



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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## Flocks of Birds have Different Names by Dee Lyon

Flight of cormorants, Covert of coots, Murder of crows, Raft of ducks, Congregation of eagles, Charm of goldfinches, Covey of grouse, Skein of geese (flying), Gaggle of geese (ground), Colony of gulls, Siege of herons, Scold of jays, Exaltation of larks, Wisdom of owls, Colony of penguins, Nye of pheasants, Congress of ravens, Parliament of Rooks, Host of sparrows, Murmuration of Starlings, Flight of swallows, Lamentation of swans, Descent of woodpeckers, Herd of wrens.

Must be a lot of good scrabble words there!

Dee

### Save the Date

Come celebrate birds on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at the Second Annual Bird Festival at the King Gillette Ranch Interagency Visitor Center in Calabasas. This fun-filled day will include bird walks, interesting programs, information tables and live bird demonstrations. If you have the time and interest, we can sure use your help. CVAS will be having an information booth and will be leading three or four 45-minute bird walks. We need leaders and sweeps for the bird walks and CVAS members to help staff the booth. The festival will run from 8:30 am till 4:00 pm. Please contact Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin at [vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org) or (805)-405-5632 if you can lend a hand.

### General Meeting November 2nd 7:30 pm Western Foundation Arroyo Simi: Life on the Edge of the Urban Interface

Don Klabunde is a retired physicist, lifelong nature photographer and Chapter Photographer for the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. For the past two years Don has been studying the behavior and reproductive success of species that live along the Arroyo Simi. Join him for a photographic journey where we discover the secret lives of birds hidden away in plain sight within our urban habitat.

### CALENDAR

#### November

1	8:00 am	Malibu Creek State Park
2	5:15 pm	Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
2	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
6	7:45 am	Pt Mugu Naval Base
7	7:30 am	Camarillo Regional Park and Round Mountain
15	7:30 am	Ventura Settling Ponds
21		North Slope San Gabriels
29	8:00 am	Cañada Larga Road

#### \*\*\*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.

### **Sunday, November 1st Malibu Creek State Park**

Malibu Creek State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains features fifteen miles of streamside trails through oak and sycamore woodlands. It has also been extensively used as a movie set for many features and TV shows. We will look for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, bluebirds, warblers and orioles. We will meet at the Rancho Park and Ride at the junction of Highways 101 and 23 at 8:00 am for carpooling. There is a \$12.00 fee at Malibu Creek State Park, so bring money for the entrance fee and/or carpooling. Leader: Richard Armerding (310) 701-3678

### **Friday, November 6th Pt. Mugu Naval Base**

This trip, only for CVAS members, requires pre-signup at least 3 weeks prior to the trip and is limited to 15 people.

Email [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to sign up. Security clearance to the base must be arranged before you can attend and US citizenship is required as well as a picture ID. No cameras or video equipment are permitted. Meet at base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd and Naval Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is David Pereksta.

### **Saturday, November 7th Camarillo Regional Park & Round Mountain**

The Conejo Creek passes by both Camarillo Regional Park and Round Mountain near the CSUCI campus, providing much needed water to support a semi-riparian habitat. In and around the park we'll look for White-tailed Kite, Belted Kingfisher, Sora, Virginia and Ridgway's Rails, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows and perhaps even a Tropical Kingbird. Meet at the las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am to carpool as parking is limited at the park entrance. Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

### **Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Ventura Settling Ponds**

Join trip leader Frank DeMartino as he leads us around the settling ponds in Ventura to scour for ducks, herons, grebes, raptors, sparrows and even warblers. Frank enjoys birding the ponds and has much local knowledge of the species we can expect. If time allows the trip may also visit Marina Park to look for rock pipers. Directions: Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride to carpool at 7:30 am. Alternatively, meet at the harbor in the parking lot across the street from the ponds, where Spinnaker meets Angler Court. For more information, call Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733

### **Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> North Slope San Gabriels**

November brings fall color, raptors, sapsuckers, and crossbills (hopefully) to the north slopes of the San Gabriel Mountains. We will spend time at Pearblossom Park looking for crossbills and nuthatches, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin and sparrows. We will then visit St. Andrew's Priory, where we hope to find Red-breasted, Red-naped and perhaps even Williamson's or Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Along the route we will also keep an eye out for Prairie Falcon and Ferruginous Hawk. We then may move farther upslope. Or we may retreat to the agricultural fields to look for more raptors and perhaps even Mountain Plovers. This is an all day trip, so bring water, a picnic lunch, sunscreen and other essentials. A spotting scope would be very helpful, as would be FRS radios. Trip leader is Matthew Page. Email [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to sign up.

### **Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> Cañada Larga Road**

Cañada Larga Road is one of the more reliable spots in Ventura County to find good numbers of migrating and wintering birds in the fall. Though the road is only a few miles long, we can expect to find Roadrunners, Lark, White-crowned, possibly Golden-crowned and even Vesper Sparrows; bluebirds, hawk, kestrels and perhaps a Golden Eagle.

(continued on page 3)

## Fast Five: Driving Safety

By Frank DeMartino

Many of our birding trips begin when we get in our cars and head out to our favorite spots. Whether you are driving a few minutes to the local car pool location or a few hours up into the mountains, here are five quick tips to help keep you safe on the road.

1. **Check your tires.** A periodic visual inspection and air pressure check can help you avoid those dreaded flat tires when you're up in the mountains. Many an experienced birder has a story about when they had tire issues in some remote birding spot. Check your tires regularly for uneven wear, worn out tread, bulges, tears and punctures.

2. **Maintain your vehicle.** Regular maintenance can go a long way toward keeping your vehicle reliable. Nothing can ruin a long day of birding quite like returning to a car that won't start.

3. **Avoid distractions.** Drinking, eating, texting and talking on the phone are all popular distractions that can cause accidents. Birding while driving can also distract a driver. If there is a bird that you simply must look at, then pull over (at a safe distance) and bird on foot. Trying to get a good look at that hawk on the side of the road means that you're not paying enough attention to the road ahead.

4. **Rest up.** Are you planning to chase that mega-rarity that popped up a mere eight hours away? Get plenty of rest ahead of time. If you start to feel drowsy when you're on the road, then pull over and take a power nap. No bird, even a rare one, is worth the risk of falling asleep behind the wheel.

5. **Take breaks.** If you are driving for multiple hours, stop at a rest stop, scenic overlook or anywhere that looks interesting. Stretching your legs and taking a break from the road can really help refresh you and keep you more alert. Take the opportunity to grab your binoculars and bird a new area while you're at it. You never know what you might find there.

## Cañada Larga Road (continued from page 2)

Time allowing and at the leader's discretion, we can also 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 so as to minimize the number of cars. Meeting time is 8 am.

Leader: Karin Kersteter (805) 901-2203

## Online Purchases using CVAS Website

Feel like a wise owl? Your online purchases can raise money for bird conservation if you shop at Amazon. Go to the CVAS website at [www.conejovalleyaudubon.org](http://www.conejovalleyaudubon.org). On the right side of the homepage there will be graphics for Amazon. Click on the icon to go to their website and CVAS will be credited with sending you there.

CVAS will then receive a small dividend each time you use this hyperlink. This can add up to a lot of money for the birds!

For convenience, you can copy this hyperlink to your computer's desktop or to the home screen of your phone or tablet. If you need help contact our webmaster Frank DeMartino. Thanks in advance for your support and happy shopping!

Below is the icon to click on:



# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

**November, 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
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
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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**  
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