

18TH ANNUAL
SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

Celebrating Our Coast

FEBRUARY 27 - MARCH 2, 2014

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

James Currie

Host of Birding Adventures Television, NBC Sports Network

SPECIAL GUEST:

Denver Holt

Owl Research Institute

MARINA VILLAGE AT MISSION BAY PARK
San Diego, California



California Gulls © Lisa Wren Walraven



**SAN DIEGO
AUDUBON SOCIETY**



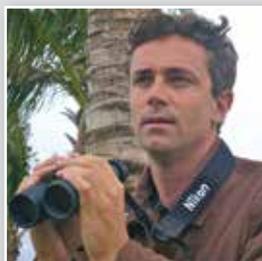
Left: Brown Pelican, right top: Blue-footed Booby, right bottom: Western Snowy Plover

Welcome to the
2014 San Diego Bird Festival

Celebrating our Coast

The San Diego Audubon Society invites you to San Diego for the 18th annual San Diego Bird Festival, held at the Marina Village Conference Center. Festival headquarters, overlooking a picturesque marina, is just steps away from San Diego's species-rich San Diego River estuary. From sea to desert to mountain top, San Diego County offers one of the most diverse birding experiences possible in the US, with more than 500 species. Our birding area encompasses habitats ranging from desert to mountains, shore to coastal wetlands, urban and suburban. We'll even take you birding by bicycle and kayak.

Proceeds from the San Diego Bird Festival support the activities of San Diego Audubon Society. For more information about the conservation work of SDAS, visit www.sandiegoaudubon.org.



Birding & Optics EXPO

FEB 27 - MARCH 2

1 to 4 PM daily, free and open to the public

Try out new binoculars, learn about the latest and greatest in gear, or find that special piece of art you've been hoping for.



Coastal Cactus Wren

A pre-registration mixer for festival attendees will be held in the EXPO area Wednesday, February 26, 4 to 6 PM. Social mixers for ticketed festival attendees are held in the EXPO area from 4 PM to 6 PM Thursday, February 27 and Saturday, March 1.

Stay up to date with all that's happening in our 2014 Festival! Become our friend on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/sdbirdfestival>



James Currie

Friday's banquet keynote speaker is James Currie, host of Nikon's Birding Adventures on NBC Sports Network. James has made a career of forging links between local communities, wildlife and international travelers. He has led professional wildlife tours globally for 15 years. James has appeared as a special guest on various TV shows and radio. He filmed, consulted, and provided footage for the 2011 Hollywood birding movie, "The Big Year", starring Steve Martin, Jack Black and Owen Wilson. An expert and an adventurer, he has spoken to sold-out audiences at various venues including the prestigious Explorers Club in New York City, the G2 Gallery in Los Angeles, and the National Audubon headquarters. James has contributed to several publications, including the acclaimed *Southern African Birdfinder* and *Wildwatch*, and blogs weekly on 10,000 Birds (www.10000birds.com). James will be a guest leader on two "coastal highlights" trips, and will be accompanied by a small crew filming for Birding Adventures Television.

Denver Holt

Our special festival guest is Denver Holt, founder and president of the Owl Research Institute. A wildlife researcher and graduate of the University of Montana, Denver has researched owls in North and Central America since 1978, publishing about 90 papers and technical documents, including *Birds of North America*, and *The Handbook of the Birds of the World*. His work with Snowy Owls was featured as a cover story for *National Geographic Magazine*. He co-authored two children's science books on owls: *Owls: who are they?*, and *Snowy Owls*. His research has been featured in many television programs on multiple networks, including Audubon's *Up-Close* series, PBS's *Bird Watch*, and David Attenborough's *Life of Birds*, *Frozen Earth* on BBC, and the PBS Documentary, *The Magic of Snowy Owls*. Denver will host our Friday luncheon program on the identification and natural history of owls, as well as leading two "night owls" field trips and presenting an informative owl program for kids on Family Fun Day.

Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle

SPONSORED BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS



We are also happy to feature the expertise of Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, authors of *The Warbler Guide* on Princeton University Press. Tom's articles and photos have appeared in *Birding* and *Bird Watcher's Digest*, at surfbirds.com, and in the *Handbook of Birds of the World*. He is also an avid musician. Scott lives in Cape May, New Jersey, and has over twenty years of experience as a professional photographer and educator. He is a onetime New York State Big Year record holder. Tom and Scott will host a special luncheon at Birch Aquarium, as well as a Saturday luncheon program on warbler ID.



Lisa Walraven

This year's festival graphic "I Wish They All Could Be California Gulls," was created by Lisa Walraven, of Happy Wren. Lisa paints from her experience: through her conservation work, wildlife rehabilitation, and bird banding. Lisa's work has been described as lyrical, whimsical and ecological. She has been creating bird and mammal portraits for over 10 years, conveying a sense of joy, happiness and appreciation for the natural world. More of Lisa's work can be found on her website at www.happywren.com.

The 2014 Bird Festival offers four pelagic trips, Thursday through Sunday, February 27 through March 2. Swarovski Optik, SeaWorld San Diego, and Victor Emanuel Nature Tours are pelagic trip sponsors. Pelagic birding maestro David Povey leads the trips and his co-leaders include some of the best pelagic birders in the area.

In addition to a full menu of field trips, mixers, workshops and our annual banquet, the 2014 festival will include daily, free estuary walks, and Family Fun Day, an expanded program of free events for families on Sunday, March 2. Family-friendly activities include live bird presentations, a visit from Denver Holt the "owl-ologist," art activities facilitated by Family Adventures in Nature, kayak demos by Hobie, and a bird-calling workshop. All family events on Sunday are free with no pre-registration needed.

All workshops and events are held at Marina Village unless otherwise noted in the event description. All field trips depart from Marina Village where parking is plentiful and free. Registration for all events can be done at www.sandiegoaudubon.org. We look forward to seeing you at the 2014 San Diego Bird Festival.



Burrowing Owl



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Please help us help birds by reducing waste. Bring your own reusable water bottle and reusable coffee mug to the Festival. Recycling containers are available throughout the Birding & Optics EXPO area.





General Information



BIRD FESTIVAL REGISTRATION: You can register using our online registration system. Confirmation will be sent automatically at the completion of online registration. The Festival transaction fee is \$10 for up to four people. If you wish add more events at a later date, there will be an additional transaction fee. Sunday Family Day events and estuary walks are free and do not require prior registration or any fees. The Pre- and Post-Festival trip sign-ups are done through our tour operator, Andiamo Travel. Space is limited so please register early.

If you are unable to register online, fill out the worksheet found in the center of this brochure and mail it to us with your payment. There is a \$20 per person processing fee for mailed-in registrations. We will confirm your registration by e-mail or by standard mail. The mailing address is: San Diego Audubon Society, 4010 Morena Blvd., Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92117

STANDBY: The online registration system will indicate the number of remaining openings for each event. While standby lists will not be maintained, any cancellations will release places for others to register.

DROP-IN REGISTRATION: Online or mail-in registration are the preferred methods of registration, but you may also register for any available event at the festival registration center in Marina Village, which is open Wednesday afternoon through Sunday in Marina Village. There is a \$20 processing fee for drop-in registrations.

CHECK-IN: When you arrive, there is a check-in procedure to receive your name badge, tickets, bird lists, and to submit a signed waiver form (required of all attendees). The waiver form is posted online and you can save time by bringing a copy with you. If your first event is early (prior to 6:30 AM), we recommend you check-in the day before. Our check-in area open Wednesday February 26 at 4 PM, and will be open until 6 PM each evening through Sunday. Check-in Wednesday and come to our Early Bird Pre-registration Mixer sponsored by Holbrook Travel from 4 to 6 PM.

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY: If we cancel a Festival event you will receive a full refund for that event. If you cancel an event by February 10th, you will receive a refund minus a \$10 fee. If you cancel after February 10th, you will not receive a refund except in the case of personal emergency.

BIRDING & OPTICS EXPO: Our exhibitions and vendors are located in the Marina Village Seaside Room near the registration area. This area is open to the public from 1 to 4 PM Thursday through Sunday.

UP-TO-THE-MINUTE INFORMATION: For current information about our Festival including event status, cancellations, changes and possible new events added after this printing, please visit our website.

For up-to-the-minute information and availability of events visit
www.sandiegoaudubon.org
or e-mail any questions to birdfest@cox.net.

TRIP NOTES: The Festival provides all trip transportation. All trips depart from and conclude at Marina Village. Buses or vans leave at the scheduled event time. Allow time to check-in and buy any lunches or water.

WORKSHOP NOTES: All workshops are held at Marina Village in break-out rooms near the Seaside Room. Signs will direct you to the workshop location.

WEATHER: Weather in San Diego in early March is mild but rain is always a possibility. Mountain trips may experience cold temperatures—be sure to bring layered, warm clothing and closed-toed shoes for these trips. A change of dry clothing is recommended for the kayak trip.

Festival Location

The 2014 San Diego Bird Festival will be held at the Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, on Mission Bay. All trips begin and end at Marina Village and all workshops are held at Marina Village break-out rooms near the Seaside Room. Signs will direct you to the registration and check-in area.

Where to Stay

The Dana on Mission Bay (www.thedana.com) is the Festival's host hotel and the nearest hotel to Festival headquarters at the Marina Village Conference Center. It's an easy walk and free shuttles will run each morning to Marina Village. To reserve a room reservation directly with The Dana, call toll-free 1-800-445-3339 or locally 619-222-6440 and mention that you are with the Bird Festival. Alternatively, go to the San Diego Audubon website, www.sandiegoaudubon.org for a link to the special Festival rates at The Dana.

Campland on the Bay (www.campland.com, 1-800-422-9386 or locally 858-581-4260) is also close by and available for RV hookups. Located at 2211 Pacific Beach Drive, San Diego, Campland is on the northeast side of Mission Bay Park overlooking the Kendall Frost Wildlife Preserve. Campland offers a 20% discount on any site to Bird Festival registrants. Campland is a 5-minute drive from Marina Village via Pacific Beach Drive and Ingraham Street south to Quivera Basin.

Links and phone numbers of additional nearby lodging options are listed on our website Festival page, www.sandiegoaudubon.org.

Daily Estuary Walks

Thursday - Saturday, 3:00 PM- 4:15 PM

Meet at the tent for an informal walk to the San Diego River Estuary, with local birding experts. No registration necessary, but we will cap participation at 10 participants per leader.



Whimbrels

Pre- and Post-Festival Trips

Extend your experience with a trip before or after the festival! Join San Diego Audubon and Andiamo Travel on one of these unforgettable journeys.

PRE-FESTIVAL TRIP

01 Birding the Baja Peninsula Sunday, February 16 – Wednesday, February 26

Andiamo
Tour Mexico



Sponsored by San Diego Audubon Society, operated by Andiamo Travel

Join the San Diego Audubon Society and Andiamo Travel for a 10-day, specially priced trip to bird all 1,063 miles of the stunning and rugged Baja Peninsula, Mexico, with two boat excursions, one in Magdalena Bay and the other at Scammon's Lagoon to see the world famous "friendlies," female California Gray Whales and their young calves. More than 400 bird species have been recorded in Baja California Norte and Sur and adjacent waters. Several of these are endemic species and unique plumage subspecies found nowhere else in the world. Target birds include Xantus's Hummingbird, Gray Thrasher, Belding's Yellowthroat, and Blue-footed Booby.

Cost: \$2,410, excluding airfare. Single supplement \$460

Leaders: In-country expert birding and cultural guides
from Andiamo Travel

The Birding Baja trip is booked directly with Andiamo Travel. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra, rosa@andiamo-travel.com, call toll-free (800) 661-1325, or visit www.andiamo-travel.com and click on the Our Journeys bar then Baja California and birding.

POST-FESTIVAL FIELD TRIP

02 Birding the Salton Sea Monday, March 3 – Thursday, March 6

Andiamo
Tour Mexico



Sponsored by San Diego Audubon Society, operated by Andiamo Travel

Join the San Diego Audubon Society and Andiamo Travel for a 4-day, specially priced trip to bird the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea, located on the Pacific Flyway, contains 5 distinct habitats: the sea, agricultural, wetlands, desert, and suburban. Imperial County attracts annually more than 400 species of birds. It has become an important wintering and staging area for migratory birds, and a permanent habitat for many species, some of them endangered. It is the "south in winter" for many species, breeding grounds for some and the northern limits for a few. This birder's paradise offers variety, rarities and overwhelming numbers. Each day the itinerary is adjusted according to bird sightings and weather conditions.

Cost: \$940 per person, double occupancy, (based on 8 to 10 participants)
Single supplement \$150

Leaders: Tom Myer and guest leader Bob Miller for one day

The Salton Sea trip is booked directly with Andiamo Travel. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra, rosa@andiamo-travel.com, call toll-free (800) 661-1325, or visit www.andiamo-travel.com and click on the Our Journeys bar then Salton Sea and birding.

Wednesday, February 26

W1 Early Bird Pre-registration Mixer

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sponsored by Holbrook Travel



HOLBROOK
TRAVEL

Avoid the early morning registration rush and have fun at the same time! Join Bird Festival staff and volunteers Wednesday evening for a free pre-registration gathering at festival headquarters. Light snacks and drinks will be served in the Seaside Room of the Marina Village Conference Center. Staff and volunteers will be available to assist you in pre-registering for festival events.

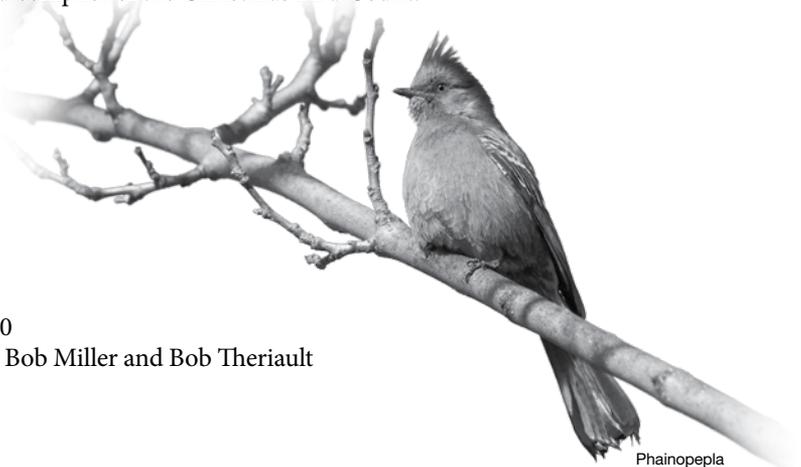
Cost: Free. Preregistration is not required for this event.

Thursday, February 27

T1 Birds of the Anza-Borrego Desert Trip #1

5:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park contains all the rugged characteristics that most people associate with a desert environment. Even so, it is home to a variety of bird species. This full-day trip will leave early and arrive at the crest of Montezuma Grade to drop 3,700ft to the desert floor as the sun rises. Focus species include Long-eared Owl, Greater Roadrunner, Costa's Hummingbird, Verdin, Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Sage, Crissal and Le Conte's thrashers, Phainopepla, Sage and Black-throated sparrows. Bob Miller is a birding guide specializing in the desert southwest where he was born and raised and is knowledgeable on the life, history, and geology of the area. Bob Theriault is a retired Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Ranger, resident birder of Borrego Springs and compiler of the Christmas Bird Count.



Phainopepla

Cost: \$100

Leaders: Bob Miller and Bob Theriault



Sack Lunch program in 2014

Beginning at 5 am daily, sack lunches will be available for purchase in the continental breakfast area of the Birding & Optics EXPO. Lunches do not need to be pre-ordered. There will be a selection of 3 different lunches, each including a bottled beverage of your choice. Lunches cost \$10 and can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Additional beverages, including bottled water, will also be for sale. For those returning from early field trips, or attending afternoon workshops, an extensive lunch menu is available for purchase at the nearby Marina Deli, just south of the Birding & Optics EXPO area along the waterfront walkway.

T2 Birding 100 Trip #1

6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This popular trip is a whirlwind tour of San Diego County's hottest birding spots with a goal to list over 100 species. Expect to bird in the hills east of San Diego, inland wetlands, San Diego Bay, and along the ocean and near the Mexican border. Bring your lunch as there is no stopping for anything but birds. Phil Pryde has been leading birding trips and teaching birding classes for San Diego Audubon for more than 25 years. He is a retired professor from San Diego State University, is the author of *San Diego, An Introduction to the Region*, and has led birding trip to all parts of the U.S. BJ Stacey is an excellent birder who serves on the board of the San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Phil Pryde and BJ Stacey

T3 Birding Along the Border Trip #1

6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican border will explore fabled birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the Imperial Beach Pier. Every border trip sees 85 to 100 species including shorebirds, raptors, and other winter visitors. Special efforts are made to find local specialties such as Wrentit, California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, and California Towhee. Other possibilities include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, eight species of raptors and many species of ducks. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours. Robert Patton is a long-time birder in our area and biologist working with the Least Tern recovery program.



California Towhee

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Steve Ritt and Robert Patton

T4 Lake Hodges and Orfila Winery Trip

6:30 AM - 1:30 PM



On this trip we will visit Lake Hodges, designated as a Globally Important Bird Area by the ABA as well as another cultured and civilized spot, favored by birders and wine lovers. Bird sightings may include Greater Roadrunner, Coastal Cactus Wren, California Thrasher, California Gnatcatcher, Western and Clark's Grebes (some displaying courtship behavior), California Quail, White-tailed Kite, Cassin's Kingbird, and maybe some early migrants. Bring a lunch and we shall conclude with a wine tasting at the beautiful Orfila Winery in Escondido. Millie and Peter Thomas lead local birding trips, and Peter is the Past President of San Diego Audubon.

Cost: \$85

Leaders: Millie and Peter Thomas

T5 San Diego's Pacific Rocky Shores Trip

6:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Portions of San Diego's scenic Pacific coastline feature natural rocky cliffs, as well as rock jetties and breakwaters. These areas are inhabited by a select variety of birds. Trip participants will observe birds such as Brandt's and Pelagic cormorants, Wandering Tattler, Ruddy and Black turnstones, Surfbird, Black Oystercatcher, and even Black-vented Shearwater, Parasitic and Pomarine jaegers, Pacific and Red-throated loons, Brown Pelican, Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Whimbrel, and Heermann's Gull. For the past 30 years, Stan Walens has spent many hours scanning the ocean off La Jolla, amassing an extensive knowledge of these unique birds. Ric Zarwell, of Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures, has been birding since 1966, visiting 37 nations on 6 continents.

Cost: \$75

Leaders: Stan Walens and Ric Zarwell

T6 Pelagic Trip #1

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sponsored by VENT



Join a team of California seabird and marine mammal experts for an excursion on the comfortable 85-foot live-aboard Grande to view some of the numerous seabird and marine mammal species found offshore of San Diego. Grande features a big comfortable galley with large windows from which to view an amazing array of birds and mammals en route to San Diego's "birdy" Nine Mile Bank. Species may include fulmars, shearwaters, auklets, murrelets, and jaegers. Rarities spotted in past years from Festival pelagic trips include Black-footed Albatross, Manx Shearwater, Brown and Blue-footed boobies.

Cost: \$100

Leaders: David Povey and Crew



T7 Coastal Highlights Trip - North

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

New!



Join James Currie and Jimmy McMorran on an adventure along the northern half of San Diego County's coastline. We'll visit popular birding hotspots such as San Elijo Lagoon, San Dieguito Park and the San Luis Rey River mouth/Oceanside Harbor, all in search of the "golden bird:" Coastal California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, Wrentit and rare species of vireos, warblers, and orioles overwintering in the area. James is the host of *Birding Adventures TV*. Jimmy is a seasoned wildlife biologist based out of San Diego.

Cost: \$90

Leaders: James Currie and Jimmy McMorran

T8 San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Trip

6:30 AM - 1:30 PM



Sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service

The San Diego National Wildlife Refuge is the inland and upstream counterpart to the coastal refuges. The willow and oak riparian corridor of the Sweetwater River and its adjacent sage scrub and grassland uplands are the quiet home of year-round species, and migrants later in spring and summer. Species expected include Coastal California Gnatcatcher, California and Spotted Towhee, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Tree Swallow, sparrows such as White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song, and maybe Lincoln's and Fox, Western Scrub Jay, Nuttall's woodpecker and raptors.

Cost: \$35

Leaders: USFWS Staff

T9 North County Lagoons Trip

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

North San Diego County boasts several important coastal wetlands. The wetlands encompass habitats as diverse as tidal salt marshes and mudflats, riparian woodlands, and sage scrub that support a wide range of species. This trip generally sights between 85-100 species, including a wide selection of Western specialties like Light-footed Clapper Rail, Western Snowy Plover, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, California Gnatcatcher, California Quail, Wrentit, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Scrub Jay, California Towhee, California Thrasher, and Anna's and Allen's hummingbirds. Maryanne is a field biologist focused on endangered species and is the former education and outreach director of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. Andy is past president of the San Diego Field Ornithologists and the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, and a board member of Buena Vista Audubon.



Anna's Hummingbird

Cost: \$85

Leaders: Maryanne Bache and Andy Mauro

T10 Coastal National Wildlife Refuges Trip #1

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Sponsored by the US Fish and Wildlife Service



San Diego's coastal wildlife refuges are located at the south end of San Diego Bay and near the Mexico border. During the winter season a diverse variety of land and water birds can be observed at such places as South San Diego Bay NWR and the Tijuana Slough NWR. This trip includes "behind the gates" access to the Salt Works in South San Diego Bay, and to the mouth of the Tijuana River. Species expected to be seen include Eared Grebe, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Surf Scoter, Black-bellied Plover, Black Skimmer, Caspian and Forster's terns, Willet, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, and maybe even a Peregrine Falcon. The trip ends at the Living Coast Discovery Center, located on the Sweetwater Marsh NWR Unit, to see rehabbed raptors and a presentation on the Light-footed Clapper Rail captive-breeding program.

Cost: Free to all registered festival participants **Leaders:** USFWS Staff

T11 Gulls and Coastal Waterbirds Trip

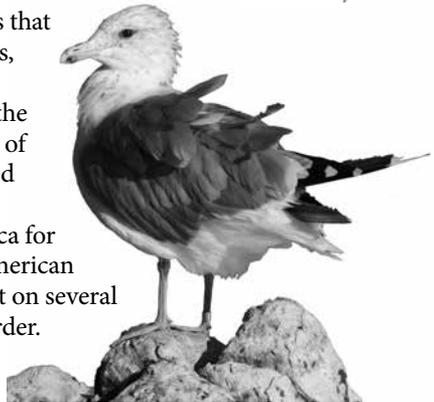
7:00 AM - 3:00 PM



This trip will visit several of the birdier coastal sites that host a wide variety of waterfowl, herons, shorebirds, gulls, and terns. Between seven and nine gull species are likely to be found, hopefully including the uncommon Thayer's and Mew gulls. Other species of interest may include Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal, Little Blue Heron, and Black Skimmer. Paul Lehman leads bird tours throughout North America for Wings, Inc. and is an associate editor for North American Birds magazine. He has been a principal consultant on several popular field guides. Barbara Carlson is an avid birder.

Cost: \$85

Leaders: Paul Lehman and Barbara Carlson



California Gull

T12 Beginning Birding at Santee Lakes Trip

7:30 AM - 12:30 PM



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Santee Lakes are a series of artificial lakes built in a canyon in the 1960s. The lakes and the surrounding area attract a large variety of ducks, herons, hawks, and other birds. This is the main breeding site for Wood Ducks in San Diego County. We expect to see them and Ring-necked Ducks, Osprey, Nuttall's and Downy woodpeckers, Belted Kingfisher, Great-tailed Grackle, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, warblers, and many other birds. We will walk around a few of the lakes, mostly on paved sidewalks. Sara Baase Mayers has been birding for 25 years and teaching for 40.

Cost: \$45

Leader: Sara Mayers



T13 Birding by Bike Trip

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Enjoy Southern California birding around Mission Bay by bicycle. The route will begin and end at Marina Village. The terrain is flat and the route is almost entirely on bike/pedestrian pathways. The trip is set up to allow for a short six-mile ride, a 10-mile ride, or a 25-plus miles ride—you can drop out at the starting point when you wish. The ride could include spotting the elusive Clapper Rail, exotic gulls, three kinds of loons, and the Little Blue Heron. We will likely see more than 70 bird species associated with Mission Bay. Bring a lunch or money for one of the many snack stands on the route.

Helmets are required; sunscreen and water are recommended. Kathy Askin is a biking birder and leads rides for the Sierra Club Bicycle Section. You may bring your own bike and helmet or rent a bike for \$25 for the day with delivery, pickup, and helmet included in the price.

Cost: \$80

Leader: Kathy Askin

T14 SDAS Least Tern Service Project

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Sponsored by the San Diego Audubon Society

Join San Diego Audubon Society on this important conservation project protecting the California Least Tern, a federally-listed endangered species. This migratory shore-nesting bird breeds along the California coast but has few remaining undisturbed nesting sites. The birds arrive at their San Diego breeding grounds in late April, and we are lucky enough to have one of these sites close to the festival grounds. We'll start with an informative presentation and head out to the site to do some on-the-ground conservation work. Wear your grubbies and bring a sack lunch.

Cost: \$10 supports SDAS conservation programs

Leader: Rebecca Schwartz

T15 Birding By Camera Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This workshop covers aspects of bird and nature digital photography that include capturing the image, use of light, camera position, auto focus, auto exposure, flight shots, processing images, displaying images, and database management. Tom Blackman, a birder since his early teens, has a degree in zoology and is president of San Diego Field Ornithologists. He has worked as a photographer for several San Diego State University departments and has published images in many scientific journals and birding publications. His travels have taken him to many famous birding areas worldwide. He spends a great deal of time at sea photographing pelagic birds. His work can be viewed at obeach.smugmug.com

Cost: \$20

Presenter: Tom Blackman

T16 Raptor Field ID and Ecology Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Raptors are beautiful and capture our imaginations. They are also relatively easy to identify, once you know what to look for. Jeff Lincer, a former president of the Raptor Research Foundation, has been an active researcher and consultant in Southern California since 1991. His main focus has been the raptors, from Alaska to Africa, but he has also worked with the fish-eating birds in several coastal states.

Cost: \$20 **Presenter:** Jeff Lincer

T17 Asian Brush Painting Workshop

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Have you ever wanted to learn how to do a simple painting of a bird, capturing its essence with a few sure strokes? This is your chance, using ancient Asian techniques and Zen principles to focus your mind and create an image on paper using nothing more than a brush, black ink, and water. In this workshop Stella Ting, an artist and teacher with the Friends Taka Sumi-e Japanese brush painting society and Ling Hsiang Chapter 5 of American Artists of

Chinese Brush Painting, will guide participants to create paintings of birds infused with Zen simplicity. More than just a painting workshop, participants will come away relaxed and refreshed and with a new way of looking at birds. Each participant will be able to complete a bird painting during the workshop. Painting supplies are provided.

Cost: \$30 **Presenter:** Stella Ting

T20 Pelagic Birds Workshop

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Sponsored by Victor Emanuel Nature Tours



Many interesting bird species make the open sea their home during part of their life cycle. In order to get a good look at these specialized birds, a pelagic trip is required. This talk will cover many facets of pelagic birding from species identification to bird behavior to preparation for the trip. In order to fully enjoy the pelagic trip itself, we'll discuss protocol on board as well as other ways to gain the most from your pelagic experience. The talk will prepare you for our four pelagic trips. Bring your binoculars and your willingness to learn! Brennan Mulrooney is a guide for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours, and makes his home in San Diego County.

Cost: \$20 **Presenter:** Brennan Mulrooney



T21 Digiscoping DSLR-Stills and Video Workshop

3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Sponsored by Swarovski Optik



Digiscoping—the marriage of a spotting scope and a digital camera to document wildlife sightings—is the hottest topic in the birding world. Clay Taylor of Swarovski Optik, who has been avidly digiscoping since 2001, will present a seminar on digiscoping. Topics will include choosing the best camera and scope combination for digiscoping, camera-mounting options, and shooting tips and techniques in the field. Tips on using a digital SLR behind the scope eyepiece will be included. Participants are encouraged to bring their own spotting scopes, digital still cameras, camcorders, and scope adaptors.

Cost: \$5

Presenter: Clay Taylor

T22 Sip and Share Mixer

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Sponsored by Vanguard Optics



Come on in and meet fellow birders, compare the day's experiences, explore the latest in optical gear, visit with birding travel specialists, nibble and nosh, and sip on a brew.

Cost: \$10

T23 SDAS Issues and Adventures Presentation with Special Guest Ed Pandolfino "Birds of the Sierra Nevada"

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Sponsored by SDAS



Ed Pandolfino will take you on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin. Along the way we'll see and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home. We'll learn about which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing. We'll address some mysteries surrounding some of those species and discuss how birders can help to solve them.



Oak Titmouse

Cost: Free. No preregistration required.

Friday, February 28, 2014

F1 Laguna/Cuyamaca Mountains Trip

6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

San Diego County's mountains provide diverse birding environments, consisting of mixed oak and conifer forests interspersed with expanses of grassland and chaparral from 4,000 to just over 6,000 feet in elevation. Target species include Mountain Quail; Ferruginous Hawk; Acorn, Nuttall's, and White-headed woodpeckers; Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Oak Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Western Bluebird. Participants should bring adequate clothing for cold temperatures and footwear suitable for walking in several inches of snow, just in case they are needed. Expect trail hiking up to 2 miles over fairly level wooded terrain. Geoff Rogers is a wildlife biologist who has been birding seriously for over 30 years. John Walters is a retired biology instructor who has been birding in San Diego County for over 20 years. He edits *The Skimmer*, the newsletter of the San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Cost: \$95

Leader: Geoff Rogers and John Walters

F2 Birding Along the Border Trip #2

6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican border will explore fabled birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the Imperial Beach Pier. Every border trip sees 85 to 100 species including shorebirds, raptors, and other winter visitors. Special efforts are made to find local specialties such as Wrenit, California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, and California Towhee. Other possibilities include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, eight species of raptors, and many species of ducks.

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Robert Patton and Elizabeth Copper

F3 Pelagic Birding Trip #2

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sponsored by Sea World San Diego



Join a team of California seabird and marine mammal experts for an excursion on the comfortable 85-foot live-aboard *Grande* to view some of the numerous seabird and marine mammal species found offshore of San Diego. *Grande* features a big comfortable galley with large windows from which to view an amazing array of birds and mammals en route to San Diego's "birdy" Nine Mile Bank. Species may include fulmars, shearwaters, auklets, murrelets, and jaegers. Rarities spotted in past years from Festival pelagic trips include Black-footed Albatross, Manx Shearwater, Brown and Blue-footed boobies. February and March are the heart of the return migration season of California Gray Whales as they make their way back to Alaska from the warm lagoons of Baja California where they breed and give birth. Expect to see at least two species of whales, two to four species of dolphin, California Sea Lions and Harbor Seals.

Cost: \$100

Leader: Dave Povey and Crew



F4 Coastal Highlights Trip - South

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM



Join James Currie and Steve Ritt on an adventure along the southern half of San Diego County's coastline. We'll visit popular birding hotspots in the Tijuana River Valley, South San Diego Bay, and Imperial Beach in search of the "golden bird." We hope to find such specialties as California Gnatcatcher, Wrentit, White-tailed Kite, Pelagic Cormorant, and Black-throated Magpie Jay along with a few regional rarities. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours.

Cost: \$90

Leaders: James Currie and Steve Ritt

F5 Oceanside Harbor and Whelan Lake Trip

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM



We will start by birding the Oceanside Harbor looking for gulls, cormorants, and other pelagic species—loons, jaegers, and Black Oystercatchers are possible. We will be walking on a jetty part way. Wear good walking shoes and spotting scopes are very welcome. Then we move on to Whelan Lake, a private bird sanctuary located between Camp Pendleton and the San Luis Rey River. If time permits, we will visit Batiquitos Lagoon as well. Many duck species including Wood Duck and Redhead are possible. California Thrasher, California Quail, Spotted and California towhees, Nuttall's and Downy woodpeckers, Roadrunner, Green Heron, egrets, and grebes are frequent visitors. John Haddock has birded and led walks in this area for 35 years.

Cost: \$75

Leaders: John Haddock and Ric Zarwell

F6 Birding by Ear Workshop and Trip

6:30 AM - 12:00 PM

This course is intended for birders who have some knowledge of visual identification of common chaparral birds and whom wish to improve their birding skills. It will consist of a breakfast workshop beginning at 6:30 am (bring your continental breakfast over from the registration area) to learn the sounds of 16 species of local birds. The group will then goes on a 7:45 am field trip in nearby chaparral habitat, identify birds in the field by sound, and put into practice what we have learned in the workshop. The focus will be on common species found in the San Diego chaparral habitat. The field trip involves a 1.5 mile walk on level terrain. Hank Ingersol is a past president of San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Cost: \$70

Leaders: Hank Ingersol and Sue Smith

F7 Coastal National Wildlife Refuges Trip #2

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service

For a full description of this field trip, refer to **T10** page 12.



Cost: Free to all registered festival participants **Leader:** USFWS Staff

F8 Local Favorites Trip

7:00 AM - 3:00 PM



Old Mission Dam, Santee Lakes and Lindo Lakes are East County birding jewels surrounded by busy suburbs. Look for Downy and Nuttall's woodpeckers, Wood and Ring-necked ducks, Western Bluebird, Osprey, Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned warblers, and maybe even Red-crowned Parrot. Jack Friery and Jim Kerr are active field trip leaders for the Palomar Audubon Society.

Cost: \$75

Leaders: Jack Friery and Jim Kerr

F9 Bird and Animal Tracking Workshop & Trip

7:00 AM - 2:00 PM

This event begins with a workshop identifying wildlife tracks and signs, with an emphasis on birds. Following the workshop, we will head to Crown Point, where we should find bird tracks. We will identify species primarily by the size and pattern of the tracks. Bring along water and lunch. Phoenix Von Hendy has been birding for more than 30 years and has led a number of birding field trips in San Diego County. Phoenix Von Hendy and Rick Botta are both certified Tracker Naturalists and are Senior Trackers with the San Diego Tracking Team.

Cost: \$60

Leaders: Phoenix Von Hendy and Rick Botta

F10 Birds at the Birch Field Trip and Lecture, featuring the Warbler Dudes

7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Birch Aquarium



Join Lawrance Bailey for a tour of the aquarium, located in scenic La Jolla with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean and the world-famous Scripps Institution of Oceanography on the UCSD campus. Start your day birding with special access to UCSD's Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve. After a quick drive up to La Jolla we will tour aquarium exhibits with aquarium docents and then head upstairs in the aquarium for a catered lunch and talk by special guests, Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle, authors of *The Warbler Guide* (Princeton University Press). We will then bird the Birch and Scripps grounds, walking downhill to The Shores for beach birding. We'll then board the bus for a short ride to La Jolla Cove to see rocky coastal habitat and Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls, nesting Brandt's and Double-crested cormorants, California Sea Lions, and Harbor Seals. We'll bird along scenic oceanfront, meeting the bus at La Jolla Rocky Shores for the return to Marina Village. There will be downhill slopes, sand, and stairs on the walk.

Cost: \$85

Leader: Lawrance Bailey



F11 Beginning Birding at Famosa Slough Trip

7:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Join a small group of beginning or intermediate birders for a short workshop and trip to Famosa Slough with Jim Peugh. The workshop will introduce the species that we are most likely to see and the habitat types in which we expect to see them. Nearby Famosa Slough is a productive site for many shorebirds, waterfowl, and often a rarity or two. If time permits, the group will also bird at the San Diego River Estuary. Jim Peugh is the Conservation Chair of San Diego Audubon and the Chair of the Board of Directors of Friends of Famosa Slough.

Cost: \$45

Leader: Jim Peugh

F12

SPECIAL TOPICS LUNCHEON:

Ecology of Snowy Owls featuring Denver Holt

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Captain's Room



Barrow, Alaska is the most northerly point in the United States. Located on the northern coastal plain, it lies over 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle and is home to the Inupiat Eskimo people and the Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaca*). Ukpik (*Snowy Owl*) and the Inupiat have had a long history. The Snowy Owl is one of the largest and most recognizable owls in the world. During the non-breeding season Snowy Owls migrate and wander throughout Canada, the northern United States, and a few scattered locations at mid-latitudes and the southern states. It is the non-breeding season when this species is most often observed. Once in a while, large Irruption Migrations occur, and hundreds to thousands of Snowy Owls migrate

south for reason still unknown. Recent satellite telemetry studies have shed some light on their movements. Snowy Owls may be most fascinating during their breeding season: nesting on the ground and defending the nest from caribou, bears, wolves and people. Learn more about this fascinating species.

Denver Holt, Special Festival Guest, will share some of his experiences with this magnificent bird. A wildlife researcher and graduate of the University of Montana, Denver has researched owls in North and Central America since 1978. His work is widely published and frequently highlighted in science and nature programming on public television.

Cost: \$40

F13 SoCal Parrots Presentation

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM



San Diego has several hundred wild and naturalized parrots thriving, while their population numbers continue to decline in their native habitats. SoCal Parrot (SCP) is a local non-profit that rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned naturalized parrots. SCP is the only local organization that is dedicated to rehabilitating and protecting wild parrots. This presentation will provide an overview of the organization as well as specifics on how SoCal Parrot is working to protect the naturalized wild parrot flocks. There will also be an opportunity to meet at least one of our wild parrot ambassadors.

Cost: \$10

Presenter: Amanda Plante

F14 “There’s an app for that!?”

Using your Smartphone to Become a Better Birder Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Sponsored by Leica Sport Optics



SPORT OPTICS

Millions of applications (apps) are now available for both iOS (Apple) and Android smartphones, but which ones will really make a difference in your birding and naturalizing? Leica Sport Optics product specialist David La Puma will give you the rundown on the latest and greatest apps for birding ranging from digital field guides and sound recording to photography and video. David will also demonstrate apps you can use to find birds in your area, plan for a trip to a foreign destination, and expedite your learning of bird songs. Doctor La Puma is a radar ornithologist fascinated by nocturnal migration and is currently the birding and nature product specialist for Leica Sport Optics. He’s also a self-described gear-head who uses his smartphone for almost every daily activity.

Cost: \$5

Presenter: David LaPuma

F15 Sketching Birds in the Field Workshop with Sophie Webb

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sketching from life is a great way to learn to be a better observer and learn the finer details of bird identification. Learn the basics of sketching in the field, bird structure and anatomy through drawing exercises from photos, mounts, and live subjects. This class is geared for all skill levels, beginner to the more advanced. Sophie Webb has travelled from the Antarctic to the Arctic and numerous places in between to both draw and study birds. She co-authored and illustrated a *Guide to the Birds of Mexico and Northern Central America* (OU Press) and a *Field Guide to the Marine Mammals of the Pacific Coast* (UC Press). She has contributed illustrations to a variety of bird guides, books and magazines. She is a director of Oikonos: ecosystem knowledge, a research associate of Point Blue (formerly PRBO Conservation Science).

Cost: \$30

Presenter: Sophie Webb



F16 Avian 911 - The Realities and Rewards of Bird Rehabilitation Lecture

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Sponsored by Project Wildlife



Join a Project Wildlife Volunteer in this presentation about what it really means to be an avian rehabilitator. We will discuss: the types of birds Project Wildlife works with; the most common reasons they come to us; the laws affecting bird rehabilitation; stages of care; and the consequences of human interference.

Cost: \$10 **Presenter:** Project Wildlife Volunteers

F17 Overview of Modern Optics and Binocular Cleaning Workshop with Steve White

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM



A Complete overview of the most important tool of birdwatching, optics. Topics include specifications, coatings, brands, quality, size, etc. A demonstration will be given on how to clean binoculars and Spotting Scopes. Bring your binoculars and Steve will evaluate them for collimation and other problems.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** Steve White

F18 Digiscoping with your Smart Phone Workshop

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Sponsored by Swarovski Optik



New advances in camera phone technology have made digiscoping even more accessible. Clay Taylor of Swarovski Optik, who has been avidly digiscoping since 2001, will present a seminar on digiscoping with your phone. Topics will include choosing the best camera and scope combination for digiscoping, camera-mounting options, and shooting tips and techniques in the field. Participants are encouraged to bring their own spotting scopes, smart phones, and scope adaptors.

Cost: \$5
Presenter: Clay Taylor



Harris's Hawk shot with a smart phone and scope

**F19 Festival Banquet with
Keynote Speaker James Currie**

5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Birding the Globe: Join National Geographic and Nikon's *Birding Adventures* TV host, James Currie, as he takes you on a journey of discovery that delves into the making of internationally-televised birding shows. Featuring exceptional video footage of remarkable birds, far-off destinations, and colorful personalities, James' talk outlines the ins and outs and challenges of filming the world's birds – from Florida to Panama to Africa and Australia. Enjoy tales of fascinating discoveries and crucial conservation, and laugh at the lighter side of birding. Featuring the first ever footage of Sunbitterns at the nest in Costa Rica; dancing Bowerbirds from Australia; bizarre Hoatzins from Peru; Striding Secretarybirds from Botswana and incredible Torrent Ducks from Colombia amongst many more. James will also discuss the importance of preserving the habitat of these beautiful species.



Cost: \$50 **Hosts:** Ed Henry, President, San Diego Audubon Society and Nikon Birding Adventures Television

F20 Owling Trip #1

6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

New!

Owling can be challenging and offers no guarantees, other than knowing you are in an area where owls occur and that they will be aware of your presence! We will visit the Laguna Mountains and Julian areas. Owl species expected include Western Screech, Great Horned, Northern Saw-whet, and Barn. This trip will take us to elevations nearing 5000 feet, with night-time temperatures generally between 20-40 degrees. Jay Keller is an experienced birder who has led a multitude of bird walks, participated in habitat conservation efforts, breeding bird surveys and set "Big Day/Month/Year" records on both coasts. Denver Holt is our special guest at the bird festival, and is one of the world's leading experts in the study of owls.



Short-eared Owl

Cost: \$150 **Leaders:** Jay Keller and Denver Holt



Saturday, March 1, 2014

Sa1 Birds of the Anza-Borrego Desert Trip #2

5:30 AM - 5:00 PM

For a full description of this field trip, refer to T1, page 8.

Cost: \$100 **Leaders:** Bob Miller and Bob Theriault

Sa2 Birding Along the Border Trip #3

6:00 AM - 3:00 PM

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican border will explore fabled birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the Imperial Beach Pier. Every border trip sees 85 to 100 species including shorebirds, raptors, and other winter visitors. Special efforts are made to find local specialties such as Wrenit, California Gnatcatcher, California Thrasher, and California Towhee. Other possibilities include Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, eight species of raptors, and many species of ducks.

Cost: \$95 **Leaders:** Robert Patton and Jeff Lincer

Sa3 Hawk Alley Trip

6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

San Pasqual Valley is a cactus dominated Coastal Sage Scrub habitat bordered by agricultural lands, where we may see Merlin, California Gnatcatcher, Coastal Cactus Wren, and White-faced Ibis. Dos

Picos County Park is situated amidst rugged brush-covered slopes northeast of San Diego, supporting mature Coast Live Oak woodland and chaparral vegetation on nearby slopes.

Typical birds found include Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, California Quail, Acorn and Nuttall's woodpeckers, Cassin's Kingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Western Scrub-Jay, Oak Titmouse, and Spotted Towhee. Nearby, the Santa Maria Valley is characterized by native grasslands, where 19 species of raptors can be found. Focus birds include Ferruginous Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon, Mountain Bluebird, Lark Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Bald and Golden eagles. Fred Sproul leads birding adventures for the Wildlife Research Institute of Ramona. Andrew Fisher is a tireless student of all fauna and is especially skilled with Southern California birds. He has been involved with migratory bird banding and conducts professional wildlife surveys.



Red-tailed Hawk

Cost: \$95 **Leaders:** Fred Sproul and Andrew Fisher

Sa4 Birding at Camp Pendleton Trip

6:30 AM - 3:30 PM



This unique trip provides opportunities to see many of southern California's distinctive bird species. The Marine Corps Camp Pendleton offers a mixture of willow-sycamore-oak woodlands alongside sage scrub, chaparral, grasslands, beach, and lakeside habitats. Expect to see many species of waterfowl including Canvasback, along with Western and Clark's grebes, Western Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt and other shorebirds, Forster's tern, White-tailed Kite, California Quail, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bushtit, Wrentit, California Thrasher, California Gnatcatcher, and Coastal Cactus Wren. Maryanne Bache is a field biologist focused on endangered avian species and is the former education and outreach director of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy. Carol McKie Manning has monitored endangered birds at Camp Pendleton for over 10 years.

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Maryanne Bache and Carol Manning

Sa5 Pelagic Trip #3

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sponsored by Swarovski Optik



For a full description of this field trip, refer to **T6**, page 10.

Cost: \$100

Leaders: Dave Povey and Crew

Sa6 Bird Photography Field Trip

6:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Birds, as a subject for photography, are difficult. In this field trip, you will receive some basic instruction and improve your technique. This fun field trip with local expert Gerry Tietje will allow budding photographers to practice professional techniques in local hotspots.

Cost: \$80

Leader: Gerry Tietje



Sa7 Birding at Rancho La Puerta Trip

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

This special trip takes you to Tecate's renowned Rancho La Puerta, a 3,000-acre nature preserve and health spa just over the Mexican border near the tranquil town of Tecate. In its readers' poll *Travel & Leisure Magazine* recently selected Rancho La Puerta as the World's Best Destination Spa.

There you are likely to see Nuttall's and Acorn woodpeckers, California Thrasher, Bewick's Wren, Oak Titmouse, Wrentit, Bushtit, Black Phoebe and many others. There's a possibility of seeing Golden-crowned and Fox sparrows, Red-breasted or Red-naped sapsuckers, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Barn Owl, and Cedar Waxwing, among others. You will enjoy an organic vegetarian lunch from the spa's private gardens. Phil Pryde has been leading birding trips and teaching birding classes for San Diego Audubon for over 25 years. He is a retired professor from San Diego State University and author of *San Diego: An Introduction to the Region*. Rob Larson is the resident birder at Rancho la Puerta. PLEASE NOTE: You will need a passport that is valid 6 months after the date of this trip. A Tourist Visa, if needed, will be acquired as we cross the border into Mexico. Consider how much gear you are carrying—you will have to carry it across the border and through U.S. customs on your return.



Golden-crowned Sparrow

Cost: \$130 **Leaders:** Phil Pryde and Rob Larson

Sa8 Coastal National Wildlife Refuges Trip #3

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM



For a full description of this field trip, refer to **T10** on page 12.

Cost: Free to all registered festival participants **Leaders:** USFWS Staff

Sa9 Birding Balboa Park/Museum Trip

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsored by San Diego Natural History Museum



Spend the morning birding scenic Balboa Park and get a closer look in the laboratory at the world-renowned San Diego Natural History Museum. After the morning's birding and touring, we'll get a behind-the-scenes peek at the San Diego Natural History Museum's extensive avian collection with birds and mammals collection manager Phil Unitt. Phil will give a fascinating demonstration of bird skin preparation. Phil is the project manager of the comprehensive San Diego County Bird Atlas, published in 2004.

Cost: \$95 **Leaders:** Phil Unitt and Museum Staff

Sa10 Birding San Diego Zoo Trip

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsored by the San Diego Zoo



Spend the morning birding at the world-renowned San Diego Zoo, located in Balboa Park. The Zoo is 100 acres in size and houses over 4,000 animals comprised of more than 800 species from the forests and jungles of the world. The Zoo houses not only a world-class collection of exotic birds and rarities that you might never have the chance to see in the wild, but also hosts a variety of native, migrant and seasonally resident birds. SDAS President Ed Henry leads, along with designated Zoo staff. Zoo admission included.

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Ed Henry and Zoo Staff

Sa11 Beginning Birding at South Bay Trip

7:30 AM - 1:00 PM



Leslie McCollum and Nicole Perretta will take you on a fun tour of South Bay birding hot spots: J Street Marina, Tijuana River Estuary, and the Tijuana River Valley (Community Garden, Bird and Butterfly Garden, and Dairy Mart Ponds). Target species are migrant shorebirds, Brant, Light-footed Clapper Rail, Say's and Black phoebe, and wintering raptors. This is a light-hearted fun trip, bring smiles and laughter. Leslie and Nicole have both been birding for over 30 years. South Bay is their backyard, come and enjoy it with them!

Cost: \$45

Leaders: Leslie McCollum and Nicole Perretta

Sa12 Beginning Birding at Lake Murray Trip

7:30 AM - 12:00 PM



Join a small group of beginning or intermediate birders for a short workshop and trip to Lake Murray. The workshop will introduce the common species families we will expect to see. Lake Murray is an excellent site for viewing songbirds and waterbirds.

Cost: \$40

Leader: Eitan Altman

Sa13 Birding by Kayak Trip #1

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sponsored by Family Kayak Adventures



Our popular birdwatching kayak trip returns to south San Diego Bay. Join San Diego Audubon conservation chair Jim Peugh, a frequent kayaker and birder on our bays, as he takes this small group to visit the edges of salt marshes and open water areas to get up-close views. Shorebirds, herons, and other species await as we enter their habitat in a truly special manner. If you have ever wanted to try kayaking, this is the trip for you. Participants will receive training. Tandem kayaks will be provided. As with any boating activity, you may get wet; for your comfort, bring along a dry change of clothes.

Cost: \$55

Leader: Jim Peugh



Sa14 Intro to Birding Optics Workshop

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Eagle Optics



The successful birder will have at hand optical equipment that is suited to his or her needs and pocketbook. Explore the options and how to make objective decisions in the selection of binoculars and scopes. Ben Lizdas of Eagle Optics has years of experience with birding hardware and will guide participants through the many available choices.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** Ben Lizdas of Eagle Optics

Sa15 Warbler ID Luncheon: Overlooked Points That Make ID Easy Workshop

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Sponsored by Princeton University Press



Black-and-White Warbler

Warblers are some of the most beautiful birds of the world. But their beautiful colors often blind birders to many of their most important ID points. This problem is compounded by the often brief and obstructed views we have in the field. This workshop luncheon discusses these important but often overlooked ID points such as overall contrast, subtle facial features, color impressions, feather edging, rump contrast, and foraging style, location, and behavior. Viewing a warbler from below, fortunately, can also reveal some of the most important ID points for many species. Learn how many tail and undertail covert patterns are, in fact, diagnostic alone or when combined with one other ID point. Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle are the authors of *The Warbler Guide* (Princeton University Press). Tom has been birding since he was a kid under the

tutelage of Dr. Arthur Allen of Cornell University. His articles and photographs are in museums and many publications. He has lectured and guided many groups across the US as well as Asia. Scott has 20 years of experience as a professional photographer and educator. He has an MFA in Photography from the School of Visual Arts, is a fellow of the MacDowell Colony, and has birded throughout the United States.

Cost: \$40 **Presenters:** Tom Stephenson and Scott Whittle

**Sa16 Migration on a Mega Scale Presentation:
Using Doppler Radar to Predict Birding Conditions**

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Sponsored by Leica Sport Optics



Each year billions of birds migrate over the US to and from their breeding grounds. Because migration occurs under the cover of dark, our eyes fail to grasp the magnitude of this phenomenal event, and our ears, while capable, can only detect a small fraction what is going on above us. Freely available Doppler radar, on the other hand, can tell us both how many birds are migrating and where they're heading. In this interactive presentation, radar ornithologist David La Puma will demonstrate how radar technology can "turn on the lights" during nocturnal migration and provide both scientists and birders with information to predict birding conditions in their neck of the woods. Dr. La Puma is a radar ornithologist fascinated by nocturnal migration and is currently the birding and nature product specialist for Leica Sport Optics.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** David LaPuma

**Sa17 Protecting Birds in Mission Bay Presentation:
Conservation efforts of SDAS**

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Learn how San Diego Audubon and Audubon CA engaged local stakeholders in conservation planning efforts to improve the status of endangered bird species and their habitats in Mission Bay, San Diego, CA. Using a structured process from the Conservation Measures Partnership (a group including The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and others) participants identified conservation targets, threats, key ecological attributes, and specific on-the-ground conservation actions to help protect this globally important IBA. Results included stronger partnerships with key stakeholders (including state/federal agencies, land managers, and nonprofit partners) and more than \$100,000 in new funding.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** Chris Redfern and San Diego Audubon Staff



Great Blue Heron and San Diego skyline

Come to the San Diego Audubon Society table during the Bird Festival and learn about memberships, field trips and year-round events. Support SDAS by buying a book at the used book table, or bring your unused bird books for SDAS to sell. We want to meet you!



Sa18 Attracting Birds to your Garden Workshop

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

This workshop shares proven techniques to attract birds, hummingbirds, and butterflies to your garden by adding nectar-producing flowers, host plants, and other attractive features such as water and bird house shelters. Marcia Van Loy has been a volunteer with the Master Gardener Association for 13 years. She has gardened for over 30 years in San Diego. Her garden is a certified wildlife habitat and was featured in the April 2013 issue of *San Diego Home and Garden Lifestyles* magazine. In addition to gardening, she teaches bird house construction.

Cost: \$20 **Presenter:** Marcia Van Loy

Sa 19 Travis the Traveling Trinovid Presentation with Jeff Bouton

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Have you ever heard of Flat Stanley? One morning, Stanley discovered that he had become flat enough to fold up and mail to any destination. He traveled the world and created a photo album of all of his adventures. Travis is a little bit like Stanley, only he is a pair of binoculars. He has been traveling to birding destinations, and listing all of the birds he sees. Find out where he went and what he saw.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** Jeff Bouton

Sa20 Birding “Hot Spots” of Costa Rica Presentation

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Sponsored by Holbrook Travel



Join Paulo Valerio, Birding and Natural History Specialist from Costa Rica, for this informative presentation. Venture with us across mountain cloud forests, deep into valleys and lowland rainforests, through mangroves, along two ocean coastlines, and everywhere in between. Find out why Costa Rica is a true paradise for birders, boasting nearly 900 distinct and spectacular avian species including parrots, toucans, tanagers, trogons, macaws, hummingbirds, motmots and flycatchers...and the list goes on.

Cost: \$5 **Presenter:** Paulo Valerio



Collared Aracari

Sa21 Walking Baja California Presentation

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

*Sponsored by Andiamo**Andiamo*
Tour Mexico

Before heading off to face the wilds of Baja in April 1983, Graham Mackintosh was a lecturer at West Kent College in England, teaching social sciences and special education to teenagers. In the hope of showing his students that a shoestring expedition could be the adventure of a lifetime, Mackintosh set out to walk around the coastline of Baja California. The two-year, 3,000-mile trip changed his life. When Mackintosh emerged from the wilderness, he returned to England to write *Into a Desert Place* and there received the prestigious “Adventurous Traveler of the Year” award. Mackintosh was soon drawn back to Baja. After years promoting *Into a Desert Place* in the USA and Baja California, he eventually decided to walk down the rugged, mountainous interior of Baja. *Journey with a Baja Burro*, his second book, was the result. It describes his arduous thousand-mile journey with a pack burro from the US border to Loreto. Hear about his amazing adventure.

Cost: \$5**Presenter:** Graham Mackintosh**Sa22 Artistic Journaling Workshop
with Normandie Wilson**

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM

In this workshop Art Educator Normandie Wilson will demonstrate techniques for artistic journaling. Whether in the field or in the back yard, journaling can be a fun way to record your birding adventures! We'll go over tips for speed of capturing the essence of the bird you are sketching or painting, what identifying markings to include, and other ways to make your bird journal a personalized souvenir work of art you can enjoy for a lifetime. Each participant should bring a new journal of their choice. A variety of journaling mediums such as pencils, pastels, paints, and more will be available for use. Feel free to bring found or special objects to include in your journal.

Cost: \$30**Presenter:** Normandie Wilson**Sa23 Classic Antarctica Presentation
with Ric Zarwell**

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Follow an incredible journey that explored the remote Falkland Islands, the fascinating island of South Georgia, and the sublime and historic continent of Antarctica. You'll see and learn about some of the world's last truly pristine wilderness, spectacular scenery, and the planet's greatest concentrations of marine wildlife. The Southern Ocean itself provides pelagic birding that is second to none. There will be time for questions and answers too. The presenter is Ric Zarwell, North American Marketing Coordinator for Rockjumper Worldwide Birding Adventures, who recently experienced this grand adventure with his wife.

Cost: \$5**Presenter:** Ric Zarwell

Sa25 Nibble and Nosh Mixer

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Come on in and meet fellow birders, compare the day's experiences, explore the latest in optical gear, visit with birding travel specialists, nibble and nosh, and sip on a brew.

Cost: \$10

Sa26 Owling Trip #2

6:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Owling can be challenging and offers no guarantees, other than knowing you are in an area where owls occur and that they will be aware of your presence! We will visit the Laguna Mountains and Julian areas. Owl species expected include Western Screech, Great Horned, Northern Saw-whet, and Barn. This trip will take us to elevations nearing 5000 feet, with night-time temperatures generally between 20-40 degrees. Geoff Rogers is a wildlife biologist who has been birding seriously for nearly 30 years. He has performed owl surveys both as a biologist and volunteer, and spent many hours in the nocturnal environment. Denver Holt is our special guest at the bird festival, and is one of the world's leading experts in the study of owls.



Great Horned Owl

Cost: \$150

Leaders: Geoff Rogers and Denver Holt

Sunday, March 2, 2014

Su1 Inland County Trip

5:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Much of San Diego's bird diversity is due to the diversity of its habitats, and this trip will explore many of those unique to the southeastern region of the county. We will work our way east to desert scrub and then back through the mountains in search of sparrows, wrens, raptors, and woodpeckers. Special birds we hope to see include Harris's Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Golden Eagle, Acorn, Nuttall's, and Ladder-backed woodpeckers, Tri-colored Blackbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Wrentit, Phainopepla, Greater Roadrunner, California Thrasher, Oak Titmouse, Mountain Chickadee, Rock and Cactus wrens, Rufous-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Black-throated sparrows, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours.

Cost: \$90

Leaders: Steve Ritt and Eitan Altman

Su2 Birding 100 Trip #2

6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

This popular trip is a whirlwind tour of San Diego County's hottest birding spots with a goal to list over 100 species. Expect to bird in the hills east of San Diego, inland wetlands, San Diego Bay, and along the ocean and near the Mexican border. Bring your lunch, or you can purchase one at the Festival, as there is no stopping for anything but birds. Millie and Peter Thomas lead local birding trips, and Peter is the Past President of San Diego Audubon.

Cost: \$95

Leaders: Millie and Peter Thomas

Su3 County Transect Trip

6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

This trip will cover a broad transect of San Diego County that will visit the desert, mountains and coast, allowing birders to sample a broad diversity of southern California species in one day. We will begin in the high desert where Harris's Hawks have recently become resident and other birds like Verdin, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cactus Wren, and Sage Thrasher may be found, followed by stops in a mixed pine-oak montane woodland, where we should expect such specialties as Oak Titmouse, Pine Siskin, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, Band-tailed Pigeon, Acorn Woodpecker, and Pygmy Nuthatch. From there we will attempt some foothill areas for waterfowl and maybe a rare gull, followed by a visit to coastal parkland for expected area denizens and maybe a surprise wintering rarity. Coastal locations will produce coastal gulls, shorebirds and waders, finishing up along rocky shoreline habitat to catch up with the three species of cormorants, rocky shorebirds and some inshore pelagic species. Jay Keller is an experienced birder who has led a multitude of bird walks, participated in habitat conservation efforts, breeding bird surveys and set "Big Day/Month/Year" records on both coasts. BJ Stacey is an excellent birder who serves on the board of the San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Cost: \$90

Leaders: Jay Keller and BJ Stacey

Su4 Torrey Pines Trip

6:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Torrey Pines State Reserve is one of the crown jewels of the California State park system. The Reserve consists of 2000 acres of land as it was before the San Diego was developed. We will see a chaparral plant community, rare and elegant Torrey Pines, miles of unspoiled beaches, and a lagoon that is vital to migrating birds. In one area, guests will be able to search for birds in habitats as diverse as pelagic, beach, sandstone cliff, coastal lagoon, pine woodland, and chaparral. Jack Friery is an active member of the San Diego and Palomar Audubon Chapters. He has led the Audubon Christmas Bird Count in several areas of San Diego in recent years. Both Kathy Estey and Jack are life members of the Torrey Pines Docent Society and manage the monthly bird census at Torrey Pines State Reserve.

Cost: \$85

Leaders: Jack Friery and Kathy Estey



Su5 Pelagic Trip #4

6:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Sponsored by Swarovski Optik



Join a team of California seabird and marine mammal experts for an excursion on the comfortable 85-foot live-aboard Grande to view some of the numerous seabird and marine mammal species found offshore of San Diego. Grande features a big comfortable galley with large windows from which to view an amazing array of birds and mammals en route to San Diego’s “birdy” Nine Mile Bank. Species may include fulmars, shearwaters, auklets, murrelets, and jaegers. Rarities spotted in past years from Festival pelagic trips include Black-footed Albatross, Manx Shearwater, Brown and Blue-footed boobies.

Cost: \$100 **Leaders:** Dave Povey and Crew

Su6 Coastal National Wildlife Refuges Trip #4

7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Sponsored by US Fish and Wildlife Service



For a full description of this field trip, refer to **T10**, page 12.

Cost: Free to all registered festival participants **Leader:** USFWS Staff

Su7 Beginning Birding at Tecolote Canyon Trip

8:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Join a small group of beginning or intermediate birders for a trip to nearby Tecolote Canyon. We can expect to see numerous resident songbirds and raptors at Tecolote and perhaps some early migrants. Wayne Harmon is a past president and serves on the San Diego Audubon board. He has birded extensively in the county and other locations in the US, Europe, Australia and Central America.

Cost: \$45 **Leader:** Wayne Harmon



Wrenit

Su8 Birding by Kayak Trip #2

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Sponsored by Family Kayak Adventures



For a full description of this field trip, refer to **Sa13**, page 26.

Cost: \$55 **Leader:** Jim Peugh

Family Day

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Sponsored by SDG&E



Bring the whole family to ignite a fascination with birds that will last a lifetime! We've prepared a special day, packed with introductory and more advanced birding experiences. Drop by our art & craft space to express your love for birds with Family Adventures in Nature. In our storytime room, talented readers will share their love of birds through great stories, old and new. You can see live birds up close with Project Wildlife and Living Coast Discovery Center. We will host a limited number of family field trips to local birding areas, including a kayaking experience sponsored by Hobie, and coastal bird watching walks. The bird nerds in your family will enjoy the "Big Sit," where professional birders will be on hand to point out the birds in nearby San Diego Estuary and the Quivira Basin. There will be guided walks, games, workshops, and a raffle for great prizes.

No pre-registration is necessary for Family Day events, however, some field trips and workshops have limited availability. Families may sign up for these events in the registration room on the day of the event, on a first come, first served basis. A full schedule of events is available on the Bird Festival website.

Monday, March 3, 2014

MT Target Bird Trip

6:00 AM - 6:00 PM

You pick the birds, we guide you to them. San Diego County has many birds that can be targeted with insider information. Its varied habitats hold many sought after species. California Thrasher? Black-vented Shearwater? Oak Titmouse? Ferruginous Hawk? One you are confirmed to be in this limited group of participants you will be asked to send in your San Diego County most desired species list. The co-leaders will take you to the right places in which you can find your target. We will cover as much of the county as required to find your targets. Depending on the full list of species "targets" this trip should have the side effect of turning into a mini-Big Day with well over 125 total species being found. Since you will be providing the species at a later date locations may include the coast, inland valleys, mountains and/or desert. A spotting scope and binoculars are required. Please bring along your lunch and beverages as we will not have time to stop for either throughout the day. BJ Stacey is an excellent birder who serves on the board of the San Diego Field Ornithologists. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours.

Cost: \$150

Leaders: BJ Stacey and Steve Ritt



About the Organizers

San Diego Audubon we can make a positive difference for the future of our wild places and the creatures that live there. That's why we appreciate the opportunity to share our local birds at the San Diego Bird Festival. It's time to celebrate the rich avian diversity we enjoy here in the San Diego region. We hope you'll join us!

San Diego Audubon is passionate about protecting what we cherish. We express this passion through programs that protect our natural heritage through education, advocacy and direct stewardship of wildlife habitat. We hope you'll be inspired to join us in this effort - in San Diego, or in your own local environment.

Contact us at sandiegoaudubon.org or call **858-273-7800**. We'd love to have you stop by our office at 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, less than five miles from the Bird Festival grounds (call for hours).

Acknowledgements:

All bird photography is by Karen Straus. Booklet design and graphics are by Bonnie Toth.



Acorn Woodpecker

Festival Organizers

Lois Betts, Rich Breisch,
Susan Breisch, Abby Esty,
Kathy Esty, Jen Hajj, Lisa Heinz,
David Kimball, Ellen Mosley,
Carol Parker, Betsy Rudee,
Jill Schmidt, Karen Straus
and Gerald Tietje.

Special thanks to all of the many other volunteers who contribute their time to the 2014 San Diego Bird Festival.

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Our Festival Sponsors are an invaluable part of the team effort that goes into making the San Diego Bird Festival such a great success.



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POST-FESTIVAL TRIP



Osprey with fish

Birding the Salton Sea

Monday, March 3 - Thursday, March 6

The Salton Sea has been called a “birder’s paradise” with good reason. With five distinct habitats, the area attracts over 400 species of birds. It is an important wintering and staging area for migrants, and a permanent habitat for many species, some endangered.

Cost: \$940 per person, double occupancy, (based on 8 to 10 participants)
Single supplement \$150

Leaders: Tom Myer and guest leader Bob Miller for one day

This trip is booked directly with Andiamo Travel. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra, rosa@andiamo-travel.com, call toll-free (800) 661-1325, or visit www.andiamo-travel.com and click on the Our Journeys bar then “Salton Sea” and “Birding.”

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Birding the Baja Peninsula

Sunday, February 16 – Wednesday, February 26

Join us for a 10-day trip to bird the stunning and rugged Baja Peninsula. This region is home to more than 400 bird species, including several endemics and unique plumage subspecies. Also included will be an unforgettable boat excursion to view female California Gray Whales and their young calves.

Cost: \$2,410, excluding airfare. Single supplement \$460

Leaders: In-country expert birding and cultural guides from Andiamo Travel

This trip is booked directly with Andiamo Travel. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra, rosa@andiamo-travel.com, call toll-free (800) 661-1325, or visit www.andiamo-travel.com and click on the Our Journeys bar then “Baja California” and “Birding.”

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