



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

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No. 8

General Meeting, April 7

7:30 pm Western Foundation

Ed MacKerrow – Mountain Horizon Photography

Mountain photography is my passion while rock climbing, backcountry skiing and backpacking. Growing up in Northern California, I was inspired by the Sierra Nevada to photograph the wilderness. For thirty years I have lived in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of Northern New Mexico. The light in New Mexico has a whimsical nature which I hope to communicate via my photography. I specialize in raptor photography, in particular owls. Finding rare owls in very remote forests, places where humans do not go, has been my focus lately.

Many of my photographs of raptors are rewards after epic nighttime solo ski ascents, hikes and long hours hiding quietly in a blind. These are experiences I will never forget. The photo is simply a memento. Currently I am studying Boreal Owl and Spotted Owl populations in the “Sky Island” mountain ranges of New Mexico and Colorado. My research goal is to measure how climate change and human impact are affecting these owls. I have a PhD in Physics and my research is complex adaptive systems – which I am applying toward understanding climate impact on raptor populations.

Some of my photos have been published (magazine covers, calendars, greeting cards and images for educational materials) in the US and in Europe. I will present a multi-media slide show (music, photos, video) for approximately thirty minutes followed by an open discussion.

Conservation Column

by Dee Lyon

40th Anniversary – Endangered Species Act

When Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1973, it recognized that our rich natural heritage is of aesthetic, ecological, educational, recreational and scientific value to our nation. It further expressed concern that many of our nation’s native plants and animals were in danger of becoming extinct. The purpose of the ESA is to recover and protect imperiled species and the ecosystems on which they depend. It is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Commerce Department’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The FWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms. The NMFS has responsibility for marine wildlife, such as whales, and anadromous fish, such as salmon.

Under the ESA species may be listed as either “endangered” or “threatened.” “Endangered” species are those in danger of extinction throughout or within a significant portion of their range. “Threatened” species are those likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future. All species of plants and animals, except pest insects, are eligible for listing as endangered or threatened. For the purposes of the ESA, Congress defined species to include subspecies. For vertebrates distinct population segments can be listed.

(continued on page 3)

CALENDAR

April

| | | |
|-------|---------|------------------------------------|
| 6 | 8:00 am | Cañada Larga Road |
| 7 | 5:15 pm | Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s |
| 7 | 7:30 pm | General Meeting Western Foundation |
| 10 | 9:00 am | Beginner’s Bird Walk |
| 12-13 | | Eastern Sierra Weekend |
| 19 | 8:00 am | Ojai Meadows |
| 26 | | Tejon Ranch |
| 27 | | Butterbreds Springs |

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.

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, April 6th
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. If time allows we will also at the leader's discretion 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 and minimize the number of cars. Meeting time is 8am. Leader: Karin Kersteter (805) 901-2203

Thursday, April 10th Beginner's Bird Walk

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

Saturday/Sunday April 12-13 Eastern Sierra Weekend

As a new trip for CVAS we will spend the weekend birding the Eastern Sierra from Lone Pine to June Lake. We will look for Gray-crowned Rosy Finches, Greater Sage-Grouse, Sooty Grouse, Juniper Titmouse, Pinyon Jay, Black-billed Magpie, Black-backed Woodpecker and more. Since limited space is available advanced sign up is required. Contact Matthew Page at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org to sign up.

Saturday, April 19th Ojai Meadows

Ojai Meadows is a jewel with woodlands, meadows and marshes. It is 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 finding the local species. 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. Alternatively, meet us at the preserve at 8 am.

Leader: Carol Langford (360) 742-6059

Saturday, April 26th Tejon Ranch

The Tejon Ranch encompasses the largest single privately-held track of land in the state of California. It is uniquely situated at the convergence of the Mojave Desert, the Sierra Nevada, the Central Valley and the Transverse Ranges. This results in a high degree of biodiversity. The members of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy are always gracious and eager to share this unique habitat. Previous trips have included memorable looks at Golden Eagle, Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, Scott's Oriole, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, quail, warblers, vireo, sparrows and more. We also stand a good chance of seeing reintroduced Pronghorn antelope. We will drive up Interstate 5 to Highway 138 and meet with the conservancy docents who will lead us. Plan for possible cool weather. Since there are no facilities once on the ranch, please pack a picnic lunch and plenty of water. This trip requires pre-registration and will initially be limited to CVAS members only. Trip limit : 12 Please email Matthew Page at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org to sign up.

(field trips continue on page 3)

(Conservation Column cont. from page 1)

One species that is not faring well is the Greater Sage-Grouse. Two hundred years ago there may have been as many as sixteen million individuals. By the year 2000 it was estimated there were as few as 100,000. Habitat destruction is the primary cause for the decline. When sagebrush burns it can require 25 to 120 years to recover. Cattle also feed on sagebrush on Bureau of Land Management land. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is pursuing having the Greater Sage-Grouse listed under the Endangered Species Act.

(field trips continued from pg. 2)

**Sunday, April 27
Butterbrecht Spring**

Join us on an ambitious one-day trip to this oasis of migrating birds in the middle of the desert. We will meet at the entrance to Jawbone Canyon at 8 am. The road is of dirt but well-graded. However, this destination is remote and we'll need to bring picnic lunches and water. Expect to see multiple species of warblers, vireo, finches and sparrows. Other likely species are quail, Chukar, grosbeaks and tanagers. As we leave the spring we will monitor reports and conditions and stop at other locations. Trip leader: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Photography Classes

John Mueller will graciously be leading three free photography classes at the Camarillo public library, 4101 Las Posas Rd. in Camarillo (805-388-5222).

**Introduction to Digital Photography
Monday, April 7 (6:30 pm to 8:00 pm)**

This lecture will be an introduction to using digital cameras covering some of the technical aspects of point & shoot as well as DSLR cameras. We will also cover composition, lighting and other techniques. Bring your cameras and hang out afterwards and I will answer your questions.

**Landscape and Scenery Photography
Monday, April 14th (6:30 pm to 8:00 pm)**

We will focus on composition rules for landscape photography and getting the best results with your camera. We will also discuss vertical and horizontal compositions, long exposures, selecting the foreground, multiple subjects, complex lighting situations and how weather affects potential photos.

**Birds & Wildlife Photography
Monday, April 2st (6:30 pm to 8:00 pm)**

Among the most difficult yet rewarding subjects for photography are birds and wildlife. We will discuss necessary equipment, techniques, composition and how to predict when an animal will be in the right place at the right time. We will also discuss the difference between fine art and photojournalistic animal photography.

**Field Trip Report - December 28th
Lang Ranch Park and Oakbrook Regional Park
by Carol Langford**

Sometimes it is difficult to watch birds! Concentrating on a Hermit Thrush when you have a California Thrasher and a Golden-crowned Sparrow in the same binocular view is indeed difficult birding. On a sunny and windless December 28th, eight CVAS birders enjoyed this challenge and more at Lang Ranch Park in Thousand Oaks before walking over to Oakbrook Regional Park. On the other hand, having a White-crowned Sparrow and Golden-crowned Sparrow in close proximity makes comparing and contrasting features more interesting than reviewing features in a field guide.

We had Bewick's Wrens up close and personal in the grass of Lang Ranch Park along with Western Bluebirds, Dark-eyed Juncos and Yellow-rumped Warblers – again all in the same view! Oakbrook Regional Park was shady and quiet with ample opportunity to view multiple Acorn Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches and Oak Titmouse during our walk. With 35 species and the last bird of the day being a Fox Sparrow this was indeed a good morning.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

April, 2014



| Officers and Committee Chairs | | | Username |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|
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| Special Events | Carol Langford | 360-742-6059 | carol.lee.langford@gmail.com |
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| 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, CA 91377, 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.**

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