



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 43

January, 2013

NO. 5

**General Meeting January 7
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Conservation Column
By Dee Lyon**

Dee Lyon Presents: Birding In Borneo

Borneo is a magical place. It's the third largest island in the world, and the northern part is Malaysia with most of the island under Indonesia. Unfortunately the Indonesian jungle is being cut down for African Palm Oil Tree plantations. Malaysia is trying to preserve large portions of jungle, including Mt Kinabalu, Sepilok and the Kanagatangan River areas. It's amazing to have Orangutans feeding over your head, Gibbons on the hill, Pygmy Elephants along the river and six species of Hornbill in one day! Terry Baltimore, a member of our VENT Tour, took these great pictures of some of the wonderful birds and animals.

Dee Lyon is a retired attorney turned obsessive birder and is a long-time, active member of Conejo Audubon. She started birding in 1991 and has birded North American extensively, seeing over 700 species. Now traveling the world to see birds, (Finland, Russia, China, Brazil, Australia, Peru, Costa Rica, India, Tibet and Bhutan) she is excited to tell you about her trip to Borneo in 2011.



Black and Yellow Broadbill

LIVESTOCK GRAZING. Livestock grazing impacts more acres of wild native plant communities in California than any other activity. Livestock affect all aspects of native ecosystems from plant and animal species composition to water quality. California Native Plant Society has long been a leader in the search for livestock management techniques that maintain the health native plant and animal communities. They focus their grazing advocacy work on Federal lands, particularly National Forests and BLM lands, where strong resource protection laws mandate that sustainability and good science must guide all land management.

Improperly managed livestock can wreak havoc in ecosystems, spreading invasive non-native weeds, (that's why California is the "golden state": dead non-native grasses), destroying wetlands, accelerating erosion, and killing rare species. Many California plant communities are too fragile to support any use by livestock. High mountain meadows, for example, dormant much of the year under snow and freezing temperatures, must be protected as much as possible during their short growing season. However, some California ecosystems can withstand conservative, properly managed livestock grazing. So CNPS focus is (1) to determine which ecosystems are incompatible with livestock use and to exclude livestock from these areas, and (2) to develop sustainable, scientifically sound livestock management systems for those ecosystems which can support livestock.

Let's support California Native Plant Society (CNPS) for healthy ecosystems.

CALENDAR

January

5	8:00 am	Field Trip: Saticoy Ponds
7	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
7	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner's Bird Walk
13	8:00 am	Field Trip: Arroyo Simi ó Family Bird Walk
19/20		Field Trip: Salton Sea Weekend
25	7:45 am	Field Trip: Pt. Mugu Naval Bas

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 January Board Meeting will be held on Monday January 21. 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 **ó 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, January 5th Saticoy Ponds

We should see a variety of ducks, such as Teal, Gadwall & Bufflehead; Geese are likely, with as many as five species possible; snipe, and wintering passerines. Bring scopes and meet outside the gate. Please be prompt as we need to enter together. Directions: The ponds are located on the northeast side of Hwy 118/Los Angeles Ave. From Ventura take Wells Rd. which turns into Los Angeles Ave./Hwy 118 and cross over the Santa Clara River Bridge. The entrance to the ponds will be on your left just after the Vineyard Ave. intersection. Meet at 8:00 am. Leader is **Matthew Page (805) 990-6534**

Thursday, January 10th Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055** between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm to let her know you are coming and to find out where it will be held. Rain or temperatures above 90 degrees will cancel.

Sunday, January 13th Arroyo Simi - Family Bird Walk

Introducing a new series of trips: Birding for the whole family! We will walk slowly along the

water's edge through the Arroyo Simi. The arroyo has a great assortment of shorebirds, ducks, herons, and gulls and is easily accessed via a level bike path that runs from Madera Street to First Street. So bring the whole family, and introduce them to birding. We'll bring extra field guides, but bring binoculars you can share. Emphasis will be on easily made identifications, behavior, and differences among species. Expected species include: Green Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Belted Kingfisher, and White-faced Ibis. Possible birds include Hooded Merganser and Blue-winged Teal. Meet at the entrance to the bike path at Easy Street in Simi Valley, just east of Madera Rd at 8:00 am. For information, call **Matthew Page (805) 990-6534**.

Saturday/Sunday, January 19th/ 20th Salton Sea Weekend

Away to the Salton Sea with us! We will spend all day Saturday and most of Sunday at the south end of the Salton Sea where impressive flocks of Snow and Ross's Geese winter, along with Sandhill Crane and White-faced Ibis. Shorebirds, Gulls, Grebes, and others also winter in impressive numbers. We will also try for Yellow-footed Gull, which is a Gulf of California breeder, but small numbers wander north to the sea in the non-breeding season. Additionally, we will search local parks and other areas for woodpeckers, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Verdin, and other desert residents. Please call **Matthew Page (805) 990-6534** for more information on meeting time, place, and lodging possibilities.

Friday, January 25 Pt. Mugu Naval Base

This trip, only for CVAS members, requires presignup at least 3 weeks prior to trip and is limited to 25 people. Contact **Don Williamson** at **(818) 889-4498** to check on availability. US citizenship required as well as picture ID. No cameras or video equipment permitted. Meet at base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd and Navel Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is **David Pereksta**.

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.

Field Trip Reports

Point Mugu field trip, November 9th
by *Don & Cheryl Williamson*

We wondered Thursday night, while watching the rain, if our trip on Friday to Pt. Mugu was going to take place. Friday, however, was just beautiful! Our leader, David Pereksta, helped us find 82 species. We encountered a receding tide and as the mud flats began to appear the bunched up shore birds began to spread out and David was able to count them. He counted 1100 Willets, 950 Western Sandpipers, 800 Long-billed Dowitchers, 420 Marbled Godwits, 310 Northern Pintails, 200 Green-winged Teal, 200 Black-bellied Plovers, 155 American Wigeons, 90 American Avocets, 80 Surf Scoters, and 50 Long-billed Curlews among the higher numbers.

We found four Yellow-crowned Night-herons roosting at their regular location; and a Male Vermilion Flycatcher where he was supposed to be. David mentioned that the four Bonaparte's Gulls and 11 Elegant Terns we saw were unexpected.

We thank Martin Ruane and David for their expertise. As always a trip to Pt. Mugu is very rewarding. We are very fortunate to have the Naval Base Ventura County available to us.



This picture of an American Kestrel surveying his territory from atop an abandoned power pole in Chesebro Canyon was submitted by *Cheryl Williamson*.

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society

on

Friday, March 15, 2013

at

Sterling Hills Golf Club

901 Sterling Drive

Camarillo, CA 93010

For

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

No-host cocktails 5:30 PM ó Dinner 6:30 PM

Ticket price per person \$40.00

(Early-bird special \$35.00 ó before 3/1/13)

5-Free raffle tickets for each 1st time guest

We ask that everyone kindly bring an item for the raffles. All types of donation items are acceptable and are not limited to those with an avian theme. Anyone interested in donating items for the silent or live auctions please contact Carol Langford at (805) 987-2721.

**Menu choices and reservation forms
will appear in next month's Newsletter**

New Editor/Publisher Designated for CVAS Newsletter by *Charlie Lucas*

At our October CVAS Board Meeting I announced that I would be looking for someone to replace me as editor and publisher of the CVAS monthly Roadrunner Newsletter. I had held that position for four years and hoped that a replacement could be identified and trained in a timely fashion.

I am now pleased to announce that Gary Evans has volunteered to assume that position. Gary and I have been working together to publish the newsletter starting with the previous issue and continuing with this issue with the understanding that he will be assuming full responsibility in the near future (his email - garyburgessevans@gmail.com)

I owe thanks to many people for their whole hearted support to me in publishing our newsletter but with limited space I can only mention a few. I wish to thank Michael Zarky for his conscientious editing, Dee Lyon for her timely submittals of Conservation Columns and Field Trip Reports, Chrystal Klabunde for her Speaker Program Columns, and Don Klabunde for his numerous photographs. I also wish to thank everybody else who ever submitted a photograph, a poem, or a book review. Thank you!

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

January, 2013



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	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	805-405-5632	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 next 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 C3ZC230Z

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 _____