

The California Condor

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

Call Notes

by Vince Kinsch
President

Happy April! April is Earth Month. For environmental groups like Ventura Audubon, it is the busiest month of the year. We have three big events this month; on Friday April 7th we will be at Patagonia's flagship store at 235 W Santa Clara Street, Ventura from 2 to 4 pm. Come on by and learn about our shorebird recovery program, Dog Rangers and ways to volunteer for the chapter.

On April 22nd we will be conducting our first Beach Naturalist Workshop of the year. This time it will include a 2-hour classroom training followed by 2 hours of field work at Ormond Beach. The class will be held at Oxnard College, for more information or to sign up please contact outreach@venturaaudubon.org. You can also sign up through our [website](#).

Our final event of April is the important "Raise the Roost" party and silent auction benefitting the VAS shorebird recovery program. This year we have NEW shorebird recovery commemorative pint glasses. For \$10, you'll get a glass and a fill. The silent auction has items including wine tastings, gift cards and jewelry. Bidding opens on April 28th. Please keep an eye for the email in your inbox.

Earth month is also a reminder that the fight is not over. As your advocate for birds and their habitat, we are constantly monitoring decisions that effect our local environment. Two issues that are on our radar are the Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE), the settling ponds at the waste water treatment plant and Ormond Beach.

The SCRE is an important habitat for many bird species in our area. It is recognized as a globally Important Bird Area (IBA) and it serves as an important stopover on the Pacific Flyway. The SCRE and adjacent settling ponds are enabled by the wastewater treatment plant. The City of Ventura plans on diverting the majority of the discharge from this plant to recharge our water supply. This is an important step in maintaining our water supply in years of drought; however, it would drastically reduce or even eliminate the SCRE wetlands. We believe that with proper planning we can preserve this important bird habitat and meet our water needs. There is a California Coastal Commission meeting on April 14th to discuss this issue. Please attend and express support to maintain the settling ponds for birds. Click [HERE](#) for more information and how to comment or go to the Coastal Commission website.

On April 24 from 6 - 8pm there will be a town hall meeting to discuss the Ormond Beach Restoration Access Project. This is a significant project to ensure the long-term health

and protection of Ormond Beach. See the flyer below and plan on supporting the future of Ormond Beach.

Lastly, save the date of May 7th for our last meeting of the year, the 2nd annual Birds and Beer Party at Topa Topa brewing company. VAS Members will receive 2 for 1 pints, so secure your discount by joining or renewing today!

[Membership Webpage](#)

[Join VAS via PayPal](#)

Shorebird Recovery Program Fundraiser: April 29th 2023

Are you ready to "Raise the Roost" for shorebirds?

Ventura County has two nesting beaches that do not have land owners able to run a management program for nesting western snowy plovers and least terns. These beaches are Hollywood and Ormond Beaches. Ventura Audubon has taken on this responsibility, so we conduct a nest monitoring, habitat protection and public outreach program.

Our spring fundraiser is a critical source of funding for the year. We need community support to continue this program.



Why support Raise the Roost?

Funding is needed for nesting season on Ormond and Hollywood Beaches, which has just begun and continues through September. It will support nest monitoring, allow us to purchase materials for habitat protection including fencing, signage, trail cameras, plus supplies for volunteers in our community stewardship program, the Beach Naturalists.



When: Saturday, April 29th

Time: Noon to 5pm

Where: Ventura Coast Brewing Company, 76 S Oak St, Ventura, CA

Silent Auction: There will be something for everyone. Gift baskets, wine tastings, music concerts, art and birding trips. We will be offering a number of great items donated by local businesses, as well as bird art and photography. The auction will be available both online and in-person.'

Logo Pub Glasses: Free beer pour with the purchase of a

special commemorative pub glass with our new Shorebird Recovery logo and the VCBC logo

Dog Rangers: Our team will be on site to sign up new Dog Rangers!

Other ways to support our program: Donations can be made online directly to the Shorebird Recovery Program during the event or all month via PayPal, or to our Amazon wish list.

We are members of the 1% or the Planet.

Come out and meet our team and say hi! We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions about shorebirds, nest monitoring, or other aspects of our program or Audubon.



Please join us! Buy a beer and save a bird!

Ventura Audubon 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 beginner 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 to notify participants of any changes

Sign up early to participate in a field trip and to get notifications if a field trip is changed or cancelled!

1. Visit our [Field Trip webpage](#)
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.

April Field Trips

Harmon Canyon Preserve

Saturday, April 15th
Meeting Time: 8:30am



Harmon Canyon Preserve, established in 2020, is Ventura's first large-scale nature preserve. At 2,100 acres, visitors enjoy hills and canyons that feature oak groves, stream crossings, and breathtaking views of Southern California mountain ranges, coastlines, and Channel Islands National Park.

For directions please sign up here: [Field Trip webpage](#)

Ventura Settling Ponds

**Saturday April 29th
Meeting Time: 8:30am**

Enjoy a morning of mostly waterfowl birding. Spotting scopes are always welcome.



For directions please sign up here: [Field Trip webpage](#)

April 2023 Speaker Program



"THE PIPING PLOVERS OF NEW YORK CITY, A TINY ENDANGERED SHOREBIRD INSPIRES A MOVEMENT"

**Speaker: Chris Allieri
Date: Tuesday April 11
Time: 7pm PST
Via Zoom, see link below.**

Program Description:

This is the story of a tiny, intrepid endangered shorebird nesting along the busiest beaches of our biggest city, and how an army of volunteers have come together to protect them. From sea-level rise and

strong storms, to human-commensal predation and nest vandalism, the odds are stacked against Piping Plovers in Queens, New York City. With that, NYC Plover Project keeps going, just like the Plovers.

Listen to why the Piping Plovers of the Rockaways may be a tale of hope, resilience, and strength amidst the challenging backdrop for urban wildlife. From the halls of Congress to wintering grounds in the Bahamas, photos and stories will be shared of the Piping Plovers and all that is being done to protect them.



Speaker Bio:

Chris Allieri is the founder of NYC Plover Project, a non-profit organization he began in March 2021 upon seeing a need to protect endangered Piping Plovers in New York City who were otherwise left to fend for themselves. In two years, the organization has grown to a force nearly 200 volunteers who have performed more than 10,000 volunteer hours protecting nesting plovers and their chicks on the busiest beaches in the city.

NYC Plover Project was awarded the 2021 Hartzog Award as the non-profit volunteer group of the year for the entire National Park Service, with whom they have a partnership. Chris is also founder of Mulberry & Astor, a communications firm focused on climate tech startups. A long-time resident of NYC, Chris grew up on the beaches of southern New Jersey where he first saw a Piping Plover at a young age with his late father, Carl.

To join the program visit our

[Monthly Speaker webpage](#)

Then click the
"Watch Virtually Via Zoom" button
at the top of the webpage

Ormond Beach Town Hall Announcement

ORMOND BEACH TOWN HALL

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
**Ormond Beach Restoration and
Public Access Project (OBRAP)**

Monday, April 24, 2023 | 6 PM - 8 PM

- Preview the long-term ownership and management recommendation for Ormond Beach
- Provide feedback
- Join a Q&A about future plans for Ormond Beach

Attend In-person:



South Oxnard Center
200 E Bard Rd
Oxnard, CA 93033

Attend virtually via Zoom:



Zoom ID:
824 2253 9945



Passcode:
556153



Dial:
888 475 4499

For questions or to request accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact **Anne Jensen** at anne.jensen@oxnard.org by April 17.

PROJECT PARTNERS:



Become a VAS Volunteer



**Do you like to go birding? Interested in science and advocating for birds?
Then VAS needs you!**

We are looking for volunteers to help lead our monthly field trips. Field trip leaders guide participants around the field trip location. They help the group identify and log the birds we observe. You don't have to be an expert birder, just excited to share the joy of birding. If you're interested, email outreach@venturaaudubon.org and put 'Field Trip Leader' in the subject line.

We are also looking for volunteers to join our Conservation Committee. The Conservation Committee is a diverse group that is dedicated to advocating for birds and their habitat in Ventura. They meet every other month to discuss issues that impact bird habitat, review environmental impacts from development and conduct outreach with local officials. The next meeting is April 4th. If you are interested in joining the Conservation Committee, email outreach@venturaaudubon.org and put 'Conservation Committee' in the subject line.



Snowy plover dad and chick at Ormond Beach taken last summer by intern Alex Vaca

Thank you to our supporters!

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

Grants

- National Foundation of Fish and Wildlife (NFWF)
- Patagonia
- Whale Tail
- National Coastal Wetlands Conservation

Support Ventura Audubon Society

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

Join

Donate ONLINE

VOLUNTEER: Fill out this SURVEY FORM



[Contact Us](#)

Visit our website

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

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