



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 44

September, 2012

NO. 1

General Meeting September 10 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Our general meeting, normally held on the first Monday of the month, will be held this month on the second Monday, September 10th, due to the Labor Day holiday.

The program for this first meeting of our 2012 – 2013 season will, as in previous years, be a “**Show and Tell**” program. This is the evening when we can gather once again after our long summer break and renew our old friendships and hopefully make new ones as well.

All members are encouraged to bring photos, movies, slides or anything you would like to share to the meeting. **Chrystal Klabunde**, our programs chair, will coordinate the presentations and will set up the necessary computer and projector to show your pictures.

Be sure to call **Chrystal** at **805-522-8023** well in advance of the meeting to get information on presentation media formats and presentation times available.

It’s been a long summer break and at last we have an opportunity to share our experiences over the past few months as well as our birding plans for the upcoming season. Please try to attend this first meeting of the season. You’ll surely be missed if you don’t!

Conservation Column

By Dee Lyon

Water Wars

While we think we have water shortages here, 1.2 billion people live in regions of severe water stress and scarcity, where supplies are badly polluted and inequitably distributed. By 2025, additional millions of people will further stress valuable water resources in these areas.

Water is surpassing oil as the world’s scarcest critical resource. As supplies disappear, the population booms and climate change continues to impact ecosystems, water is increasingly becoming a source of conflict. Salva Dut, one of the lost boys of Sudan, has witnessed that violence firsthand. During the dry season in his newly independent country of South Sudan, pastoral tribes must move their cattle many miles to find water. They are forced to share the meager resource with other road-weary tribes. Cattle theft, physical intimidation and virulent hostility are common.

Women and young girls in these countries travel for hours each day to reach water and carry a 40- or 50-pound container back to their village. As their entire morning is spent fetching water, there is no time for the girls to receive a basic education. Tradition compels women to have as many children as possible, and without an education they aren’t able to contribute to society any other way.

Water for South Sudan has drilled 126 wells that provide fresh water to the local villages, reducing the

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CALENDAR

September

1	8:00 am	Field Trip: Santa Clara River Estuary
9	7:15 am	Field Trip: Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens
10	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s
10	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
15	7:00 am	Field Trip: Oxnard Plain
23	8:00 am	Field Trip: Hill Canyon
29	7:00 am	Field Trip: Island Packers: Santa Cruz Island

*****Pre meeting Dinner*****

Ottavio’s in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call **Nobuko McClure**

For Reservations **(805) 482-0411**

Reservation Deadline: 9:00 am

Day of General Meeting

CVAS Events

Everyone is welcome to attend any CVAS meeting or field trip. CVAS assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a society-sponsored activity and will not be held liable for such accidents. One attends at one's own risk.

Board Meeting Notice

The September Board Meeting will be held on Monday September 17. All CVAS members are invited to attend monthly CVAS Board Meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the home of a board member with meeting locations varying monthly. Please contact CVAS Secretary, **Gary Evans** at **(805) 231-5692** or GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org for meeting location and directions.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times – **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier**. Try to carpool whenever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money!
RAIN CANCELS!

Saturday, September 1st Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at the Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am. We will look for ducks, herons, sandpipers, terns, plovers, phalaropes, turnstones, moorhens, pipits, ospreys, etc. A spotting scope is very helpful. Trip Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

Sunday, September 9th Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens

The Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens are noted for their native plants, shrubs and trees. Here we will explore the shaded stream and canyon habitat looking for typical coastal sage scrub birds as well as any migrants. Meet at Los Posas Park and Ride at 7:15 am. Leader is **Carol Langford, 805-987-2721**.

Saturday, September 15th Oxnard Plain

We will visit the Laguna Tams, noted for producing a wide variety of migrating warblers, vireos, and sparrows, before trying the sod fields for pipits and plovers. We will then work our way down Arnold Road, where we can find warblers, sparrows, and perhaps something completely unexpected... Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:00 am. Trip leader is **Matthew Page (805) 990-6545**

Sunday, September 23rd Hill Canyon

Join Jean Hulberg as she takes us around the newly redesigned Hill Canyon area. Recent work to this site allows for better access to the stream, as a newly constructed bridge leads to a trail on the west side of the canyon. Expect Canyon Wren, White-throated Swift, California Quail, Sparrows, and Goldfinches. Meet Jean in the parking lot at Santa Rosa County Park off of Hill Canyon Road at 8:00 am. Although unlikely, there may be a \$4.00 parking fee. Trip Leader is **Jean Hulberg (805) 491-2666**.

Saturday, September 29th Santa Cruz Island (Prisoner's Harbor) via Island Packers

We will meet at the Ventura Harbor and join Island Packers for a trip to Santa Cruz Island. Santa Cruz Island is home to the endemic Island Scrub-Jay, the only place in the world this species can be found. Additionally, many migrating birds stop over on the island, making fall a great time to explore the natural beauty of Santa Cruz Island. Along the way to the island and back, we may see alcids, dolphins, and perhaps whales. Please call **Matthew Page at (805) 990-6534** to make arrangements to join this trip. No trip limit, but you must purchase your ticket with Island Packers in advance to ensure a spot on the boat. Meet at Island Packers, 1691 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA. NO LATER than 7:00 so we can check in with Island Packers. The boat returns to the harbor by 5:00 pm, so pack a picnic lunch, water, and snacks. Bad weather cancels.

2012-2013 Field Trips MARK THEM ON YOUR CALANDAR BUT CHECK THE NEWSLETTER TO BE SURE

Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans. Volunteer trip leaders are needed. Please call **Matthew Page at (805) 990-6534**. January – June trips in next month's newsletter.

Sat, Oct 6, 2012	Canada Larga Road
Sat, Oct 13, 2012	Private Property (Tentative)
Sat, Oct 20, 2012	Nature Day at Sierra Vista
Sat, Oct 27, 2012	Laguna Tams, Sycamore Canyon

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Field Trip Reports

Tom Halpin Memorial Walk *by Dee Lyon*
 Saturday, March 31st

Ten of us gathered to hike down from Rancho Conejo over to Hill Canyon on March 31st. Tom's Dad came to wish us well and let us tell him how much we treasured our 20 years with Tom in Conejo Valley Audubon. Tom lead a walk almost every month, taught classes, volunteered whenever he could to help with school children or whatever else was needed. Always upbeat; always finding birds when no one else could. He is sorely missed.

We had a misty but beautiful walk down into the canyon: so much wonderful chaparral with lots of flowers and plants to look at. And the usual birds: CA and Spotted Towhees, Song, Chipping, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Bushtits, Wrentits, Crows and Ravens, Turkey Vulture, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers, Flickers, Mockingbird, Scrub Jay, Yellow-rump, Common Yellowthroat and Orange-crowned Warblers, Mallards, a Cooper's Hawk scolding us, Red-tailed Hawk, CA Thrasher, Oak Titmouse, House Wren, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Anna's Hummingbird, Lesser Goldfinch, House and Purple Finch. We hoped for a Sage Sparrow, but no luck.

Message from the Editor

The editor would appreciate any articles of interest, photographs, or field trip reports from members. Please get them to me by the 5th of the month. I prefer them in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in jpeg format.

Save That Date

**Eighth Annual
 Monterey Bay Birding Festival**

September 13 – 16, 2012

Conservation Column

(Continued from Page 1)

time girls spend fetching water, which has directly increased educational opportunities in the region. Women are able to spend more time with their families, and there is less chance of conflict when water sources aren't overburdened.

It has been pointed out that the complexity of water is not in its science; it is in the management of water and how it gets to the right people at the right time.

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2012-2013 Field Trips

**MARK THEM ON YOUR CALANDAR
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Sun, Nov 4, 2012	Ventura Ponds
Sat, Nov 10, 2012	Mugu Rock, Mugu Lagoon, and Sycamore Canyon
Sat, Nov 17, 2012	Antelope Valley – Raptors and Bluebirds
Sat, Nov 24, 2012	<i>Thanksgiving Weekend. No trips.</i>
Sat, Dec 1, 2012	Saticoy Ponds – Beginning Birder's Workshop
Sun, Dec 9, 2012	Paramount Ranch
Sat, Dec 15, 2012	Private Property (Tentative)
Sat, Dec 22, 2012	<i>Christmas Weekend. No Trips.</i>
TBD, Dec TBD, 2012	Christmas Bird Count
Sat, Jan 5, 2013	Sierra Vista
Sun, Jan 13, 2013	Santa Clara River Estuary

Annual CVAS Membership Dues Reminder

As a reminder to all members, CVAS membership dues now match our activity year. The current membership year runs from September 2012 to August 2013. So for most members – those who last renewed or joined prior to January 2012 – your dues for our next activity year are now due and payable using the CVAS Membership Application on page 4 of this newsletter. If you have questions about when your membership ends, please contact the membership secretary at (membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

September, 2012



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President			
Vice Pres			
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Treasurer	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trips	Matthew Page	805-990-6534	Fieldtrips
Publicity	Cory Taylor		publicity
Newsletter	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Membership	Barbara Hopkins		membership
Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Special Events			
Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	photographer
Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to staff officer positions currently open on the CVAS Board. For the term starting Fall 2012, both the President and Vice President positions will need to be filled in addition to the Special Events coordinator. We encourage you to discuss your interests in volunteering for any of these positions at our September General Meeting.

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. **Everyone is welcome.** Take Pleasant Valley Road or Lewis Road to where they cross south of the 101 Freeway. Go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo. Turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left.

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote the study and conservation of birds and other vertebrates. The organization makes contributions in the areas of natural history collections, original research, and conservation.

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members only. Members are invited to submit articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month. Send items to Charlie Lucas, 465 Havenside Ave., Newbury Park, CA 91320, or by E-mail: newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION **C2ZC230Z**

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students), payable to **National Audubon Society**, for an introductory membership.

Mail it to: National Audubon Society, P. O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Renewing memberships should be sent to National Audubon with the renewal form and envelope you receive.

For questions regarding national membership status call: National Audubon Customer Service 1-800-274-4201

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 for a family membership.

Additional Gift: ___\$25.00 ___\$50.00 ___\$75.00 ___\$100.00 \$_____ Other

Membership \$ _____ Donation \$ _____ Total (check payable to CVAS) \$ _____

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 Newsletter will be sent by E-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____