



The Chat



Kerncrest Audubon Society, Ridgecrest, California

September 2013

September CALENDAR

Wed	Sep 18	6:00 pm	Board Meeting at Brubakers'
Thu	Sep 19	7:00 pm	General Meeting
Sat	Sep 21	7:30 am	South Fork cleanup
Wed	Sep 25	7:00 am	Field Trip to Galileo Hills
Sat	Sep 28	8:00 am	Field Trip to TuVu Festival

General Meeting

Introducing the Wonderful Birds of Pico Bonito, Honduras

Well, too many of your board members went on extended vacations this Summer, and no one scheduled a speaker for our September meeting. Dan and Brenda Burnett did, however, attend the National Audubon Society convention in Snoqualmie, Washington, and picked up a great video of the Birds of Pico Bonito National Park and the private reserve surrounding The Lodge at Pico Bonito in Honduras.

This beautiful video contains 130+ spectacular Honduran birds in vivid HD, including the world's first HD imagery of Lovely Cotinga and the critically endangered Honduran Emerald.

Containing all original, never before seen HD footage by leading Neotropical birder and nature videographer, Greg R Homel, this video promises to be much more than just advertising for the lodge, though it is likely to make many of us want to go there.

Come get together for our first meeting of the season at the Maturango Museum, Thursday, September 19th at 7:00 pm.

Help Needed at the Kern River Preserve

Hi Kern River Preserve Friends,

Can you help us clean up the South Fork Wildlife Area and public roads around the Preserve on Kern Valley Pride Day. Saturday, September 21, 2013? Meet at Kern River Preserve Headquarters at 7:30 am. -

There will be a BBQ hosted by Thomas Refuse and US Forest Service at 11:30 at Nuui Cunni.

Let Sandra Weiser know by e-mail at sweiser@audubon.org or call 760.378.2531 if you will join our Kern River Preserve team. For out of town people let us know if you need a place to stay for the night.

Thanks.

Reed Tollefson

Field Trip 1

Galileo Hills

Late September is a great time to see southbound migrants at Galileo Hills Resort east of California City. Join Dan and Brenda Burnett for a short morning trip down there to see what's around on Wednesday, September 25th. Call them at 760-382-4934 or 382-4935 to sign up. Meet at the south Albertson's parking lot near the service station at 7:00 am. Bring lunch, in case there are so many birds we can't bring ourselves to leave.

Field Trip 2

Autumn Nature and Turkey Vulture Festival

Saturday, September 28th, 2013

Audubon Kern River Preserve, Weldon

It's time again for the spectacular migration of Turkey Vultures through the Kern River Valley and for the festival celebrating their arrival. (Other species are also migrating south from their northern breeding grounds, so it's a good time to get out and enjoy the Kern River Preserve.)

There will be booths and talks at the Preserve, beginning bird walks, activities for children, trips to the site of the multi-year migration count, chases to lift-off sites, and more. As always, Kerncrest Audubon Society will have a booth, and Lee Sutton will lead a beginning bird walk.

Come join the fun! All events are free of charge.

Kerncrest board members will be at the preserve early, so no one likely will be available to lead the car pool. Brenda Burnett will serve as a clearinghouse at 760-382-4935 to connect people who want to drive up together. Meet at the 76 Station in Inyokern at 8:00 am to car pool. Bring a picnic, or plan to pick up lunch at a local store.

Help Needed

Our Membership chairman desperately wants to retire! We need someone with moderate computer experience to take over maintaining the Kerncrest mailing list. This person need only spend a few hours a month downloading the membership data from the National Audubon Society, adding a few local records and converting it into a set of labels for affixing to the Chat. Please call Noel Gravelle at 760-375-2325 for more info, or email webmaster@kerncrestaudubon.org.

Lists, Lists, Lists

The rest of this issue is lists: catch-up from the long Spring and Summer break.



Valley Sightings Mar-Jul 2013

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

March

Two **Greater White-fronted Geese** were at the ponds Mar 21-27 (SLS), and what are probably the same geese were at the evaporation fields Mar 28-30 (L&SSu).

LOS **Ross's Geese** were at the ponds Mar 21 (SLS).

A **Brewer's Duck**, Mallard x Gadwall hybrid, was at the ponds Mar 6 and at the golf course Mar 19 (SLS).

FOS for **Double-crested Cormorant** was from the ponds Mar 4 (SLS).

FOS for **American White Pelican** was from the ponds Mar 2 (TL).

FOS for **Great Blue Heron** was from the ponds Mar 19 (SLS).

FOS for **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron** was from the ponds Mar 28 (SLS).

An **Osprey** was hunkered down in the wind along Highway 395 near Pearsonville on Mar 17(SLS) and another was at the ponds Mar 20 (TL).

FOS for **Black-bellied Plover** was from the ponds Mar 18 (SLS).

FOS for **Black-necked Stilt** was from the ponds Mar 18 (SLS).

The **Lesser Yellowlegs** at the ponds Mar 6 was much earlier than expected (SLS).

FOS for **Long-billed Curlew** was at the ponds Mar 20 (TL). Another Long-billed Curlew was at the evaporation fields on Mar 28 (L&SSu).

FOS for **Marbled Godwit** was from the ponds Mar 26 (SLS).

FOS for **Dunlin** was from the ponds Mar 2 (TL).

FOS for **Bonaparte's Gull** was from the ponds Mar 20 (TL).

An early **Franklin's Gull** was at the ponds Mar 18 (SLS). **Long-eared Owls** were last seen in the valley this spring on Mar 28 at the cemetery (SLS).

FOS for **Rufous Hummingbird** was from SW Inyokern Mar 17 (LK).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was at the ponds Mar 22 (SLS).

A **Nuttall's** and a **Hairy Woodpecker** were in Nine Mile Canyon Mar 3 (SE, SLS).

The **Peregrine Falcon** N of Inyokern Mar 7 was a new yard bird (TM).

FOS for **Dusky Flycatcher** was from the college Mar 30 (TL) and for **Hammond's Flycatcher** was from the cemetery Mar 28 (SLS).

FOS for **Western Kingbird** was from SW of Inyokern Mar 26 (LK).

FOS for **Warbling Vireo** was from the cemetery Mar 27 (SLS).

FOS for **Barn Swallow** was Mar 22, for **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** was Mar 6, for **Tree Swallow** was Mar 9 all at the ponds (SLS).

The last report of **Brown Creeper** was from the cemetery Mar 28 (SLS).

FOS for **House Wren** was from the ponds Mar 19 (SLS).

FOS for **Barn Swallow** was from the ponds Mar 22 (SLS).

FOS for **House Wren** was from the ponds Mar 19 (SLS).

Two **Western Bluebirds** were in Nine Mile Canyon Mar 3 (SE, SLS).

Sage Thrashers were at the ponds Mar 8, 24, and 27 (SLS), and at the Inyokern ponds Mar 14 (BB).

The only report for **Cedar Waxwings** this month was from the K-Mart Parking lot Mar 23 (HV). No, they weren't there for the blue light special, but for the pyracantha berries.

FOS for **Orange-crowned Warbler** was from Short Canyon Mar 1 (DVB).

FOS for **Common Yellowthroat** was from N of Inyokern Mar 27 (LL).

FOS for **Black-throated Gray Warbler** was from the cemetery Mar 27 (SLS).

LOS for **Spotted Towhee** was from the college Mar 30 (TL).

FOS for **Chipping Sparrow** was from the cemetery Mar 27 (SLS).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the evaporation fields Mar 30 (L&SSu).

A 'Sooty' **Fox Sparrow** was at the cemetery Mar 27 (SLS).

FOS for **Lark Sparrow** was from SW of Inyokern Mar 25 (LK).

FOS for **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was from the ponds Mar 27 (SLS).

FOS for **Hooded Oriole** was from Ridgecrest Mar 17 (SE).

FOS for **Bullock's Oriole** was from S of Inyokern Mar 27 (SLS).

The **Red Crossbills** at the cemetery were apparently gathering nesting material Mar 28 (SLS).

April

The two **Greater White-fronted Geese** at the evaporation fields remained through Apr 18 (L&SSu).

A small flock of **Snow Geese** lingered at the evaporation fields through Apr 18 (L&SSu), and one was at the golf course and ponds through Apr 22 (SLS).

Three **Brant** were at the ponds Apr 15 (SLS)

A **Blue-winged x Cinnamon Teal** hybrid was at the ponds Apr 18 (SLS).

Western Grebes were at the ponds Apr 8, 18 (TL), and Apr 20 (BB).

FOS for **White-faced Ibis** was from the ponds Apr 8 (TL, SLS). The six White-faced Ibis flying over Ridgecrest were yard bird #68 (BB).

FOS for **Snowy Egret** was from the ponds Apr 16 (SLS).

FOS for **Cattle Egret** was from the golf course Apr 24 (BP).

A **Great Egret** was SW of Inyokern Apr 16 (LK).

An **Osprey** was flying over the golf course on April Fool's Day (SLS).

Swainson's Hawks put in quite an appearance this month. It started with the typical single Swainson's Hawk at the evaporation fields on Apr 10 (SLS). The next night N of Inyokern the sky was filled Swainson's Hawks in a strip 100 yards wide, a quarter of a mile long, and as high up as the eye

could see. It was estimated that there were thousands of hawks and it was described as a jaw drooping event (LB). Another good group was the flock of twelve in Ridgecrest on the 13th (AS), and finally on the 15th a single bird was at the ponds (AS).

FOS for **Snowy Plover** was from the ponds on tax day (SLS).

FOS for **Semipalmated Plover** was from the ponds Apr 14 (TL).

FOS for **Spotted Sandpiper** was from the ponds Apr 11 (TL).

Solitary Sandpipers were first noted at the ponds on Apr 14 (TL) and throughout the month; at the golf course on Apr 22 (SLS); and at the old sewage ponds on Apr 22 (BM).

FOS for **Whimbrel** was from the ponds Apr 4 (SLS). They were there intermittently throughout the month; at the evaporation fields on Apr 7 (L&SSu); and at Lark Seep on Apr 15 (SLS).

A **Marbled Godwit** was at the golf course Apr 25 which was an unexpected location (SLS).

A **Baird's Sandpiper**, rare in the spring was at the ponds Apr 20 (DVB).

A **Pectoral Sandpiper**, rare in the spring was at the ponds Apr 15-16 (DVB).

A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the ponds Apr 29 (SLS) and remained into May. This is only our 2nd spring record of this species.

FOS for **Wilson's Phalarope** was from the ponds Apr 16 (SLS), and for **Red-necked Phalarope** was Apr 23 (SLS).

Herring Gulls were at the ponds Apr 11th (SLS), 15th (AS, TL), 22nd (SLS)

FOS for **Caspian Tern** was from the ponds Apr 8 (TL).

FOS for **Forster's Tern** was from the ponds Apr 22 (SLS).

FOS for **Lesser Nighthawk** was from Ridgecrest on Apr 15 (DVB).

FOS for **Vaux's Swift** was from the ponds Apr 18 (TL).

On Apr 18 **White-throated Swift** movement was noted throughout the valley (SLS, TL, L&SSu).

FOS for **Black-chinned Hummingbird** was from S of Inyokern Apr 14 (SLS).

Calliope Hummingbirds were first noted S of Inyokern Apr 14 and remained through the end of the month (SLS).

A **Belted Kingfisher** was N of Inyokern Apr 26 (m.ob); and at the ponds Apr 11 (AS), Apr 14 (DVB, TL), Apr 22 (SLS) and Apr 29 (AS); and at the college Apr 14 (AS).

A **Hairy Woodpecker** was in Cow Heaven Canyon Apr 21 (SLS).

Peregrine Falcons were at the ponds Apr 15 (DVB, AS, SLS), and Apr 16 and 18 (SLS).

FOS for **Olive-sided Flycatcher** and **Western Wood-Pewee** were from the college Apr 24 (SLS).

FOS for **Gray Flycatcher** and **Ash-throated Flycatcher** was from the college Apr 14 (AS).

FOS for **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was from the college Apr 11 (AS).

FOS for **Cassin's Vireo** was from the college Apr 14 (AS).

FOS for **Violet-green Swallow** was from the ponds Apr 2 (AS).

FOS for **Bank Swallow** was from the ponds Apr 11 (AS).

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

An **Oak Titmouse** was in Cow Heaven Canyon Apr 21 (SLS).

LOS for **Bewick's Wren** was from Sand Canyon Apr 21 (BB).

FOS for **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was from the college Apr 14 (AS).

A **Golden-crowned Kinglet** was at the college Apr 10 (SLS).

Townsend's Solitaires were at the ponds Apr 4 (SLS), and at the college Apr 14 (AS), and Apr 20 (DVB), and Apr 29 (AS).

FOS for **Swainson's Thrush** was from the college Apr 30 (SLS).

The **Sage Thrasher** at the college Apr 29 was a new late sighting date and nicely photo documented (AS).

FOS for **Nashville Warbler** was from the college Apr 11 (AS).

MacGillvray's Warblers turned up in the valley in multiple locations on Apr 29 (m.ob).

FOS for **Yellow Warbler** was from the ponds Apr 20 (BB).

FOS for **Townsend's Warbler** was from the ponds Apr 15 (SLS).

FOS for **Hermit Warbler** was from the college Apr 29 (AS).

FOS for **Wilson's Warbler** was from the college Apr 10 (SLS).

FOS for **Green-tailed Towhee** was from the college Apr 14 (AS).

FOS for **Brewer's Sparrow** was from the ponds Apr 11 (TL, DVB).

A **Vesper Sparrow** was at the ponds Apr 11 and 18 (TL).

A "Sooty" **Fox Sparrow** was SW of Inyokern Apr 16-19 (LK).

FOS for **Western Tanager** was from the college Apr 24 (SLS).

FOS for **Black-headed Grosbeak** was from S of Inyokern Apr 14 (SLS).

FOS for **Lazuli Bunting** was from the college Apr 19 (SLS).

An **Indigo Bunting** was N of Inyokern Apr 21-22 (LB).

FOS for **Brown-headed Cowbird** was from S of Inyokern Apr 16 (SLS).

FOS for **Scott's Oriole** from Cow Heaven Canyon Apr 21 (SLS).

The two **Lawrence's Goldfinches** at the college Apr 11 were the only report this spring (AS).

June/July

A **Red-shouldered Hawk** was at the ponds July 25 (SLS).

A family of **Snowy Plovers** with two chicks was discovered at the ponds June 3 (TL). *Continued after Birdathon*

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