



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

Visit Us At: <http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org>

Or: <http://www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon>

VOL. 46

December , 2014

NO. 4

## General Meeting, December 1st 7:30 pm Western Foundation

by Dee Lyon



Frank DeMartino, our webmaster, ABC coordinator, co-compiler for Ventura CBC and creator of Warbler Bingo will give a presentation on improving birding skills. Frank has been actively birding Ventura County for the last six years and just hit 300 species earlier this year. He has prepared a very interactive, entertaining and educational talk aimed at helping everyone, from novice backyard birdwatchers to expert county listers. With a focus on Ventura County, Frank will address such classic VenCo issues as: Laguna Fever, private property, commonly misidentified species, reporting sensitive birds and more! If you attend only one more CVAS presentation this year, this is the one to go to!

The Los Angeles Times had an article on “repurposing.” Old fire hose has been hammered onto docks as boat bumpers, woven together for jungle gyms, stretched onto horse fences and cut into pieces to sharpen razors!

Old Astroturf can be used for playing fields. It can be used for kids to run on in any yard.

There is now a company Repurposed Materials. Seems as though we could recycle much more in our area. How about that dirty plastic that can’t be recycled? Can’t it be used under mulch as a base for natives? There are probably lots of holes for the rainwater to run through.

Lots of construction material is going into landfills. Can’t some of it go to Ventura Freecycle? Old furniture and appliances can go to Habitat for Humanity. Sew all of those old birding T-shirts into a quilt. What can be done with old styrofoam?

Think of ideas for repurposing!

### Online Purchases using CVAS website

Let your holiday shopping make bucks for birds. Remember that on the right side of our homepage are graphics for either Eagle Optics or Amazon. Clicking on either one takes you to their website, with CVAS receiving a small dividend. You can copy these hyperlinks to your desktop or phone. tablet. Happy shopping!

\*\*\* Pre-meeting Dinner\*\*  
Ottavio’s

Call Nobuko McClure  
For Reservations (805) 482-0411

### CALENDAR

#### December

- 1 5:15 pm pre-meeting dinner Ottavio’s
- 1 7:30 pm General Meeting Western Foundation
- 7 8:00 am Lake Casitas Area
- 11 9:00 am Beginning Bird Walk
- 14 8:30 am Malibu Lagoon
- 21 Christmas Bird Count
- 27 8:30 am Arroyo Verde Park
- January 23<sup>rd</sup> Point Mugu
- March 28<sup>th</sup> Save the Date! Auction/Dinner



## 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!

### **Saturday, December 7th Lake Casitas Area**

Meet at the Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:15 am or outside the entrance to Lake Casitas at 8 am. We'll explore the eastern arm of the lake and the Bald Eagle nests, watching out for wintering species. We'll also look around outside the lake on Santa Ana Road. Target species include Zone-tailed Hawk (unlikely), Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lewis's Woodpecker, White-tailed Kite and other woodland birds. Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

### **Thursday, December 11th Beginner's Bird Walk**

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

### **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> 2014 Malibu Lagoon**

Meet at the Rancho Park & Ride at 8 am or at Malibu Lagoon at 8:30 am. The lagoon has recently been restored, improving water flow and habitat. Expected species include gulls, terns, shorebirds, sparrows, grebes and ducks. Trip leader: Ron Barns (805) 341-3983

### **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 Conejo Valley 40<sup>th</sup> 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 115<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Sunday December 21, 2014**, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 40<sup>th</sup> CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 190 species. Last year's highlights included 3 White-winged Scoters, 2 Black Scoters, Common Goldeneye, Red-necked Greg, 24 American White Pelicans,

8 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 2 Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, 10 Ridgway's Rails, 15 Red Knots, Stilt Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Costa's Hummingbird, 2 Vermilion Flycatchers, Tropical Kingbird, California Gnatcatcher, 10 Vesper Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow and White-throated Sparrow. Birds recorded within a week of the count, but missed on the count day, were Wood Duck and Ring-necked Duck.

Notable misses for the count period were Eurasian Wigeon, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Long-tailed Duck, Clark's Grebe, Least Bittern, Common Gallinule, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Common Ground-Dove, Western Screech-Owl, Bell's Sparrow and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Moreover, when all was said and done, we recorded 25,500 individual birds! We hope to do even better this year, but need hardy CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and being ready to bird.

The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program is up and working, so just go to <http://tinyurl.com/mclmzgl> (Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO.) This system allows you to register for as many CBCs as you wish, and there is no registration fee! Your name and contact information is forwarded to me, so I have a better idea of how many people are going to participate and can plan accordingly. For those who prefer to contact me directly, please send an email to [pereksta@pacbell.net](mailto:pereksta@pacbell.net), call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the December meeting at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. We will need 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 pre-register as soon as possible, and let me know where or with whom you want to bird.

You can also help by "staking out" unusual species such as American White Pelican, Cattle

(continued on page 3)

**Christmas Bird Count**  
(continued from page 2)

Egret, Wood Duck, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pine Siskin and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

In addition, we often come close to missing a few common species, including Hutton's Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch and Townsend's Warbler. So keep an eye out for those prior to the CBC as well.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the "side hunt." Participants in the "side hunt" would split up into teams and see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals in a day. Dr. Chapman proposed instead to identify, count and record the birds they saw, thus founding what is considered the most significant citizen-based conservation effort in the USA. The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you do not wish to go further away to count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attach an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch or keep an oriole around for us to include.

We will gather to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals, compare notes and socialize beginning at 6:00 pm at Nobuko McClure's home. 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 easy to serve. Paper goods, plastic utensils, coffee and tea will be provided – or bring your own beverage.

To cover the cost of the pizza and paper goods etc. we will be asking for a \$5/person donation. If you plan on attending please **call Nobuko at (805) 482-0411** so she can plan accordingly and provide directions to her home.

**Saturday, Dec 27<sup>th</sup> 2014**  
**Arroyo Verde Park**

Enjoy birding the oak woodland, grassy areas and chaparral in this long, broad canyon. We will be pre-scouting for the Ventura Audubon Christmas Bird Count (January 3<sup>rd</sup>).

Target birds will include: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Cassin's Kingbird, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Directions: Take Victoria Ave. north, left on Foothill Rd., right on Day Rd. at entrance to the park. Meet at the last parking lot by the restrooms at 8:30 am. NOTE: There is a \$2 entrance fee for parking on the weekends! Leader: David Torfeh (805) 64703325

**Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Point Mugu Navy Base**

This trip requires pre-signup at least 3 weeks prior to the trip and is limited to 20 people.

**Signups are now available only in person at CVAS general meetings due to the extensive nature of the application.**

US citizenship, Driver's License number and Social Security number are required to complete application. Picture ID is required on the day of the trip. No cameras or video equipment are permitted on the base. Meet at the base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd. and Naval Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is David Pereksta. **Please sign up in person at the December or January general meetings as applications for the trip will not be accepted otherwise.**

**Back to School with Audubon Adventures**

Designed for Grades 3-5, Audubon Adventures offers top-quality science learning kits from the environmental experts at the National Audubon Society. Each new edition on a nature topic will thrill and inspire students with engaging text, photos and illustrations that bring the natural world to life. It is aligned to national learning standards.

Call or email Thelma Williams, education Chair to order for your school or child's classroom. (805) 492-2796  
or [mredd75775@aol.com](mailto:mredd75775@aol.com)

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

December, 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	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Treasurer	Richard Armerding		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	Jean Stoutenborough Catherine Armerding		membership
Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough		librarian
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	<a href="http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org">http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org</a>		



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.**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_