

The California Condor

Ventura Audubon Society
October 2020 Volume 62, Number 2
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
venturaaudubon.org



Call Notes

by Cynthia Hartley
VAS executive director

Birdathon is Ventura Audubon's major annual fundraiser. Normally this fundraiser occurs in April, but last year we canceled due to sudden COVID restrictions and uncertainties. ***We thank those of you who sent a contribution anyway!*** Since we missed our annual fundraiser in the spring we have a more urgent need to raise funds this fall. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing and generous support of our members!

Although grants support our basic work of nest monitoring and habitat protection, they only provide a part of our funding needs, and require significant resources to administer. **Donations provide a critical part of our fundraising needs.** Ventura Audubon is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation; so, all contributions are tax deductible.

So this month our newsletter is devoted to the programs, people and birds your donations have supported over the year, and other ways you can support our vision and mission.

Inside This Issue

- How you can support the Ventura Audubon Society
- Programs supported by your donations
- Field Trips
- October Program

- Other Audubon chapter programs
- Meet our staff: Kat O'Dea - Biologist and Volunteer Coordinator
- Meet our Instagram Takeover Photographer - Katie Warner
- Thank You to Our Supporters

Support the Ventura Audubon Society

Make a donation



Donate a set amount

Donate ONLINE

<or>

US Mail

send a check:

Ventura Audubon Society
P.O. Box 24198
Ventura, California 93002

You may also
make a donation based on the
number of birds we find on our
October field trips.

For instructions, visit the Field
Trips article in this newsletter
or the Field Trips page on our
[website](#)

Join !



**Join Ventura Audubon
Society**

Membership costs \$20 and 100%
of your fee directly supports our
chapter.

You can join two ways:

1. Join online by clicking the **green** button above.
2. Or you can print, fill out
and mail a

Membership Form

to us at

Ventura Audubon Society
P.O. Box 24198
Ventura, California 93002

*Note: Ventura Audubon does not
share or sell membership
information to anyone else.*

Select Ventura Audubon
as your Amazon Smile charity



This is a really easy way to support your favorite charity.
You don't have to do anything, just designate your charity.
When you shop via smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your charity — no fees, no extra cost, no hassle.
Use the link above to select VAS as your charity.

Volunteer

Thinking about in helping out? We need you! Take our volunteer survey to find out how your skills and interests fit with our needs

[SURVEY FORM](#)

What do your donations support?

Volunteer Naturalist Program

Community participation is the heart of our Shorebird Recovery program.

[More Info](#)



Nest Monitoring: We conduct nest monitoring of the CA least tern and western snowy plover at both Ormond Beach and Hollywood Beaches [More Info](#)



Habitat Protection: We fence and post signs to protect nesting habitat [More Info](#)



Our Chapter Infrastructure!

- Website
- Constant Contact subscription
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Zoom account
- PO Box
- Storage for chapter materials
- Printing and mailing costs
- Speaker honorariums
- Legal consulting
- Tax filing
- ...and much more!

Nesting Snowy Plover

DO NOT DISTURB



Help Us Protect This Endangered Species

By-pass nest by walking near high tide line

Ventura Audubon Society

THANK YOU!

Events and Programs



October Field Trips

Any scheduled field trip during the month of **October** may be used as the basis for your pledge based on the number of bird species seen on that trip. We will publish the bird lists on the [Field Trip](#) page on our website.

Download the pledge form [here](#)

<or>

Donate a set amount

Satwiwa

[Google Maps](#)



Sat 10/10/20, 8:30am
Leaders: Tevin Schmitt and David Torfeh

photo by Alecia Smith

Ventura Settling Ponds

[Google Maps](#)



Sat 10/24/20, 8:30-10:30am
Leaders: Linda Easter and Adele Fergusson

Click [here](#) for detailed info on field trips from our website

In order to balance birding with safety, we have implemented a number of **COVID safety procedures** that will limit the number of trips and attendees, and ensure distancing.

- We are limiting trips to 4 people per 1 leader
- Advanced sign-up required [click to sign up](#)
- Participants will read, understand and adhere to our [COVID policy](#)
- Complete a pre-trip COVID questionnaire (will be emailed to you just before the field trip)

Bird Lists from our September Field Trips!

- Camino Real Park on Oct 19 2020 - 29 species - [bird list](#)
- Arroyo Verde Park on Oct 30 - 35 species, [bird list](#)

October

Falling for Migration

Speaker: Frank DeMartino

Time and Date: 7 PM - Oct 13, 2020

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 812 0120 1832

Migration is one of the most amazing feats that birds perform. It is a journey made on the very edge of life and death. Humanity has been fascinated by the pattern of appearing and disappearing birds for millennia.

Understanding migration is a key step to realizing the challenges and threats that birds deal with on a regular basis. We will look at some of the myths that have surrounded migration through the ages and some that persist even today. We will highlight some of the many obstacles migrating birds face and the incredible ways that they have evolved to deal with them. Finally, we will look at current conservation issues that pertain to migration, and at current conservation efforts like:

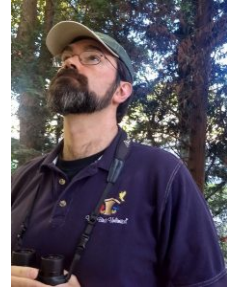
- Cornell's Seven Simple Actions to Bring Birds Back
- Wild Birds Unlimited's "Save The Songbirds"
- Other local Audubon initiatives

We will also discuss how wildfires and hurricanes affect birds that are migrating.



Our October speaker **Frank DeMartino** is an avid birdwatcher whose passion for birds has led him to serve on the board of directors of both the Ventura Audubon Society

and Conejo Valley Audubon Society. Currently he serves as the President for CVAS and he opened a [Wild Birds Unlimited](#) store in Ventura in 2017. Frank also organizes our annual Christmas Bird Counts and compiles the all the data!



Other Audubon Chapter Programs



Morro Coast Audubon Society
Serving San Luis Obispo County Since 1966

Program: Birds of San Luis Obispo County

Speaker: Kavid Keeling

Time and Date: 7 PM; Oct 19, 2020

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 864 5753 6621

Passcode: 594224

Website [link](#)

This program features outstanding images of hundreds of species of birds taken last year by seventeen of the finest nature photographers in San Luis Obispo county. The photos are amazing and their impact is heightened by the synergistic effect of live guitar accompaniment by RD Clark and Jack Collins.



**SANTA BARBARA
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Program: Rodent Control Without Poisoning Our Children, Pets, & Wildlife

Speaker: Kian and Joel Schulman with Cathy Schoonmaker

Time and Date: 7:30 - 9 PM; Oct 28, 2020

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 822 9481 3324

Passcode: 462394

Website [link](#)

Rodenticides are abundant throughout the ecosystem from residential and commercial usage, poisoning wildlife predator species including owls, hawks, foxes, bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions at 80% to 90% exposure rates. Presenters Kian and Joel Schulman, along with NPS ranger Cathy Schoonmaker, will discuss how this is unnecessary and describe alternative methods. Recent efforts to protect wildlife at the city, county, and state level will be presented.

Meet Kat O'Dea: Our first employee, & she wears many hats - Volunteer Coordinator and Biologist. If you take training you will meet her!

What sparked your first initial joy to take up bird watching? To be honest growing up I was AFRAID of birds, I had a bad experience with a Macaw at an art festival when I was 7!

In what capacity have you worked for VAS? I started as the CSUCI Student Liaison, then I became the Volunteer Coordinator and Biologist

What is your educational and/or professional background? I hold a B.S in Environmental Science and Resource Management , I am also a Wildlife Biologist on Point Mugu working with both Plovers and Terns in addition to my work with VAS.



How did you get involved with VAS? I started school at CSUCI and my Resource Management class was required to Volunteer for Ventura Audubon Society during the semester. I enjoyed it so much I asked Cynthia Hartley to take me on as an intern and I never left Audubon since! I was able to see newly hatched Western snowy plover chicks that summer and I fell in love instantly , the fear melted away and I found my passion!

How has bird watching personally affected your life. Bird watching has given me a sense of purpose , it helps me connect with not just nature but the community in which I'm birding in. It also allows me to focus on important aspects of our environment and help to counter act some of the degradation of habitats that have occurred.

If you wanted to share with the public one key thing to do to help bird conservation, what would that be? Get Involved! We always need volunteers, if you are questioning anything related to bird conservation or even have the slightest interest, contact us! There is nothing more enjoyable than knowing that what you're doing is helping an endangered or threatened species survive!

Share a tip or two on what you feel makes an ideal, respectful birder? Leave no trace for sure! You shouldn't be able to tell anyone was in the area , leave the habitat as natural as it can be to allow for more species to utilize it. Help others, as a novice birder , sometimes I feel intimidated by older more experienced birders and I could use help on identification!

Please share 2 fun facts about yourself!

1. I recently got married during the pandemic!
2. All our pets are named after scientists, Oppenheimer, Copernicus,

Featured Instagram Birder

Meet Katie Warner



See her's and other bird photographer takeover photos on our Instagram feed

Hi! My name is Katie Warner and I am a 13 year old birder from Los Angeles, CA. I first got into birding 3 years ago when a California Scrub-Jay showed up at my window feeder. After identifying it on



<https://feederwatch.org/learn/common-feeder-birds/> I started going on birding trips with the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I learned a lot about bird ID from them and I had a lot of fun going on their trips.

The California Scrub-Jays returned many times that year and they have continued to show up in my backyard. I started offering peanuts to them and it was very entertaining to watch them figure out how many peanuts they could fit in their beak (most often two). I started finding empty peanut shells everywhere in our backyard and once, while I was in the car on the road behind my house, I saw a scrub-jay with two peanuts in its beak fly across the street and into someone's backyard (sorry)!

A few months after I started birding, my parents got me my first camera, a Nikon Coolpix B500. The coolpix was a great camera for a while. It was durable, and it had a very long reach. I used it for two years and a lot of birding trips before upgrading to a Nikon D500. I like the ISO handling capabilities and the faster shutter speeds which enable me to capture birds in flight. A couple months ago I went on a birding trip to southeast Arizona where I saw many new and colorful bird species. In Madera Canyon I saw my 250th lifer, a Berylline Hummingbird, and I got many great bird photos.

My favorite part about birding is how unexpected it can be. You never know what you might find! While in Madera Canyon AZ, I found a rare Berylline Hummingbird. It was a big surprise because I hadn't heard of any sightings of it recently, but a week later I found out that it had been hanging around there all spring! Even if it isn't a rare bird, maybe it's an unusually large number of birds or it's an interesting new behavior, there is often something that will surprise you whenever and you go

birding!

I found out about the Ventura Audubon Volunteer Naturalist Program when I started going on the bird walks they offered. They are monitoring the endangered Snowy Plover and Least Tern colonies along the coast of Ventura County. Dogs (leashed and unleashed) pose a threat to the plovers and terns. They need all their energy to raise their young and when they have to spend much of that energy running away from dogs it can decrease their reproductive success. This year and last year I had a lot of fun helping to monitor the plovers and terns and I learned a lot! I hope you will like the photos I will be sharing this week!

Rivoli's Hummingbird: Madera Canyon, Arizona



**California Quail
Satwiwa**



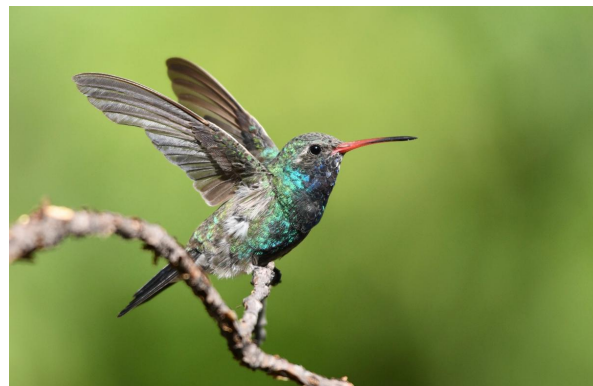
**Black Turnstone
Santa Clara River Estuary**



**Hooded Oriole
Katie's backyard**



**Broad-billed Hummingbird
Madera Canyon AZ**



Thank you to our supporters!

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

Businesses, Organizations and Agencies

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Endangered Species Act Section 6 Grant (S6)
- National Foundation of Fish and Wildlife (NFWF)
- Beth Zuma, Hueneme Patient Collective, 501 W Channel Islands Blvd, Port Hueneme, CA 93041
- National Audubon Society, Audubon in Action Grant
- Skunkmasters, 233 E. Channel Islands Blvd, Port Hueneme, CA 3-93041
- The Baltoro Trust, Yvon Chouinard Family Trustees

Individuals

- Bruce and Joyce Schoppe
- Jan Stevens
- In Memory of Bill Fox - Ojai Valley Retired Men's Club

New and Renewing Members

- Karen Kirk
- Barry Lundvall
- Rennie McIntosh
- Jerry Maryniuk
- Bruce & Joyce Schoppe
- Robert Sloss



[Contact Us](#)