

## The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society  
January 2025 Volume 66, Number 5  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
[venturaaudubon.org](http://venturaaudubon.org)



*Photo by: Vince Kinsch*

### Call Notes

by Rachel Ameche  
President

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2025 from everyone at Ventura Audubon!

As we reflect on 2024, we recognize both its challenges and triumphs. We have much to be optimistic about as we look ahead. Our volunteers and shorebird team worked hard protecting threatened and endangered species, and we celebrated the growth of our Dog Ranger program throughout Ventura County. We celebrated the passage of Prop 4, and will continue to fight for legislation to protect wildlife. We made connections and enjoyed birding together on our field trips, and heard from great speakers at our monthly programs.

We are deeply grateful for the partnerships and collaborative work we've been fortunate to share with the California Coastal Conservancy, Ventura Botanical Gardens, The

Nature Conservancy, and the cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard. We're excited to continue our efforts with these partners as we tackle the important work that still lies ahead.

Looking to 2025, we have an exciting year in store! From an incredible lineup of guest speakers to nesting season, volunteer opportunities, and more field trips led by our talented leaders, the year ahead promises to be full of learning and fun.

The 2024 Christmas Bird Count is over and it was a perfect day for birding. Frank DeMartino will be giving us the preliminary results at our January Program.

Here's to another year of birding, conservation, and community!

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## January 2025 Speaker Program



Photo: Rick Derevan

### **Bending the Bird Curve: Audubon's Plan to Reverse Declining Populations**

**Speaker: Liliana Griego**

**Senior Coastal Program Manager**

**Date: Tuesday January 14, 2025**

**Time: 7pm**

**Location: Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura and Zoom**

Since 1970, we have lost 3 billion birds in North America, but the National Audubon Society has come up with a plan to reverse this decline, and “bend the bird curve”. Come learn about Audubon’s Flight Plan and the ambitious goals centered around birds, habitat, climate solutions, policy, and community building. Liliana Griego, Sr. Coastal Program Manager for Audubon California, will highlight the work the National Audubon Society, Audubon California, and Audubon Chapters are doing to contribute to the Flight Plan and specifically discuss how coastal birds along the Pacific Flyway will benefit from

this national effort to protect birds, people, and the planet. From local chapter activists to federal legislation, Liliana will share how collaborative efforts in California are leading to meaningful and lasting impacts and how you can take part in reversing the decline in birds and create a future where they thrive.



Photo: Melissa Brode

Liliana Griego joined Audubon California as the Senior Coastal Program Manager in 2022 from Friends of the LA River, where she served as the Director of Policy, Advocacy, and Engagement. Liliana grew up in LA and has been a passionate advocate for local open spaces such as the San Gabriel Mountains and the LA River. She currently serves as a co-organizer for the LA Feminist Bird Club and has previously served on the Sierra Club Angeles Chapter Executive Committee and National Park Conservation Association Young Leaders Council. Liliana has a BS in Environmental Science and an International Master of Science in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation.

To join the program via Zoom, visit our

[Monthly Speaker webpage](#)

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



Photo: Cynthia Hartley

## 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 notify participants of any changes

**Sign up early to participate in a field trip:**

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](mailto: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

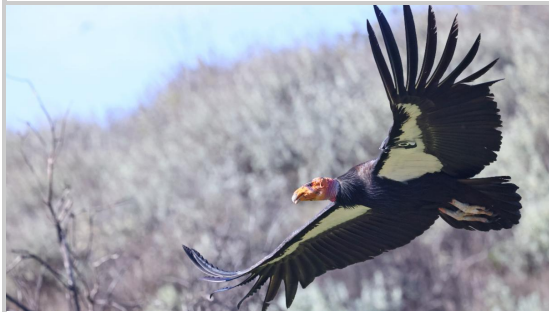


Photo: Alistair Skinner

### Lake Piru

**Saturday Jan 11th**  
**Meeting Time: 8:30am**

A beautiful haven away from it all, tucked in the mountains and adjacent to Los Padres National Forest. Home to many raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl including Bald Eagles and Western Grebes. Recent visitors include Common Mergansers and Common Goldeneye. And of course, don't forget to keep a lookout for Condors! Restrooms available throughout. Limited cell service.

[Sign-Up Here](#)



Photo: Annette Patterson

### Ormond Beach Arnold Road

**Saturday January 18th**  
**Meeting Time: 8:30**

One of the top birding areas in Ventura County used by over 200 shorebird, raptor, and migratory bird species. Includes a protected nesting site for the endangered California Least Tern and the threatened Western Snowy Plover. Notable visitors can include Black-Necked Stilt, Yellow Headed Blackbird, and Peregrine Falcon. Walking will be mainly on dirt paths and sandy beaches. Portable restrooms at parking lot.

[Sign-Up Here](#)

## Thank you to our supporters!

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

- The Nature Conservancy
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- National Audubon Society - Audubon in Action Grant
- California Coastal Commission - Whale Tail Grant

- Patagonia
- 1% for the planet
- Ventura Coast Brewing Company
- Topa Topa Brewing Company
- Chris Ohlenkamp
- Michael Swimmer
- Richard and Patricia Avery

## Support Ventura Audubon Society

Please consider VAS in your year end donations.  
Ventura Audubon Society is a registered tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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