

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
December 2022 Volume 63, Number 5
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org



Lake Casitas Christmas Bird Count 2021 - California Quail; photo by Alex Vaca

Call Notes

*by Cynthia Hartley
VAS Executive Director*

Wishing all of you a very Happy New Year! I'd like to thank everyone who has been a part of our chapter this year. The birding community is indeed a very special group of people. Warm regards to everyone who helped with the Christmas Bird Count, the many participants and leaders in our field trip program, those of you who have attended our speaker programs, everyone who has been a part of our Beach Naturalist program, committee members and leaders and our board of directors and staff. Please continue reading this newsletter for articles on all of these activities.

Last, but not least, I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed financially to VAS this year. We had a record breaking year for fundraising. It is with much thought and great care that we ask for donations, as we are aware that there are many many groups asking for help, yet without financial support we cannot do what we do. Thank you.

Best wishes for a brighter 2022

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Membership News

Are you a member of the Ventura Audubon Society?
...or are you a member of the National Audubon Society?

Did you know these are different memberships?

Ventura Audubon Society (VAS)



- VAS is a part of the NAS chapter network, AND it's own unique non-profit with a different tax ID code
- The California Condor represents our chapter
- A VAS membership directly supports bird conservation in Ventura County
- Your donations and membership fees stay in the VAS general fund
- If you join as a VAS member only, you will not be on the NAS contact list. You will receive emails primarily about local issues, and we never share your contact info.

National Audubon Society (NAS)



- NAS has it's own tax ID code and the incorporated over 100 years ago.
- The Great Egret is the logo mascot for NAS
- Your NAS membership supports bird conservation and advocacy at the national level
- If you live in the VAS area, a large portion of your NAS membership is shared with VAS, but only for the 1st year. Thereafter your NAS fees stay at NAS.
- NAS will send you frequent emails to support a variety of national issues, action alerts and national donation appeals.

**If you are currently member of the National Audubon,
or you are thinking of joining Audubon for the 1st time,
please consider joining as a Ventura Chapter member.**

[Join VAS](#)

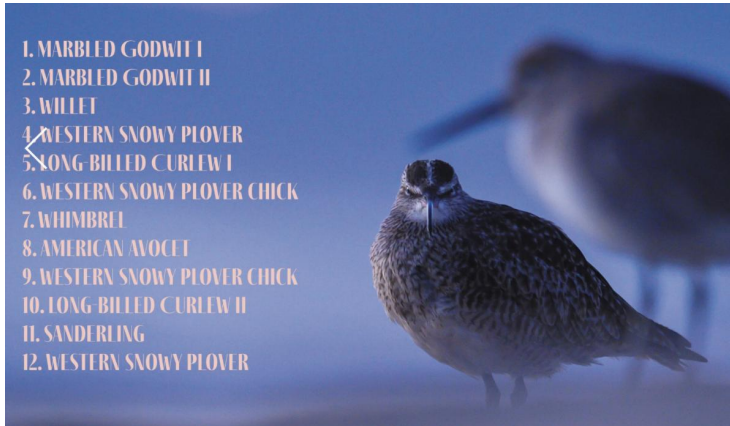
Shorebird Memberships Still Available - \$40

All proceeds benefit our Shorebird Recovery Program. This is a great way to support the VAS Shorebird Recovery Program, and enjoy Ventura County shorebirds year round. You save by purchasing a VAS membership and a calendar together (\$50 value).

Shorebird Membership includes the following:

1. One Annual (or Renewal) VAS Membership
2. 2022 Shorebird Calendar featuring local Ventura shorebirds by Alecia Smith
3. VAS Shorebird Logo

[Purchase a Shorebird Membership](#)



You may also purchase a calendar for \$30.

Visit the calendar website to browse the months or reserve your copy: [website](#)

January Guest Speaker

"A Burning Issue: Spotted Owls and Wildfire"



Speaker: Dr. Gavin Jones
Research Ecologist
USDA Forest Service at Rocky Mountain Research Station

Date: Jan 11, 2022

Time: 7 PM PDT

How have recent megafires impacted California spotted owls? What can be done to conserve spotted owls as fires become more severe in a changing climate? These questions and others will be tackled by this month's speaker Dr. Gavin Jones.



We'll learn about the ecology of spotted owls, the history of conflict surrounding management of their habitat, and a new conservation conflict involving wildfire, forest restoration, and spotted owl conservation. Gavin will cover recent scientific evidence that will inform long-term conservation of the California spotted owl and restoration of fire-suppressed dry forests. Please join us!



To join the program
visit our
[Monthly Speaker webpage](#)

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

Speaker Biography: Dr. Gavin Jones is a Research Ecologist with [Rocky Mountain Research Station - Wildlife and Terrestrial Ecosystems Program \(USDA Forest Service\)](#) and an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of New Mexico. Gavin and his lab group study how to more effectively conserve wildlife and their ecosystems. Much of his past and ongoing work focuses on how wildlife respond to fire and forest management, and the ecology and conservation of wildlife in fire-prone ecosystems.

Previously Gavin was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation at the University of Florida working with [Dr. Rob Fletcher](#). Gavin earned his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison under the supervision of [Dr. Zach Peery](#). He is also an Associate Editor at the [Journal of Wildlife Management](#) and [Fire Ecology](#) which are the flagship peer-reviewed scientific journals of The Wildlife Society and the Association for Fire Ecology, respectively.



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.

If you have topic requests or would like to recommend a speaker, please email or Sabrina, our program chair programs@venturaaudubon.org

January Birding Field Trips

A message from Adele Fergusson, Field Trip Coordinator

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



COVID-19 safety measures:

- 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 to provide for social distancing*
- Participants sign and return a COVID release form
- All participants must be vaccinated - this includes our leaders too
- Everyone must wear a mask and social distance during the field trip
- Field trips will be closed if we get can't keep our ratio of participants to field trip leaders small

Sign up to participate in a field trip:

1. Visit our [Field Trip webpage](#) to sign up
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
4. Fill out the form and email back, or bring with you to the trip

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.

January Field Trips

Weekday Field Trips are Back!



Eared Grebe - Vince Kinsch

Ventura Settling Ponds

Monday Jan 3, 2022
Meeting Time: 8:30am

The settling ponds at the Ventura Harbor is a reliable place to find ducks, grebes, gulls and terns, as well as songbirds and raptors. We should hear Spotted Towhees, Yellow Rumped Warblers and Blue-gray gnatcatchers.

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 either across the street from the entrance on Angler in the 4 hour parking areas on the curb. Use caution when crossing the road at the blind curve. Meet in front of the gate on Angler.

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)



Red Shouldered Hawk; by David Held/Audubon
Photography Awards

Camino Real

Saturday Jan 8, 2022
Meeting Time: 8:30am

Camino Real is a grassy park surrounded by pines and eucalyptus and is an excellent place to see birds. Target birds will include Red Shouldered Hawk, Pacific-slope Flycatcher 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



Western Snowy Plover; by Alecia Smith

Emma Wood State Beach

Saturday Jan 22nd, 2022
Meeting Time: 8:00am

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. Target birds will include: Snowy, Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers, Willet, Whimbrel, Black Turnstone, Red-

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.

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)



Pacific-slope Flycatcher; by Becky Matsubara/Flickr
(CC-BY-2.0)

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 Group Camp 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.

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

Visit our [Field Trip webpage](#) to sign up!

Conservation Happenings

Bruce Schoppe, VP Conservation

Following are some of the topics on the radar of the Conservation Committee. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every other month to discuss topics. The last meeting was December 7, the next meeting will be February 1 2022.

1- The California Chaparral Institute addressed a letter to the California Natural Resources Agency regarding its Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy Draft. VAS signed onto the letter.

The letter points out the chaparral and native shrublands are threatened by too much fire and that adding prescribed and cultural burns as proposed is the wrong solution. It would likely result in "type conversion", replacing the chaparral with non-native grasses which are even more flammable.

The letter also argues that fire frequency and severity are driven by climate change; hence, mastication, prescribed burning, pile burning, logging and herbicide application are illogical solutions. Instead, emphasis should be placed on reducing carbon emissions and preserving native and wild habitat. (<https://californiachaparral.org>)

2- The Ventura County Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted improved and updated **ESHA standards** as part of the Local Coastal Plan (LCP). ESHA (Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas) include most of the county's beaches where VAS focuses its Shorebird Recovery Program. These updated standards may offer opportunities to better protect the nesting shorebirds, especially on Hollywood Beach where human disturbance is most apparent.

3- The Preferred Alternative and Preliminary Design Plan for the Ormond Beach Restoration and Public Access Project Plan was released by the Ormond Project Partners: City of Oxnard, State Coastal Conservancy and The Nature Conservancy. This preferred alternative is the culmination of a long series of public meeting and preliminary drafts. The next step is preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The plan provides for significant public access including boardwalks, trails, viewing platforms, bridges, parking and, later, a visitor center. The boardwalks and trails have design features to shelter the seasonal nesting areas of western snowy plovers and California least terns. Although there is ever a conflict between public access and the needs of sensitive species in their habitat. Especially nesting birds. We will continue to engage the project partners on this process. The Executive Summary provides a good overview of the project plan and is available at <https://www.oxnard.org/ormond-beach-restoration-public-access-plan/>. The next comment opportunities will be when the DEIR is released. There will also be ongoing meetings with the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Hedrick Ranch Conservation Workday with Friends of the Santa Clara River (FSCR)



FRIENDS OF
THE SANTA CLARA RIVER



Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Workday

Saturday Jan 2nd, 2022

Meeting Time: 9:00am - 12 noon

also, upcoming work days on:

February 6th, 2022

March 6th, 2022

Arrive at 8am for self-guided pre-workday birding. 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. Mountain Rd. Turn left onto the dirt road & follow it to the end (approx. ½ mile).

[GOOGLE MAPS](#)

FSCR Hederick Ranch Nature Area workday [webpage](#)

FSCR COVID-19 safety measures

Event will be outdoors. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. A mask is required upon arrival, and as directed by our volunteer staff.

Please bring:

- A mask
- Your own gloves
- Water and snacks
- Sturdy shoes and long pants
- Sun protection and/or a hat

Ventura Christmas Bird Count (CBC)



Thank you to the over 100 birders who participated in the year's CBC on Sat Dec 18, 2021!

We would also like to extend a special thank you to our CBC compiler Frank DeMartino and all of our sector leaders and those of you who worked both the VAS and CVAS (Conejo Valley Audubon Society) CBC counts, which were on back to back weekend days. Quite a number of you gave up the entire weekend before Christmas to participate in this weekend birding marathon.

Frank is working hard to process and upload all of the data we collected. At the time of this newsletter publication we still have some outstanding counts. So if you still have not submitted your data yet, please send the info to [Frank](#) as soon as possible, so we can close the book on this year's count.

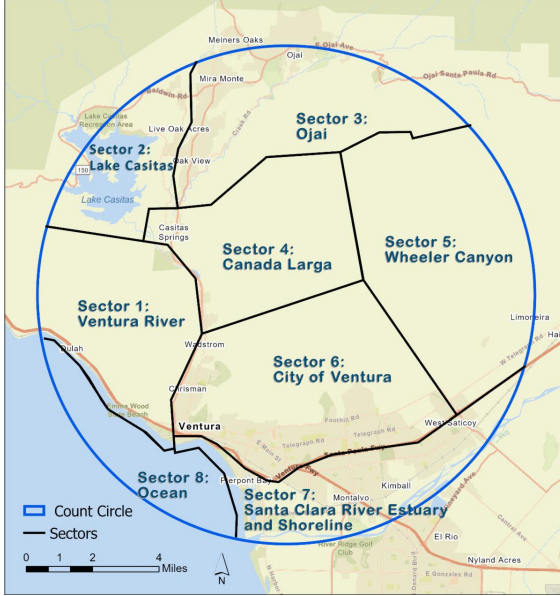
If you have photos, of birds or people, and you would like to share please post them to the VAS Facebook account (click icon below) or email them to ed@venturaaudubon.org. We love seeing any of your CBC photos!



In the meantime, below are photos that have been shared from count day:

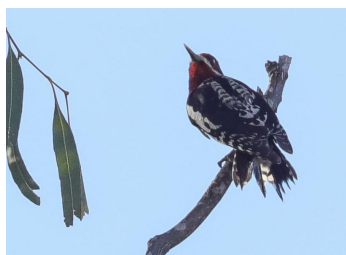
Sector 3: Ojai

Hermit thrush by Richard Armerdino



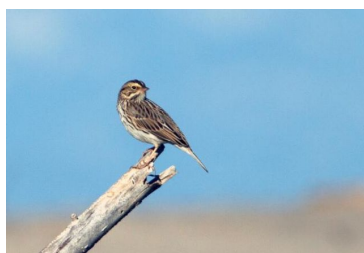
Sector 4: Lake Casitas

Clockwise from upper left: Yellow Rumped Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Greater Roadrunner, Least Sandpiper, Rednaped-Redbreasted Woodpecker hybrid, Prairie Falcon
All photos for Sector 4 taken by Alex Vaca



Sector 7: Santa Clara River Estuary and Shoreline

Clockwise from upper left: Pierpont Beach (*Debra Barringer*); Savannah Sparrow, White Pelican and s large flock of mixed pelicans, gulls, terns and grebes (*Vince Kinsch*)





Shorebird Recovery Program Update

Even though it is off season for shorebird nesting, we are busy finalizing videos and creating story maps to share from last season, and making plans for the 2022 nesting season. We presented to the Recovery Unit 5 Snowy Plover meeting on December 2, 2021. Final nesting season reports are due on Jan 31, 2022. Look for a report summary next newsletter! The next big meetings will be the statewide California Least Tern meeting in January and the Western Snowy Plover Range Wide meeting in February. We will be present at those meetings as well.



On November 30th, individuals who were camped on the Halaco site at Ormond Beach were given a final deadline to move out of encampments by Oxnard agencies. These encampments have been on the EPA superfund slag heap for almost 3 years. The presence of these encampments have negatively impacted shorebird recovery, as they are in close proximity to nesting least terns and snowy plovers. We will be monitoring the situation as the new nesting season approaches.

Thank you volunteers! We would like to thank all of the volunteers who made our program possible in 2021. Everyone who logged time on our time tracking app will be receiving certificates of appreciation and a logo gift. We have two individuals in particular who distinguished themselves by working more than 50 volunteer hours last year. **Congratulations to Rachel Ameche and Joan Tharp!**

Feature: Rachel Ameche 2021 Volunteer of the Year



Rachel was one of our brand new trainees this year, taking Beach Naturalist training for the first time. She wasted no time getting involved. Rachel tallied 52.5 hours in 2021, working on both Hollywood and Ormond Beaches conducting public outreach by talking to dog owners and educating the public about nesting snowy plovers and least terns. She also spent many hours on "nest watch" detail. Each year we have snowy plover nests that are established outside of habitat fencing, and volunteers station nearby on weekends to keep the nests safe. Rachel helped build fencing around some of these nests. Rachel also worked with the public in other ways, by doing a presentation about nesting shorebirds to a girl scout troop and tabling the VAS booth at the Ventura Surfrider International Surfing Day event at Port Hueneme Beach.

Would you like to join our Beach Naturalist team?

Beach Naturalist training classes start in January 2022. Join Biologist Kat and Volunteer Coordinator Alecia for Beach Naturalist training on **Saturday, January**

29th (9:00-11:30 AM PST)!

You'll learn about dunes, special status species such as California least terns and Western snowy plovers that rely on Ormond and Hollywood Beaches for nesting habitat. This training will also cover some of our data collection apps and projects that you can get involved with!

This is free in-person training at Poinsettia Pavilion (with a virtual Zoom training option). Please sign-up on our [website](#)



Classes for Birders



Bird ID Class: The Subtlety of Sparrows

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 2022 AT 2 PM - 3 PM

[Facebook Event](#)

[Meeting link](#)

This class will focus on those pesky "little brown birds" that can be found on our feeders and in our yards: Sparrows! Inspired by our visiting Lincoln's Sparrow, Abe, we have decided to go ahead and talk about sparrow ID! We'll take a look at some of the many sparrow species that winter in the US and talk about how to tell them apart. It is possible, we promise

Bird Feeding 101: Winter Feeding

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2022 AT 2 PM - 3 PM

[Facebook Event](#)

[Meeting link](#)

Did you get a new feeder for the holidays? Want to get the most out of a new setup in your yard? Come to our Bird Feeding 101 class and learn the basics of winter bird feeding from our experts! We will talk about everything you need to know in order to start your

bird feeding hobby off right. We'll cover the setup of your yard, which feeders work where, what types of food are good to offer this time of year, how often to clean your feeders, what you can do about pests, and much more! Questions are welcome and encouraged.

Beginner Bird ID Class - Winter Edition!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022 AT 2 PM - 3 PM

[Facebook Event](#)

[Meeting link](#)

Did you get a new feeder for the holidays? Want to get the most out of a new setup in your yard? Come to our Bird Feeding 101 class and learn the basics of winter bird feeding from our experts! We will talk about everything you need to know in order to start your bird feeding hobby off right. We'll cover the setup of your yard, which feeders work where, what types of food are good to offer this time of year, how often to clean your feeders, what you can do about pests, and much more! Questions are welcome and encouraged.



**SANTA BARBARA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Conservation and Drought in the Central Valley: Challenges and Opportunity

Speaker: Xerónimo Castañeda

Time: 7:30 - 9 pm

Date: Wed Jan 26th, 2022

Xerónimo Castañeda will talk about the conservation projects he is working on with Audubon California, focused on habitat restoration and enhancement, developing multi-benefit management programs for Central Valley wetlands, agricultural operations, and groundwater recharge projects, to benefit birds and people.

In addition, Xerónimo is the lead for Audubon's Tricolored Blackbird conservation program in the Central Valley.

Current projects Xerónimo is involved with at Audubon are:

1. protecting at-risk Tricolored Blackbird colonies
2. developing multi-benefit groundwater recharge projects to benefit people and birds
3. coordinating a new drought relief program with wetland managers in the Delta and San Joaquin Valley

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

Notes From the Field

August 2021 - 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 **Curllew 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

Ways to Support Ventura Audubon Society

Please consider donations to VAS as part of your year end giving.
Ventura Audubon Society is a registered tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Prints and Post Cards Fundraiser

All net proceeds go to Shorebird Recovery Program

photography by Alecia Smith

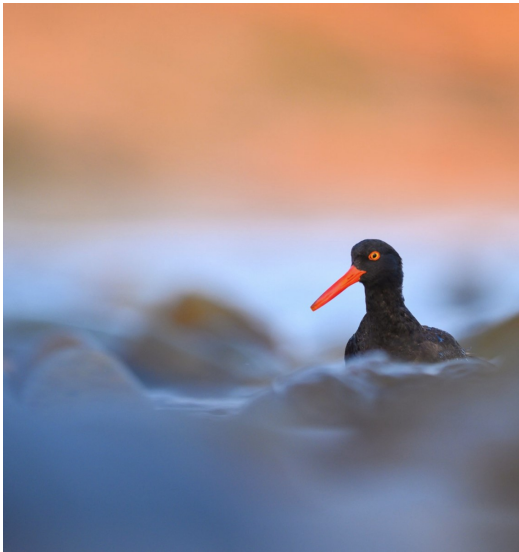
To find out more or to place your order, please visit this [website](#)



Willet Pair at Dusk
11x14



Western Snowy Plover
8X12



Black Oyster Catcher
11x14



Western Snowy Plover Card
Flat Card 4'x5.5'
(on Linen Photographic Paper)

Thank you to our grant funders!

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

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