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Photos & Art Work  
by  
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# Conejo Valley Audubon Society

## Ventura County Birding Hot Spots

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V1.5

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**CVAS**

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## 6) Sycamore Canyon

**Habitat:** coastal sage scrub, eucalyptus and sycamore groves. camp area easy walk, canyon more difficult.

**Location:** same as Magu Lagoon except continue on Hwy 1 (PCH) ~4 miles past Magu Rock. Park on Hwy or pay.

**Highlights:** thrashers, towhees, migrant flycatchers and warblers, grosbeaks, woodpeckers.

**Best Season:** Early spring, summer, fall.



## 7) Cañada Larga Rd.

**Habitat:** oak woodland/savanna, private ranch land.

**Location:** take Hwy 33 off 101. Exit at Canada Larga Rd. Turn right. Park off road as you bird to dead end. Respect private property.

**Highlights:** owls, Golden Eagles, hawks, sparrows in winter. Yellow-breasted Chat, Phainopepla, grosbeaks & orioles

**Best Season:** all year but esp. spring & winter.

## 8) Lake Casitas

**Habitat:** lake area, freshwater marsh, oak woodland.

**Location:** 101 to Hwy 33 inland towards Ojai. Exit Casitas Vista Rd. turn right. Go under fwy, past Forster Park to 1<sup>st</sup> right turn (Santa Ana Rd.) Follow road to lake entrance.

**Highlights:** sparrows, grosbeaks, grebes, Osprey, raptors, woodpeckers, nuthatches, nesting Bald Eagles.

**Best Season:** all year. Best spring & winter.

## 9) Wheeler Gorge Campground

**Habitat:** pastures, orchards, oak woodlands, chaparral.

**Location:** 101 to 33, past Matilija Springs to campground.

**Highlights:** orioles, warblers, sparrows, raptors; wintering Zone-tailed Hawk, bluebirds, kites.

**Best Season:** All year esp. early spring; owls early am or eve.

## A) Pine Mtn, Pine Springs, Lockwood Valley

**Habitat:** high desert, montane, valleys, open grassland and agriculture.

**Location:** 101 to Hwy 33. 30-35 mi to Pine Mtn summit. Go past Ozena Station. Turn right 2 mi on Lockwood Valley. 15mi to Grade Valley Rd (N703). Turn rt and follow dirt road to camp.

**Highlights:** valley good for sparrows, raptors, camps for nuthatches, creepers, mountain bluebirds, woodpeckers.

**Best Season:** winter, spring and late fall.

## B) Mt Pinos

**Habitat:** montane, high elevation.

**Location:** 101 to Hwy 126 east to Castaic Junction. Merge onto Interstate 5 north; exit at Frazier Park Rd. west; follow signs to Mt Pinos. Proceed to large parking lot and trails.

**Highlights:** White-headed Woodpecker, Clark's Nuthatch, Pygmy Nuthatch, Western Wood Peewee, Green-tailed Towhee.

**Best Season:** All year, best spring, summer, fall

## C) Lake Piru

**Habitat:** varied habitat, Inland lake.

**Location:** take Hwy 101 to 126, past Fillmore and left on Lake Piru turnoff. Turn north and follow signs to park.

**Highlights:** sparrows, warblers, raptors, ducks.

**Best Season:** Fall, winter spring.

## D) Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa

**Habitat:** low coastal mountain park, open meadows, chaparral and sage scrub. Some riparian and ponds.

**Location:** 101 south to Wendy Dr. Turn left (west) at 1<sup>st</sup> traffic light onto Wendy Dr. Continue to end; turn right onto Portrero Rd. and left at stop sign. Follow signs to park entrance.

**Highlights:** Lazuli Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Savannah and Grasshopper Sparrows, White-tailed Kites, raptors, roadrunners.

**Best Season:** All year, esp. spring and winter.

## E) Rancho Simi Park

**Habitat:** parkland, arroyo, duck pond

**Location:** 101 to 23 north to 118. Exit at Erringer and proceed south towards Royal Ave. Park is on your right.

**Highlights:** in spring nesting snowy egrets and night-herons in Duck Pond. waterfowl, herons, hawks, swallows, bluebirds, kingbirds, orioles.

**Best Season:** All year esp. spring and fall.

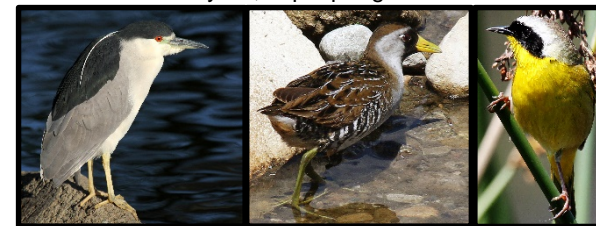
## F) Arroyo Simi at Madera

**Habitat:** arroyo and suburban interface.

**Location:** same as Rancho Simi except exit 118 at Madera; proceed south and turn left on Easy street, park on street; enter Arroyo Simi entrance at Madera.

**Highlights:** waterfowl, ibis, herons, shorebirds, gulls, swallows, warblers

**Best Season:** All year, esp. spring and fall.



## 1) Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE)

**Habitat:** coastal estuary, salt marsh, riparian.

**Location:** take 101 north, exit on S. Victoria Ave. and proceed south to Olivas Park Dr. Turn right and continue onto Spinnaker Dr. to first beach front parking lot (Surfer's Knoll). Walk south along beach to dunes and estuary.

**Highlights:** terns, plovers, Snowy Plover nests.

**Best Season:** All year.

## 2) Ventura Harbor

**Habitat:** coastal, breakwater rocks.

**Location:** same as SCRE except head north along Spinnaker towards harbor breakwaters.

**Highlights:** boobies, & oystercatchers.

**Best Season:** all year.

## 3) Ventura River Estuary (VRE)

**Habitat:** coastal strand, dunes, estuary, riparian.

**Location:** 101 N to Emma Woods State Beach.

**Highlights:** Snowy Plover, Whimbrels, shorebirds, tattlers, shearwaters and more during migration.

**Best Season:** winter, early spring.

## 4) Arnold Rd/Ormond Beach

**Habitat:** coastal strand, dunes, salt marsh.

**Location:** 101 to S. Las Posas, right on E. Hueneme Rd until you turn left on Arnold Rd. Park by gate at end of road.

**Highlights:** Endangered Least Tern/Snowy Plover nesting site.

**Best Season:** All year, especially summer.

## 5) Mugu Lagoon

**Habitat:** ocean lagoon backed by cliffs.

**Location:** take 101 to S. Las Posas Rd. South to Hwy 1. South on one to roadside parking along Lagoon. A scope is very useful here.

**Highlights:** lagoon has waders, shorebirds, ducks, terns, swifts.

**Best Season:** winter, spring.