



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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NO. 8

General Meeting, April 2 7:30 pm Western Foundation Return of the Socorro Dove

What does it take to return a bird extinct in the wild to its ancestral home? A small group of ornithologists have been working for more than three decades to return the Socorro Dove to its original home on an island off the Mexican coast. It has been extinct in the wild since 1978.

Last July public radio journalist Loretta Williams spent a month on the island tracking the plans for the dove's return in the coming year.

Loretta is an award-winning public radio journalist. She has worked on stories which range from wildlife conflict to cochlear implants to the mysteries and promise of genetic science. Currently she is working on a book about the reintroduction of various birds to their ancestral homes.



Conservation by Dee Lyon Bird Eggs

Did you know that in passerines eggshell production takes place mainly at night.

Eggshells can have anywhere from a few hundred pores to tens of thousands?

The volume of the air cell is less in newly laid eggs, so they sink in water?

More than 100 types of antimicrobial enzymes are found in egg white?

Precocial chicks come from larger yolks and altricial chicks come from smaller yolks, so the latter hatch at an earlier stage of development?

The egg of an Ostrich is the largest living cell on earth?

These cool facts come from Tim Birkhead's book THE MOST PERFECT THING, published by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.



CALENDAR

April

- 2 5:15 pm Pre Meeting Dinner: Ottavios
- 2 7:30 pm General meeting Western Foundation
- 8 9:00 am Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge
- 15 8:00 am Krotona Institute
- 21 8:00 am Las Llajas
- 28- 29 Butterbredt Springs

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, April 8, 9:00 am Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Bitter Creek NWR is an important part of the California Condor recovery because it provides essential foraging habitat and serves as the main release site for the Southern California population. Other raptors commonly observed there include Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Prairie Falcon and Cooper's Hawk. Resident birds include California Quail, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark and Lark Sparrow. Migrating Songbirds may include Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Tanager and Bullock's Oriole. With luck we may also see pronghorn antelope, tule elk, bobcats and black-tailed jackrabbits.

Details: Go north on Interstate 5 to the Frazier Mountain Park Road offramp. Go left at the end of the offramp and then make another left into the Flying J Travel Center. Meet there at 9:00 am at the Condor statue at the northeast corner of the parking lot. There we will consolidate into no more than five vehicles (walkie talkies may be helpful). We will arrive at Bitter Creek around 10:00 am. There Joseph Brandt will talk about the Condor program and what the staff does, introduce the group to the flight pen and check out a nest, if feasible. Our tour will end between 1:00 and 2:00, at which point we will carpool back to the truck stop. The contact person is Angela (805) 509-2777

Sunday, April 15, 8:00 am Krotona Institute

Jesse Grantham has arranged for Ventura and Conejo Valley Audubon Society members to bird the Krotona Institute of Theosophy property on the outskirts of Ojai. These private grounds comprise 115 acres of oaks grasslands, sage thickets and manicured grounds with ornamental trees and

shrubs. We will have access to the more formal garden areas. Krotona has produced the Field Sparrow (rarely observed in California), Townsend's Solitaire, Zone-tailed Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker, Red Crossbill, Steller's Jay and Pygmy Nuthatch. Other species frequently seen are Purple Finch, Lawrence's Goldfinch and Red-breasted Nuthatch. The trip will begin at the Library Parking Lot. To reach the Institute travel north on Rt. 33 through Mira Monte. After Mira Monte the next traffic light will be Route 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 Rd. 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. If you would like to carpool from the lowlands, meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride by 7:00 am. Trip leader is Jesse Grantham (805) 746-0975

Saturday, April 21, 8:00 am Las Lajas

Rusting steam shovels. Fossilized sea shells. Oaks, cottonwoods and willows. Lizards, hawks, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Western Bluebirds, Phainopela, Grosbeaks and often Lazuli Buntings! In the foothills of Simi Valley lies Las Lajas Canyon, home to all of these attractions and more. We'll take a leisurely hike up this gentle canyon looking at interesting geologic formations, native flora and wildlife. We'll also just enjoy the (hopefully) cool spring air. The trailhead of Las Lajas Canyon is at approximately 5715 Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley. Bring water, sunblock and good hiking shoes. Dress in layers. We will hike about two miles and then return the way we came. Most of the trail is gentle. However, the first and last 0.2 miles are stepp, so we will have a short but steep climb out. Please plan accordingly. Directions: from Highway 118 in Simi Valley exit at Yosemite and head north. Turn right on Evening Sky Drive and proceed to the trailhead. Trip leader: Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023

**Saturday April 28 – Sunday April 29
Butterbret Springs**

Nature photographer Bob Steels writes "the springs are located in a narrowing upslope canyon that naturally funnels northbound passerine migrants. When the wind blows, as it often does there on spring mornings, the migrants are pushed to near ground level. Arrive early and watch the display as hundreds or thousands of migrants pass per hour." Many species of warblers, vireos, and flycatchers as well as Lazuli Buntings, Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks can be expected May through June. Trip leader Ron Barns (818) 991-9967 plans to camp Friday evening and begin birding before dawn Saturday morning to find the best views. Please call for more details and to arrange carpools. Directions: From State Highway 14 south of Red Rock Canyon State Park take Jawbone Canyon Road west to the site, as described below:

Drive 6.4 miles and then bear right at a Y-intersection, leaving the pavement to a rough dirt road.

Drive 5.4 miles to a Y-intersection where you'll see Butterbret Springs Bird Sanctuary sign and bear right

Drive 1.0 miles on this road while watching for motorcyclists and waterbars.

Arrive at Butterbret Springs on your right.

Park along the sides of the road so as not to block traffic. The fenced, designated, self-contained camping area lies just above the parking area, just beyond the Tree of Heaven area.



Great Egret by Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin

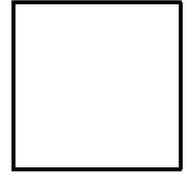


Anhinga by Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin



Limpkin by Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin

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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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