

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org

Thank you for your
support and
participation
this year!



Call Notes

by Cynthia Hartley
VAS Executive Director

Thanks to all of you for being a part of Ventura Audubon this past year! Another VAS year has come to a close. So many of you supported our fundraisers, attended field trips (even during the pandemic with strict safety rules), joined our speaker programs, attended volunteer naturalist training and volunteered on the beach! Thank you!!

After May, we start our summer recess from our regular programs, including monthly speakers, field trips and the newsletter. These activities will resume in September. In the meantime, nesting season for snowy plovers, and soon least terns, is going full steam! **No summer recess for this work!** Many of you have generously supported our work on the beaches with these species. We know many of you care deeply about shorebird recovery work, so we will publish a special mid-summer update via our newsletter to keep everyone up to speed on what is happening. Look for this special newsletter in July.

Program updates for next year: See our fall program sneak peak in this newsletter for upcoming topics that our new program chair, Sabrina Kennedy, has lined up for us. At this point we hope to be back at the Poinsettia Pavilion in the fall! We look forward to starting up in-person programs again in September. That said, we learned a lot this past year from virtual meetings and plan on keeping the things we liked about holding our meetings online. The virtual meeting format breaks down geographic barriers and lets us bring speakers from far away, and allows our audience to join us from the convenience of their own homes if they prefer not to or cannot make the drive. Plus that we can record and archive meetings. Therefore, our board has agreed to test out a hybrid in-person and online program format starting next fall. Stay tuned for updates. We will have more info in our September newsletter.

Special note to Santa Barbara Audubon: Long time president Dolores Pollock will be retiring from her roll as president from SBAS in June this year. VAS would like to thank her for her friendship, for being a great partner and a valuable resource to our chapter. We will miss you! We wish you the very best in your new endeavors. Enjoy your retirement!

We wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer!

MAY PROGRAM: Annual Meeting - 7pm Tuesday May 11, 2021

The Annual Meeting of the Ventura Audubon Society will be held via Zoom

This has been held for our members on the last month of our season and to elect our officers for the following year, instead of our usual monthly speaker program. For the first time ever we will be holding our annual meeting virtually. 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.

The Draft Agenda for the Annual Meeting:

1. Kahoot - prizes
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

PLEASE VOTE IF YOU ARE A VAS MEMBER

Follow this link to vote on the 2021-22 VAS Board.
You may also email your vote to contact@venturaaudubon.org.
Voting closes at 7:30 pm on Tuesday May 11, 2021.

VOTE

In addition to electing officers, we will hold a fun event...
A Kahoot!what is a Kahoot?



Test your Bird ID skills!!

Our host will show a series of bird images, of varying difficulty, and the audience will vote on the species ID. This is not only a great way to test your bird ID skills, but a great way to increase your knowledge.

Top 3 winners prizes - Program logo items:

Coffee Mug

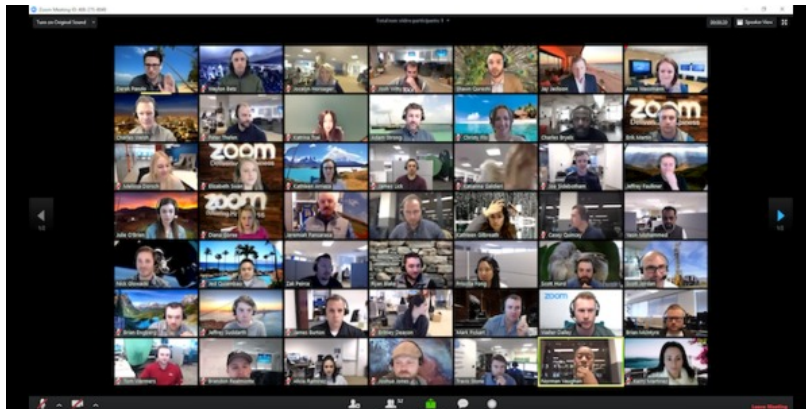
Tote Bag

(or VAS logo, your choice)



VAS Speaker Programs - Fall 2021

Thank you to everyone who joined our program 2020-21 via Zoom!



If you'd like to re-visit any of our programs from last year, we recorded most of them and links are posted on our monthly speakers [webpage](#)

Our 2021-22 speaker series begins in September 2021

Sneak Peak at Fall 2021 Programs

- Sept: "Ranching is for the Birds"; presenter Sarah Sortum
- Oct: "Audubon Starr Ranch Sanctuary: Protecting and Promoting Southern California Wildlands"; presenter Sandy DeSimone
- Nov: "Caring for Wildlife at California Wildlife Center"; presenter Denys Hemen
- Dec: Movie Night - "Condor's Shadow"; presenter Joseph Brandt
- Jan: Title TBD, topic will be about how wildfire affects forest biodiversity; presenter Gavin Jones

For February, March, & April still recruiting speakers. If you have requests please email programs@venturaaudubon.org

Meet Sabrina Kennedy, our new program chair!



Sabrina has been hard at work lining up speakers for our next program year. Sabrina's grandfather came to America from Indonesia and was an avid birder. His love of birds inspires her. Sabrina is majoring in environmental science at CSUCI and we found her through the CI Audubon club. She has attended our volunteer naturalist training and has worked as a volunteer on Ormond Beach this spring. She will also be helping us with special projects on her summer vacation.

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.

Ventura Audubon Field Trips

Please join us for our final field trip of this year!

To register for a field trip, visit our [Field Trip webpage](#). Scroll to the bottom of the page and fill out your name, contact info and which trip you want to attend. You will be sent an email by our Field Trip Coordinator.

Santa Clara River Estuary/Surfers' Knoll

Saturday May 29, 2021
Meeting Time: 8:30am
[Sign up](#) - scroll to the bottom

We will walk along the beach from Surfers Knoll parking lot to the estuary. We will hope to see a variety of shorebirds including Snowy Plovers, Ruddy and Black Turnstones and hopefully Surfbirds which are always an exciting treat. We will also tackle some gull and tern identification, so bring your field guides!



Long billed curlew- photo by Alecia Smith

[Google Maps Link](#) - Meet at Surfers' Knoll Parking Lot in Ventura Harbor
See Field Trips [webpage](#) for driving directions

Field Trip Guidelines

To keep everyone safe we will continue to adhere to the COVID-19 safety measures we developed last fall. If you are interested in participating in a fieldtrip:

- All participants must pre-register
- We will email you a COVID-19 release form for you to sign and return electronically before the trip
- Everyone must wear a mask during the field trip
- All participants must maintain social distancing of 6 feet

For our part, we are arranging to have multiple field trip leaders on each trip so we can break into small groups. This is safer for COVID-19 distancing, and it also gives everyone a chance to interact and ask questions of our experienced leaders. We encourage family groups to break into their own groups with a leader.

Beginners are welcome on all field trips! Please do not be shy if you are learning bird ID or are just curious. We love beginners!

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.

If you have any questions or want to register contact fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org or use the application below

Help the Snowy Plovers and Least Terns This Summer

Interested in helping out with Shorebird Recovery at Ormond Beach or Hollywood Beach?

Join our next Volunteer Naturalist Training via Zoom.

Next training class in May 15th from 12-2:30, and more classes will be scheduled this

summer. If you can't attend the May training check our website for future dates.

Register here: <https://www.venturaaudubon.org/volunteer-naturalists>



In Memory

Linda Dye

With great sadness we learned about the passing of another member of our birding community. Linda Dye passed on April 17, 2021. Linda was well known as an avid birder and conservation volunteer, and was a frequent participant in our birding field trips. We will miss her deeply. Our sincerest condolences to her family and friends.

Linda's celebration of life will be at the Ventura Center for Spiritual Living, 101 S. Laurel on Saturday, May 29 at 1pm. Because of Covid restrictions, there will be a limited number of people who can physically attend at the church; however, there is a plan to enable people to attend the celebration virtually using Zoom.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP with an email to cristen.salter@gmail.com with your name, phone number, email address, and your choice of attending at the church or through Zoom (Cristen will respond with the information for zooming). Please write in the subject field of your E mail "Linda's Celebration of Life RSVP."

The family is accepting donations for planting trees in Linda's name. The donations could be brought to the service or mailed to Cristen Salter, 10741 Center St., Plainwell, MI 49080.

Online Birding Classes with Frank at Wild Birds Unlimited Ventura



Beginner Bird ID Class - Spring Edition!

Speaker: Frank DeMartino

Time: 2-3pm, both dates

Date: Sunday May 16 ([link](#)) or Saturday May 29 ([link](#)), 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.

Great Programs from Other Audubon Chapters



Morro Coast Audubon Society

Serving San Luis Obispo County Since 1966

Do You Think Bats Are Scary?

Speaker: Melinda Alvarado with Blind Bat Educational Programs

Time and Date:

7:00pm Tues May 18, 2021

The presentation includes a slide show and features several species of live, tame bats. All ages will benefit from and appreciate this chance to learn about the real world of bats.



Myths, superstitions, and misconceptions about these highly beneficial mammals are discussed and replaced with factual learning about the ecological importance of bats and their roles in many ecosystems as insect controllers, pollinators, and seed dispersers. Discover why bats don't get headaches from hanging upside down and why you don't have to worry about bats getting stuck in your hair.

Learn that:

- Bats are the only significant hunter of night flying insect pests.
- Bats are NOT blind, some can see 10 times better than humans.
- One bat can eat up to 1000 insects an hour, including mosquitoes.
- Bats are much more closely related to humans than to rodents.
- There are almost 1,100 species of bats worldwide. They are the second largest order of mammal.
- Only about 1 in 1,000 bats will contract rabies, about the same as other wildlife. Simply not handling downed bats will reduce your chances of contracting this disease from a bat to zero.
- Bats are major pollinators in the southern hemisphere. They are the primary seed disperser in tropical rainforests. Bats are responsible for up to 95% of tropical rainforest propagation.

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



**SANTA BARBARA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Saline Lakes in the West: Eared Grebe Migration and the Lakes They Depend on

Speaker: Nora Livingston

Time and Date: 7:30pm Wed May 26, 2021

Eared Grebes populate western saline lakes like Mono Lake and the Salton Sea by the millions during their southward migration, but these lakes are in danger due to excessive water diversions and climate change. Learn about the magnificent Eared Grebe and the lakes that it depends on with presenter Nora Livingston.

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

**Thank you Dolores Pollock for your long service
as SBAS president!**

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
- Start the Wave [website](#)

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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Donate ONLINE

amazon smile

VOLUNTEER: Fill out this SURVEY FORM



[Contact Us](#)