

# The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

November, 2017

## **NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CALENDAR**

Wed	Nov 15	6pm	Board Meeting: Burnetts'
Thu	Nov 16	7pm	General Meeting, Maturango Museum
Sat	Nov 18	8am	Field Trip, Richmond Rd. park&ride
Sun	Dec 17	dawn	CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

## **NOVEMBER GENERAL PROGRAM**

### **Defenders of Wildlife California Desert Conservation Programs By Tom Egan**

The Kerncrest Audubon Society's guest speaker for November's general meeting will be Tom Egan, the California Desert Representative for Defenders of Wildlife. Mr. Egan has previously worked as a consulting ecologist for an environmental consulting firm in southern California. He has also worked as a wildlife biologist for the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service; and as a biological/veterinary technician with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. He has worked with owls, eagles, falcons, dippers, vireos and almost everything in between. He specializes in work associated with threatened & endangered species, biological survey, environmental impact analysis, project permitting, and habitat restoration.

Tom will talk about his current work on Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) planning to identify key conservation opportunities and habitat enhancement actions within southern California deserts in Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The RCIS program may be considered for Kern County and California City. Tom will also review Defenders of Wildlife efforts to advocate for our native wildlife and defense of our National Monuments.

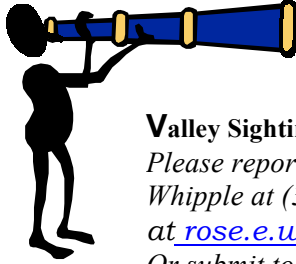
The Kerncrest Audubon Society welcomes everyone, join us at the Maturango Museum at 7pm on November 16th.

## **FIELD TRIP**

### **Wildrose Canyon and Warm Sulfur Springs**

Wildrose Canyon road is open, and several springs are running! A trip up there a couple of weeks ago found several species of migrants, including Kinglets and Pipits. The continuing warm weather should make for a pleasant outing on Saturday, November 18.

Meet at the Richmond Road park-and-ride at 8am to form car pools. The road is paved but pot-holed, so high clearance vehicles are advisable. Bring a picnic lunch. A lovely picnic area (with a restroom) is available at the campground. We'll lunch there, then check out the springs along Indian Ranch Road on the way down. Call Bob Parker at 760-446-2001 to sign up or for more information.



### **Valley Sightings – Oct 2017**

*Please report unusual sightings to Rose Whipple at (360) 348-1609, or by email at [rose.e.whipple@gmail.com](mailto:rose.e.whipple@gmail.com). Or submit to ebird for Rose to glean.*

*Note the new contact information above.* Sightings are light for the summer, because we have been between information-gatherers. Please do let Rose (or ebird) know of any interesting birds you have.

#### October Sightings:

A **Western Grebe** at RWWP Oct 6 (RW)

A flock of 4 **Ceder Waxwings** in NW Ridgecrest on Oct 5 were IWV 1st of Fall (BB)

The first **Snow Geese** at the China Lake ponds on Oct 9 (SSt)

A Juvenile **Golden Eagle** in Little Petroglyph Canyon on Oct 14 (SB)

A **Red Shouldered Hawk** and a **Sora** at the China Lake Golf Course on Oct 14 (BB)

A flock of 36 **Western Meadowlarks** at the China Lake Golf Course on Oct 21 (BB)

A **Golden Crowned Kinglet**, **Golden-crowned Sparrow**, **Townsend's Solitaires** and a **Black and White Warbler** at Cerro Coso Community College on Oct 21 (Kerncrest Field Trip)

Single, singing **Plumbeous Vireos** outside Ridgecrest library Oct 14 & at NW Ridgecrest on Oct 15 & 22 (BB)

A **Nuttall's Woodpecker** and **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Cerro Coso Community College on Oct 22 (ASh, TG)

Two **LeConte's Thrashers** at Freeman Spring on Oct 28 (BB)

A **Long Eared Owl** in an Inyokern yard on Oct 29 (AC)

*Thanks to the following observers: Bob Barnes (BB); Sherry Brubaker (SB); Alice Campbell (AC); Terri Gallion (TG); Alison Sheehey (ASh); Susan Steele (SSt); and Rose Whipple (RW).*

### **CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS**

The **China Lake Christmas Bird Count**, compiled by Peter Woodman, will be as usual the first Sunday of the count period. The date is Sunday, December 17. Gather at the County Park, and bring a lunch. We meet at noon to reconnoiter and plan the afternoon. To sign up, contact Peter at (760) 861-3961, or email him at [kivabio@aol.com](mailto:kivabio@aol.com)

A complete list of California Counts, their dates and contacts may be found on Alison Sheehey's website, at <http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm> .

Ali has also been hard at work updating the Kern County checklist of bird species to reflect changes in American Ornithologists' Union taxa, and to include newly extant species, including Barred Owl, Black-backed Woodpecker, and Scaly-breasted Munia. That list may be found at <http://natureali.org/kernbirdchecklist.htm> .

## TRIP REPORT

### Field trip of October 21 to Cerro Coso College

It was sort of an incredible list! The wind had blown fiercely the day before, likely pinning down the birds, and they were all out foraging for us to see.

**Cooper's Hawk** (*Accipiter cooperii*) 2  
Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter striatus/cooperii*) 2  
**Red-tailed Hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) 2  
Buteo sp. (*Buteo* sp.) 1  
**Eurasian Collared-Dove** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) 4  
**Mourning Dove** (*Zenaida macroura*) 1  
**Anna's Hummingbird** (*Calypte anna*) 5  
**Costa's Hummingbird** (*Calypte costae*) 4  
Hummingbird sp. (*Trochilidae* sp.) 5  
**Northern Flicker** (*Colaptes auratus*) 5  
**Prairie Falcon** (*Falco mexicanus*) 1  
**Black Phoebe** (*Sayornis nigricans*) 1  
**Say's Phoebe** (*Sayornis saya*) 5  
**Common Raven** (*Corvus corax*) 12  
**Verdin** (*Auriparus flaviceps*) 8  
**Red-breasted Nuthatch** (*Sitta canadensis*) 6  
**Bewick's Wren** (*Thryomanes bewickii*) 2  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus satrapa*) 1  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** (*Regulus calendula*) 12  
**Townsend's Solitaire** (*Myadestes townsendi*) 2  
**Hermit Thrush** (*Catharus guttatus*) 2  
**American Robin** (*Turdus migratorius*) 1  
**Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*) 8  
**European Starling** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) 3  
**Cedar Waxwing** (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) 20  
**Black-and-white Warbler** (*Mniotilta varia*) 1 Foraging in a tree. Clearly visible black and white bars on head and wings with buffy flanks. Bold black and white on head. Seen eating a brown grub or worm.  
**Orange-crowned Warbler** (*Oreothlypis celata*) 1  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** (*Setophaga coronata*) 35  
**Black-throated Sparrow** (*Amphispiza bilineata*) 2  
**Fox Sparrow** (*Passerella iliaca*) 5  
**Dark-eyed Junco** (*Junco hyemalis*) 11  
**White-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*) 23  
**Golden-crowned Sparrow** (*Zonotrichia atricapilla*) 1  
**Bell's Sparrow** (*Artemisospiza belli*) 6  
**Spotted Towhee** (*Pipilo maculatus*) 1  
**Brewer's Blackbird** (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) 3  
**House Finch** (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) 32  
**Lesser Goldfinch** (*Spinus psaltria*) 15

View this checklist online at <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist/S40048485>