

35th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists

The 35th Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists will take place at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 74700 Highway 111, Palm Desert, CA 92260, 760-340-6600, embassysuites1@hilton.com. The dates are Wednesday, October 13 to Sunday, October 17. Details on the meeting are below and online at www.westernfieldornithologists.org. Registration for the meeting will be open Friday afternoon, May 7 (also online). You must be registered to attend all sessions, field trips, and social activities.

WFO has planned a meeting that should be talked about for years to come. Developed by a wonderful group of people (Elisabeth Ammon, Nevada; Dan Gibson, Alaska; Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta, Mexico; Dave Krueper, New Mexico; Kurt Leuschner, California; Ed Pandolfino, California; Dave Quady, California; Debbie VanDooremolen, Nevada; and Catherine Waters, California), this meeting will have it all. The program will include:

- **Dr. Cameron Barrows** of the University of California Riverside (see Faculty list below) will open the science portion of our annual meeting with a Plenary Session on Friday, October 15, introducing us to the Coachella Valley region from his personal and professional perspective.
- Two afternoons of science sessions, Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16
- Experts' visual and sounds identification panels
- Five morning workshops to further enhance skills will be conducted by a group of western experts in their fields. (Complete descriptions at the end of this and on the website)
 - *Data Mining* with Ed Pandolfino
 - *Describing Bird Sounds Workshop* with Sylvia Gallagher
 - *Fall Sparrows of California Workshop* with Jon Dunn
 - *Field Sound Recording Workshop* with Nathan Pieplow
 - *Skins Preparation Workshop* with Kimball Garrett & Company
- Welcoming reception on Thursday, October 14 hosted by **Western Field Ornithologists Board of Directors**.
- **Dr. Douglas Altshuler** of the University of California Riverside (see Faculty listing below) will be our featured speaker on Friday evening, October 15 at the Living Desert. Dr. Altshuler will be speaking on his ground breaking research into the flight of mammals, birds and insects. A reception will follow this talk.
- **Annual Banquet and Membership Meeting. Paul Lehman** will give our keynote address Saturday evening, October 16 and will guide us through 35 years of migrants and vagrants to California; where they were found and how they arrived. A noted expert in distribution, vagrancy, weather and migration, and the current Chair of the California Bird Record Committee and professional field trip leader with Wings, Inc., Paul will take us on a visual flight that starts in the past century and ends in this one. Don't miss it!

- Coordinated by **Kurt Leuschner** of College of the Desert, WFO will be offering 25 regional field trips over four days. Full day trips will be Thursday, October 14 and Sunday, October 17. Part-day field trips will be Friday and Saturday in the A.M., October 15, 16. Trips are limited to number of participants and, in order to keep costs of registration low, they will be car pool driven. Detailed descriptions of field trips are at the end of this and can be viewed during the online registration process. We recommend you review the many options before beginning your registration.
- An informal no host reception on Wednesday, October 13 for early arrivals.
- An informal wrap up reception at the end of the day on Sunday, October 17 on the Oasis Patio.
- **Special Fundraising field trip to the Colorado River Delta, Sonora and Baja California, Mexico October 17-19, 2010** with **Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta**, WFO and Pronatura Board of Directors member. A not-to-be-missed fundraising field trip limited to 12 people and 3 leaders will venture into areas of Sonora and Baja California, Mexico not normally open to the casual birder and tourist. A complete description of the trip is on the WFO website. Offered on a first come, first served basis, the trip will become available in accordance with WFO's policy when meeting registration is officially open and the availability of registration has been electronically distributed (Friday afternoon, May 7). There will be no advance enrollment AND no favoritism. You must register for the 35th Annual Meeting and be a WFO member to participate.

Meeting Faculty and Field Trip Leaders List as of April 27:

Dr. Douglas Altshuler (Featured Speaker)
 Dr. Elisabeth Ammon (Workshop Coordinator)
 Dr. Cameron Barrows (Plenary Session, Field trips)
 Carol Beardmore (Field trips)
 Eugene Cardiff (Field trips)
 Bill Deppe (Field trips)
 Dr. Robert Dickerman (Skin Prep Workshop)
 Jon Feenstra (Field trips)
 Mary Freeman (Field trips)
 Nick Freeman (Field trips)
 John Green (Field trips)
 Jon Dunn (Sparrow workshop, field trips)
 Dr. Sylvia Gallagher (Sounds Workshop)
 Kimball Garrett (Skin Prep, field trips)
 Dan Gibson (Skin Prep Workshop)

Dave Woodward (Field trips)
Lori Hargrove (Field trips)
Ed Harper (Visual ID panel moderator)
Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta (Field trips)
Dave Krueper (Field trips)
Mark Leggett (Field trips)
Paul Lehman (Keynote)
Kurt Leuschner (Field trips)
Guy McCaskie (Field trips)
Chet McGaugh (Field trips)
Dr. Robert McKernan (Field trips)
Bob Miller (Field trips)
Kathy Molina (Skin Prep Workshop)
Elizabeth Morgan (Field trips)
Stephen Myers (Field trips)
Ed Pandolfino (Data Mining Workshop)
Nathan Pieplow (Sounds ID moderator, Workshop)
Dave Quady (Field trips)
Peter Siminski
Sandy Swan (Field trips)
Phil Unitt (Workshop, Field trips)
Debbie VanDooremolen
Catherine Waters (Field trips)
Dee Zeller (Field Trips)

FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, October 13

Pre-conference special (limited to 15 people – we will carpool)

Bird selected spots along the *Palms to Pines Birding and Nature Trail* with Kurt Leuschner.

Stops may include: Mt. San Jacinto State Park (\$10 fee per person for tram), Whitewater and Big Morongo Canyon Preserves, the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center, the Living Desert (\$7.50 fee per person), and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (along the Highway 74 corridor). We will meet at the Embassy Suites – Palm Desert on Highway 111 at 7am and car-caravan from there. Pre-registration required. We will sample a variety of habitats at various elevations throughout the day - the exact sites will be determined by the leader closer to the time of departure.

Departure Time: 7:00AM

Return Time: Approximately 3:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Thursday, October 14

South End of the Salton Sea with Guy McCaskie and Bob Miller (limited to 12 people).

The Salton Sea in Fall can be a very exciting place to bird – especially with two of the Salton Sea authorities! Besides the wide selection of migrant shorebirds, this is also the time for Wood Stork, Black Skimmer, Roseate Spoonbill, Magnificent Frigatebird, Blue-footed Booby, Yellow-footed Gull or other tropical wanderers from the south to appear. Temperatures could be hot - but the birding potential makes it all worthwhile.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Low-desert migrant traps with Chet McGaugh (limited to 12 people). Van provided.

During the Fall migration any number of odd species could show up in these remote desert outposts. Stops may include the Coachella Valley Preserve (a natural palm oasis with Cactus Wrens, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Verdins and other resident species – even Common Black Hawk has been recorded here during migration), Cactus City (a rest stop that has harbored many eastern warblers and sparrows over the years), Chiriaco Summit (where a Curve-billed Thrasher spent the summer of 2009), and Lake Tamarisk (ponds and grassy areas where Vermilion Flycatcher, Bobolink, and Eurasian Wigeon are sometimes spotted). Other stops will be included at the discretion of the leader.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

High-desert migrant traps led by Jon Feenstra (limited to 12 people). Stops may include Whitewater Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree hotspots. Rare migrants such as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher,

Hooded Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Gilded Flicker make a habit of showing up in these desert oases during the Fall. Riparian habitats with willows and cottonwoods, palm groves, golf courses and grassy parks will be sampled along the way.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

North End of the Salton Sea with Bob McKernan. Trip will include Dos Palmas Preserve, Salt Creek, North Shore, Mecca Beach, adjacent scrub, and other spots. The combination of Salton Sea species (ducks, shorebirds, gulls & terns etc.) and desert species such as Phainopepla, Roadrunner, Crissal Thrasher and Abert's Towhee make this a popular birding destination -and it's close to the Coachella Valley! Dos Palmas is a rarely birded palm oasis that can contain many surprises.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return: Approximately 4:30PM

Leaves from: Hotel Lobby

Mount San Jacinto State Park (top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway) with Lori Hargrove – includes a 5 mile roundtrip hike at 8,500 feet elevation in Jeffrey Pine Forest for montane species such as White-headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Red Crossbill, Williamson's Sapsucker, and Green-tailed Towhee. For those not wishing to hike you may bird on your own near the Tram station. (12 people max.)

Departure Time: 8:00AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Salton Sea 'pot luck' with Al DeMartini (limited to 12 people). This trip will likely start at the north end of the Sea and work its way down the east side as birds and circumstances allow looking for Salton Sea fall specialties and waterbird and landbird migrants.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Garner Valley, Lake Hemet, Idyllwild with Gene Cardiff for mid-elevation chaparral and coniferous forest species: Pinyon Jay, Bald Eagle, Mountain Quail, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse, White-headed Woodpecker, and Spotted Towhee are possible. You'll get to sample a variety of habitats in the 3,000-6,000 feet elevation range and see the beauty of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. (12 people max.)

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Friday, October 15

Whitewater Canyon Preserve - (12 people max.) with Steve Myers. An important riparian wildlife corridor recently acquired by the Wildlands Conservancy. Many of the same species seen at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve can also be seen here at Whitewater. The area contains many cottonwood trees which act as bird “magnets” during migration and the rest of the area has been restored with native species of shrubs and trees. A wetland area has Sora, Virginia Rail, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and sometimes Hooded Merganser.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center in Indio (enhanced sweetwater wetlands) with Elizabeth Morgan. (12 people max.) These treatment ponds are surrounded by rushes and other fringing vegetation giving the birds a great place to hide. Residents include Cinnamon Teal, Marsh Wren, Abert’s Towhee, Common Gallinule, Great-horned Owl, and Roadrunner. Rarities include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Burrowing Owl, Franklin’s Gull. A two hour walk around the ponds can yield 50 or more species. Two viewing towers are available. This is an easy 20 minute drive from the hotel and a great place for a quick, high-quality birding getaway.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Coachella Valley Preserve in Thousand Palms (birding and palm oasis ecology) with Mark Leggett. (12 people max.) Birding and palm oasis ecology. Mark Leggett is a local birder who has been leading birdwalks at the Preserve for the past few years. His 2 1/2 mile walk on a sandy trail will take approximately 2 1/2 hours to complete. Along the way you will see birds and learn about the ecology of this special place. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Abert’s Towhee and migrant warblers/sparrows are possible this time of year.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve – a riparian oasis - with Dee Zeller. (12 people max.). The year-round water here makes this world famous preserve a haven for so many species that one would normally have to travel to southeastern Arizona to see. Although it is late in the season, some of these summer specialties may linger into October such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Lawrence's Goldfinch, Virginia Rail, Long-eared Owl, and Nuttall's Woodpecker are possible any time of year. Fall migrants will be passing through and could include any number of warbler, sparrow, or flycatcher species.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Whitewater River Delta (at the North end of the Salton Sea) (12 people max.) with Jon Feenstra. This trip will start out early and target a specific spot – the Whitewater River Delta - from this sandy beach many amazing species have been spotted over the years including Blue-footed Booby, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron, jaegers, and pelagic species who have lost their way. Participants may have to walk in a mile or so. There will be an opportunity to visit the newly established wetlands on tribal property adjacent to the delta.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Palm Desert – birding with Peter Siminski 7-830am and special behind-the-scenes-tour from 830-10am. Free admission for our group. (10 people max.) This world famous zoo showcases the plant and animal species of the world's desert regions and is also a great place to see birds in the wild who live year-round in the garden areas. Roadrunner, Abert's Towhee, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Cooper's Hawk, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Great-horned Owl, and Cactus Wren are resident. Fall migrants such as Bell's Vireo and Ash-throated Flycatcher are most likely to occur near the Sonoran Pond. After the quick birdwalk you'll get a special behind-the-scenes tour (by tram) of the captive animal population and hear some of their stories from an experienced zookeeper.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

“Slacker” Trip: Pinyon Crest with Kurt :Leuschner: chaparral/pinyon-juniper birding and bird-banding. Possible species include Oak Titmouse, Scott’s Oriole, Western Scrub-Jay, Pinyon Jay, California Thrasher, California Quail, California Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Black-throated Sparrow, and more. This quick trip will involve minimal walking and lots of bird-feeder viewing in the Pinyon-Juniper woodland at 4,200 feet elevation. We’ll let the birds come to us.

Departure Time: 8:00AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Saturday, October 16

Whitewater Canyon Preserve - led by Nick and Mary Freeman (12 people max.) An important riparian wildlife corridor recently acquired by the Wildlands Conservancy. Many of the same species seen at Big Morongo Canyon Preserve can also be seen here at Whitewater. The area contains many cottonwood trees which act as bird “magnets” during migration and the rest of the area has been restored with native species of shrubs and trees. A wetland area has Sora, Virginia Rail, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and sometimes Hooded Merganser.

Departure Time: 6:15 AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45 AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center in Indio (enhanced sweetwater wetlands) with Elizabeth Morgan and Sandy Swan. (12 people max.) These treatment ponds are surrounded by rushes and other fringing vegetation giving the birds a great place to hide. Residents include Cinnamon Teal, Marsh Wren, Abert’s Towhee, Common Gallinule, Great-horned Owl, and Roadrunner. Rarities include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Burrowing Owl, Franklin’s Gull. A two hour walk around the ponds can yield 50 or more species. Two viewing towers are available. This is an easy 20 minute drive from the hotel and a great place for a quick, high-quality birding getaway.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Coachella Valley Preserve in Thousand Palms (dune/palm oasis) with Dr. Cameron Barrows. (12 people max.) Birding and sand dune ecology. Dr. Barrows is a leading expert on sand dune ecosystems and will lead you on a two mile walk through this sandy ecosystem to a palm oasis with a pond and an active sand dune. The endangered Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard occurs here and you may be lucky enough to see one. Resident bird, reptile, insect, and plant species and their interactions will be discussed along the way. Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, Verdin, Abert's Towhee and migrant warblers/sparrows are possible this time of year.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Big Morongo Canyon Preserve – a riparian oasis - with Dee Zeller and Bill Deppe. (12 people max.). The year-round water here makes this world famous preserve a haven for so many species that one would normally have to travel to southeastern Arizona to see. Although it is late in the season, some of these summer specialties may linger into October such as Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, and Blue Grosbeak. Lawrence's Goldfinch, Virginia Rail, Long-eared Owl, and Nuttall's Woodpecker are possible any time of year. Fall migrants will be passing through and could include any number of warbler, sparrow, or flycatcher species.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Whitewater River Delta (at the North end of the Salton Sea) with David Goodward. (12 people max.) This trip will start out early and target a specific spot – the Whitewater River Delta - from this sandy beach many amazing species have been spotted over the years including Blue-footed Booby, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron, jaegers, and pelagic species who have lost their way. Participants may have to walk in a mile or so. There will also be the opportunity to visit the newly established wetlands on tribal property adjacent to the delta.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Whitewater River Delta 2 (at the North end of the Salton Sea) with Jon Dunn. (12 people max.) This trip will start out early and target a specific spot – the Whitewater River Delta - from this sandy beach many amazing species have been spotted over the years including Blue-footed Booby, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Tricolored Heron, jaegers, and pelagic species who have lost their way. Participants may have to walk in a mile or so. There will also be the opportunity to visit the newly established wetlands on tribal property adjacent to the delta.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Target trip for Mountain Quail in the Santa Rosa Mountains with Jon Feenstra. Other possibilities include Wrentit, Oak Titmouse, California Thrasher, Scott's Oriole (12 people max.) Hi-clearance or 4 wheel drive vehicle required. We will drive approximately 25 minutes from the hotel to get into chaparral habitat on the lower slopes of Santa Rosa Mountain where Mountain Quail are year-round resident (but still hard to find!).

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:45AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

"Slacker Trip": The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Gardens in Palm Desert – with Peter Siminski. (10 people max.) This world famous zoo showcases the plant and animal species of the world's desert regions and is also a great place to see birds in the wild who live year-round in the garden areas. Roadrunner, Abert's Towhee, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Cooper's Hawk, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Great-horned Owl, and Cactus Wren are resident. Fall migrants such as Bell's Vireo and Ash-throated Flycatcher are most likely to occur near the Sonoran Pond.

Departure Time: 8:00AM

Return Time: Approximately 10:30AM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Sunday, October 17

South End of the Salton Sea with Guy McCaskie (limited to 12 people). The Salton Sea in Fall can be a very exciting place to bird – especially with two of the Salton Sea authorities! Besides the wide selection of migrant shorebirds, this is also the time for Wood Stork, Black Skimmer, Roseate Spoonbill, Magnificent Frigatebird, Blue-footed Booby, Yellow-footed Gull or other tropical wanderers from the south to appear. Temperatures could be hot - but the birding potential makes it all worthwhile.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Low-desert migrant traps for target species (limited to 12 people) with John Green. During the Fall migration any number of odd species could show up in these remote desert outposts. Stops may include the Coachella Valley Preserve (a natural palm oasis with Cactus Wren, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Verdin and other resident species, Cactus City (a rest stop that has harbored many eastern warblers and sparrows over the years) and other stops in the direction of Desert Center that will be included at the discretion of the leader.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

High-desert migrant traps led by Bill Deppe (limited to 12 people). Stops may include Whitewater Preserve, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve, Yucca Valley, Twentynine Palms and Joshua Tree hotspots. Rare migrants such as Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Hooded Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, and Gilded Flicker make a habit of showing up in these desert oases during the Fall. Riparian habitats with willows and cottonwoods, palm groves, golf courses and grassy parks will be sampled along the way.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

North End of the Salton Sea with Chet McGaugh, Dos Palmas Preserve, Salt Creek, North Shore, Mecca Beach, adjacent scrub, Whitewater River Delta, and other spots. The combination of Salton Sea species (ducks, shorebirds, gulls & terns etc.) and desert species such as Phainopepla, Roadrunner, Crissal Thrasher and Abert's Towhee make this a popular birding destination -and it's close to the Coachella Valley! Dos Palmas is a rarely birded palm oasis that contains many surprises. (12 people max.)

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return: Approximately 4:30PM

Leaves from: Hotel Lobby

Mount San Jacinto State Park (top of the Palm Springs Aerial Tramway). with Nick and Mary Freeman – an easier version of Thursday's field trip – we will take the first tram of the day at 8am and walk approximately 3 miles total through Jeffrey Pine forest in search of montane species such as White-headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nutcracker, Red Crossbill, Williamson's Sapsucker, Brown Creeper, and more. In the Fall odd species such as Lewis' Woodpecker and Lawrence's Goldfinch are also possible. This will not be an all day trip – you'll be on your own around lunchtime when you can choose to linger at the top of the mountain or head home.

(12 people max.) Bring a lunch or bring money to buy lunch at the café.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 3:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Anza-Borrego Desert birding hotspots with Bob Miller. (12 people max.) Bob Miller knows this area well and will lead you to some of the best and beautiful places that the largest State Park in California has to offer. LeConte's Thrasher is a resident in the lowlands. Wild Turkey and Lewis' Woodpecker are found in the higher reaches of the park. Besides classic desert scenes and the Borrego "badlands", the park also includes palm oases with year-round running water, riparian habitat, chaparral, oak and pine forests. Always a chance to see an endangered Peninsular Bighorn as well.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Exploring the Santa Rosa Mountains Grinnell Transect with Phil Unitt and Lori Hargrove (12 people max. and 4-wheel drive vehicles required). Visit the exact same

spots surveyed by Grinnell and his team of biologists in the early 1900's – includes a trip to the top of Toro Peak at almost 9,000 feet elev. Phil and Lori have been leading the ambitious Grinnell re-survey project and are both very familiar with the fauna of this region. Historic survey camps along this transect include: Dos Palmas Spring, Garnet Queen Mine, and Santa Rosa Spring. You'll travel through Pinyon-Juniper woodland, chaparral with a coastal influence, pine and incense cedar forests on your way to the top. Mountain Quail, Oak Titmouse, Wrenit, California Towhee may be seen along the way. Once you are at the top you'll be in the realm of White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, and migrating Hermit Warblers.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Return Time: Approximately 4:30PM

Departure Location: Hotel Lobby

Sunday, October 17 -Tuesday, October 19

Three-day field trip to the Lower Colorado River region of Mexico departs Sunday morning and returns Tuesday p.m.

Two nights will be spent in Mexico. Vans will be provided at the border. Valid Passports required. Price includes lodging, transportation in Mexico, and some meals. Full details on the WFO web site.

Limited to 12 participants. Led by Osvel Hinojosa Huerta Dave Krueper, and Carol Beardmore.

An exciting and rare birding opportunity to experience the lower Colorado River Delta with local guides!

WORKSHOPS

Friday, October 15

Time: 7:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Salon 4A

Workshop: **Describing Bird Sounds with Words and Sonograms**

Leader: **Sylvia Ranney Gallagher**, Sea and Sage Audubon Society.

Workshop Description. Learning bird sounds is often hampered by the observer's inability to write down that he/she hears. You'll receive a checklist of characteristics of bird sounds and practice describing sounds using them. Raven Lite, free sonogram-making software from Cornell Lab. of Ornithology, will be demonstrated. You'll learn how to "read" sonograms, powerful visual tools for learning and describing sounds. Intended audience. Beginning and intermediate aural birders--anyone who has struggled to describe a bird sound.

Leader Bio: Sylvia Gallagher has conducted beginning and advanced Birding Skills Workshops in Orange County, CA since 1980. She started recording bird sounds in 1984 and has been teaching various Learning Bird Sounds workshops since 1992. The sounds workshops are available as self-study learning packages, containing worksheets and CDs of introductory and practice sounds (available from www.seaandsageaudubon.org). She was also the Director of the Orange County Breeding Bird Atlas.

Time: 8:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Salon 4B

Workshop: **Fall Sparrows in California**

Leader: **Jon L. Dunn**

Workshop Description. This workshop will focus on fall sparrows in California, especially southern California, and will work carefully through the more difficult species and genera. There will be an emphasis on geographic variation that is present in many of the species.

Bring binoculars for viewing the slides in detail.

Leader Bio: Jon has been the chief consultant for all five editions of the National Geographic's Field Guide to the Birds of North America and co-authored (with Kimball Garrett) Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution, and Warblers. He was a co-author (with Steve Howell) of Gulls of the Americas. He serves as a member of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list Committee, the A.B.A. Checklist Committee and California Bird Records Committee. He is a field trip leader for Wings.

Saturday, October 16

Time: 6:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Meet in Lobby at 6:00AM, carpool Return to Salon 4A after field time

Workshop: **Field Sound Recording**

Leader: **Nathan Pielow**

Workshop Description. This workshop will head into the field for a couple of hours of nature sound recording. Then we will return to the classroom and analyze the recordings

we have made. Participants will learn the basics of recording equipment and spectrographic analysis.

Participants are encouraged to bring recording equipment if they own any, but it is not required.

Leader Bio: Nathan Pieplow is the editor of the quarterly journal Colorado Birds and one of the authors of the Colorado Birding Trail. He has made over 5000 recordings of over 500 bird species and writes extensively about bird sounds. He teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Time: 7:30AM – 11:00AM

Where: Meet in Lobby at 7:30AM, carpool to College of the Desert

Workshop: **Bird Specimens: How they're Prepared and what we learn from them**

Leader: **Kimball L. Garrett**, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Additional instructors: Robert W. Dickerman, Museum of Southwestern Biology, University of New Mexico; Daniel Gibson, Ester AK (retired from University of Alaska Museum); Kathy C. Molina, UCLA-Dickey Bird and Mammal Collection; Philip Unitt, San Diego Natural History Museum

Workshop Description. A congenial group of long-time bird specimen preparators, all of whom are active members of Western Field Ornithologists and who collectively have over a century and a half of specimen preparation experience, will demonstrate how research specimens of birds are prepared. We'll talk about the kinds of information recorded during preparation and the ways in which specimens are used for research once prepared and integrated into museum collections. Demonstrations will include both traditional bird "study skins" and flat skin/complete skeleton preparations.

This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about external and internal bird anatomy. We'll show how we learn about molt, fat deposition (migration), gonadal development (breeding phenology), parasites, and diet during the process of specimen preparation. Having multiple preparators performing demonstrations will allow participants to see a variety of species being prepared and to compare the various skinning techniques that are employed.

The workshop will take place on the College of the Desert. After an introduction by workshop host Kimball Garrett, we'll begin the demonstration and allow ample time for questions and discussion throughout the morning. We plan to wrap up in time for participants to be back at the hotel by 11:00 a.m.

Special requirements: None (but there will be blood...)

Leader Bio: Kimball Garrett has been the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County since 1982. An active birder since the late 1960s, he has a keen interest in the status and distribution of the birds of California, and western North America. He is a long-time member of the California Bird Records Committee, Southern California regional co-editor for North American Birds, coauthor (with Jon Dunn) of the Peterson Field Guide to Warblers, Birds of Southern California, and Birds of the Los Angeles Region, and past President of Western Field Ornithologists.

Time: 8:00AM – 10:30AM

Where: Salon 4B

Workshop: **Data Mining for Fun and Fame**

Leader: **Ed Pandolfino**

Workshop Description. Thanks to the Internet, mountains of data are readily available to anyone with a computer. Buried in these mountains of raw data are gems of information on bird distribution, population trends, responses to climate and habitat changes, etc. However, these data sources are woefully under-utilized, especially by academic researchers. This provides an ideal opportunity for the non-professional with an interest in ornithology to make some important discoveries.

Ed will show you how to access and use data from Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Bird Banding Lab, eBird, National Weather Service, and more.

Bring your wireless-capable laptop if you have one and you'll see how easy it is to download and work with data from these sources.

Leader Bio: Ed Pandolfino is on the boards of WFO and Sierra Foothills Audubon Society and serves as a Northern California Regional Editor for North American Birds. He is also an ex-biochemist, ex-business executive, and ex-rock and roll drummer. He has published more than a dozen papers on bird status and distribution, most of which used 'mined' data.