

39th Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists

Hosted by San Diego Field Ornithologists

San Diego, CA • 8-12 October 2014

Conference Schedule

Marriott Courtyard Liberty Station – San Diego

Wednesday, October 8

3:00 - 6:00PM – Early registration is open in **Hotel Lobby**

7:00 - 9:00PM – DESSERT RECEPTION AT SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
(sign up for this event when you register – \$15) **1788 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego**

Thursday, October 9

5:30 – 7:00AM – Grab-and-go breakfast available in Lobby (cash or charge to room)

5:30 – 7:00AM – Box lunches available in Lobby (**for those who purchased them during registration**)

5:30 - 7:00AM – Registration open in **Hotel Lobby**

FIELD TRIPS

PELAGIC FIELD TRIP

6:00AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day San Diego pelagic trip departure

Group will walk together to the boat (5-minute walk)

6:15AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Anza-Borrego Desert
- Jacumba, Lake Morena, & Pine Valley
- Mt. Palomar & Lake Henshaw

6:30AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Cuyamaca State Park & Laguna Mountains
- Ramona and San Pasqual Valleys
- Vagrant/Rarities Chase

6:45AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Tijuana River and Estuary – TRIP A
- Tijuana River and Estuary – TRIP B
- Camp Pendleton
- Coastal Lagoons

11:00AM - 4:00PM – WFO Board Meeting. **Liberty Salon A**

4:30 - 5:30PM – Registration open. **Hotel Lobby**

Friday, October 10

5:30 – 7:00AM – Grab-and-go breakfast available in Lobby (cash or charge to room)

5:30 - 7:00AM – Registration open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

FIELD TRIPS (All Friday and Saturday Field Trips and Workshops return by 11AM)

6:30AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Sweetwater Lake & Dam
- Mission Trails Regional Park
- Santee Lakes
- La Jolla Cove Seawatch & Rocky Shore

6:45AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Lakeside: Lindo Lake & Lake Jennings
- Tijuana Estuary
- Tijuana River Valley
- South San Diego Salt Works

7:00AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Coastal Canyons
- San Diego Flood Control Channel, Robb Field, Famosa Slough, Mission Bay
- Cabrillo Monument & Fort Rosecrans Cemetery
- Torrey Pines and San Dieguito Lagoon

WORKSHOPS

7:15AM – Bird Specimen Preparation with Philip Unitt **Meet in Lobby**

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL to San Diego Museum

7:30AM – Warbler ID with Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett (Classroom Session) **Liberty Salon A**

7:30AM – Sparrow ID with Homer Hansen (Classroom Session) **Liberty Salon B**

8:30AM – Vireo ID with Peter Pyle (Classroom Session) **Liberty Salon C**

11:00AM - noon – Lunch break. Lunch on own

11:00AM - noon – Registration is open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

12:15 - 3:40PM – **Science Sessions Liberty Salons A&B**

4:00 - 5:30PM – Bird Photo ID: Expert Panel with Ed Harper **Liberty Salons A&B**

5:30 - 6:30PM – Registration is open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

6:30 - 9:00PM – **Reception:** Cash bar and ample hors d'oeuvres **Waterside Terrace (behind Marriott)** This reception is open to all conference registrants

Saturday, October 11

5:30 – 7:00AM – Grab-and-go breakfast available in Lobby (cash or charge to room)

5:30 - 7:00AM – Registration open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

FIELD TRIPS (All Friday and Saturday Field Trips and Workshops return by 11AM)

6:30AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Mission Trails Regional Park
- Santee Lakes
- La Jolla Cove Seawatch & Rocky Shore

6:45AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Lakeside: Lindo Lake & Lake Jennings
- Tijuana Estuary
- Tijuana River Valley
- South San Diego Salt Works

7:00AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for half day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Coastal Canyons
- San Diego Flood Control Channel, Robb Field, Famosa Slough, Mission Bay
- Cabrillo Monument & Fort Rosecrans Cemetery
- Torrey Pines and San Dieguito Lagoon

WORKSHOPS

6:15AM – Sparrow ID (Field Session) in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

6:30AM – Warbler ID (Field Session) in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

7:00AM – Molt with Peter Pyle **Liberty Salon A**

8:00AM – Bird Sounds Workshop with Nathan Pieplow **Liberty Salon C**

11:00AM- noon – Lunch break. Lunch on own.

11:00AM- noon – Registration is open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

12:15 - 3:40PM – **Science Sessions Liberty Salons A&B**

4:00 - 5:30PM – Bird Sound Identification: Team Challenge – Nathan Pieplow and Monica Malone
Liberty Salons A&B

5:30 - 6:30PM – Registration is open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

6:30 - 9:30PM – Annual Meeting and Election, Banquet, Silent Auction. Keynote Address: History of WFO by Ed Pandolfino **Liberty Hall**

Sunday, October 12

5:30 – 7:00AM – Grab-and-go breakfast available in Lobby (cash or charge to room)

5:30 – 7:00AM – Box lunches available in Lobby (**for those who purchased them during registration**)

5:30 - 7:00AM – Registration open **Outside the Marriott Liberty Salons**

FIELD TRIPS

PELAGIC FIELD TRIP

6:00AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day San Diego pelagic trip departure

Group will walk together to the boat (5-minute walk)

6:00AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for two-day Salton Sea & Imperial Valley trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY VANS

6:15AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Anza-Borrego Desert
- Jacumba, Lake Morena, & Pine Valley
- Mt. Palomar & Lake Henshaw

6:30AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departure

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Cuyamaca State Park & Laguna Mountains

- Ramona and San Pasqual Valleys
- Vagrant/Rarities Chase

6:45AM – Assemble in Marriott at the appropriate trip sign for full day field trip departures

TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL

- Tijuana River and Estuary – TRIP A
- Tijuana River and Estuary – TRIP B
- Camp Pendleton
- Coastal Lagoons

WFO Field Trips and Workshops San Diego October 2014

FIELD TRIPS

Thursday October 9th

Offshore San Diego-Pelagic Trip Leaders: **Guy McCaskie, Peter Ginsburg, Paul Lehman, Dave Povey, John Sterling, Doug Hanna, Dave Pereksta**

The 85-foot *Grande* will take us offshore in search of the rafts of storm-petrels that occur off San Diego in October. We will proceed to the Nine Mile Bank and north before heading across the San Diego Trench to the Thirty Mile Bank, ending up on the Los Angeles county line. Over the years this has been the best location for large rafts of storm-petrels, both Black and Least. Ashy and Leach's may be seen as well, and very rarely Wilson's in the large flocks. Along the way we will be looking for the Flesh-footed Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, and murrelets. The vessel is registered to host 50 passengers and 7 leaders. Bring your food and beverage or purchase it on board. The *Grande* is a 5-minute walk to Point Loma Sportfishing. If you drive there is an \$8 parking charge.

The SoCalBirding.com web site has excellent info on preparing for a pelagic trip (<http://www.socalbirding.com/trippreparation.html>). We recommend you review the information on this page if you have not done a lot of pelagic birding.

Departure Time: 6:00AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip. (We will walk over in a group)

Return Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$95

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Leader: **Bob Theriault**

Located 90 miles northeast of San Diego, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest park in California's state park system. This area is a natural flyway funneling birds north and south from western Mexico and the Gulf of California to the Central Valley of California and northward. October presents the opportunity to see Peninsular Bighorn Sheep at the pupfish ponds as well as the Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren, Prairie Falcon, Greater Roadrunner, and hybrids of the California and Gambel's Quail. This trip will include Tamarisk Grove Campground and the Agua Caliente County Park as well as the Borrego Springs area.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 240

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Jacumba, Lake Morena and Pine Valley Leader: **Lori Hargrove**

Seventy miles southeast of San Diego is the community of Jacumba, made famous in the 40's with its health spa and hot springs. Now the main birding feature is the 5-acre pond fed from the springs. This pond attracts many migrants and is host to San Diego's largest colony of Tricolored Blackbirds. Lake Morena is a county park and recreation area with the lake and oak woodlands. Pine Valley trailhead is at the base of the track to the Noble Canyon mine. In this area pine forest and chaparral converge and the Mountain Quail is common.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:15AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: mid-late afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 150

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Mt. Palomar and Lake Henshaw Leader: **Gjon Hazard**

Lake Henshaw is at the base of the east approach to Palomar Mountain and is managed by the Vista Irrigation District. Situated in one of the largest remaining natural grasslands in southern California, it is open to fishing, and in the past several years San Diego County's only Bald Eagles nested by it. The lake will host grebes, ducks, geese, and American White Pelicans. There is a possibility of shorebirds, including Pectoral Sandpiper. Mt Palomar has the 200-inch Hale reflecting telescope as well as a large stand of coniferous forest dominated by the bigcone Douglas fir. In Palomar Mountain State Park, Doane Pond and the trails leading from it offer diverse woodpeckers and the Band-tailed Pigeon. The Pacific Wren is rare but regular here.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: **6:15AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 180

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Laguna Mountains Leader: **Geoffrey Rogers**

These two ranges make an ideal trip to loop the mountains of San Diego County. Not the highest peaks in the county, but exceeding 6000 ft. The Cedar Fire of 2003 burned almost all of the Cuyamaca Mountains, leading to profound succession of birds as well as of plants. Forest birds are now strongly concentrated in the few unburned enclaves. Plenty of stops are planned at the

well-known birding spots. Past highlights range from the Red-faced Warbler to Clark's Nutcracker. The Laguna Mountains border a steep drop-off to the neighboring Anza-Borrego Desert with views of the Salton Sea. Birds of pine and oak woodlands are expected, as well as some waterfowl on Lake Cuyamaca.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 180

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Ramona Valley and San Pasqual Valley Leader: **Justyn Stahl**

The Ramona grasslands have some of the best areas for hawk and eagle watching in San Diego County. This area has one of southern California's few remaining colonies of the Tricolored Blackbird. Newly formed trails allow birders to walk to the heart of the grasslands and rock outcroppings. The San Pasqual Valley is an agricultural area and has some of the last working dairy farms in the county. Eagles and hawks are frequently seen in the area, as well as geese and ibis by the dairy.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 75

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Vagrant and Rarity Chase Leader: **Gary Nunn**

October is a great time for the vagrants and rarities that are found in San Diego County annually. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities. It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$15

Miles: TBD

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Tijuana River Valley and Estuary Trip A Leader: **Christine Harvey & Rich Hoyer**

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, (including several firsts for California) in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years. The Tijuana River estuary is the second-largest tidal wetland remaining in southern California. Designated as a national estuarine research reserve in 1982, the estuary is home to several endangered species, including the Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. On this trip we will look for California's only known resident Yellow-crowned Night-Herons as well as diverse migratory water birds. Many rarities have been found here over the years, with the most notable being Belcher's Gull. Scopes are helpful.

This trip includes short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 35

Transportation: CARPOOL

Tijuana River Valley and Estuary Trip B Leader: **Jimmy McMorran**

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, including several firsts for California, in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years.

The Tijuana River estuary is the second-largest tidal wetland remaining in southern California. Designated as a national estuarine research reserve in 1982, the estuary is home to several endangered species, including the Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. On this trip we will look for California's only known resident Yellow-crowned Night-Herons as well as diverse migratory water birds. Many rarities have been found here over the years, with the most notable being Belcher's Gull. Scopes are helpful.

This trip includes short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 35

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Camp Pendleton Leaders: **Tim Burr & Steve Ritt**

Located north of San Diego, this 400-square-mile base hosts the most natural coastline, grassland, and foothills left in Southern California. Beaches, coastal bluffs, lake, riparian woodland, and sage scrub run up to the mountains to the east. The base has the most genetically pure herd of Bison in North America. The base personnel have done an excellent job in preserving the native vegetation and wildlife despite the rigors of Marine training. Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, and Least Tern are under active monitoring and protection programs. The base's harbor gives some opportunities for seawatching and seeing rocky shorebirds. **Drivers are required to have in their possession a valid driver's license, proof of vehicle Insurance, and vehicle registration.**

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:45AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Late afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 150

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Coastal Lagoons Leader: **Adam Searcy**

Northern San Diego County is known for its coastal lagoons, and the majority of them have been restored and maintained recently. Shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl should be present in San Elijo and Batiquitos lagoons, two of the county's prime birding spots. These are also among the best places to see California Gnatcatcher. The lagoons have many trails for easy walking getting you close to the birds.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:45AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 80

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Friday October 10th

Sweetwater Lake and Dam Leader: **Rich Hoyer & Pete Famolaro**

Seven miles inland from San Diego Bay is Sweetwater Lake and Dam, one of the oldest dams in San Diego County. The surrounding habitats include riparian woodland, sage scrub, and grassland. Shorebirds and waterfowl are present here. A Burrowing Owl restoration project is in progress. This is a major site for the San Diego Cactus Wren. Public access to much of the lake is restricted, so this trip is a special opportunity to visit areas not normally available to birders. Flycatchers, flickers, and other riparian species are in the gorge below the dam.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 40

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Mission Trails Regional Park Leader: **Brad Schram**

Covering nearly 9 square miles, Mission Trails Regional Park embraces the full diversity of terrestrial habitats of coastal southern California: sage scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland, freshwater marsh, native grassland, and steep rocky slopes and cliffs. It is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S. In October, we should see residents such as Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and over the years the riparian woodland along the San Diego River has attracted many less common migrants and vagrants.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Santee Lakes Leader: **John Walters**

In the town of Santee, on the northeastern flank of metropolitan San Diego, recycled water has been used to generate a series of ponds managed as a public park. The area's resident birds range from the Least Bittern and Common Gallinule to Great-tailed Grackle, and its list includes quite a few rarities, such as Red-necked Grebe. The spacing of the trees surrounding the ponds and the birds' habituation to people makes Santee Lakes one of those places where birds are particularly easy to spot and observe.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 40

Transportation: CARPOOL

La Jolla Cove Seawatch and Rocky Shore Leader: **John Sterling**

The seaside resort of La Jolla features some rocky shoreline, scarce in southern California, and a good place for the Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants. Marine mammals easily seen here are the California Sea Lion and Harbor Seal. The productivity of the nearby submarine canyon makes the adjacent ocean good for seabirds. Our visit to La Jolla will include a seawatch. If the winds are favorable, tubenoses and alcids can be seen from shore, ranging from the abundant Black-vented Shearwater to occasional rarities—once even a Great-winged Petrel. Scopes very helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles 26

Transportation: CARPOOL

Lakeside including Lindo Lake and Lake Jennings Leader: **Barbara Carlson**

Lindo Lake, a small county park in the community of Lakeside on the northeast edge of metropolitan San Diego, has had a surprising diversity of notable birds, the Vermilion Flycatcher most consistently. The two ponds are surrounded by patches of cattails and well-spaced willow and eucalyptus trees, making for easy birding. Just 1.5 miles away is Lake Jennings, an important site for the San Diego Cactus Wren.
\$2/person fee for Lake Jennings.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 44

Transportation: CARPOOL

Tijuana Estuary Leader: John Martin

The Tijuana River estuary is the second-largest tidal wetland remaining in southern California. Designated as a national estuarine research reserve in 1982, the estuary is home to several endangered species, including the Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. On this trip we will look for California's only known resident Yellow-crowned Night-Herons as well as diverse migratory waterbirds. Many rarities have been found here over the years, most notably Belcher's Gull. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

Tijuana River Valley Leader: Steve Ritt

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, including several firsts for California, in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

South San Diego Bay Salt Works Leader: Robert Patton

The salt ponds at the south end of San Diego Bay are a critical nesting site for terns and Black Skimmers and are used by thousands of migratory shorebirds. The ponds are now part of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and the dikes of the westernmost ponds were breached in 2011 for restoration of tidal salt marsh. On this field trip we will visit the parts of the salt works not open to the general public and look for a wide variety of waterbirds, including phalaropes, Red Knot, and Reddish Egret. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45am

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

Coastal Canyons of San Diego Leader: **Jan Nordenberg**

One of the features that makes San Diego so good for birding is that the city is laced with canyons retaining their natural vegetation—one reason the city has been used as a natural laboratory for the study of the effects of habitat fragmentation. Among the largest canyons are Tecolote, San Clemente, and Rose. These canyons offer habitat for the California Gnatcatcher and most other birds characteristic of sage scrub and chaparral (e.g., California Thrasher, Wrentit), scarcely 3 miles from this meeting's host hotel. Unexpected visitors, such as the Swamp Sparrow, show up here too.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 7:00AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 40

Transportation: CARPOOL

San Diego Flood-Control Channel, Robb Field, Famosa Slough, and Mission Bay Leader: **David Vander Pluym**

Though the mouth of the San Diego River has been strait-jacketed into a flood-control channel, it still retains mudflat, open water, and brackish marsh, creating one of San Diego's best birding spots and the best site in California for seeing Little Blue Heron. And though adjacent Mission Bay has been developed intensively, the site of old sludge beds on Fiesta Island is now a dog park that regularly attracts longspurs. Two remnants of native salt marsh, Famosa Slough south of the flood-control channel and Kendall–Frost Marsh in Mission Bay, are good sites for diverse water birds. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes short walks on mostly paved trails and is wheelchair accessible.

Departure Time: 7:00am

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 20

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Cabrillo National Monument and Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Leaders: **Guy McCaskie & Elizabeth Copper**

Point Loma is famed as one of California's leading migrant traps. Its location at the point of peninsula jutting into the ocean makes it the ideal place in the region to pick up migrant landbirds struggling to return to shore after having strayed over the ocean during the night. The list for Cabrillo National Monument, Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, Point Loma Nazarene University, and nearby areas runs to approximately 375 species. The possibilities during fall migration are almost limitless. In fall the Chipping Sparrows resident in Fort Rosecrans Cemetery gather into flocks, a gathering that attracts migrants of other sparrows.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: **7:00am**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 10

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Torrey Pines and San Dieguito Leader: **Gjon Hazard**

The 2000 acres of Torrey Pines State Reserve encompass Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, an important coastal wetland, rugged hills covered with sage scrub and chaparral as well as the rare and iconic Torrey Pine, and high coastal bluffs that support two pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons. Just two miles north at the opposite end of the town of Del Mar is the estuary of the San Dieguito River, now the site of a massive wetland-restoration project.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: **7:00am**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Saturday October 11th

Mission Trails Regional Park Leader: **Gjon Hazard**

Covering nearly 9 square miles, Mission Trails Regional Park embraces the full diversity of terrestrial habitats of coastal southern California: sage scrub, chaparral, riparian woodland,

freshwater marsh, native grassland, and steep rocky slopes and cliffs. It is one of the largest urban parks in the U.S. In October, we should see residents such as Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and over the years the riparian woodland along the San Diego River has attracted many less common migrants and vagrants.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Santee Lakes Leader: **John Walters**

In the town of Santee, on the northeastern flank of metropolitan San Diego, recycled water has been used to generate a series of ponds managed as a public park. The area's resident birds range from the Least Bittern and Common Gallinule to Great-tailed Grackle, and its list includes quite a few rarities, such as Red-necked Grebe. The spacing of the trees surrounding the ponds and the birds' habituation to people makes Santee Lakes one of those places where birds are particularly easy to spot and observe.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 40

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

La Jolla Cove Seawatch and Rocky Shore Leader: **John Sterling**

The seaside resort of La Jolla features some rocky shoreline, scarce in southern California, and a good place for the Black Turnstone, Wandering Tattler, Surfbird, and Brandt's and Pelagic Cormorants. Marine mammals easily seen here are the California Sea Lion and Harbor Seal. The productivity of the nearby submarine canyon makes the adjacent ocean good for seabirds. Our visit to La Jolla will include a seawatch. If the winds are favorable, tubenoses and alcids can be seen from shore, ranging from the abundant Black-vented Shearwater to occasional rarities—once even a Great-winged Petrel. Scopes very helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles 26

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Lakeside including Lindo Lake and Lake Jennings Leader: **Barbara Carlson**

Lindo Lake, a small county park in the community of Lakeside on the northeast edge of metropolitan San Diego, has had a surprising diversity of notable birds, the Vermilion Flycatcher most consistently. The two ponds are surrounded by patches of cattails and well-spaced willow and eucalyptus trees, making for easy birding. Just 1.5 miles away is Lake Jennings, an important site for the San Diego Cactus Wren.

\$2/person fee for Lake Jennings.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:45AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 44

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Tijuana Estuary Leader: **John Martin**

The Tijuana River estuary is the second-largest tidal wetland remaining in southern California. Designated as a national estuarine research reserve in 1982, the estuary is home to several endangered species, including the Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. On this trip we will look for California's only known resident Yellow-crowned Night-Herons as well as diverse migratory waterbirds. Many rarities have been found here over the years, most notably Belcher's Gull. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:45AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Tijuana River Valley Leaders: **Guy McCaskie & Elizabeth Copper**

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, including several firsts for California, in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored

birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

South San Diego Bay Salt Works Leader: **Robert Patton**

The salt ponds at the south end of San Diego Bay are a critical nesting site for terns and Black Skimmers and are used by thousands of migratory shorebirds. The ponds are now part of the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge, and the dikes of the westernmost ponds were breached in 2011 for restoration of tidal salt marsh. On this field trip we will visit the parts of the salt works not open to the general public and look for a wide variety of waterbirds, including phalaropes, Red Knot, and Reddish Egret. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes a short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45am

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

Coastal Canyons of San Diego Leader: **Hank Ingersoll**

One of the features that makes San Diego so good for birding is that the city is laced with canyons retaining their natural vegetation—one reason the city has been used as a natural laboratory for the study of the effects of habitat fragmentation. Among the largest canyons are Tecolote, San Clemente, and Rose. These canyons offer habitat for the California Gnatcatcher and most other birds characteristic of sage scrub and chaparral (e.g., California Thrasher, Wrentit), scarcely 3 miles from this meeting's host hotel. Unexpected visitors, such as the Swamp Sparrow, show up here too.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 7:00AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 40

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

San Diego Flood-Control Channel, Robb Field, Famosa Slough, and Mission Bay Leader: **David Vander Pluym**

Though the mouth of the San Diego River has been strait-jacketed into a flood-control channel, it still retains mudflat, open water, and brackish marsh, creating one of San Diego's best birding spots and the best site in California for seeing Little Blue Heron. And though adjacent Mission Bay has been developed intensively, the site of old sludge beds on Fiesta Island is now a dog park that regularly attracts longspurs. Two remnants of native salt marsh, Famosa Slough south of the flood-control channel and Kendall–Frost Marsh in Mission Bay, are good sites for diverse water birds. Scopes helpful.

This trip includes short walks on mostly paved trails and is wheelchair accessible.

Departure Time: **7:00am**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 15

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Cabrillo National Monument and Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery Leader: **Brad Schram**

Point Loma is famed as one of California's leading migrant traps. Its location at the point of peninsula jutting into the ocean makes it the ideal place in the region to pick up migrant landbirds struggling to return to shore after having strayed over the ocean during the night. The list for Cabrillo National Monument, Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, Point Loma Nazarene University, and nearby areas runs to approximately 375 species. The possibilities during fall migration are almost limitless. In fall the Chipping Sparrows resident in Fort Rosecrans Cemetery gather into flocks, a gathering that attracts migrants of other sparrows.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: **7:00am**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 10

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Torrey Pines and San Dieguito Leader: **Jan Nordenberg**

The 2000 acres of Torrey Pines State Reserve encompass Los Peñasquitos Lagoon, an important coastal wetland, rugged hills covered with sage scrub and chaparral as well as the rare and iconic Torrey Pine, and high coastal bluffs that support two pairs of nesting Peregrine Falcons. Just two miles north at the opposite end of the town of Del Mar is the estuary of the San Dieguito River, now the site of a massive wetland-restoration project.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 7:00am

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: 11:00am

Cost: \$10

Miles: 30

Transportation: CARPOOL

Sunday October 12th

Offshore San Diego-Pelagic Trip Leaders: **Tom Blackman, Bob Gill, Gary Nunn, Dave Povey, Dan Singer, Matt Sadowski**

The 85-foot *Grande* will take us offshore in search of the rafts of storm-petrels that occur off San Diego in October. We will proceed to the Nine Mile Bank and north before heading across the San Diego Trench to the Thirty Mile Bank, ending up on the Los Angeles county line. Over the years this has been the best location for large rafts of storm-petrels, both Black and Least. Ashy and Leach's may be seen as well, and very rarely Wilson's in the large flocks. Along the way we will be looking for the Flesh-footed Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, and murrelets. The vessel is registered to host 50 passengers and 7 leaders. Bring your food and beverage or purchase it on board. The *Grande* is a 5-minute walk to Point Loma Sportfishing. If you drive there is an \$8 parking charge.

The SoCalBirding.com web site has excellent info on preparing for a pelagic trip (<http://www.socalbirding.com/trippreparation.html>). We recommend you review the information on this page if you have not done a lot of pelagic birding.

Departure Time: 6:00AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip. (We will walk over in a group)

Return Time: 7:00pm

Cost: \$95

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Leader: **Bob Theriault**

Located 90 miles northeast of San Diego, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park is the largest park in California's state park system. This area is a natural flyway funneling birds north and south from western Mexico and the Gulf of California to the Central Valley of California and northward. October presents the opportunity to see Peninsular Bighorn Sheep at the pupfish ponds as well as

the Black-throated Sparrow, Cactus Wren, Prairie Falcon, Greater Roadrunner, and hybrids of the California and Gambel's Quail. This trip will include Tamarisk Grove Campground and the Agua Caliente County Park as well as the Borrego Springs area.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 240

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Jacumba, Lake Morena and Pine Valley Leader: **Adam Searcy**

Seventy miles southeast of San Diego is the community of Jacumba, made famous in the 40's with its health spa and hot springs. Now the main birding feature is the 5-acre pond fed from the springs. This pond attracts many migrants and is host to San Diego's largest colony of Tricolored Blackbirds. Lake Morena is a county park and recreation area with the lake and oak woodlands. Pine Valley trailhead is at the base of the track to the Noble Canyon mine. In this area pine forest and chaparral converge and the Mountain Quail is common.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: mid-late afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 150

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Mt. Palomar and Lake Henshaw Leader: **John Garrett & Frank Wong**

Lake Henshaw is at the base of the east approach to Palomar Mountain and is managed by the Vista Irrigation District. Situated in one of the largest remaining natural grasslands in southern California, it is open to fishing, and in the past several years San Diego County's only Bald Eagles nested by it. The lake will host grebes, ducks, geese, and American White Pelicans. There is a possibility of shorebirds, including Pectoral Sandpiper. Mt Palomar has the 200-inch Hale reflecting telescope as well as a large stand of coniferous forest dominated by the bigcone Douglas fir. In Palomar Mountain State Park, Doane Pond and the trails leading from it offer diverse woodpeckers and the Band-tailed Pigeon. The Pacific Wren is rare but regular here.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: 6:15AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 180

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and Laguna Mountains Leader: **Geoffrey Rogers**

These two ranges make an ideal trip to loop the mountains of San Diego County. Not the highest peaks in the county, but exceeding 6000 ft. The Cedar Fire of 2003 burned almost all of the Cuyamaca Mountains, leading to profound succession of birds as well as of plants. Forest birds are now strongly concentrated in the few unburned enclaves. Plenty of stops are planned at the well-known birding spots. Past highlights range from the Red-faced Warbler to Clark's Nutcracker. The Laguna Mountains border a steep drop-off to the neighboring Anza-Borrego Desert with views of the Salton Sea. Birds of pine and oak woodlands are expected, as well as some waterfowl on Lake Cuyamaca.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking with some uphill.

Departure Time: **6:30AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 180

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Ramona Valley and San Pasqual Valley Leader: **Justyn Stahl**

The Ramona grasslands have some of the best areas for hawk and eagle watching in San Diego County. This area has one of southern California's few remaining colonies of the Tricolored Blackbird. Newly formed trails allow birders to walk to the heart of the grasslands and rock outcroppings. The San Pasqual Valley is an agricultural area and has some of the last working dairy farms in the county. Eagles and hawks are frequently seen in the area, as well as geese and ibis by the dairy.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:30AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 75

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Vagrant and Rarity Chase Leader: **Paul Lehman**

October is a great time for the vagrants and rarities that are found in San Diego County annually. With the help of the area's keen birders this trip may range anywhere countywide to locations of currently known rarities. It is all up for grabs and should be an interesting and unpredictable trip.

Departure Time: 6:30AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: TBD

Cost: \$15

Miles: TBD

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Tijuana River Valley and Estuary Trip A Leader: **Christine Harvey**

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, (including several firsts for California) in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years.

The Tijuana River estuary is the second-largest tidal wetland remaining in southern California. Designated as a national estuarine research reserve in 1982, the estuary is home to several endangered species, including the Least Tern, Snowy Plover, Light-footed Clapper Rail, and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. On this trip we will look for California's only known resident Yellow-crowned Night-Herons as well as diverse migratory water birds. Many rarities have been found here over the years, with the most notable being Belcher's Gull. Scopes are helpful.

This trip includes short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 35

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Tijuana River Valley and Estuary Trip B Leader: **Jimmy McMorran**

The Tijuana River valley is famed as the site where the search for vagrants in California began, with Guy McCaskie's discovery of multiple vagrants here, including several firsts for California, in fall 1962. Today, much of the valley is within a regional park, and riparian woodland, ponds, marshes, and agriculture offer birds diverse habitats. We will search the valley's time-honored birding spots, sure to produce a wide variety of land and marsh birds. Among the valley's current residents we are likely to see is the Black-throated Magpie-Jay, native to northwestern mainland

Mexico but popular as a cage bird in Baja California and establishing itself in the Tijuana River valley, where it has bred for nearly 20 years.

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This trip includes short walks on mostly flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Late Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 35

Transportation: CARPOOL

Camp Pendleton Leader: **Peter Ginsburg**

Located north of San Diego, this 400-square-mile base hosts the most natural coastline, grassland, and foothills left in Southern California. Beaches, coastal bluffs, lake, riparian woodland, and sage scrub run up to the mountains to the east. The base has the most genetically pure herd of Bison in North America. The base personnel have done an excellent job in preserving the native vegetation and wildlife despite the rigors of Marine training. Bell's Vireo, Willow Flycatcher, California Gnatcatcher, Cactus Wren, and Least Tern are under active monitoring and protection programs. The base's harbor gives some opportunities for seawatching and seeing rocky shorebirds. **Drivers are required to have in their possession a valid driver's license, proof of vehicle Insurance, and vehicle registration.**

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: 6:45AM

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard West Parking Lot to form carpools

Return Time: Late afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 150

Transportation: CARPOOL

Coastal Lagoons Leader: **Lauren Harter**

Northern San Diego County is known for its coastal lagoons, and the majority of them have been restored and maintained recently. Shorebirds, waders, and waterfowl should be present in San Elijo and Batiquitos lagoons, two of the county's prime birding spots. These are also among the best places to see California Gnatcatcher. The lagoons have many trails for easy walking getting you close to the birds.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:45AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip, then proceed to Marriott Courtyard North Cul de Sac to form carpools

Return Time: Afternoon

Cost: \$15

Miles: 80

Transportation: **CARPOOL**

Salton Sea - Imperial Valley 2-day Field Trip

This post-meeting event will start early on Sunday, driving by van to the Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea. We stay overnight at the Brawley Inn and continue birding on Monday with an early evening return to San Diego. The transportation will be two vans, so an overnight bag will be best: leave luggage at the Marriott Courtyard to be picked up Monday evening. The leaders will be **Guy McCaskie, Jon Dunn, & Brennan Mulrooney**. Fee includes lodging in Brawley and box lunches each day. Dinner in Brawley Sunday evening and breakfast Monday morning is NOT included. The Brawley Inn has a restaurant for Sunday dinner and Monday breakfast. Guy recommends it. Bring your scope.

This trip includes a moderate amount of walking on flat ground.

Departure Time: **6:00AM**

Departure Location: Gather in the Marriott Lobby at the sign for this trip with all your belongings ready to board the vans for this trip

Return Time: Monday 13th early evening

Cost: \$295

Transportation: **VANS PROVIDED**

WORKSHOPS **Friday, October 10**

Workshop: *Warbler Identification* (classroom session)

Workshop includes this classroom session on Friday and field session on Saturday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session. NOTE: places for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.

Leaders: Jon Dunn & Kimball Garrett

Time: 7:30AM – 11:00AM

Where: Liberty Salon A

Cost: \$30 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only

Workshop description. The instructors, co-authors of the *Peterson Field Guide to Warblers of North America*, will cover various aspects of field identification, status and distribution, and geographical variation in wood-warblers of western North America. We'll start with a review of the genera of wood-warblers, including a discussion of recent taxonomic changes. We'll then use a handful of the most familiar western warbler species to explore patterns of variation by age, sex, and subspecies. This will be followed by a survey of the species, appropriately grouped, that are most often found in the Pacific states – including many vagrant species from (primarily) eastern North America – with an in-depth exploration of key identification characters and occurrence patterns. Images, audio recordings, and specimens will all be used to explore key characters. The classroom session will close with selected problems in identification, status and distribution, geographical variation, and speciation that deserve further attention.

Leaders' bios: The workshop leaders authored *A Field Guide to Warblers of North America* for the Peterson series (1997) and have co-led warbler field workshops at Pt. Pelee and elsewhere. Both leaders have a passion for teaching about field identification, status and distribution, both in the field and the classroom.

Jon Dunn is the co-author of the sixth edition of the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (and was chief consultant for all previous editions). He co-authored (with Kimball Garrett) *Birds of Southern California, Status and Distribution* and *Peterson Field Guide to Warblers*, and co-authored (with Steve Howell) *Gulls of the Americas*. He serves as a member of the American Ornithologists' Union Check-list Committee, the A.B.A. Checklist Committee, and the California Bird Records Committee. He is a field trip leader for WINGS and serves on the board of Western Field Ornithologists.

Kimball Garrett is the Ornithology Collections Manager at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and a life-long resident of southern California. He has served on the board of WFO since 1993 and served as President of the organization in the mid-1990s. In addition to the Peterson warbler guide, he is co-author of *Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution* (with Jon Dunn), *Birds of the Los Angeles Region* (with Jon Dunn and Brian Small), and the forthcoming *Birds of Northern California* (with Dave Quady, Jon Dunn and Brian Small).

Workshop: *Identification of Sparrows and Towhees (classroom session)*

Workshop includes this classroom session on Friday and field session on Saturday.
Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session.
NOTE: places for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.

Leader: Homer Hansen

Time: 7:30AM – 11:00AM with breaks.

Where: Liberty Salon B

Cost: \$30 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only

Workshop description: The workshop will provide an introduction to the family Emberizidae, including the recent taxonomic changes. The workshop will start with an overview of concepts useful for identification of sparrows and towhees followed by discussions about vocalizations, molt and other natural history considerations. The identification portion of the workshop shall focus on physical characteristics with an emphasis on “size and shape” and will cover geographical variation of specific species as well. About 25 or so species, those most likely to be seen in San Diego County during the late Fall/early Winter, will be covered in the classroom session.

Leader's bio: **Homer Hansen** has been birding for more than two decades in the southwest and grew up surrounded by Sandhill Cranes in winter and Cassin's Sparrows in summer. He is a native of Willcox, Arizona and has been the chairman of the annual Wings Over Willcox Birding & Nature Festival for more than fifteen years. Homer is the author of the G.I.S.S. Series bird identification guides and is a regular presenter on sparrows, raptors, flycatchers, warblers, birding by ear, and bird ecology, including the Moving to Mastery courses for the Tucson Audubon Society and the Southwestern Sparrows IFO for the American Birding Association. Homer loves the outdoors and watching birds and especially enjoys the challenges of complex identifications and learning about the nature of birds. Homer earned his B.S. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona and now is the president and owner of Aplomado Environmental, providing services to characterize and remove contaminants from soil and groundwater.

Workshop: *Preparation of Bird Specimens*

Leader: Philip Unitt

Time: 7:15 AM – 10:45 AM

Where: Hotel lobby at 7:15 AM for carpool or meet at San Diego Natural History Museum by 7:30 AM.

Cost: \$15

Workshop description: Specimens are as fundamental to ornithology today as they were 100 or 200 years ago. But the art of making bird skins is a skill that must be handed down from one

generation to the next, as from master to apprentice. In this workshop experienced WFO members will demonstrate some diverse ways in which 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. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about birds' external and internal 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. With multiple preparators demonstrating, participants can see the different approaches different species and uses require and compare various techniques.

If you have experience in skinning birds and would like to work on one with us, notify Phil Unitt (birds@sdnhm.org or 619-255-0235) by Friday October 3rd so we have adequate tools and specimens ready—even experienced preparators learn from each other.

The workshop will take place at the San Diego Natural History Museum, four miles from the hotel. All participants must either carpool from the hotel at 7:15 AM or meet outside the museum at 7:30 AM. Because we will be entering the museum before it is open to the public, we cannot accommodate late arrivals. We welcome questions and discussion throughout the workshop.

Leader's bio: Philip Unitt has served as editor of *Western Birds* since 1986 and as collection manager then curator of the Department of Birds and Mammals of the San Diego Natural History Museum since 1988. He is the author of the *San Diego County Bird Atlas* (2004) and co-author of *Birds of the Salton Sea* (2003), publications in which specimen and observational data are integrated. He has prepared ~4000 bird specimens, from Calliope Hummingbirds to Common Loons and Canada Geese.

Workshop: *Identification of Vireos in California*

Leader: Peter Pyle

Time: 8:30AM – 11:00AM

Where: Liberty Salon C

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Peter Pyle, co-author of *Identification to North American Birds*, will cover various aspects of identification, status and distribution, and geographical variation in vireos of western North America. He'll start with a survey of all 13 species that breed in North America, including a discussion of variation by age, sex, and subspecies. This will be followed by exploration of key identification characters, touching on species presenting identification problems in California. Age determination and identification of vireos within the "Solitary Vireo" complex will then be emphasized. Peter has taken a special interest in separating Blue-headed from Cassin's Vireo, discovering that, once age is determined, species determination usually follows. Additionally, Cassin's versus Plumbeous vireos will be examined.

Leader's bio: Peter Pyle has been a member of the California Bird Records Committee since 1997 (off and on, mostly on) and has reviewed many records of White-eyed, Blue-headed, Yellow-throated, Philadelphia, and Yellow-green vireos during this period. Peter has worked as an ornithologist and marine biologist throughout the Pacific. During the late 1970s and early

1980s he worked on the Hawaii and other Pacific Forest Bird Surveys; in 1985 he became a biologist for PRBO on the Farallon Islands; and since 1996 he has worked for the Institute for Bird Populations in Point Reyes Station. Peter is a research Associate at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and the Bishop Museum in Honolulu. He has authored or co-authored more than 160 peer-reviewed papers, four books, and an on-line monograph of the birds of Hawaii. Among birders and banders he is best known for his *Identification Guide to North American Birds*, Parts 1 and 2, which includes detailed descriptions of molt and criteria for ageing and sexing all North American birds in the hand and the field. In 2011 he had the fortune of describing a new bird species, Bryan's Shearwater, and naming it after his grandfather.

Saturday, October 11

Workshop: *Identification of Sparrows and Towhees* (field session)

Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and this field session on Saturday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session.

NOTE: spots for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.

Leader: Homer Hansen

Time: 6:15AM – 11:00AM

Where: Meet in the Hotel Lobby

Transportation: Carpooling

Cost: \$30 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only

Workshop description: The Saturday field trip will be to Point Loma and vicinity, a 20 minute drive from the conference hotel. The field portion of the workshop will focus on species identification, including sub-species specific characteristics when appropriate. The identification will emphasize physical characteristics in conjunction with foraging behavior, flight and habitat use. Expect to see eight to ten species, including Spotted and California Towhees, and White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song, Lincoln's, Fox, Savannah, and Chipping Sparrows.

Leader's bio: See Friday Classroom Session above for leader's bio.

Workshop: *Warbler Identification* (field session)

Workshop includes a classroom session on Friday and this field session on Saturday. Registrants may sign up for the classroom session only or classroom PLUS field session.

NOTE: spots for field session are limited so register early if you'd like to attend both.

Leaders: Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett

Time: 6:30AM – 11:00AM

Where: Meet in Marriott Lobby

Transportation: Carpooling

Cost: \$30 for Friday classroom session PLUS Saturday field session; \$20 for classroom session only

Workshop description: The destination for the Saturday field trip will likely be to park-like habitats within a 20-30 minute drive of the conference hotel – the exact site(s) will be determined within a week of the field trip date to maximize success in finding a variety of species to study. The field portion of the workshop will deal with species identification, ageing and sexing criteria, vocalizations (particularly “chip” and flight notes), and various aspects of behavior. We can expect to see eight to twelve species, but we’ll discuss field identification techniques applicable to a broader array of species.

Leaders’ bios: See Friday Classroom Session above for leaders’ bios.

Workshop: *Molt Workshop: “Everything you've been afraid to know and haven't wanted to ask.”*

Leader: Peter Pyle

Time: 7:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Liberty Salon A

Cost: \$20

Workshop description: Peter will begin the session with a PowerPoint trip through the various angles of bird molt, clarifying the tangled historical terminology and presenting the vastly improved H-P (Humphrey-Parkes) system in lay-person terms. He will consider the interactions between bird molt and plumage color, illustrate the fascinating molt patterns of ducks, ptarmigan, alcids, herons, raptors, parrots, passerines, and larger birds that undergo Stafflemauser, and conclude with some thoughts on stable isotopes and molt, molt in tropical birds, and avenues for future research. After a short break, the focus will be on ageing birds in the field using molt limits and other molt-related clues, as illustrated in PowerPoint images. Peter encourages participants to bring images and questions they have on molt, in general or in specific taxa, to discuss with the class.

Leader’s bio: Peter's knowledge of molt is based on a thorough familiarity with the scientific literature during years of working with the subject, as well as the examination of over 60,000 specimens in museum skin collections. He has published more than 35 scientific papers on molt and his *Identification Guides to North American Birds* includes detailed accounts of molt in all North American bird species. Peter is currently revising molt and plumage sections for all on-line *Birds of North America* accounts.

Workshop: *Bird Sounds - Becoming an Expert Listener*

Leader: Nathan Pieplow

Time: 8:00AM – 11:00AM

Where: Liberty Salon C

Cost: \$15

Workshop Description: “It is sometimes said that expert birders make 90 percent of their identifications by ear.... It is also said that no aspect of birding is more frustrating for the beginner and more difficult to master than voice identification.” So says David Sibley in the introduction to the *Sibley Guide to Birds*, and many birders would agree.

Until recently, most attempts to teach bird sound identification have relied almost entirely on memorization techniques. This workshop will take a different approach. We will work on advanced listening skills, learning how to pay attention to the fine details of a sound. In the process, we will learn a common vocabulary for describing bird sounds. Just as beginning birders learn the different parts of the bird and how to distinguish colors like “buff” and “rufous”, we will learn the different parts of a sound and how to distinguish tone qualities like “burry” and “polyphonic”. We will also study how to visualize sounds and read spectrograms, and we will use these skills to tackle some of the more significant audio identification challenges in the western United States, from *Empidonax* flycatchers to thrashers.

No matter what your level of experience, this workshop will help you listen to sounds more analytically, describe them more accurately, and use them more effectively in identifying birds.

Leader’s Bio: **Nathan Pieplow** is the author of the upcoming *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*. He is the founder of the bird sound blog Earbirding.com, one of the authors of the Colorado Birding Trail, and the former editor of the journal *Colorado Birds*. Nathan teaches writing at the University of Colorado in Boulder.