



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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VOL. 50

November, 2019

No. 3

General Meeting, Nov. 4 Western Foundation René Corado



René Corado was born in a small village of El Chical, Morazan, El Progreso, Guatemala. At age eight René and his family moved to Guatemala City. He attended school in the morning. To help his family survive he shined shoes in the afternoon and asked for leftovers to feed his siblings. Some days he did not collect enough food and visited the dump to look for food himself. In 1981 on account of the civil war in Guatemala Corado emigrated to the United States, without immigration documents or relatives and with schooling only through the 6th grade.

(continued on page 3)

Conservation

by Dee Lyon

Carrizo Plain National Monument

The Monument covers almost 250,000 acres and is managed jointly by the Bureau of Land Management, the California Dept. of Fish and Game and The Nature Conservancy.

Many of us have visited the Carrizo Plain in January or February, looking for the wintering birds, including Sandhill Cranes, Mountain Plovers and Mountain Bluebirds. Ferruginous Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Long-eared Owls, Golden Eagles, Sage Sparrows and flocks of Long-billed Curlews are some of our favorite sightings.

In a good spring wildflowers cover the valley.

The focus is on the rare and endangered plants and animals. However, most of the people come to the Carrizo Plain for birding, hiking, photography, camping, hunting and just plain relaxing. There are no services for gasoline, food or water!

Painted Rock, probably used for religious ceremonies, is one of the more significant examples of Native American rock painting in the world. Chumash, Yokuts and others hunted and traded in the area.

The San Andreas Fault makes its seemingly quiet path through the area and is clearly visible near Wallace Creek.

November 2019

Nov. 3	8:00 am	Sapwi Trails Community Park
Nov. 4	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting dinner: Ottavios
Nov. 4	7:30 pm	General Meeting WFVZ
Nov. 10	8:00 am	Cañada Larga Road
Nov. 13	8:00 am	Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
Nov. 17	7:00 am	Lake Sherwood
Nov. 23	3:00 pm	Hill Canyon

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, November 3, 8:00 am Sapwi Trails Community Park

Join us for birding along Lang Creek in Thousand Oaks. We will meet at the Westlake Blvd. parking lot (entrance is at the stoplight across from Rainfield Avenue). The Conejo Recreation and Park district completed this new park in September 2018. It is in 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, California Thrasher, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Hermit Thrush. We'll also check the open areas for Golden and White-crowned Sparrow, as well as Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird and House and Bewick's Wren. Trip leader is Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098.

Sunday, November 10, 8:00 am Cañada Larga Road

Cañada Larga Road is one of the more reliable spots in Ventura County to find good numbers of migrating and wintering birds in the fall. Although the road is only a few miles long, we can expect to find Greater Roadrunners, Western Bluebirds, American Kestrels, a variety of hawks and perhaps even a Golden Eagle. There could be White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Vesper Sparrows. Time allowing and at the leader's discretion, we may also bird nearby Foster Park. Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or under the Highway 33 overpass at 8:00 am. Directions: From Highway 101 take Highway 33 north to the Cañada Larga Road exit. Turn left and park on the shoulder. We can carpool to the site so as to minimize the number of cars. Trip leader is Ron Barns (818) 991-9967.

Wednesday, November 13, 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. These walks are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at 8:00 am at the main parking lot, which is accessible off of Lynn Road at Via Goleta in Newbury Park. Rancho Sierra Vista is an excellent place to see many of the oak woodlands birds that are common in the Conejo Valley area. We will take time to introduce beginning birders to these species and will teach the best techniques for locating and identifying them. If you have binoculars please bring them. A few pairs of loaner binoculars will be available. Wear comfortable walking shoes. No sign-up is needed. Just show up. In the event of heavy rain we will cancel the walk. The walk leader will be Richard Armerding (310) 701-3878.

Sunday, November 17, 7:00 am Lake Sherwood

Join us for a birding gem not typically accessible to the public. We will meet just inside the Stafford Gates in hopes of seeing the Red-winged Blackbirds as they leave the reeds. We will also search for Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Eared Grebe, Least Bittern, Osprey, Merlin, Lincoln's Sparrow and Purple Finch. The Stafford Gate (2186 Stafford Rd.) is accessed from Potrero Rd. just west of Sherwood Dr. near the fire station. Meet at the large parking lot on your left after you enter the gate. Spotting scopes are encouraged. Heavy rain cancels. As entry into this community is restricted please RSVP to fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org by Friday, November 15, to place your name on the guest list. Trip leader is Mary Hansen (805) 390-4586.

Saturday, November 23, 3:00 – 5:00 pm Birds and a Beer Cal State Channel Islands plus Brendan's Irish Pub Camarillo

Have you every found it difficult to decide between birding and sleeping in on your precious weekend mornings? Now you can do both!

Join us for late afternoon birding at this beautiful campus along the transition from the Santa Monica Mountains to the coastal plain. We may cover a good distance, so be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. Habitats include riverine, coastal sage scrub, wetland, ponded and landscaped areas. From Camarillo travel south on Lewis Road to Potrero Road and turn left. After crossing over Calleguas Creek make a quick left onto the road between the creek and Round Mountain (go around the small barrier to access the road). Park on the shoulder near the intersection with Round Mountain Rd. Bring binoculars. We will begin near the pond and search for Common Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Common Yellowthroat, Purple Finch and Song Sparrow. Then we will scan the mountain for Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and quail. If you are hungry and/or thirsty afterwards, join us at 6:00 pm at Brendon's Irish Pub, 1755 E Daily Dr. Camarillo (805) 383-4100. To ensure there is enough table space please RSVP to fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org by Friday, November 22nd. The walk is free but each person will need to pay for their own food. Trip leaders are Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin and Stephen Bylin, (805) 405-5632.

No trip the weekend of November 30 through December 1 (Happy Thanksgiving!)

***Save the Date*
Friday, January 20, 2020, 7:45 am
Mugu Lagoon**

Martin Ruane of Naval Base Ventura County has generously agreed to lead an excursion at Mugu Lagoon. This location is recognized as an important Bird Area, supporting up to 10,000 shorebirds in winter! To register please complete and sign the attached file "Mugu Form" and return a signed, initialed and scanned copy to fieldtrips@ConejoValleyAudubon.org by **Saturday, November 23rd**. The Base requires that the two forms of identification provided on the form be a driver's license/ California I.D. and a social security number). You can also submit a hard copy of the form to Angela during the CVAS meeting on Monday, November 4 at 7:30 pm, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

If you are a Department of Defense civilian or or member of the military you do not need to fill out the form, but please let Angela know if you are coming. DoD contractors are required to complete the form. This trip is limited to a maximum of 20 current CVAS members only, so please to be sure to renew your membership if it has lapsed.

René Corado (cont.)

He started at WFVZ as the gardener but decided he wanted to be a biologist. So he went to school to learn English. Now he is a biologist and the collections manager of WFVZ.

In 2001 Corado started a bird conservation project in Guatemala. By 2004 with the help of Linnea Hall and the support of the WFVZ he created a campaign called the Guatemala River Project to work towards cleaning the heavily polluted Motagua River. He and Hall collaborated on publications such as *Egg & Nest*, which emphasizes the diversity found in bird eggs and nests. In 2014 he wrote *El Lustrador* (in Spanish) and the bilingual children's book *The Adventures of René Corado: The Shoeshine Boy*, published in 2016, to inspire immigrant communities and others alike to reach their goals. He wanted people to recognize that every dream is possible. Sales from these books support his El Lustrador Foundation.

On 17th September 2019 in a special ceremony at the "Peace Monument" in Guatemala City, Guatemala, René Corado placed the symbolic white rose of peace and became an Ambassador of Peace for his native country. Previous recipients of the award have included the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, and former US President George W. Bush.

His non-profit El Lustrador Foundation gives scholarships to poor students to continue their elementary and middle-school educations. His work with some of the poorest schools in Guatemala has further endeared him to Guatemalan people living both in Central America and in the US. Mr Corado regularly encourages students and families to "work hard to achieve your dreams" and shares his personal trials and need for perseverance as a new immigrant.

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November , 2019

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

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Vice Pres	OPEN position	
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Except for Carol Langford – must add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after every username above

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.

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

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