

The Chat

Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

March, 2017



MARCH CALENDAR

Wed	Mar 15	Board Meeting at Burnetts'
Thu	Mar 16	General Meeting Program: Larry LaPre
Sat	Mar 25	Field Trip: IWW Geology and Birding with Hector Villalobos

GENERAL MEETING

Larry LaPre

INCONVENIENT TRUTHS ABOUT MOJAVE DESERT BIRDS

Larry LaPré received a PhD in biology from the University of California in 1979 and worked as a biological consultant for 19 years. In 1998, he enlisted in a one-year term position with the BLM which led to a permanent job as the District Wildlife Biologist. He worked at the BLM for seventeen years, retiring in 2015. He is now a Board member of the Desert Tortoise Council.

A biologist for life, Larry's first love has always been birds. He led eco-tours highlighting raptor migration in Veracruz, Mexico for four years. In the California desert, he has monitored golden eagle nests, performed raven nesting surveys, and banded prairie falcons. Near his home in Riverside, Larry counts crows at a night roost every winter and has been the compiler for the local Christmas Bird Count for 38 years.

He is currently serving as Science Advisor, Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, and will present to us a program entitled "Inconvenient Truths about Mojave Desert Birds".

Thursday, March 16th, Maturango Museum,
100 E Las Flores Blvd., 7:00 PM

FIELD TRIP

GEOLOGY AND BIRDING IN THE INDIAN WELLS VALLEY LEADER: HECTOR VILLALOBOS

Background: The IWW encompasses three important geologic provinces which consist of the Sierra Nevada Range, the Basin and Range and the Mojave Desert complexes. These geologic provinces are characterized by major faults,

mountain uplift and basin formation, and volcanic events. The geology of the IWW contributes to the existence of a major avian flyway and various habitats. The field trip will highlight the geology and the various habitats.

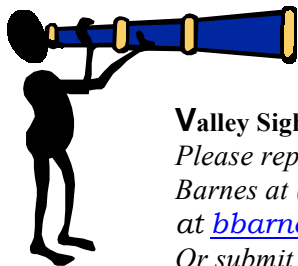
Description: The field trip will include four road stops. The first road stop will be off Garlock Road to discuss the El Paso Mountains and the Garlock Fault. The second will be off Hwy. 14 at Red Rock State Park to review the geology of the state park. The third stop will also be off Hwy. 14 near Robbers Roast to observe the geology of the Sierra Nevada Range. The last stop will be Fossil Falls, off Hwy. 395, to observe volcanic and basin and range geology. We can also plan to visit the Fossil Falls Watchable Wildlife Site overlooking Little Lake. At these stops and along the way we should be able to see birds in their various habitats.

What to Look For: We will be looking at various rock formations including granitic, volcanic, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks; and geologic features related to faults, erosion, and much more. And the IWW is home to various migrating birds, raptors, and songbirds. Don't forget the desert tortoise and other reptiles which are on the verge of emerging. During this wet season, there will be plenty of vegetation to observe.

Getting There: Around 8:00 AM, field trip participants should meet at the Maturango Museum parking lot, near the intersection of North China Lake and Las Flores. From there, we can car pool to our road stops. We should depart the parking lot by 8:30 a.m., and plan to be back to the parking lot by around 3 p.m.

Field Trip Tips: Bring plenty of drinking water, hat, jacket, sunscreen, good hiking shoes or boots, snacks and/or lunch, and your bird watching gear. There are hiking trail options, 1/2 mile to longer. Need to be cautious and watch your step on rocky trails and terrain.

Newcomers are welcome. "Loaner" binoculars are available. Call Dan or Brenda Burnett at 760-375-8634 to arrange to borrow them. (Leave a message.)



Valley Sightings – Feb 2017

Please report unusual sightings to Bob Barnes at (760)382-1260, or by email at bbarnes@lightspeed.net.

Or submit to ebird for Bob to glean.

IWV FOS-12 **Least Sandpipers** at CLP Feb 10 (BSt, SSt).

IWV FOS-4 **Long-billed Dowitchers** at CLP Feb 7 (SSt).

IWV FOS-A **Greater Yellowlegs** at CLP Feb 10 (BSt, SSt).

A wintering **White-winged Dove** continued at the GC Feb 10 (BSt, SSt), Feb 20 (AS, SSt).

A **Greater Roadrunner** predated with all meat and soft parts precisely removed (by one of 4 raptor species present?!!!!) at a yard SW of Inyokern before/to Feb 28 (PW).

IWV FO17-A **White-throated Swift** at Noname Canyon Feb 5 (CH, RH)

An adult male **Rufous Hummingbird** was record early for a yard SW of Inyokern Feb 16 (PW).

A male **Rufous Hummingbird** was last seen at a yard SW of Inyokern Feb 21 (LK)

A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** and a **White-headed Woodpecker** at Cow Heaven Canyon Feb 24 (BSt, SSt) brought the all time bird species total there to 100.

KERN COUNTY FO17-A wintering female **Vermilion Flycatcher** continued at a yard SW of Inyokern (LK).

22 **Pinyon Jays** on the east side of Walker Pass Feb 3 (BG), 5 at Cow Heaven Canyon Feb 24 (BSt, SSt)..

4 **Steller's Jays** at a yard NW of Inyokern Feb 3 w. individuals present several days (WH).

2 **California Scrub Jays** at a yard NW of Inyokern Feb 7-18 at least; one noted days before (LB).

A **Clark's Nutcracker** at a yard NW of Inyokern on Feb 2 (TM).

IWV FOS-A **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at CLP Feb 21 (SSt).

IWV FOS-A **Tree Swallow** at the GC Feb 10 (SSt).

IWV FOS-2 **Violet-green Swallows** at CLP Feb 20 (AS, BSt, SSt).

KERN COUNTY FOS-A **Barn Swallow** at CLP Feb 21 (SSt).

A **Sage Thrasher** between Nine Mile and Noname Canyons Feb 5 (CH, RH); one at Inyokern

WTP Feb 21 (BSt, SSt); 3 at Cow Heaven Canyon Feb 24 (BSt, SSt).

Le Conte's Trasher pair carrying meal worms to a nest at a yard SW of Inyokern (LK).

A **Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler** at an east Ridgecrest yard Jan 23 (LSu, SSu).

Thanks to the following for reporting: Bob Barnes (BB), Linda Bates (LB), Bruce Garlinger (BG), Wanda Hewitt (WH), Chris Howard (CH), Rosie Howard (RH), Louise Knecht (LK), Terri Middlemiss (TM), Alison Sheehy (AS), Bob Steele (BSt), Susan Steele (SSt), Lee Sutton (LSu), Shirley Sutton (SSu). Peter Woodman (PW).

Happy, productive, and rewarding March birding!
Enjoy continuing winter season birds and more northbound "spring" migrants.

KEY: FOS = First of Spring; CC = Cerro Coso Community College, CLP = City of Ridgecrest water treatment plant ponds at China Lake NAWS, GC = China Lake Golf Course, IWV = Indian Wells Valley watershed; RWWP = Ridgecrest Watchable Wildlife Park; WTP = Wastewater Treatment Plant



OWENS LAKE
— BIRD FESTIVAL —

Don't forget to register for the Owens Lake Bird Festival. April 28-30.
Info and registration at friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival.

ALSO ...

Kern River Valley Bioregions Festival
Saturday April 22nd, 2017 at Circle Park in Kernville
and at the Kern River Preserve in Weldon, CA.

For more information please visit
www.southernsierraresearch.org

Kerncrest Audubon Society Board of Directors

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Webmaster	Rose Whipple	360-348-1609
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Kerncrest Audubon received a thank you card pictured above from the folks at the Poo-Poo Project. The thank you was for purchasing 10 Poo-Poo screens for the Sequoia National Forest to cover the large open vent pipes in vault toilets. This is closely aligned with the work we have done to cap open pipes and mining claim "posts". Open pipes are death traps for cavity nesting birds. The Long-eared Owl pictured above looks mad and probably was mad because it had just been fished out of a sewage-holding tank under an outhouse. It was lucky. Most birds that get trapped in these "Vault-Toilets" struggle to get free but can't and die there. All the vault toilet vent pipes in the Sequoia National Forest, we have been told, are now screened over so birds can't get trapped in the vaults. These ten screens were the last ones needed to complete the local effort.



THE CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY AND OUR LOCAL CONSERVATION PARTNERS RECOMMEND BIRDS &

BEANS *"Some of our most beloved Neotropical migrant songbirds – especially our thrushes, orioles, tanagers, and warblers -- are suffering from loss of habitat when they fly south for the winter. One of the easiest things we can all do to support our migratory songbirds is to make sure that the coffee we buy comes from coffee farms that preserve bird habitat. Birds & Beans is certified by the best in the business, and makes it easy to be confident that the coffee we drink is also providing habitat for birds."* -- John W. Fitzpatrick, Director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Dear Kerncrest members:

The Burnetts were directed by a friend recently to Birds and Beans when our then bird-friendly organic coffee source went extinct. We have been delighted with their service and their coffee. At \$23 for a really-2-pound bag, it is a reasonable price for 100% Arabica, gourmet coffee. And it is fresh! Birds & Beans roasts the coffee on-site, grinds it to order (or not) and ships it the next business day after roasting. All that and the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center certified bird habitat as well.

Do visit their website at www.birdsandbeans.com and order some coffee.

If you are interested in forming a coffee club and ordering as a group, let any board member know.