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The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org



Call Notes

by Cynthia Hartley
VAS Executive Director
Ventura Audubon Society

We hope everyone is safe, healthy and re-charged from your holiday!

As we embark on a new year, I'd like to point out one upside from the pandemic is that geography is not an obstacle to attending most Audubon chapter programs. Pretty much all the chapters have switched to online presentations. It gives us the advantage of sourcing speakers who wouldn't ordinarily be able to present to us, and allows anyone to join our meetings from the comfort of their own homes.

So we very much hope you will join us for this month's featured speaker, the **executive director of Audubon Alaska, Dr. Natalie Dawson**. Her topic is timely and critical, and not only can you hear Dr. Dawson's presentation, you can also ask questions and interact with her directly. What a great opportunity!

See below for detailed program information and Zoom link.

Speaker Program: January 12, 2021



What Happens Now? The future of Alaska's public lands and wildlife

Speaker: Natalie Dawson

Title: Executive Director, Audubon Alaska

Time and Date: 7 PM - Tuesday Jan 12, 2021

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

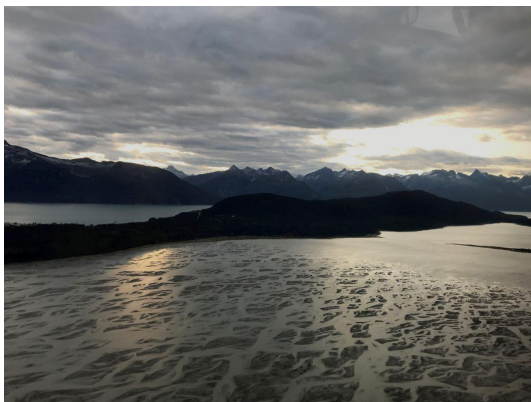
Meeting ID: 865 5365 2487

Passcode: 884716

On January 6th, 2021, the Trump Administration moved closer to finalizing drilling in the Arctic Refuge than any other president in history. Almost simultaneously, 80% of the western Arctic was opened to oil and gas drilling and the Tongass National Forest roadless rule protections were lifted, leaving more federal public land available to industrial development than at any point in Alaska's recent history. At the heart of each of these environmental battles are stories of the strong connection between people and place, like the Gwich'in and Inupiat of the North Slope and the Porcupine Caribou Herd, or Dan Blanchard, a small tourism operator in Southeast Alaska who brings his clients to stand before ancient cedar trees each summer. In her presentation, Audubon Alaska executive director Natalie Dawson will discuss updates on the federal public lands and waters issues across Alaska, and talk about ways to help these places in the coming days and weeks as one administration fades and the next begins.

Dr. Natalie Dawson is the executive director for Audubon Alaska and a teaching professor at Alaska Pacific University. She has spent two decades working, studying, and learning from Alaska's lands, waters, and Indigenous Peoples. When not advocating for Alaska's birds and other wildlife, she enjoys exploring Alaska by ski, kayak or on foot. She loves sharing her love of the north with others and believes deeply in a pursuit of lifelong learning from the land.





121st Christmas Bird Count

Ventura Audubon Christmas Bird Count Saturday January 2, 2021

We at VAS would like to say a **huge thank you** to everyone who made the 2020 Christmas Bird Count a success this year! Yet again this has been a CBC unlike any before, but in new ways.

A special thanks to Frank DeMartino, who has put countless hours into organizing this event. He will likely continue to put in countless hours into this project as he compiles all the data we collected. Stay tuned as we continue to crunch the results from this year. In the meantime feel free to explore the [data](#) from past CBC's.

Field Trips

January Field Trips Suspended

Until community infection rates of COVID19 drop significantly and State and County health orders allow group gatherings we will continue to suspend our field trips. We anticipate this will take several months, so stay tuned. We very much look forward to getting in the field together and are optimistic this day is not too far off.

In the meantime, you can always visit Frank DeMartino to get your bird feeder and bird seed fix at his [Wild Bird's Unlimited](#) store in Ventura. Be sure to check his website for his COVID policy. We aren't having group field trips, but you can always feed your backyard birds. Frank has a great [Facebook page](#) with lots of information and videos. Frank also holds regular classes on bird ID and other information. It's a chance to come together, at least virtually, and share our passion for birds. Thank you Frank for keeping our birding hearts warm during this pandemic!



Below are California quail considering visiting my feeder. I've been surprised and delighted to have quail in my backyard this year. If you have backyard birds or feeders you'd like to share, feel free to submit photos to me (Cynthia) at ed@venturaaudubon.org or to our VAS chapter [Facebook page](#). We'll post your backyard bird photos in our upcoming newsletters.



Bird Lists from our fall field trips

Although we aren't gathering for field trips right now, you can revisit our bird lists and the places we visited in our fall outings [link](#)

Other Programs for Birders



**SANTA BARBARA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Birding Colombia

Join us for a colorful international birding experience right from your home! Colombia has 20% of the bird species in the world—some 1,957 known species. Environmental educator, birding guide, photographer and fellow Auduboner Santiago Escruceria will share his beautiful photos and discuss geographical, ecological, and political insights on birding in Colombia.

[more info](#)

Speaker: Santiago M. Escruceria

Time and Date: 7:30pm-9pm, Wed January 27, 2021

Meeting ID: 836 8840 9647

Passcode: 483887

[Zoom Link](#)

Thank you to our supporters!

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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Ventura Audubon Society is a registered tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

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