



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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NO. 4

General Meeting, December 4 7:30 pm Western Foundation Panama, Birds and Possibilities

Jess Morton gives a look at the birds and wildlife of a small country with big biodiversity. On a recent visit to Gamboa, home of the Rainforest Reserve and other birding hotspots, Jess had a chance to photograph tanagers, trogons and the Titan, a crane without wings. He also photographed the Helicopter Damselfly with an eight inch wingspan. Jess met birder and conservation leader Guido Berguido, who is assembling a cloudforest preserve on Cerro Chucanti as an eventual national park. Biologists visiting this remote reserve have discovered dozens of species new to science, including a tree, a snake and a salamander.



Fork-tailed Flycatcher

Conservation

by Dee Lyon

Birdwatching – a recreational sport

Remember when Sports Illustrated put birding on its cover with the title “Most Grueling Sport!”? Because whoever is trying to win the title of Birder of the Year has to be all over North America for 365 days looking for 750 different species. The movie *The Big Year* memorialized the amazing effort it takes to be the big winner.

Birdwatching is also a multi-million dollar industry and is one of the biggest attractions for ecotourism throughout the world. Birding is the second biggest pastime in the US, after gardening.

According to the US census in 2009, 24 million Americans play basketball, 23 million play baseball and 9 million play American football. By comparison, there are 60 million American birdwatchers.

Unfortunately some of the most watched birds are in sharp decline as a result of habitat loss, climate change and bycatch from fishing.

The Conejo Valley Audubon has a program to help restore habitat for birds. I hope everyone will participate.



CALENDAR

December

- | | | |
|---|---------|------------------------|
| 1 | 7:45 am | Mugu Lagoon |
| 4 | 5:15 pm | Pre meeting dinner |
| 4 | 7:30 pm | General meeting |
| 9 | 9:00 am | Coal Oil Point Reserve |

Save the Date --- March 24th Auction Dinner

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.

Friday, December 1 Mugu Lagoon

This location is recognized as an Important Bird Area, supporting up to 10,000 shorebirds in winter! This trip required pre-registration and is full. Those who signed up must bring a picture ID card with name matching that on your pre-registration form. No cameras or video equipment are permitted on base. Please bring a scope if you have one. Vehicles, articles and personnel are subject to search. Recently spotted species include Vermilion Flycatcher, Wilson's Snipe, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Ferruginous Hawk, Eurasian Wigeon, Burrowing Owl and Golden-crowned Sparrow! Trip leaders are Martin Ruane of Naval Base Ventura County and Frank DeMartino (856-906-8733). Directions: From Hwy 101 travel south on Las Posas Rd, west on Hueneme Rd and south on Wood Rd, crossing over PCH. Then head south on Naval Air Rd. Meet at the main entrance at the intersection of Naval Air Rd. and Mugu Rd. near Buildings 112 and 116. Meet at 7:45 am.

Saturday, December 9 Coal Oil Point Reserve

This coastal strand property located four miles from UC Santa Barbara is part of the University of California Natural Reserve System. Its purpose is protecting native habitats to support research, education, outreach and stewardship. Another Important Bird Area, this site also supports thousands of migratory birds. During the tour our guide will take us on about two miles of trails through various habitats, including sandy beach, coastal dunes, grassland and Devereux Slough. We may see Ospreys, Cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Eared Grebes, Snowy Plovers and Fox and Savannah Sparrows, among others. In early November, Cassin's, Western and Tropical Kingbirds were all seen together

on the reserve, providing a rare opportunity to compare each species' unique attributes in person! The pre-registration deadline has been extended to Friday, November 24. Please submit your signed waiver form to fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org Trip leaders are COPR staff and Dee Lyon (805-427-0987.) Directions: From Hwy 101 north exit at Glen Annie/Storke Rd and turn onto Storke toward the ocean. Take Storke until it hits El Colegio Rd. At this point, Storke turns into Slough Rd, but you need to stay in the right lane of Storke Rd to enter Slough Rd. Slough Rd will lead to a locked gate. You can use the code **1711** to enter the reserve and park for free. You will see a sign on your way in directing you to the parking lot.

Saturday, December 16th Christmas Bird Count by David Pereksta

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 118th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Saturday, December 16th** and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 43rd CBC. We're hoping to top last year's count of 188 species! Last year's highlights included a Black Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, 2 Red-necked Grebes, 46 American White Pelicans, 2 Least Bitterns, 2 Reddish Egrets, 35 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Bald Eagle, 5 Red Knots, 2 Black Skimmers, White-winged Dove, Burrowing Owl, 4 Vermilion Flycatchers, Tropical Kingbird, 2 California Gnatcatchers, Northern Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-throated Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, 2 White-throated Sparrows, Bells Sparrow and 15 Pine Siskins and Yellow-headed Blackbird. When all was said and done, we recorded over 18,000 individual birds! We hope to do even better this year, but need CVAS members to close out the year 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 directly, please send an email to pereksta@pacbell.net, call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the December meeting at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. We need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla 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” unusual or hard to find species, such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, 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, Townsend’s Warbler and Brown-headed Cowbird. 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, thus founding 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.

You may attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or be able to count an oriole.

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’oeuvre 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 a \$5.00/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.

Supervisor Linda Parks’ Quarterly Dinner Series
The Decline of Monarch Butterflies and Bees,
and What Can Be Done About It
December 6th

You’re invited to hear guest speaker Cameron Newell, a Pollinator Conservation Specialist, discuss the status of Monarch butterflies and bees and effective ways to restore their populations. Monarch butterflies are being considered for the endangered species list. Their population has dwindled from more than 1 billion in the mid-1990’s to 109 million last year. The wild bee population has dropped by one quarter of its population in the last decade. Mr. Newell has worked on restoring native habitat on three continents. We hope you can join us for this fun and educational dinner experience!

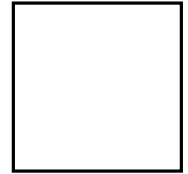
Your reservation is guaranteed with your payment. The dinner is \$35 per person in advance.

Wednesday, December 6th
5:30 pm Cocktail Reception
6:30 pm Presentation
7:00 pm Dinner

Petra Restaurant
3731 Thousand Oaks Blvd. in Thousand Oaks

Please reserve your seat soon by calling (805) 214-2510 or emailing Jenny.Ho@ventura.org

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
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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.

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) \$_____

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