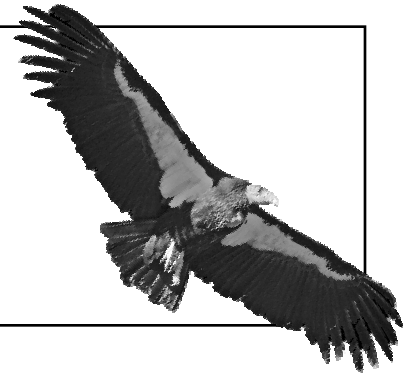


The CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Ventura Audubon Society **OCTOBER 2010** Volume 31 Number 2
A Chapter of the National Audubon www.VenturaAudubon.org



CALL NOTES ..Bruce Schoppe, President

Important Bird Areas Program

The Important Bird Areas Program (IBA) is a global effort to identify and conserve areas that are vital to birds and other biodiversity. By working with Audubon chapters, landowners, public agencies, community groups, and other non-profits, Audubon endeavors to interest and activate a broad network of supporters to ensure that all Important Bird Areas are properly managed and conserved.

The Important Bird Areas Program recognizes that coupled with global warming, habitat loss and fragmentation are the most serious threats facing populations of birds across America and around the world. By working to identify and implement conservation strategies at Important Bird Areas, we hope to minimize the effects that habitat loss and degradation have on birds and other biodiversity.

With its dramatic coastlines, lush forests, blooming valleys, and vivid deserts, California's spectacular natural landscapes host the largest, most diverse concentration of birds in the United States. Scattered across this geography are 145 Important Bird Areas that provide more than 10 million acres of essential habitat for

breeding, wintering, and migrating birds. We must protect these sites to ensure the survival of our state's rich array of birds. The book *Important Bird Areas of California* by Daniel S. Cooper, published in 2004 by Audubon California, is a great source for information on these areas.

Audubon California has used the best science to identify and map these Important Bird Areas. Part of an international effort, these sites were nominated by local experts and selected according to strict criteria: The areas must: support over 1% of the global or 10% of the state population of one or more sensitive species; support more than nine sensitive bird species; have 10,000 or more observable shorebirds in one day, and 5,000 or more observable waterfowl in one day.

The Important Bird Areas in Ventura County include: Northern Channel Islands (not all are in Ventura County); Lake Casitas area; Point Mugu; and Santa Clara River Valley.

There are many other interesting birding areas in Ventura County as well as in the other Central Coast counties. These are available online at the Central Coast Birding Trails website <http://www.ca-ccbt.info/>. Enjoy!

OCTOBER PROGRAM ...Janice Susha, Program Chair
Tuesday October 12th, 7:30 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura

CLIMATE CHANGE ...Gary Langham

Gary will talk about global climate change, how it threatens our wildlife with extinction, and how science-based planning and careful stewardship can ensure a lasting protection. Challenges to conservation include a shifting landscape, an uncertain future climate, and a potential de-coupling of species from their complex ecosystems. To minimize uncertainty about how best to protect California's birds, he will discuss an approach to combine the latest in science with old-fashioned bird watching and generate future range maps for 305 bird species. By using the many years of bird data, collected by volunteers each winter and spring, in combination with detailed climate information, we can understand the relationship between a bird's range and its climate. Armed with this relationship, we can project likely responses to all future climate scenarios and look for areas of stability and loss within a species' range. Knowing which parts of the range are most likely to remain constant, most in need of new habitat, or doomed to disappear, we can promote conservation actions that balance risk and opportunity.

BIRD OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER 2010

Article and Photo by DAVID PEREKSTA

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)



Fall migration continues through October with many species moving through the county and others starting their winter residency. A species whose migration peaks in October before its winter stay is the Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet is a small, round-bodied, short-tailed, olive-colored bird with a small, thin bill. The upperparts are greenish-olive and marked with two conspicuous white wing bars and a black bar below the lower wing bars at the base of the secondaries. The underparts are whitish, tinged with grayish-olive, this color becoming more intense on the sides and flanks. It has a white eye-ring that is narrow at the top and bottom, and males have a red crown patch that is often concealed unless excited or agitated. The song is a surprisingly loud, variable *tee tee tee, tew tew tew, teedadee teedadee teedadee*; the call note is a husky *did-it*. It can be confused with the Golden-crowned Kinglet, but that species has a yellow crown and whitish eyebrow instead of an eye ring. The Hutton's Vireo is very similar, but has a bigger head and heavier bill, moves slower and more deliberately, and flits its wings less than kinglets. It also lacks the black wing bar found behind the kinglet's white wing bar, and its eye-ring, unlike the kinglet's, connects to the bill by white lines, forming spectacles.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets can be hard to see in summer when they breed in tall conifers; however, during migration and winter, they are easily seen low in woods and thickets. Primarily insectivorous, they will also eat berries and seeds in the winter and feed on oozing sap at sapsucker wells. They actively flit between branches to pick insects from twigs and leaves, flicking their wings and often hovering at the tips of branches to glean insects. They tend to be solitary in winter, but sometimes join small flocks of foraging birds.

Ruby-crowned Kinglets breed in boreal spruce-fir forests from northwestern Alaska to Newfoundland south in the western mountains to Baja California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and south to Michigan and Nova Scotia in the east. They winter primarily in the southern and western U.S. south through Mexico to Guatemala.

In Ventura County, Ruby-crowned Kinglets are common transient migrants and winter visitors. They begin arriving in mid-September with a peak of movement in October. In spring, they become uncommon after early April and are gone by the end of the month. Locally, they occur in a variety of habitats including oak and riparian woodlands, shrubby areas, tamarisks, and residential areas and urban parks. They can be found anywhere suitable habitat occurs, but avoid higher elevations in the winter. They are widespread and common, and easily found at many locations including local parks like Camino Real, Arroyo Verde, and Soule; Big Sycamore Canyon; Camarillo Regional Park; Rancho Sierra Vista; Canada Larga; Foster Park; and Lake Casitas.



OCTOBER *FIELD TRIPS* ...*Judy Dugan*

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.

Sunday, Oct. 3, 9:00-12:00 a.m. Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Program. Sandy Hedrick: (340-0478). Arrive at **8:00 for birding** which usually yields some interesting birds. Our efforts include weed abatement, planting of native plants, and establishing trails. **Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required.** Bring water, gloves & sun protection. 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).

Sunday, Oct. 10, 8:30 a.m. Camino Real Park, Ventura. Leader: David Torfeh (647-3325). We should see Red-shouldered Hawks and maybe the start of the season for White-crowned & Golden-crowned Sparrows and warblers. In Ventura take Dean Dr. off Mills Rd. across from the Pacific View Mall. Follow Dean Dr. to the right & the park entrance. Meet by the tennis courts. Bring binoculars and a field guide.

Saturday, Oct. 16, 8:00 a.m. Lake Casitas. Leader: John Pavelko (640-9040). A walk in the shadow of the Topa Topa Mtns. should show us ducks & grebes, egrets & sapsuckers, raptors & perhaps a White-breasted Nuthatch. Suggest car pooling – there may be limited free parking. To car pool from Ventura, meet at the Museum of Ventura Co, 100 E. Main St. (side parking lot). Take Hwy 33 to Hwy 150, turn left and follow signs to the lake or take Hwy 33, exit Casitas Vista Rd. Turn right and go under freeway past Foster Park to 1st right, Santa Anna Rd. Follow to the lake. Meet outside the gate.

Saturday, Oct. 23, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Beginners' Bird Walk, Ventura Wildlife Ponds. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037). We should see herons, grebes, egrets, ducks and many more. Take Harbor Blvd. to Spinnaker and

enter Ventura Harbor. The Water Treatment Plant is on Angler, a left turn before Spinnaker curves to the right. Turn & meet inside the gate.

Saturday, Oct. 30, 8:30 a.m. Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Leader: Neil Ziegler (983-7207). To car pool from Ventura, meet at the Museum of Ventura Co. 100 E. Main St (side parking lot) at 8:00 or meet at the marsh entrance at 8:30. The marsh usually has shorebirds, waders, peeps & ducks. There may be kingfishers, kites and perhaps a shrike. Take Hwy. 101 north to Carpinteria, exit Casitas Pass Rd., left on Casitas Pass Rd., right on Carpinteria Ave., left on Linden, right on 3rd St. to the marsh.

Thursday, Nov. 18, (Note day) 7:50-12:00 a.m. Pt Mugu Naval Base, Leader: Mugu Staff. Reservations and a \$10 deposit are required. Limit 25 – VAS members only unless there is space available after the deadline. Call Judy (642-0842) to reserve. Then send a \$10 refundable check made out to Ventura Audubon to Judy Dugan, 262 Teloma Dr., Ventura, CA 93003. If you do not attend, deposit is forfeited. Also include with the check your full actual name, phone #, & citizenship of each person. **Checks must be received by Nov. 1** to hold a spot. Meet at main entrance at Navalair Rd. & Mugu Rd.

Mark Your Calendar:

Saturday, November 27, Beginners' Bird Walk, Camino Real Park

Saturday, December 18, CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



ANNUAL CALL FOR CLASSROOM SPONSORS

***...Susan Bee,
Education Chair***

The 2010-11 school year has just begun, and again VAS will augment the classroom experience with "Audubon Adventures." An environmentally focused education program developed by National Audubon, "Audubon Adventures" is sponsored by local chapters to benefit the students in grades 3 through 5 in each chapter's community.

A new theme is addressed each year. The current overarching theme is "Wildlife on the Move." Children will learn about migratory species and their special conservation needs. Birds, monarch butterflies and marine animals are featured. Students will explore key concepts in the science behind animal migration and the interdependent nature of living things locally, regionally, and globally.

The program includes 4 different issues of "Audubon Adventures" per student, plus other tools such as a teacher manual that provides the instructor with additional materials to make the student newspaper content even more relevant. The program meets core elementary curriculum standards in life science, language arts, and social studies.

VAS has been fortunate to have a membership that has supported this program for many years. The Board hopes that this year's support will be as generous as in the past. The price per classroom remains at \$45. This investment allows VAS to introduce children to the environment around them and initiate a sense of concerned stewardship.

Currently VAS is sponsoring classes in Ventura and Oxnard. We would welcome additional classrooms. Any interested instructor can contact me at 640 0779 or at scbee1415@yahoo.com.

Checks may be mailed to:

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



Prop 21: A LEGACY FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS (Repeated due to importance)

Did you know that 52 Audubon California Important Bird Areas are at least partially owned by California State Parks, totaling 156,000 acres? Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwood League and California State Parks Foundation are sponsors of The State Parks & Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act ("State Parks Initiative") appearing on the November 2, 2010 statewide ballot as Proposition 21.

Prop 21 works like this:

Vehicles registered in California will get free, year round day use admission to all California State parks in exchange for a new annual \$18 vehicle license fee, a considerable savings if you go to more than two state parks in a year. The funding will provide a stable, reliable, and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians. The parks budget will no longer be subject to cuts by the legislature or the Governor, the Trust Fund cannot be borrowed from or raided, and our state parks can begin work on acquisitions and deferred maintenance once the funds become available. The passage of this proposition is a conservation legacy that all California Audubon members can leave to future generations!

Wildlife Experience's Fundraiser

"WILD ABOUT NATURE" Celebrating 10 years of Wildlife Education in Our Community

***Saturday, October 23, 2010, 6:30- 9:30
Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura***

Enjoy an evening of jazz, hors d'oeuvres, wine, silent auction and shopping and experience the incredible adventures of world renowned anthropologist and author, **Dr. Craig Stanford** ... plus **LIVE ANIMAL VISITORS** from Wildlife Experience, Inc.

Dr. Craig Stanford is Professor of Anthropology and Biological Sciences at USC and Director of the USC Jane Goodall Research Center. He is best known for his research on chimpanzee hunting and meat-eating, done in collaboration with his mentor Jane Goodall, and for his work on the ecological relationship between chimpanzees and gorillas in forests. He has been the recipient of numerous grants and awards for both his research and writing, and is a frequent guest on radio and TV. Seating is limited, please order your tickets early!

Tickets \$35. Call (805) 649-5384



NOTES FROM THE FIELD

...David Pereksta

Reports over the last month were concentrated primarily along the coast where a number of uncommon shorebird species were found. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was found amongst a large flock of **Black-bellied Plovers** along Arnold Road 21 Aug-11 Sep (NG) and thus far has been the only one reported this fall. Several **Solitary Sandpipers** were found including one at McGrath State Beach on 24 Aug (DK), two there on 28 Aug (KR, BT & MH), and one continuing through 5 Sep; another was found at the end of Arnold Road on 17 Aug (CK & WF), followed by two there on 18 Aug (DK). Other notable shorebirds included a **Red Knot** and two **Baird's Sandpipers** at the Santa Clara River estuary on 21 Aug (NG); a **Baird's Sandpiper** on the sod at Arnold Road on 21 Aug (NG), five there on 29 Aug (NG), with at least four continuing through 31 Aug (AS); and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the end of Arnold Road on 19 Aug (AS). Up to four **Black Oystercatchers** continued at the Ventura Harbor and Santa Clara River estuary through 12 Sep.

There were other noteworthy birds reported along the coast last month. A **Least Bittern** was photographed at the Santa Clara River estuary on 4 Sep (DT) and a **Cattle Egret** was at McGrath State Beach on 29 Aug (NG). **Common Terns** were reported widely including one at the Ventura Harbor on 4 Sep (KR), one at San Buenaventura State Beach on 8 Sep (RS), and three at the Santa Clara River estuary on 9 Sep (RM). Uncommon species at the end of Arnold Road included the continuing **Clapper Rail** through early September, a **White-winged Dove** 17-31 Aug (CK & WF), and three **Tricolored Blackbirds** and three **Yellow-headed Blackbirds** on 11 Sep (DP & NG). Another **White-winged Dove** was seen on Laguna Road on 11 Sep (DP).

There were a few reports from the mountains and arid valleys in the north county. A **Northern Goshawk** was calling near the top of Frazier Mountain on 17 Aug (DP & LP), two singing **Cassin's Vireos** were on the north slope of Pine Mountain on 17 Aug (DP & LP), and three juvenile **Black-throated Sparrows** were in Quatal Canyon on 27 Aug (DP & SS).

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, call or e-mail David Pereksta at pereksta@pacbell.net or 659-5740.

Observers: Walter Fuller, Noah Gaines, Mary Hansen, Chris Kahler, Dexter Kelly, Robert McMorran, David Pereksta, Linda Pereksta, Kay Regester, Adam Searcy, Reed Smith, Scott Somershoe, Bob Tallyn, and Daniel Tinoco.

Pectoral Sandpiper



Solitary Sandpiper

Clapper Rail



(Photos by David Pereksta)

VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 24198
Ventura, CA 93002

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CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT ...SAVE THE DATE!!

December 18, 2010 is the date set for the CBC. Reed Smith will be the Compiler/Organizer. Karl Krause will assist with the data collection and data entry. Reed will schedule a meeting for the Sector Leaders in early December at a location tba. Art Marshall has reserved the church hall on that evening for the potluck. Please put the date on your schedule!



VAS OFFICERS AND CHAIRS

President	Bruce Schoppe	658-2396
Vice-President		
Secretary	Joyce Schoppe	658-2396
Treasurer	Jan Lewison	643-3353
Conservation	Sandy Hedrick	643-2408
Newsletter	Dee Press	484-8415
Membership	Art Marshall	642-1585
Field Trips	Judy Dugan	642-0842
Publicity/Education	Susan Bee	640-0779
Science/Webmaster	Reed Smith	652-0706
Programs	Janice Susha	983-3929
At Large	Jim Susha	983-3929
	Jack Gillooly	646-3867
	John Connor	654-1805
	Marianne Slaughter	484-8415
	Nancy Schorsch	643-5825

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Tuesday, October 5th Board of Directors meeting will be held at the home of Dee & Marianne, 1656 Riente St. in Camarillo. Any VAS member is welcome. Call 484-8415 for information.

THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR is published nine times per year (September—May). Members are encouraged to submit articles, announcements, letters and drawings in WORD format or in the form of an e-mail message. *The deadline is noon on the 12th of the month preceding the next issue.* E-mail to: birders@roadrunner.com Call Editor Dee Press at 484-8415 for more information.

THE VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY holds its regular meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. in Ventura at 7:30 p.m., September through April. The May meeting is a fund-raising barbecue. Call the President for information. Board Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. A Membership Form is available on our web site.