



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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No. 3

**General Meeting, November 4
7:30 pm Western Foundation
"What Gull is That: Thoughts on
Speciation among the Larids"
by Larry Allen**

Of course you know the names of most of the gulls you look at -- at least the English names as found in your bird book. But the scientific names have been changed recently, and the sequence in which the birds are listed (a reflection of the chronological order in which each species is thought to have appeared) has been altered as well. Larry will use the scientific results supporting these changes as a stepping stone to explore the variation among some of our local gulls, and will provide some identification hints as well.

Larry Allen is Project Coordinator for and co-author of the forthcoming Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas, has conducted gull identification workshops for local Audubon chapters and the Moro Bay Winter Bird Festival, and has had a long-time fascination with gulls.



Heermann's Gulls by Chrystal Klabunde

**Conservation Column – Can you Unplug?
by Dee Lyon**

How about a National Day of Unplugging? What would happen in the U.S., the world? It's hard to imagine unplugging the TV, computer & cell phones. In a huge disaster this would happen for you.

It might be a fun family experiment. How about a tech-free zone in your house? Would there be lots of actual books being read in there? Digital Detox for a weekend? Lots of birding, cooking, hiking and talking. Sounds like fun? Some folks have even tried to unplug their house. Tough to do at work, but why be subject to all those demands all the time?

And finally give up the smart phone? An app-less flip phone might enable conversation at meals instead of texting, tweeting & playing games.

NOTES ON STRAWBERRIES:

The Environmental Working Group has found 40 different pesticides in strawberries! 30% are neurotoxins, 30% are associated with birth defects, 33% are known or suspected to cause cancer, 33% are known or suspected endocrine disruptors, 40% have been associated with reproductive effects, 65% can cause kidney or liver damage and 95% are toxic to birds, bees and/or aquatic life. Guess we'll have to go organic or grow our own.

Dee

CALENDAR

November

- 3 8:00 am King Gillette Ranch Park
- 4 5:15 pm Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
- 4 7:30 pm General Meeting Western Foundation
- 8 7:45 am Pt. Mugu Navy Base
- 10 8:00 am Arroyo Simi
- 14 9:00 am Beginning Bird Walk
- 16 7:30 am Ventura Settling Ponds
- 17 8:00 am Seal Beach
- 24 6:00 am North Slope San Gabriels
- 30 8:00 am Saticoy Ponds

*****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

CVAS assumes no responsibility for an injury at any CVAS event.

Board Meeting Notice

Contact Gary Evans at 805-231-5692 regarding the November 18th board meeting.

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, November 3 King Gillette Ranch Park

In the central Santa Monica Mountains lies 588 acre King Gillette Ranch Park, home to the one time razor blade magnate and now a jointly managed park that hosts a wide variety of oak woodland and chaparral species. We will search for woodpeckers, thrashers, bluebirds, jays, and sparrows. Given the time of the year, we can also expect a variety of western wood warblers, kinglets, and perhaps even a sapsucker. The park has also hosted Golden-crowned Kinglets in past years.

Directions: Take Hwy 101 (Ventura Freeway) to the Las Virgenes/Malibu Canyon exit. Head south on Las Virgenes Road and continue to Mulholland Hwy, about two miles. Turn left onto Mulholland Highway and immediately look for the King Gillette Ranch entrance on the right. The address is 26800 West Mulholland Highway Calabasas, CA 91302. Plenty of parking is available for \$7 a day, or one can park outside the grounds at the corner of Las Virgenes and Mulholland. Meet at 8 am. Trip leader is Ron Barns [\(805\) 341-3983](tel:8053413983).

Friday, November 8 Point Mugu Naval Base

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

Sunday, November 10 Arroyo Simi

The arroyo in Simi Valley has a great assortment of shorebirds, ducks, herons and gulls and is easily accessed on a level bike path that runs from Madera Street to First Street and on through most of Simi. We will walk slowly along the mostly natural bottomed channel scanning for birds and taking our time to better learn identification skills. 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. If time allows, we will bird other locations in Simi, such as Rancho Simi Community Park. Trip Leader is Matthew Page: (805) 990-6534

Thursday, November 14th 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 your are coming and learn the location.

Saturday, November 16th Ventura Settling Ponds

Join trip leader Frank DeMartino as he leads us around the settling ponds in Ventura to scour for ducks, herons, grebes, raptors, sparrows and even warblers. Frank enjoys birding the ponds and has much local knowledge of the species we can expect. If time allows, the trip may also visit Marina Park to look for rock pipers and perhaps even a booby if they are still around.

Directions: Meet at the Los Posas Park and Ride to carpool at 7:30 am. Alternately, meet at the harbor in the parking lot across the street from the ponds, where Spinnaker meets Angler Court. For more information, call Frank DeMartino at (856) 906-8733.

Saturday, November 17th Seal Beach NWR

At press time the status of this trip is unknown (your dysfunctional government at work!) but sign-up on a conditional basis with Michael Zarky, mzarky@earthlink.net if interested. Meet at 8:00 am. Contact Michael Zarky for directions.

**Sunday, November 24th
North Slope San Gabriels**

November brings fall color , raptors, sapsuckers and crossbills to the north slopes of the San Gabriel mountains. We will spend time at Pearblossom Park looking for crossbills and nuthatches, Ladder-backed woodpeckers, Verdin and sparrows. We will then visit St. Andrew's Priory where we hope to find Red-breasted , Red-naped and perhaps even Williamson's or Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Along the route we will also keep an eye out for Prairie Falcons and Ferruginous Hawks. We will then either move farther upslope depending on our luck, or retreat to the agricultural fields to look for more raptors and perhaps even Mountain Plovers. This is an all day trip, so bring water, a picnic lunch, sunscreen and other essentials. A spotting scope would be very helpful, as would FRS radios. Trip leader is Louis Tucker. Meet at Stearns Ave park and ride in Simi at 6 am. For more information please contact fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org

**Sunday, November 30th
Saticoy Settling Ponds
Beginning Birder's Workshop**

As winter approaches, geese, ducks, grebes and others should be settling into the Saticoy Settling Ponds. Identifying these birds can be confusing to beginners, so our trip leader Linda Easter will be taking the time to point out field marks and help improve identification skills. Eared Grebe vs. Horned Grebe --- Redhead vs. Canvasback --- is it Scaup or a Ring-necked Duck? Join us for the answers to these questions and many more, while we look for Canada Geese, Ibis, Peregrine Falcon and the many other species of wintering ducks.

Directions: The ponds are located south of Saticoy, near the intersection of Los Angeles Avenue and Vineyard. From Camarillo, take 101 North. Exit at Central and turn right. Continue to Santa Clara and turn right again. Turn left on Los Angeles Avenue and meet at the entrance to the ponds, at the gated entrance on the right just before Vineyard. Meet at 8:00 am. Trip leaders are Kay and Dee Register , (805) 427-0987.

Audubon Adventures

Our chapter is proud to sponsor classroom kits or individual kits for home schooling to any schools in our area. It offers top quality nonfiction material from environmental experts at the National Audubon Society. There are captivating hands-on activities for the students, and with the teachers help they learn we all have a personal stake in the environment. This year the theme is Sharing Our World with Birds. It is designed for grades 3-5, but can be adapted. Contact Thelma Williams, education chair, if you have a classroom or a child or grandchild who would benefit from this program.

**Tuesday evening --- October 29th
Linda Parks at Organic Garden Club**

The Organic Garden Club Conejo Valley invites the CVAS members to hear Linda Parks, Ventura County Supervisor speak on "Environmental Issues in Ventura Co." We meet Tuesday evening Oct. 29th from 6:30-8:15 at the Horizon Hills multipurpose room, 33 Greta St. There will be an optional short tour of the butterfly garden, native plantings and the community garden from 6:35-7:00pm. The plots in the community garden are free this year. Supervisor Parks will speak from 7:15-8:15. In Thousand Oaks turn north from Ave. de los Flores on Greta, park on the street or in the school parking lot & enter the building from the Greta St. entrance. For more info call Mary Freed, 805-795-3887, President, OGC

New Members

Kief Adler	Stacey Bergman
Wendy Gregson	Terdelina Martelli
Charlotte Mirande	Dave Mathews
Liz Folb	

Donors

Dennis Allen	Carolyn Palmer
Thomas Duck	John Pavelko
Jim and Martha Ford	Ann Uroff
Barry Lundvall	Thelma Williams

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	Cia DeMartino		programs
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	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
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 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 _____

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 ← **Check box to receive newsletter by mail.**

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____