

For Release: Editors—San Diego County Community News & Calendars  
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## **New Shorebirds of San Diego County Tours Highlight Migratory Visitors**

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Announces 3-Part Winter Series

**San Diego** — Winter is an excellent time to go birding when the total number of birds, as well as diversity, are at their peak. San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy, a Southern California nonprofit land trust, presents a 3-part series to introduce participants to some of the most densely populated and diverse shorebird sites in San Diego County — from Imperial Beach to Encinitas. Shorebirds and waterfowl migrate along the Pacific Flyway to rest and refuel in protected estuaries and coastal wetlands along the North American coastline.

### **Saturday, January 12: Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, Imperial Beach**

This is a designated wetland of International Importance and a birders' paradise. As much as seventy-percent of the Tijuana Estuary National Estuarine Research Reserve is wetland holding a variety of unique habitats, including dune, salt panne, salt marsh, mudflat, brackish pond, riparian, coastal sage scrub and vernal pool.

### **Saturday, February 23: Smiley Lagoon, Ocean Beach**

At the east end of Dog Beach is Smiley Lagoon. Common birds observed in the estuary include wintering shorebirds and ducks, Osprey, Snowy Egrets, Cormorants and Great Blue Herons. Native plants include pickleweed, evening primrose and alkali-heath.

### **Saturday, March 9: Cardiff State Beach, Encinitas**

A gently sloping and protected sandy beach is popular with walkers, surfers and campers. At extreme low tides, the reef reveals tide pools, where plants and sea creatures are seen up-close. Wintering Willets, Whimbrels, sandpipers and more frequent this coast, named 2018 Best Restored Beach on the West Coast.

- Series Cost: Conservancy Members \$20 per tour | Public \$30 per tour
- Tours are from 8:00 am to 10:00 am
- Registration is online at [SanElijo.org/ShorebirdsTours](http://SanElijo.org/ShorebirdsTours)

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Editors: High resolution migratory bird images are online: [SanElijo.org/NewsReleases](http://SanElijo.org/NewsReleases)

San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy is the Southern California nonprofit land trust for the 1000-acre San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve. Its vision is a world where biodiversity is protected, and people act to conserve nature and embrace it as central to a healthy community. [SanElijo.org](http://SanElijo.org) | (760) 436-3944

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