

BIRD TREKS

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA Extension to *San Diego & the Salton Sea!*

Thursday, 21 September through Monday, 25 September 2017: 5 days & 4 nights

This tour can be taken alone, or as an EXTENSION to the COMPLETE CALIFORNIA TOUR, 8 - 21 September 2017. There is a **\$150 discount** for combining **the two tours**.

See the separate itinerary for details of the COMPLETE CALIFORNIA TOUR.

Target Species for the Southern California Extension include . . .

Gambel's Quail
Neotropic Cormorant
Reddish Egret
Yellow-footed Gull
Inca Dove
Vermilion Flycatcher

Abert's Towhee
Cactus Wren
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher
California Gnatcatcher
Lucy's Warbler
Verdin

. . . and there are almost always some *rarities to be found*, especially at the **Salton Sea**.

A tour map is available by clicking on:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?mid=zDJlwFKF8JcU.kvuqvHL5j__U



Yellow-footed Gull
is a Salton Sea
specialty.

- - John Puschock

[Days 1 - 5 are on page 2]

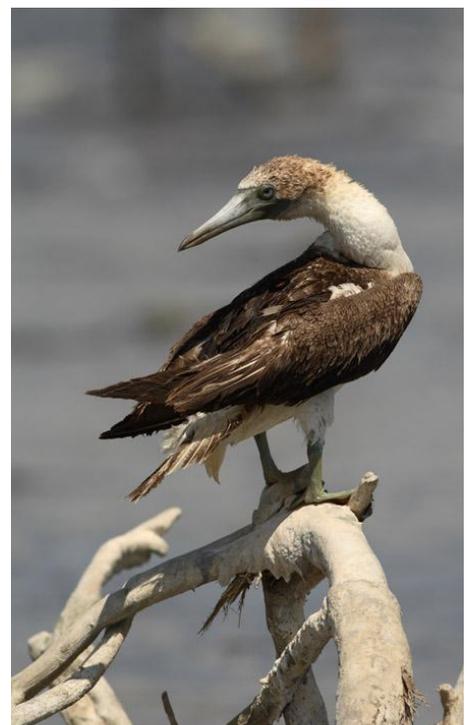
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - - *The SALTON SEA !*

21 - 25 September 2017

Day Agenda

- 1 For those continuing on from the Complete California Tour [or if you are joining us just for the Salton Sea Extension], we will return for an additional attempt at **California Gnatcatcher**, then bird a few parks in the Los Angeles Basin in search of **migrants**. Bolsa Chica is great for **terns** and **shorebirds**. This area is quite extensive and holds a diversity of species including southern herons such as **Little Blue Heron** and **Tricolored Heron**. Rarities are found regularly. We will then drive south to San Diego, where we'll spend the night.
- 2 In the morning we will bird the Tijuana River Valley and nearby reserves for species with a southern, even Mexican flavor. Aquatic species will be numerous. We will depart by mid-afternoon toward the Salton Sea. Overnight in Brawley.
- 3 Our birding will begin early at the Salton Sea. It can be quite hot and humid here, so we will bird in the morning, siesta in the afternoon, and venture out again in the evening. We will search for **Wood Stork**, **Fulvous Whistling-Duck**, **Gambel's Quail**, **Yellow-footed Gull**, **Inca Dove**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Abert's Towhee**, **Cactus Wren**, **Black-tailed Gnatcatcher**, **Lucy's Warbler**, **Verdin**, **Black-throated Sparrow**, and possible rarities. In recent years there were several **Blue-footed Boobies** and California's first **Ross's Gull** at the Salton Sea. Our second night in Brawley.
- 4 We will return to the same area to look for more great birds, with a mid-morning departure northward toward Banning. Our final afternoon is near Banning Park and Morongo Valley. Overnight in the Los Angeles area for an easy morning drive to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).
- 5 You may schedule early flights home, as our motel will be near LAX.

Rarities that we will search for include **Blue-footed Booby**. This one was photographed at the Salton Sea by *John Puschock*.



[More details are on page 3]

Leader The leader of the Bird Treks' **Southern California Extension** will be selected at a later date. It will almost certainly be the same person that leads the Complete California Tour. Your highly experienced birding tour leader will help you to have a bird-filled, worry-free adventure. You can expect a truly wonderful experience!

Price The tour fee is \$2095, based upon double occupancy. Single accommodations can be arranged for an extra fee of \$275. We will take a maximum of seven participants. On rare occasion we may extend the maximum to ten participants.

Includes Expert guide service, ground transportation and entrance fees within California, **ALL meals** and lodging for the entire extension. **ALL tips** are also included in the tour fee, except for anything that you may wish to give to your tour leader.

Does not include the cost of alcoholic beverages, items of a personal nature, or transportation to and/or from Los Angeles (LAX). Upon request **BIRD TREKS** will help you obtain the best possible airfare and coordinate your arrival and departure into LAX.

Extra Services We offer the services of our exclusive Bird Treks travel agent, **Lori Heathcote**, in arranging your air travel. Lori has 32 years of experience in the travel industry and is a veteran birder. Contact her through Bailey Travel / Travel Time at **1-800-224-5399**, or you can e-mail Lori at **lori@baileytravel.com**. By dealing with Lori you have the security of a 24-hour toll-free telephone number in case of any travel emergency. She can also assist you with all pre- and post-tour travel plans. There will be a small fee for these services.

Deposit A \$400 deposit will assure your reservation on the tour. The balance is due 21 July 2017. Send your deposit **SOON** so that we can help you secure the least expensive air fare to Los Angeles.

Refund and Cancellation Policy With written notice more than 60 days prior to the first day of the tour, 100% of your deposit will be refunded, minus a \$75 service fee. With 30-60 days notice, you will receive a 50% refund of the full cost of the tour. No refund can be made with less than 30 days notice. You will receive a full refund if you provide a replacement for your spot on the tour. No partial refund can be given once a tour begins. We **STRONGLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase trip cancellation insurance to protect your investment. Contact **Allianz Global Assistance** and mention **BIRD TREKS ACCAM # F021096**. You can easily apply at **www.allianztravelinsurance.com**, or by calling toll-free, **1-866-884-3556**.



Tricolored Heron is quite possible at Bolsa Chica.

- - Bob Coley

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