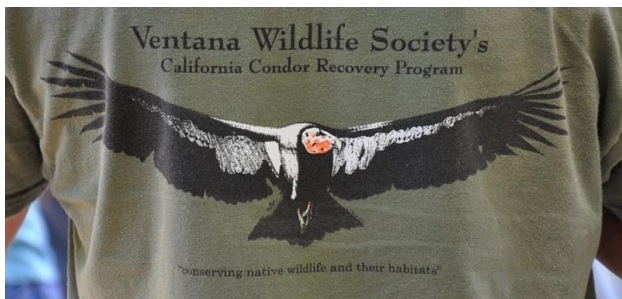


Quick Overview – This was the 2nd trip of the month to go look for the California Condors that are living free in the open spaces around Big Sur, CA. At one time you could find California Condors from California to New York, but their numbers started to drop long ago and eventually they could only be found in the wild places around Los Angeles. Then in 1987, in an effort to save the species from extinction, the remaining birds which only totaled 22 were captured and placed in a protective breeding program. It took 10 years before they started to re-release California Condors back into the wild. There are many obstacles in today's environment negatively impacting this huge vulture. With tremendous effort the California Condors now number over 400 with more than 200 living wild in various locations in the west. Over 50 can be found between Big Sur and the Pinnacles. Numbers are always changing as birds fall victim to lead shot and environmental hazards. We birded our way down the coast stopping to check out the Humpback Whales that have been spending time in Monterey Bay. We also observed California Sea Lions, sea otters and dolphin! We stopped for shorebirds and terns and then made it to the Ventana Wildlife Society's Discovery Center where we had lunch. Here folks get to learn about the condors and buy t-shirts! We then continued south to the area around Julia Pfeiffer Burns State and parked along highway 1 so we could scan the blue skies above. Keeping our fingers crossed we soon observed a distant condor flying our way and then there were two; clearly condors as compared to other soaring birds also coming up over the mountains. Success! This is also a time of year when many tourists are enjoying the California coastline so we soon headed back. As is always the case on a condor trip, **Let's Go Birding** & the **Los Gatos Birdwatcher** put out a collection coffee can to allow trip participants the opportunity to contribute to the Ventana Wildlife Society because without their efforts we would not be experiencing condors today. Thank you all.

- Birds Experienced –**
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Red-Breasted Merganser | California Gull |
| Sooty Shearwaters | Heermann's Gull |
| Pelagic Cormorant | Western Gull |
| Brandt's Cormorant | Forster's Tern |
| Double-crested Cormorant | Elegant Tern |
| Brown Pelican | Common Murre |
| American White Pelican | Pigeon Guillemot |
| Great Blue Heron | Rock Pigeon |
| Great Egret | Mourning Dove |
| Snowy Egret | Black Swift |
| California Condor | Vaux's Swift |
| Turkey Vulture | Acorn Woodpecker |
| Red-tail Hawk | Steller's Jay |
| Black-bellied Plover | American Crow |
| Willet | Common Raven |
| Whimbrel | Barn Swallow |
| Long-billed Curlew | Cliff Swallow |
| Marbled Godwit | Wrentit (h) |
| Least Sandpipers | European Starling |
| Red Knot | White Crowned Sparrow |
| Dowitcher | Dark-eyed Junco |
| Wilson's Phalarope | Lesser Goldfinch |
| | Heard Only = (h) |



Pictures from our day – Ya got to get the t-shirt available at the Discovery Center located at Andrew Molera State Park - Lisa Myers / California Sea Lions having a great day & Stretching Marbled Godwit – Linda Sullivan / One of our California Condors observed this day & a pair of Elegant Terns – Paul Baclace / Using the VWS brochure we are trying to ID our condor / the group birding Moss Landing – Linda Sullivan