

The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

Summer 2011

AUGUST CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 24 5pm Planning meeting Burnetts', 735 W Sonja Ave
Call 760-382-4935 if you would like to attend, are interested in serving on the Board of Directors,
or have ideas for field trips or programs.

BIRDATHON 2011

We had a beautiful day for this year's birdathon, which took place on Saturday, April 30th. The teams included the Gringo Potoos (Lee and Shirley Sutton) ; the Snow Geezers (Terri Middlemiss, Bob Parker, Mike Holland, and Joyce Seibold) ; the Wandering Albatrosses (Lloyd and Sherry Brubaker and Nancy Robinson) Bob Barnes ; Bob and Susan Steele; Tim Ludwick; and Alison Sheehey. Areas covered throughout the day included the Indian Wells Valley, Indian Wells and Sand canyons, Butterbredt Spring, Piute Mountains, Kern River Valley, and Jawbone Canyon. Total number of species seen was 186. Those with an asterisk were seen only outside the Indian Wells Valley.

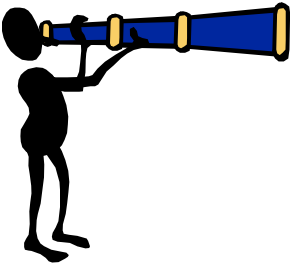
THE BIRDS

Pied-billed Grebe*
Eared Grebe
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe*
American White Pelican*
Double-crested Cormorant*
Great Blue Heron*
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Green Heron*
Black-crowned Night Heron*
White-faced Ibis
Turkey Vulture
Canada Goose
Gadwall
Mallard
Cinnamon Teal
Northern Shoveler
Green-winged Teal
Redhead
Lesser Scaup
Bufflehead
Red-breasted Merganser
Ruddy Duck
Osprey*
Northern Harrier
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Golden Eagle

American Kestrel
Prairie Falcon
Wild Turkey*
Chukar
Mountain Quail
California Quail
Virginia Rail
Sora*
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Snowy Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Black-necked Stilt
American Avocet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Spotted Sandpiper
Marbled Godwit
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
Long-billed Dowitcher
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope
Franklin's Gull
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
California Gull
Forster's Tern
Rock Dove
Eurasian Collared Dove
Mourning Dove
Greater Roadrunner
Barn Owl
Great Horned Owl*
Burrowing Owl
Long-eared Owl
Lesser Nighthawk
Vaux's Swift*
White-throated Swift
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Anna's Hummingbird
Costa's Hummingbird
Calliope Hummingbird*
Rufous Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher*
Lewis's Woodpecker*
Acorn Woodpecker*
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Nuttall's Woodpecker

Downy Woodpecker*
Hairy Woodpecker
White-headed Woodpecker*
Northern Flicker*
Pileated Woodpecker*
Olive-sided Flycatcher*
Western Wood-Pewee*
Willow Flycatcher
Hammond's Flycatcher
Gray Flycatcher
Dusky Flycatcher
Pacific-slope Flycatcher
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
Bell's Vireo*
Cassin's Vireo*
Warbling Vireo*
Steller's Jay*
Western Scrub Jay
Clark's Nutcracker*
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Violet-green Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Mountain Chickadee*
Oak Titmouse
Verdin
Bushtit*
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch*
Pygmy Nuthatch*
Cactus Wren
Rock Wren
Canyon Wren
Bewick's Wren
House Wren

Continued on page 3



Valley Sightings Apr-Jul 2011

Please report unusual sightings to Susan Steele at 377-5220 (home) or 939-1722 (work), or by email at steele7@verizon.net.

APRIL

At least two **Snow Geese** remain at the golf course (SLS).
A **Cackling Goose** was at the ponds Apr 24 (DVB).
A **Brant** was at the ponds Apr 27 (SLS, TL). We average about a sighting a year with all the records but one in spring.
Seven **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at the ponds Apr 30 (SLS).
A hybrid **Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal** was at the ponds Apr 28 (SLS).
California Quail became new yard birds on Apr 13 (BB, EC).
A **Western Grebe** was at the ponds Apr 24 (BB).
The **Snowy Egret** at the college was the 181st species for that location (L&SSu).
A **Cattle Egret** was at the ponds Apr 25-27 (SLS).
A **Green Heron** was at the ponds Apr 29 (BB).
The flock of **Turkey Vultures** over SE Ridgecrest contained a **Swainson's Hawk** and an **Osprey**, yard bird #151 (LS).
An **Osprey** was SW of Inyokern Apr 3 (LK).
The **Peregrine Falcon** at the ponds Apr 24 caught a large shorebird, but was driven off his lunch by a **Northern Harrier** (DVB).
FOS for **Snowy Plover** was from the ponds Apr 28 (SLS).
FOS for **Semipalmated Plover** was from the ponds Apr 10 (BB).
FOS for **Lesser Yellowlegs** was from the ponds Apr 10 (BB).
FOS for **Solitary and Spotted Sandpiper** was from the ponds Apr 23 (DVB).
FOS for Marbled Godwit was from the ponds Apr 30 (TW).
The **Pectoral Sandpiper** at the ponds Apr 14 was only our 3rd spring record (DG).
Short-billed Dowitchers were at the ponds Apr 25 (SLS).
Phalaropes have begun their migration with **Red-necked** seen on Apr 26 and **Wilson's** on Apr 27 (SLS).
Franklin's Gulls were noted Apr 23 (DVB), Apr 27-30 at the ponds (StSu, BB).
The **Franklin's Gull** at the Inyokern ponds Apr 30 was the 96th species for that location (L&SSu).
Bonaparte's Gulls were at the ponds Apr 20-25 (SLS, DVB, BB).
FOS for **Caspian Tern** was Apr 21, for **Black Tern** Apr 28, and for Forster's Tern Apr 30 (SLS).
FOS for **Vaux's Swift** was from S of Inyokern Apr 18 (SLS).
FOS for **Lesser Nighthawk** was from the ponds Apr 24 (BB).
FOS for **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was SE of Ridgecrest Apr 11 (LS).
A **Belted Kingfisher** was at the ponds Apr 6 (BB).
The **Acorn Woodpecker** SW of Inyokern Apr 17 was an unusual wanderer to the valley floor (LK).
Hammond's Flycatchers were first noted in Ridgecrest in two different locations Apr 24 (LS, BB).
FOS for **Dusky Flycatcher** was from the ponds Apr 20 (SLS).
FOS for **Gray Flycatcher** was from Indian Wells Canyon Apr 30 (BS).
FOS for **Pacific Flycatcher** was from SE Ridgecrest Apr 28 (LS).

The **Vermilion Flycatcher** at the college Apr 17 was the 180th species for that location (DVB).

FOS for **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was from S of Inyokern Apr 20 (BS).

Plumbeous Vireo in SE Ridgecrest Apr 4 was yard bird

Lesser Vireo was from the college Apr 10 (BB).

Blue-winged Teal and **Brown-headed Cowbird** were new yard birds Apr 25 (BB, EC).

Red-breasted Nuthatches continue at the college (SLS, DVB), in SE Ridgecrest through Apr 17 (LS), and at the cemetery (BB, SLS).

A pair of **Western Bluebird** was in Indian Wells Canyon Apr 30 (BS).

A **Phainopepla** was in Ridgecrest Mar 27 and Apr 10 (LS).

FOS for **Nashville Warbler** was from S of Inyokern Apr 22 (SLS).

FOS for **Townsend's Warbler** was from the college Apr 23 (DVB).

FOS for **Yellow Warbler** was from SW of Inyokern Apr 2 (LK).

FOS for **Wilson's Warbler** was from the college Apr 6 (BB).

FOS for **Brewer's Sparrow** was from SW of Inyokern Apr 5 (LK).

A "Sooty" **Fox Sparrow** was at the college Apr 6 (BB) and others were SW of Inyokern Apr 8 and 19 (LK).

A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was in SE Ridgecrest Apr 28 (LS).

Three slate-colored **Dark-eyed Juncos** were SW of Inyokern Apr 23 (LK).

FOS for **Black-headed Grosbeak** was Apr 25 (BB, SLS).

FOS for **Lazuli Bunting** was from S of Inyokern Apr 21 (SLS).

FOS for **Bullock's Oriole** was from N of Inyokern Apr 7 (LA).

Pine Siskins were S of Inyokern (SLS) and in SE Ridgecrest Apr 4-6 (LS).

Lawrence's Goldfinches continue in the valley at multiple locations (m. ob.)

MAY

The 368th species for the valley was the **Pyrrhuloxia**. It was S of Inyokern May 7-8 and was the 180th yard bird at that location (SLS). This was also a new species for Kern Co.

A **Clark's Grebe** was at the ponds May 8 and a **Western Grebe** was there May 23 (DVB).

A pair of **Canada Geese** continued at the golf course through May 11 (SLS).

The last sighting of **Snow Geese** was from the golf course May 6 (SLS).

An immature **Peregrine Falcon** was at the ponds intermittently from May 17 -30 (SLS, RAB) and at the old sewage ponds May 22 (RAB).

The valley's 2nd record of **Pacific Golden-Plover** was from the ponds May 23-24 (SLS).

A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the ponds May 6 and 10, and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was seen May 3 and 17-18 (SLS).

It was a good month for **Franklin's Gulls** with sightings from May 2, 3, 5, 6, 11 and 23 (SLS, RAB), with a high count of seven on the 6th.

The valley's first record of **Glaucous-winged Gull** was from the ponds May 23 (SLS).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was at the ponds May 12 (SLS).

Rufous Hummingbirds lingered this year with the latest on May 25 from S of Inyokern (SLS).

FOS for **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was from the ponds May 6 (SLS).

A **Plumbeous Vireo** was S of Inyokern May 18 (SLS).

The 6th valley record for **Tennessee Warbler** was from S of Inyokern May 23 (SLS).

A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was S of Inyokern May 13, 23-24, and 29-30 (SLS).

A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was SW of Inyokern May 16-17 (LK). This fits nicely into their expected pattern of occurrence May 11 – June 30.

A **Blue Grosbeak** was SW of Inyokern May 16 (LK).

A **White-throated Sparrow** was in Ridgecrest May 1 (JAS).

Tricolored Blackbirds were new yard birds in SE Ridgecrest May 3 (N&EG), and May 29 152nd species (LS). Another male was at the ponds May 8-23 (DVB).

Lawrence's Goldfinches continue to be seen around the valley with juveniles observed (M.ob.).

JUNE & JULY

Birds from the southwest were the continuing theme this spring. Last month it was a Pyrroluxia and this month Bronzed Cowbird and multiple White-winged Doves.

Six **Cattle Egrets** were at the ponds June 2 (SLS).

Common Moorhen bred again at the ponds. This year two juveniles were noted on June 12 (RAB).

The **Black-bellied Plover** at the ponds June 3-7 was later than expected (SLS). Our First of Fall (FOF) **Black-bellied Plover** was at the ponds July 31 (DVB).

The first south bound **Greater Yellowlegs** was June 21, 2011 and **Lesser Yellowlegs** was July 19 both from the ponds (SLS).

FOF for **Semipalmated Plover** was from the ponds July 20 (SLS).

FOF for **Solitary Sandpiper** was from the ponds July 25 (SLS).

Our first **Willet** of the year was from the ponds July 28 (SLS).

Our last spring migrant **Spotted Sandpiper** was at the ponds June 21 and the first fall migrant appeared July 15 (SLS).

The first south bound **Marbled Godwit** was at the ponds June 28 (SLS).

A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was at the ponds July 29 (SLS).

An adult **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the ponds July 21 (SLS).

The **Stilt Sandpiper** seen at the ponds July 26 was our earliest fall record (SLS). The previous was Aug 4.

An adult **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at the ponds July 20 (SLS).

An injured **Long-billed Dowitcher** remained through June 15 this spring and our FOF was July 11 both at the ponds (SLS).

The first south bound **Wilson's Phalaropes** were noted June 5 and **Red-necked Phalarope** was July 24 both from the ponds (RAB).

The **Franklin's Gull** at the ponds June 15-18 was later than expected (SLS).

The 9th valley record of **Least Tern** was at the ponds July 26 (SLS). This is also our latest valley record. The previous late date was July 15.

White-winged Doves put on an impressive show this June and July. Single birds were seen S of Inyokern intermittently June 1- July 14 (SLS), N of Inyokern June 6 (LB), in Ridgecrest June 20 (DVB), and up to three were in Ridgecrest June 10 through at least the end of July (EC).

FOF for **Rufous Hummingbird** was from S of Inyokern July 12 (SLS).

Western Kingbird juveniles were seen in SE Ridgecrest July 31 (LS).

Loggerhead Shrikes and **Le Conte's Thrashers** had a very productive breeding year SW of Inyokern. Up to nine shrikes and up to fifteen thrashers were seen at one time (LK).

Phainopepla were noted SW of Inyokern June 1 (LK) and S of Inyokern June 5 (SLS).

Our last **Yellow Warbler** of the spring was June 7 and our first of the fall was July 29 both at the ponds (SLS).

The **Black-and-white Warbler** at the college June 3 was only our second eastern vagrant warbler of the spring (SLS).

The last north bound **Western Tanager** was S of Inyokern June 28 and the first south bound bird was seen at the college July 28 (SLS).

The pair of **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** N of Inyokern June 21 was nicely documented (MD).

It is presumed that the **Black-headed Grosbeak** S of Inyokern June 22 was a spring migrant (SLS). The male Black-headed Grosbeak SW of Inyokern July 5 is harder to determine (LK).

A male **Indigo Bunting** and a juvenile were at the ponds July 27 (SLS).

Brewer's Blackbirds were feeding two fledglings in SE Ridgecrest July 17 (LS).

The **Bronzed Cowbird** S of Inyokern June 5 was the 2nd valley record and was yard bird # 182 (SLS).

Thanks to the following observers: *Linda Andrews, Bob Barnes, Linda Bates, Dave Blue, Encar Card, Matthew Dodder, Jon Dunn, Shelley Ellis, Charlotte Goodson, Dave Goodward, Noel and Ellene Gravelle, Louise Knecht, Tim Ludwick, Joyce Seibold, Bob Steele, Steve Summers, Lee and Shirley Sutton, Tom Wurster*

BIRDATHON continued:

Wrentit*	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Dark-eyed Junco
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Black-headed Grosbeak
Western Bluebird	Lazuli Bunting
Hermit Thrush	Red-winged Blackbird
American Robin	Tricolored Blackbird*
Northern Mockingbird	Western Meadowlark
California Thrasher*	Yellow-headed Blackbird
LeConte's Thrasher	Brewer's Blackbird
European Starling	Great-tailed Grackle
Cedar Waxwing*	Common Grackle
Phainopepla	Brown-headed Cowbird
Orange-crowned Warbler*	Hooded Oriole
Nashville Warbler	Bullock's Oriole
Yellow Warbler*	Scott's Oriole*
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Cassin's Finch*
Black-throated Gray Warbler*	House Finch
Townsend's Warbler*	Red Crossbill*
MacGillivray's Warbler	Pine Siskin
Common Yellowthroat	Lesser Goldfinch
Wilson's Warbler	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Yellow-breasted Chat*	American Goldfinch
Summer Tanager*	Evening Grosbeak*
Western Tanager	House Sparrow
Green-tailed Towhee	
Spotted Towhee*	
California Towhee	
Chipping Sparrow	
Brewer's Sparrow	
Vesper Sparrow*	
Lark Sparrow	
Black-throated Sparrow	
Sage Sparrow	
Savannah Sparrow*	
Rufous-crowned Sparrow*	
Fox Sparrow*	
Song Sparrow	
Lincoln's Sparrow	
White-crowned Sparrow	

Golden-crowned Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Black-headed Grosbeak
Lazuli Bunting
Red-winged Blackbird
Tricolored Blackbird*
Western Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Brewer's Blackbird
Great-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
Hooded Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Scott's Oriole*
Cassin's Finch*
House Finch
Red Crossbill*
Pine Siskin
Lesser Goldfinch
Lawrence's Goldfinch
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak*
House Sparrow

*seen only in Kern River Valley

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Explanation of membership categories:

National Audubon Society membership includes membership in the local chapter. It also includes a subscription to the Audubon magazine, and to the Kerncrest newsletter, *The Chat*. It also provides the right to vote in society elections, and inclusion on national society mailing lists for informational materials and solicitations for contributions.

Membership in the Kerncrest Audubon Society includes a subscription to *The Chat*, (not to *Audubon* magazine) and provides the right to vote in local society elections.

Inclusion on national mailing lists is optional.

A subscription to *The Chat* only does not provide the right to vote in elections.

The Chat

Newsletter of the Kerncrest Audubon society
P.O. Box 984, Ridgecrest, CA 93556

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Summer, 2011

