SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Renewable Energy Development Effects on Golden Eagles and other Migratory Birds
By Garry George

Our first meeting and program of the 2015-2016 season will include an exciting program presentation by Garry George, Chapter Network Director and Renewable Energy Director for Audubon California.

Many of us have known Garry George since we worked with him at Los Angeles Audubon to try to forestall development of the LADWP Pine Tree wind farm. Garry joined the Audubon California staff in 2008. As the Renewable Energy Director for Audubon California, he has been working on stakeholder contributing comments to Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP). He also serves on the Golden Eagle Working Group hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and has been recognized for his efforts to protect birds and habitat and ensure more rational use of renewable energy.

Garry’s presentation will bring us up to date on the latest federal, state and local policies affecting the development of renewable energy in California and its effects on Golden Eagles and other migratory birds. He will also discuss some utility scale projects he has been working and how they may or may not be avoiding, minimizing or mitigating effectively for their impacts on birds and other wildlife.

Maturango Museum, Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 7:00 pm.

SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP

Little Lake Overlook and Fall Creek

It has been a long time since we have been to check out our watchable wildlife viewing platform looking over Little Lake. So, we will go up there on Saturday, September 19, having met for carpooling at 8 am at the defunct 76 station just east of Inyokern. Fall migration will still be in process, so, time allowing, we will likely also go on across the valley to see what is passing through Fall Creek.

Bring a picnic lunch, drinks, and layered clothing.

PS: We are always flexible. If the day is just too hot or windy, we may instead go higher across the valley, to Sage Flat. There could be an unusual variety of birds there, chased east by the fires in the Sequoia National Forest.

Call Bob Parker at 760-446-2001 to sign up.

Central Valley Birthing Symposium

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 19th Annual Central Valley Birthing Symposium Nov. 19-22, 2015 at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA.

Thursday Night's Keynote speakers are Ed Harper & Ed Pandolfino presenting a program on "A Central Valley Year of Sights & Sounds".

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Steve N.G. Howell on "Shift Happens: Rare (Vagrant) Birds in North America."

Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Kate Marianchild on "Our Magnificent Valley Oaks; Hubs of their Habitats."

Workshops include: "Birding: the 12-step Program--Bird ID explained" by Steve N.G. Howell, "Shorebird ID Workshop" by Jon Dunn, "A Mini Tricolored Blackbird Symposium", moderated by Dan Airola, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele.

Registration is now open, and Bob Steele's workshop is already wait-listed. Sign up soon!

There are also 3 days of field trips. To register and find out more, visit http://www.cvbsreg.org

SAVE THE DATES:

Tentatively planned field trips for Kerncrest Audubon Society for the season are:

November 14: Owens Lake Mitigation Ponds
December 13: IWV Christmas Bird Count
February 20: Pixley National Wildlife Refuge
March 19: Lake Isabella & Tilley Creek Campground
April 22-24: Owens Lake Bird Festival
May 21: Inyokern to Red Mt Breeding Bird Survey Route
May

A Cattle Egret was at the golf course May 6 (SLS).
The two Snowy Egrets in Freeman Canyon May 11 were on the second record of this species for any of our canyons (JB).

An Osprey was N of Inyokern May 26 (BB, PB, TM).

An unusually large congregation of up to twenty Swainson’s Hawks was N of Inyokern May 11-12 (TM).

It was a slow spring for shorebirds with our best shorebird of the spring being a Semipalmated Sandpiper at the ponds May 6 (SLS).

Franklin’s Gulls were at the ponds May 1 (SLS) and May 24 (AS).

The White-winged Dove at the golf course was last seen on May 6 (SLS). Two White-winged Doves continued in their stronghold in Ridgecrest (BB).

The Burrowing Owl pair at the fairgrounds successfully fledged three chicks (M.ob.).

Long-eared Owls did fairly well in the valley this spring in spite of the drought. Four were N of Inyokern May 26-May 31 (BB, PB, TM). Another was at the cemetery throughout the month (m.ob.). And the pair in SE Ridgecrest fledged four young successfully on May 11 (DW).

FOS for Lesser Nighthawk was from SE Ridgecrest May 19 (L&SSu).

A Peregrine Falcon was at the Inyokern ponds May 6 (SLS).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was in Ridgecrest May 28 (LT).

FOS for Olive-sided Flycatcher was from the cemetery May 22 (BB).

FOS for Western Wood-pewee was May 3 from the college (L&SSu).

Hammond’s Flycatcher and Warbling Vireo on May 1 brought a yard list up to fifty species (BBu).

FOS for Swainson’s Thrush was May 3 from the college (L&SSu).

FOS for Yellow-breasted Chat was from S of Inyokern May 13 (SLS).

A Lark Sparrow was SW of Inyokern May 7-9 and a Golden-crowned Sparrow was there May 15 (LK).

The Evening Grosbeak in Freeman Canyon May 12 was a first record of this species for any of the canyons (JB).

Lawrence’s Goldfinches continued to be seen throughout the month in the valley (m.ob.).

June and July

A Wood Duck was at the ponds Jul 21 (SLS).

Five Western Grebes were at the ponds Jul 8 (SLS).

The Red-shouldered Hawk S of Inyokern Jul 30 was the 194th species for that location (SLS). Another juvenile Red-shouldered Hawk was in SE Ridgecrest Jul 19 (L&SSu).

FOF for Semipalmated Plover was from the ponds Jul 12 (AS).

LOS for Spotted Sandpiper was Jun 11 and FOF was Jul 8, both at the ponds (SLS).

FOF for Solitary Sandpiper was from the ponds Jul 16 (SLS).

FOF for Willet was from the ponds Jul 6 (SLS).

FOF for Lesser Yellowlegs was from the ponds Jul 30 (SLS).

FOF for Marbled Godwit was from the ponds Jul 8 (SLS).

Semipalmated Sandpipers put on a good show this fall with adults being seen Jul 8, 10 (SLS) and 12 (AS) and the first juvenile of the year on Jul 22 (SLS).

FOF for Red-necked Phalarope was from the ponds Jul 12 (AS).

Two Bonaparte’s Gulls were at the ponds Jul 6 (SLS).

FOF for Black Tern was from the ponds Jul 6 (SLS).

White-winged Doves continued at the golf course (SLS) and in Ridgecrest where a pair was observed mating on Jul 25 (BB).

The Long-eared Owls at the cemetery had a successful breeding year with six birds observed on Jun 29 (BB).

A Peregrine Falcon was at the ponds Jul 21 (SLS).

A Red-breasted Nuthatch was N of Inyokern Jun 21 (TM).

Phainopeplas were SW of Inyokern Jun 4, 21 and Jul 9 (LK).

FOF for Orange-crowned Warbler was from the ponds Jul 12 (AS). The Orange-crowned Warbler in SE Ridgecrest Jun 21 is much harder to characterize (L&SSu).

LOS for Common Yellowthroat was Jun 11 (SLS) and the FOF was Jul 12 (AS). Both were at the ponds.

A Yellow Warbler was singing in Ridgecrest from late May until Jun 23 (BB). Our FOF migrants were from the ponds Jul 22 (SLS).

A Lucy’s Warbler was at the ponds Jul 30 (SLS).

FOF for Brewer’s Sparrow was from the ponds Jul 30 (SLS).

The 163rd bird reported from a yard in SE Ridgecrest was a Vesper Sparrow on Jun 21 (L&SSu).

Four Scott’s Orioles including at least 2 begging juveniles were SW of Inyokern Jul 20 (LK).

A lingering Pine Siskin was in SE Ridgecrest Jun 7 (L&SSu).

Thanks to the following observers: Bob Barnes, Patricia Bacchetti, Jack Bitzer, Brenda Burnett, Louise Knecht, Terri Middlemiss, Alison Sheehy, Lee and Shirley Sutton, Lynne Thompson, Donnie Woods

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

All, I am looking for someone willing to take over writing the Valley Sightings column. If you are interested, please let me know. Susan