



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

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### General Meeting October 5th 7:30 pm Western Foundation Karen Mabb

The “urban jungle” of Southern California is home to more than a dozen species of parrots and parakeets. Come learn where you can find parrot hotspots and how to identify parrots that you might see on your urban safaris in Southern California.

Karen Mabb will discuss the origins of the California flocks, the ecological factors that help them succeed here and the identification of our locally breeding species. Many of these parrots are native to Mexico and South America. Some are even endangered in areas of their natural distribution. Karen Mabb has been a member of the California Parrot Project since 1995. She is now a biologist residing in San Diego. She has also developed the interests of multiple species habitat conservation and restoration.

### Installing Solar Panels? by Dee Lyon

A new solar power system was installed every 2.5 minutes in 2014, thanks in part to rapidly falling prices. Things to consider:

- 1) Federal investment tax credits of 30% of the cost of both parts and labor save an average of \$6000. This credit is slated to end at the end of 2016, though President Obama is trying to get it extended. Install before the tax credit expires.
- 2) If you lease a solar system the leasing company gets the credit rather than the homeowner. Also, a prospective buyer of your home may not be willing to take on the lease.
- 3) Homeowners in New York and Boston stand to benefit the most from solar power because they endure high electricity rates. The national average is about 13 cents per kilowatt hour.
- 4) Work only with installers who have more than five and preferably ten years of experience installing solar systems. Make sure that the contract with the installer includes coverage for repairs if water leaks in under the panels as a result of the installation.
- 5) To avoid the costs of re-installing the solar system, reroofing before the initial installation should be considered.
- 6) Be sure to get a Tesla to use all the electricity.

## CALENDAR

### October

3	8:00 am	Ojai Meadows
5	5:15 pm	Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
11	8:00 am	Laguna Tams and Oxnard Plain
18	8:30 am	Camino Real Park
24		Tejon Ranch

### \*\*\*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.

**Saturday, October 3rd  
Ojai Meadows**

Ojai Meadows is a jewel of woodland, meadows and marshes that is continuously 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 local species and where to find them. We expect to see Bluebirds, Kingbirds, Phoebes, Meadowlarks, marsh birds and birds native to the local oak woodlands in addition to migrating sparrows and warblers. Directions: Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride to carpool to the preserve at 7 am, or meet us at the preserve in Ojai at 8 am. Leader: Jesse Grantham (Note: Jesse will not be at the Las Posas Park and Ride, but will meet the group at 8 am at the preserve.) For more info please email [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org)

**Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>  
Laguna Tams and Oxnard Plain**

We will visit the Laguna Tams, noted for producing a wide variety of migrating warblers, vireos and sparrows, before trying the sod fields for pipits and plovers. We will then work our way down Arnold Road, where we can find warblers, sparrows and perhaps something completely unexpected. Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the tams at 8:00 am. Trip leader is Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin (805) 405-5632.

**Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>  
Camino Real Park**

Camino Real Park in Ventura can be a potential gold mine of warblers and other migrating species in the fall. The barrancas, eucalyptus, pines and ornamental trees entice southbound migrants to pause along their journeys. If you're lucky you might see a rarity such as a Black-throated

Blue Warbler, a Black-and-White Warbler or perhaps even a Baltimore Oriole. Meet at the park at 8:30 am or at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am to carpool. We'll begin at the east end of the park in case you desire to find and meet us at 8:30. Trip leader: Linda Easter (805) 482-7537

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>  
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 San Joaquin 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 plenty more. We also stand a good chance of seeing reintroduced Pronghorn. We will drive up Interstate 5 to Highway 138, where we will meet with conservancy docents who will lead us on this trip. Plan for the possibility of cool weather and expect to be in the field all day. There are no facilities on the ranch, so please pack a picnic lunch and plenty of water. This trip requires pre-registration and initially will be limited to CVAS members only. Trip limit: 10. Please email [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to sign up and receive trip information.

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**Beginning Bird Walk**

Our great appreciation goes to Angie Kobabe for organizing and leading the Beginning Bird Walk for over twenty years. She is stepping down from this role now.

If anyone would like to help pick up the baton and lead this activity please contact Ron Barns at 818-991-9967.

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## **Fast Five: Roadside Birding Safety**

*By Frank DeMartino*

Fall is nearly upon us and that means fall migration. Fans of warblers and Warbler Bingo especially love this time of year and flock to our local tamarisk trees with the hope of spotting a rare vagrant warbler. These trips, not unlike fall migration itself, are not without some risk. Laguna Road, in particular, hosts a variety of birds, birders and speeding vehicles every fall. If you are going to be birding on our near busy roads, here are five quick tips to help keep you safe:

**1. Park carefully.** Always pull off of the road as far as you can. Be sure to avoid parking too close to driveways. People will drive along these roads at excessive speeds, so give some thought to the residents in the area who will be trying to turn out of their driveways onto the roads. Would you want to risk those turns with no visibility?

**2. Watch where you step.** Often there are steep drop-offs next to these roads and distracted birders frequently end up slipping onto them. Always check your footing. If you start moving to chase a bird, make sure you're not too close to a ditch or stepping into traffic. A sprained ankle will quickly put an end to an otherwise enjoyable birding trip.

**3. Check the road often.** If you find yourself backing onto the street to get better views, be sure to check the road every 10-15 seconds for traffic. Don't assume that you'll always be able to hear approaching vehicles. Farm equipment and airplanes do a great job of masking the sound of oncoming traffic. Also, try not to linger in the roads. While pedestrians do get the right of way, birders who want to stand in the middle of the road to look for warblers do not. Be courteous to drivers, residents, workers and others who regularly use the space that you are birding.

**4. Work together.** If you are with someone, take turns checking on the traffic. If you see someone locked onto a bird, keep an eye on the road and alert them if there is a car approaching.

**5. Respect the Bees** Some of the local farmers have started keeping beehives near the tamarisk trees. Laguna road has several of these bee boxes set up in the shade of the trees. Wear covering clothing, give the boxes a wide berth and try to avoid disturbing the bees. If you are allergic to bee stings, take the necessary precautions before exploring these areas.

Stay safe and may fall migration bring you lots of amazing birds!



**Bullock's Oriole** *by Don Klabunde*



**Nuttall's Woodpecker** *by Don Klabunde*

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

**October, 2015**



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
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Programs	Cia DeMartino		programs
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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



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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 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

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