



Sea & Sage Audubon Society
Learning California Bird Sounds
 An Intermediate-Level Birding Skills Workshop
presented by Sylvia Gallagher

Accomplished birders depend on their ears much more than their eyes for detecting and identifying birds, especially when they are in wooded or brushy habitats. These people 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 series of Birding Skills Workshops, presented by Sylvia Gallagher at her home in Huntington Beach, will serve as an introduction to LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (LCBS). Around 60 common species of the California lowlands west of the mountains, that are most frequently detected first by voice, will be covered. 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 nine-week workshop series. (The 10-week Sea & Sage series of Introductory Birding Skills Workshops is the level of experience presumed for this series.) Those who have done the workshop before are welcome to repeat the series 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 cancelled if too few people enroll. Be sure to list as many choices as you can. The dates (including holidays) and times are as follows:
 MON. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, Jan. 3* - Feb. 27

(*The 1st meeting will be Tues. evening, Jan. 3, but the rest of the sessions will be on Monday nights, including holidays.)

TUES. mornings, 8:30 - 11:30 am, Jan. 3 - Feb. 28

~~WED. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, Jan. 4 - Feb. 29~~ - This session is now full.

THURS. mornings, 9:00 am - 12 noon, Jan. 5 - Mar. 1

~~THURS. evenings, 7:00 - 10:00 pm, Jan. 5 - Mar. 1~~ - This session is now full.

The series will be accompanied and followed by MANY field trips, led by present and former workshop members. We'll try to have a couple scheduled every week, some on weekends, some on 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; these 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. 24, it will be cancelled. Reserve early though, because sections frequently fill rapidly. A donation of \$100 or more is requested, if you can afford it. (Bring money to first meeting.)

The required "textbook" for the workshop series will be LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS (1998 edition), seven CDs with worksheets, prepared by Sylvia Gallagher (\$35). If two people in the same household plan to share the CDs, each one must have a copy of the worksheets. Make your own copies of the ones that come with the CDs. In addition, the commercially available packages, Bird Songs of California by Keller (Cornell Lab of Ornithology, formerly available on CDs but now must be purchased online), Western Bird Songs (in Peterson Field Guides series, published by Houghton Mifflin) and Stokes Field Guide to Bird Song, Western (Little, Brown and Co, Boston) are recommended. The last two of these items are available at Audubon House. The required CDs & worksheets must be obtained far enough in advance of the first session that you will have time to do a little homework prior to the first meeting. This will be outlined in your confirmation letter.

Your workshop experience will be greatly enhanced if you install Raven Lite sonogram-making software on your computer. This free service from the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology is available online from RavenSoundSoftware.com. It is also available on the latest edition(s) of Thayer Birding Software and may be easier to install from that source.

To reserve a space in the workshop, please send the form below, *postmarked no sooner than Dec. 5* (2-day penalty for early reservations), to: LC BS Workshop, c/o Sylvia Gallagher, 21562 Kaneohe Ln, Huntington Beach CA 92646 Enclose a stamped self addressed envelope (SASE). Confirmation, further information, and a map to the house, will be mailed Dec. 26. If you have questions, call Sylvia at 714-962-8990, or e-mail her at: sjrgallagher@yahoo.com

Enrollment Form for Learning CA Bird Sounds (LCBS) Workshop (2012)

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

Check or rank at least 2 choices of section:

MON pm____ TUES am____ **WED pm (Full)** THURS am____ **THURS pm (Full)**

