**NOTES FROM THE FIELD – August-October 2021 by David Pereksta**

A **Wood Duck** was in Fillmore on 9 Oct (DP & SP) and two continued at the Ventura Settling ponds through 30 Oct. **Redheads** were at Lake Sherwood 28 Sep-16 Oct with a high of 65 on 12 Oct (MH). Unusual inland, two **Sabine’s Gulls** were at Lake Piru on 29 Sep with one continuing (?) through 18 Oct (TT). A large flock of **Black Skimmers** was present at Mugu Lagoon 29 Sep-25 Oct with a high count of 180 on 9 Oct (MR, AM, et al.). A **Cattle Egret** was on the Oxnard Plain on 16 Oct (NA) and a **Neotropic Cormorant** continued at Ormond Beach through 26 Sep.

A **Curlew Sandpiper** on the Oxnard Plain on 23 Sep (LS, DP) was the first Ventura County record in 32 years. Other shorebirds of note on the Oxnard Plain included a **Ruff** 20-26 Sep (LS, DP) and a **Stilt Sandpiper** on 26 Sep (LS, DP). **Solitary Sandpipers** were at Garbage Ditch on 14 Aug (SS), as many as two on the Oxnard Plain 13 Aug-12 Sep (LS, DP), and one at Matilija Lake 18-19 Sep (RR). **Semipalmated Sandpipers** included individuals at a detention basin in Ventura on 6 Aug (DP & SP), at Garbage Slough 14-27 Aug (DS), and on the Oxnard Plain on 27 Aug (DP). An early **Pacific Golden-Plover** was on the Oxnard Plain 6-7 Aug (DP) with another two on 1 Sep (LS, DP). As many as two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were on the sod fields 22 Sep-30 Oct, which likely involved more individuals over that period (m. obs.). Other shorebirds on the sod fields included a **Mountain Plover** 14-22 Oct (JM) and a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** along Casper and Arnold Roads 1-30 Oct (MB). There may have been multiple Buff-breasteds present over this time and there were two individuals seen together on 1 Oct (DP, TMc & MG). **Red-throated Pipits** included one on the sod fields at the eastern end of Hueneme Road on 19 Oct (NA) and individuals on Laguna Road on 21 Oct (NA) and 31 Oct (NA).

A **Swainson’s Hawk** was in Newbury Park on 17 Sep (MP) and another was over the Ventura Settling Ponds on 16 Oct (SS). A **Zone-tailed Hawk** returned to its wintering haunts in Ojai 4 Sep-26 Oct (JM) while possibly the same **Zone-tailed Hawk**, or another, was over Sulphur Mountain on 29 Sep (MBo & SK). **Ferruginous Hawks** were at Canada Larga Road on 27 Sep (SS & KS), the Santa Clara River in Oxnard on 30 Sep (ZA), and Casper Road on 3 Oct (BH).

**White-winged Doves** included individuals at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 11 Aug (MB) and 7 Sep (DKB), Ormond Beach on 21 Aug (AF), Ventura on 11 Sep (AS), Anacapa Island on 7 Sep (JH), and San Nicolas Island on 20 Sep (SK); two were in Ventura on 31 Aug (LVS). **Lewis’s Woodpeckers** are on the move this year and they were reported widely in the mountains east of Thousand Oaks and in the hills north of Ventura. Individual **Red-naped Sapsuckers** were at Lake Piru on 30 Sep (JBe), Camarillo on 2 Oct (RA), Lake Casitas on 18 Oct (LO), and Ojai on 26 Oct (DKB). A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Sycamore Canyon on 18 Sep (MP et al.). An **Eastern Kingbird** was at Point Mugu on 12 Aug (JS) and another was far at sea north of San Nicolas Island on 7 Sep (RT, DP et al.). **Gray Flycatchers** away from breeding areas included individuals at Arroyo Vista Community Park 18 Aug-12 Oct (SC), Point Mugu on 22 Sep (MR), and Pine Mountain on 1 Oct (DP & TMc).

A **Plumbeous Vireo** returned for another winter at Pitts Ranch Park 14-23 Oct (JMu). A **Yellow-green Vireo** was at Bob Kildee Park 20 Sep-2 Oct (SB, StB, & BCB) and others were at Emma Wood State Beach (SC) and Ventura (RM) on 26 Sep. As many as two **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were at Rincon Creek 23 Sep-7 Oct (SS). **Bank Swallows** included individuals at the Santa Clara River Estuary on 17 Aug (DK), 14 Sep (EV & RK), and 25 Sep (SK); and one on the Oxnard Plain on 24 Sep (DP et al.). Two **Bank Swallows** were at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 30 Sep (KS & SS). Two **Purple Martins** were at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 24 Sep (SS & KS) and another was there on 30 Sep (BCB). A **Varied Thrush** was on Frazier Mountain on 29 Oct (DP).

**Clay-colored Sparrows** included individuals on the Oxnard Plain on 21 Sep (DP), at Emma Wood State Beach on 30 Sep (PL & RR), at Bob Kildee Park on 1 Oct (JM), and Ventura on 9 Oct (MT). A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at Lake Piru 14-24 Sep (TT). Two **Bobolinks** were on the Oxnard Plain on 24 Sep (DP & RF). A **Summer Tanager** was in the Kimball Barranca on 6 Oct (SK). A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds 31 Aug-1 Sep (MB) and others were in Ventura 8-12 Oct (RM) and 10-16 Oct (ETG). An **Indigo Bunting** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 21 Oct (JM).

September and October are the prime time to look for vagrant warblers and this season provided a number of them. The most exciting was a **Golden-winged Warbler** in a Newbury Park backyard 24-25 Sep (CB), which was the first mainland record for Ventura County. A **Northern Waterthrush**, presumed to be the same individual from recent winters, was at the Ventura Settling Ponds 1 Sep-28 Oct (SC) while another was in the Kimball Barranca 25-26 Sep (MT). **Black-and-white Warblers** included individuals at Matilija Lake 1-6 Aug (LK & DS), the Ventura Settling Ponds 21 Sep-30 Oct (EBC, RR & TM), Bob Kildee Park 6-14 Oct (MB), and Kimball Barranca on 6 Oct (SK). A **Tennessee Warbler** was at the Laguna Tamarisks 3-6 Sep (SS) and another was in Ventura on 7 Oct (RM). A **Lucy’s Warbler** was at Bob Kildee Park 13-19 Sep (JMu). **Virginia’s Warblers** were at Bob Kildee Park 2-6 Sep (JMu & BH), Conejo Community Park on 5 Sep (RS), and the Ventura Settling Ponds on 8 Oct (DKB). An **American Redstart** was at the Laguna Tamarisks 11-13 Sep (LE) and another was there 2-6 Oct (RB). Two **Blackburnian Warblers** were at Bob Kildee Park; one 23-30 Sep (JBe) and another 1 -6 Oct (DM). Another **Blackburnian Warbler** was at the Laguna Tamarisks on 23 Oct (JA). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** included one at sea west of the Cortes Bank on 9 Sep (RT, DP, et al.), one at Rincon Creek 20 Sep-7 Oct (SS), and another at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 22 Oct (MB). **Blackpoll Warblers** included individuals at Bob Kildee Park 2-8 Oct (JO & MA), Laguna Tamarisks 9-11 Oct (NA), Ventura on 23 Sep (RM), the Ventura River on 21 Oct (SK), and Rincon Creek 5-6 Oct (FD). **Palm Warblers** were at Oxnard College on 6 Oct (SC) and 16 Oct (NA), the Laguna Tamarisks on 19 Oct (KK), and San Nicolas Island on 28 Oct (SK). Ventura County’s records of **Pine Warblers** were doubled when two birds were found in October including one in a tamarisk row near the Oxnard Airport 22-26 Oct (NA) and one at Oxnard College on 30 Oct (NA). The **Painted Redstart** returned for its third winter at Arroyo Verde Park 13-21 Oct (AF).

The multi-day Searcher pelagic trip after Labor Day had a number of rare seabirds in Ventura County waters including 12 **Craveri’s Murrelets** and a **Red-footed Booby** north of San Nicolas Island on 7 Sep; a **Townsend’s Storm-Petrel**, **Cook’s Petrel**, and **Nazca Booby** east of the San Juan Seamount on 8 Sep; and a **Guadalupe Murrelet**, 11 **Townsend’s Storm-Petrels** and 2 **Nazca Boobies** west of the Cortes Bank on 9 Sep (DP, TMc, RT et al.). A pelagic trip out of Ventura on 2 Oct had 29 **Craveri’s Murrelets**, a **South Polar Skua**, and 3 **Brown Boobies** in Ventura waters (DP, TMc, RT, JB et al.). A **Red-footed Booby** was in the Santa Barbara Channel on 8 Sep (JB).

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 calls about nuisance birds) e-mail David Pereksta at <pereksta@pacbell.net>

Good birding,

David Pereksta

Observers: Zack Abbey, Michael Abrams, Rachel Ameche, John Apperson, Noah Arthur, Joel Barrett, Joe Beck, Marc Better, Mario Borunda, Catherine Bourne, Elizabeth Brewer Chouinard, Ryan Burnett, Sage Bylin, Stephen Bylin, Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, Sammy Cowell, Frank DeMartino, Linda Easter, Rick Farris, Adele Fergusson, Mike Greenfelder, Mary Hansen, Bruce Henderson, Jim Howard, Logan Kahle, Deven Kammerichs-Berke, Sangeet Khalsa, Daniel Knox, Robby Kohley, Karl Krause, Peter Larramendy, Tom Maloney, Jerry Maryniuk, Todd McGrath, Douglas McKay, Robert McMorran, Ava Molnar, John Mueller, Lynn Oldt, John Oliver, Matthew Page, David Pereksta, Sandy Pereksta, Rick Ridgeway, Martin Ruane, Larry Sansone, Spencer Seale, John Short, Kirill Shtengel, Dessi Sieburth, Roger Swanson, Antal Szijj, Tina Tan, Elisa Taylor-Godwin, Ryan Terrill, Michelle Townsley, Laurie Van Stee, and Eric VanderWerf