



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

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## Conservation by Dee Lyon



Delist the Coastal California Gnatcatcher? DNA studies are supposed to clarify whether a population of birds is different enough to be a unique species and require protection.

Some experts are challenging the status of the Coastal California Gnatcatcher as a distinct subspecies, separate from the large and healthy Baja California population. They cite a new DNA study. Other experts question the study. How are we to know who is correct? The new study is suspect, since it was funded by those seeking to develop coastal areas.

As background, an article in Science Magazine (Sept. 30, 2005) stated that 80% of the Coastal California Gnatcatcher habitat was gone by the late 1980's. The issue was battled in courts for two years before the California Gnatcatchers was listed as endangered.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) has been called the strongest conservation law in the world. It forbids anyone from harming an "endangered species." One expert estimates that 190 species would have become extinct without the protection of this act.

Before a species may be removed from the endangered list, it must have a healthy population and adequate habitat. Only nine have reached that goal. Designating private land as restricted

"critical habitat" contributes to seemingly endless legal battles, draining the scarce resources of conservation groups. Less money is available for implementing recovery plans.

. Landowners must be encouraged to lessen their reliance on litigation.



AS WINTER GIVES WAY TO SPRING,  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL  
FLING.

YOU WILL HAVE A WHILE TO WAIT,  
BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY,**  
**MARCH 12, 2016**

CVAS DINNER AND FUNDRAISER AUCTION.

## Take Action to Save Birds and Lizards by Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin

Help prevent the unnecessary fatalities of birds in our community. At our April program Reed Tollefson, the manager of the Audubon Kern River Preserve, presented disturbing information about "Wildlife Death Traps."

"Open Holes in the Tops of Vertical Poles" have been and continue to be silent killers. Birds either fall into the metal or plastic pipe openings or enter looking for nesting areas or

(continued on page 2)

## **Take Action to Save Birds and Lizards** (continued)

refuge from predators. Once inside they are unable to open their wings to fly out. The smooth sides make it impossible to climb out. Inevitably birds, lizards and possibly other creatures suffer a miserable, unnecessary death from starvation and exposure.

Open vertical pipes kill birds indiscriminately. Both common birds and protected species have been found among the layers of dead birds in open pipes. This annihilation can occur in pipes from one to ten inches wide, including open ventilation pipes on buildings and outhouses. Audubon California staff pulled down a twenty-foot-tall ventilation pipe in 2009 from an abandoned irrigation system and discovered a seven-foot-tall mass composed entirely of decomposed carcasses of hundreds of dead birds and animals, including kestrels, flickers, bluebirds and fence lizards. The date etched into the concrete at the base of the pipe showed that it had been in place for more than fifty years.

The CVAS Board has decided to move forward with a “*No Open Holes in the Tops of Poles*” conservation campaign. We need YOUR help. When you are out and about birding, hiking or just enjoying nature in our local parks, forests, and other natural landscapes, please note where there are uncapped poles and unscreened vents, especially on public land. Snap a photo, get a GPS point and note a trail/road name and mile-marker. Assemble this information with the name of the administering agency and type of pole/vent. Forward that information to Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin and she will log the data onto a spreadsheet. The email address of Bonnie is [vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org). Incomplete information is better than no information, so do the best that you can to gather details if you are challenged by technology.

Using this data, our chapter will contact the agencies who administer the lands where open vertical poles have been documented. Additionally, we will contact utility companies, with open-topped poles located on easements throughout our community. We will provide them with educational outreach and request to have the tops of the poles sealed. The data will also support our efforts to obtain grant money that may be necessary

to successfully accomplish this needed bird conservation project.

The good news is that this issue is low-hanging fruit! You are a part of the solution, so please help with the initial inventory. Please share this information with other people who may have open vertical poles on their private property. For more information, please visit the website [http://kern.audubon.org/death\\_pipes.htm](http://kern.audubon.org/death_pipes.htm). The website includes information on how individuals can seal poles and vents on their property.

## **CVAS Membership Drive at Wild Birds Unlimited**

From September 13<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, if you renew your CVAS membership or join CVAS at Wild Birds Unlimited in Thousand Oaks, you will get 10 % off of your entire purchase for that day.

Simply bring your membership form and payment and turn it in at Wild Birds Unlimited. (We accept either cash or a check made out to “CVAS.” Sorry, we cannot accept credit cards for membership payment.)

If you opt to pay for your membership via PayPal, please print out a copy of your payment confirmation and bring it with you to the store to receive your discount. Your payment must be made from September 13<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and you must claim your discount during this time period.

Some exclusions apply: sale items, Daily Savings Club Memberships and Gift Cards cannot be discounted, and other coupons or discounts cannot also be applied. However, the 10% discount CAN be combined with your Daily Savings Club discount on bird-food, and DSC Bird Bucks CAN be used.

Wild Birds Unlimited is located at 720 N. Moorpark Rd, Thousand Oaks, in the Whole Foods Shopping Center. We are open Monday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm.

Full disclosure: Richard Armerding and Catherine Bourne, the owners of Wild Birds Unlimited, are CVAS members and are currently serving on the CVAS Board of Directors.

# Conejo Valley Audubon Society

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# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

June, 2015



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
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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
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Membership	Jean Stoutenborough Catherine Bourne		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>		
Send E-mail to	<a href="mailto:username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org">username@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, Calif. 91377-1126 or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**C5ZC230Z**

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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**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  
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