

The Chat

Kerncrest Audubon Society, PO Box 984, Ridgecrest, California

September 2024



CALENDAR

Wed, Sep 20	6 PM	Board Meeting
Thu, Sep 21	7 PM	General Meeting & Program Sam Woodman
Sat, Sep 23	8 AM	Field Trip to Owens Lake

GENERAL MEETING

Sam Woodman

Pinnipeds and Seabirds at Cape Shirreff in Antarctica

Sam Woodman is a biologist and data manager for the Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division. After growing up in Ridgecrest and graduating from Burroughs in 2012, he became involved in NOAA Fisheries while earning a B.S. in Computational Biology from Harvey Mudd College in 2016. He has since been involved in a variety of efforts at NOAA, including fieldwork in the Antarctic and the California Current, and developing software tools for processing model predictions and shipboard or aerial survey data. His current interests include streamlining data collection systems in the field, as well as improving data access and usability.

The Antarctic Ecosystem Research Division is a branch of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries government agency. The AERD conducts studies focused on interactions between the environment, Antarctic krill and fish, predators that depend on krill and fish for food, and commercial fisheries. The division uses advanced technologies (e.g., autonomous gliders, unmanned aerial systems i.e. hexacopters, and animal-borne video cameras) to collect data, both in the Southern Ocean and at two seasonal field camps in the Antarctic.

Sam will be presenting on his work with the AERD, with a focus on life at the Cape Shirreff field camp studying pinnipeds and seabirds and trends and behaviors observed in these populations.

Join us for the first meeting of the season, at 7:00 PM at the Maturango Museum, 100 E Las Flores in Ridgecrest.

FIELD TRIP

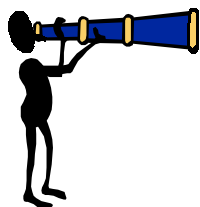
Owens Lake, full of water

Mike Prather has been posting on Facebook pictures of an incredibly full Owens Lake, and thousands of migrating seabirds. We will hope that by our usual date of field trips on the third Saturday of the month that the lake will have at least some roads open and available to bird. (That is not the case as of the first of the month.)

Save the date of Saturday, September 23rd and plan to join us at the Inyokern Chevron Station at 8 AM for this trip. CALL Bob Parker at (760) 446-2001 or at (760) 301-4633 to verify that the trip is on. If the lake is not yet open, we may have to substitute a different trip.

Mike Prather has said that if he is around he will join us. That will make it a special trip, indeed.

Bring a picnic and perhaps a chair, and wear waterproof shoes if you have them. We will carpool from the gas station.



VALLEY SIGHTINGS

for August, 2023

Please record your sightings at ebird.org or email them to Dan Burnett at imdanburnett@gmail.com or phone 760 375 8634.

Indian Wells Valley

American Robin: (1) by Alexander and Paul Linton at Watchable Wildlife Park on 07 Aug

Barn Swallow: (2) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 31 Aug

Belted Kingfisher: (1) by Susan Steele and Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 08 Aug

Black Tern: (4) by Deborah House at Inyokern WTP on 02 Aug

Black-headed Grosbeak: (1) by Lee and Shirley Sutton at Lilac St on 05 Aug and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 31 Aug

Black-necked Stilt: up to (23) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds, and Bob Barnes at the Watchable Wildlife Park from Aug 18 thru 22

Black-throated Sparrow: up to (7) by Bob Barnes, Susan Steele and Bob Steele at Cerro Coso College on 01 Aug, 02 Aug and 08 Aug

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 06 Aug (see also article below)

Canada Goose: (9) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 04 Aug

Cassin's Kingbird: (1) by Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 02 Aug (*See also Bob's article below*)

Chukar: (1) by Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 02 Aug

Egyptian Goose: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug (*Note a one-of-a-kind sighting of an "invasive" species*)

Forster's Tern: (5) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Greater Roadrunner: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Greater Yellowlegs: (2) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Lark Sparrow: (1) by Susan Steele and Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 08 Aug and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 22 Aug

Long-billed Dowitcher: (4) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Nashville Warbler: (2) by Susan Steele and Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 08 Aug and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 31 Aug

Northern Harrier: (1) by Scott Taylor at Watchable Wildlife Park on 29 Aug

Pacific-slope Flycatcher: (1) by Susan Steele and Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 08 Aug

Peregrine Falcon: (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 09 Aug

Rock Wren: (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 28 Aug

Sabine's Gull: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Sanderling: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Savannah Sparrow: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 31 Aug

Scott's Oriole: (1) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 04 Aug

Semipalmated Plover: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Short-billed Dowitcher: (3) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Song Sparrow: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Tree Swallow: (7) by Deborah House at Inyokern WTP on 02 Aug and (7) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

Virginia Rail: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux and Arlene Arnold at NAWS Ponds on 18 Aug

White-faced Ibis: (20) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 02 Aug

Yellow-rumped Warbler: (1) by Susan Steele and Bob Barnes at Cerro Coso College on 08 Aug

Kern River Valley

American Goldfinch: (2) by Kathy Dwyer at Whisky Flats area on 27 Aug

Bald Eagle: (1) by Bob and Susan Steele at Lake Isabella on 22 Aug and (1) by Alison Sheehey at Stine Cove on 27 Aug

Band-tailed Pigeon: (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Whisky Flats area on 25 Aug and 27 Aug

Bell's Sparrow: (1) by Bruce Garlinger and Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring area on 31 Aug

Black Phoebe: (1) by Jess Daze at South Fork Wildlife Area on 13 Aug

Black Vulture: (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at South Fork Wildlife Area on 28 Aug and (1) by Alison Sheehey at Yokut Ct on 31 Aug

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1) by Bruce Garlinger and Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring area on 06 and 11 Aug

Brown-headed Cowbird: (2) by RJ Baltierra at Kern River Preserve - East on 01 Aug

Chipping Sparrow: (1) by Graham Montgomery and Samuel Bressler at Alta Sierra on 12 Aug

Cliff Swallow: (4) by Kathy Dwyer at Whisky Flats area on 02 Aug and (1) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug

Cooper's Hawk: (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Kern River Preserve - Hqs on 25 Aug

Golden Eagle: (2) by Bruce Garlinger and Denise LaBerteaux at green Springs on 13 Aug and (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Hanning Flat on 25 Aug

Great-tailed Grackle: (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Tillie Creek CG on 12 Aug

Greater Yellowlegs: (2) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug

Hermit Warbler: (1) by Graham Montgomery and Samuel Bressler at Alta Sierra on 12 Aug and (1) by Sage Bylin at Alta Sierra on 15 Aug

LeConte's Thrasher: (1) by Bruce Garlinger and Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring area on 03 Aug

Lesser Yellowlegs: (1) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug

MacGillivray's Warbler: (1) by Sage Bylin at Alta Sierra on 15 Aug

Mountain Chickadee: (3) by Graham Montgomery and Samuel Bressler in Alta Sierra area on 12 Aug

Nashville Warbler: (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park from 12 Aug to 28 Aug

Northern Rough-winged Swallow: (4) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug

Pacific-slope Flycatcher: (1) by Graham Montgomery and Samuel Bressler at Alta Sierra on 12 Aug and (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park on 28 Aug

Peregrine Falcon: (1) by Bob and Susan Steele at Lake Isabella on 22 Aug and (1) by Alison Sheehey at Kissack Cove on 27 Aug

Red-breasted Sapsucker: (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park on 28 Aug

Red-eyed Vireo: (1) by RJ Baltierra at Kern River Preserve - HQS on 08 Aug

Ring-billed Gull: (1) by RJ Baltierra at Lake Isabella Blvd on 07 Aug

Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon): (1) by Alison Sheehey at Kissack Cove on 27 Aug

Rufous-crowned Sparrow: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux at Delonega Day Use Area on 22 Aug and (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Isabella Peak trail on 23 Aug

Snowy Egret: (2) by Alison Sheehey at Kissack Cove on 12 Aug

Storm Petrels: Tropical Storm Hillary pushed a cluster of Storm Petrels up to Lake Isabella where about a dozen birders were able to spot these rare species on 21 and 22 Aug.

Black Storm-Petrel: (1) by Denise LaBerteaux at Lake Isabella on 21 Aug and (4) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer

storm-petrel sp. (dark-rumped): up to (10) by Steve Summers, Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer

storm-petrel sp. (white-rumped): (13) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer

Least Storm-petrel: Up to (8) by many birders

Wedge-rumped Storm-Petrel: up to (8) by many birders

Townsend's Warbler: (1) by Graham Montgomery and Samuel Bressler at Old State Rd on 12 Aug

Tricolored Blackbird: (8) by Danny Tipton at Kern River Preserve - HQS on 05 Aug

Vermilion Flycatcher: (1) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug
Violet-green Swallow: (10) by Russ Namitz at Keyesville on 21 Aug
Virginia Rail: (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Fay Ranch Rd on 04 Aug and 28 Aug
Warbling Vireo: (1) by Alison Sheehey, Denise LaBerteaux, Steve Summers at Wofford Heights Park on 21 Aug
Warbling Vireo: (1) by Luke Andracka at Kern River Preserve - Sierra Way on 31 Aug
Western Sandpiper: (2) by Alison Sheehey at South Fork Wildlife Area on 12 Aug
White-faced Ibis: (9) by Alison Sheehey at Kissack Cove on 27 Aug
Wrentit: (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Whisky Flats area on 20 Aug and 27 Aug
Yellow-breasted Chat: (1) by RJ Baltierra at South Fork Wildlife Area on 05 Aug and at Migrant Corner on 06 Aug
Yellow-rumped Warbler: (1) by Alison Sheehey, Denise LaBerteaux, Steve Summers at Wofford Heights Park on 21 Aug

Thanks to the following ebirders: Luke Andracka, Arlene Arnold, RJ Baltierra, Bob Barnes, Annette Bennett, Steven Brad, Melanie Branson, Samuel Bressler, Alan Brelsford, Brenda Burnett, Dan Burnett, Sage Bylin, Jess Daze, Stefany Desroches, Kathy Dwyer, Todd Easterla, Joshua Erdman, Marc Fenner, Bruce Garlinger, Murrelet Halterman, Analicia Hawkins, Deborah House, Steve Hylton, Jim Kettelkamp, Denise LaBerteaux, Rachel Lawrence, Denise LaBerteaux, Alexander Linton, Paul Linton, Courtney Matzke, Randi McCormick, Tiana McGowan, Annie Meyer, Graham Montgomery, Russ Namitz, Craig O'Neill, Nancy Overholtz, Michael Peralez, Laurel Rivers, Sasha Robinson, William Rockey, Sean Rowe, Robert Scherl, Alison Sheehey, Eric Smith, Bob Steele, Susan Steele, Steve Summers, Lee Sutton, Shirley Sutton, Scott Taylor, Danny Tipton, Reed Tollefson, Jessie Trost, Alex Welch, Trevor Wimmer, Rachel Woodard and, Peter Woodman.

SOME FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT RIDGECREST AREA BIRDS

from Bob Barnes

FIRST IWV NESTING OF CASSIN'S KINGBIRD - 1st individual showed at Cerro Coso Community College May 9th. A pair and 2 out-of-the-nest young were seen July 4-11 with the last one seen August 2. Bob Barnes with confirming reports by Deborah House, Sergey Pavlov, Bob Steele, and Susan Steele.

RIDGECREST WATCHABLE WILDLIFE PARK eBird species total is now 191 species. Added by Bob Barnes so far in 2023 - Wood Duck (Apr 15), Golden Eagle (Jul 4), EASTERN KINGBIRD (Jul 17-19), Willet (Jul 29), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Aug 6), and Short-billed Dowitcher (Sep 1).

About the Sightings

We glean checklists reported to the Cornell University's www.eBird.org for these sightings. We encourage birders to use www.eBird.org to record their own sightings. It is free and provides birders with a variety of helpful tools to enhance birding experiences. Sightings reported there become part of one of the largest citizen's science project ever. The data then becomes available to scientists and others.

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