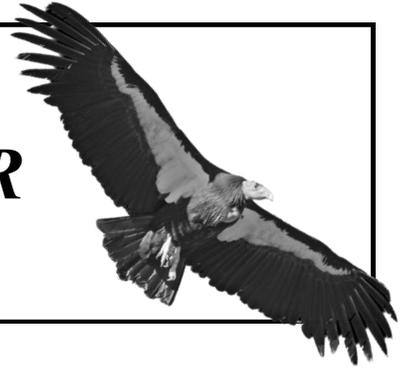


The **CALIFORNIA CONDOR**

Ventura Audubon Society **April 2017** Volume 39, Number 8
A Chapter of the National Audubon www.VenturaAudubon.org



CALL NOTES ...Bruce Schoppe, President

BIRDATHON

Birdathon is Ventura Audubon's major fundraiser of the year. With your generous response, VAS can continue to provide outstanding monthly programs and field trips. We can also continue to develop educational outreach programs, fund local conservation and environmental projects and help inform the public on important birding and wildlife issues. Any scheduled trip during the month of **APRIL** may be used as the basis for your pledge of an amount per species seen. Or, if you prefer, you may make a donation in any amount. All contributions are tax deductible. Ventura Audubon is a 501(c)3 corporation.

You will again receive a mailing with a pledge form and an envelope in which to return your pledge or donation. Send your pledge or donation to P.O. Box 24198, Ventura, CA 93002.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and BBQ are scheduled for **Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 11:00 AM**. This is the official notice of that meeting. It will be held at **Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road, Ventura CA. 93003**. **Directions:** Take Victoria Avenue north to Foothill Road. Turn right onto Foothill Rd. The driveway for the church will be on the left in about one-half mile. The church is hidden from view but, there is a sign.

As usual, we shall do some birding beforehand starting at 9:00 am, probably at Arroyo Verde Park. Watch for announcements sent via Constant Contact and on our website for specific location and time.

(Continued on Page 4...)

APRIL PROGRAM...Debbie Burns, Program Chair

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura

(Please Note: The Program is one week earlier than usual)

SANTA BARBARA WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK REHABILITATION: BABY SEASON AND BEYOND



Elaine Ibarra is a graduate from the California State University at Channel Islands with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. Elaine became a full time staff member at Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network (SBWCN) in 2012 and has previous volunteer experience with the Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute, Ojai Raptor Center and International Bird Rescue Research Center. Elaine is a trained and experienced oil spill responder. She believes strongly in a lifelong continuation of her education. She attends 2-3 symposia every year and maintains working relationships with other wildlife rehabilitators and wildlife veterinarians throughout the state of California.

Spring time brings an increase in the number of animals being brought into care. In 2016, SBWCN received over half of the total number of abandoned and injured animals during the months of April, May, June and July. Elaine will discuss the trends in species intakes throughout a typical year, and she will also share the ways in which the general public can help animals in distress. Website link to SB Wildlife Care Network: sbwcn.org/our-mission



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

...David Pereksta

APRIL 2017

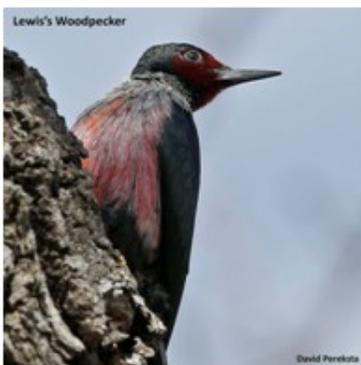
February is generally a slow month for new reports as winter residents are continuing their stays or starting to leave, and some of the more common expected migrants are starting to trickle in from the south. Early northbound migrants arrived this month including Rufous Hummingbirds, swallows, and Hooded Orioles. Northbound migration will continue in March with more species arriving as the month passes. By the time the newsletter arrives in April, migrant numbers and species diversity will be peaking so find your way out to local woodlands, grasslands, and wetlands to enjoy this annual passage of birds.

A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was near Lake Sherwood 2-16 Feb (MH). A **Greater Scaup** was at Harbor Side Park 8-22 Feb (JB). A **Black Scoter** and a **Common Goldeneye** were late winter finds at Point Mugu on 8 Feb (DPe). **Common Mergansers** included seven at the Ventura River Mouth on 17 Feb (KR), one in Port Hueneme on 21 Feb (DK), one continuing at Lake Casitas through 16 Feb, and three continuing at the Arroyo Simi through 28 Feb. A **Long-tailed Duck** continued near Point Mugu through the end of February. Single **Brown Boobies** (maybe the same bird) were at Anacapa Island on 10 Feb (BA) and 25 Feb (JB et al). Continuing birds at Point Mugu included eight **Greater Scaup** and a **Red-necked Grebe** through 8 Feb, two **Reddish Egrets** and seven **Red Knots** through 15 Feb, and as many as seven **Black Skimmers** through 13 Feb.

Long-tailed Duck



David Pereksta



Lewis's Woodpecker

David Pereksta

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Conejo Creek North Park first found on 24 Jan (DP) continued through 28 Feb. **Red-naped Sapsuckers** continued in Fillmore through 23 Feb and at Canada Larga through 16 Feb. A **Pacific Wren** was at Lake Sherwood on 27 Feb (MH). **Mountain Bluebirds** were in Canada Larga 11-26 Feb (JM). A **White-throated Sparrow** continued in a Ventura yard through 1 Feb. Four **Tricolored Blackbirds** were at Arnold Road on 5 Feb (AW) and 27 were there on 27 Feb (JB).

A **Golden Eagle** was at Canada Larga on 25 Feb (CL), the pair of **Bald Eagles** continued at Lake Casitas through 22 Feb, and another **Bald Eagle** continued in the Point Mugu area through 27 Feb.

Thank you to those who reported sightings during the last month. If you have any questions about local birds or have a good one to report (please no calls about nuisance birds), Dave Pereksta at 659-5740 or [pereksta@pacbell.net].

Good birding,
David Pereksta

Observers: Bernardo Alps, Joel Barrett, Mary Hansen, Dexter Kelly, Carol Langford, John Mueller, David Panzer, David Pereksta, Kay Register, and Amy Worell.



APRIL FIELD TRIPS...Adele Fergusson

Beginners are welcome on all field trips. Light drizzle does not necessarily cancel trips, but heavier rain will. If in doubt, please call the trip leader. For all trips, please wear appropriate clothing (layers are suggested), comfortable shoes, and bring snacks, water, hats, sunscreen, binoculars and field guides.

A few reminders about birding etiquette: Stay behind the leader, move quietly, ask questions, listen to what people are pointing out. When socializing, stay behind the group. **Questions/suggestions** about an organized trip? E-mail Adele at adelefergusson@yahoo.com, subject: VAS trip questions. We are looking for leaders for bird hikes so please contact me if you are interested.

Saturday, April 1, 8:00 a.m. Work Day Hedrick Ranch Nature Area.

Leader: Sandy Hedrick (805) 340-0478.

Arrive at 8:00 for self-guided birding which usually yields some interesting birds. Work from 9am – noon. Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required. Bring water, gloves & sun protection.

Directions: Take Hwy 126 to Santa Paula, 10th St. Exit. Go under freeway, rt. on Harvard, rt. on 12th and cross the S.C. River Bridge. Go 3.7 miles to 20395 S. Mtn. Rd. Turn left onto the dirt road & follow it to the end (approx. ½ mile). A little rain can make the road impassable; **if in doubt, call Sandy to check road conditions.**

Sunday, April 2, 8:30 am Ventura Settling Ponds

Leader: Linda Easter 805-482-7537

Enjoy a morning of mostly waterfowl birding, we should see ducks herons, egrets, grebes, raptors, sparrows, gnatcatchers and maybe a few warblers. Spotting scopes are always welcome.

Directions: Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker and enter Ventura Harbor. The Water Treatment Plant is on Angler before Spinnaker curves to the right. Park either across from the entrance on Angler or if there is not room, park in the lot on the right side of Spinnaker past the Ventura Boat Yard and meet at the gate. Note: Take care in crossing Spinnaker due to the blind curve.

Saturday April 8, 8:30 AM Steckel Park and Camp Bartlett (Santa Paula)

Leaders: Karen Laing 907-351-5176 and Adele Fergusson 805-415-4304

We will start at Steckel Park and then go to Camp Bartlett where we will walk through an old oak forest. Birds that we could see at Camp Bartlett include acorn woodpeckers, hermit thrush white throated sparrow and steller's jay.

Directions:

Take 126 and exit at 10th Street in Santa Paula. Take 10th Street through town, leaning right at the Y so that you stay on 10th St. as it turns into HWY 150. You will see signs to Steckel park which is on the right, it is before the Ventura Ranch KOA. We will meet in the parking lot at Steckel Park and later as a group go on to Camp Bartlett.

Saturday April 9 8:30 Camino Real Park

Leader Raeann Koerner 701-1919

Camino Real is a grassy park surrounded by pines and eucalyptus and is an excellent location for target birds to include Red Shouldered Hawk, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler and Townsend's Warbler.

Directions: We will meet outside the park and walk in. Take Telegraph Road toward Ventura College. Across from Ventura College, turn onto Estates, take a right on Aurora, go to the grass beltway across from the mobile home park. Park closest to the last house in the residential tract. We will start birding along the barranca and go into the park.

Tuesday April 18, 8:30 AM Ormond Beach

Leader: Adele Fergusson 805-415-4304

Join us at this excellent coastal location, where we will look for a variety of waterfowl, such as Willets, Whimbrels, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers and other interesting birds. We will also look for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Peregrine Falcon, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. Dress in layers, as the morning may be chilly. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Directions: Hwy 101 south and exit on Rice, turn right and continue to Hueneme Rd. Turn right on Hueneme Rd. After Olds Rd. take a left on Arnold and continue to the end of the road. Please note: Avoid leaving valuables in your car if you are parking it at the end of Arnold Rd. To carpool, meet at 7:50 a.m. at Carrows on Harbor Blvd near Seaward, in the parking lot behind the restaurant next to the Chevron gas station.

...CALL NOTES (Continued from Page 1)

The price this year will be \$13.00 per person (half price for children under 12). Please send your reservation with check to Marianne Slaughter at P.O. Box 24198, Ventura, CA 93002 **by May 5th**. Or, you may call Marianne or me with your reservation and pay at the BBQ.

The menu will include chicken, tri-tip, chili beans, potato salad, green salad and garlic bread. A vegetable kabob is available instead of the meats. **Please bring your own plates and utensils (to reduce trash) and an appetizer or dessert to share.** You may also bring your own beverage including beer and wine. VAS will provide water. If you would like the vegetarian menu (vegetable kabobs), please make your wishes known when you make your reservation so we can be sure to have enough.

The meeting will start at 11:00 am. This is the meeting at which you, the members, elect the board of directors to lead VAS for the next program year. A slate of nominees appears elsewhere in this newsletter and will be on the website. Nominations may also be made from the floor at the meeting.

...FIELD TRIPS (Continued from Page 3)

Saturday April 29, 8:30 AM Ormond Beach

Leader: Tevin Schmitt 661-904-1563

Join us at this excellent coastal location, where we will look for a variety of waterfowl, such as Willets, Whimbrels, Black necked Stilts, Black bellied Plovers and other interesting birds. We will also look for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Peregrine Falcon, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. Dress in layers, as the morning may be chilly. Please bring a scope if you have one.

Directions: Hwy 101 south and exit on Rice, turn right and continue to Hueneme Rd. Turn right on Hueneme Rd. After Olds Rd. take a left on Arnold and continue to the end of the road. Please note: Avoid leaving valuables in your car if you are parking it at the end of Arnold Rd. To carpool, meet at 7:50 a.m. at Carrows on Harbor Blvd near Seaward, in the parking lot behind the restaurant next to the Chevron gas station.

Sunday May 7, 8:30 AM Emma Wood State Beach, Ventura River Estuary.

Leader: David Torfeh 805-794-5334

We will begin at Emma Wood State Beach, where we will target Snowy and Semipalmated Plovers and Caspian Terns. We will then walk along the path that leads through the willow forest and across sand dunes to the Ventura River Estuary. The estuary is always an exciting place to bird, and target birds will include: Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Whimbrel, Black Turnstone, Red-necked Phalarope and Forster's Tern. There will be a fair amount of walking, so please dress appropriately in layers and comfortable shoes.

Directions: From US-101, exit California St, turn right and then make a quick left onto Thompson Blvd. Follow Thompson (becomes Garden St) and turn left on W. Main St. Follow W. Main St until just before it enters the northbound 101 freeway. Emma Wood is on the left. There is ample street parking along the outside of the park on W. Main St. we must park outside and walk in). Please do not leave valuables in your car, and be sure to lock your vehicle.

Happy Easter!



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting of the Ventura Audubon Society will be held:
Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 11:00 AM**

**Church of the Foothills
6279 Foothill Road, Ventura, CA**

Birding will precede the meeting at 9:00 AM. Directions: Take Victoria Avenue north to Foothill Road. Turn right onto Foothill Rd. The driveway for the church will be on the left in about one-half mile. The church is hidden from view but, there is a sign.

The annual meeting is followed by a BBQ lunch available for \$13.00 per person (\$6.50 for children). The menu will include chicken, tri-tip, veggie beans, potato salad, green salad and garlic bread. Vegetable kabobs are available for our vegetarian members. If you would like the vegetarian menu, please order when you make your reservation. Please bring your own plates and utensils (to reduce trash) and an appetizer or dessert to share. You may also bring your own beverage including beer and wine. VAS will provide water. If you wish to have the BBQ, reservations are required by May 5, 2017. Please send a check to Marianne Slaughter, Treasurer at P.O. Box 24198, Ventura, CA 93002. You may also call Marianne or Bruce with your reservation and pay at the event.

The Agenda includes election of directors for the 2017-2018 Program Year. The candidates for the Board of Directors are:

Debra Barringer	Joyce Schoppe
Deborah Burns	Bruce Schoppe
Adele Fergusson	Marianne Slaughter
John Connor	Janice Susha
Cynthia Hartley	Jim Susha
Sandy Hedrick	Jackie Worden

Nominations from the floor may also be made.

VAS OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Bruce Schoppe	805-658-2396
Vice-President	Cynthia Hartley	805-795-4115
Secretary	Joyce Schoppe	805-658-2396
Treasurer	Marianne Slaughter	805-484-8415
Conservation	Sandy Hedrick	805-643-2408
Field Trips	Adele Fergusson	805-415-4304
Programs	Deborah Burns	805-933-0647
Publicity	Jim Susha	805-983-3929
Membership	Jackie Worden	805-657-2837
At Large:	John Connor	805-654-1805
	Janice Susha	805-983-3929
WSP/CLT Team:	Cynthia Hartley	805-795-4115
	Debra Barringer	Unlisted
Webmaster	Christi Lester	310-722-9557
Education	Betsy Bachman	805-646-4407
Newsletter Editor	Janice Susha	805-983-3929

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION: If you are not sure whether your membership has expired, please **email** Jackie at jbworden7@gmail.com and she will check it out for you.

BOARD MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Tuesday, May 2. The location will be Jim and Janice Susha's home at 2207 Eastridge Ct., Oxnard, 805-983-3929. VAS members are welcome to attend.

THE VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY holds its monthly program on the second Tuesday of the month at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. in Oxnard at 7:30 p.m., September through April. The May meeting is a barbecue. Call the President for information. Board Meetings are held bimonthly on the first Tuesday of the month. A membership form is available on the VAS web site.

THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR is published nine times per year (September-May). Members are encouraged to submit articles, announcements, letters and drawings, preferably in WORD format, or in the form of an e-mail message. *The deadline is noon on the 12th of the month preceding the month of publishing.*



Volunteer Naturalists Needed!

Learn about Endangered Shorebirds and Share Your Knowledge with Others

3-hour training sessions (select 1):

9 a.m.—12 noon

April 22, 2017

May 20, 2017

June 3, 2017

We will teach you about the western snowy plover and California least tern in Ventura County

- Ventura County beaches: where these birds nest and when
- Federal Status and what that means
- Life history: migration, mating, feeding, nesting, chick rearing
- How to conduct public outreach

Make a difference! Sign up today!

Contact: Chelsea.Fletcher@Parks.ca.gov

All training programs are held at:

Channel Coast District Conference Room
San Buenaventura State Beach
911 San Pedro Street, Ventura
Time: 9 am – 12 noon

We request trained docents commit to regular beach visits during nesting season on any Ventura County public beach where these birds nest