



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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VOL. 50

December, 2018

No. 4

## General Meeting, Dec 3 Western Foundation 50 Years of River Protection Steve Evans of Calwild

2018 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the landmark law that has protected nearly 2,000 miles of rivers and streams in California. Evans served as Conservation Director of Friends of the River and now is Wild Rivers Director for the California Wilderness Coalition. He has spent decades working to protect the state's waterways. Evans will present a historical overview of both the state and federal wild rivers systems and how they protect southern California streams such as Piru and Sespe Creeks.

He will explore the opportunities for river protection through Congress and federal agencies despite the anti-environmental policies of the current administration. In addition, Evans will discuss current threats to rivers, including the proposed Temperance Flat Dam on the San Joaquin River Gorge. His slides include more than 30 high quality pictures of existing and proposed wild and scenic rivers in California.

## Conservation

by Dee Lyon

### Environmentally Friendly Cleaning Products

Instead of using hard chemicals and toxic cleaners, try the following:

Clean Toilet – 1 cup citric acid and 3 cups of baking soda  
(Mix them together, sprinkle a few tablespoons into the bowl, let fizz and then scrub)

Bathroom – Make a paste with baking soda and water, smear over tub or shower, scrub with a brush

Mirrors – Use the 1 to 1 vinegar/water mixture, wipe clean with newspaper for streakfree finish

Dusting – Use the 1 to 1 vinegar/water mixture with a teaspoon of olive oil for shine

Laundry Soap --- 1 cup baking soda, 1 cup washing soda (Arm and Hammer sells both) and 1 bar of pure castile soap – finely grated, add a few drops of your favorite essential oil

### December

2	8:00 am	Sapwi Trails Community Park
3	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavios
3	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
9	8:00 am	Arnold Road/ Ormond Beach
12	8:00 am	Rancho Sierra Vista/ Satwiwa
16		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 2, 8:00 am Sapwi Trails Community Park**

Join us for birding along Lang Creek in Thousand Oaks. We will meet in the parking lot at the southeast corner of Erbes Road and Avenida de las Flores (entrance to parking lot is on Scenic Park Street). The Conejo Recreation and Park District just completed this new park in September 2018, with open space encompassing a riparian corridor and oak woodlands. We will walk the trail that parallels Lang Creek, examining the riparian corridor for White-breasted nuthatch, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, California Quail, Yellow-rumped and Townsend's Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush. We'll also check the open areas for Lark and White-crowned Sparrow, as well as Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird and Bewick's Wren. Trip leader is David Person, 805-469-6806.

### **Sunday, December 9, 8:00 am Arnold Road/ Ormond Beach**

We will look for a variety of shorebirds at this excellent coastal location. There is a good chance of encountering Willets, Whimbrels, Black-necked stilts, Black-bellied Plovers and other interesting birds. If we're lucky we may spy Loons, Scoters and Black Skimmers over the ocean and endangered Western Snowy Plovers on the beach. We will also look for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Peregrine Falcons, Ospreys, Loggerhead Shrikes, Savannah Sparrows and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Dress in layers as the morning may be chilly. Please bring a scope if you have one. Directions: Exit Hwy 101 at Rice Avenue and go south. Continue on Hueneme Rd. and turn right. Take a left on Arnold Rd. and

continue to the end of the road. Please note: Avoid leaving valuables in your car. There are portable restrooms at the beach entrance. To carpool meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am. Trip leader: Linda Easter (818) 519-2833

### **Wednesday, December 12, 8:00 am Rancho Sierra Vista/ Satwiwa**

Conejo Valley Audubon invites birders of all experience levels to attend our monthly Beginner Bird Walks at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa.

For walk details contact the leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878

### **Sunday, December 16 Christmas Bird Count**

If you are looking for a way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 119<sup>th</sup> annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Sunday December 16, 2018**, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 44<sup>th</sup> CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 198 species! Last year's highlights included three firsts for our count circle; a Ruff, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and Sage Thrasher. Other notable birds included eight Snow Geese, a Black Scoter, Red-necked Grebe, 60 American White Pelicans, 6 Least Bitterns, 4 Reddish Egrets, 50 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Bald Eagle, a Ridgway's Rail, 2 Red Knots, 3 White-winged Doves, 4 Burrowing Owls, Lewis's Woodpecker, 6 Vermilion Flycatchers, 7 California Gnatcatchers, 2 Lapland Longspurs, Black-and-white Warbler, Palm Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, and Bell's Sparrow. Birds recorded within a week of the count, but missed on count day were Eurasian Wigeon, Black Skimmer, Common Poorwill, Tropical Kingbird, and Pine Siskin. Notable misses for the count period were Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck, Common Goldeneye, Ferruginous Hawk, Golden Eagle, Common Gallinule, Mew Gull, Common Ground-Dove, Red-naped

Sapsucker, Prairie Falcon, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Wilson's Warbler, and Grasshopper Sparrow. However, when all was said and done, we recorded nearly 24,000 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 directly, please send an e-mail to [pereksta@pacbell.net](mailto: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, Big Sycamore 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, 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, Townsend's Warbler, and Brown-headed Cowbird. So keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

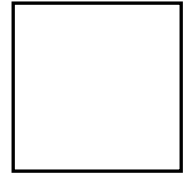
The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the "side hunt." Participants in the "side hunt" would split up into 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 back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or keep an oriole around 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'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 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.

# ROADRUNNER

December, 2018



Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 4782  
 Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

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CVAS Web Site <http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org>

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (except June, July, August) 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](mailto:GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org).

For information on joining the National Audubon Society, please go to [www.audubon.org](http://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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