



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 45

March , 2014

NO. 7

Conservation Column *by Dee Lyon* Kenn Kaufman's happy and healthy bird watching thoughts

1. It's easy! Life is complicated and stressful. Bird watching can be the antidote. The fresh air will lower your blood pressure. All you have to do is focus on that little bird in the bush.
2. It's a challenge! It's not boring. It's hide and seek and builds up your awareness and powers of observation.
3. It builds confidence. Kids will tell you all about their birding experiences and are proud of the fact that they can ID a White-tailed Kite.
4. It keeps us from becoming overconfident. Who among us has not misidentified a bird? Those boo-boos tell us to be more careful and carry a camera. The ability to say "I don't know" keeps us open-minded and ready to learn new things.
5. It's predictable. We can see the birds nesting in the spring and heading out in the fall.
6. It's unpredictable. Lots of birds wander from their appointed paths and so the crazy fall vagrant hunt begins. The possibility adds zest and excitement to our lives and keeps us out there looking.
7. Best of all, birds are beautiful! There is no denying that their songs and graceful flight and wonderful colors make them some of the world's prettiest creatures. Always invite all the hikers to come see that Lazuli Bunting in your scope. They will understand why 70 million Americans are looking at birds. Let's share the joy.



Cooper's Hawk

by Teodelina, our youngest member

**General Meeting, March 3
7:30 pm Western Foundation
More Birds and Other Natural Things Vol VI**
by Don DesJardin

Don DesJardin has been part of the birding scene in Ventura County since 1989. During that time he has spent countless hours documenting birds on both film and video. Although he has traveled to many exotic places around the world to enjoy and

(continued on page 2)

CALENDAR

March

1	8:00 am	San Gabriel Mountains
3	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
3	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
9	8:00 am	Oakbrook Regional Park
13	9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
15	8:00 am	Conejo Botanical Gardens #1 class
16	8:00 am	Rancho Simi Community Park
22	8:00 am	Hill Canyon
23	8:00 am	Santa Clara River Estuary #2 class
29	8:00 am	Oakbrook Regional Park #3 class
30	8:00 am	Rancho Sierra Vista

*****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

(General Meeting continued from pg. 1)

document new birds, he always returns to what he calls his “local patch”, Ventura County. “More Birds & Other Natural Things Volume VI” is the latest in a series of one hour “More Birds” videos which feature birds of Southern California. There is also a sprinkling of other critters which are a part of our natural world. This video is special because most of it was shot with Don’s new camera, the Panasonic Lumix GH3 DSLR. Don purchased this camera in March of 2013 and so the species list starts from that point. It covers the summer season and then the extraordinary fall season we enjoyed here in Ventura County. There are shorebirds from Ventura Harbor, Red-throated Pipit and Yellow-green Vireo from our famous Tamarisks on the Oxnard Plain. This video is rated “GB” (Good Birds) and is suited for Audubon audiences that can’t get enough of good birds.

Visit Don’s website at <http://birdsdesjardin> to see video samples from some of the the previous “More Birds” DVD’s.

**Saturday, March 1
San Gabriel Mountains**

As part of our continuing emphasis on trips out of the immediate Ventura County area, this trip will take us up Highway 2 into the heart of the San Gabriel Mountains. We’ll bird Angeles Crest Highway at multiple spots on our way up into the mountains, echecking for Mountain Quail, Townsend’s Solitaire, bluebirds, kinglets, chickadees, nuthatches, White-headed and other woodpeckers. We’ll even keep an eye out for Golden Eagles. We’ll then have a picnic lunch in the high country before returning the way we came. Our trip will move at a leisurely pace, perhaps staying even through dinner time. For those who wish to stay through the evening, we will try for owls in a few locations. Though we will mostly remain near our cars, please also be prepared for some short hiking, wearing the appropriate shoes. The weather can be unpredictable, so dress in layers and anticipate cold temperatures, especially if staying through the evening. There is no gas and limited cell service in the mountains, so plan accordingly. Bring water, FRS radios, scopes, flashlights and plenty

of snacks/food. Directions: For carpooling please call ahead. Meet at the Stearns Avenue Park-and-Ride in Simi Valley. Exit at Stearns from the 118 and find the park and ride in the SW corner, tucked in between the exit and the freeway. Meet at 8 am. All participants planning on driving into the forest will need a Forest Adventure Pass, available at sporting good stores and ranger stations. Please purchase your pass before the day of the trip. Trip leader: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

**Sunday, March 9
Oakbrook Regional Park**

Oakbrook Regional Park is a wonderful stretch of oaks, chaparral and riparian habitat. Birds to be expected include the White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Spotted Towhee and other birds typical of the oak woodlands. We will also bird the adjacent Lang Ranch Park. 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. Meet on the street in front of the gates to the Chumash Museum at 8 am. Trip leader: Carol Langford (360) 742-6059

**Thursday, March 13
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.

(field trips and bird identification classes continue on two-page supplement)



Dark-eyed Junco by Don Klabunde

You are cordially invited to join the ● ● ●

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

On

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2014

At

THE PALM GARDEN HOTEL

495 Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA



for our

● ● ● ANNUAL COCKTAIL 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 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 and Live Auctions. Please contact Carol Langford at 360-742-6059 or berry50@yahoo.com

All are tax deductible!

Dinner Selections: Buffet Service with Seasoned Vegetable Medley, Salad, Roasted Potatoes and choice of entrée. Also freshly baked breads and a delicious dessert, coffee, or tea.

#1 Vegetarian Stuffed Squash

#2 Wild Salmon and Tri-tip

Please fill out this form, tear it off, and mail it with your check (Payable to CVAS) to:

CVAS, P.O.Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Print your name(s) as you would like it to appear on your place card and select an entrée by number:

Contact Phone number: _____



Name: _____ Diner # _____



ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

March, 2014



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Vice Pres	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	805-405-5632	vice-president
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Treasurer	Richard Amerding		treasurer
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		publicity
Newsletter	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Membership			
Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Special Events	Carol Langford	360-742-6059	carol.lee.langford@gmail.com
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		

Please contact the board if you would like to serve in the open position of membership chair.

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, Calif. 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 to receive newsletter by mail**
 Name _____ **Otherwise newsletter will come by email**

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

Sunday, March 16
Rancho Simi Community Park

Rancho Simi Community Park in Simi Valley is perhaps an under-birded location. It offers up a variety of habitats, including stands of conifers, a pond and an adjacent arroyo. The park has hosted such species as Plumbeous Vireo, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck and migrating warblers in the fall. Resident species include Canada Goose, Western Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher and Black-crowned Night-heron. There almost always seems to be at least one White-faced Ibis in the arroyo. We may also find Chipping Sparrow and winter visitors hanging around, plus some early spring migrants. Meet in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool at 8 am. Directions: From the 118 freeway exit at Erringer and head south. Turn right at Royal and enter the park along Royal where you see the brick building near the pool. Trip leader: Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023

Sunday, March 22
Hill Canyon

Hill Canyon and Santa Rosa Park offer a variety of birding habitats such as chaparral, riparian and oak woodland. We should expect to see early spring migrants, as many as four species of wren (House, Bewick's, Canyon and Cactus), Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks, woodpeckers, gnatcatchers, goldfinches and resident White-throated Swift. Directions: From Moorpark or Camarillo take Santa Rosa Road and turn onto Hill Canyon Road to enter the park. Recent county upgrades to the park have eliminated the free parking, so please expect a \$2 fee for use of the lot. Meet in the parking lot at 8 am. Trip leader: Jean Hulberg (805) 491-2666

Sunday, March 30
Rancho Sierra Vista

We expect to see orioles, hummingbirds, swallows and more at this great park. In the grassland that remains after last year's devastating fire we should be able to find gnatcatchers, Black-headed Grosbeak and California Thrasher. Historically, this park has hosted up to eight species of flycatchers, four species of woodpeckers, five species of hummingbirds, seven species of raptors and twelve species of sparrows at this time of year. Grasshopper Sparrows have been sighted. Will they all be there this year? Help us answer that question and upload your findings to eBird to contribute to citizen science efforts. Directions: From the 101, exit Wendy Drive and head south. Turn right on Lynn Road. Lynn Road soon becomes Potrero Road. Turn left on Via Goleta and head to the end of the road and meet in the parking lot at 8 am. Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

BIRDING IDENTIFICATION CLASSES

Birding Class #1 --- Saturday, March 15
Conejo Botanical Gardens
Teacher: Dee Lyon
Fee: \$25

Conejo Valley Audubon is proud to present its second annual series of birding classes. Designed for the beginning birder, the emphasis of these classes will be on the identification of common local species. Dee Lyon, Conservation Chair of Conejo Audubon and longtime birder, will present the first class on identification. It will be presented at the Conejo Botanical Gardens. The class is limited to 25 people, and participants must sign up in advance. The fee is \$25, which will be donated to the Conejo Valley Botanical Gardens. Directions: Take the 101 to Lynn Rd. Exit and head north to Gainsborough and turn right. Turn right again on Jeanine Drive to enter the gardens.. Call Dee at (805) 499-2165 to reserve your spot.

Birding Class #2 --- Sunday, March 23
Santa Clara River Estuary
Teachers: Bill and Carol Langford

Please see Birding Class #1 above for more information, sign up and fee. The second of our three classes will take us to the Santa Clara River Estuary adjacent to the Ventura Harbor. We will have instruction on how to identify common shorebirds, gulls and other sea birds. We will walk down to the Santa Clara River mouth from the harbor, so please expect to walk close to a mile one way across the sand. If time allows, we may spend time exploring the breakwater and marina, looking for rocky shorebirds, grebes, cormorants and gulls. Instructors are longtime birders Bill and Carol Langford, who in addition to being avid supporters of CVAS are also extensively involved in the Friends of the Condor Wild and Free. Directions: From the 101 exit Seaward and head south. Turn left onto Harbor and continue to Spinnaker. Turn right and proceed past the Surfer's Knoll parking area on the left (ocean) side. Turn around and return to the parking lot. Meet at 8 am. Bill and Carol Langford (360) 742-6059

Birding Class #3 -Saturday, March 29
Oakbrook Regional Park
Teacher: Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin

Our third and final class takes us to Oakbrook Regional Park in Thousand Oaks. Here we will find a mix of chaparral and oak woodland habitat. We will learn from Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, district ranger with the National Park Service. We should expect to find Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-crowned Sparrow and perhaps Hutton's Vireo. Please see Birding Class #1 for sign-up information and fee. Directions: From the 23 freeway in Thousand Oaks exit at Avenida de los Arboles. Head east and turn right on Westlake Boulevard. Be prepared to turn left quick at Lang Ranch Parkway. Meet in front of the gates of the Chumash Museum at 8 am. Leader: Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin (805) 405-5632