

Sketches

MARCH / APRIL 2020 • VOLUME 71 • NUMBER 4

SAN DIEGO AUDUBON

Save Our Countryside

*Measure A
is critical to the
efforts to protect
our county's
wild places*

*Introducing
San Diego
Audubon's new
executive director*

The Black Oaks of our montane habitats symbolize the unique biodiversity of our backcountry, now at increased risk because of the possibility of careless overdevelopment. Measure A helps us fight back.

The Importance of Approving Measure A for

by Phil Pryde, board member of San Diegans for Managed Growth, sponsors of the initiative

In a few days you will have the opportunity to vote on Measure A (also known as the Save Our Countryside [SOS] initiative) in the March 3 primary election. The San Diego Audubon Society has endorsed Measure A. It is important for SDAS members to understand why this initiative is so desirable for San Diego County, especially for its birds and other wildlife.

Measure A will have numerous benefits for our county, including:

- *Helps keep bird and other wildlife habitat intact and viable into the future*
- *Reduces fire risk by keeping development, cars, and power lines out of flammable areas*
- *Keeps San Diego's rural environments attractive for all to enjoy; prevents sprawl*
- *Saves taxpayer money by not having to build and maintain costly new infrastructure*
- *Helps reduce future traffic congestion and carbon emissions on rural two-lane roads*
- *Protects farmlands, which provide locally grown fresh food, among other things*
- *Encourages development in the right places: near existing towns, villages, and transit, as the General Plan provides, and not in the rural backcountry*

county at all. To the contrary, it's designed to direct future growth to the 60,000 housing units already approved for development in the unincorporated areas. These parcels are provided for in the adopted General Plan for the county, an award-winning 13-year effort that has broad community support and was approved 9 years ago by the Board of Supervisors.

By mainly locating these 60,000 housing units primarily where there are existing roads, schools, sewers, and fire stations, these homes are less expensive to build. Yet developers prefer to buy cheap land in rural locations and then ask the county to upzone these parcels to allow more intensive developments. This process ultimately requires more money from county taxpayers while generating more profit for the builders.

Other benefits of Measure A

Two major benefits of Measure A need to be emphasized. The first is that it will help prevent devastating fires in the backcountry. Careless people or downed transmission lines cause most of our worst fires. Measure A will reduce these risks in the backcountry. And it's not just the backcountry: Both the deadly 2003 Cedar fire and the 2007 Witch Creek fire burned westward well into the highly populated coastal zone. The second is that it will help preserve bird and other wildlife habitats, both for birds that are here year-round as well as those that migrate to

our land and water habitats. A good example is the Golden Eagle, which is down (by a recent count) to 49 active nests in the county, all in the backcountry. The Golden Eagle likes its privacy and needs many square miles of foraging habitat in order to successfully raise chicks. A major subdivision would probably cause any nearby pair of eagles to abandon their site.

The California Gnatcatcher, Coastal Cactus Wren, Burrowing Owl, and several other bird species were heavily impacted by both the Cedar and the Witch Creek fires. Large areas of habitat for the threatened California Gnatcatcher in particular were lost in these fires. Major subdivisions in the backcountry could intensify future fires and increase both the acreage and level of damage to native habitat.

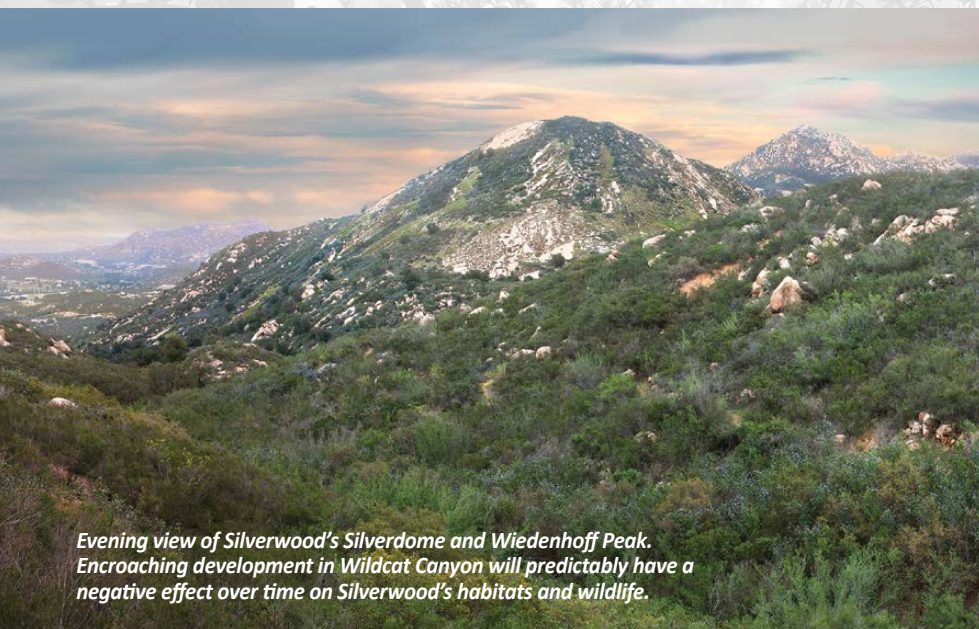
Some commonly asked questions about Measure A

Why is the initiative needed?

At present, the County Supervisors need just 3 votes to amend the General Plan to greatly increase housing densities in rural areas. Unfortunately, a majority of the supervisors are happy to do this to say "thank you" to the developers who regularly fund their re-election campaigns. An example would be the grossly oversized Lilac Hills Measure that was proposed a few years ago. It was put on the ballot for approval, but the public rejected it by a wide margin. Measure A will help end these deals and will give all county voters a voice on controversial General Plan changes.

But don't we need more housing?

Yes, but not the high-cost housing in these proposed rural mega-projects. We should be building the housing that's now allowed by the



Evening view of Silverwood's Silverdome and Wiedenhoff Peak. Encroaching development in Wildcat Canyon will predictably have a negative effect over time on Silverwood's habitats and wildlife.

The goals of Measure A

The primary objective of Measure A is to prevent further subdivision sprawl in rural San Diego County by encouraging developers to build where there is existing infrastructure and water supplies, away from more rural, fire-prone areas.

It requires that proposed General Plan Amendments allowing large housing developments in rural parts of the county, if approved by the Board of Supervisors, be ratified by a vote of the public. They can be built only if the electorate (you and I) approve them. The initiative doesn't decrease the number of new homes that can be built in the

San Diego County

adopted General Plan. As noted, backcountry housing is not lower-cost affordable housing; it's expensive due to the amount of new infrastructure needed, and the necessity of adding fire-protection measures.

Does this initiative prohibit any housing that's now allowed?

No, Measure A bans nothing. Any statements you may see to the contrary are inaccurate. The 60,000 new homes now permitted by the County's General Plan can still be built. Even proposed large rural subdivisions could be built if the voters approve them.

What about small property owners?

Small increases in density (lot splits, etc.) for smaller property owners are still allowed under Measure A. If these developable parcels are

within non-rural zones in already partially developed areas (called "villages" in the General Plan), they are exempt from the provisions of Measure A.

Does Measure A affect all development?

No; Measure A applies only to proposed housing developments that can only be built if the County's General Plan is changed. It doesn't affect commercial zones, and affordable housing projects are specifically exempt. It applies only to rural and semi-rural portions of the unincorporated areas of the county; it has no effect in the 18

cities. Some cities already have similar ordinances, including Escondido, Carlsbad, and Encinitas.

Isn't this initiative "ballot box planning"? Many people don't like ballot box planning.

Measure A does no planning. It doesn't affect zoning, transportation, or any other aspects of regional planning. It only seeks to have development conform to the regulations of the existing General Plan. You could better think of it as "ballot box regulations enforcement."

Who is funding Measure A?

As of this writing, all contributions to the Yes on Measure A campaign have come from sources within southern California. Measure A is a grassroots campaign run by volunteers dedicated to protecting San Diego's backcountry.

Want to learn more about Measure A?

You can visit the "YES on SOS" website at saveourscountryside.org, as well as its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/saveourscountryside/.

In 2018, 115,000 county residents signed petitions to put Measure A on the March 3 ballot. It now needs all the support that county residents can provide from social media, donations, and volunteers if it is to be passed. The Building Industry Association of San Diego is spending heavily to run misleading ads to try to defeat Measure A. We can't match their money, so we rely on the support of people like you who care about our environment and the future of our region.

San Diego Audubon Society urges you to support and vote "Yes" on Measure A and to ask your friends to support it, as well. Among other benefits, it will help keep rural San Diego County a hospitable place for our birds and other wildlife, which is a prime goal of San Diego Audubon. We hope you will help.

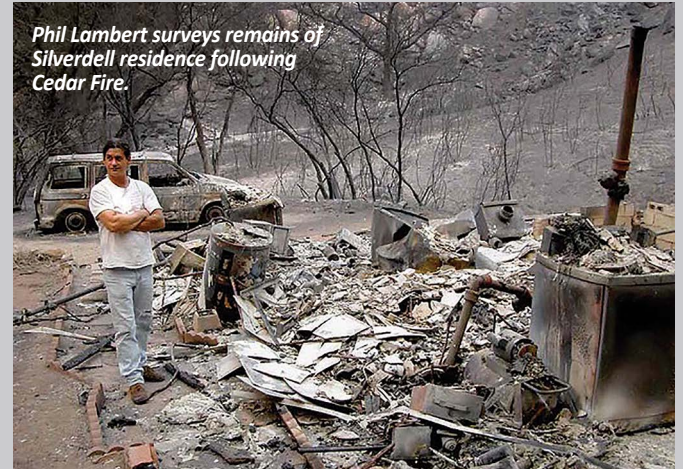


Golden Eagle by Steve Brad.

Chaparral, oaks, and fire: survival strategies

Chaparral and oak trees are the signature vegetation of our Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary. How they've adapted to fire is instructive and can be helpful to us as well.

Chaparral, as you probably know, has to burn occasionally, as does the oak-chaparral biome at higher elevations. But it doesn't have to burn in huge destructive fires. Fires south of the border in northern Baja (generally left to burn naturally) tend to be smaller in expanse, and less destructive. It is often suggested that we may be trying too hard to prevent all chaparral fires, because if an area hasn't burned in many decades, when it does burn, the fire will be larger, hotter, and more difficult to put out. This was the case with the deadly Cedar fire that burned Silverwood to the ground in 2003. Larger fires will obviously have worse consequences for wildlife as well, as Australia is tragically finding out. Building subdivisions in chaparral-dominated rural areas that have inadequate evacuation routes only further endangers people. This is a main reason why Measure A is needed.



Oak trees are more fire resistant than chaparral. Even if all their foliage is lost in a fire, if their trunks are not fatally burned, new foliage will sprout from their trunks and heavier limbs fairly quickly. But here is where a new factor comes into play: climate change. In order for the oak tree to produce new foliage and regain its health after a fire, it must have access to ground water. However, if climate change is making the region drier than in the past, the oaks may be unable to defend themselves against enemies such as oak borer beetles. This is what happened at Silverwood; more oak trees were lost *after* the 2003 fire than during it.

In addition, oak trees can protect us from fires. Mature oaks with dense foliage on the windward side can protect dwellings because the dense foliage can direct the wind-driven burning embers up and over the adjacent buildings. This is what happened at Stelzer County Park just south of Silverwood; although all of its buildings are wooden, none burned because the large surrounding oak trees protected them from embers and flames. Farther inland, the beautiful oak parkland is less subject to destruction because the ground cover is slower-burning grasses, rather than chaparral.

The importance of understanding the relationships connecting the natural environment, climate patterns, and adverse human alterations can't be overstated in a fire-prone region such as San Diego County. Losses from fires can be reduced if we make intelligent choices. Voting "Yes" on Measure A is an excellent place to start.

Education SDAS

Generous funders help expand programs

Rebekah Angona, Director of Education

Every year, we are excited to bring new and returning students out into the diverse habitats of San Diego, and this school year has been our most exciting yet! We have so many wonderful partners and funders to thank for another adventure-filled school year in nature. And who better to explain how much fun we have been having than the students themselves? Following are some quotes from our students, as well as some highlights and acknowledgments from our programs this year.

What students are saying

“I want to come on my next vacation here!” – *OutdoorExplore student from Wegeforth Elementary*

“We should do OutdoorExplore with you every few months so that we could see the changes that happen each season.” – *OutdoorExplore student from Myrtle S. Finney Elementary*

“I thought the field trip was going to be boring since we weren’t going to be allowed in the water, but it turned out to be my favorite field trip ever!” *Sharing our Shores: Western Snowy Plover fourth-grade student*

New programs announced

We’ve expanded our Sharing our Shores programs yet again to include two threatened and endangered species. Our Sharing our Shores: Western Snowy Plover program has returned, engaging third and fourth grade students from Silver Strand Elementary. Through in-class lessons and a field trip to the Silver Strand State Beach, students were able to learn about and observe Western Snowy Plovers in their native habitat. Sharing our Shores: Kendall Frost Marsh kicked off this year with students from Kate Sessions Elementary. In third grade, these students learned about the California Least Tern by visiting and preparing tern nesting sites at Mariner’s Point. This year, as fourth graders, these same students expanded their learning by (a) studying the Ridgway’s Rail, (b) visiting Kendall Frost Marsh to see the rails’ nesting habitat, and (c) restoring coastal sage scrub habitats by planting native species.

Working together with school districts

Our education programs continue to partner with school districts throughout the county, providing programs to third- through eighth-grade students throughout Anstine Adventures, OutdoorExplore, Sharing our Shores: South Bay, and Silverwood Science Discovery programs. We would like to thank the following funders for their generous support in allowing us to provide thousands of student visits to nature this year.

Funders

Audubon California
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Heller Foundation
Nordson Foundation
Port of San Diego
Schoenith Foundation
San Diego Gas & Electric
Tippett Foundation



(Top right) Anstine Adventures fosters enthusiasm for nature, while Share our Shores students (above) scan the Kendall-Frost marsh for Light-footed Ridgway Rails.

Silverwood Scene

Invasive species threaten San Diego's native habitats

by Phillip Lambert, Silverwood Resident Manager

Invasive plant species can tell us, sometimes at a glance, a lot about the health of our ecosystems in California. On a recent drive along Interstate 5 from San Diego north to the city of Redding, it was evident to me that there aren't a lot of healthy native habitats left in our state. Plant invasions are one big reason why.

Invasive plant species are recognized as a significant threat to biodiversity conservation worldwide, as plants are being moved around the globe like never before. Many of these will inevitably become invasive in their new homes, harming the environment and regional economies. Climate change increases the challenge of stopping the spread of invasive plants.

One way that invasions can affect native ecosystems is by changing what's known as an environment's "fuel properties," which can affect fire behavior and potentially increase the frequency, intensity, and other characteristics of fires. As more components of an ecosystem are altered and their interactions changed, restoring an area to its pre-invasion conditions becomes increasingly difficult. Restoration may require managing native plant communities and addressing the fuel conditions, along with many other factors beyond those caused by invaders that led to the changes in the first place.

The problem is not only detrimental to our environment; it's expensive. According to the California Invasive Plant Council, invasive plants cost California at least \$82 million dollars per year just for control, monitoring, and outreach. Of that total, \$13 million is shouldered by nonprofits such as San Diego Audubon, in addition to land trusts and conservancies. Most of the rest comes from federal and state agencies.

In the habitats surrounding Silverwood, we can clearly see the impact of invasive plants. Though there are still areas with pristine chaparral, they are being destroyed at an alarming rate. Development is the biggest culprit—native hillsides of mixed chaparral are being completely cleared for new homes. This also disturbs the soils, allowing the invasive intruders to flourish. As new dirt is trucked in with heavy equipment for backfilling pads, invasive seeds are introduced to the area and begin their domination. The introduction then can spread into the surrounding unaffected habitat and begin the steady demise of healthy native habitat.

Over the years, teams from San Diego Audubon have been working on invasive plant removal surrounding Silverwood and have been successful in restoring many sites, allowing native annual flowering species to flourish. One of the worst invasive plants in the Wildcat Canyon area is African Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), a common ornamental bunch grass used for landscaping. The

windblown seeds spread rapidly through out all the ranges in the area and crowd out native plants. Though here at Silverwood we have eliminated the species in most accessible areas, it continues to spread in less accessible sites. Out across the open slab areas of our beloved Silverdome, fountain grasses are spreading rapidly, and reaching well into the El Capitan mountain range to the east.

Fortunately there are efforts to reverse this problem. In the El Capitan Open Space Preserve, atop the El Capitan summits, they have begun the battle to eradicate fountain grasses. One of their primary means

for getting equipment out to these sites is to helicopter supplies and crews in. At Silverwood we have allowed the use of open sites for landing and loading up supplies to fly out to these sites, helping to reduce the spread of more seeds into our sanctuary.

At Silverwood, plant species identification has been an ongoing project since the first manager, Frank Gander, began collecting and identifying species in 1966. Today, over half a century later, we're still identifying and adding new species to the Silverwood plant list. During 2019 we added four new native species, including the Common Chaffweed (*Anagallis minima*) and the Hairy-Fruit Buttercup (*Ranunculus sceleratus*).



African Fountain Grass is a widespread invasive, unfortunately well established on the slopes of Silverdome (shown) and Wiedenhoff. Photo by Phil Lambert.

SILVERWOOD CALENDAR

MARCH

March 1, 8, 15, 22 (Sundays) — Open visitation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; guided nature hikes at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

March 29 (Sunday) — Open visitation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Special theme hike, "Wild Flowers in Bloom," 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 (Wednesdays) — Open visitation from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

APRIL

April 5, 19, 26 (Sundays) — Open visitation from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; guided nature hikes at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

April 12 (Sunday) — Happy Easter! Special theme hike, "Silverwood's Wild Flowers," at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (Wednesdays) — Open visitation from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Call 619-443-2998 for information. Silverwood is located at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Road in Lakeside. Watch closely on the right for the entrance sign.

Some unexpected expenses have impacted the Silverwood budget. The team is looking for a few "angels" to help support some of the extra costs. Silverwood always appreciates volunteers to help with the trail clearing and many other ongoing projects. To offer assistance and to make donations, please contact Phillip Lambert at 619-443-2998.

The search has ended... Travis Kemnitz is San Diego Audubon's new Executive Director

When San Diego Audubon's Executive Director Chris Redfern first gave notice of the move his family was making to Boston, we were faced with the major challenge of finding a replacement who could build on his 14-year legacy and help us achieve the next level of impact on the conservation and education needs of our region. In July, 2019 we hired Blair Search Partners, an executive search firm that specializes in nonprofit staffing needs, and launched a nationwide quest for the right candidate. After months of resumé evaluations, rounds of intensive interviewing, and thorough coordination with Chris Redfern and the rest of our staff, the board offered the position to Travis Kemnitz. He will be officially assuming duties in the middle of February.



Travis comes to us from the Ocean Discovery Institute, where he was highly thought of as an inspired leader, educator, and environmental champion. Throughout his 20 years of service, he has addressed inequities in access to science,

conservation education, and careers for underserved youth.

Travis comes with a skill set very well matched to the needs of the position, with strong experience in nonprofit business operations and board development, and with solid credentials in fundraising, human resources, and program visioning. He shares our emerging focus on diversity/equity/inclusion initiatives. Travis has a passion for travel, adventure, scuba diving, mountain biking, soaking up nature's beauty, and most of all, his family. He is a RISE San Diego Urban Leadership Fellows alumnus and holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of San Diego.

We're grateful for our entire Board of Directors, who all stepped up and contributed in important and even sacrificial ways during this process. Special thanks goes to Eowyn Bates who led the Search Committee. We also acknowledge our staff, many of whom took on extra responsibility during this transition when Chris was working half-time from across the nation, and were helpful with their support and unique perspective. Again, we appreciate Chris Redfern for the many ways in which he provided a steady hand to our efforts to keep San Diego Audubon moving forward with confidence and energy.

We welcome Travis to the San Diego Audubon family and know you will look forward to meeting him. We are planning a series of opportunities to do just that, which will be communicated when they are firmly scheduled. *David Stump, San Diego Audubon President*

Anstine Ambles

Peering into the mysterious world of gall wasps

Arminda Stump, Anstine Committee Member

There's a trail at Anstine, just after the bridge, that feels like an otherworldly portal. It's a single narrow path, wide enough for two to walk side by side. Cattails line the pond on the right, a tangle of growth and murk and vibrant life. To the left is the oak forest, leaves in an ever-changing state of green to gold. The forest has a presence there, sticks snapping as birds flit about. If you're lucky you'll hear the quick call of a Northern Flicker or see Spotted Towhees foraging amongst the leaves. Dappled light dances along the trail and there's an ever-present feeling of being watched.

It's here that some of my favorite Anstine residents can be found: the gall wasps.

As you walk along the trail, look up. Hidden amongst the acorns and leaves are strange growths of wood, hanging like ornaments or twisted into the branches themselves. These are *galls*, named so because of their bitter taste, like bile from a gallbladder. Galls come in a myriad of shapes, sizes, and colors, from apple-sized giants to tiny, crystalline spikes. The most common at Anstine are oval and about two inches long. Each one is pocked with tiny holes, but not from an insect burrowing in. No, that would be far too ordinary for this extraordinary place.

A gall is made when a female wasp, hardly bigger than a mosquito,



lays her eggs under the bark of a tree. This causes a chemical reaction in the tree, hijacking its growth to suit the needs of the larvae. There, the larva grows in an endless buffet and protective home until it's ready to emerge as an adult. There are hundreds of different species, each with its own gall shape and habits. Some are even parasitic to other wasps! They drill into the gall and lay their eggs inside the already growing larvae of another wasp. Have you seen 1979's *Alien*? Multiple wasps can live peacefully together,

too. There are reports of 17 individual species in a single gall.

So they have a unique growth cycle and get trees to do their bidding—but are they “bad” bugs like bark beetles? I can enthusiastically tell you “No!” Most galls are benign growths, taking a few resources but not damaging the tree. To some they might not look aesthetically pleasing but they represent one of the strangest biological relationships. They've even helped humanity a time or two, when galls were harvested for medieval ink.

Next time you're at Anstine, take a look for yourself, if you have the gall for it.

Anstine is open to the public on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on the third Wednesday of the month from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., October through June.

Sketches wins San Diego Press Club Award

Sketches magazine, the official membership publication of San Diego Audubon Society, was honored in the San Diego Press Club's 46th Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards, which recognizes journalism and public relations professionals in San Diego County who have excelled in their craft. The magazine earned recognition in the "association/member publication category," along with other local magazines, including San Diego Zoo Global's *ZooNoz* and UC San Diego Health's *Discoveries Magazine*. San Diego Press Club is one of the largest clubs of

its kind in the nation, with nearly 400 members. "The Sketches team gains the greatest satisfaction from the positive feedback we receive from our members, but it's encouraging to hear it from the journalism community," says David Stump, San Diego Audubon's board president and communications committee chair.

2020 San Diego Bird Festival

February 26 through March 1 at the waterfront Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay

Our event lineup this year promises a splendid celebration of the birds and wild places of San Diego County, along with plentiful opportunities to socialize and build new skills. We expect more than 500 people will converge from all over the country to participate in the festival's many events. The festival offers a wealth of speakers, trips, workshops, shopping, and more. Most of the trips filled up within hours of the online registration opening, but please review the complete schedule found on our website at www.sandiegoaudubon.org. Sign up to be a volunteer, and work just one shift to receive a discounted registration fee. And don't forget the family day on Sunday!

Bird ID for beginners: How to become a birdwatcher

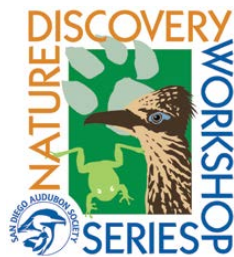
Are you new to bird watching and intimidated by the number of species to learn, or simply looking for a new activity to get you out into San Diego's beautiful natural surroundings?

Join us on two consecutive Saturdays in March for a bird identification workshop led by Dr. Matthew Binns. The in-class lesson (March 14) at the Lakeside Community Center will focus on how to get started in birding. You'll learn about common characteristics of birds, useful technology resources, and how to choose the best birding tools. The following week (March 21), the interactive field component will take you onto the trails at Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary, where you will identify local bird species with a focus on how to identify relevant field marks.

Part I: March 14th 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Lakeside Community Center at 9841 Vine St., Lakeside

Part II: March 21, 9 a.m.– noon, Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary at 13003 Wildcat Canyon Rd., Lakeside

Register online at www.sandiegoaudubon.org or call 858-273-7800



Prairie Falcon
by Peter Thomas

birding trips

MARCH & APRIL

Please regularly check our website at sandiegoaudubon.org for full trip information as it becomes available. All trips subject to change.

SAN DIEGO AUDUBON BIRDING TRIPS are open to all. Please remember that these birding trips are very popular, and most fill up quickly. Please limit yourself to one or two trips to leave room for others.

1: Follow our listings on our new website at sandiegoaudubon.org (*Go Birding, Local Bird Trips*). Trips shown in Sketches are posted first online, generally around the latter part of the month prior to issue date. Starting dates for registration will be indicated on the website.

2: Online registration is required for all field trips. Attendance for trips is now capped at specific numbers to ensure the best experience for all participants, and all trips are filled in order of registration. A few trips will require a registration fee.

3: For directions, go to the SDAS website (look for *Go Birding, then Local Bird Trips*). *Google Maps* info is provided for each birding trip.

Call Peter Thomas with questions at 858-571-5076, or email your queries to: prthomas1@yahoo.com. **And always remember, "Cherish Nature."**

MARCH

Anza-Borrego Desert State Park – Resident Birds and Migrating Swainson's Hawks

Thursday–Friday, March 5–6, 2020, midday to evening on Thursday, 6:00 a.m. to Noon on Friday

Leader: Peter Thomas, 858-571-5076

Capped at 8 participants. Directions on the website.

Walker Preserve Trail, Santee

Sunday, March 8, 2020, 8:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Leader: Peter Thomas, 858-571-5076

Capped at 20 participants. Directions on the website.

Whelan Lake Sanctuary – Inland Freshwater

Saturday, March 14, 2020, 8:30–11:30 a.m.

Leaders: Peter Thomas, Patti Koger, and Jane Mygatt

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on the website.

Ramona Grasslands, Wildflower Loop, and the Stagecoach Trail to the San Pasqual Valley

Sunday, March 22, 2020, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Leaders: Peter Thomas, 858-571-5076, and Phoenix Von Hendy

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on the website.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

Saturday, March 28, 2020, 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Leaders: Anitra Kaye, 619-517-1168, John Walters, and Jack Friery

Capped at 25 participants. Directions on the website.

APRIL (Check website in March for details)

Birding by Ear at Mission Trails Regional Park

Stonewall Mine, Cuyamaca

Marston Canyon, Balboa Park

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

And possibly others

Visit www.sandiego.org/articles/birding/birding-in-san-diego---a-field-guide.aspx to read Peter's guide to birding San Diego.



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- Access to free local birding trips
- Members-only guided walks at our two nature sanctuaries
- Discounts on nature guidebooks and other merchandise, and access to our excellent library
- Access to a wide variety of volunteer opportunities
- Discounts on special workshops about birds, native plants, and more
- Invitations to special events such as our holiday party and volunteer celebration
- Email newsletter updates, including advance notice of events

While San Diego Audubon is a chapter of National Audubon Society, we are an independent not-for-profit organization. We encourage you—especially if you are already a National Audubon member—to become a Friend of San Diego Audubon to directly support our local conservation and education programs.


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Sketches SAN DIEGO AUDUBON

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SDAS OFFICE 4010 Morena Blvd. Ste. 100, San Diego, CA 92117. Our reception desk is staffed by volunteers, and some time slots may go unfilled. Please call ahead before planning your visit, to ensure someone will be available to assist you. Messages can be left at any time on the office answering machine at **858-273-7800**, or email sdaudubon@sandiegoaudubon.org.

San Diego Audubon Office: 858-273-7800

California Audubon Society: www.ca.audubon.org
National Audubon Society: www.audubon.org
National Audubon Activist Hotline: 800-659-2622
National Audubon Customer Service: 800-274-4201

San Diego Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society



Visit our website at
www.sandiegoaudubon.org

Log on for all online resources, including our
Bird Festival and Birding Trips

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...Fostering the protection and appreciation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats...