

# The Chat

Kerncrest Audubon Society, PO Box 984, Ridgecrest, California

October 2024



## CALENDAR

|     |        |      |                                       |
|-----|--------|------|---------------------------------------|
| Wed | Oct 16 | 6 pm | Board Meeting at Burnetts'            |
| Sat | Oct 19 | 8 am | Field Trip<br>Breakfast at Cerro Coso |

## **FIELD TRIP Breakfast at Cerro Coso**

On October 19, we will meet at Cerro Coso College with breakfasts in hand at 8:00 AM at the dirt parking area just beyond the campus at the south end of College Heights Blvd. There is seating for 8 at a picnic table there. Please call Bob Parker at 760-446-2001 and let him know you plan to attend. If numbers exceed 8, (and we hope they will) we will bring extra chairs for attendees. When our tummies are full, we will proceed to check out the birds in and around the College.

**Note this is a fun one for families and beginning birdwatchers.** So if 8:00 AM is too early, just come on and join us a bit later. We'll walk around the campus, and if we run out of birds there will proceed to the Watchable Wildlife area on County Line Road behind the Ridgecrest Animal Shelter.

If the turnout is large, we may split into groups; however, our experience at previous beginning bird walks showed spacing not to be a problem. Birders, as a species, tend not to bunch up.

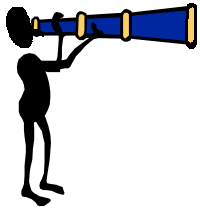
Bring a picnic, and wear clothing appropriate to the weather. Extra binoculars will be available for those who need them.

## **TRIP REPORT Little Lake Overlook and nearby areas**

Long ago, Kerncrest Audubon Society participated with the Ridgecrest field office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to establish a Watchable Wildlife Area at a patch of BLM land overlooking Little Lake. On September 21st, we had a terrific trip there with the attendance of a couple of Melanie Branson's BHS Environmental Club: President, Ethan Hardy and the Vice President Iriza Katsuya, who vastly enjoyed their first-ever bird watching trip. They were amazed to see an osprey catching fish, a Great Blue Heron eat a large frog and over 900 American Coots.

There were also a Great Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Harrier, and several species of ducks.

One outcome of the trip was that those of us who participated in the original purchase of signs at the overlook information area noticed that the signs are weathered to the point of being illegible. We are now working with the BLM to duplicate the information on the original signs and make new ones, hopefully with more sun-resistance.



## VALLEY SIGHTINGS for September, 2024

Please record your sightings at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) or email them to Dan Burnett at [imdanburnett@gmail.com](mailto:imdanburnett@gmail.com) or phone 760 375 8634.

### Indian Wells Valley

- American Avocet:** (7) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**American White Pelican:** (200) by Laurel Rivers at Pearson Park area on 20 Sep – this high-flying swarm was seen by many and captured on video which allowed an accurate count – there were 603 birds counted  
**Barn Owl:** (1) by Lee and Shirley Sutton at Lilac St on 31 Aug and (1) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 19 Sep  
**Black-headed Grosbeak:** (2) by Bob Barnes and Susan Steele at Cerro Coso College on 14 Sep and up to (4) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 15 and 22 Sep  
**Black-throated Gray Warbler:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep and 22 Sep  
**Blue Grosbeak:** (1) by Deborah House at Inyokern on 12 Sep  
**Blue-winged Teal:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Cactus Wren:** (2) by Susan and Bob Steele at Indian Wells Canyon on 15 Sep  
**Cedar Waxwing:** (2) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 07 Sep  
**Cinnamon Teal:** (3) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep and (10) by Steven Brad at Inyokern WTP on 29 Sep  
**Eared Grebe:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Great Horned Owl:** (1) by Peter Woodman at Weiman/Brady St on 22 Sep  
**Great-tailed Grackle:** (20) by Rachel Woodard at S China Lake Blvd on 11 Sep  
**Hairy Woodpecker:** (1) by Melanie and Meghan Branson at W Howell St on 05 Sep  
**Hermit Thrush:** (1) by Bob Barnes and Susan Steele at Cerro Coso College on 14 Sep  
**Ladder-Backed Woodpecker:** (1) by Melanie Branson at W Howell St on 17 Sep and (2) by Susan and Bob Steele at Short Canyon on 19 Sep  
**Lark Bunting:** (1) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 09 Sep and 13 Sep  
**Lark Sparrow:** (2) by Bob Barnes and Susan Steele at Cerro Coso College on 14 Sep  
**Least Sandpiper:** (6) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**LeConte's Thrasher:** (2) by Rachel Woodard at Sand Canyon on 12 Sep  
**Lincoln's Sparrow:** (1) by Bob Barnes and Susan Steele at Cerro Coso College on 14 Sep  
**Northern Flicker:** (1) by Peter Woodman at Weiman/Brady St on 22 Sep  
**Northern Harrier:** (1) by Rachel Woodard at N Fae St. Inyokern on 04 Sep  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep and 21 Sep  
**Phainopepla:** (1) by Bob Barnes and Susan Steele at Cerro Coso College on 14 Sep and (1) by Susan and Bob Steele at Indian Wells Canyon on 15 Sep  
**Red-necked Phalarope:** (16) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Redhead:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep and 21 Sep  
**Rock Wren:** (1) by Andrew Yeh at Red Rock Canyon SP on 23 Sep  
**Sage Thrasher:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep  
**Snowy Egret:** (6) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Solitary Sandpiper:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Song Sparrow:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep and 22 Sep  
**Spotted Sandpiper:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep  
**Tree Swallow:** (2) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep  
**Vesper Sparrow:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep  
**Violet-green Swallow:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep  
**Virginia Rail:** (4) by Susan and Bob Steele at Indian Wells Canyon on 15 Sep and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep

**Western Kingbird:** (2) by Peter Woodman at Hemispheric Dome on 09 Sep and (1) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 21 Sep

**Wilson's Phalarope:** (2) by Bob Barnes at Watchable Wildlife Park on 01 Sep

**Wilson's Snipe:** (1) by Susan and Bob Steele at Inyokern on 13 Sep

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** (1) by Lee and Shirley Sutton at Lilac St on 07 Sep and (1) by Rachel Woodard at Sand Canyon on 12 Sep

## **Kern River Valley**

**American Goldfinch:** (3) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 05 Sep

**Anna's Hummingbird:** (5) by Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring Area on 02 Sep

**Ash-throated Flycatcher:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep

**Bald Eagle:** (1) by Logan Kahle at South Fork Wildlife Area on 23 Sep

**Band-tailed Pigeon:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Kernville on 07 Sep

**Barn Owl:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Canebrake Reserve on 04 Sep and (1) by Susan and Bob Steele at Onyx on 24 Sep

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park on 06 Sep and (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Kernville on 07 Sep

**Blue-winged Teal:** (6) by Susan and Bob Steele at South Fork Wildlife Area on 24 Sep

**Brown Creeper:** (1) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 05 Sep

**Brown-crested Flycatcher:** (1) by Bob Barnes at Canebrake Reserve on 04 Sep

**Burrowing Owl:** (2) by Kathy Dwyer at Hanning Flat on 08 Sep

**Caspian Tern:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep

**Common Merganser:** (2) by Kathy Dwyer at Whiskey Flats on 19 Sep

**Dunlin:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep

**Golden Eagle:** (1) by Sean Rowe at Sagebrush Ln on 21 Sep, (1) by Sasha Robinson at Burlando Rd on 21 Sep, and (2) by Kathy Dwyer at Migrant Corner on 21 Sep

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** up to (4) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 05 Sep, 07 Sep and 09 Sep

**Hermit Thrush:** (1) by Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring Area on 29 Sep

**Osprey:** (1) by Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring Area on 23 Sep

**Pied-billed Grebe:** (1) by Susan and Bob Steele at South Fork Wildlife Area on 24 Sep

**Pileated Woodpecker:** (1) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 07 Sep

**Plumbeous Vireo:** (1) by Sasha Robinson at Wofford Heights Park on 21 Sep

**Purple Finch:** (1) by Mandy Proudman at Alta Sierra on 27 Sep

**Red-necked Phalarope:** (2) by John Luther at Hanning Flat and (2) by Logan Kahle at South Fork Wildlife Area on 23 Sep

**Red-necked Phalarope:** (2) by Steve Summers at Hanning Flat and (2) by Nancy Overholt, Bob and Susan Steele at Lake Isabella on 23 Sep

**Ring-billed Gull:** (2) by Laura Cortés and Iñaki Valverde at Nuui Cunni on 16 Sep and (6) by Logan Kahle at South Fork Wildlife Area on 23 Sep

**Rufous-crowned Sparrow:** (1) by Sean Rowe at Sagebrush Ln on 21 Sep

**Semipalmated Plover:** (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep

**Sora:** (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep and 22 Sep

**Summer Tanager:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park on 04 Sep and (1) by Samuel Bressler at Canebrake Reserve on 08 Sep

**Swainson's Hawk:** (2) by Denise LaBerteaux at Bird Spring Area on 23 Sep

**Townsend's Solitaire:** (1) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 05 Sep and (1) by Alison Sheehey at Yokut Ct on 17 Sep

**Vaux's Swift:** (1) by Annie Meyer at Whiskey Flats on 17 Sep and (12) by Sasha Robinson at Burlando Rd on 21 Sep

**Violet-green Swallow:** (40) by Annie Meyer at Whiskey Flats on 17 Sep and (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Whiskey Flats on 29 Sep

**Virginia Rail:** (2) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Hanning Flat on 10 Sep and 22 Sep

**Western Flycatcher:** (1) by Sasha Robinson and Annie Meyer at Wofford Heights Park on 17 Sep

**Western Screech-Owl:** (3) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra on 05 Sep and 06 Sep

**White-headed Woodpecker:** (1) by Richard Hasegawa at Alta Sierra from 05 Sep to 09 Sep

**Willow Flycatcher:** (2) by Sasha Robinson at Wofford Heights Park on 21 Sep

**Wilson's Snipe:** (1) by Sasha Robinson, Annie Meyer, John Luther by Nancy Overholt, Bob and Susan Steele at Hanning Flat/Lake Isabella on 23 Sep

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** (1) by Kathy Dwyer at Hanning Flat on 28 Sep

Thanks to the following birders: Bob Barnes, Steven Brad, Meghan Branson, Melanie Branson, Alan Brelsford, Samuel Bressler, Dan and Brenda Burnett, Eric Mozas Casamayor, Laura Cortés, Kathy Dwyer, Bruce Garlingar, Richard Hasegawa, Deborah House, Iñaki Valverde, Logan Kahle, Denise LaBerteaux, John Luther, Annie Meyer, Orlando Mielke, James O'leary, Nancy Overholt, Mandy Proudman, Natalia Reixach, Laurel Rivers, Nancy Robinson, Sasha Robinson, William Rockey, Lauren Roux, Sean Rowe, Brittany Roy, Alison Sheehey, Bob Steele, Susan Steele, Steve Summers, Lee and Shirley Sutton, Peter Woodman, Rachel Woodard, and Andrew Yeh.

A special thanks to Cornell University School of Ornithology the folks who created and maintain the ebird database ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) and the Merlin app.

### About the Sightings

We glean checklists reported to the Cornell University's eBird program for these sightings. We encourage birders to use [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org) to record their own sightings. It is free and provides birders with a variety of helpful tools, photographs, sounds, and information to enhance birding experiences. Sightings reported there become part of one of the largest citizen's science projects ever. The data then becomes available to scientists and others. For those not using eBird, you may email your sightings to [danburnett@kerncrestaudubon.org](mailto:danburnett@kerncrestaudubon.org) or phone Dan at (760) 375 8634 – this number screens robocalls.



### Burrowing Owl Volunteer Days at Hanning Flat October 12-13 and October 19-20. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The Kern River Valley Heritage Foundation will be constructing 10 new artificial burrows for burrowing owls. Over the past few years, volunteers have helped construct 15 burrows, some of which were used within days of their completion! This year we were rewarded with a mating pair that stayed all winter and produced a family of 7 owlets in May!

Please bring a hat, gloves, water, lunch, a chair and a shovel. There will be lunchtime presentations on the life cycle and habits of burrowing owls. For more information, please contact Kathy Dwyer

([todwyergm@gmail.com](mailto:todwyergm@gmail.com)) or Reed Tollefson

([Reed.Tollefson@audubon.org](mailto:Reed.Tollefson@audubon.org)). And see post on [kerncrestaudubon.org](http://kerncrestaudubon.org)

### **Kerncrest Audubon Society Board of Directors**

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### Committee Chairs

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