CALL NOTES ...Bruce Schoppe, President

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT IS JANUARY 3, 2015

The Christmas Bird Count is set for January 3, 2015. Please make a note in your calendar! We will have a new team leading the CBC. After at least 18 years, Karl Krause is retiring as compiler. We owe Karl a huge thank you for his efforts through those years. One of the really significant things he has done during his tenure is to create and maintain a database for the information gathered over the 30 years VAS has been doing the Christmas Bird Count. This is in addition to the data which he has compiled and submitted to National each year. We want to continue that database and, perhaps, to make it available to people via the website. Going forward, Alexis Frangis and Frank DeMartino will be co-compiler. Brad Sillasen will maintain the database. In addition, John Connor and Estelle Ichino have volunteered to organize the traditional potluck that follows our day of birding.

Ventura Audubon has always been among the leaders of the species count nationwide. Occasionally, we have made it to the Top 10 but usually, we are in the Top 25. Alexis and Frank have some ideas for improving our game! Last year, Frank introduced the use of Any List to log the species recorded during the day. By keeping a current tally of birds found, we can better target efforts in the afternoon to locate birds we should find but have not. We hope to make it more effective this year – training the sector leaders. Speaking of “afternoon”, continuing our efforts at finding birds beyond the morning is also important to improving our results.

We would also like to get more people involved. In recent years, we have had about 75 participants. Many of the participants have been doing the CBC for years and have their favorite sector. But, there are some areas that are not covered or perhaps not covered adequately. If more people participate, we can do a better job and, perhaps, allocate people to areas where we are short-handed.

So, if you would like to participate, please join us. If you have been a participant, please check in with your Sector Leader. If you haven’t participated but would like to, please email Alexis (alexisraehamilton@gmail.com) or Frank (frank@colynx.com). This isn't really a competition -- except, perhaps, with ourselves. More than 100 years of CBC data helped Audubon scientists conclude that climate change is the greatest threat to birds; so, it becomes even more important to continue building the CBC database. We need all the help we can get to identify the habitats that must be preserved and/or restored. More in the December newsletter. Meanwhile, please contact Alexis or Frank.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM ...Program Committee

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 11th, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road, Ventura

Chasing Rare Birds in Santa Barbara County, A 10 Year Retrospective with Roger Millikan

Come along on a photo safari through Santa Barbara County. When local birders posted their special findings, off Roger would go, camera in hand. There is a story connected with each bird. Remember the Zone-tailed Hawk, or the Spotted Owl, or the Costco Rusty Blackbird? This year we had the White Ibis and the Gray Hawk. The great advances in digital photography makes it easier to capture images of these prizes. Roger will talk about some of the useful techniques that make it fun and satisfying as a hobby. These flycatchers were found on Baseline Road in Santa Ynez. Please join us!
Demystifying Golden-Plovers in the Fall and Winter

Building off the last few months’ discussions of understanding the fine identification differences between two (or three) similar species, it’s time to review another set of shorebirds that give birders fits, but have higher stakes when it comes to claiming a rare species. This month we will assess how to identify Pacific and American Golden-Plovers in nonbreeding plumages and differentiate them from the similar looking Black-bellied Plover.

Golden-plovers are rare visitors locally that usually associate with flocks of the more common Black-bellied Plover, so when one is reported birders mobilize to chase it. When someone misidentifies a golden-plover, it ripples through the birding community as people grumble about dropping everything for another misidentified Black-bellied Plover. I get more misidentified shots of golden-plovers sent to me for confirmation than probably any other bird! There are several confounding factors that make the ID of these species more difficult than it needs to be. First are the “hopes and expectations” of birders who hope to find a golden-plover in a flock of Black-bellied Plovers so they often try too hard and misidentify a Black-bellied that is slightly different looking than others in the flock. The second issue is not understanding the fine points of ID of these three species and often clinging to a single field mark that is not reliable. The spot behind the eye is often used by birders to identify an American Golden-Plover because some field guides suggest that it is a valid field mark, but the other large plovers can also show this spot, which is not reliable for identification without the combination of other features.

The best place to start with understanding these species is to know their status and distribution locally. Black-bellied Plovers are a common migrant and wintering species along the coast (on beaches and tidal flats) and on the Oxnard Plain, especially on sod fields on the latter. They are by far the most abundant of these three plover species and the most likely that you will see in any given outing. Pacific Golden-Plovers are a rare migrant and rarer wintering species. While they can be seen on beaches or mudflats, they are most often found on sod or barren fields on the Oxnard Plain with flocks of Black-bellied Plovers. American Golden-Plovers are very rare migrants (they do not winter locally) and share the same habitat preferences as Pacifics, including associating with flocks of Black-bellied Plovers.

The best way to distinguish golden-plovers is to focus on size, structure, and color relative to Black-bellieds. Black-bellied Plovers are the largest of the three and are bigger headed, larger billed, and paler overall, looking very grayish in basic and juvenile plumages (see photo above). Conversely, golden-plovers are smaller and darker (browner overall) and are both small-headed and small-billed. Both species will stick out in a flock of Black-bellied Plovers, especially Pacifics, which are slightly smaller and yellower than Americans (see photo right). If you see a bird with a dark patch at the rear of its auricular, but it is approximately the same size, shape, and color of a Black-bellied Plover, it likely is a Black-bellied. Golden-plovers stick out in a flock of Black-bellieds; however, you are more likely to find them without looking intensely for them. Search the flock and wait for the different bird to strike you.

When you do find a golden-plover, which are usually in nonbreeding plumage (basic, juvenile, or molting) when they are here, the best way to identify them is the same way you have initially distinguished them from Black-bellied Plovers; size, structure, and color. Until recently, these species were considered a single species (the Lesser Golden-Plover). Pacific Golden-Plovers are slightly smaller than American Golden-Plovers and their bodies are more front heavy and upright with a rounder body, larger head, heavier chest, and often with a larger bill and longer legs. Pacific Golden-Plovers are also paler with more yellowish coloring overall, especially on the head and neck. They also have gold fringing and spotting on the back, scapulars, and tertials. Conversely, American Golden-Plovers are slimmer and more attenuated with a smaller head and bill, and slimmer neck and chest. (...continued on Page 4)
NOVEMBER FIELD TRIPS

Karin Kersteter

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.

Saturday, Nov 1, 8:00 a.m. Work Day Hedrick Ranch. Leader: Sandy Hedrick (805)340-0478. Arrive at 8:00 for 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. 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).

Tuesday, Nov 4, 8:30 a.m. Emma Wood State Beach/ Ventura River Estuary. Leader: Adele Fergusson (805) 415-4304. We will begin at Emma Wood State Beach, where we will target Snowy and Semipalmated Plover and Caspian Terns. We will then walk along the beach through the dunes to the Ventura River Estuary. The estuary is always an exciting place to bird, and target birds will include: Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Whimbrel, Black Turnstone, and terns. There will be a fair amount of walking, so please dress appropriately in layers and comfortable shoes. Directions: From US-101, exit California St, turn right and then a quick left onto Thompson Blvd. Follow Thompson and turn left on W. Main St. Follow W. Main St until just before it enters the freeway. Emma Wood is on the left. There is ample street parking along the outside of the park (we must park outside and walk in). Please do not leave valuables in your car, and be sure to lock your vehicle.

Saturday, Nov 8, 8:30 a.m. Calleguas Creek/Round Mountain, Camarillo. Leaders: Adele Fergusson (805) 415-4304 & Karin Kersteter (805)901-2203. NEW TRIP! Round Mountain is a small lake at the base of a scrubby hillside. Birds such as Hooded Mergansers, Lesser Yellowlegs and White-faced Ibis feed in the lake. In the nearby hills, wrens and gnatcatcher forage for insects. The nearby channel always has water, and in the past, has played host to elusive species such as Marsh Wren, Swamp Sparrow, Wilson’s Snipe, and Sora. To carpool: Meet at 8 a.m. behind Carrows, located in the Vons Shopping Center at the corner of Harbor and Seaward. Directions: From Hwy 101, South on Lewis Rd (towards the ocean). You will pass CSUCI on the left hand side. Turn left at traffic signal at Potrero Rd.

Make a quick left hand turn on small road (go around the barricade). Park in the dirt on the right hand side near the gate.

Friday, Nov 14, 7:45 a.m. Pt Mugu. Leader: David Pereksta and Pt Mugu staff. Prior reservations required. Limited to 20 people. For those registered, please note: You must have picture ID cards with names matching the names on the list. Vehicles, articles and individuals are subject to search. Cameras and video equipment are not allowed. Cell phones are permitted, but no photography is allowed. Please bring a scope if you have one. Directions: From Hwy 101, travel south on Las Posas Rd, west on Huenneme 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.

Saturday, Nov 15, 8:30 a.m. Veteran’s Memorial Park, Sylmar. Half day trip. Leader: Karin Kersteter (805)901-2203. NEW TRIP! This large park is a birder’s paradise and is often full of surprises. In bad winter weather, montane species can be pushed down from the mountains into the park. Target species: all 4 species of sapsuckers, Red-shouldered Hawk, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Merlin, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Fox Sparrow and Golden-crowned Kinglet. To carpool: Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind Carrows, located in the Vons Shopping Center at the corner of Harbor and Seaward. Directions:126 E to 5 S to 210 E. Exit Hubbard, go north (toward the foothills), turn left on Garrick, turn right on Sayre. As you enter the park, turn left and park in the parking lot on the left hand side. There are restrooms at the park. Bring snacks and a lunch, water, binoculars and sun protection. Dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes.

Saturday, Nov 22, 8:30 a.m. Lake Los Carneros, Goleta. Leader: Neil Ziegler (805)983-7207. The lake, willows, and surrounding grassy scrub lands with pines, oaks, and eucalyptus should provide a wide variety of birds. Target birds will include: Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Virginia Rail, Sora, and a variety of gull species. To carpool: Meet at 7:30 a.m. behind Carrows, located in the Vons Shopping Center at the corner of Harbor and Seaward. Directions: Go north on Hwy 101 through Santa Barbara to Los Carneros Rd. and turn north toward the mountains. Go 2 blocks north on Los Carneros Rd. and turn right at the fire station into the parking lot for Stow House. (...continued on Page 6)
I'm back for another year of Beginner's Bird Walks, or as singer Jimmy Buffett would say, “I heard I was in town.” I spent the off season trying to renegotiate my contract. Now that I get to carry my new scope too, I was hoping for a Sherpa – no such luck. To kick off the season's first Beginner's Bird Walk, we met at Surfer's Knoll and took a stroll to the Santa Clara River Estuary. Besides the usuals, we came across some very interesting birds along the way. These included Common Terns and Black Terns, Dunlin, Black Turnstone, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Horned Lark and a Red Admiral butterfly.

Yes, in addition to those grueling contract negotiations during the summer, I decided to add an even bigger challenge in my life than taking bird pictures – taking butterfly pictures. Why not? They both have wings and they are both active during the day. However, they're elusive little devils, never seem to land, and when they finally do land, they tend to take off before I can even locate them in my view finder. Lately I've been feeling like my friend the target shooter. He says to be sure of hitting the target he shoots first and calls whatever he hits the target. I get some great pictures of leaves and clouds that way. “Yes, I know there are no butterflies or birds in this picture. I meant to do that – see how pretty the veins of those leaves are?”

I'm actually getting pretty good at identifying all of those little butterflies. Next, I'll have to learn all of their calls.

But back to birding. There was a large flock of Black-vented Shearwaters not too far off shore, and a couple of Brandt's Cormorants and Sooty Shearwaters mixed in with them. Of course, there were plenty of Double-crested Cormorants as well, both at sea and in the estuary. I love seeing those guys when they get together and perch in their nesting trees, with many cormorants decorating two or three trees – little cormorant ornaments!

We also saw an interesting sparrow perched deep in the bull rushes in the estuary. Between the mottled sunlight and the shadows cast by the foliage, it looked like it was wearing a pair of skimpy underwear. Must have been a Thongbird.

All in all, an excellent day with 40 species and a fun beach walk. See you on the next walk.

(BEYOND BASICS ...continued from Page 2)

Americans are dull gray-brown above with a plain grayish breast and dull white belly, and are overall less yellowish than Pacifics. Americans typically have a whiter and more distinct supercillium that contrasts with its dark cap while on Pacifics it is buffy and less distinct. Birds in juvenile plumage look fresher with neatly mottled breasts and crisp upperparts, which start to wear by November.

One of the most reliable features to separate the two species is the extension of the primaries past the tertials. Pacifics look short-winged with typically three primaries visible past the tertials while Americans look longer winged with four primaries visible beyond the tertials. This does not sound like a big difference, but it is noticeable in the field (see photo right). Americans' wings are longer so when they tip to feed they typically show crossed primary tips beyond the tail. Pacifics generally do not show crossed primary tips beyond their tail while feeding.

It is rare to see a golden-plover in full breeding plumage in Ventura County, but molting birds occur that still look a lot like breeding birds (see photo above left). While some of these transitional birds can look ambiguous, the same size, structure, and color rules apply as well as differences in the supercillium and nape. Americans have a flared supercillium that results in a narrower dark nape (see photo above right) while Pacifics have a drooping supercillium resulting in a broader dark nape. Now you are equipped to scan the plover flocks on our local sod fields and find and identify a golden-plover!
WALTER FULLER  
By Steve Nash

Walter Fuller, the recipient of the Community Recognition Award, 2014 Outstanding Senior, presented by the City of Oxnard’s Community Relations Commission, sat down and chatted about what led him to his current pastime as steward and docent of Ormond Beach, Oxnard’s beautiful stretch of California coastline running from the Hueneme Pier to the western boundary of Pt. Mugu, NBVC.

Walter was born in 1954 in Chandler, Arizona, near the Williams Air Force Base. He and his mother moved to Ojai, California to live with his grandparents in 1964. Walter’s grandfather worked for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, where he was involved in many of our local water infrastructure projects. His grandmother was a schoolteacher from Minnesota and she made sure Walter completed his homework. No play until the chores, schoolwork and pets were taken care of properly!

Walter loved baseball and often walked to Sarzotti Park to play the game. As Walter began hiking the local mountains, his love of baseball began to turn to a deep love of nature and wildlife. Walter hiked often in the Los Padres Forest. He felt right at home among the deer and bear. He acquired a menagerie that included pythons, constrictors, local snakes, raccoons, and foxes that he would parade through his grandparent’s house, never hearing them complain about their furry and scaled guests. He also had many birds, among them parakeets, cockatiels, cockatoos, an Amazon parrot and an injured Red-tailed hawk he rehabbed and then gave to a more appropriate facility. He still holds a special place in his heart for Whitey, the parakeet that led Walter to learn more about birds of all types. Walter now says that wild animals should stay free and not be kept as pets. He discourages people from interacting with the wildlife at Ormond Beach.

Mr. Fuller attended Nordhoff High School where his Senior-year science teacher encouraged him to do a report on the Golden Eagle. This is when Walter learned how to use the Audubon Field Guide and binoculars. He said his first camera was a Kodak 126 box camera. Walter was a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 512. He would also go to church camp at Lake Cachuma. It was during one of these visits when he encountered and then adopted a semi-wild tabby he named Snowball. Walter now wonders why he chose that particular name, as Snowball had not a single patch of white. Walter remembers Snowball as being all claws when he first got him. Walter recalls Ojai as a place where he was close to his grandparents, mother and the many animals under his care.

Walter remembers a trip he took to the Ventura Harbor in 1971. He found an injured brown pelican so, of course, he grabbed it and took it on the SCAT bus back to Ojai where he could properly care for it. The bus driver looked at him funny but Walter assured him that he would hold on to the injured bird. The bus driver said, “You’d better!” Walter says he was taught to be respectful and caring towards humans and animals.

Mr. Fuller has a son and a daughter with his wife, who passed in 1986.

Walter worked at Pt. Mugu, NBVC until 1996 when he was caught in the initial BRAC process and released. He was already familiar with the Ormond Beach area and had been photographing its many splendors. Roma Armbrust had heard of his photos and sought Walter out to borrow some of his images for her efforts to preserve Ormond Beach. This was in 1995. Walter began spending more and more of his time at Ormond Beach, first at the Perkins Road site and eventually turning his full attention to the Arnold Road area.

Walter lost his mother in 1999 after sharing a very close relationship with her. She was his hiking partner, inspiration and closest confidante. Walter says he would like to dedicate his contributions to Ormond to her memory. From that point on, Walter immersed himself in caring for Ormond Beach, her wetlands and wildlife. He has been serving as Ormond’s steward and docent ever since, uncompensated but greatly loved and appreciated by everyone who visits the area. (...continued on Page 6)
These are some of the animals Walter has encountered at Ormond: long-tailed weasels, coyotes, foxes, rattlesnakes, gopher snakes, ospreys, peregrine falcons, great blue herons, snowy egrets, least terns, sea lions, dolphins, whales, bald and golden eagles, burrowing owls and 250 documented bird species. A reason for the great diversity in bird species is Ormond Beach lying along the Pacific flyway for migratory birds.

The City of Oxnard and her residents very graciously provided Mr. Fuller with a trailer and electric hook-up this year thanks to the City Council approving Measure O expenditures. Prior to receiving his trailer, Walter was operating out of a metal shipping container, with no water and no electricity.

So please remember, when you visit the Arnold Road site, to give Mr. Fuller a little something. Walter is an unpaid volunteer. This is a partial list of some of his activities on behalf of the Ormond Beach area: currently assisting NBVC in a volunteer capacity, supplying 17 years of bird research and data analysis as part of the Navy’s drone project with an emphasis on bird strikes; currently the senior docent of Ventura County Shorebirds in charge of volunteer teaching efforts; volunteer director for the erection of protective fencing for endangered shorebirds at Ormond Beach; volunteer director for education, RESTOR Project, Ventura Community College, CSUCI; volunteer director of education seminars conducted for Cal Poly Pomona; assists in quarterly bird reports for the Ormond Beach Task Force; volunteer for the Fish and Wildlife Service; volunteer for Fish and Game; volunteer assistant for Nature Conservancy and Coastal Conservancy land managers; volunteer with the Laboratory of Ornithology of the American Bird Conservancy, North American Birds, Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network; volunteer assistant for NBVC, Arnold Road security fencing project. His presence has nearly eliminated vehicle break-ins and vandalism. This makes it possible for all of us to enjoy a carefree trip to this wonderful diamond-in-the-rough we call Ormond.

__FIELD TRIPS__ ...continued from Page 3

**Saturday, Nov 29, 8:30 a.m. Beginner's Bird Walk. Ventura Settling Ponds. Leader: Allen Bertke (640-9037).**The Settling Ponds at the Ventura Harbor is a reliable place to find over-wintering ducks and geese. We will look for a variety of shore and ocean birds, as well as warblers, wrens and raptors. Target birds will include: Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Red-breasted Merganser, Sora and Common Gallinule. Take Harbor Blvd to Spinnaker Dr and enter Ventura Harbor. The water treatment plant is on Angler, a left turn before Spinnaker curves to the right. Park in lot on right hand side of road. Use caution in crossing road at blind curve. Meet in front of gate.

**Christmas Bird Count**  
**January 3, 2015**

__KUDOS TO DEE PRESS__ ...Janet Kessler

If you are lucky enough to be reading this newsletter, you can thank Dee Press for a job well done. Dee has assembled and edited the California Condor with care and love for 11 years!

It’s a real job, collecting articles from various contributors, hoping they are sent on time, making sure they fit the format and forming a cohesive pleasurable read. Then she adds photos and graphic art work. Finally the whole newsletter must be copy edited for errors, so off to the proof readers it goes. Dee has been working as editor from the time when everything had to be hand carried to a printer.

Every month she does it so well that we have taken it for granted. So let’s take a moment of appreciation and gratitude for all she does for Ventura Audubon.
NOTES FROM THE FIELD
...David Pereksta

SEPTEMBER 2014

September is the start of the eastern vagrant warbler season and several local migrant traps yielded some rare or uncommon species. The Laguna Road tamarisks produced a **Prothonotary Warbler** 11-16 Sep (FD), a **Magnolia Warbler** on 19 Sep (FD), an **American Redstart** on 29 Sep (JMu) with two there on 30 Sep (LE), and **Blackpoll Warblers** 13-16 Sep (JM) and 24-27 Sep (JB). Pleasant Valley Park in Camarillo hosted an **American Redstart** on 5 Sep (JM) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** 22-23 Sep (JMu). Elsewhere a **Northern Waterthrush** was on the Oxnard Plain 21-30 Sep (DP) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported in Ventura on 21 Sep (LN).

Other migrant landbirds of note occurred during September. **White-winged Dove** reports included two on San Nicolas Island on 1 Sep (ROD), two on the Oxnard Plain 1-7 Sep (DP & DDJ) with four in the same location on 20 Sep (DP) and one (remaining?) on 28 Sep (DP), one near Arnold Road on 2 Sep (JB), and one at the Laguna tamarisks on 14 Sep Island on 1 Sep (ROD), two on the Oxnard Plain 1-7 Sep (DP & DDJ) with four in the same location on 20 Sep (DP) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** 22-23 Sep (JMu). Elsewhere a **Northern Waterthrush** was on the Oxnard Plain 21-30 Sep (DP) and a **Blackpoll Warbler** was reported in Ventura on 21 Sep (LN).

**Waterfowl and other Waterbirds** were widely reported. Twenty-six **Greater White-fronted Geese** were near Point Mugu on 28 Sep increasing to 36 by 30 Sep (DP & BH). Six **Blue-winged Teal** were at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 21 Sep (DP) and two were on the Oxnard Plain on 20 Sep (DP). The summering **Hooded Merganser** continued in the Arroyo Simi through 20 Sep. A **Reddish Egret** continued at Mugu Lagoon through 20 Sep and 16 **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were at Point Mugu on 24 Sep (DP). A **Cattle Egret** was on the Oxnard Plain 20-30 Sep with another joining it on 21 Sep (DP). After an absence of reports since April, a **Common Gallinule** was at the Ventura Settling Ponds on 21 Sep (DP) and another was at the SCRE 20-26 Sep (KR). Several **Black Terns** were reported in September including two at SCRE 4-6 Sep (AF), one at Marina Park on 11 Sep (KR), 2 at the SCRE 20-21 Sep (DT). Five **Common Terns** were at SCRE on 4 Sep (AF) with 1 reported through 21 Sep.

Shorebird migration continued through September with a number of notable finds. Shorebirds on the Oxnard Plain included Ventura County’s first mainland **Hudsonian Godwit** on 5 Sep (LS), an **American Golden-Plover** 7-12 Sep (DP & TM), a **Pacific Golden-Plover** 20-28 Sep (DP), a continuing **Solitary Sandpiper** through 2 Sep, a **Ruff** 28-30 Sep (DP), a continuing **Stilt Sandpiper** through 1 Sep, as many as eight **Baird’s Sandpipers** 1-21 Sep (DP, DDJ & LS), as many as 15 **Pectoral Sandpipers** 5-30 Sep (LS & DP), and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 12 Sep (DC). Two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were on the sod fields along Arnold Road on 23 Sep (JB) and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was at Lake Sherwood 20-29 Sep (MH).

Raptors have not yet arrived in numbers, but a few notable sightings occurred in September. The pair of **Bald Eagles** continued at Lake Casitas through 25 Sep. One of the Channel Islands **Bald Eagles** was at the end of Arnold Road on 29 Sep (CR) and another was in Ojai on 29 Sep (BV). A **Zone-tailed Hawk**, perhaps the same one that has wintered for many years, was seen in Ojai on 29 Sep (DR). A **Burrowing Owl** continued on the Oxnard Plain through 24 Sep.

Both trips to the Channel Islands and organized pelagic trips found rare and uncommon seabirds during September. A **Manx Shearwater** was well described several miles off Ventura on 23 Sep (MH). Rare in southern California, especially inshore, was a **Wilson’s Storm-Petrel** on 28 Sep near Platform Gina (JB). A **Red-billed Tropicbird** was in the Santa Barbara Channel on 7 Sep (JB) and a **Sabine’s Gull** was off Ventura on 4 Sep (JBo). A multi-day pelagic trip that passed through Ventura County waters found a **Leach’s Storm-Petrel** and a **Long-tailed Jaeger** on 4 Sep (JF et al). Two **Brown Boobies** and a **Blue-footed Booby** continued on Anacapa Island through 28 Sep.

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), e-mail or call David Pereksta at <pereksta@pacbell.net> or 659-5740.
VENTURA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. Box 24198
Ventura, CA 93002

AUDUBON SUPPORTS THE CALIFORNIA WATER BOND, PROPOSITION 1!
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If you are not sure if your membership has expired, please email Jackie at jbworden7@gmail.com and she will check it out for you.

BOARD MEETING: There will be a Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, November 13th at the home of Neil Ziegler, 1921 Holly Ave, Oxnard. Call (805) 983-7207 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 barbecue. Call the President for information. Board Meetings are held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. A Membership Form is available on our web site.

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 10th of the month preceding the next issue. E-mail to: deepress2@gmail.com.