field Trip
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Eastside Sierra Field Trip Weekend 7 a.m.
3 Eastside Sierra Field Trip Weekend	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Wrightwood & Blue Ridge Field Trip 7:30
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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

THE WESTERN MEADOWLARK

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

Everyone is always welcome!

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

Board Meetings
are the 1st Tuesday

General meetings
are the 3rd Wednesday



SBVAS Membership
currently at 1900

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

Chapter Only Membership Application

San Bernardino Valley Audubon

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Email Address* _____

Please enclose a check payable to SBVAS

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

Membership Application

National Audubon Society (NAS)

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make check payable to National Audubon Society

SBVAS Chapter
 C11

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