

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

venturaaudubon.org



Photo by: Vince Kinsch

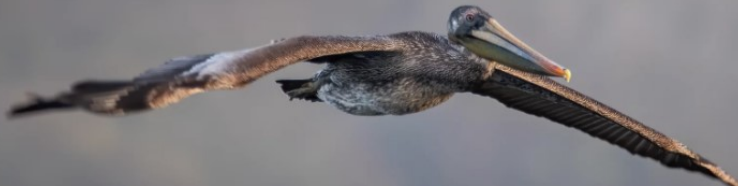
Call Notes

by Rachel Ameche
President

I hope you had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving! I am so thankful for everyone who supports our mission, and I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to those who donated during our October birdathon. Your gift makes a difference to the birds by supporting the conservation, education and outreach we do at VAS. The support of our community is critical to our mission to protect Ventura's wildlife and wild places, and ensure that generations to come will get to enjoy them firsthand. Thank you!

December is here and that means the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is just around the corner. Be sure to attend our Chapter meeting on December 12 when our CBC lead, Frank DeMartino, will tell us about the rich history of this yearly endeavor and how you can participate. Each year that I have participated I have had the opportunity to meet new people and explore favorite birding spots. It's a joy knowing that our community science contributes to a global understanding of how bird populations are doing. Read on to find out more about the Christmas Bird Count, and reach out to Frank at frank@colynx.com to join a team. Every birder makes a difference!

Update from the Membership Coordinator



We would like to thank everyone who joined or renewed their annual membership in 2023! We have the most members in our history and our membership continues to grow. If you're not a member, you can still join by clicking one of the links below. Look for your renewal reminder in your email inbox.

If you have any questions or concerns about your membership, please feel free to send an email to membership@venturaaudubon.org.

We look forward to an exciting 2024!

By joining our local chapter, your donation directly supports Ventura Audubon's mission.

[Membership Webpage](#)

[Join VAS via PayPal](#)

December 2023 Speaker Program

Top 10 Most Wanted Yard Birds - A Christmas Bird Count Primer

Speaker: Frank DeMartino

Ventura Audubon CBC Coordinator, CVAS President

Date: Tuesday Dec 12, 2023

Time: 7pm

Location: Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura

It's Christmas Bird Count season! Ventura's count is Saturday, December 30th. That means it's time to start checking those backyard birds! This presentation will focus on the history of the Christmas Bird Count, the importance of community science, how you can participate in our upcoming count, and what birds to look for in your yard. We will also take a look at some local trends that we've observed over the past 43 years. Finally, we'll go over 10 of the birds that we most want to find for the CBC. You may have one and not even realize it!



To join the program via Zoom, visit our

[Monthly Speaker webpage](#)

Then click the "Watch Virtually Via Zoom" button at the top of the webpage

Frank is an avid birdwatcher whose passion for birds has led him to serve on the board of both Ventura Audubon Society and Conejo Valley Audubon Society

where he is currently President. He is the owner of the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Ventura as well as the coordinator and compiler for the Ventura Christmas Bird Count. During the pandemic, Frank began offering bird education classes online as “Frank the Bird Guy” and has shared the joy of birds with thousands worldwide.

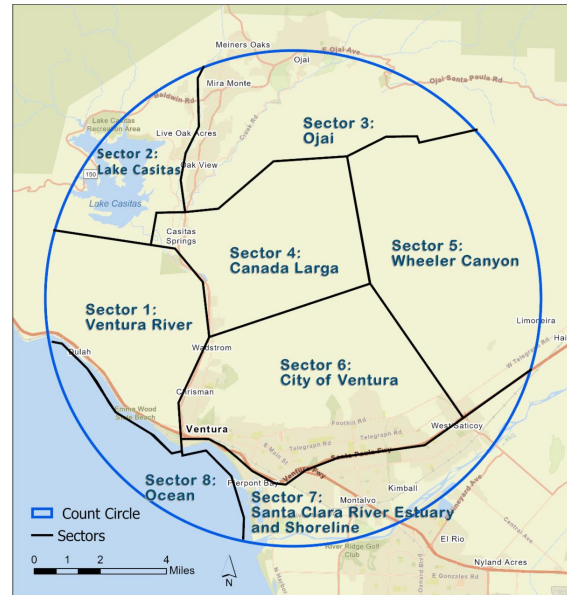


Ventura Audubon Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 30, 2023

Ventura Count Circle

Each winter the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a chance to participate in the oldest and longest running community science project. Click [here](#) for information from National Audubon on the history of the CBC, and [here](#) for reports from 1900-present.

Each Audubon chapter counts a 15-mile diameter "count circle". The same circle is counted each year for consistency. The Ventura Audubon count circle is subdivided into 8 sectors (see map to the right). Each sector has a leader who organizes teams within their sector, and the entire circle is organized by our CBC coordinator and compiler, Frank DeMartino. Frank will report the data after the count is completed to the National Audubon Society database.



If you would like to participate this year, either in the field or from your backyard, please do one of the following:

- Email Frank DeMartino at frank@colynx.com,
- Visit or call the [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) store in Ventura

Our December speaker program features Frank DeMartino who will talk about the Christmas Bird Count.

What are we learning from the CBC?

Each year CBC data is added to a database and is available to researchers and the public. The Ventura count has been held each year since 1980. Brad Sillasen created an interactive database that shows trends in bird populations within Ventura Audubon's Count Circle. Below is an overview of the data we have collected. To explore the data, please visit the website link below:

[Click to visit the Ventura Audubon CBC database](#)

Years on Record: 42

Total Species Recorded: 304
Most Species Recorded: 202 (1987)
Least Species Recorded: 156 (1981)
Average Species Recorded: 178

Ventura Audubon Birding Field Trips

Beginners are always welcome on field trips!

Please do not be shy if you are learning bird ID or are just curious.

We love having and encouraging beginner birders!

- We request that all participants sign up no less than 24 hours in advance for field trips - *this allows us advance time to ensure we have enough trip leaders*
- This also enables us to notify participants of any changes

Sign up early to participate in a field trip:

1. Visit our [Field Trip webpage](#)
2. Scroll to the bottom of the field trip descriptions, and fill out; your name, email address and select the trip you want to attend
3. You will be sent an email by our Field Trip Coordinator

Questions or need help? Email fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org

Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. Please wear appropriate clothing (layers are suggested), comfortable shoes, and bring snacks, water, hats, sunscreen, binoculars and field guides.

December Field Trips

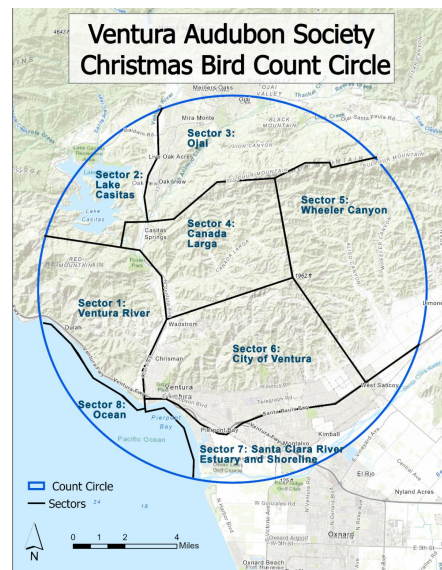


Ventura Settling Ponds

Saturday Dec 9th, 2023

Meeting Time: 8:30am

An easy walk along dirt paths around the shore of the settling ponds, one of the top birding locations in Ventura County. We'll be looking for Ducks, Grebes and Herons. Gulls and Pelicans are likely, and Hawks and Harriers possible. No restrooms or drinking



Christmas Bird Count

Saturday Dec 30th, 2023

Meeting Time: Check with your sector leader

Today we count all species,

water, nearest public restrooms are at Surfer's Knoll parking lot.

Go to our field trip page to sign-up

[Sign-Up Here](#)

numbers of birds of species and we visit every nook and cranny in our Ventura Audubon count circle. Birders of all skill sets are involved in the CBC. If you are a beginning birder, our coordinator will pair you with an expert.

If your home is within the boundaries of a CBC circle, then you can stay at home and report the birds that visit your feeder on count day as long as you have made prior arrangement with our count compiler.

If you would like to participate this year, please contact Frank at frank@colynx.com

photo: White winged dove

2023 Shorebird Calendars Are Available

Birding Classes with Frank at Wild Birds Unlimited Ventura



Waterfowl ID Workshop - Saturday, January 6th at 1pm on ZOOM

Welcome to the Waterfowl ID Workshop! Join us online on Sat Jan 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM (PST) for an exciting event where you can enhance your waterfowl identification skills. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced birder, this workshop is perfect for anyone interested in learning more about waterfowl species. Frank The Bird Guy will guide you through various identification techniques, including plumage patterns, bill shapes, and distinctive behaviors.

During the workshop, you'll have the opportunity to participate in interactive activities, quizzes, and engaging discussions with fellow participants. By the end of the session, you'll be able to confidently recognize different waterfowl species in the wild.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to expand your knowledge and appreciation for these magnificent birds. Register now to secure your spot in the Waterfowl ID Workshop and get ready for an enjoyable and educational online experience!

There is an optional Bird Walk on Sun Jan 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM (PST) where we will test our waterfowl ID skills!

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/waterfowl-id-workshop-tickets-719445509887>

A recording of the workshop will be made available to everyone who registers!

Thank you to our supporters!

Financial contributions to our chapter allow us to continue our work protecting birds and their habitat

- The Nature Conservancy
- National Foundation of Fish and Wildlife (NFWF)
- National Audubon Society, Audubon in Action Grant
- California Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grant
- The Port of Hueneme
- The City of Port Hueneme
- Patagonia
- 1% for the planet
- Ventura Coast Brewing Company
- Topa Topa Brewing Company

Support Ventura Audubon Society

Please consider VAS in your year end donations.
Ventura Audubon Society is a registered tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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Visit our website

Ventura Audubon Society | P.O. Box 24198, Ventura, CA 93002

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