



San Diego Bird Festival

February 23-26, 2017

**Marina Village
Conference Center**

Mission Bay, San Diego, CA

**WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
Kenn & Kimberly Kaufman**

**field trips / workshops / optics displays
pelagic birding / family events**

hundreds of bird species viewed each year

www.sandiegoaudubon.org

SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY





Welcome to the San Diego Bird Festival. As always, we are celebrating the birds and habitats of our county, which truly offers some of the best birding in the United States. This festival supports the education, conservation and sanctuary programs of San Diego Audubon Society, so by joining us, you get to see the birds and help them too. We thank you for your support, and hope to meet you at the Festival.

Chris Redfern

Executive Director, San Diego Audubon Society



Festival Planning Team

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Brochure layout by Bonnie Toth

Cover Art by Kenn Kaufman

Photography by Karen Straus, Bruno Struck and Krisztina Scheeff



Our Distinguished Guests

We are delighted to have the Kaufmans as our special guests in 2017.



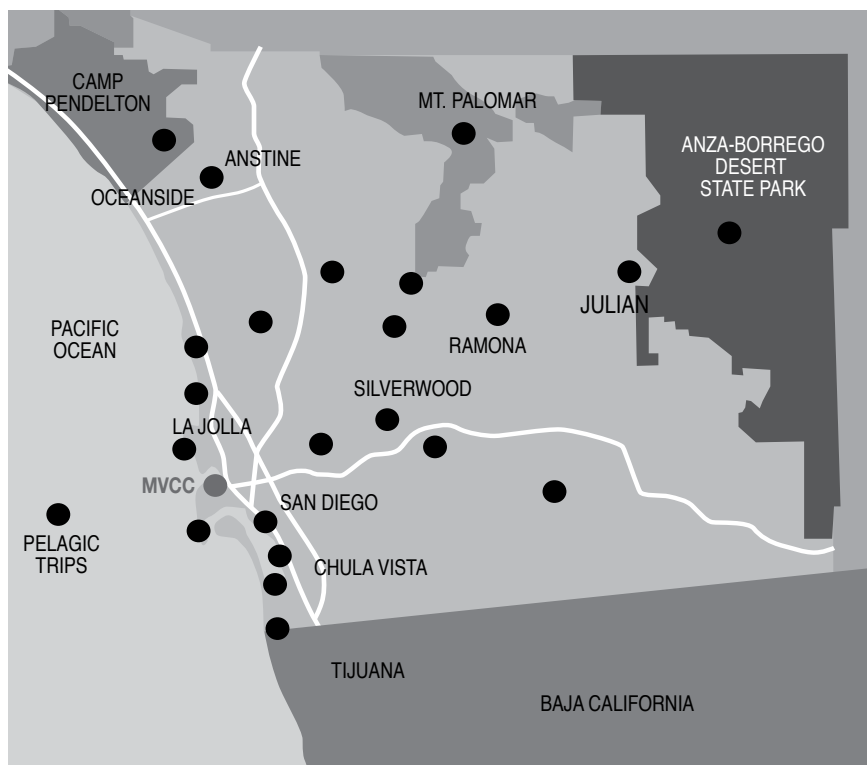
Kenn Kaufman didn't start to notice birds until the age of six, but this interest soon developed into a lifelong passion. Kenn burst onto the national birding scene as a teenager in the 1970s, hitch-hiking around North America in pursuit of birds, an adventure later chronicled in his cult-classic book, *Kingbird Highway*. After working as a leader of nature tours to all seven continents, he switched to a career as a freelance writer, artist, and naturalist. Most of his energy currently goes into book projects and into painting bird portraits. He has written a dozen books, including his own field guide series, *Kaufman Field Guides*, published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt of Boston; the series now includes eight titles. His other books include *Lives of North American Birds* and *Flights Against the Sunset*. Kenn and his wife Kimberly currently live in Ohio. Kenn is a field editor for *Audubon* magazine, a fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and one of only two persons to have received the American Birding Association's lifetime achievement award twice.



Kimberly Kaufman is an Ohio native whose lifelong love of the outdoors grew into a passion for birds in the 1990s. She monitored nesting Bald Eagles for the Ohio Division of Wildlife and ran bluebird trails before she began banding migrant songbirds for the Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO). Her involvement with BSBO escalated as she became the observatory's education director in 2005 and then executive director in 2009, a position she still holds. Kimberly played a key role in starting the highly successful Ohio Young Birders Club, a group for teenagers that has served as a model for youth programs in many other states, as well as The Biggest Week In American Birding, a spring event in northwest Ohio. She is a contributing editor to *Birds & Blooms* magazine, and coauthor of two books: *Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of New England* and *Kaufman Field Guide to Nature of the Midwest*. Kimberly is a board member of the American Bird Conservancy and the Chair of the Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative. She and her husband Kenn make their home in Oak Harbor, Ohio.



Festival Map



This map of San Diego County and environs indicates the range and diversity of our various birding trips. The four major habitat areas of the county, including coastal wetlands, coastal sage and chaparral, oak/pine woodlands and the Anza-Borrego desert, are all visited in a variety of excursions.

To see a listing of what was seen on field trips
in previous years, visit our website

www.sandiegoaudubon.org



Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

Please help birds by reducing waste.
Bring your own reusable water bottle and
reusable coffee mug to the Festival.



SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register?

Online. We prefer you register online. Secure registration is available online at www.sandiegoaudubon.org. There is a registration fee of \$10 per person. **The deadline for online registrations is February 21, 2017.**

By Mail. If you are unable to register online, you may register by mail using the worksheet insert found in the center of the festival brochure. The registration fee of \$10 per person still applies. Please note that many field trips will fill by November 1, 2016. If you decide to use the mail in option, consider registering as early as possible. **The deadline for mail-in registrations is January 1, 2017.**

Drop in. While online registration is the preferred method of registration, you may register for any available event at the festival registration/check-in table. Please note that most trips fill quickly, but there is usually space in our workshops.

Standby. The online registration system will indicate the number of remaining openings for each event. Once an event is full, you may add your name to a waiting list by following the instructions on the website.

I'm having trouble with registration. Who can help? Please call Jen Hajj at (801) 671-9505. Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Pacific Time.

Where is the Festival Site? The 2017 San Diego Bird Festival will take place in the Baja Room at the Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay: 1936 Quivira Way. Park at the South end of the campus, close to the Baja Room. All field trips will depart and return from Marina Village, and workshops will take place in breakout rooms adjacent to the Baja Room.

How do I get around?

The Festival does not provide shuttle service between the airport and hotels. The Dana Hotel provides a shuttle service to Marina Village each morning, and can be called for return trips (subject to availability) to the Dana from Marina Village. The Festival provides transportation for all field trips.



Where do I stay? The Dana Resort on Mission Bay (www.thedana.com) is our official Festival hotel. The Dana is a ½ mile walk from Festival headquarters. Shuttles to the Festival are available in the mornings, and the hotel may be contacted to transport festival goers from Marina Village to the Dana at any time. To reserve a room directly with The Dana, call toll free (800)445-3339 or locally (619)222-6440. Be sure to mention you are with the Bird Festival. Online reservations can be made by clicking the Dana on Mission Bay link on the Bird Festival website.

What about camping? Campland on the Bay (www.campland.com) is a 5-minute drive from Festival headquarters and has RV hookups. Located at 2211 Pacific Beach Drive, on the northeast side of Mission Bay overlooking Kendall Frost Preserve. Contact by phone at (800)422-9386

Where do I eat? Plan to have breakfast with us. Breakfast is provided to all registered Festival participants, in the Baja Room Atrium. Some field trips and workshops have breakfast or lunch included in the registration. This will be noted in the description of the event if it is included. Pre-ordered lunches will be available for pick-up in the Baja Room each morning. Ordering information will be available on the Festival website. Appetizers will be provided at the Welcome and Thank You mixers, and a local craft beer and snack social will be open after field trips Thursday and Friday, and our Keynote Reception event is an informal dinner in the Bayview Room at Marina Village. Ask us at the reception desk for ideas of where to eat. San Diego is known for its craft brews, seafood, and quirky establishments. We hope you'll discover something new.

Can I check in early? We sincerely hope you do! The Baja Room will open for festival check in at 3:00 pm on February 22, 2017. Stay for the free mixer and program that evening. As most field trips start early, we recommend you check in at the Registration/Check In desk the day before your scheduled event. If you are unable to come the day before, try to arrive 30 minutes before the expected start time of your first scheduled event.

What if it rains? Though San Diego tends to be well known for its sun, rain occasionally happens in the spring. All trips are rain or shine. Please dress accordingly, and be prepared for wet weather. Trips will be cancelled only under the circumstances that weather events have rendered the trip unsafe (e.g. flooded roads, lightning strikes, choppy seas) and alternatives are not possible.

What is the cancellation and refund policy? If you are unable to attend an event for which you have registered, email Jen Hajj at hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org to cancel before February 5, 2017 to receive a full refund. Cancellations after February 5, 2017 are not eligible for refunds except in the case of a documented personal emergency. The \$10 per person registration fee is non-refundable.

The Festival reserves the right to cancel any Festival activity. If we must cancel a Festival event, registered attendees for that event will be notified via email. Attendees will be offered the following options:

- register for substitute activities of the same value
- donate registration fee to SDAS programs
- full refund (allow up to 4 weeks processing)

How do I contact San Diego Bird Festival?

Mailing Address: 4010 Morena Blvd, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92117

General Information: (858)273-7800

Register online at www.sandiegoaudubon.org

Email: hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org

Free Programs

Your registration fee includes the following events at no extra cost.

Breakfast

Sponsored by Sea World

Baja Atrium

Daily 5:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Cost: Free

Start your day right with a light breakfast in the Baja Room Atrium. Coffee, tea, and a spread of breakfast noshes are available to grab and go, at no cost to registered participants.

Socials

Baja Room

Each night, we'll have either a Sponsored Mixer, featuring appetizers, wine and beer or a Snacks and Suds Social, with snack foods and local craft brews and wines for just a dollar each.

Check the schedule for details.

Birding and Optics Expo

Baja Room

Our Birding and Optics Expo is free of charge and open to the public. Shop for the things you need to stay at the top of your game, learn about the best places to bird worldwide, and meet some of birding's hottest "cele-birdies."

Expo hours:

Wednesday, Feb 22, 3:00-6:00 pm

Thursday, Feb 23, 3:00-6:00 pm

Friday, Feb 24, 3:00-6:00 pm

Saturday, Feb 25, noon-7:00 pm

Sunday, Feb 26, 10:00-4:00 pm



Silent Auction

Baja Room

Our silent auction contains products and services from many of our sponsors, local artisans, and community businesses, all generously donated. Proceeds go to education and conservation programs of SDAS. The auction is accessible throughout the festival, opening at the Welcome Mixer February 22 and closing during the Thank You Mixer on Feb 25. Item winners will be announced and can pick up their items through the end of the Festival.

SDAS Book Store

Baja Room

Find that title you've been looking for, a treasured classic, or the latest birding bestseller in our book store. The Book Store offers used and new field guides, collectible books, and children's books. Book donations are welcomed before and during the Festival. Proceeds benefit San Diego Audubon Society.



Daily Estuary Walks

Baja Atrium

Thursday through Saturday, join us from 3:00 to 4:00 for a free guided walk to the San Diego River, just South of the Marina Village Campus. You never know what you'll see!

Family Day

We're pleased to announce that February 26, 2017 will be Family Day at the Bird Festival. From 10:00 to 4:00, there will be many free activities, all celebrating the birds and habitats of San Diego through art, music, crafts, family field trips, guided walks, and more. Updated activities will be announced on the Bird Festival website.

Festival Merchandise and Lunches

Please visit the website for information about ordering lunches and festival merchandise.

<http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival>

Festival Event Schedule

We are pleased to offer a wide variety of field trips visiting every corner of San Diego County and workshops covering diverse topics. The events in this brochure are organized in chronological order. In the center of the brochure is a worksheet insert to aid you in the registration process. This can also be found online at <http://www.sandiegoaudubon.org/events/bird-festival>.

All trips depart from and return to the Marina Village Conference Center parking lot. Due to the roving nature of field trips, we ask that all participants join the trip at Marina Village. We cannot allow participants to meet us in the field. Workshops will take place in breakout rooms at Marina Village Conference Center.

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Welcome Mixer

February 22, 2017, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Check in with Registration and stay for some refreshments and entertainment. This is a great opportunity to orient yourself and meet some of the people you'll be birding with over the next few days. Rub elbows with sponsors, vendors, and other "cele-birdies."

Sponsored by Princeton University Press, publisher of a wide selection of natural history books, checklists and pocket guides, field guides and apps like Warbler Guide and BirdGenie Backyard.



W01 San Diego Hot Birding

February 22, 2017, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Cost: Free

You can find hot birding activities year round here in San Diego! From chasing local endemic species, to tracking down birds of conservation concern, or just plain old-fashioned patch birding, there is something for "everybirder" here in America's Birdiest County. Each calendar month brings new birding opportunities and challenges. Fasten your seat-belts as Gary Nunn shows us how the locals bird San Diego County, California.

Gary Nunn hails from England where he grew up birding in the county of Norfolk. He is now a professional scientist working in San Diego. Though has birded over 30 countries, he still enjoys "patch birding" in his own neighborhood.



W02 Raptor ID

February 22, 2017, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Cost: \$20.00

Raptors are beautiful creatures that have captured the human imagination for thousands of years. They have been feared, revered, persecuted, saved from extinction, and recognized as environmental indicators. These predators are variable in ecology, behavior and appearance but they can be relatively easy to identify, even at a distance....once you know what to look for.

Jeff Lincer is a Past President of the Raptor Research Foundation, and has worked on major raptor conservation projects from Alaska to Africa. He has published over 100 papers and served as an advisor to government offices and conservation programs worldwide.

Thursday, February 23, 2017

T01 Anza-Borrego Desert Trip

February 23, 2017, 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost: \$125.00

Anza-Borrego State Park contains all the rugged characteristics that most people associate with a desert environment. Even so, it is home to a variety of bird species. This full-day trip will leave early and arrive at the crest of Montezuma Grade to drop 3,700 feet to the desert floor as the sun rises.

Bob Miller is a birding guide specializing in the desert southwest where he was born and raised.

A skilled storyteller, he brings the geology, ecology and history of the desert to life. Bob Theriault is a retired Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Ranger, resident birder of Borrego Springs, and compiler of the Christmas Bird Count.



T02 San Diego 100

February 23, 2017, 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost: \$125.00

This popular trip is a whirlwind tour of San Diego County's hottest birding spots with a goal to list over 100 species. Expect to bird in the hills east of San Diego, inland wetlands, San Diego Bay, along the ocean and near the Mexican border.

Phil Pryde, a retired professor from San Diego State University, has been leading birding trips and teaching bird identification for over 25 years. The Kaufmans are our Special Guests for 2017.

T03 Hawk Alley I

February 23, 2017, 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Cost: \$125.00
Brought to you by VENT

VICTOR
EMANUEL
NATURE
TOURS

This field trip takes us to see the avian apex predators of several Southern California habitats. San Pasqual Valley is a cactus dominated Coastal Sage Scrub habitat bordered by agricultural lands. Dos Picos County Park is situated amidst rugged brush covered slopes northeast of San Diego, supporting Coast Live Oak woodland and chaparral vegetation on nearby slopes. The Santa Maria Valley is characterized by native grasslands.

Fred Sproul has lead Hawk Alley and Ramona bird trips for 20 years. Brennan Mulrooney is a San Diego local who leads tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

T04 Birding the Border I

February 23, 2017, 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$100.00

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican Border will explore fabled birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, the Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the J Street Marina.

Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours. Eitan Altman is a San Diego native who has been birding for over a decade.

T05 Coastal Refuges I

February 23, 2017, 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Cost: Free
Sponsored by San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex



San Diego's Coastal Wildlife Refuges are located at the south end of San Diego Bay and near the Mexico Border. During the winter season, a diverse variety of land and water birds can be observed at the protected areas south of San Diego Bay and the Tijuana Slough NWR. This trip includes "behind the gates" access to the "Salt Works" in South San Diego Bay, and to the mouth of the Tijuana River. The trip includes a stop at the Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center and surrounding trails wherein most years we have been very successful locating the endangered Light-footed Ridgway's Rail. Though the trip is free, seating is limited and registration is required.

Leaders provided by San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex.



T06 **Short and Sweet Famosa Slough**

February 23, 2017, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Cost: \$75.00

Join a small group of beginning and intermediate birders for a short trip to Famosa Slough, A birdy, urban tidal coastal wetland that was saved from development and restored by local citizens. If time permits, the group will also bird the San Diego river Estuary.

Jim Peugh sits on the San Diego Audubon Society Board of Directors as Conservation Chair, and is a leader in the effort to preserve Famosa Slough for future generations.

T07 **Wild Bird Photography** (Classroom only)

February 23, 2017, 9:00 AM - 11:45 AM
Cost: \$20.00

A basic workshop designed for the beginner or intermediate wild bird photographer. Topics include equipment, techniques, camera settings, locations, resources, and ethics.

Ernie Cowan is a noted photographer, lecturer, instructor and author. He is the author of Backyard Bird Watching, a monthly column in the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper.

T07A **Wild Bird Photography** (Classroom, lunch and field trip)

February 23, 2017, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$80.00

A basic workshop designed for the beginner or intermediate wild bird photographer. Topics include equipment, techniques, camera settings, locations, resources, and ethics. The workshop is followed by a field trip, where the principles taught in the workshop can be applied. There will be a short break for lunch, which is included in the price of this field trip.

Ernie Cowan is a noted photographer, lecturer, instructor and author. He is the author of Backyard Bird Watching, a monthly column in the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper.

T08 **Pelagic Bird ID: an introduction for Pelagic Trippers**

February 23, 2017, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
Cost: \$20.00

Beef up your ID skills before going on one of our famous pelagic trips. With John Sterling.

Field Trip Tips:

- Arrive early and prepared
- Bring extra layers and rain gear: springtime weather is unpredictable and sometimes wet
- Wear comfortable walking shoes
- Scopes and cameras are useful on most trips
- Scopes are not recommended on pelagic trips
- Bring water and snacks
- Bring a lunch. Lunches can be pre-ordered using our registration system.

T09 **Digiscoping with Swarovski Optik**

February 23, 2017, 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Cost: Free

Digiscoping is a way to get crisp photos of birds, using your camera or phone and a spotting scope. The experts from **Swarovski Optik** will show you how it is done.



T10 **Tricolor Blackbird Conservation in California**

February 23, 2017, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Cost: \$20.00

Declines in Tricolored Blackbird, a near-endemic species in California, has led to the bird being listed temporary as endangered and to consideration for permanent listing as of August, 2016. Audubon California's Working Lands staff in Sacramento has a dedicated Tricolored Blackbird staff led by Sammie Arthur that works closely with private landowners, federal and state refuges, and dairy and other industries to make sure that large blackbird colonies are not eliminated during harvest. In 2016, for the first time, the program was 100% successful in preventing harvests of colonies.

Audubon California will bring us up to date on this important conservation program of Audubon.

Estuary Walk

February 23, 2017, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Cost: Free

Each day, guides will be available to take small groups to the nearby San Diego River to look for birds.

Snacks and Suds

February 23, 2017, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Cost: Free

Visit our vendors in the Optics Expo and enjoy some light snacks. Local brews and wines are just \$1 each.



T11 **7 Fold Path to Better Birding**

February 23, 2017, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by Zeiss



Every beginning birder is slightly intimidated by the masters of the craft who lead the fieldtrips and post on the social media sites. Don't you wish there were a few basic precepts that would make you a better birder? With a dose of humor, Stephen Ingraham, Senior Brand Advocate for Birding and Wildlife Observation, brings you the 7 Fold Path to Better Birding. Everything the advanced birder wishes he or she had known right at the beginning.

Stephen Ingraham has been photographing nature for over 55 years, and has been a birder for 30. He became well known in the world of birding optics for his writing and reviews, and for 12 years served as the Birding and Nature Product Specialist for ZEISS Sports Optics. He is currently the Senior Brand Advocate for Birding and Wildlife Observation, and produces several nature photography blogs, including The Point and Shoot Nature Photographer.

T12 **Birdwatching and Bird Photography Tours in Portugal**

February 23, 2017, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by Birds & Nature Tours Portugal



Portugal is a wonderful birdwatching destination. Despite being a relatively small country, it boasts an excellent range of habitats. In practical terms, this means that any of these varied habitats can be reached without the need for lengthy travel.

Birds & Nature Tours Portugal is the longest established Portuguese company specifically dedicated to birds and birding tours. We offer you a wide variety of programmes, including guided birding and bird photography tours.

T13 **Parrots at their Roost: Evening Edition I**

February 23, 2017, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cost: \$40.00

San Diego is home to thousands of parrots, with 13 parrot species that have been seen throughout Southern California, three of which are known to be endangered. On this trip, we'll spend some time at a popular parrot roost, where we will see evening behaviors as the parrots wind down and prepare for bedtime. Here's an opportunity to practice your digiscoping and observe parrot social behaviors.

SoCal Parrot Staff will be on hand to point out the birds and interpret their behaviors.

T14 **Birds of Kenya**

February 23, 2017, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Cost: \$25.00

See the highlights of John Sterling's tour to Kenya from last November. His talk will be illustrated by the many photogenic birds and mammals encountered in this East African hotspot for wildlife. From the shores of the massive Lake Victoria, to the montane wilderness of Mt. Kenya, to the savannas of lion country, and to the unique coastal woodlands, John will take us on a virtual adventure of this wonderfully diverse country.

John Sterling has been a hard core birder in California since he was shown a Pileated Woodpecker in 5th grade camp in 1971. He is a professional ornithologist with his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), and had worked for many years for the Smithsonian Institution, US Forest Service research stations, HT Harvey & Associates, Arizona and Oregon state universities among other organizations.

Friday, February 24, 2017

F01 **Parrots at their Roost: Morning Edition I**

(Includes Breakfast)

February 24, 2017, 5:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Cost: \$50.00

Did you know that San Diego is home to thousands of parrots? There are 13 parrot species that have been seen throughout Southern California, three of which are known to be endangered. On this trip, we'll spend some time at a popular parrot roost, where we will see early morning behaviors as the parrots wake and prepare to "go to work for the day." Afterwards, we (the people, not the parrots) will stop at a cafe for a light breakfast. Here's an opportunity to practice your digiscoping and observe parrot social behaviors.

SoCal Parrot Staff will be on hand to point out the birds and interpret their behaviors.

F02 **Laguna and Cuyamaca Mountains**

February 24, 2017, 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$125.00

San Diego County's mountains provide diverse birding environments, consisting of mixed oak and conifer forests interspersed with expanses of grassland and chaparral from 4,000 to just over 6,000 feet in elevation. Bring adequate clothing for cold temperatures and footwear for walking in several inches of snow (it could happen). Expect trail hiking up to 2 miles over fairly level, wooded terrain.

Geoff Rogers is a wildlife biologist and long-time birder in southern California. Hank Ingersoll is a past president of the San Diego Field Ornithologists.

For up-to-the-minute information on availability of events, visit
www.sandiegoaudubon.org or email questions to hajj@sandiegoaudubon.org



F03 **Birding the Border II**

February 24, 2017, 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$100.00

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican Border will explore famed birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, the Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the J Street Marina.

Elizabeth Copper and Robert Patton are long-time birders in our area and biologists working with the Least Tern recovery program.

F04 **Inland Refuge**

February 24, 2017, 6:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Cost: Free

Sponsored by San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex

The San Diego National Wildlife Refuge is the inland and upstream counterpart to San Diego's Coastal National Wildlife Refuges. The willow and oak riparian corridor of the Sweetwater River and its adjacent sage scrub, chaparral, and grasslands support year-round resident species and winter visitors. Though this field trip is free, seating is limited and registration is required. Tour Note: Be prepared to walk a minimum of 1 mile at the first stop and 0.75 miles for the second stop over uneven terrain. There will be time to rest in vans between the two stops.

San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex staff lead this trip.

F05 **Pelagic Trip I**

February 24, 2017, 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$105.00

Join us aboard a large sportfishing boat for an excursion in the productive waters just off San Diego. Each trip will have a number of helpful, knowledgeable leaders who know the local area, and its seabirds and marine mammals. We will visit areas such as the 9-Mile Bank and the Coronado Escarpment, and will see birds not usually visible from shore. Each boat has roomy inside seating as well as seating on the ample deck space. The boat and crews are well-versed in getting us into position to see our quarry.

F06 **North County Lagoons**

February 24, 2017, 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Cost: \$100.00

North San Diego County boasts several important coastal wetlands. The wetlands encompass habitats as diverse as tidal salt marshes and mudflats, riparian woodlands, and sage scrub that support a wide range of species.

Christine Harvey is a permitted wildlife biologist for Leopold Biological Services and has been active in the San Diego birding community for over 25 years. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours.



F07 **Short and Sweet Santee Lakes**

February 24, 2017, 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM
Cost: \$75.00

This trip is perfect for folks looking for a short excursion and an easy pace. Santee Lakes are a series of artificial lakes built in a canyon in the 1960s. The lakes and surrounding area attract a large variety of ducks, herons, and other birds. This is the main breeding site for Wood Ducks in San Diego County. Beginners are welcome!

Sara Baase Mayers has been birding for 25 years and teaching for 40.

F08 **Binocular Basics in Tecolote Canyon**

February 24, 2017, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$75.00



Join a small group of birders to see the birds of Tecolote Canyon, an urban chaparral habitat. Optics experts from Nikon will be on hand to walk you through the features of some of their more popular lines of binoculars.

Anitra Kaye leads regular bird walks in Tecolote Canyon Natural Park.

F09 **Basics of Identifying Shorebirds**

February 24, 2017, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$20.00

The shorebirds – sandpipers, plovers, and their relatives – include some of our most impressive long-distance migrants. Their elegant shapes and subtle patterns make them favorites of many birders, but they can be tough to identify, especially for beginners. This program breaks down the challenge of shorebird ID to make it more manageable. We'll consider how to observe shorebirds, what to look for first, how to understand changes in plumage, and how to avoid common pitfalls. The goal is to spend our time enjoying these elegant migrants, rather than puzzling over their identity.

Kenn Kaufman is a renowned speaker and birder who has written many books, including a series of field guides.



F10 **Birding with Birding Ecotours**

February 24, 2017, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by Birding Ecotours



Birding Ecotours is proud to present this workshop/talk whereby we discuss the various birding tours we offer around the world. Whether it be to the famed Neotropics and its absolute plethora of species, or to our home region, Africa, complete with its many charismatic species and its large mammals, or to the forests of southeast Asia, home to perhaps the most famous of bird families; the Birds-of-Paradise, we will walk you through some of the highlights of travelling around the world on specific birding tours with us, and introduce you to some of the most exciting regions on the planet.

Birding Ecotours is a specialist bird-tour operator offering tours throughout the world. Quality is of paramount importance to us, and we limit our group sizes to a maximum of 6-8 participants.

Estuary Walk

February 24, 2017, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Cost: Free

Each day, guides will be available to take small groups to the nearby San Diego River to look for birds.

Snacks and Suds

February 24, 2017, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Cost: Free

Visit our vendors in the Optics Expo and enjoy some light snacks. Local brews and wines are just \$1 each.

F11 **Catch Me if you Can: How to Take Photos of Hummingbirds**

February 24, 2017, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00

Gain tips, tricks, and techniques that anyone can use. This presentation begins with photo fundamentals. Then it continues to show how these fundamentals apply to taking photos of perched and flying hummingbirds. And it includes over 100 photos as examples of what's possible. You'll enjoy this session, even if you have yet to own a camera. Bonus: You can use the ideas in this program to take better, more memorable photos of anything. Find more info at: <http://www.stevkaye.com/>

Steve Kaye is a professional photographer who uses his photos of birds to inspire respect for Nature. He has judged photo contests, spoken at bird festivals, and conducted classes on photography.

F12 **KEYNOTE RECEPTION**

Birds and the Undiscovered World

February 24, 2017, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$40.00

Join us for a cocktail hour, dinner and a program with **Kenn Kaufman**. The advances of modern science, and the reality of instant global communication, may lead us to assume that everything in our world is well known. But this is an illusion: in fact, the unknown is all around us, beginning right outside our doors. A close look at the world of birds and nature is enough to remind us that we are still surrounded by fascinating mysteries. Kenn will draw on the adventures of his own life to talk about the unknown realms of nature, the potential for discovery, and the power of personal observation to rekindle our sense of wonder.



Saturday, February 25, 2017

Sa01 **Anza-Borrego Desert Trip**

February 25, 2017, 5:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$125.00

See description for T01 on page 10.

Sa02 **Hawk Alley II**

February 25, 2017, 6:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Cost: \$125.00

Brought to you by VENT

This field trip takes us to see the avian apex predators of several Southern California habitats. San Pasqual Valley is a cactus dominated Coastal Sage Scrub habitat bordered by agricultural lands. Dos Picos County Park is situated amidst rugged brush covered slopes northeast of San Diego, supporting Coast Live Oak woodland and chaparral vegetation on nearby slopes. The Santa Maria Valley is characterized by native grasslands.



*Over the last four decades, **Dr. Jeff Lincer** has worked on major raptor projects from Alaska to Africa. He has been involved in the Raptor Research Foundation for many years. **Brennan Mulrooney** is a San Diego local who leads tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.*

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Sa03 **County Transect**

February 25, 2017, 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Cost: \$125.00

Covering a broad transect of San Diego County, you'll visit desert, mountains, and coast, to sample a broad diversity of Southern California species in one day.

John Sterling is a professional ornithologist with his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), and had worked for many years for the Smithsonian Institution, US Forest Service research stations, HT Harvey & Associates, Arizona and Oregon state universities among other organizations. Steve Ritt works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours.

Sa04 **Birding the Border III**

February 25, 2017, 6:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$100.00

This trip into the Tijuana River Valley along the Mexican Border will explore famed birding hotspots like Dairy Mart Pond, Border Field State Park, the Bird and Butterfly Garden, Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and the J Street Marina.

Jimmy McMorran is a biologist based out of San Diego who has birded and surveyed for a variety of bird species throughout the US. The Kaufmans are our Special Guests for 2017.

Sa05 **Pelagic Trip II**

February 25, 2017, 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$105.00

See description for F05 on page 15.

Sa06 **Coastal Refuges II**

February 25, 2017, 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM
Cost: Free

See description for T05 on page 11.

Sa07 **Short and Sweet Lake Murray**

February 25, 2017, 7:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$75.00

Located just 15 minutes from Downtown San Diego, and adjacent to the extensive native coastal sage scrub habitat of Mission Trails Regional Park, Lake Murray offers easy access to a wide variety of resident and migratory birds. In addition to sage scrub specialties such as California Gnatcatcher, Thrasher, Quail and Towhee, this is one of the easiest spots to tick the now "countable" Scaly-breasted Munia.

Eitan Altman is a San Diego native who has been birding for over a decade.

Sa08 **Rocky Shores**

February 25, 2017, 7:00 AM - 1:30 PM
Cost: \$75.00

Rock Jetties, breakwaters and natural rocky cliffs—some of San Diego's most spectacular coastal scenery—are inhabited by a select and fascinating variety of birds. Trip participants will observe the unique birds of the seacoast. We'll also scan the ocean for pelagics. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Easy walking.

Stan Walens has spent the last 32 years studying the ocean off La Jolla, amassing an extensive knowledge of San Diego's rich seabird life.

Sa09 **Dance with Grebes at Lake Hodges**

February 25, 2017, 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Cost: \$80.00

With over 150 different bird species that either live at Lake Hodges permanently, or just pass through, the lake is a bird watcher's dream. Especially lovely are the Western and Clark's Grebes, and Eared Grebes. The Grebes breed on the lake in the winter months and courting happens between December – early March. We hope to see a "show" or two. A 1.5 mile easy walk to the area will also give us the opportunity to spot a few dozen other bird species. Bring your cameras, since many of these birds we may be able to observe quite closely.

Krisztina Scheeff is a wildlife and nature photographer who has spent months studying the Grebes on Lake Hodges. Her interest in photographing wildlife is to being able to share with others who may not otherwise get the opportunity. <http://www.ksnaturephotography.com/> Joao Jara leads birding and nature tours in Portugal.



Sa10 Birds of San Diego Zoo

February 25, 2017, 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Cost: \$80.00



Spend the morning birding at the world-famous San Diego Zoo, located in Balboa Park. The Zoo is 100 acres in size and houses over 4,000 animals comprised of more than 800 species from the forests and jungles of the world. The Zoo has an impressive collection of birds, featuring three large, beautifully landscaped walk-in aviaries as well as many smaller enclosures for birds. Experience a world-class showcase of exotic birds and rarities that you might never have a chance to see in the wild, as well as a variety of native, migrant and seasonal resident birds. Zoo Admission included.

Ed Henry is a Past President of the San Diego Audubon Society.

Sa11 Balboa Park and the Nat

February 25, 2017, 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Cost: \$80.00



Balboa Park is a unique urban park, an oasis for wildlife within the city landscape. Phil Unitt of the San Diego Natural History Museum will take this small group for some birding in the park, and then for a behind-the-scenes peek at the museum's avian collection, including a fascinating demonstration of a bird skin preparation. Admission to the Nat is included.

Phil Unitt is the project manager of the comprehensive San Diego County Bird Atlas, published in 2004.

Sa12 Kayak Trip I

February 25, 2017, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$60.00

Our popular birding by Kayak Trip returns to Mission Bay! Join Jim Peugh, a frequent kayaker on our bays, as he takes this small group to visit the edges of salt marshes and open water areas to get close-up views of bird life. Shorebirds, herons, and other species await as we enter their habitat in a truly special manner. If you have ever wanted to try kayaking, this is the trip for you. Participants will receive training. Tandem kayaks are provided. As with any boating activity, you may get wet. For your comfort, bring along a dry change of clothing.

Jim Peugh sits on the San Diego Audubon Society Board of Directors as Conservation Chair.



Reduce-Reuse-Recycle

Please help birds by reducing waste.
Bring your own reusable water bottle and
reusable coffee mug to the Festival.

Sa13 Japanese Brush Painting

February 25, 2017, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$20.00

Join your fellow birders for a time of reflection and drawing while learning about Japanese Brush Painting. We'll sit down with our brushes, ink and paper to capture the essence of birds. Enjoy the experience of combining your eyes, hand and heart in this ancient Eastern tradition.

Gaye Lingley graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in 1975 with a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education and two teaching credentials. She earned her Master Teacher designation ("Sensei") in Sumi-E Japanese Brush Painting in 2012.



Sa14 Intro to Birding Optics

February 25, 2017, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Cost: Free

Sponsored by Out of This World Optics



Join Marilyn Rose, co-owner of Out of This World Optics, who will walk you through some of the more popular brands of optics available today. She'll help you understand how to find the optics which suit you best. Out of this World is the largest optics seller in northern and central California.

Sa15 Shared Spaces: Working together to save Florida's Endangered Species

February 25, 2017, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM
Cost: Free

Sponsored by Space Coast Birding Festival



The Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) is an overlay of NASA's John F. Kennedy Space Center, where the world's most advanced technology launched man into space. However, there is another "space" here - one whose habitats support one of the highest numbers of endangered and threatened species found within the National Wildlife Refuge System. MINWR is one of three strongholds for the Florida Scrub Jay which is Florida's only endemic bird, with less than 8,000 left in the world. Learn how multiple entities, working together, are achieving conservation success.

Barb Eager is Executive Director of the Brevard Nature Alliance, which produces the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.

Sa16 **Point and Shoot For Wildlife**

February 25, 2017, 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by Zeiss



Bird and wildlife photography is no longer the exclusive domain of the well equipped DSLR/long lens photographer. With today's Point and Shoot cameras, behind a spotting scope, or the superzoom bridge cameras on their own, it is possible...it is easy...to bring back satisfying images of the birds and wildlife you observe. Join Stephen Ingraham, Senior Brand Advocate for Birding and Wildlife Observation at ZEISS Sports Optics, to find out how, beginning with camera and scope choice and progressing through field techniques.

Stephen Ingraham has been photographing nature for over 55 years, and has been a birder for 30. He became well known in the world of birding optics for his writing and reviews, and, for 12 years served as the Birding and Nature Product Specialist for ZEISS Sports Optics. He is currently the Senior Brand Advocate for Birding and Wildlife Observation, and produces several nature photography blogs, including The Point and Shoot Nature Photographer.

Sa17 **Little Brown Jobbers ID**

February 25, 2017, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00

Sponsored by Opticron



Do you know the "little brown jobbers?" It's the name we give to the indistinctly marked small birds we see everywhere we go. This workshop will help simplify the task of identifying these birds for beginners, and provide a nice review for more seasoned birders. For best results, bring your favorite field guide.

Phil Pryde, past president of San Diego Audubon Society, interprets.

Sa18 **The Wonderful Life of a Dying Tree**

February 25, 2017, 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Cost: Free

Out of sight, out of mind aptly describes the steady decline of available dead and dying trees for birds and wildlife. **Gillian Martin**, founder and Director of the The Cavity Conservation Initiative (CCI) in Southern California will present a program on the value of dead trees and will share the scope of the CCI's efforts to protect this undervalued and disappearing habit.

Estuary Walk

February 25, 2017, 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Cost: Free

Each day, guides will be available to take small groups to the nearby San Diego River to look for birds.

Thank You Mixer

February 25, 2017, 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cost: Free

Sponsored by Kowa



Mix and mingle at this last full evening of scheduled events at the Bird Festival and your last chance to bid on Silent Auction items!

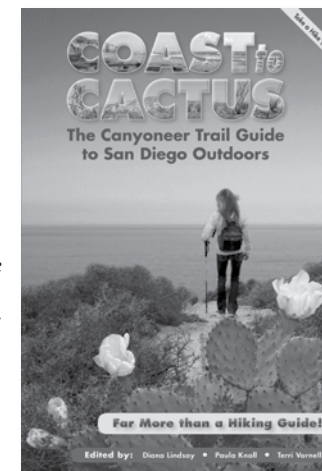
Sa19 **Coast to Cactus: The Canyoneer Trail Guide to San Diego Outdoors**

February 25, 2017, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

Cost: Free

This newly published trail guide is far more than a hiking guide to the San Diego County outdoors; it introduces the habitats and species, as well as cultural and geographic features, of each exploration. It is like having a trail naturalist - a "Virtual Canyoneer" - by your side. It is designed to teach appreciation and understanding of San Diego County, considered one of the 24 biodiversity hotspots in the world.

Canyoneers are volunteer citizen scientists trained by the San Diego Natural History Museum to lead free public walks throughout the county. Participants on these public walks are encouraged to look at the surroundings to see what makes it special—to stop, look, listen, touch, smell, and examine—to understand the interactions in nature. Check the Canyoneer website for a listing of guided walks: www.sdnat.org/canyoneers. The Canyoneers also write a weekly hike column called "Roam-O-Rama" for the San Diego Reader. The hikes in this book are based on the weekly articles written by the Canyoneers.

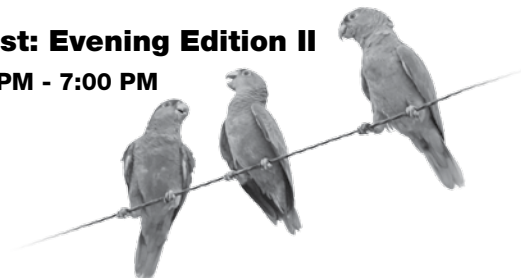


Sa20 **Parrots at their Roost: Evening Edition II**

February 25, 2017, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Cost: \$40.00

See description for T13 on page 14.



Stay up to date with all that's happening in our 2017 Festival.
Become our friend on facebook. www.facebook.com/sdbirdfestival



Sa21 Birds and People, A Powerful Connection

February 25, 2017, 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Cost: \$20.00

With rich, vibrant colors, beautiful and bizarre songs, intricate nests, and astonishing feats of migration, birds enrich our lives in myriad ways. In this lively and beautifully illustrated presentation, **Kimberly Kaufman** will explore a few of the reasons she believes birds captivate us beyond any other aspect of nature, and why natural areas are essential components of our quality of life.

Sa22 iNaturalist Talk

February 25, 2017, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cost: \$20.00

Learn about iNaturalist, an exciting online citizen science program tracking birds, plants, insects, reptiles, mammals, fishes, arachnids, amphibians, fungi, kelps, and mollusks.

*A longtime avid San Diego area birder and guide, **BJ Stacey** has expanded his interest to cover all the fauna and flora that he can find, with over 4,200 species photographed (679 of them birds). He routinely enters his data into iNaturalist, eBird, CalFlora and BAMONA.*



Sunday, February 26, 2017

Su01 Parrots at their Roost: Morning Edition II

(Breakfast included)

February 26, 2017, 5:45 AM - 9:00 AM

Cost: \$50.00

See description for F01 on page 14.

Su02 San Diego 100 II

February 26, 2017, 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$125.00

Sponsored by Leica



This popular trip is a whirlwind tour of San Diego County's hottest birding spots with a goal to list over 100 species. Expect to bird in the hills east of San Diego, inland wetlands, San Diego Bay, along the ocean and near the Mexican border.

***Steve Ritt** works as an avian biologist and is a leader for Wildside Nature Tours. **Raymond Van Buskirk** is a passionate environmentalist, vegetarian and hipster birder whose love for nature was born in the pine forests of the Land of Enchantment. His career experience includes former president of the Central New Mexico Audubon Society, owner and lead guide of BRANT Nature Tours (www.BrantTours.com), field ornithologist, ABA young birder camp instructor and the Birding Product Specialist for Leica Sport Optics.*

Su03 Pelagic Trip III

February 26, 2017, 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: \$105.00

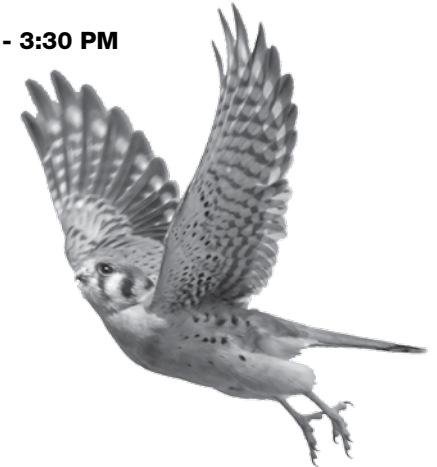
See description for F05 on page 15.

Su04 Coastal Refuges III

February 26, 2017, 7:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Cost: Free

See description for T05 on page 11.



Su05 Birding by Ear (Workshop only)

February 26, 2017, 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Cost: \$20.00

How many times have you tried to see a bird with an obscured or distant view, and could not be certain of the species? Learning to identify birds by their songs and calls may help. Most land birds are easily identified by their sounds. This course is intended for birders who have some basic knowledge of visual identification of common chaparral birds and wish to improve their birding skills. Select this item if you wish to attend the 1 hour workshop only.

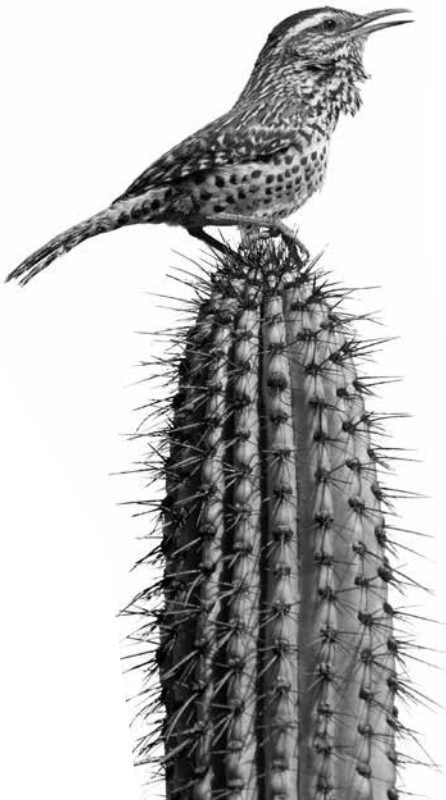
Hank Ingersoll is a past president of San Diego Field Ornithologists.

Su05A Birding By Ear (Workshop and Field Trip)

February 26, 2017, 7:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Cost: \$75.00

Following a 1 hour workshop, we will go to Tecolote Canyon and put our new skills into practice. The trip involves a 1.5 mile walk on even terrain.

Hank Ingersoll is a past president of San Diego Field Ornithologists. Geoff Rogers is a wildlife biologist and long-time birder in southern California.



Su06 iNaturalist Trip

February 26, 2017

8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

Cost: \$75.00

When the birds aren't cooperating, what's a birder to do? Maybe explore the world on non-avian life! This field trip extends the learning from the iNaturalist workshop. We'll visit a few different biomes to search for as many living organisms as possible. A camera (or smartphone with a camera) is highly recommended.

A longtime avid San Diego area birder and guide, BJ Stacey has expanded his interest to cover all the fauna and flora that he can find, with almost 6,000 species photographed (706 of them birds). He routinely enters his data into iNaturalist, eBird, CalFlora and BAMONA and other citizen science programs.



Su07 Kayak Trip II

February 26, 2017, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: \$60.00

See description for Sa11 on page20.

Su08 Short and Sweet Tecolote Canyon

February 26, 2017, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Cost: \$75.00

Centuries ago, the Kumeyaay Indians found food and shelter in Tecolote Canyon and named it after its resident owls. The first colonial settlers began farming in the canyon in 1872, and grazing continued there until 1953. The City of San Diego acquired the land in 1978, setting it aside as a nature park. Join a small group of birders to see this place, where numerous resident songbirds and raptors can be seen alongside migrants. This trip is perfect for folks looking for a short excursion at an easy pace. Beginners welcome.

Anitra Kaye leads regular bird walks in Tecolote Canyon Nature Park.

Family Day



at the San Diego Bird Festival

Presented by San Diego Audubon Society

**Come enjoy a day of family-friendly events
Designed for all ages!**

FREE!

February 26 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Marina Village Conference Center

1936 Quivira Way, Mission Bay Park

- Nature Walks guided by Professional Birders
- Bird Watching and Identification
- Animal Demonstrations
- Workshops
- Live Music and Entertainment
- Interactive Activities and Crafts
- Featuring animals and exhibits from Living Coast Discovery Center, Project Wildlife (a program of San Diego Humane Society), Avian Behavior International and many more
- Food!



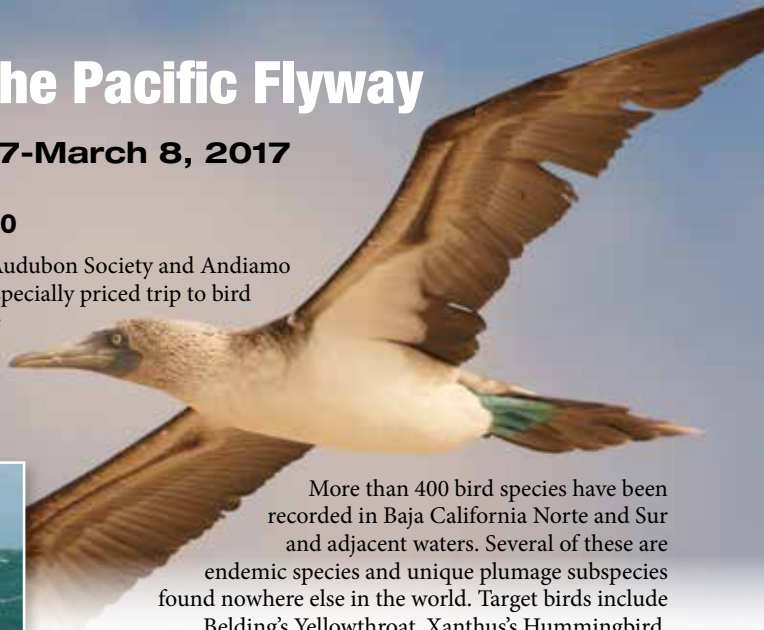
SAN DIEGO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Follow the Pacific Flyway

February 27-March 8, 2017

Cost: \$2,320.00

Join the San Diego Audubon Society and Andiamo Travel for a 10-day, specially priced trip to bird all 1,063 miles of the stunning and rugged Baja Peninsula, Mexico.



More than 400 bird species have been recorded in Baja California Norte and Sur and adjacent waters. Several of these are endemic species and unique plumage subspecies found nowhere else in the world. Target birds include Belding's Yellowthroat, Xanthus's Hummingbird, Gray Thrasher, and the Mangrove Warbler.

The trip includes a stopover to visit a California Gray Whale Sanctuary. The trip departs from Bird Festival Headquarters in a comfortable, private motor coach that will be the primary means of transport on the journey down the Peninsula. At the conclusion of the trip in San Jose Del Cabo, participants will fly to their home destination.

TRIP INCLUDES

- Comfortable private transportation from San Diego to Los Cabos
- Nine nights accommodations
- All meals. Snacks and drinking water during driving time
- All visits and side excursions described in the itinerary
- Permit to enter Mexico
- Services of experienced in-country birding guide and Andiamo guide
- Taxes and tips of included meals and hotels

NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare from Los Cabos back to the U.S., estimated at \$200 to \$400 one way from Los Cabos to San Diego. Items of a personal nature are not included in the trip price. Andiamo is available to work with participants on return air reservations.
- Tip to driver and guides



PLEASE NOTE You will need a passport that is valid 6 months after the date of this trip.

COST \$2,320.00 per person in double occupancy, excluding airfare. Single supplement \$400.

LEADERS In-country expert birding and cultural guides from Andiamo Travel

RESERVATIONS The Birding Baja trip is booked directly with Andiamo Travel. Call (619) 632-4571 or visit www.andiamo-travel.com. Contact Rosa Maria Guerra rosa@andiamo-travel.com

Sponsored by **Andiamo**
Tour Mexico





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San Diego Bird Festival

February 23-26, 2017