

## The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society  
March 2021 Volume 62, Number 8  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[venturaaudubon.org](http://venturaaudubon.org)



*photo by Alecia Smith*

## Call Notes

*by Cynthia Hartley  
VAS Executive Director  
Ventura Audubon Society*

**Western snowy plover nesting season is here!** Today, March 15th, is the official start of nesting season. This week we begin our weekly nest surveys, which will continue for the next 6 months. It's a long season! We'll be presenting to both Oxnard and Port Hueneme City Councils in the next month to spread the word about what we do and how everyone can help protect these birds.

We've been working hard for the past month putting up habitat fences on Ormond Beach. I'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to Oxnard City Corps and CSUCI volunteers for doing the heavy lifting on this project these past few weeks. We are now working on printing and putting up signs for the fences. Look for more news and updates in upcoming newsletters! Or visit our Shorebird Recovery [webpage](#)

Snowy plover nests have already been found at Fort Ord Dunes State Park and at the Coal Oil Point Reserve. We have started to see birds pairing off and scraping (making

nests in the sand) on Ormond Beach, but no eggs yet. We typically see our first nest before the end of March on Ormond, so we are watching carefully. Hollywood Beach typically starts nesting later in the season.

To support the ongoing work of our Shorebird Recovery Program, we will be hosting a fundraiser in early April. From April 2nd to 4th, 2021 we will be holding an online silent auction and speaker event called “**Raise the Roost**”. This work ensures the continued conservation and protection of our locally nesting snowy plover and California least tern populations. As our program continues to expand, our need for funding becomes more important each season

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of the Ventura Audubon Society will be held:  
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM Via Zoom**

A link to the Zoom meeting will be provided prior to the date on our website, via Constant Contact and social media. At the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the proceedings, ask questions and vote on the election of directors and any other item on the Agenda.

In addition to electing officers, we will hold a fun event... A Kahoot! We are calling it "What's that bird?". Attendees will be able to test their birding ID skills and win prizes.

**The Draft Agenda for the Annual Meeting includes:**

1. Kahoot
2. Election of Board of Directors for 2021-2022 Program Year:

Debra Barringer  
Tom Black  
Deborah Burns  
Frank DeMartino  
Sherry Dorris  
Adele Fergusson  
Alexis Frangis

Cynthia Hartley  
Sandy Hedrick  
April Randol  
Bruce Schoppe  
Alecia Smith  
Kat Whitehouse

## March 16, 2021 - Speaker Program

**NOTE - This month our speaker presentation is occurring on the 3rd Tuesday of the month instead of the 2nd Tuesday. We will return to the old 2nd Tuesday speaker schedule next month.**

### Climate Change and the Future for Birds

**Speaker:** Dr. Amy Denton  
Professor of Biology at CSUCI  
**Date:** Tues March 16, 2021  
**Time:** 7:00 pm



To join the program  
Use the link on our [Monthly Speaker](#) webpage

Click the "Watch Here" button on the monthly speaker page

Dr. Amy Denton will present a program and discussion about the causes of climate change and what this means for birds, their migration patterns and their future. This is a special program geared to the interests of our Audubon audience.



Dr. Denton has extensive academic and research experience studying the impacts of climate on worldwide flora and fauna. Drawing on her experience she will explain the causes of climate change and how it is impacting wildlife. Dr. Denton will also include data from the National Audubon Society, to discuss what these changes mean for birds, their migration patterns and their future. Dr. Denton is looking forward to meeting our audience and answering your questions about birds and climate change.



## Speaker Biography

Dr. Amy Denton has been a biology professor at California State University Channel Islands since 2003. Originally from New York, she received her Ph.D. in botany from the University of Washington, was a National Science Foundation/Alfred P. Sloan postdoctoral fellow in molecular evolution at UC Riverside, then faculty in the University of Alaska Fairbanks Department of Biology & Wildlife and herbarium curator at the UAF Museum of the North.

## Sneak peak at our April speaker topic, April 13, 2021 at 7pm

**Title:** Conservation in the Central Valley: 3 Keys to Our Future

**Speaker:** Xerónimo Castañeda, Conservation Manager with California Audubon

**Topics to be discussed will include:**

1. Tricolored Blackbird conservation,
2. groundwater recharge projects, and
3. On-farm demonstration of habitat creation through cover crops and riparian restoration

## Diversity is Important for both Birds and Birders

Ventura Audubon Society is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a birding culture of diversity, equality and inclusion. We believe we can further our mission to the protect birds and their habitat by providing inclusive programming to the communities we serve. We now ask all of our speakers to understand and adhere to our values when addressing our audience. 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.

## Past programs

If you missed a past program and would like to see it, please visit the ["Monthly Speaker"](#) page on our Ventura Audubon Website. We record most meetings and post the YouTube

## Field Trips

Field trips are coming back! At the end of April we will hold our first field trip since stay at home orders went into effect in early December. Look for details in our next newsletter and on our field trips page of our website.

## VAS News

### Raise the Roost Fundraiser: April 2nd - 4th

As we prepare for the start of snowy plover nesting season on March 15th, we would like to take this time to introduce our **Raise the Roost Fundraiser**.

Funds raised will be used for the upcoming and future nesting seasons and will pay for nest monitoring, habitat protection including fencing, signage, trail cameras, and supplies for volunteers in our community stewardship program, Volunteer Naturalists.



#### Guest Speakers

**No charge! Dates: April 3rd and 4th**

During the weekend of the fundraiser we have two special speakers



**5pm, April 3rd 2021:** Claire Greenwell, an ecologist and photographer who studies fairy terns in Western Australia. She will present her research on the “Secret Life of Fairy Terns”.



**1pm, April 4th 2021:** Faraaz Abdool is a wildlife photographer and birding tour guide in Trinidad and Tobago. He will talk about his new book and his island home's biodiversity.

#### Silent Auction

We're going virtual with our online auction! All proceeds support the Shorebird Recovery Program and our efforts to protect snowy plovers and least terns at Ormond and Hollywood Beach. Take a look at our silent auction items,



featuring locally curated gifts and art. We even have a few international items! Auctions are open for everyone near or far, so spread the word! Place a bid on your phone or computer and receive a notification when someone has outbid you or you can even buy it now.



Fancy a Kayaking Tour on the Channel Islands, bird on the Santa Barbara Adventure Co Package? How about a private birding tour from Birds by Bijs? In need of some local and organic pampering products? Check out the Refill Shoppes Gift Basket. How about some growlers of some of Ventura's best beer, plus a free fill? VCBC has you covered. Need some new bird feeders, we've got amazing glass blown ones. Our auction has all that and more! ( [insert link](#) ).

For more information or to RSVP for speakers you can check out our [Fundraiser Page](#)

## Great Programs from Other Audubon Chapters and from Wild Birds Unlimited



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

### Birds of SLO, 2020, Part 1

**Speakers:** RD Clark and Jack Collins  
**Time and Date:** 7:00pm Wed March 15, 2021

Birds of SLO - 2020 Part 1, the Zoom Edition, is a two-part slide show featuring outstanding images of over 200 species of birds taken during the first half of last year by seventeen of the finest nature photographers in San Luis Obispo County, with a special section highlighting the grebes. The photos are amazing and their impact is heightened by the live piano accompaniment provided by Oliver Glynn. If you enjoy birds and birding, you'll enjoy the evening. It will be great entertainment and motivation to get out and bird more often in our county.

[more info](#) (including zoom link)



**SANTA BARBARA  
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

### The Breeding Bird Study of Santa Barbara County - Five Years on, What Have We Learned?

**Speakers:** Adrian O'Loughlen and Mark Holmgren  
**Time and Date:** 7:30pm-9pm, Wed March 24, 2021

With nearly 9,500 records, after 5 years of data gathering, and contributions from more than 300 people, we should know some new things about Santa Barbara County's breeding birds! Let's find out as Adrian and Mark present some results of the Breeding

Bird Study (BBS). With the help of their colleagues at UCSB's Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) and the Goleta Coast Audubon Society they'll show not only results, but the scientific, conservation, regulatory, and education uses for the information in the BBS using their new Web Map Application.  
[more info](#) (including zoom link)

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## Beginner Bird ID Class - Spring Edition!

**Speaker:** Frank DeMartino  
**Time and Date:** 2-3pm, Sat March 20, 2021

Struggling to identify sparrows? Frustrated with finches? Are there flashes of yellow going through your yard that you wish you could name? Spring migration is in coming up and mystery birds will be everywhere! We will be having a beginner bird identification class focusing on the most common species that you are likely to see at your feeders this time of year and how you can tell them apart.

[more info](#) (including zoom link)

## Springing Into Migration

**Speaker:** Frank DeMartino  
**Time and Date:** 2-3pm, Sun March 28, 2021

Migration is one of the most amazing feats that birds perform. Humanity has been fascinated with the pattern of appearing and disappearing birds for millennia. Understanding migration is a key step to realizing the challenges and threats that birds deal with on a regular basis. We will look at some of the myths that have surrounded migration and highlight the many obstacles birds face and the incredible ways they have evolved to deal with them. Finally, we will discuss current conservation issues that pertain to migration, including Cornell's "Seven Simple Actions to Bring Birds Back"

[more info](#) (including zoom link)

## CSUCI - Channel Islands Audubon updates

### Love Birds Poetry Contest Winner

Congratulations to Celena Camarillo, the winner of Channel Islands Audubon's

February poetry contest! This Valentine's Day inspired contest challenged members to create a love poem that included at least one reference to a bird or a bird centric trait. We thought this was a very clever poem. Great job Celena!



*By Celena Camarillo, Biology-Senior*

*Curious as a corvid upon first meeting you  
Once I grew to know you it was like a  
sparrow to the heart  
Now,  
My chest swells like that of a warbler mid-song  
My cheeks flush as deep as the rosy breasted grosbeak  
As my thoughts float to a day wren I can call you mine*

## Thank you to our supporters!

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

### Grants

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Act Section 6 Grant
- National Foundation of Fish and Wildlife (NFWF)
- National Audubon Society, Audubon in Action Grant

## 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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VOLUNTEER: Fill out this SURVEY FORM



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