



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 45

January, 2014

NO. 5

## General Meeting January 6 7:30 pm Western Foundation David Pereksta

David Pereksta is an Avian Biologist for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, where he studies and analyzes the effects on birds and bats of offshore oil and gas and renewable energy development off the Pacific coast.

Throughout his career with various Federal and State agencies he has studied several imperiled bird species including Snowy and Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans and Spotted Owls. Recently, David has assisted Cornell University in their searches for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Arkansas during the 2006, 2007 and 2008 field seasons. An avid birder for over 30 years, he has birded throughout North America and the American tropics, and has led birding trips to Belize, Costa Rica and Peru. David has been an active participant and leader in southern California pelagic trips since 1994. His talk will cover Southern California seabirds; with improved photos and exciting additions.



Black-footed Albatross by Don Klabunde

## Conservation Column

by Dee Lyon

### Gardeners Make a Difference!

“Bringing Nature Home” by Doug Tallamy explains why healthy bird communities are inextricably linked to healthy insect populations. Ninety-six percent of North American birds raise their young on insects. And not just any insects -mostly caterpillars. Rich in fat and protein, caterpillars are essential for a bird trying to keep up with the demands of a healthy family. It takes 390 to 570 caterpillars a day to feed a growing clutch of four to six chickadees in the sixteen days from when they hatch to when they fledge. Most of their foraging happens within 200 feet of the nest. That is why you need so many caterpillars in your yard.

The United States has about 11,500 caterpillar species. The premier habitat for them is oak trees, which support 534 species. Cherries, plums willows and of course many other native species are prime habitats as well. So gardeners play a pivotal role in creating safe havens for wildlife. They make a difference. The neighborhood where native plants abound offers abundant food, places to nest and a bit of water to bathe in. The birds then don't have to keep moving around trying to find food, which takes a lot of energy.

*(continued on page 3)*

### CALENDAR

#### January

4-5	Carrizo Plain
6 5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
6 7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
9 9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
12 7:30 am	Ventura Settling Ponds
18-19	Salton Sea
24 7:45 am	Pt. Mugu Naval Base
26 8:00 am	Santa Clara 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 January Board Meeting will be held on Monday January 20. All CVAS members are invited to attend monthly CVAS Board Meetings. Please contact Gary Evans at **805-231-5692** for location.

### 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 / Sunday January 4-5, 2014 Carrizo Plain

In addition to the breathtaking vistas, we will see Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, LeConte's Thrasher and Merlin. We will likely see Rough-legged Hawk, Mountain Plover and Sandhill Crane. We will also visit geological sites related to the seismology of California. We will meet in Maricopa and drive around the plain all weekend. We will then leave the plain heading north via Bitterwater Road on Sunday, looking for Yellow-billed Magpie. Email [Matthew Page](mailto:Matthew Page) to sign up at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org). He will give meeting time, location and carpool info. Matthew is the trip leader and likes to communicate through his email address.

Reserve your own room in Buttonwillow or Taft for Saturday night, or camp on the plain. FRS radios & spotting scopes are just about necessary. Limit: 12 participants.

### Thursday, January 9<sup>th</sup> Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055** between 9:00 am and 10:00 am to let her know you are coming and learn the location.

### Sunday, Jan 12, 2014 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 and sparrows. Frank enjoys birding the ponds and has much local knowledge of the species we can expect. If time allows we may also visit Marina Park to look for rock pipers and gulls. Directions: Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride to carpool at 7:30 am.

Alternately, meet at 8:00 am at the harbor in the parking lot across the street from the ponds, where Spinnaker meets Angler Court. For more information, call Frank DeMartino [\(856\) 906-8733](tel:856-906-8733).

### Saturday / Sunday, Jan 18-19 2014 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. This 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 sign up in advance by emailing Matthew for meeting time and location at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

Matthew is the trip leader and likes to communicate by email. FRS radios and spotting scopes are extremely helpful.

Trip limit: 12

### Friday, Jan 24, 2014 Pt. Mugu Naval Base

This trip is for CVAS members only and requires signup at least 3 weeks prior to trip; it is limited to 25 people. Contact Don Williamson at [\(818\) 889-4498](tel:818-889-4498) to check availability. US citizenship and SSN # 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 is David Pereksta.

*(field trips continued on page 3)*

### Conservation

*(continued from page 1)*

But ensure that your great habitat doesn't include your cat (or your neighbor's) out to kill birds. The Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute reported that between 1.4 billion and 3.7 billion birds are killed each year by cats roaming outdoors.

It's estimated that we have more than 45 million acres of lawn in this country and dump out about 10,000 gallons of our precious drinking water on just a 25 x 40 foot yard! About 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied on those lawns, which is really bad for birds and people. Let's all get behind CHANGE LAWNS TO HABITAT.

*(field trips continued from page 2)*

**Sunday, January 26, 2014**  
**Santa Clara River Estuary**

We will meet at the Ventura Harbor and walk to the Santa Clara River Estuary. Here we hope to find pelicans, ducks, grebes, gulls and shorebirds along the way as well as in the estuary itself. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Directions: Take 101 to Seaward. Turn onto Harbor and head south toward the Ventura Harbor. Turn right on Spinnaker Drive and enter the harbor. We will meet in the parking lot at Surfer's Knoll at 8 am. Trip leader is Frank DeMartino : (856) 906-8733.

You are condially invited to join  
 Conejo Valley Audubon Society

on

Friday, March 15, 2014

at **New Location!**

The Palm Garden Hotel  
 495 North Ventu Park Rd.  
 Newbury Park, CA 91320

For

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

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

Ticket price per person \$40.00

(Early-bird special \$35.00—before 3/1/14)

5 Free raffle tickets for each 1<sup>st</sup> time guest

### New Members

Adele Fergusson  
 Jean Kohut

Kathy Jonokuchi  
 Jean Saris

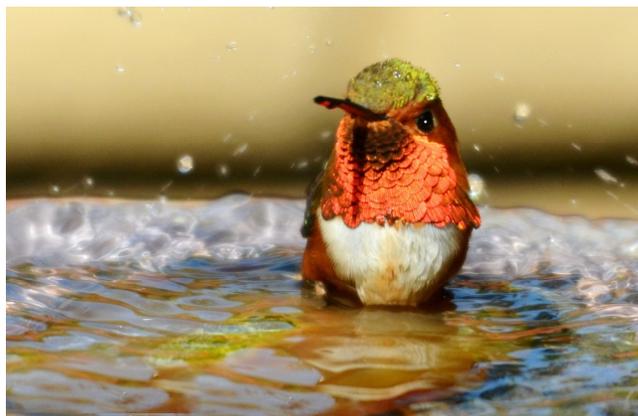
### Donors

Mary Hansen  
 Nobuko McClure  
 Charlie Lucas

Kathy Jonokuchi  
 Bill and Carol Langford  
 Marlene Winstead



Warbling Vireo  
 by Stacey Bergman



Allen's Hummingbird  
 by Jean Kohut

### Dues Reminder

Dues are payable for the term September 2013 to June 2014. Please tear off form on last page of this newsletter to send with check.

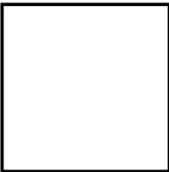
# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

January, 2014



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username	Volunteers Needed
President				Volunteers are needed to staff officer positions currently open on the CVAS Board. The Vice President position 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.
Vice Pres				
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE	
Treasurer	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net	
Programs	Cia DeMartino		programs	
Graphic Arts	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	805-915-9464	shizhaneec@gmail.com	
Newsletter	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	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			

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 91377-1126, or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

### NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**C4ZC230Z**

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 \_\_\_\_\_