



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 45

December, 2013

No. 4

General Meeting, December 2
7:30 pm Western Foundation
The Condor's Shadow
by Jeff McLoughlin

In his documentary, *The Condor's Shadow*, Jeff McLoughlin delves into the near extinction and ongoing revival of the largest North American land bird, the California Condor. Jeff produced and directed this year-in-the-life documentary to show the passion it takes to bring a species back from the brink; focusing on Ventura-based biologist Joseph Brandt's quest to establish a successful wild condor nest.

Jeff trained in film theory and criticism at San Francisco State College, and eventually became the Director of Marketing Communications for a Silicon Valley medical-technology firm. He resides in Santa Barbara, California with his wife Kristi and chocolate Labrador, Jack.



Condor at Bitter Creek NWR
by Gary Evans

Conservation Column
by Dee Lyon
Tom Halpin Grant Update

The Tom Halpin Award of \$500 was won by Brian and Amy Stark of Thousand Oaks. They live near CLU and he works for the Ojai Valley Conservancy. We had over forty people contact us about the program. Some just wanted information, but most entered their application on our website. Our committee, Frank DeMartino, Matthew Page and I analyzed all the various reasons folks had to change their lawns to habitat. We found the Starks' most compelling. An excerpt follows:

"Anyone who doubts that climate change is here already hasn't seen our sorry lawn. It is amazingly un-resilient evidenced by thirst and inability to fight off invasions. We want our yard to be part of the future of landscaping, a self-sustaining garden utopia fit for more than a few European starlings. We want real birds! We also have this crazy idea of using rainwater from our gutters to create a seasonal water element in our yard. Our new native eco-yard will conserve
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Annual Dinner/Auction
"A soothsayer bids you beware the ides of March" said Brutus to Caesar. Fortunately, this is not true for you. Please save the date. The **CVAS Annual Dinner and Fundraiser** will be on **Saturday evening, March 15, 2014** at *(a New Location!)* The Palm Garden Hotel in Newbury Park.

CALENDAR

December

2	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
2	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
8	8:00 am	Las Lajas Canyon
12	9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
14	8:00 am	Carpenteria Salt Marsh
22		Christmas Bird Count
28	8:00 am	Oakbrook Regional Park

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 any injury at any CVAS event.

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, December 8th, 2013 Las Lajas

Rusting steam shovels. Fossilized sea shells. Oaks, cottonwoods and willows. Lizards, hawks, woodpeckers and bluebirds. In the foothills of Simi Valley lies Las Lajas Canyon, home to all of these attractions and more. We'll take a leisurely hike up this gentle canyon looking for evidence of 20th century oil exploration, geology and wildlife. We'll also just enjoy the cool fall air. The trailhead to Las Lajas canyon is near 5715 Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley. Meet here at 8 am with water, sunblock and good hiking shoes. Dress in layers. We will hike for 2-3 miles and then return the way we came. The first 0.2 miles is steep in both directions, but the rest of the trail is gentle. This means that at the end of our hike we will have a short but steep climb out. Please plan accordingly. Directions: From the 118 Freeway in Simi Valley, exit Yosemite and head north. Turn right on Evening Sky Drive and proceed to the trail head. Trip leader: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Thursday, December 12, 2013 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 learn the location.

Saturday, December 14, 2013 Carpinteria Salt Marsh

From the University of California Natural Reserve System website: "The Carpinteria Salt Marsh Reserve protects a critically important

Southern California estuary which supports many sensitive plant and animal species. The site includes extensive wetland and channel habitats along with some uplands. It lies adjacent to a sandy beach, subtidal rocky reef and kelp beds. The reserve provides habitat for migratory waterfowl as well as endangered plants and animals such as salt marsh bird's-beak, Light-footed Clapper Rail and Belding's Savannah Sparrow." Join CVAS as led by Dee Lyon as we explore this natural preserve in search of ducks, geese, sparrows and blackbirds. Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:15 am or at the salt marsh at 8 am. Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

Sunday, December 22, 2013 Conejo Valley 39th Annual Christmas Bird Count

If you are looking for an easy way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 114th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Sunday, December 22, 2013**, and help cover the CVAS "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle. Sign up in one of the following ways:

- 1) Pre-register online at <http://tinyurl.com/mclmzgl>
The Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO. (This is the best way as it simplifies Dave Pereksta's work.)
- 2) Sign up at the December WFVZ meeting.
- 3) Send David Pereksta an email at pereksta@pacbell.net or call him at (805) 659-5740

We need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs Park, Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the Oxnard Plain, Hidden Valley, Satwiwa, and many other areas. Please contact David Pereksta to let him know if you are available to participate and if there is anyone else who is planning to count with you.

We will meet afterwards at Nobuko McClure's home at 6:00 pm. We will have pizza and other potluck goodies. If your last name begins with A-M please bring hors d'oeuvre or munchies to share; N-Z, a finger food type dessert which is

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Conservation
(continued from page 1)

h water, save money, attract appropriate life forms and inspire our neighbors”

The Board decided that we would give fifteen \$100 Native Plant credits to others that seemed ready to change over their yards. Bob Sussman, owner of Matilija Nursery, has generously offered to discount their plants from \$7.00 to \$5.25 each for a one-time purchase during the month of November. Hopefully they are all in the process of killing their lawns, in time for planting. We will get in touch with all the folks who volunteered to help at that time.

Meanwhile, Darryl Easter has made a terrific lively video of their own yard change-over. We hope to add more pictures to it and put it on our website and on YouTube. He also has a super sign saying “Bird Habitat” which we need to replicate for our folks.

The whole process has made many people aware of the fact that wild birds’ biggest problem is loss of habitat.

Field Trip Report

April 28 Emma Wood/ Ventura River Estuary
by Frank DeMartino

We had a good sized group join us for the Emma Wood / Ventura River Estuary bird walk on April 28th, including some new birders! Most of the group got good looks at a singing Yellow-Breasted Chat, along with the common birds in the area: California Thrasher, Song Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Red-Winged Blackbird, Green Heron. At the beach we found a pair of Caspian Terns, Ruddy Turnstones, Western Sandpipers, and a single Heermann's Gull

Partial list of birds sighted:

Brant, Mallard, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Red-throated Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Western/Clark’s Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Ruddy Turnstone,

Western Sandpiper, Heermann’s Gull, Western Gull, Caspian Tern, Wrentit, Bewick’s Wren, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Black Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Western Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Bushtit

Warbler Bingo Winner!

Joel Barrett has won the Conejo Valley Audubon’s Warbler Bingo contest on October 5th! His bingo consisted of Wilson’s, Chestnut-Sided, Orange-Crowned, Lucy’s and Blackburnian warblers. Lucy’s and Blackburnian warblers were present at the Hales Rd. tamarisks on 10/5 and the Chestnut-Sided was still at the Agromin facility as of 10/4. Everyone should congratulate Joel if you see him out in the field. This certainly wasn’t an easy contest! Other bingos scored in October were by Frank DeMartino and Adam Searcy.

Christmas Bird Count
(continued from page 2)

Paper goods, plastic utensils, coffee and tea will be provided or bring your own beverage.

To cover the cost of the pizza and goods, etc. we are asking for a \$5/person donation. If you plan on attending please **call Nobuko at (905) 482-0411**. Nobuko’s address is 69 East Loop Drive Camarillo.

Sunday, December 28, 2013
Oakbrook Regional Park

Adjacent to the Chumash Museum in Thousand Oaks is Oakbrook Regional Park, a wonderful stretch of oaks, chaparral and riparian habitat. Our target birds include White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and other birds typical of the oak woodlands. Directions: From the 23 Freeway, exit Avenida de los Arboles and head east. Turn right on Westlake Blvd. and then left on Lang Ranch Parkway. We will meet on the street in front of the gates to the Chumash Museum at 8:00 am. Trip leader: Carol Langford. (360) 742-6059

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 4782
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91359
 December, 2013



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
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Vice Pres			
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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. The President and Vice President positions 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.

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 _____

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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 _____