



# Sea and Sage Audubon

## The Deserts of North America and Their Birds

### an Intermediate/Advanced Visual Workshop

*presented by Sylvia R. Gallagher*

For many people the word DESERT produces an image of desolate, barren sand--or else glorious carpets of spring wildflowers among towering green saguaros. Both images are correct, but they are far from the whole picture. Starting the week of Jan. 7-10, 2013, Sylvia Gallagher will present a comprehensive workshop on the DESERTS OF NORTH AMERICA. The major focus of the series will, as always, be the BIRDS. In addition, a substantial amount of time will be devoted to the deserts in general. Lecture material will address such questions as:

- How many deserts are there, and why are there distinct deserts?
- How have desert plants and animals evolved to live in the desert environment?
- What are some distinctive features of the desert landscape?
- What plants and birds are typical of each desert?
- What impacts have humans had on the deserts?



The BIRDS will be presented using the usual approach, with worksheets one week and practice slides the following week. You should know the common birds of the coastal zone of southern California before enrolling. If you have completed Sylvia's ten-week introductory visual workshop series, BIRDS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, you should be well prepared for this one. We'll cover at least 80 new species of birds in a wide variety of families--woodpeckers, hawks, hummingbirds, sparrows, etc. We'll do some groups in a rather general way, covering a few of the most useful field marks and omitting the less common plumages. For advanced birders, we'll do several families in detail, especially the orioles, tanagers, nightjars, thrashers, a few groups of sparrows, and probably several others.

Five sections will be offered--Mon. evenings, Tues. mornings, Wed. evenings, Thurs. mornings and evenings. You will select one of these sections. The workshop will last several months, with the actual duration to be decided later. A donation of \$175.00 is requested, if you can afford it. Installment plan OK.

The only essential book for the workshop is the *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, **6th ed.** This edition is much improved over previous ones. *The Sibley Guide to Birds* will also be useful. Other books will be recommended from time to time.

Field trips will be led by workshop participants. Do you have a favorite desert spot you'd like to show people? You don't have to be a bird expert to lead a field trip; familiarity with the area is the main thing.

This workshop will be followed up in spring, 2014, with LEARNING DESERT BIRD SOUNDS, featuring the sounds of desert birds.

Send your reservation for the workshop, **postmarked no earlier than Dec. 3** (2-day penalty for early reservations) to: Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92646. **Enclose a LONG (4" x 9.5") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).** Confirmations will be mailed Dec. 28, including preliminary information and a map to the meeting place, the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. For further information email or phone Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com or 714-962-8990.

### Enrollment Form - Birding Skills Workshops (Deserts) - Winter, 2013

Names of all participants \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City & Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_ SASE enclosed? \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

WORKSHOP starts the week of Jan. 7-10. Check or rank at least two choices of section:

MON pm \_\_\_\_ TUES am \_\_\_\_ WED pm (waiting list) THURS am (waiting list) THURS pm (waiting list)