



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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April, 2013

NO. 8

General Meeting, April 1 7:30 pm Western Foundation Chris Calonje : “Colombia: Land of Birds”

The program consists of a photographic tour of Colombia and its birds, with information on Colombian geography, cuisine, culture, and people. Chris will talk about the increasingly better security situation; the Colombian government, at all levels, has made great strides in bringing peace and prosperity to Colombia. Colombia boasts the world's longest list of birds, now over 1890 species (more than North America and Europe combined.) Much of this diversity is due to the country's complex topography, which includes three Andean ranges and the valleys between these ranges, Atlantic and Pacific coasts, vast grasslands bordering Venezuela and a very large portion of the Amazon Basin. Birding in Colombia promotes responsible environmental and social ecotourism and provides an opportunity of a lifetime for birdwatchers.

Christopher Calonje was born and raised in Cali, Colombia, and earned a degree from Humboldt State University in Natural Resources Planning. He has been conducting birding tours in his native Colombia for many years and has had the pleasure to travel throughout the country photographing its amazing avian diversity.



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock

Conservation Column

By Carolyn Greene (Conejo Audubon Member)

Remember when the only choice for a morning cup of coffee was just “regular” or “decaf”? More recently, if we wanted an eco-friendly brew, we chose organic and fair-trade. But for bird-lovers, there is really only one choice – “shade-grown” coffee. And it’s also up to us to spread the word among family, friends and especially to our favorite stores and coffee shops, as to why it’s important to offer “shade-grown” as a coffee of choice.

What’s the problem?

Most modern coffee farmers, in an effort to increase yields, create monocultures through clearing tropical forests for full-sun farming. This requires fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides and causes additional habitat damage.

In contrast, traditional coffee-growing techniques allow plants to grow naturally under a canopy of lush tropical trees. These are also home to hundreds of species of resident birds and serve as wintering habitat for migrant songbirds, including many of our favorite spring and summer US breeders. Native forest coffee farms provide protection from the weather, reduce soil erosion and add nutrition through decaying leaves. Many of our beloved songbirds have suffered population declines since the 1970s, in part because of loss of winter habitat due to habitat conversion as happens in full-sun coffee production.

(continued on page 3)

CALENDAR

April

1	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s
1	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
7	8:00 am	Field Trip: Cañada Larga Road
11	9:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner’s Bird Walk
13,14		Field Trip: Big Morongo Weekend
20	8:00 am	Field Trip: Ojai Meadows Preserve
28	8:00 am	Emma Wood State Beach/ Ventura River Estuary

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 April Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15. 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!

Sunday, April 7 Cañada Larga Road

Cañada Larga Road is one of the more reliable spots in Ventura County to find good numbers of migrating and breeding birds in the spring. Though the road is only a few miles long, we can expect to find roadrunners, swallows, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, bluebirds, hawks, kestrels, and perhaps even a Golden Eagle. Time allowing, and at the leader's discretion, we can also bird nearby Foster Park. Directions: From the 101, take highway 33 north to the Cañada Larga Road exit. Turn left and park on the shoulder. We will meet under the highway 33 overpass to make carpool arrangements so as to minimize the number of cars. Meeting time is 8 am.
Leader: Dee Lyon (805-499-2165)

Thursday, April 11 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.

Saturday & Sunday April 13-14 Big Morongo Weekend

Come with us as we spend the weekend birding the desert canyons and campgrounds of Riverside County looking for northbound migrants and desert resident birds. Target species for the weekend include Scott's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Hopefuls include migrating warblers, hawks, buntings, hummingbirds, and vireo. Lodging accommodations are available in Desert Hot Springs as well as Yucca Valley or Joshua Tree. There is also the option to camp in many of the area campgrounds or on BLM land. Please contact trip leader Matthew Page for meet time and location, more details, and to sign up. Limit 10 participants. Matthew Page: (805) 990-6534.

Saturday, April 20 Ojai Meadows Preserve

Ojai Meadows is a jewel of woodland, meadow, and marsh that is continuously being restored with native grasses, flowers and other plants. Our trip will be led by Jesse Grantham, who frequently birds this location and is intimately familiar with local species and where to find them. We expect to see Bluebirds, Kingbirds, Phoebes, Meadowlarks, marsh birds and birds native to the local oak woodlands. Directions: Meet at the Las Posas Park and ride to carpool to the preserve at 7 am, or meet us at the preserve in Ojai at 8 am. Leader: Jesse Grantham. (Note: Jesse will not be at Las Posas Park and Ride, but will meet the group at 8 at the preserve)

Sunday, April 28 Emma Wood State Beach / Ventura River Estuary

Great views of the Pacific Ocean, the Ventura River Estuary, the willows that host Warbling Vireo and occasional Yellow-breasted Chat.... All these and more are reasons to join us for a leisurely Sunday morning stroll from Emma Wood State Beach to the estuary. Directions: From Camarillo, take 101 north to California Street in Ventura. Turn right on California and then left on Main. Follow Main to the entrance to Emma Wood State Beach on the left. We will either park outside the park or pay to enter, at the leader's discretion. Meet at 8 am. Leader: Linda Easter (805-482-7537) Bring a spotting scope if you have one available.

Conservation Column
(continued from page 1)

But it's not just birds that find refuge in the traditional coffee farm. Bats, beetles, ants, reptiles, amphibians, monkeys and plants have all been documented in higher numbers in shaded coffee farms as compared to sun coffee farms—and in levels comparable to natural forest.

Once you've made the decision to sip shade-grown, you'll have to really search for it.

Locally, I've only been able to reliably find it at Whole Foods and seldom in its decaf form. Whole Foods sells shade-grown in Audubon and Café Altura brands. Coffee may indeed be shade-grown without a designation on the package, but it's important for consumers that producers label their products as shade-grown – another part of the education process.

Fortunately, there are several good websites for on-line buying, until local sources improve. The Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC/ part of the National Zoo complex) has developed a “Bird Friendly” seal of approval, identifying coffee that is shade-grown (and usually organic). Several on-line retailers can be found on the SMBC website:

<http://tinyurl.com/3zqa6js>

You can also download a short flyer to take to your favorite store or coffee house and begin the education process for owners, managers and buyers. Print the flyer from:

<http://tinyurl.com/d9lnaj8>

Wherever you purchase or drink coffee – ask for shade-grown choices and contact corporate offices to encourage its availability (especially ask major retailers, such as Starbucks and Trader Joe's). Another online source for shade-grown is the Audubon Coffee Club:

<http://www.auduboncoffeeclub.com>

Is it more expensive? Similar to organic food, in the short-term shade-grown costs more than supermarket coffee, but we can be hopeful that the

long-term benefit to the global environment through improved habitat for our avian friends will offset higher short-term costs. Shade-grown costs between \$12-\$15 a pound, similar to premium coffees. Many fans claim the grounds produce higher beverage quantities and a more flavorful coffee, due to the superior farming methods.

It may be awhile before customers regularly ask for “shade-grown” as their preferred brew. So it's up to those who love both coffee and birds to stimulate the awareness and education process and to look forward to the time when “shade-grown” is a popular choice wherever coffee is served and savored.

Field Trip Report
Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge
By Michael Zarky

On Dec 16 Carol & Bill Langford, Michael Zarky, John Ford (CVAS), and Adele Fergusson (VAS) were part of a CVAS-organized field trip at Seal Beach NWR. The rain kept at bay all morning even though drizzle was common on the freeways, but the light was always dim. We tallied about 75 species, with most of the specialties present. Everyone had repeated fine views of a few Nelson's Sparrows. Three Pacific Golden Plovers were viewed close up from the vans; other shorebirds included Red Knots, many Dunlin, and Curlews galore. Two young Reddish Egrets pranced in one pond. Raptors included Peregrines, Harriers, one Osprey, with Red-tailed, Ferruginous and Cooper's Hawks. In the vehicles we got within six feet of a Burrowing Owl, for great photos. Other notables included Shrikes, and a Marsh Wren. One of several well-fed coyotes tried to stare us down. (oh, coyotes aren't birds...)

Returning from the Refuge those Ventura County birders took a short side-trip to Cabrillo Beach, where they easily found the visiting White Wagtail at the near end of the outer beach. I hope more local birders will join in when we repeat this trip sometime next winter. The drive is not as long as you might think (ask Carol) and the habitat is great for some special birds.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

April, 2013



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Vice Pres			
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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 consider volunteering.

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 Gary Evans, 29 Sabra Ave., Oak Park, CA 91377, or by E-mail: GaryE@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 _____
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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 ← **Check box to receive newsletter by mail.**

Name _____ **Otherwise newsletter will come by email.**

Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail address _____