



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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VOL. 48

December, 2016

NO. 4

General Meeting, December 5 7:30 pm Western Foundation Pelagic Birding Just Offshore Joel Barrett

Joel Barrett has been working for Island Packers out of Ventura for the past 13 years. Being on a boat five days a week allows him to accumulate an extensive familiarity with the wildlife found just offshore. Joel believes that any given day on the water has the potential to result in new and exciting encounters with nature. The Channel Islands National Park is close to shore, but a world away. The waters and islands here in Southern California are rich with life and accessible year round. Join Joel as he discusses the ins and outs of Pelagic Birding and island birding opportunities. Enjoy photos and descriptions of our expected avifauna that can be found just a few miles from the coast.



Conservation Eco-friendly Gift Ideas by Dee Lyon

The non-gift gift: Ask for gifts that don't involve buying anything: time together, a back rub, babysitting or offering to teach someone how to do something. Or consider donations to charity, certified carbon offsets or seeds from your garden. What about tickets to an event, nontoxic house cleaning services, gift certificates for a spa, music downloads or bird call downloads. Check out 25 great consumerless gift ideas (<http://tinyurl.com/hsh2e05>).

Kiva gift cards lets the recipients support low income individuals from around the globe through repaid micro loans. (<http://www.tinyurl.com/jgprfc>).

More gift ideas

- 1) Solar-powered flashlight, radio or outdoor lighting
- 2) Pre-loved gifts: from estate sales, flea markets or antique stores
- 3) Gift baskets with reusable glass, ceramic or metal storage containers
- 4) Organic, fair trade chocolate

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CALENDAR

December

4	8:00 am	Krotona Road
5	5:15 pm	Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
9	9:00 am	Gull Identification Class
10		Gull Identification Class Bird Walk
11	8:00 am	Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park
18		Christmas Bird Count

*****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 4th Krotona Road

A new field trip location will be added this fall in the Ojai area. Jesse Grantham has arranged for Audubon members to bird the Krotona Institute of Theosophy property on the outskirts of Ojai. These private grounds comprise 115 acres of oak grasslands, sage thickets and manicured grounds with ornamental trees and shrubs. We will have access to the more formal garden areas. Last year Krotona produced the field sparrow (at the time the 13th record for California), Townsends' Solitaire, Zone-tailed Hawk and Red-naped Sapsucker. Other species frequently seen are Purple Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Species observed in the past include Red Crossbill, Steller's Jay and Pygmy Nuthatch. The trip will begin at 8:00 am at the Library Parking lot at the Institute. To reach the Institute travel north on Rt. 33 through Mira Monte. After Mira Monte the next traffic light will be Rt. 150 (to Santa Barbara). The next traffic light will be Tico Rd. After this light travel about another mile to the first road on the left, which is Hermosa Rd. Turn left on Hermosa Road and then proceed straight through the stone gates of the Institute. Follow the road to the top of the hill and at the Site Map sign on the right the road splits into three forks. Take the middle fork to the parking area. Trip leader is Jesse Grantham (805) 746-0975

Gull Identification –David Pereksta December 9th and 10th

Are you ready for the challenge? Gulls are often the "last frontier" for many birders. Please join the Conejo Valley Audubon Society for our class by Avian Biologist Extraordinaire David Pereksta. On Friday December 9th there will be a class from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in Thousand Oaks.

The December 10th field trip location will be revealed at the December 9th class.

Registration is open to Conejo Valley Audubon members only (you can become a member at <http://www.tinyurl.com/hdq8uef>). Class size is limited to 20. To register send an email with your name, email address and phone number to Bonnie at vice-president@conejovalleyaudubon.org

Sunday, December 11th Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park

Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park is part of a critically important Southern California estuary. It 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, subtidal rocky reef and kelp beds. The reserve provides habitat for migratory waterfowl as well as endangered plants and animals. These include salt marsh bird's-beak, Light-footed Clapper Rail and Belding's Savannah Sparrow. Join CVAS as we explore this natural reserve in search of ducks, geese, sparrows and blackbirds. Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:15 am or at the salt marsh at 8 am. Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

Sunday, December 18th Christmas Bird Count

If you are looking for an easy way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 117th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 42nd CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's phenomenal count of 199 species! Will this be the year we record 200 species? Last year's highlights included 2 Eurasian Wigeons, 2 White-winged Scoters, Black Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, Brown Booby, 7 American White Pelicans, 2 Reddish Egrets, 2 Cattle Egrets,

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26 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 5 Red Knots, 15 Common Ground-Doves, 2 White-winged Doves, 2 Burrowing Owls, 2 Costa's Hummingbirds, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 2 Vermilion Flycatchers, Tropical Kingbird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, 2 White-throated Sparrows and 2 Swamp Sparrows. When all was said and done we recorded 27,000 individual birds! We hope to do even better this year, but need CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and being ready to bird.

The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program should be up and working during November, so just go to <http://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 CBCs 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, David Pereksta, directly, please send an email to pereksta@pacbell.net, call (805) 659-5740 or sign up during the December meeting at the Western Foundation.

As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to CLU in Thousand Oaks. We need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Syacamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs 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" 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. So keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the "side hunt." Participants in the "side hunt" would split up into teams and see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals in a day. Dr. Chapman proposed instead to identify, count and record the birds they saw. The founded what is today considered the most significant citizen-based conservation effort in the USA. 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 backyard.

We will gather to tally up the CBC 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.

Conservation

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- 5) Shade-grown organic coffee
- 6) Fair trade gifts ()
- 7) Reusable lunch kit
- 8) Nontoxic cleaning kit
- 9) Basket of LED light bulbs
- 10) Lowflow shower head
- 11) Offer to weather strip windows or doors
- 12) Smart power strip
- 13) Programmable thermostat
- 14) Give a tree and plant it

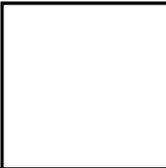
ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

December, 2016



Officers and Committee Chairs		Usernames	
President	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Vice Pres	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	805-405-5632	vice-president
Secretary	Cia DeMartino		secretary
Treasurer	Richard Armerding		treasurer
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	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	(this position is open – please apply!)		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.

For information on joining the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org

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

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____