

## The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society  
November 2023 Volume 65, Number 3  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[venturaaudubon.org](http://venturaaudubon.org)



*Red Breasted Nuthatch: Photo by Chuck Engel*

Our vision for Ventura County is a place where native birds thrive in healthy habitat, and humans co-exist respectfully with birds and other wildlife

### Call Notes

*by Rachel Ameche , VAS President*



Birdathon month has flown by quickly, and we are grateful to everyone who has so generously donated to our chapter. These donations support our conservation efforts and our chapter programs. I hope this month you have felt inspired to take the time to get outside and go birding. Donations are always welcome, so if you haven't had time yet please don't hesitate to send in your envelope or make a donation online.

I have had the pleasure of teaching an Ornithology class to middle school students this month. Seeing the birds through their eyes has been

refreshing and inspiring. Birds are a comfort and a joy. The stress of life melts away when we are outside listening, watching and paying attention to the beauty of our surroundings. Conservation work has to be valued by all generations for change to happen. That's why I have been so grateful for the outreach programs VAS does. We will have more opportunities coming up to engage the public both young and old. Keep your eye on our calendar for ways you can be involved. Beach clean ups and educational events are great ways you can help raise awareness and protect birds.

Donate for  
Birdathon

## Save the date!

Christmas Bird Count will be on December 30th 2023

If you are interested in participating send an email to [venturabirdcount@gmail.com](mailto:venturabirdcount@gmail.com) and attend our December Program. Details will be in our December newsletter

## November Speaker Program

### Bird of Passage

Please note this month's program will be virtual via Zoom. [Click Here](#) for more info and the Zoom Link

Speaker: Alison Vilag  
Date/Time: November 14th, 2023; 7 PM PDT

#### Presentation Summary:

In January 2021, Alison Vilag set off on a journey charted by *The State of the Birds* (North American Bird Conservation Initiative), *The 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States* (American Bird Conservancy), and Google Maps' "avoid highways" option. Alison was embarking on a Big Year-of sorts. Rather than amassing a lengthy list, she was more interested in celebrating birds for their essence and focusing on vulnerable species and the places vital to them. Alison traveled alone for much of the year, sleeping most nights in the back of her Toyota Tacoma. As the year progressed, Alison's experiences with her own vulnerability as a woman alone on the road melded into her accumulating body of work. She'll be sharing scenes from the human and natural--and the inner--landscapes traveled.



Speaker Bio: Alison is a migration counter currently conducting the Pt. Pinos Seawatch for Monterey Audubon. She's also a writer, with recent essays published in *Birding*, *Jack Pine Warbler*, and the Cornell University Press anthology *When Birds Are Near*. Check out her website at [www.passagemigrant.com](http://www.passagemigrant.com).

## Updates: Shorebird Recovery Program

### SHOREBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM



VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY

by *Cynthia Hartley*

With the conclusion of nesting season in early September, some might assume we take a break during the fall and winter months. However, the reality is quite the opposite. There's a significant amount of cleanup from the previous season and preparations to make for the 2024 nesting season.

**During October**, we focused on the removal of approximately 1.6 miles of tideline fencing. This is necessary because the fencing will be buried in sand by the strong winds generated by winter storms. Moreover, the winter months lead to beach erosion, increasing the risk of fence washouts.

### Fence Removal

**A big call out to the California Conservation Corps (CCC) !**

Thank you for your hard work the week of October 23rd removing all of the tide line fences on Ormond Beach. Fence removal was finished in 4 days. Not a small job!



*Corpsmembers: (Left) Diane*

*Rios, (Middle) Patricia Stockton, (Right) Krya Serna*

We are so happy to partner with the CCC on this important work.

Accomplishments:

1. 400 posts pulled
2. 4,500 feet of mesh rolling up
3. 1500 feet of cable/rope taken down
4. Approximately 200 metal signs taken down
5. All these materials stored and safe until spring



Loading rolled mesh (left photo), Left to right Daniel Gregoire and Omar Perez  
Driving ATV (right photo) Left to right Daniel, Omar, and team lead Angelina Marshall



### Cleaning up and stowing gear

#### Rope Storage

Thanks to volunteer Fred Dale for showing us how to coil the 2,000 feet of cotton rope used in two of our fenced habitat areas. This material is durable and eco-friendly, but challenging to store for easy reuse next spring.



Before and after rope coiling with Fred Dale

### Nesting Habitat Cleanup in Partnership with CAUSE

On October 28th, we partnered with [CAUSE](#) to clean up the Ormond Beach south nesting habitat. Twelve Hueneme High School students joined us in this effort. The habitat had been closed to the public for six months, accumulating six months' worth of blown-in trash, making our cleanup crucial.



We began the day with a discussion on dune ecology, snowy plover, and least tern life histories. The students learned about how trash can harm these birds and then engaged in hands-on stewardship by removing the litter. Throughout the morning, students had the opportunity to observe and learn about various shorebirds, including snowy plovers, long-billed curlews, willets, godwits, and sanderlings. For many students, this visit marked their first time at Ormond Beach.

We extend our gratitude to Odette Moran from CAUSE and all the students who helped clean up the nesting habitat. Ventura Audubon looks forward to collaborating with CAUSE again on November 18th for a Beach Education Day. We'll provide binoculars, and our volunteers will lead student groups on bird-watching walks.



Thank you to CAUSE student leader Oliver (above left) for organizing the Oct 23 beach cleanup

### Upcoming Winter Work : Dates to be announced

- Repairing and digging out fences still on the beach
- Painting and sealing the roofs of our metal storage containers
- Ongoing habitat beach cleanups
- Sign cleaning and clear coating, more ropes to coil



[Email us](#) if you would like to be added to our contact list for volunteer dates. Dates will be announced via newsletter.

### November Field Trips



### Lake Casitas

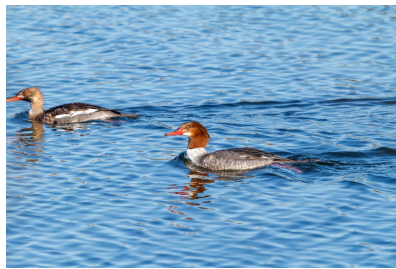


Photo by Alex Vaca

Friday, November 10th  
8:30 AM

Join us for a walk by the lake, there's usually something for everyone here. From Hummingbirds and Warblers to Ducks and Geese. Recent sightings include Northern Harrier and Red-naped Sapsucker. And there's always a chance we might see one of the resident Bald Eagles.

### Emma Wood/Ventura River



Photo by Vince Kinsch

Saturday, November 18th  
8:30 AM

A stroll through the wooded trails out to the river estuary and beach. We'll be looking for Warblers, Cormorants, Herons, Black Bellied Plovers, and Osprey. Recent sightings include Western Meadowlark and White Fronted Goose. We will bird the campground and then along the trail to the Ventura River Estuary. Trails are dirt roads and sand covered trails.

Visit our field trips [webpage](#) to sign up for a field trip or for more details

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

Questions or need help? Email [fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org)



## Birding Southern Costa Rica with Ventura Audubon

Set out on a journey across the Pacific coastal region of Costa Rica to discover the abundant species of neotropical birds and other wildlife

inhabiting this small but biodiverse country. Marvel at the variety of ecosystems, from lowland tropical forests and wetlands to temperate forests and páramos, and identify hundreds of bird species along the way. Visit national parks and wildlife reserves, botanical gardens, and world-renowned research stations to learn about the natural history of Costa Rica and the latest conservation initiatives to protect its precious ecosystems as you observe magnificent species like crocodiles and endemic avifauna.

### Highlights:

- Cruise along the Tárcoles River and watch for water birds and shorebirds.
- Venture on a guided tour through Los Cusingos Bird Sanctuary, once home to famed ornithologist Alexander Skutch.
- Observe some of the 400+ bird species during your stay at Las Cruces Biological Station, a leading research outpost with onsite accommodations.
- Ascend the Cordillera de Talamanca to experience its famous diversity of endemic wildlife.
- Seek out the elusive Resplendant Quetzal in Savegre's private reserve

Click the link below for more information

[Costa Rica 2024](#)

### Other Audubon Events on the Central Coast



**Morro Coast Audubon Society**  
Serving San Luis Obispo County Since 1966

**Title:** The Dinosaurs Amongst Us

**Presenter:** Kim Adelson, President of Black Hills Audubon

**When:** Monday, November 20th at 7:00pm

Virtually all paleontologists agree that birds evolved from dinosaurs, and most even go so far as to state that birds are, in fact, living dinosaurs. The flood of new data coming from newly discovered fossil beds - primarily from China - has only solidified that position. Come learn about the structural and behavioral similarities between birds and the more "classic" dinosaurs they evolved from. We guarantee that you will not only be surprised as to how dinosaur-like birds are, but also how very bird-like dinosaurs were. You will never think about *T. rex* in the same way again!

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)



# SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

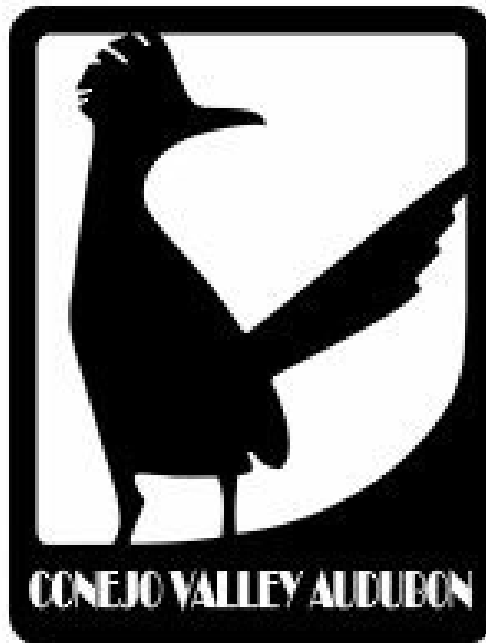
**The Magic of Central America: Costa Rica's Birds and Ecology**  
Presented by: Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz

**When:** Wednesday, November 15 at 7:30pm  
**Location:** Farrand Hall, SB Museum of Natural History  
2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara

Costa Rica has long been regarded as one of the top tropical birding destinations in the world and with good reason! This small Central American country is roughly the size of West Virginia yet is home to approximately 5% of the world's biodiversity, more than 900 species of birds with many regional endemics found only in Costa Rica and Western Panama.

This presentation will visit a variety of ecosystems including the cloud forest, the Caribbean lowlands, the Pacific tropical dry forest, and the ecological factors that have made Costa Rica an international birding Mecca.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#)



**Program:** Climate Change presented by Don Price

**When:** November 6th at 7:00pm

Don Price is a professional engineer now retired from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. A graduate of Purdue University, he has over 30 years of experience in the control of air pollution. He has been involved in global climate change education since 2007 and has spoken to almost 10,000 people on the subject. He will discuss climate-related issues that are occurring now, climate science that indicates human involvement and how climate change will impact California. He'll also talk about existing and future technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as actions that everyone can take to slow global climate change.



## Other ways you can support the Ventura Audubon Society

### Do you work for a company that uses Benevity?

If you volunteer for Ventura Audubon your volunteer hours go even further with matching funds

Check with your employer



---

## Thank you to our supporters!

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

### Businesses, Organizations and Agencies

- 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



[Contact Us](#)

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

[Unsubscribe cynthia.hartley@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:cynthia.hartley@venturaaudubon.org)

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

Sent by [contact@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:contact@venturaaudubon.org) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!