



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

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## General Meeting, January 4 7:30 pm Western Foundation Richard Armerding

Richard Armerding will present on Project FeederWatch, a citizen science program that tracks bird activity at backyard bird feeders. He will tell us how we can use the data from the project to learn what the most commonly reported birds are for our area. He will also talk about what these birds like to eat, and will have some “fun facts” about them. Some information about these familiar birds might surprise you! Richard has been watching and feeding birds for over 20 years, since his wife, Catherine, got him into the hobby. Currently Richard and Catherine have nine seed feeders, five suet feeders and six nectar feeders in their yard. Their backyard bird list for 2015 stands at about 45 species. It was in part because of their love of backyard birding that Richard and Catherine opened and currently run the Wild Birds Unlimited store in Thousand Oaks.



Cia & Frank DeMartino with Joel Price  
(Mayor of Thousand Oaks) *by Don Klabunde*

## HERITAGE PARK PLANTING DEC 12

Led by Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin and Dee Lyon about two dozen people from CVAS and the community planted 120 California native plants at Heritage Park on Dec 12. CVAS and the City of Thousand Oaks and the Conejo Open Space Foundation are all participating. It takes a village!



The Whole Gang *by Don Klabunde*

## CALENDAR

### January

2	8:00 am	Rustic Canyon / Happy Camp
4	5:15 pm	Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
4	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
10	8:30 am	Veteran's Park
15-18		Central Valley Birding Weekend
24	8:00 am	Malibu Lagoon
29	7:45 am	Point Mugu
30	8:00 am	Lake Casitas

**\*\*\*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, January 2 Rustic Canyon / Happy Camp**

Rustic Canyon parallels the golf course. It passes through sage scrub and eventually enters some oak woodland and riparian areas as the canyon turns and heads east. Sparrows, goldfinches, towhees, roadrunners, Phainopepla and more should dominate. Raptors possible. From Hwy 118 in Moorpark turn north on Princeton Ave., then left on Campus Park Dr. Meet at the gate at 8:00 am. Trip leaders: Don and Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023

### **Sunday, January 10 Veteran's Park**

Half day trip. Joint trip with Ventura Audubon! This spacious park in the foothills above Sylmar is often full of surprises. In severe winter weather, mountain species can be pushed down from the mountains into the park. There are also rolling grassy hills which attract Flickers and Varied Thrushes. The eucalyptus trees near the disc golf course host all four species of sapsuckers. Last year's trip gave us great views of a very cooperative male Williamson's Sapsucker, as well as an adorable Hutton's Vireo!

Target species will include all four species of sapsuckers, Red-shouldered Hawk, Merlin, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Fox Sparrow and Golden-crowned Kinglet. To carpool from Simi Valley: Meet at 7:45 am at the Stearns exit Park-and-Ride (but please note: the leader will meet you at the park.) Directions: 118 east to 210 east, exit Hubbard, go north (towards the foothills), turn left on Garrick, turn right on Sayre. As you enter the park, turn left and park in the parking lot on the left hand

side. There are restrooms at the park. Bring snacks and a lunch, water, binoculars and sun protection. Dress in layers and wear comfortable shoes. NOTE: Please be aware that this park is a disc golf course. We will be birding in the course area, but the players do have the right of way. Also, be prepared for a good deal of walking, as the park is very large. Meet at the park at 8:30 am. Leader: Karin Kersteter (805) 901-2203

### **January 15-18 Central Valley Birding Weekend**

Join us as we tour San Joaquin Valley winter birding sites such as Pixley NWR, Kern NWR, Buena Vista Lake and others. Colonel Allensworth State Historical Park will be our home base as we stay in the historical hotel. Target birds include Sandhill Crane, Mountain Plover, Ferruginous Hawk, Tircolored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Le Conte's Thrasher. Guided tours of the hotel by night as well as the Tule Elk Refuge are also possibilities. Contact [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to sign up or for more information. Trip leaders: Matthew Page, Karin Kersteter and Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin

### **Sunday, January 24 Malibu Lagoon**

Recently renovated, the Malibu Lagoon features channels, open river and coastline. We can expect to see waterfowl, grebes, loons, gulls, terns and shorebirds. We will also see sparrows, wrens, warblers and flycatchers. Expect as many as 60-70 species, with good weather and good luck. Carpool from Rancho Park-and-Ride in Thousand Oaks at 7:15 am or meet outside the lagoon on PCH at 8 am. Trip leader: Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin (805) 405-5632

### **Friday, January 29 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 25 people.

(continued on page 3)

## Point Mugu Naval Base (cont. from pg. 2)

Contact [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to check availability. US citizenship and DL# required as well as picture ID on day of trip. No cameras or video equipment permitted. You must be signed up with CVAS to participate. NO late arrivals and NO entrance to the base apart from the group. If you cannot abide by this policy, you will be banned from future trips to 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.

### Saturday, January 30 Lake Casitas

Meet outside the entrance to Lake Casitas at 8 am. We'll carpool or walk to the lake together. We'll explore the eastern arm of the lake, the Bald Eagle nests and look for wintering species. We'll also look around outside the lake on Santa Ana Road. Target species include Bald Eagle, Zone-tailed Hawk (unlikely), Golden-crowned Sparrow, Lewis's Woodpecker, White-tailed Kite and other woodland birds. Trip leader: Richard Armerding (310) 701-3678

#### Fast Five: Weather Safety

*By: Frank DeMartino*

Between the multi-year drought and the approaching El Niño winter, weather has been a hot topic in California lately. We have had heat waves, dry winds and unpredictable rains. We'll discuss associated risks now.

**1. Heat** Sunscreen, shade and water are your best allies in the fight against heat-related problems. The risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke spikes when the outside temperature reaches 90 degrees. Normally that doesn't happen too often around here, but we had many hot days this past summer. Symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke include nausea, headaches, dizziness, confusion and cramps. If you are in the field with someone who starts exhibiting signs of heat-related illness, encourage them to rest and drink water. If the symptoms persist or worsen seek medical attention immediately.

**2. Rain** We're all hoping for rain in the coming months, but since we have gone without significant amounts for so long, we should be prepared for the troubles that rains can bring. Drops of oil and lubricants coat all of our highways. As soon as the rains begin roads become very slick. Drive defensively. Check the weather forecast before you head out for any trips to see if rain is a possibility. Even a small amount of rain can turn a dirt trail into a greasy, muddy slipping hazard. Heavy rains in certain areas can lead to mudslides and flash flooding.

**3. Flash Floods / Mudslides** Many of our remote birding spots are located in areas that are prone to flooding during heavy rains. The PCH seems to get some degree of closure from rockslides after any significant rain. If rain is in the forecast, try not to head to an area where you could become stranded if the roads were flooded out. Mountainous areas are particularly susceptible to mudslides and flash floods, even if it doesn't rain in your area. If you are caught in an area when a flash flood warning is issued, get to higher ground as soon as possible.

**4. Snow** Believe it or not, winter is coming. It's already starting to cool down at night, especially at higher elevations. Snow, when it happens, can cause some road closures in the mountain areas. Be sure to check your destination to make sure that it is still open before you spend hours driving there. Dress warmly. Gloves, scarves and warm hats aren't just for the east coast.

**5. Wind** It seems we've gotten to the time of year when the winds start kicking around every afternoon, blowing dust and debris all over the place. If you are out birding and the winds pick up, chances are you know what it's like to be pelted with sand, dirt, leaves or whatever else is lying around. If the dust is bothering you and you are determined to stay out there, consider some safety glasses ( or goggles ) and a dust respirator to cut down on the risk of getting dirt in your eyes, sinuses and lungs. Stay safe and let's hope for good weather during our Christmas Bird Counts!

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

**January, 2016**



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	Dr. Kathy Jonokuchi	818-324-5759	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	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**

**C6ZC230Z**

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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 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 to receive newsletter by mail

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Otherwise newsletter will come by email

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