



**Sea & Sage Audubon Society**  
**The Western Mountains and Their Birds**  
**An Intermediate/Advanced Visual Workshop**  
*presented by Sylvia R. Gallagher*



Starting the week of Jan. 7-10, 2019, Sylvia Gallagher will present a workshop on THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS AND THEIR BIRDS. The BIRDS will be presented using her usual approach, with worksheets one week and practice slides the following week(s). You should know the common birds of the coastal zone of southern California before enrolling. If you have completed Sylvia's ten-week introductory workshop series, you should be well prepared for this series. We'll cover about 100 new species of birds in a wide variety of families--woodpeckers, finches, wrens, nuthatches, grouse, 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, including the western warblers, vireos, thrushes, *Empidonax* flycatchers, *Accipiters*, and a few others. But even with families that we do in detail, for the benefit of less experienced birders, the discussion will start with a review of the relevant portions of the introductory workshop.

The WESTERN MOUNTAINS portion of the workshop will be every bit as important as the BIRDS part, since many people are unfamiliar with the various mountain ranges and their altitudinal zones. Birds favor certain zones for a variety of reasons. There will be extensive slide lectures with worksheets on all the western mountain ranges, starting with the closest ones and then moving to the Great Basin mountains, Rockies, Cascades and the northern Coast ranges. Since the various altitudinal zones are recognized by certain dominant plants, especially pines, firs, spruces and the like, you'll really learn to identify conifers in this workshop. Other indicator plants will also be discussed. Rounding out this portion will be material on the meteorology/climatology and geology of the west. This natural history material is vital for a full understanding of the birds of the mountains.

Because there is so much material to cover, the workshop will last until sometime in May, maybe even into June. It will be modular, though, so as long as you are able to attend the first several sessions, which lay the foundation, it should be all right to miss a few meetings and then return and not be lost. For example, if you miss the Great Basin mountains, you can still learn about the Coast ranges; or if you miss the vireos, you'll be OK on the sparrows.

A number of field trips will be organized and led by various workshop participants. If you have a favorite place in the mountains, we hope you'll volunteer to lead a trip there. You don't have to be an expert on the birds--just know your way around the place.

This workshop will be entirely visual, but it will be followed, starting in March, 2020, with LEARNING WESTERN MOUNTAIN BIRD SOUNDS. That workshop will have as a prerequisite, LEARNING CALIFORNIA BIRD SOUNDS. This introductory workshop will be presented again starting in Jan., 2020—just before the mountain sounds one.

Every topic in both the natural history and the birds sections of the workshop will be liberally illustrated with slides from the Sea and Sage Library of Nature Slides, most of which were taken by Jim or Sylvia Gallagher. This time the slides will all be digitized, so details will all be easier to see. It's been ten years since this workshop was last presented--and it remains the most popular one Sylvia has ever done. If you did it ten years ago, a refresher is highly recommended. Who knows when or if it'll be offered again?

You will need to own at least one good bird field guide and one good tree guide. In addition, other books are strongly recommended and will be referenced frequently in the worksheets. All are available at the Audubon House bookstore in a special section for this workshop. There will also be one copy of each book in the Fern Zimmerman Library at Audubon House for you to read there, but not check out. A complete list is available on the Sea and Sage website as the workshop dates approach.

Guides to Birds: *National Geographic* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.); *Sibley Guide to Birds* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)

Guides to Trees: Petrides, *A Field Guide to Western Trees* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1998, my favorite); *Sibley Guide to Trees*

Natural History: Will be posted on website.

Five sections will be offered starting on the dates indicated below and meeting every week, including holidays, until we complete the material in May or June.

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., starting January 7, 9, and 10.

Tuesday mornings: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., starting January 8.

Thursday mornings: 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, starting January 10.

The maximum enrollment for each section is 22. If any section does not have at least 12 people enrolled by Dec. 27, it will be cancelled. Reserve early, though, for some sections will probably fill quickly. A donation of \$400.00 or more is requested, if you can afford it, payable at the first meeting; installment plan OK. 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 1/2 ") self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE).** Confirmations will be mailed Dec. 27, including preliminary information and a map to the meeting place, the Gallagher home in Huntington Beach. For further information call or e-mail Sylvia: sjrgallagher@yahoo.com (preferred) or 714-962-8990.

**Enrollment Form - The Western Mountains And Their Birds - Winter/Spring, 2019**

Names of all participants \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ SASE enclosed? \_\_\_\_\_

Check (preferred) or rank your choice of section. Indicate as many as possible to ensure placement.

MON pm \_\_\_\_ TUES am \_\_\_\_ WED pm \_\_\_\_ THURS am \_\_\_\_ THURS pm \_\_\_\_