

# The CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Ventura Audubon Society **NOVEMBER 2019** Volume 55, Number 12  
A Chapter of the National Audubon [www.VenturaAudubon.org](http://www.VenturaAudubon.org)



## CALL NOTES...*Cynthia Hartley*

### **Audubon's New Climate Report 2019**

Citizen science (the new term is "[community science](#)") is one of the hallmarks of the Audubon Society, most notably the [119-year-old Christmas Bird Count](#). It is by far one of the most popular ways our members seek to contribute to our work. Besides giving birders a chance to contribute to the longest running wildlife census, the data has taken on even greater importance with the specter of climate change now on our doorsteps. Thanks to the efforts of generations of Audubon birders, millions of bird observations have been analyzed in climate models by scientists and published as a new, Audubon climate report "Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink". Thank you to all of our members who have contributed to this body of work.

Some of you may remember that Audubon previously released a climate report in 2014, so it is now already 5 years old. The new 2019 report builds on the older report by using updated climate models. It also looks at 3 different scenarios of potential climate warming. If we do nothing to alter our current course, we are headed for a global increase of 3 degrees C. This is the worst-case scenario in Audubon's report. They also have analyzed what would happen if we do act and the effects of climate change are lessened to 2 degrees C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> scenario assesses a 1.5 degree C change, which was the goal of the 2016 Paris Climate Agreement.

Audubon has updated their website to make this information accessible in a way that helps us visualize exactly how this is going to impact the birds we love. They have created a first-of-its-kind zip code-based climate tool, [Audubon's Birds and Climate Visualizer](#), which allows users to toggle through each scenario to see how climate change will alter the summer and winter ranges of each bird species. If you use Audubon's online bird guide, they have also included the climate tool underneath the current range for each bird. Here is a link to one of my favorite back yard birds, the [California Scrub Jay](#). Toggle down to the bottom and you can see that this bird could lose half its range and disappear entirely from inland California, becoming strictly a coastal bird in our state. Other birds, like the [American Goldfinch](#), could disappear entirely from California in the summer.

For those of us who love birds it's a preview of what may come to be, shown in a more tangible way than vague descriptions of global temperature changes. It's a look into a future that we still have time to head off. Birds really are telling us it's time to take action on climate change. The science shows that 65% of North American bird species are at risk of extinction from climate change if we do not change course. Over the coming months we will share information about climate legislation and other ways we can take action to alter our current course towards climate change. Follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) to stay up to date on legislation and action alerts.

Currently, Audubon is urging everyone to contact their representatives to show support for a new bill titled the [Better Energy Storage Technology \(BEST\) Act](#). If passed this bill will help us switch from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy, which is the kind of legislation we need to pass in order to head off the extreme scenarios of potential climate change. Follow this action alert [link](#) to submit your own letter.

CALL NOTES..(Continued on Page 2)

*CALL NOTES..(Continued from Page 1)*

Our Christmas Bird Count for Ventura Audubon will occur on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for our 120th year and add your contribution to this important community science project. In recent years, we have even had a number of our members count birds from their own backyards. If you are interested in taking part, contact our CBC compiler, Frank DeMartino at [frank@colynx.com](mailto:frank@colynx.com).

If you would like to do even more, please join our **Conservation Committee on Thursday Dec 5th at 6:30pm**. We have a very helpful toolkit developed by Audubon National designed to help chapters mount an education and outreach campaign to combat climate change. We are seeking members interested in writing letters & articles, attending meetings and developing social media content for this topic. Please contact me if you would like to join us, or if you want to know how you can help build a better future for birds. [president@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:president@venturaaudubon.org)

## **NOVEMBER PROGRAM**

### ***Exploring the Chaparral and Rediscovering Ourselves Through Nature***

***...Richard W. Halsey***

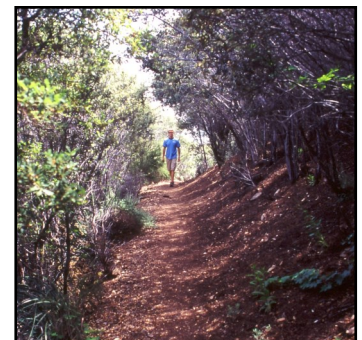
***7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 12th, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura***

For more than two million years we evolved outside, in Nature, driven by our instincts. Over the last several thousand years, our newly conscious minds have tried to reconcile the conflict between the demands of civilization, social expectations, and our ancient, wild selves. Yet despite our best efforts, the conflict persists, causing many of the personal, social, and environmental problems (especially how we deal with wildfire) we face today. Nature provides the remedy. Join us as we explore how connecting with Nature through local native habitats like the chaparral, offers us a way to achieve what so many philosophers through the ages have identified as essential to achieving a meaningful existence – to “know thyself.”

Besides being the Chaparral Institute's director, Richard Halsey is also a writer, photographer, and most importantly, a guide to help others reconnect with Nature and their wild, inner selves.

He has given more than 500 presentations and authored numerous publications over the past 15 years concerning chaparral ecology and the importance of reestablishing our connection with Nature. Richard also works with the San Diego Museum of Natural History and continues to teach natural history throughout the state. He founded and has been leading the [Chaparral Naturalist Certification Program](#) over the past five years. The second edition of his book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was awarded the 2008 Best Nonfiction-Local Interest Book by the San Diego Book Awards Association.

Richard earned undergraduate degrees from the University of California in environmental studies and anthropology. During graduate work he received teaching credentials in life, physical and social science and a Master's in education. Richard taught biology for over thirty years in both public and private schools, was honored as Teacher of the Year for San Diego City Schools, and was awarded the Christa McAuliffe Fellowship which allowed him to begin writing his first book.





## ***NOVEMBER 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. If you have any questions you may contact me at [fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org) Adele Fergusson**

**Sunday November 3, 2019, 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. Mountain Rd. Turn left onto the dirt road & follow it to the end (approx. ½ mile). Even a little rain can make the road impassable; if in doubt, call Sandy to check road conditions.

**Monday, November 9, 2019 8:30 a.m. Canada Larga**

**Leader: Linda Easter 818-519-2833**

We will drive and walk as we bird this beautiful canyon road and one of our best birding hotspots. Target birds will include: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch.

**Directions:** From 101 N, take the 33 and exit Canada Larga Rd. Meet at the beginning of the road there is a small parking lot on the right. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This is a fairly busy county road, so please use good birding etiquette. Do not stop your car in the middle of the road and always bird from the shoulder.

**Sunday, November 17, 2019 8:30 a.m. Alamos Canyon**

**Leader: Cody Swanson 805-304-2505**

This is a beautiful but somewhat strenuous walk located between Moorpark and Simi Valley. The canyon is a natural refuge for many plants and animals; including many species of birds. The terrain includes riparian wetland, oak filled canyons, and open grasslands. Target species include: savannah sparrow, lark sparrow, blue-gray gnatcatcher, oak titmouse, and hawk and owl species. We will be walking 4 miles, which includes some uphill, so bring comfortable hiking shoes, water, and sun protection.

**Directions:** Take highway 118 towards Simi Valley. Get off at Collins Dr.; continue straight onto Arroyo Dr./E Los Angeles St. Turn left onto Quimisa Dr. pay the 5-dollar fee at the gate, and stay on the right and park by the trailhead. It costs 5 dollars to park so carpooling is strongly encouraged. To Carpool from Ventura/Oxnard Area meet at 7:45 in parking lot in front of Office Depot on Telephone Rd near Main Street.

**Monday, November 18, 2019, 8:30 a.m. 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.

*FIELD TRIPS...(Continued on Page 4*

*FIELD TRIPS... (Continued from Page 3)*

**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.

**Friday, November 22, 7:30 a.m. – noon. Pt Mugu Naval Base**

**Leaders: Mugu Staff & David Pereksta**

**(Restricted to 20 – pre-registration required)**

**Deadline for your completed application for the Field Trip at Point Mugu is November 2, 2019**

**Reservations required; contact [fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@venturaaudubon.org) for an application form.**

**For those registered, please note:** You must have picture ID cards with names matching the names on the list. Vehicles, articles and personnel are subject to search. Cameras and video equipment are not allowed. Please bring a scope if you have one.

**Directions:** From Hwy 101, travel south on Las Posas Rd, west on Hueneme Rd, south on Wood Rd, crossing over PCH. Meet at the main entrance at Naval Air Rd. and Mugu Rd. near Buildings 112 & 116. Drive to gate 1 at Frontage Rd.

**Sunday, November 24th, 2019, 8AM Arroyo Verde Park**

**Leader: Tevin Schmitt 661-904-1563**

Enjoy birding the oak woodland, grassy areas, and chaparral in this long, broad canyon. We will be looking for the Common Yellowthroat, White-breasted nuthatch, song sparrow, California Thrasher and Wrentits among others.

**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. **NOTE:** There is a \$2 per hour entrance fee, Maximum \$4 for parking on the weekends!

**SAVE THE DATE – CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
**JANUARY 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020**



Calling all birders!

Our Christmas Bird Count is **Saturday, January 4, 2020**. The CBC is the longest running citizen science effort in existence. Bird counts take place all over North America with a few in the Caribbean and Latin America as well. This will be the 120<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count conducted by National Audubon.

Frank DeMartino is Organizer and Compiler. Please contact Frank at ([frank@colynx.com](mailto:frank@colynx.com)) or (856) 906-8733. More detailed information will follow in Ventura Audubon's December newsletter.





## NOTES FROM THE FIELD ...David Pereksta

September is still early for returning waterfowl, but a few locally uncommon species were found including three **Greater White-fronted Geese** on the Oxnard Plain 21-24 Sep (DP) and individual **White-winged Scoters** at Ormond Beach on 12 Sep (JB) and at the Santa Clara River Mouth on 15 Sep (TS, CS, DT). A variety of uncommon shorebirds were also found during September. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the Santa Clara River Estuary on 2 Sep (MB). A **Solitary Sandpiper** continued at Matilija Lake through 2 Sep and another was there on 15 Sep (JG et al.). Shorebirds of note on the Oxnard Plain included a **Pacific Golden-Plover** 15-17 Sep (LS), a continuing **Ruff** through 25 Sep, a **Stilt Sandpiper** 15-17 Sep (DP), and as many as 12 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 12-24 Sep (DP et al.) and 2 late **Semipalmated Sandpipers** 16-22 Sep (AS et al). A **Cattle Egret** was at the Santa Clara River Estuary on 17 Sep (SC) and a flock of eight was on the Oxnard Plain on 21 Sep (DP & TM).

September is the prime time for warbler migration and numbers of birders check local migrant traps looking for them. Warblers at Bob Kildee Park in Camarillo included a **Tennessee Warbler** on 9 Sep (JM) and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** 28-30 Sep (AS). The Laguna Tamarisks hosted a **Tennessee Warbler** 21-23 Sep (RT) and individual **Black-poll Warblers** on 22 Sep (MB) and 29 Sep (NA). Sycamore Canyon had an **American Redstart** on 16 Sep (JB), another **American Redstart** 24-27 Sep (DP), a **Black-and-white Warbler** 24-26 Sep (DP), and a **Plumbeous Vireo** on 30 Sep (SH & VW). Warblers at Matilija Lake included individual **Northern Parulas** on 9 Sep and 19 Sep, **Blackburnian Warblers** on 17 Sep and 30 Sep, and a **Tennessee Warbler** on 24 Sep (JG). Warblers at other locations included a **Northern Waterthrush** at Los Sauces Creek on 13 Sep (JM), a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bubbling Springs Park on 16 Sep (JB, DM, AS), and an **American Redstart** on Anacapa Island on 18 Sep (JH).

A **Tropical Kingbird** was at Rancho Sierra Vista 18-24 Sep (SC). **Purple Martins** are rarely seen locally in migration so one over the Oxnard Plain on 20 Sep (CM) and two on 21 Sep (DP) were notable. **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** continued at Rincon Creek on the county line through September (m. obs.). A female **Painted Bunting** visited a Ventura yard 11-13 Sep (RM) and another was on Anacapa Island on 15 Sep (RT & JT). A **Black-throated Sparrow** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 22 Sep (LC). Two **Bobolinks** were on the Oxnard Plain on 21 Sep (DP & TM) and a **Summer Tanager** was at the Ojai Valley Inn on 24 Sep (BL).

A variety of uncommon or rare species were found in the offshore areas of Ventura County. A multi-day pelagic trip on the Searcher out of San Diego reached some of the little visited county waters far offshore. Highlights of that trip included a **Red-billed Tropicbird**, **Nazca Booby**, 5 **Black-footed Albatrosses**, 14 **Cook's Petrels**, and 9 **Buller's Shearwaters** east of the San Juan Seamount on 4 Sep (DP, TM, AS); and a **Red-billed Tropicbird**, 3 **Black-footed Albatrosses**, 79 **Cook's Petrels**, 2 **Buller's Shearwaters**, and 12 **Townsend's Storm-Petrels** west of the Cortez Bank on 5 Sep (DP, TM, AS). A **Brown Booby** was on Anacapa Island 15-24 Sep (RT & JT) and a **Blue-footed Booby** was feeding off Sycamore Cove on 19 Sep (AS). Perhaps the same **Blue-footed Booby** was roosting on Anacapa Island on 27 Sep (JH). A **Manx Shearwater** was in the east Santa Barbara Channel on 3 Sep (CW).

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: Noah Arthur, Joel Barrett, Marc Better, Lyann Comrack, Sammy Cowell, Jesse Grantham, Jim Howard, Steven Hunter, Brad Lewis, Dan Maxwell, Todd McGrath, Robert McMorrان, John Mueller, David Pereksta, Larry Sansone, Tevin Schmitt, Adam Searcy, Cody Swanson, Jessica Terrill, Ryan Terrill, David Torfeh, Cassy Weissburg, and Viviana Wolinsky

## ***Ormond Beach Shorebird Recovery Program—November Update*** ***...Cynthia Hartley—President***



Birds and birders are fortunate to have multiple [Important Bird Areas](#) (IBAs) in Ventura County. IBAs are conservation priorities given three levels of importance; state, continental and global. Those with global significance are rare places with intact habitat that supports a significant percent of global migrants, locally nesting birds and a variety of rare and endangered species. On the coast in Ventura County we have two, the [Santa Clara River Valley](#) and the Ormond remnant salt marsh which is part of the [Pt. Mugu IBA](#). It is no surprise that we have two listed shorebird species that nest in these IBAs, the western snowy plover (WSP) and California least tern (CLT).

Both species rely on the sandy beaches that humans favor for summer recreation and prime beach real estate, as such these species have been teetering towards extinction for the past few decades. The Ventura Audubon chapter has made these species a conservation priority. Ormond Beach is one of the locations in our county that does not have a single entity responsible for a species management plan, despite the presence of nesting WSP and CLT. Since 2015 we have developed a Shorebird Recovery Program to seek funding and implement recovery work for nest monitoring, habitat protection and public outreach for these species.

This month we report on the Ormond Beach nesting outcomes. The 2019 nesting season at Ormond Beach has been an exercise in extremes, with both very good and some very troubling outcomes to report.

First the good news. Both species of nesting shorebirds had record numbers of nests. Greater than any year since we began tracking nest numbers in 2003. In particular the WSP had a banner year. Not only did we have a total of 55 nests (compared to an average of 24 nests/year since 2003), but we had a very high hatching rate. In a good year we may only have 50-60% of nests hatch, but this year we had 43 nests hatch, which is 78%. WSP laid 162 eggs this year, and 119 eggs hatched. We attribute this success rate to a combination of nests being placed almost exclusively inside of the habitat fences the use of predator exclosures which protects nests from egg thieves like ravens and the adjacency of the Pt Mugu that has an active predator management program. In addition, the Ormond Beach ordinance has successfully curtailed a large amount of the dog and horse traffic on the beach. This may also account for the increase in the amount of nesting birds, since nesting plovers will avoid beaches with high levels of disturbance and canines trigger instinctive fear in nesting WSP.

Consistent with nesting numbers, we documented higher than normal number of WSP chicks that made it to flight age. We sighted 20 young fledglings, normal is 5-10. Although higher this year, it still underscores that chicks have a hard time making it to adulthood. This only represents about 1 in 10 eggs that managed to hatch and the chicks survive to reach an age when they can fly. On another good note, we rescued 3 eggs from a nest that was abandoned after a wind event. The eggs were hatched out at the Santa Barbara Zoo and all 3 chicks were fostered and finally released at Coal Oil Point in late July.

## ORMOND BEACH UPDATE...(Continued from Page 6)

Now for the less good news. We did have a record number of 92 CLT nests (up from 84 in 2018, 24 in 2017, and 18 in 2016). But the success rate was only 34%, with just 31 nests that hatched. The reason for such a low hatch rate was an increase in predators. Coyotes, squirrels and ravens destroyed over 50 nests in one weekend at the end of June. Only 18 CLT hatchlings survived to reach fledgling age and join their parents on their first migration. This in fact partially accounts for the high number of nests, since several of the CLT pairs that lost nests in late June made a second nesting attempt a couple weeks later, just further down the beach.

So finally, the worst news is the problems we had this year with beach encampments belonging to the local homeless population on the far north end of Ormond Beach. We have never in our 17 years of nest monitoring had so many encampments so close to the nesting colony. Fortunately for the birds, it was only the far north end of Ormond Beach that was impacted. Nonetheless, all season we had problems with individuals from these encampments crossing through the north nesting habitat with dogs and bikes. Three CLT nests were run over by bikes and the eggs and young crushed, predator exclosures protecting WSP nests were kicked off and eggs from 2 WSP nests were taken. We struggled to re-sight nests because our nest markers were regularly vandalized and, in some cases, thrown entirely outside of the nesting area. We also had 2 trail cameras stolen. Our habitat fences were taken apart by the encampment inhabitants and re-purposed to enclose their own encampments in a surreal mirroring of nesting habitat protection. We reported all of these issues to authorities, including the Oxnard Police Dept, CDFW and USFWS. Although we don't know for sure, the increase in coyotes, squirrels and ravens that destroyed most of the CLT nests in a single weekend could be due to the large amount of trash and human activity in these nearby encampments.

We recognize that this is a socially complex problem. Many cities are struggling with the same issue, and we are not the first to encounter problems with homelessness. Although it is more unusual to hear about homeless encampments amongst nesting endangered birds in designated critical habitat. To that end, we are committed to protecting this rare and critical nesting habitat and we believe that birds matter too. We are currently part of a working group involving the Oxnard Police, Housing and Planning Departments, and the Ormond Beach land owners (The Nature Conservancy and the California Coastal Conservancy) to address this problem before the start of the next nesting season.

Next month look for the nesting report from San Buenaventura, McGrath and Mandalay State Beaches. If you missed our Hollywood Beach report, be sure to look up our October newsletter which can be downloaded from our website [here](#).





# ***A Warming Climate Could Force Birds Right Off the Map***

***By Kenn Kaufman***

**October 10, 2019**



For serious birders who regularly observe birds in the wild, ignoring climate change isn't possible. We have been seeing and documenting the effects of a warming climate since at least the 1950s.

In recent decades, that has meant a consistent northward shift in where species are found. Glossy black great-tailed grackles, previously found primarily in the tropics, first reached southeastern California in 1964; they now stalk and squawk around lowland ponds throughout most of the state. Big tropical seabirds named boobies (because early sailors took their tameness for stupidity) rarely appeared in California's coastal waters before the 1990s. Now we see dozens offshore from San Diego to the Channel

Islands, with some as far north as San Francisco; a few have reached Alaska.

Similar patterns are playing out across the continent as scores of species redraw their range maps, appearing in new areas farther north and vanishing from sites farther south. And the pace is accelerating.

New research from the National Audubon Society released on Thursday highlights the dangers of the trend. For its new report, "Survival by Degrees," Audubon scientists analyzed the current geographic ranges of 604 North American bird species, and modeled how those ranges would change at different levels of warming.

At a global temperature rise of three degrees Celsius, they found that 389 of those species — or nearly two-thirds of those studied — would become endangered, losing much of their current habitat. Even if some could shift their range northward, they would soon start to run out of room on the map.

Ironically, the changes will make birding more exciting for a while, with birders finding new species in unexpected places, but the downside will be brutal. If warming continues unchecked, Audubon's models show, many birds will lose massive amounts of territory.

Majestic great gray owls will vanish from Yosemite and the Sierra Nevada range, and from most of Canada as well. Flashy yellow-billed magpies, living nowhere in the world but California's central valleys, will face almost certain extinction. Even in the greater Los Angeles region, climate change will challenge many of the most familiar birds, including California quail, hummingbirds and the noisy scrub jays so common in suburban back yards. The net loss in numbers and variety could be staggering.

Why does this matter to anyone who's not a bird watcher?

For one thing, birds fill a crucial niche in the ecosystem, keeping down insect populations and serving as food themselves for larger predators. But they also serve as a visible symbol of broader environmental shifts. It may seem like a cliché to mention the canary in the coal mine, warning miners of dangerous conditions. But bird populations are in many ways the canaries for all of us, and their shifting ranges warn of increasing droughts, floods, fires, desiccating heat, rising seas, untillable farms and unlivable cities.

***CHANGING CLIMATE REPORT...(Continued on Page 9)***



## CHANGING CLIMATE REPORT...(Continued from Page 8)

We still have time to do something about it, however. The potential loss of 389 North American species projected in the Audubon study is what would happen if global readings go up by 3 degrees. But the scientists also modeled what would happen at lesser levels of warming, and the results are striking. Limiting warming to 1.5 degrees would reduce the danger for three-quarters of those threatened birds, Audubon's modeling found. The obvious canary-in-the-mine message is that this would also be of huge benefit to humans, reducing the potential suffering for people worldwide.

Audubon's "Survival by Degrees" is not a gloomy forecast but rather a call to action. Audubon is working on ways to help bird species survive the climate change already underway. But the report also stresses the need for action at every level, by individuals and governments alike, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Audubon cares about preserving the diversity of bird species, and that is the focus of its new report. But every action to help birds pull through will also make entire ecosystems more resilient.

As a lifelong birder, I'm proud of the role my tribe has played in documenting the effects of climate change. When local conditions change, particular types of frogs or wildflowers may decrease and disappear unheeded. A new moth may colonize a region, and unless it's an agricultural pest, few will notice. But when a bird species disappears from the local fauna, or a new one arrives, legions of dedicated birders document the change.

Birdwatching is a nonpartisan activity, which means I have friends across the political spectrum. In an era of polarization and partisanship, the love of birds brings us together. I hope we can heed the urgent message in this new report and work together for solutions. Birds tell us we don't have time to wait.

*Author and zealous birder Kenn Kaufman is a field editor for Audubon Magazine. The article first appeared as an Op-Ed piece in the LA Times. Reprinted with permission from National Audubon.*

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## The Back Story

...By Bruce Schoppe, Vice President



In early September, I received a phone call from a gentleman in the Bay Area. He told me he had found an interesting sign at a yard sale which he purchased. The sign, shown here, told people not to shoot condors and other birds. He said that it looked like it might be from the 1960's or 1970's. National Audubon with a Ventura address was stamped at the bottom. Through the web, he found Ventura Audubon, thought it might be something we had a hand in and called me.

It was before my time with VAS; so, I reached out to people I knew had been involved with the condor recovery program — although I knew that didn't start until the 1980's. I spoke with Jesse Grantham who recalled having seen them around the Ventura office of the USFWS when he was there. As it turns out, it was a project undertaken by John Borneman (whom I suspect many of us know) when he worked for National Audubon as Bird Conservation Director. He had them printed and nailed them up at trail heads in the Los Padres NF and elsewhere to raise awareness of protections for these birds that had been enacted by California.

<b>VAS OFFICERS &amp; BOARD MEMBERS 2019-2020</b>		
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At Large	Jackie Worden	
At Large	Kat O'Dea	
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**MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION:** If you are not sure whether your membership has expired, please **email** Deborah at [debburns38@gmail.com](mailto:debburns38@gmail.com) and she will check it out for you.

**BOARD MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Tuesday **November 5th, 2019**. 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 15th of the month preceding the month of publishing.

