



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

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No. 9

**General Meeting, May 5**  
**7:30 pm Western Foundation**  
**Why Restore?**  
*by Brian Swig*

**Conservation**  
**Learning from Birding**  
*by Dee Lyon*

Bryan Swig is a senior lecturer and lab coordinator in the biology department at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. He earned his PhD from the University of Hull in the United Kingdom. There he studied the functioning of wetlands in the years after a restoration.

He is currently leading an experiential learning project with his CLU students; studying the functionality of the dune restoration at Surfer's Point in Ventura. His talk will be on the importance of ongoing efforts for wetland and dune restoration.

2013 was the year of the BIGGEST YEAR! Neil Hayward, a biotech consultant from Boston, recorded 749 species in North America. That eclipses the record of 745 species seen in 1998 by Sandy Komito as documented in the book "The Big Year."

Neil says "When you start to really look at birds, you see how differently they perch and call for each other. A Lincoln's Sparrow has a gorgeous eye ring. The same is true for gulls."

We need to really appreciate these fantastic animals. Sometimes we can focus too much on the number of species we have counted. On the other hand, we don't reach those large numbers of species unless incredible attention is paid to all the details and nuances. That is how we can distinguish, for example, a Black-headed Gull from a Franklin's Gull.

All the new bird-alert systems were probably a big help to Mr. Hayward, but there may be fewer birds than there were in 1998 when the Big Year took place. Wonder how much money it took to chase all those rare birds.

Dee



Avocet at Surfers Knoll *by Jean Kohut*

## CALENDAR

### May

4	8:00 am	Wheeler Gorge
5	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
10	7:30 am	Lockwood Valley
11		Tejon Ranch
18	8:00 am	Malibu Creek State Park
24/25		Big Morongo

**\*\*\*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.

### 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, May 4 Wheeler Gorge Campground

Wheeler Gorge is a wonder to bird in the spring, when the oak trees teem with migrating warblers, tanagers, vireo and flycatchers. Up to six species of hummingbird are a possibility. As many as eight species of flycatcher, including Olive-sided, Western Wood-pewee, Dusky, Hammond's and Pacific-slope can be found. Swainson's Thrushes are also found regularly along the stream bed and Hutton's Vireo should be singing from the tree tops. Add to that resident woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, towhees and titmice, and you have the perfect recipe for a great day of birding. Meet at 8 am at the entrance to the campground on highway 33. Leaders: Kay Register and Mary Hansen. Kay Register: (805) 258-1025

### Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month at 9am. 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, May 10 Lockwood Valley

The Lockwood Valley and its canyons are under-birded areas in Ventura County that deserve much closer attention in spring. To that end, we will spend the day in the Lockwood Valley area, driving along Lockwood Valley Road, Highway

33 and completing our loop via Quatal Canyon Road. Target species include Brewer's, Black-chinned and Bell's Sparrows, Hairy Woodpecker, Pacific-slope, Olive-sided, Gray and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Wood-pewee, Mountain Quail, Scott's Oriole, Lazuli Bunting and Lawrence's Goldfinch. While we are not venturing out much beyond the borders of Ventura County, there are **limited facilities and no water** on this trip. Also, Quatal Canyon Road can be rough with frequent ruts. Though not usually necessary, a high-clearance vehicle is preferred. Please plan accordingly. Meet in the parking lot at the Mountain View Mini Mart, 6929 Lockwood Valley Road, in Frazier Park at 7:30 am. Trip leader is Matthew Page (805) 990-6534 or [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org). Please call or email to confirm your space on the trip.

### Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup> Tejon Ranch

Despite having just been to the ranch in April, we expect a different kind of trip this time. The ranch is impressive. The habitats vary from the hot, arid Antelope Valley to the cool mountains of the Transverse Range, which top out at 6000 foot elevation. Our emphasis on this trip will be mountain breeders, with a special interest in finding Purple Martin. Despite this focus, we still will see a great range of species. Golden Eagle, Purple Finch, Mountain Quail, Chipping Sparrow and others will be targets. Base biologist Scott Pipkin and Matthew Page will lead this trip to the higher, less traveled portions of the ranch. If you are so inclined, you can make a weekend of this and the prior day's Lockwood Valley trip, spending the night in the Grapevine Area. Please sign up in advance with Matthew Page at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

### Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Malibu Creek State Park

Malibu Creek State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains features 15 miles of streamside trails through oak and sycamore woodlands. It also has been extensively used as a movie set for features and TV shows. We will look for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, bluebirds, Lazuli Bunting,

*(continued on page 3)*

*(field trips continued from page 2)*

grosbeaks and orioles. We will meet at the Rancho Park-and-Ride at the junction of Highways 101 and 23 at 8:00 for carpooling. There is a \$12.00 fee at Malibu Creek State Park, so bring money for the fee for yourself or to share with your carpool partner. Trip leader: Linda Easter (805) 482-7537

**Saturday/ Sunday May 24-25  
Big Morongo**

Come with us and spend the weekend birding the desert canyons and campgrounds of San Bernardino County looking for northbound migrants and desert resident birds. Target species for the weekend include Scott's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Hopefuls include migrating warblers, hawks, buntings, hummingbirds and vireo. Lodging is available in Desert Hot Springs as well as Yucca Valley or Joshua Tree. There is also the option to camp in many of the area compounds or on BLM land. Please contact trip leader Matthew Page at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) for meeting time and location, more details and for sign up.

**In Memoriam**

It is with sadness that I report the passing of fellow Audubon member and dear friend Sue Owens. She passed away Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by family at home in Westlake Village. She was born in 1924 in Maryland. She moved to California as a young woman to pursue a career in nursing. She is predeceased by her loving husband of 63 years, "RV" Owens.

Sue was an avid birder and was also active with the California Native Plant Society. She created a wonderful habitat for all kinds of birds. It wasn't unusual for her to call with a rare sighting. One winter we had a Mountain Chickadee stay for days! In the last few years Sue was unable to attend our walks, but we

enjoyed many hours of birding right in her backyard. Orioles, hummingbirds, quail, towhees and Oak Titmouse were almost like her pets! Through Sue and others like her who believed in conserving our natural areas our own Wildwood Regional Park exists today. Thank you, Sue, for your intelligence, your compassion and your friendship. You will be missed.

Julie

**AUCTION/DINNER PICTURE**



*"Pileated Woodpeckers" quilted wall hanging  
by Margery Coler*

photo by Don Williamson

***New Members***

Diane Annis  
Chene Bailey  
Frank and Jennifer de la Torre

***Donors***

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Nancy&Linda&Dennis Allen  
Barbara Eichberger  
Richard and Lynn Engelbert  
Wendy Gregson  
Western Foundation  
Carolyn Greene  
Ron and Peggy Lucas  
Dee Lyon

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

May, 2014



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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



**Volunteer Needed**

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

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

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