

The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California May, 2015

MAY CALENDAR

Sat	May 3	all day	BIDATHON
Wed	May 20	6 pm	Board Meeting: Villalobos'
Thu	May 21	7 pm	General Meeting: Lowell Young



MAY PROGRAM California Tricolored Blackbird By Lowell Young

The Kerncrest Audubon Society's program for the month of May will include a presentation by Lowell Young, president of Yosemite Area Audubon Society. Lowell is active in Audubon both in his local area and in California. This year, he organized an effort to save tricolored blackbirds from extinction. This statewide initiative is known as the Audubon California Chapters Tricolored Blackbird Action Team, which is backed by Audubon California.

The program that Lowell will be presenting is about the genesis of the Audubon California Tricolored Blackbird Team. It began about 11 years ago, when Lowell took on the responsibility for doing tricolored blackbird surveys in Merced County. Four years ago, Lowell and the team he organized finally found the first colony of tricoloreds they had ever seen in the survey area during the survey period. There were at least 60,000 of them and Lowell says he will never forget the thrill of seeing so many birds at one time. During this period of time, Lowell personally observed more tricolored blackbirds, though few in total numbers, in the foothills of the Sierra and grasslands adjacent to them than had ever been seen in the Central Valley. What happened to that colony of birds and several other events that he experienced during that period of time, Lowell says "got his dander up." The rest is history and the subject of his presentation.

Lowell's program presentation will be at the Maturango Museum, Thursday, May 21, at 7:00 pm.

OUR 2015 BIRDATHON

A whoppin' big thanks goes out to all participants and contributors for the Kerncrest Audubon Society's 2015 Birdathon. It is you (and you know who you are) that make our once yearly fundraiser such a great success. As I am sure you know, half of the contributions support Audubon's Kern River Preserve and the other half support our educational programs: most notably, through the volunteer efforts of several of our members, we have a vigorous junior Audubon program in a couple of our local schools.

This year's Birdathon took place on a beautiful third day of May, and by beautiful, I mean no wind. As usual, the all woman team known as the Bushtits (Brenda Burnett, Terry Middlemiss, Nancy Robinson, and Penny LaPome) spotted the most species of birds in the Indian Wells Valley. But herculean efforts by Bob Steele adding a goodly number of mountain birds and Bob Barnes working the Kern River Valley region added many species to the overall list. Small teams such as Bob Parker and Dan Burnett and Lee and Shirley Sutton added to the list. Individuals such as Sherry Brubaker and others whose names I do not know also participated.

Enclosed with this issue of the Chat is the complete list of birds. Individuals who want to contribute an amount on a per species basis may chose the Indian Wells Valley total or the complete area list as a basis. Based on past records, we find many who simply contribute a fixed amount according to their wishes. Your contribution may be sent by mail to Kerncrest Audubon Society, P. O. Box 984, Ridgecrest, CA 93556 or by simply giving it directly to any Board member.

Lee Sutton
Birdathon Chairman
760-375-1981

And from Bob Barnes: Attached is an Excel file of the 100 species reported for the Kern River Valley yesterday during the 2015 Kerncrest AS Bird-A-Thon.

Those reporting were...

- Bob Barnes
- Denise LaBerteaux
- John Schmitt
- Mark Schmitt
- Mary Whitfield

If you have any questions, feel free to send them along to me.

It was fun!

Bob Cell: 760-382-1260



Valley Sightings – April 2015

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

A **Snow Goose** was seen at the old sewage ponds Apr 26 (L&SSu). Whether it was a lingering bird from this winter or a bird migrating north from further south is unknown.

A **Western Grebe** was at the ponds Apr 22-26 (SLS, SK, TB).

A **Cattle Egret** was at the ponds Apr 2 (SLS).

An **Osprey** was at the Inyokern Sewage ponds Apr 16 (BB).

FOS for **Snowy Plover** was from the ponds Apr 28 at the ponds (SLS).

FOS for **Semipalmated Plover** was from the ponds Apr 28 at the ponds (SLS).

FOS for **Spotted Sandpiper** was from the ponds Apr 8 (TL).

FOS for **Solitary Sandpiper** was from the ponds Apr 28 (SLS).

FOS for **Whimbrel** was from the ponds Apr 2 (SLS).

FOS for **Long-billed Curlew** was from the ponds Apr 30 (SLS).

FOS for **Marbled Godwit** was from the ponds Apr 6 (SLS).

FOS for **Dunlin** was from the ponds Apr 15 (SLS).

A **Baird's Sandpiper** was at the ponds Apr 30 (SLS). While this is an expected fall species, it is only our 10th spring record.

FOS for **Wilson's Phalarope** was from the ponds Apr 28 (SLS).

FOS for **Red-necked Phalarope** was from the ponds Apr 22 (SLS).

Franklin's Gulls were at the ponds Apr 15 (SLS).

FOS for **Caspian Tern** was from the ponds Apr 14 (SLS).

The 162nd species for a Ridgecrest yard was **Band-tailed Pigeon** on Mar 22 (L&SSu).

The **White-winged Dove** at the golf course continued calling for a mate unsuccessfully throughout the month (SLS). Our more successful **White-winged Doves** showed up in Ridgecrest Apr 3 with the second dove being noted on the 23rd (BB, EC).

A **Long-eared Owl** nest with fledglings was found at the cemetery Apr 26 (JB, PS).

Great Horned Owls nested successfully at the college with an adult and three juveniles noted on May 3 (L&SSu).

FOS for **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was from S of Inyokern Apr 1 (SLS).

Belted Kingfishers were at the college Apr 3 (SLS), the ponds Apr 9 and 28 (SLS), and N of Inyokern Apr 17 (NJ).

A **Lewis's Woodpecker** was N of Inyokern Apr 26-27 (BB, DB, JB, PS).

An **Acorn Woodpecker** was at the college Apr 22 (BS, WA).

A **Peregrine Falcon** was at the ponds Apr 15 (SLS) and another was S of Inyokern Apr 5 for the 194th species for that location (BS, SLS).

FOS for **Olive-sided Flycatcher** was N of Inyokern Apr 26 (BB, DB).

FOS for **Hammond's Flycatcher** was from the cemetery Apr 5 (J&DP).

FOS for **Gray Flycatcher** was from Grapevine Canyon Apr 15 (BB).

FOS for **Dusky Flycatcher** was from S of Inyokern Apr 26 (SLS).

FOS for **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was from Grapevine Canyon Apr 15 (BB).

The **LeConte's Thrashers** SW of Inyokern successfully fledged 1 juvenile and the **Loggerhead Shrikes** fledged six juveniles (LK).

FOS for **Cassin's Vireo** was from Ridgecrest Apr 8 (BB).

FOS for **Warbling Vireo** was from Grapevine Canyon Apr 15 (BB).

A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** was at the college Apr 10 (BB).

FOS for **MacGillivray's Warbler** was from Grapevine Canyon Apr 15 (BB).

FOS for **Lazuli Bunting** was at the ponds Apr 28 (SLS).

FOS for **Black-headed Grosbeak** was N of Inyokern Apr 10 (BB).

Pine Siskins continued in Ridgecrest through Apr 8 (BB) and SW of Inyokern through Apr 6 (LK).

LOS for **American Goldfinch** was from Ridgecrest Apr 18 (TL).

Lawrence's Goldfinches are being widely reported in the valley (BB, BBu, SLS, BS, L&SSu).

Thanks to the following observers: *William Adams, Bob Barnes, Dianne Benham, John Birsner, Brenda Burnett, Encar Card, Nina Jones, Louise Knecht, Tim Ludwick, Jim and Debby Parker, Sandy Koonce, Bob Steele, Pamela Stones, Lee and Shirley Sutton*

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY SPECIES

Gadwall	Say's Phoebe
American Wigeon	Western Kingbird
Mallard	Loggerhead Shrike
Blue-winged Teal	Cassin's Vireo
Cinnamon Teal	Warbling Vireo
Northern Shoveler	Pinyon Jay
Green-winged Teal	Common Raven
Redhead	Horned Lark
Ruddy Duck	Barn Swallow
Mountain Quail	Verdin
California Quail	Cactus Wren
Eared Grebe	Rock Wren
Great Egret	Marsh Wren
Snowy Egret	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
White-faced Ibis	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Turkey Vulture	Swainson's Thrush
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Hermit Thrush
Cooper's Hawk	American Robin
Red-tailed Hawk	Northern Mockingbird
American Kestrel	Le Conte's Thrasher
Virginia Rail	European Starling
Sora	Cedar Waxwing
American Coot	Phainopepla
Semipalmated Plover	Orange-crowned Warbler
Killdeer	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-necked Stilt	Hermit Warbler
American Avocet	Wilson's Warbler
Spotted Sandpiper	Black-throated Sparrow
Solitary Sandpiper	Savannah Sparrow
Marbled Godwit	Song Sparrow
Western Sandpiper	Western Tanager
Least Sandpiper	Black-headed Grosbeak
Dunlin	Red-winged Blackbird
Long-billed Dowitcher	Western Meadowlark
Wilson's Phalarope	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Red-necked Phalarope	Brewer's Blackbird
Franklin's Gull	Great-tailed Grackle
Ring-billed Gull	Hooded Oriole
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Bullock's Oriole
White-winged Dove	Scott's Oriole
Mourning Dove	House Finch
Greater Roadrunner	Lesser Goldfinch
Great Horned Owl	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Burrowing Owl	House Sparrow
Long-eared Owl	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)
Black-chinned Hummingbird	Bell's Sparrow
Anna's Hummingbird	
Costa's Hummingbird	
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	
Western Wood-Pewee	
Hammond's Flycatcher	
Dusky Flycatcher	
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	
Black Phoebe	
	Total 101

KERN VALLEY SPECIES

Wood Duck
Mallard
Mountain Quail
California Quail
Wild Turkey
Western Grebe
Clark's Grebe
American White Pelican
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Turkey Vulture
Red-tailed Hawk
American Kestrel
American Coot
Semipalmated Plover
Killdeer
Spotted Sandpiper
Band-tailed Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove
Great Horned Owl
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Anna's Hummingbird
Costa's Hummingbird
Acorn Woodpecker
Red-breasted Sapsucker
Ladder-backed Woodpecker
Nuttall's Woodpecker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
White-headed Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Western Wood-Pewee
Black Phoebe
Say's Phoebe
Vermilion Flycatcher
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Western Kingbird
Cassin's Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Steller's Jay
Western Scrub-Jay
American Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Mountain Chickadee
Oak Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Cactus Wren
Rock Wren

Bewick's Wren
House Wren
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Western Bluebird
Townsend's Solitaire
American Robin
Wrentit
Northern Mockingbird
California Thrasher
European Starling
Phainopepla
Nashville Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Wilson's Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Green-tailed Towhee
Spotted Towhee
California Towhee
Rufous-crowned Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Brewer's Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Black-throated Sparrow
Savannah Sparrow
Fox Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Summer Tanager
Western Tanager
Black-headed Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Red-winged Blackbird
Tricolored Blackbird
Western Meadowlark
Brewer's Blackbird
Brown-headed Cowbird
Hooded Oriole
Bullock's Oriole
Scott's Oriole
Purple Finch
House Finch
Lesser Goldfinch
Lawrence's Goldfinch
House Sparrow

Total 100

If anyone wishes to base a contribution on the number of species seen in the Kern River Valley, the total is an even 100.

Of those, 48 were seen *only* in the Kern River Valley, so those added to the 101 seen in the Indian Wells Valley bring the total number of species seen overall to **149**.