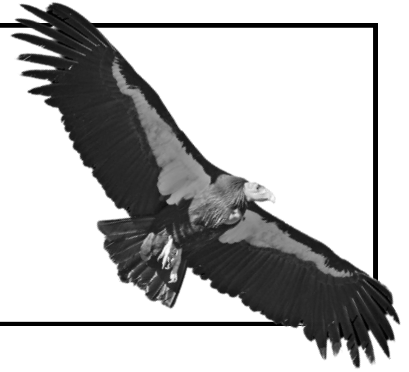


The CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Ventura Audubon Society **September 2018** Volume 44, Number 1
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HELLO & WELCOME BACK!

CALL NOTES ...Adele Fergusson & Kat O'Dea

On June 20th, VAS members Adele Fergusson, Kat O'Dea, Kristin Kessler and Karen Laing traveled to Sacramento for Audubon's Advocacy Day. Advocacy Day is an annual event sponsored by Audubon California to encourage chapters and members to get to know their state legislators. They met assembly member Ash Kalra author of AB2627 the Migratory Bird Protection Bill. This bill would continue the protection of migratory birds provided by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act if it is weakened or eliminated by the current administration. It would also provide incentives for companies who voluntarily comply with bird protection laws while minimizing cost and balancing conservation and economic growth. (Ed. Note: The bill has not passed but, has been put in the "suspense file" for later consideration.)

They also met with Senator Hannah Beth Jackson and Assemblyman Monique Limon to show that constituents in their districts are committed to protections for migratory birds now more than ever and that California must lead the way in environmental protections.

This experience was designed to bring forward the priorities of Audubon and educate lawmakers on the importance of making good decisions for both people and the environment.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM



Figure 8. Great Horned Owl, Northern Harrier, Barn Owl

Ventura County Public Works Agency Study Shows Owls And Hawks Are More Effective Than Poisons For Rodent Control...Karl Novak

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 11th, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura

Karl Novak is a Civil Engineer and long-time resident of Ventura County. Karl is a Deputy Director with the Ventura County Watershed Protection District and is responsible for operating and maintaining the county's flood control system of levees, dams, and channels.

In the Ventura County area, there is heightened awareness of the dangers of secondary poisoning from rodenticides when a target rodent is consumed by a higher predator. Bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions have been found with anticoagulant rather than rodenticide residues in their blood. Birds, especially raptors, are also affected.

Karl Novak, representing The Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) will present data from their Raptor Study for Levee Protection which used hawks and owls to control rodents vice rodenticides. The Agency believes the VCPWA Raptor Pilot Study is the first to quantify the dramatic impact of attracting raptors and finding a natural, chemical-free way to control burrowing rodents.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

...David Pereksta

I rarely start the column with seabird reports, but some of the best birds found in Ventura County over the spring and summer were seabirds. An amazing pelagic trip to the far offshore waters of Ventura County on 15 Jul discovered the first at-sea record of **Tristram's Storm-Petrel** for North America (DP et al.)! Other outstanding birds on the trip included a **Nazca Booby** (AS) and **American Oystercatcher** (PG) on Anacapa Island, a **Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel** (14th record for California!) photographed in a mixed flock of storm-petrels (AM, LS, et al.), 2 **Townsend's Storm-Petrels**, 56 **Cook's Petrels**, a **South Polar Skua**, a **Sabine's Gull**, and 9 **Long-tailed Jaegers** (m. obs.). The great seabirds were not limited to that trip as a **Nazca Booby** was found on San Nicolas Island on 25 May (MR). The only other booby of the season was a **Brown Booby** in the Santa Barbara Channel on 4 Apr (JB). A **Manx Shearwater** was a rare sight seen near Anacapa Island on 10 Jun (JB). Two **Sabine's Gulls** were south of Anacapa Island on 2 May (DP).

After none were around this last winter, a **Long-tailed Duck** was a surprise find on the Oxnard Plain 13-18 May (DP). **American Bitterns** have become rare locally so individuals at the Ventura Settling Ponds 10 Apr-5 May (MM & KP) and another advertising at Point Mugu 20-27 Apr (AP) were noteworthy sightings. **Cattle Egrets** have also become rare along the California coast; local records this season included individuals at Point Mugu on 18 May (JP), the Oxnard Plain on 28 May (DP), and the Ventura River Estuary 8-19 Jul (MB). Away from Point Mugu, **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** included one at the Ventura River Estuary on 26 Jun (LE et al.), individuals in the Ventura Harbor on 24 Apr and 23-28 July (AF), and two continuing at the Ventura Settling Ponds through 20 May. A **Sandhill Crane** was seen over the Santa Clara River Estuary on 19 May (SK). A **Common Gallinule** was near Calleguas Creek on 1 Apr (BH) while another continued at the Ventura Settling Ponds through 30 June.

An **American Oystercatcher** was well-documented on San Nicolas Island on 25 May (DP). Individual **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were on the Oxnard Plain on 8 May (LS) and at Point Mugu on 14 May (AP). As many as three **Red Knots** were at Mugu Lagoon 13-27 Jul (DP, MR). Two **Stilt Sandpipers** continued on the Oxnard Plain through 1 Apr. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at the Ojai Meadows Preserve 6-7 Apr (DP) and another was along the Ventura River on 18 Apr (AS). A **Laughing Gull** was at Port Hueneme on 31 Jul (MR), which is one of very few records for the county. A **Common Tern** was on the Oxnard Plain on 6 May (DP). **Black Skimmers** were found in numbers at Mugu Lagoon 3 Apr-25 Jul with a high of 81 from 19-21 May. **Black Skimmers** were also at the Santa Clara River Estuary 19 May-28 Jul, with a high of 15 on 23 Jun (JA).

Migrant **Swainson's Hawks** continued to be reported widely throughout the spring with one at Point Mugu on 2 Apr (JM), one in Camarillo on 10 Apr (AS), 15 in Fillmore on 15 Apr (TB), 2 east of Piru on 16 Apr (KO), 2 in Piru on 18 Apr (KK), one over the Ventura River on 18 Apr (AS), 2 over Ojai on 23 Apr (JG), and one over Ojai on 1 May (JG). The wintering **Zone-tailed Hawk** continued in Ojai through 11 Apr, which may be an all-time late wintering date for that bird. One of the earliest spring records ever of **Flammulated Owl** for the state was near Pine Mountain on 6 Apr (DP) and a **Long-eared Owl** with two chicks was near Hopper Mountain on 20 Apr (DP, MR & RM).

Calliope Hummingbirds were evident in migration this spring with records from Thousand Oaks on 4 Apr and 19 Apr (KR & SR) and two in Ventura 10-12 Apr (ETG). **Black Swifts** included one over Rincon Mountain on 2 May (PG), one over Conejo Community Park on 8 May (RS), six at the Ventura Harbor on 20 May (DP & SP), four at the Ventura Settling Ponds on both 13 and 20 May (MT), two over the Ventura River on 22 May (AS), and two over Point Mugu on 23 May (MR). Holdovers from the winter included a **Lewis's Woodpecker** at Lake Sherwood through 12 Apr and a **Tropical Kingbird** near Round Mountain through 15 Apr. Migrant **Hammond's Flycatchers** included one at Sespe Creek on 6 Apr (DP), a number of individuals at Wheeler Gorge 5-14 Apr with a high of 3 on 6 Apr (DP), and one at Point Mugu on 23 Apr (JP). **Gray Flycatchers** were in traditional breeding areas in Quatal Canyon and the Lockwood Valley on 27 Apr (DP). **Vermilion Flycatchers** were successful breeders on Point Mugu again this year with a high of five there on 13 Jul (DP). Another **Vermilion Flycatcher** was at Canada Larga on 26 Jun (ETG).

...**FIELD NOTES** (Continued on Page 3)

...**FIELD NOTES** (Continued from Page 2)

A **Plumbeous Vireo** continued at Pitts Ranch Park through 3 Apr. **Purple Martins** are rare locally in migration, but a number were seen this year including one near East Casitas Pass on 19 Apr (PG), one at Hollywood Beach on 19 Apr (DM), two at the end of Arnold Road on 1 May (BH), and one near Point Mugu on 18 May (DP). A **Bank Swallow** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 24 Apr (DP & MR) and two were on the Oxnard Plain on 13 May (DP). Singing **Townsend's Solitaires** included one on Mount Pinos on 27 Apr (DP) and another on Pine Mountain on 25 Jun (FS). Individual **American Redstarts** were on the Oxnard Plain on 1 Apr (DP), Point Mugu on 2 Apr (JP), and Anacapa Island on 24 May (JH). A **Northern Parula** was singing at Matilija Lake on 27 May (JG & RR). A **Palm Warbler** was at Point Mugu 18-23 Apr (JP), which may have been a holdover from the winter.

Male **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** visited a few local yards including Newbury Park 3-4 Jun and maybe the same bird again on 10 Jul (RA & CB) and Ventura 27 Jun-30 Jul (ETG). An **Indigo Bunting** was at Canada Larga Road 23-28 May (BH) and another was at Camarillo Regional Park on 27 Jun (LVS). Sparrows of note included a continuing **Clay-colored Sparrow** at Pitts Ranch Park through 6 Apr, a **Black-throated Sparrow** along Sespe Creek on 11 May (KO), and continuing **Vesper Sparrows** at Rancho Potrero through 8 Apr. A **Summer Tanager** was well described from Ojai on 17 Jun (JG). **Scott's Orioles** were in traditional breeding areas in Quatal Canyon on 8 Apr-16 Jun (JP, DP) and Dry Canyon on 7 Jun (BH). A **Baltimore Oriole**, presumably a migrant, was at Point Mugu on 16 May (JP). **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** included as many as 12 near Point Mugu 20-29 Apr (JP, DP), 10 there on 13 May, and 1 on July 5 (DP); 5 at the Santa Clara River Estuary on 8 May (DC et al.); and 1 in Wheeler Canyon on 4 Jun (KK).

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), call or e-mail David Pereksta at 659-5740 or [pereksta@pacbell.net].

Good birding,
David Pereksta

Observers: Richard Armerding, John Apperson, Joel Barrett, Tom Benson, Marc Better, Catherine Bourne, David Carr, Linda Easter, Peter Gaede, Jesse Grantham, Bruce Henderson, Jim Howard, Sangeet Khalsa, Karl Krause, Aaron Maitvish, Dan Maxwell, Robert McMorrان, McKenzie Mudge, John Mueller, Kris Ohlenkamp, Andrew Partin, David Pereksta, Sandy Pereksta, Kevin Pietrzak, Jeremiah Psiropoulos, Rick Ridgeway, Martin Ruane, Karen Rusch, Steve Rusch, Florence Sanchez, Larry Sansone, Adam Searcy, Roger Swanson, Elisa Taylor-Godwin, Michelle Townsley, and Laurie Van Stee

Friends of the Santa Clara River are Celebrating 25 Years of Existence!

Yes, they started out 25 years ago fighting the Newhall development. They, along with many others have had success slowing the process down and saving some of the river habitat that is closest to Ventura County.

For their celebration a Fund Raiser is scheduled at the historic Camulos Ranch along the Santa Clara River.

Sunday, September 16th

The time is 3:30 to 6:30, located at 5164 East Telegraph Road

Wander along on tours of Rancho Camulos Adobe and the Tataviam Interpretive Village

Celebrate with local wines and beers

There will be refreshments, music, lots of activities, and sights to see

Meander beneath majestic river valley mountain views to live music harp music by VeeRoona

Tickets are \$75 per persons

Contact@fscr.org (805)628-2250



Please consider being sponsor at this event.
Visit their https://scrfriends.files.wordpress.com/2018/07/gala_sponsorship.pdf



SEPTEMBER 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 at adelefergusson@yahoo.com"

September 8, 8:30 a.m. Emma Wood State Beach

Leader: Adele Fergusson 805 415-4304

At the entrance to Emma Wood State Beach, we will be searching the scrub for sparrows and warblers. We will follow the path that leads through the willow forest (often finding wrenit and other secretive birds here) and finally across the sand dunes to the Ventura River Estuary. The estuary is always an exciting place to bird, and target birds will include: Snowy, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, 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.

September 15, 8:30 a.m. Sana Clara River Estuary/Surfers Knoll

Leader: Raeann Koerner 805-701-1919

We 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!

Directions: Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker and enter Ventura Harbor. Follow Spinnaker as it curves around to the right. Surfes' Knoll is on the left. Please bring scopes if you have them. We will be walking a good distance on sand, so please wear appropriate footwear and plan on dressing in layers.

September 16, 8:30 a.m. Camino Real Park

Leader: David Torfeh 805-794-5334

Camino Real is a grassy park surrounded by pines and eucalyptus and is an excellent fall migrant hotspot. Target birds will include Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak, but any number of cool warblers show up at this park during migration!

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.

...FIELD TRIPS (Continued on Page 5)

...**FIELD TRIPS** (Continued from Page 4)

September 22, 8:00 a.m. Ventura Settling Ponds

Leader: Frank DeMartino 856-906-8733

This will be a joint field trip with Conejo Valley Audubon

The Settling Ponds at the Ventura Harbor is a reliable place to find ducks, summer gulls and terns, as well as songbirds and raptors. We should hear Yellow Warblers and maybe some fall migrants!

Directions: Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker Dr. and enter Ventura Harbor. The water treatment plant is on Angler, a left turn before Spinnaker curves to the right. Park in lot on right hand side of road. Use caution in crossing road at blind curve. Meet in front of gate.

September 23, 8:30 a.m. Arroyo Verde Park.

Leader: Linda Easter 818-519-2833

Enjoy birding the oak woodland, grassy areas, and chaparral in this long, broad canyon. Early fall migrants may include Western Tanager, Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Phainopepla.

Directions: Take Victoria Ave. north, left on Foothill Rd., right on Day Rd. entrance to the park. Meet at the last parking lot by the restrooms. **On Weekends there is a \$2 per hour fee (maximum \$4) to park at Arroyo Verde, if you want you can park outside and walk in.**

**2018 – 2019 OFFICERS
and
THANK YOU!**

By Bruce Schoppe, President

I would like to introduce the officers of Ventura Audubon for the 2018-19 program year.

I thought I would be finished as president and continue as treasurer but, it didn't work out that way! I'm still president, at least, for a while.

Tom Black was elected as Vice President. Tom is a retired veterinarian who moved to Oxnard a couple of years ago. He and his wife, Nancy have been active in Hollywood Beach conservation efforts. He will work with me, serving as backup and, perhaps, taking over as president later on.

Cynthia Hartley was elected to a new position created by the Board as Vice President – Conservation. She will work with Sandy Hedrick, Conservation Chair, to expand the role of the Conservation Committee to manage all the conservation work we do, including grant writing. They will also work to advise governmental agencies as they make decisions on development and regulation likely to affect birds and their habitat. Ventura County is a focus with regard to the Santa Clara River levee improvements, the Local Coastal Plan especially as it affects Hollywood Beach, sustainable groundwater management and habitat connectivity/wildlife corridors.

Sherry Dorris was elected Treasurer. She is a retired Nurse Practitioner who joined the board this year.

Alexis Frangis has rejoined the board and was elected Secretary. Alexis is an Environmental Scientist with California State Parks working to protect snowy plovers, CA least terns and other beach nesters. In her previous service on our board, Alexis served as Science Chair.

We welcome all to their new roles and thank them for their willingness to serve.

This is also a good time to **thank our benefactors** who, through grants, have made our conservation efforts possible. This includes USFWS, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, State Coastal Conservancy, California Wildlands Grassroots Fund, National Audubon Society, Pasadena Audubon Society and Southern California Edison. Thanks also to members and donors who made our 2018 Birdathon the most successful ever.

VAS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS 2018-2019		
Officers		
President	Bruce Schoppe	805-658-2396
Vice President	Tom Black	805-985-2325
Vice President/Conservation	Cynthia Hartley	805-795-4115
Treasurer	Sherry Dorris	805-985-7273
Secretary	Alexis Frangis	805-217-4833
Board Members		
Conservation	Sandy Hedrick	805-643-2408
Publicity	Jim Susha	805-983-3929
Field Trips	Adele Fergusson	805-415-4304
At Large	Jackie Warden	805-657-2837
Membership	Deborah Burns	805-933-0647
Christmas Bird Count	Frank DeMartino	856-906-8733
Newsletter	Janice Susha	805-983-3929
At Large	Debra Barringer	303-880-0308
At Large/CSUCI Audubon Club	Kat O'Dea	818-916-4154
Chairs & Committee Members		
Webmaster	Christi Lester	310-722-9557
Education	Betsy Bachman	805-646-4407
Conservation Committee Cynthia Hartley - Chair Shorebird Recovery: Debra Barringer Alexis Frangis Cynthia Hartley Kat O'Dea	Santa Clara River Issues: Sandy Hedrick Ventura River/Least Bell's Vireo: Jackie Worden Coastal Planning Issues: Debra Barringer	

MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION: If you are not sure whether your membership has expired, please **email** Deborah at debburns38@gmail.com and she will check it out for you.

BOARD MEETING: The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Tuesday, **September 4**. Our meetings are held at Wild Birds Unlimited located at 4020 E. Main Street, Ventura, 805-765-4594. Because the store will be closed, parking is available. 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 Ventura at 7:30 p.m., September through April. Board Meetings are held bimonthly on the first Tuesday of the month. A membership form is available on the VAS web site. Our May meeting is a barbecue.

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.*

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