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Birds of California

Santa Ynez Valley

Nov 10-13, 2023

Arrival

November 9, 2023

We will meet at our hotel at 8:00 PM on Nov 9, 2023 in the lobby for a pre-workshop get-together. Please allow enough time to eat dinner before the orientation meeting. Workshop starts November 10.

Hotel

Information forthcoming.

Departure

November 14, 2023

The workshop will end after the evening session on November 13, 2023. We will try to have a group dinner together on that last evening.

Outerwear

The weather should be mild, but can be chilly in the mornings, so please bring a warm jacket. No special shoes required but clothes you don't mind getting sandy/dirty for low level beach photography could be handy. Please check the weather for Santa Ynez, CA before you come so you know how to pack. Please do not wear bright clothing in the fields or blinds.

Itinerary

At the ranch, we'll be working on a variety of set-ups designed to photograph as many resident species as we can. The wintering birds will be back in by November so we should have good action at our feeders. We will have the two primary group blind photography locations, another spot where we'll likely be standing in the open for flight and perched photo ops. We will spend two days photographing all the species on beautiful perches. The last two days we will be photographing all the species (Including the songbirds) in flight. This will require a lot of card space as you will shoot thousands of images. Please be prepared to bring a lot of memory for your camera and for downloading.

The days are a bit short this time of year so our break isn't too long. But flexibility is key and depending upon light and weather conditions, subject availability and so forth we may alter the schedule a bit from day to day. Because time is limited by shorter days at this time of year, you will be doing lunches on your own on this workshop. After the workshop finishes each day we will be cutting you loose so we can rest up for the next day. We will be hosting a nice group dinner together on the last evening of your workshop. The workshop is four full days.

Transportation is not provided on this workshop and know that when you choose a car rental, that you will be driving on bumpy ranch roads. We recommend a renting an SUV. We will have you follow us to the ranch on the first morning so you know how to get there for the rest of the workshop.

Packing & Gear

- A long lens of 500mm or 600mm is required
- A 400mm lens with a 1.4TC will also work
- Bring your teleconverter with you no matter what.
- Bring a lens you can use for hand-held flight photography (something in the 300-400mm range works best)
- If you have one, bring a shutter release cable for your camera.
- Flash is not expected to be used much, if at all on this workshop.
- Please bring a throw-over camo with you:
Lens hide Throwover Camo
Lens Hide Photo Blind, LensCoat

Final Payments

Please remember that all workshop balance fees are due by **Sept 10, 2023**. Please contact me if you need to know your balance.

Final payments can be made by credit card at the following link:

<https://www.alanmurphyphotography.com/payment>