Ventura Audubon Society

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
November 2022 Volume 64, Number 3
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org

Long Billed Curlew at Ormond Beach; Vince Kinsch

Call Notes

By
Vince Kinsch
President

Welcome to the November newsletter! By now everyone who is registered to vote in Ventura County has received a ballot. VAS encourages all of you to vote and to think about birds when you mark your ballot. We are proud of all our members and supporters dedication to the protection of all bird species and the diverse habitat that supports them. We are their most important advocates. November is also our first in person program of the year. This time it will be in the Canada Larga room at the Poinsettia Pavilion, we will not be in the usual meeting room as that room is a vote center. So come out and vote then join us for a great program, Ten Million Birds: A Bird Photographer's View of Great Salt Lake.

I also wish to thank everyone who donated during Birdathon and to all of our members for joining and renewing. We will be sending our a members only newsletter featuring video highlights from our Ormond Beach nesting season, including never before released trail camera footage. Sign-up to be a member by December 1st to catch this exclusive email.

We've received some questions regarding Avian flu. According to Frank DeMartino, owner of Wild Birds Unlimited in Ventura, in general, if you have poultry (domestic chickens,

geese, ducks) then you should not be feeding wild birds near them. The poultry are far more susceptible to the illness than the wild birds are. If you are not near poultry you can feed the birds without concern; however, maintaining a clean bird feeding station always helps to prevent any illnesses. There have not been any cases detected in Ventura county yet, but it's likely that it will be detected here in wild ducks, shorebirds, or raptors (raptors catching it from feeding on sick ducks or shorebirds). Frank has also posted some helpful tips to help answer questions regarding bird health and safety here: RESPONSIBLE BIRD FEEDING

Finally, we often get emails regarding what to do with injured birds. We really appreciate everyone's concern and willingness to help. Now there is a new website dedicated to helping to connect with the right rescue organization. It is called The Wildlife Rescue Directory and is a free resource that allows anyone in the U.S. to find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator near them by simply entering their ZIP or city/state. You can check out the directory here: WILDLIFE RESCUE. The goal of the directory is to help more birds faster. This directory was started by Tammy Poppie who has been backyard birdwatching for more than 25 years and is founder of OnTheFeeder.com, a site about responsible backyard birdwatching. Tammy created the Wildlife Rescue Directory in response to people commonly and regularly asking how to get help for injured or sick birds.

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Birdathon

There is still time to donate during our Birdathon fundraiser. It is Ventura Audubon's primary annual fundraiser and donations enable us to operate the chapter, conduct field trips & speaker meetings and protect Ventura County's birds. Although grants support our basic work of species monitoring and habitat protection, they only provide a part of our funding needs, and grants require significant resources to administer. Please consider donating by going to our website www.venturaaudubon.org

Member Photo of the Month

This photo of an Osprey was taken by member
Alistair Skinner at the Ventura River Estuary in July

Have a cool picture of a bird from Ventura County? Submit it along with the ID, location and date to membership@venturaaudubon.org. We'll select a different one each month.

November Speaker Program

Ten Million Birds: A Bird Photographer's View of Great Salt Lake.

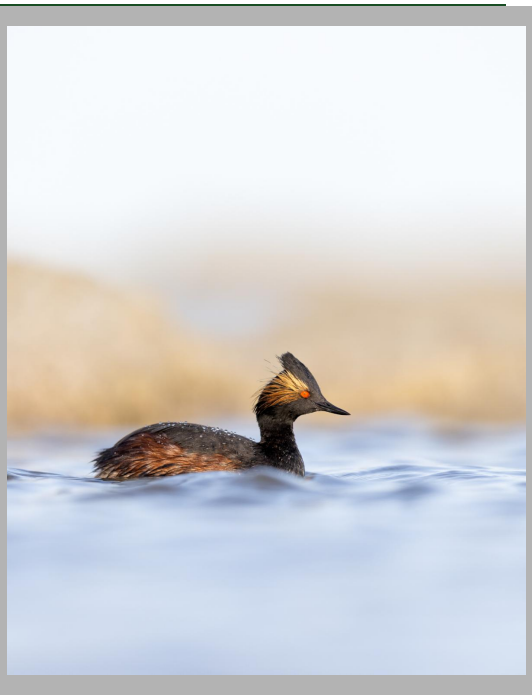
Speaker: Mary Anne Karren
Date: Tuesday November 8th
Time: 7:00pm
Location: Canada Larga Room at the Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura
and Online via Zoom

The Great Salt Lake in Utah, USA is North America's largest and most ecologically important terminal basin lake. The lake sits at the confluence of the Pacific and Central flyways and serves as a migratory hub for ten million birds across two continents. Its large size, central geography, and unique ecology makes Great Salt Lake and its wetlands the single most important bird habitat in the American West. After decades of unchecked water diversion and severe drought, Great Salt Lake is drying up. The future of this globally unique ecosystem - and ten million birds - is uncertain. Mary Anne will talk about her journey into bird photography, falling in love with Great Salt Lake, and using bird photography to inspire its protection.

Mary Anne Karren is an amateur wildlife photographer based in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has spent the past two years photographing birds at the rapidly disappearing Great Salt Lake and advocating for its protection. Her work juxtaposes the vibrant bird life of Great Salt Lake with its otherworldly landscapes.

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



If you have topic requests or would like to recommend a speaker,
please email Alecia, our program chair outreach@venturaaudubon.org

Diversity is Important for both Birds and Birders

Ventura Audubon Society is committed to fostering and preserving a birding culture of diversity, equality and inclusion. Promoting birding to a diverse audience is critical to the future of birds, benefits humans, improves our chapter and supports our mission to protect birds and their habitat. As an audience member if you ever feel we are not living up to this promise please feel free to reach out and let us know.

November 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 new 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 notify participants of any changes

Sign up early to participate in a field trip:

1. Visit our Field Trip webpage to sign up
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.

Field Trips

This beautiful preserve is a birding hotspot and includes a

Ojai Meadows

Saturday November 5
Meeting Time: 8:30am

restored wetland and native plantings. Target birds will include: Western Bluebirds, Sora, White tailed Kites, Western Meadowlark, Merlin, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrows.

For more info go to Ojai Valley Land Conservancy website

Directions: Take Hwy 33 toward Ojai and turn left at the Y. The preserve is on the left side. Parking is available in front of the entrance and at Nordoff High School. We will meet at the entrance.

GOOGLE MAPS

Satwiwa

Saturday November 19
Meeting Time: 8:30am

Satwiwa is a Scenic park in Newbury Park with hiking, biking & horseback riding trails plus an American Indian cultural center. The hiking trails can be hilly and steep in some areas with little tree cover. Sunscreen and water are highly recommended. Birds of interest here are Lazuli Buntings, California Thrasher, California Quail, Cactus Wren, Greater Roadrunners and various hummingbird species.

Directions: Take 101 south and exit on Wendy Drive. Turn right on Wendy and go to Lynn Road. Turn right on Lynn Road to Sycamore Canyon Trailhead. Turn left on Sycamore Canyon Trailhead continue to the parking lot.

GOOGLE MAPS

Visit our Field Trip webpage to sign up!

Volunteers in Action

We have some incredible volunteers!

On October 22nd, VAS Volunteers

Rachel Ameche and Alecia Smith participated in the Pleasant Valley Recreation Trail or Treat event at Camarillo Grove Park. This kid-friendly event offered a fun nature-based activity. Through this interactive Trail or Treat game, our outreach team had a great time quizzing youth participants on their bird and local ecosystem knowledge in exchange for Halloween treats!

Dog Rangers

This summer our Shorebird Recovery Team launched our new Dog Rangers program. This program reframes the public conversation around the disturbance of shorebirds and seabirds by dogs, letting beachgoers know how their dog can help birds. The pledge asks dogs and their owners to commit to making the following promises in support of birds. We specifically targeted Hollywood Beach because of the numerous dogs that visit that beach. Thank you to our dedicated summer interns and all the volunteers who talked to dog owners this summer!

The Dog Ranger pledge:

Meet Our Newest Dog Ranger

Lily

In 2022 our Shorebird Recovery Program was made possible by an Endangered Species Act Section 6 grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Dept, and by donations made to our annual Raise the Roost fundraiser. Thank you to all of our supporters and to our CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife sponsors!

Notes from the Field: Jul - Aug 2022

by David Pereksta

The summer months of July and August are often a slow time for birds locally in between the peaks of spring and fall migration; however, a few very rare birds for Ventura County were found this summer. Ventura County's second **Mississippi Kite** was seen briefly along the Harmon Barranca near the Cornucopia Community Garden on 16 Jul (FD). It was not relocated despite many attempts over the following days. Ventura County's second **Verdin** was in a Simi Valley yard 21-28 Aug (DK & CK). Not to be outdone by the others, the county's second **Blue-winged Warbler** put in a brief appearance at Sycamore Canyon on 30 Aug (DS).

A **Wood Duck** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds 21 Jul-31 Aug (ES). A **Red Knot** was at Mugu Lagoon on 21 Aug (DP) and another was on the Oxnard Plain 21-23 Aug (DP). A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at Lake Casitas on 27 Jul (SK) and another was on the Oxnard Plain on 15 Aug (LS). **Baird's Sandpipers** on the Oxnard Plain included individuals 6-8 Aug (LS), 23 Aug (DP), and 27 Aug (DP). An early **Pectoral Sandpiper** was on the Oxnard Plain on 23 Aug (DP). Juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpipers** on the Oxnard Plain may have included as many as three individuals 13-28 Aug (DP & LS). **Solitary Sandpipers** included one on the Oxnard Plain on 7 Aug (DP), one or more at Lake Casitas 14-29 Aug (SS), and another in Port Hueneme on 14 Aug (TT).

A pelagic trip out of Ventura on 9 Jul had 6 **Cook's Petrels** in Ventura County waters (DP et al.). Rarely seen along our coastline, a **Magnificent Frigatebird** flew over the Santa Clara River mouth on 27 Jul during a monsoonal flow (AH). The first mainland record of **Red-footed Booby** for Ventura County was a dark morph individual at Mugu Lagoon 20-22 Aug (DP). A **Neotropic**

Cormorant continued in Fillmore through 25 Aug. **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** have established along the coast but one on Anacapa Island on 26 Aug was a first record for the northern Channel Islands (DP & JB).

Two **Bank Swallows** were in east Ventura on 16 Aug (DP & SP). Three **American Dippers** continued in Santa Paula Canyon through 9 Aug. An **Ovenbird** was at Matilija Lake 10-12 Jul, which was presumably summering there (LK & EM). A **Black-and-white Warbler** was unseasonal on Pine Mountain on 20 Aug (KS). **Summer Tanagers** included two at Matilija Lake 29-30 Aug (DS) and one at Sycamore Canyon on 23 Aug (MG) that was later joined by a second 30-31 Aug (DS). A male **Indigo Bunting** thrilled many birders at Arroyo Verde Park 9-26 Jul (MT).

Thank you to those who reported sightings during this period. If you have any questions about local birds or have a good one to report (please no messages about nuisance birds) e-mail David Pereksta at <pereksta@pacbell.net>

Good Birding,
David Pereksta

Observers: Joel Barrett, Frank DeMartino, Matt Goldowitz, Andrew Hulm, Logan Kahle, Sangeet Khalsa, Chrystal Klabunde, Don Klabunde, Ethan Monk, David Pereksta, Sandy Pereksta, Larry Sansone, Spencer Seale, Eric Shaphran, Kirill Shtengel, Dessi Sieburth, Tina Tan, Michael Tiffany

Meetings and Programs from our partner Central Coast Chapters

Conejo Valley Audubon Society

November Meeting

Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Date: November 7th

Rob Badger and Nita Winter take you behind the scenes on their 27-year journey photographing wildflowers throughout California and the West. It began in the year 1992 when they discovered and fell in love with California's spectacular wildflower blooms in the Mojave Desert's Antelope Valley California Poppy Preserve. Photographing these beautiful landscapes and individual flowers evolved into their documentary art project,

“Beauty and the Beast: Wildflowers and Climate Change.” This beautiful, multiple award-winning coffee table book, co-published with the California Native Plant Society, focuses on California’s amazing plant diversity. It is a companion to their traveling educational exhibit.

This program will be in a hybrid format: in-person at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, and also online via Zoom.

In Person
Masks will be required, and the in person group will be limited to a maximum of thirty to allow for social distancing purposes, so please RSVP to the Programs Coordinator to reserve a seat.

Via Zoom
If you are sharing photos, you will be able to narrate your show during the Zoom meeting. To attend this meeting, use this link (https://zoom.us/j/6155249106) at the meeting time.

Morro Coast Audubon Society
Serving San Luis Obispo County Since 1966

The Bats of San Luis Obispo County

Speaker: Bill Toone, founder of the ECOLIFE Conservation
Time: 7:00pm
Date: November 21

The story covers 5 years of travel through northeastern Madagascar starting with a biological transect that led to living and working in the small village of Antanambao. There I met Emilien, a toddler of about 18 months. For a few years we were inseparable and during that time, he taught me more about conservation than I had absorbed from years of schooling and decades of work. Through this presentation I hope to share the revelation he brought to me and present a more cohesive plan for saving our own future on this beautiful planet.

more info

SANTA BARBARA AUDUBON SOCIETY

The Bald Eagle:
The Improbable Journey of America’s Bird

Speaker: Daryl Hodges
Location:
Fleischmann Auditorium Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History 2559 Puesta del Sol, Santa Barbara
Time: 7:30pm
Date: November 3rd

Jack E. Davis' book, THE BALD EAGLE, is an astonishing work of cultural and natural history that forces us to reconsider the story of America through the lens of our relationship to the natural world. As Davis reveals, no other animal in American history, certainly no avian one, has been the simultaneous object of such adoration and cruelty as the bald eagle – first beloved and hailed as an emblem of the rarefied natural environment of North America, then hated, and, finally, revered and protected.

Jack E. Davis is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea and An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century. Davis holds the Rothman Family Chair in the Humanities at the University of Florida where he teaches environmental history and sustainability studies.

more info

Ways to Support Ventura Audubon Society

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

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