

DEL MESA BIRD & NATURE NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

COVID WORLDWIDE: There is literally no doubt that the pandemic suffered last year and continuing at this time has effected many levels of the science studying animals and humans. Many aspects of research and conservation have been halted, been cancelled, reversed or modified under the last administration. Our present concern for “distancing” for concerned groups to meet to correct issues is impacted. Presently, ‘worldwide climate issues’ are looming, with upcoming deadlines(‘points-of-no-return’) like 2050.

This author has difficulty selecting what to report on. So please bear with me!

FACTS & FIGURES:

***A** research by BirdLife in the UK and U of Cambridge, and other institutions analyzed dozens of sites on six continents. The teams assessed the value of the ecosystems services provided at each site-such as: active carbon storage and flood protection, Under a scenerios where it is conserved or restored resources the outcomes were positive and paid wider economic benefits to their societies The research is being heralded in many magazines under Biodiversity Security.

****www.flightsurvival.org** -25,000,000 birds are killed annually, worldwide.

******* In North America birds have been considered in poor shape over the last several decades . An overview by Audubon notes that three billion N.Amer. birds have perished since the 1970s. The grasslands were hardest hit, birds declining by 53 percent since the first EARTH DAY. Presently, Audubon has initiated(CRR) a process to have scientists work with ranchers to create more sustainable grasslands for the future and to also benefit dwindling land creatures(birds).

******** The oldest ring-billed gull was found in downtown Cleveland, Ohio(though born in Toronto) by a serious birder who was able to secure a photo of its band which noted being born in 1992 and when this information was sent to the banding center it was found to have has out-lived the next oldest species of this gull by over a year at 29!

KOALA COUNTS: Since the horrific brush fires last year in Australia, 85 percent of their habitat has been damaged or destroyed killing or injuring thousands of these animals at all stages of development. The government is now allotting thousands of dollars toward a nationwide process for counting individuals to establish plans to assist the areas in restoration of safe options and prevention of diseases that are their second highest mortality threats. The animals are much valued by their nation but are often difficult to count because they live in the treetops and can often be dispersed and scattered by roaming dogs or changes in human activities.

CENTRAL COAST BIRD THREAT: Presently on this coast an alert has been raised that some migrating Pine Siskins have experienced bacteria at feeders or bird baths turning into salmonellosis and have expired this winter. The disease is lethal to small finches and in rare cases can transmit to small cats. The disease can be spread in the trays where seed can accumulate and the birds step in the areas.

Strong suggestions are to remove feeders and clean; do the same for bird baths
Do this for April to allow for birds to leave on normal migration without
inadvertently attracting small birds to cluster!

Note bird behaviors.....eyes: swollen, red or irritated / lethargic, puffed or fluffed
up body

*If you find any injured, sick, or orphaned, wild animal call Monterey 831-264-5427
The SPCA Wildlife Center is open 24 hrs for emergency rescues

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Some reminders: If you have a friend or family member who might enjoy the newsletter. Send their name and email or if you would like to receive a copy monthly in print form/ share that to B.Wells at #143. Please feel free to share your findings or questions. In May we may have a day meeting for those interested in discussing our birds here at Del Mesa and possible birding in the future and/or an overall checklist.