

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
April 2024 Volume 65, Number 8
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org



Call Notes

by Rachel Ameche
President

April is Earth Month, and a very busy time for us at VAS. Nesting season is already under way on Ormond and while there's lots of work to do, we also have a few fun events coming up!

On Tuesday April 9th, our evening program at Poinsettia Pavilion will be our lead biologist Cynthia Hartley. She will teach us about the Shorebird Recovery Program and how VAS has worked to protect threatened and endangered shorebirds on Ormond beach for decades.

Sunday, April 14th will be the Beach Naturalists free training class where volunteers come to learn how they can be a part of the action. In March we had a volunteer day preparing the signs for hanging and then another to get the signs out onto the beach. It was a big job that got done thanks to generous volunteers. Protecting birds and the places they need is a big job and each task makes a difference. Thank you to all who came out to help! Your time and hard work benefit the birds, the environment and the community around them.

Our yearly “Raise the Roost” fundraiser to support the Shorebird Recovery Program is two events this month. April 23rd we are celebrating with a bird trivia night at Ventura Coast Brewing Co, so bring your bird knowledge and see if your team can win first place! The celebration will continue on Saturday April 27th at VCBC with our Raise the Roost party and raffle. Come out to have a beer and win some cool prizes. More details will appear in an upcoming email.

Look out for an announcement for our year end party at Topa Topa Brewing Company coming in May.

[Membership Webpage](#)

[Join VAS via PayPal](#)

April is Shorebird Awareness Month

Nesting season has arrived for the Western snowy plover, marking a critical time for awareness and conservation efforts. With habitats under pressure from urban development, human disturbance and climate change, Ventura’s coastal ecosystem faces significant threats.

Throughout April, Ventura Audubon Society welcomes the public to engage with a variety of events designed to cater to diverse preferences and foster public support for the conservation of the western snowy plover and the dune ecosystem on our Ventura County beaches.



Funding is needed for nesting season on Ormond and Hollywood Beaches, which has just begun and continues through September. It will support nest monitoring, allow us to purchase materials for habitat protection including fencing, signage, trail cameras, plus supplies for volunteers in our community stewardship program, the Beach Naturalists.

April Shorebird Awareness Calendar

Please see descriptions below for further details on each event

- Sunday, 4/7/24: Celebration of Whales
- Tuesday, 4/9/24: Monthly speaker program by Cynthia Hartley, Shorebird Recovery Program lead (see Speaker Program)
- Sunday, 4/14/24 : Volunteer Beach Naturalist workshop
- Saturday, 4/20/24 : Guided bird walk at Ormond Beach (see Field Trips)
- Tuesday, 4/24/24 : Bird Trivia Night
- Saturday, 4/27/24 : Raise the Roost Social

Celebration of Whales Sunday April 7th 10am - 3 pm

Visit our table at the Celebration of Whales event at the Channel Islands harbor. We will be making cotton ball plover pals, recruiting dog rangers, volunteers and hosting a craft activity for kids that teaches them about snowy plovers. Kids go home with their creations.

We still need volunteers to help in 2 hours shifts. If you are crafty, or would like to just help us table please contact our volunteer coordinator [Kristen McKenna](#)

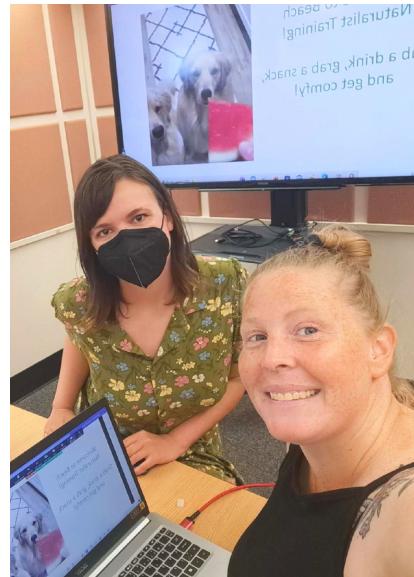


Volunteer Beach Naturalist Workshop

Sunday April 14th 9am - 2pm
Location: Cal State Channel Islands

If you'd like to help protect this year's nesting western snowy plovers and least terns, please consider become a volunteer Beach Naturalist!

Join Our Team!





Attend a free half-day workshop, where you'll learn about beach ecology, bird biology, rules and regulations, and data collection. After training, complete two beach shifts per month to share your knowledge.

WHAT IS A BEACH NATURALIST?

As a beach naturalist, you will educate and inform visitors to area beaches as part of the Shorebird Recovery Program. You will teach them about Western snowy plovers and California least terns and how to help these birds.

Half-day workshop info:

- Morning session: in-person classroom learning
- Late morning/early afternoon: Practice what you learn in classroom - field training at either Ormond, Hollywood, or Hueneme Beaches

Volunteers learn about the following topics from a Ventura Audubon Biologist and Outreach Coordinator:

- Beach/Dune Ecology: History and Processes of the Beach
- Biology/Ecology of Western Snowy Plover and CA Least Terns
- Rules and Regulations pertaining to locations we serve
- Data collection to support population recovery and wrack abundance

After volunteers have completed training, they sign up for two 2-hour beach shifts per month through September at either Ormond or Hollywood Beach and share their knowledge.

The class is free, click the button below or go to <https://www.venturaaudubon.org/beach-naturalists> to register

For more info you can email volunteer@venturaaudubon.org

This work is supported by a Whale Tail grant.

REGISTER HERE



Bird Trivia Night
Tuesday April 23 6:30 pm
Ventura Coast Brewing Company
76 S Oak St, Ventura



Put your thinking caps on, the Shorebird Recovery team is taking over Tuesday Night Trivia at Ventura Coast Brewing Company. We'll be testing your trivial bird knowledge in various bird subjects. The winning team will get a cool prize.



Buy a beer and save a bird

Are you ready to
"Raise the Roost"
for shorebirds?
Please Join Us!





When: Saturday, April 27th

Time: 12:30 to 4:30pm

Where: Ventura Coast Brewing Company, 76 S Oak St, Ventura, CA

Our shorebird team will be at VCBC enjoying the beer and volunteers and supporters. We will have

- Shorebird Program Merchandise:
- Raffle: There will be something for everyone. We will be offering a number of great items donated by local businesses.
- Logo Pub Glasses: Free beer pour with the purchase of a special commemorative pub glass with our new Shorebird Recovery logo and the VCBC logo
- Dog Rangers: Our team will be on site to sign up new Dog Rangers!



Other ways to support our program:

- Online donations can be made directly to the Shorebird Recovery Program during the event or all month via PayPal
- We are members of the 1% or the Planet.

Come out and meet our team and say hi! We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions about shorebirds, nest monitoring, or other aspects of our program or Audubon.

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 and to get notifications if a field trip is changed or cancelled!

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.

April Field Trips

Krotana Institute, Ojai

Saturday, April 6th
Meeting Time: 8:30am



The Krotana Institute of Theosophy is celebrating their Centennial, and they invite you to share their beautiful 115 acre grounds as we look for resident birds and springtime visitors. Various Hawks, Woodpeckers, and Songbirds nest there, and we may get to see Hooded Orioles, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Black headed Grosbeaks. This is a working spiritual center, so please be mindful of others especially students, faculty, and residents. For safety please stay on paved roads.

For directions please sign up here: [Field Trip webpage](#)

Ormond Beach, Arnold Road

Saturday April 20th
Meeting Time: 8:30am



One of the top birding areas in Ventura County used by over 200 shorebird, raptor, and migratory bird species. Includes a protected nesting site for the endangered California Least Tern and the threatened Western Snowy Plover. Notable visitors can include Black-Necked Stilt, Yellow Headed Blackbird, and Peregrine Falcon. Walking will be mainly on dirt paths and sandy beaches. Portable restrooms at parking lot.

For directions please sign up here: [Field Trip webpage](#)

Pelagic Birding Boat Trip

Thursday June 13th
Meeting Time: 8:30am
Cost: \$50 per person

Join us along with the Conejo Valley Audubon Society for a morning of

introductory Pelagic birding. This exclusive trip will be approximately 3 hours by boat in the Santa Barbara channel where we will look for Loons, Scoters, Jaegers, Auklets, Petrels, Shearwaters, and more!

Photo: Dave Pereksta

This trip is almost sold out, sign-up today.

Sign up here: [Field Trip webpage](#)



April 2024 Speaker Program



Snowy plover chick photo by Alecia Smith

"Birds Eye View: Life of a Snowy Plover"

Speaker: Cynthia Hartley

Date: Tuesday April 9th

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: The Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura and via Zoom, see link below.

Program Description:

Join us for an inside look at the life of a western snowy plover. We have been using field cameras as an important part of our monitoring program on Ormond Beach. Trail cameras

capture candid moments we never see when shy nesting plovers know humans are watching with binoculars. Tonight, we unveil the dynamics of neighbor relations between plovers and other dune species such as least terns and horned larks, discover how nests withstand wind events, learn about common nest predators, and explore the challenges posed by coastal flooding. We will also witness the beautiful moments of nests hatching.



We also are fortunate to have a number of banded snowy plovers nesting on Ormond, so we can track them each year. We will see where these birds come from, and talk about their trials and tribulations. Discover the origins of these remarkable birds and engage in enlightening discussions about their triumphs and struggles. Don't miss this exclusive opportunity to unravel the mysteries of snowy plover life with us.



Speaker Biography:

Cynthia Hartley brings 3 decades of experience and dedication to her work protecting least terns and snowy plovers at Ormond Beach. She has a BA in microbiology from UCSB and an MS in Geographic Information Systems from UMD. She began doing winter plover surveys in the 1990's under the direction of former VAS Conservation Chair Reed Smith, who taught her nest monitoring. In 2008 she began doing nest monitoring after being granted

a USFWS recovery permit for snowy plovers and least terns. Since 2015, she has spearheaded and lead the Shorebird Recovery Program. This work prioritizes habitat protection, nest monitoring, and community engagement, significantly advancing conservation at Ormond Beach.

To join the program visit our

[Monthly Speaker webpage](#)

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

Thank you to our supporters!

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

- The Holdfast Collective
- The Nature Conservancy, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation (NCWC) grant
- 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
- 1% for the planet
- [Ventura Coast Brewing Company](#)
- [Topa Topa Brewing Company](#)
- [Paradise Pantry](#)
- [Santa Barbara Adventure Company](#)
- [Ventura Music Hall](#)

Support Ventura Audubon Society

Ventura Audubon Society is a registered tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Join

Donate ONLINE

VOLUNTEER: Fill out this SURVEY FORM



[Contact Us](#)

Visit our website

[Unsubscribe cynthia.hartley@venturaaudubon.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by bycontact@venturaaudubon.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!