

Sea and Sage Audubon LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS)

An Intermediate-Level Birding Skills Workshop
Presented by Sylvia Gallagher, with Doug Lithgow and Roy Poucher

Accomplished birders depend on their ears much more than their eyes for detecting and identifying many types of birds, especially when they are in wooded or brushy habitats. They walk along listening and only try to see the bird if they are uncertain about the identification of a vocalization they hear. Usually more than 90% of the birds they find are identified first by the sounds they make. If you are still bird-*watching* most of the time, here's a chance to start bird-*listening*. A Birding Skills Workshop, sponsored by Sea and Sage Audubon and presented via Zoom by a team chaired by Sylvia Gallagher, will serve as an introduction to **LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS)**. We'll cover around 60 common species of the California lowlands west of the mountains that are most frequently detected first by voice. In addition, there will be a short lecture each week on the nature and meaning of bird sounds.

If you have a fairly good knowledge of the appearance of the common birds, you should be well prepared for this ten-week workshop. (The ten-week Sea and Sage Introductory Birding Skills Workshop is the level of experience presumed for this one.) Those who have done LCBS before are welcome to repeat it as many times as they wish.

Five sections will be offered, but be aware that there is a possibility that one or more of them will be canceled if enrollment is insufficient. Be sure to list as many choices as you can. The dates (including holidays) and times are as follows:

- Mon. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 8 - Mar. 11.
- Tues. mornings, 9:00 - ca. 12:00 a.m., Jan. 9 - Mar. 12.
- Wed. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 10 - Mar. 13.
- Thurs. mornings, 9:00 a.m. - ca. noon, Jan. 11 - Mar. 14.
- Thurs. evenings, 7:00 - ca. 10:00 p.m., Jan. 11 - Mar. 14.

The workshop will be accompanied by MANY field trips, led by current and former workshop members who are experienced aural birders. We'll try to have a couple scheduled every week, some on weekends, some on adjacent weekdays. In order to get full benefit from this workshop, plan to spend at least three hours every week listening to birds in the field in a variety of locations; the trips are designed to help you do this.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Dec. 26, it will be canceled. Reserve early, though, because some sections will fill rapidly. A donation of \$180.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it. (Send check, made out to Sea and Sage Audubon Society, with your enrollment form.)

The required "textbook" for the workshop is Sylvia's **Learning California Bird Sounds (4th ed., 2016)**, available at Audubon House, a package containing worksheets and a flash drive with introductory and practice sounds (\$39.00). **Older editions will not be acceptable.** (If you last did the workshop in Jan. - Mar., 2016, and only have the preliminary version of the workshop package used then, you must purchase the final version. It became available in summer, 2016; you may have purchased it then.) If two people in the same household plan to share the sounds, each one must have a copy of the worksheets. Make your own copies of the ones that come in the package. You must buy the required workshop package far enough ahead of the first session that you will have time to do a little homework before the first meeting. This will be outlined in your confirmation letter.

A highly recommended book is the **Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds of Western North America** by Nathan Pieplow. Brand new copies will be on sale at Audubon House for only \$10.00 from Nov. 1 - Jan. 10. Get it while supplies last.

In addition, these four apps/websites are recommended (The first 3 have both pictures and sounds.):

- Sibley Guide to Birds* Macaulay Library, part of Birds of the World (BOW)
- iBird Pro* Xeno-Canto

Your workshop experience will be *greatly* enhanced if you install **Raven Lite** sonogram-making software in your computer--and you must have a computer (PC or Mac) in order to use the flashdrive. This free service from the Cornell University Lab. of Ornithology is available on-line from **RavenSoundSoftware.com**. In fact, **you will be seriously handicapped if you try to do the workshop without Raven Lite!** If you already have an older version, you must upgrade it to the current Raven Lite 2.0.4. For problems with installation, contact Doug Lithgow (dmlithgow@aol.com). We are working on revised instructions for using the new Raven Lite 2.0.4. The instructions that Cornell provides are not easy to understand.

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form below, **postmarked no sooner than Dec. 4** (two day penalty for early reservation), to: **LCBS Workshop, Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln., Huntington Beach, CA 92646**. Enclose your check and a **long** (4"x9½") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE). Confirmation and further information will be mailed Dec. 29. For further information, contact Sylvia at sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990.

ENROLLMENT FORM - LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS) WORKSHOP (2024)

Names of all participants _____

Address(es) _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone(s) _____ E-mail _____ SASE enclosed? _____

To ensure placement, check or rank **at least** two choices of section (three if one's a morning and one's an evening):

- Mon. p.m. _____
- Tues. a.m. _____
- Wed. p.m. _____
- Thurs. a.m. _____
- Thurs. p.m. _____