



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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NO. 4

General Meeting, December 7th 7:30 pm Western Foundation Seabirds Photos Markham's Storm-petrel Project

Although Larry Wan has a Ph.D in Engineering and Applied Science and is a successful entrepreneur, his passion and pride is being a naturalist, longtime environmental activist and nature photographer. He is the Chairman and Founder of **WAN (Western Alliance for Nature)**, a conservancy dedicated to preserving critical ecosystems and biodiversity.

Larry is a National Geographic Photography Award Winner who describes his photographs as "certified organic" in that they are composed and captured through the lens as is, with no "artificial additions," i.e. no digital manipulation. They meet the authenticity requirements of natural science publications and are for the purest art collectors who want to acquire and display the incomparable, unaltered artistry of nature. More information can be found on his website:

<http://www.wanconservancy.org>

This evening Larry will begin with a slide show of his seabird photos around the world, followed by a presentation on the Western Alliance for Nature's Markham Storm-petrel Project.

The Markham's Storm-petrel is a species endemic to the Humboldt Current, which flows off the coasts of Peru and northern Chile. Very little is known about the bird's reproductive biology.

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Benefits of Trees

by Dee Lyon

1. Trees combat climate change.
2. Trees reduce violence.
3. Trees conserve water by their shade.
4. Trees conserve energy by their shade.
5. Trees reduce runoff.
6. Trees mark the seasons.
7. Tree planting brings a community together.
8. Trees provide habitat for wildlife.
9. Trees block ugly views.
10. Trees provide food.
11. Trees provide wood.
12. Trees increase property values.

A note from Dee:

Dee says A SUPREMELY BAD IDEA by Luke Dempsey is the funniest birding book she has ever read!

Save the Date

Come celebrate birds on December 5th at the Second Annual Bird Festival at the King Gillette Ranch Interagency Visitor Center in Calabasas. There will be bird walks, interesting programs, information tables and live bird demonstrations. If you have the time and interest we can sure use your help. Please contact Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin at vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org or (805) 405-5632 if you can lend a hand.

CALENDAR

December

5		Bird Fest King King Gillette Ranch
6	8:00 am	Hansen Dam
7	5:15 pm	Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
7	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
12	8:45 am	Carpenteria Salt Marsh Nature Park
20		Christmas Bird Count
27		Sierra Pelona

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, December 6 Hansen Dam

Hansen Dam and its seasonal lake in the northern San Fernando Valley include montane chaparral, oak woodland and riparian habitats. The dam is just downstream of the confluence of Big and Little Tujunga Creeks. There is an enormous diversity of land and water birds year round at this lake and surrounding habitats, with the greatest diversity in winter. Such winter residents include Greater White-fronted Goose, Eurasian Wigeon (rare), gulls, sapsuckers, woodpeckers and vireos. There are also nine species of raptors, fifteen species of sparrows and even rare warblers such as Pine Warbler (very rare.) We'll spend most of our time looking for these species while wandering around the lake and riparian habitat. We'll also search the pines and oaks for wintering passerines.

Directions: From Ventura County take the 118 east to its terminus with the 210 freeway and continue heading east towards Pasadena. Exit at Foothill Blvd (Exit 8) and turn right. Turn left into the parking area within one quarter mile and meet there. Meeting time: 8 am. Trip leader: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Saturday, December 12 Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park is part of a critically important Southern California estuary which supports many sensitive plant and animal species. The site includes extensive wetland and channel habitats along with some uplands. It lies adjacent to a sandy beach, a subtidal rocky reef and kelp beds. The park provides habitat for migratory waterfowl as well as endangered plants and animals, such as Salt marsh bird's-beak, Ridgway's Rail and Belding's Savannah Sparrow.

Join CVAS as we explore this park in search of ducks, geese, sparrows and blackbirds. Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:00 am or at the salt marsh park entrance on Ash Avenue in Carpinteria at 8:45 am. Bring scopes if you have them. Trip leader: Linda Easter (805) 482-7537

Sunday, December 20 Christmas Bird Count

Please join us for the annual Christmas Bird Count and help cover the CVAS "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle. This is our 41st CBC and we're hoping to top last year's phenomenal count of 196 species! When all was said and done we recorded over 28,200 individual birds!

The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program should be up and working during November, so just go to:

www.audubon.org/content/join-christmas-bird-count

The Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO. This system allows you to register for as many CBC's 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, call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the December general meeting.

As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to CLU. As always, we need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State 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 you are available to bird or who you want to bird with.

You can also help by "staking out" unusual

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.Christmas Bird Count (continued from page 2)

or hard to find species such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, 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 on those species prior to the CBC.

The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you do not wish to go out and count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird, sparrow finch or oriole 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'oeuvres 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 house.

Sunday, December 27th **Sierra Pelona**

The Sierra Pelona Mountains encompass the mountains between the San Gabriels, the Tehachapis and the Emigdios. Located north of Santa Clarita, west of Angeles National Forest and south of the San Andreas Fault, the mountains include areas such as Castaic Lake, Lake Hughes and Elizabeth Lake. Within these mountains and lakes we can expect to find ducks, geese and grebes on the water; woodpeckers, bluebirds, sparrows and warblers in the oak woodland; and raptors over the open countryside. We'll start our morning at Lake Castaic at the lower lagoon, looking for the

occasional wintering Red-necked Grebe and sparrows lurking near the waterside. Then we will move up the canyon passing through extensive oak woodland, searching for woodpeckers and sapsuckers through the heart of the Sierra Pelona. After stopping at Cottonwood Campground, we'll visit Lake Hughes (and possibly Lake Elizabeth) for Wood Duck, teal, shoveler and Hooded Merganser (hopeful.)

We'll finish the day emerging into the Antelope Valley with stops at Holiday and Quail Lakes. Bring lunch, water and a few dollars for entrance to Castaic Lake if carpooling (\$11 entrance fee per vehicle.) Dress in layers since weather will vary by location. To sign up email fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org
Trip Leader: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Friday, January 29th **Point Mugu Naval Base**

This trip, only for CVAS members, requires pre-signup at least three weeks prior to the trip and is limited to three people. To sign up email fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org 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 the base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd. and Naval Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is David Pereksta (805) 659-5740

General Meeting –Markham's Storm-petrel (continued from pg. 1)

Last year the Western Alliance for Nature made ornithological history by discovering that the Markham's Storm-petrel nested in the Atacama desert. Because this species nests in underground cavities in desert regions where mining activity is present, there is great concern that additional mines could disturb or even destroy entire colonies. The Alliance is sponsoring ongoing explorations in northern Chile to study these issues. This work could also help in discovering the breeding range for two other species of Storm-petrels, the Ringed and Elliot's Storm-petrel.

You'll see first-time-ever photos and videos of Markham's Storm-petrel in its desert nest cavities.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

December, 2015



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Conservation	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
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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

Name _____
 Address _____
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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

Name _____ Otherwise newsletter will come by email

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