



ROADRUNNER

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General Meeting November 6th 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Linnea S. Hall, Ph.D. (Executive Director of the WFVZ) and René Corado (Collections Manager) will discuss their Guatemalan bird field project. Started in 2001, the project involves both the documentation of all bird species breeding throughout the country, as well as the monitoring of breeding and non-breeding species within the central, "Rio Motagua", portion of the country. René will overview his work traveling around the country inventorying species, and Linnea will highlight aspects of the bird monitoring work that was started officially in 2005.

René has been working for the WFVZ since 1987, serving initially as a field biologist conducting inventories of birds in Ecuador and Costa Rica, as well as assisting with intensive studies of swift species in those countries. He was also a curatorial



assistant in the museum, learning preparation techniques and eventually curation techniques for the egg, nest, and study skin specimens of the WFVZ. He has served as the Foundation's Collection Manager since 1997.



Linnea Hall has worked as a wildlife ecologist since 1989, studying the habitat use, movements, population sizes, and foraging and breeding behaviors of many species of birds, as well as population sizes and movements of

rodents, feral cats, and herpetofauna. She has conducted nearly 40 different field studies, resulting in as many publications, and mentored more than 10 graduate students through their projects as a professor at California State University, Sacramento from 1996 to 2000. She has served as the Executive Director of the WFVZ since 2002.

The two WFVZ staff members look forward to sharing information on their work in Guatemala, hoping especially to highlight some of the environmental problems affecting both the wildlife and people living in the country.

CALENDAR

November

5	7:45 am	Field trip	Mugu Rock
6	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
9	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
11	7:30 pm	Shutter Bugs	Liesure Village
12	7:45 am	Field trip	Camarillo Regional Park
18	7:45 am	Field trip	Ahmanson Ranch
20	7:00 pm	Board meeting	Lyon's house
26	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Piru/Fillmore Fish Hatchery

*** Pre meeting Dinner ***

Ottavio's in Camarillo
at 5:15 pm

Call Nobuko Mc Clure
for reservations

24 hours in advance of the
monthly general meeting
(805) 482-0411.

CVAS Events

The public 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. Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times - **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier.** Try to car pool when ever possible and don't forget to give the driver gas money!

RAIN CANCELS!

Sunday, November 5 Mugu Rock

Leave Los Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the rock at 8:30. Take Hwy 1 north of Sycamore Canyon Campground to the big Rock on the ocean (or go south of Mugu Lagoon to the rock). We will look for coastal migrants, loons, possible shearwaters, grebes, gulls, possible alcids. We will also check the nearby lagoons and possibly Sycamore Canyon Campground.

Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023.**

Thursday, November 9 Beginners Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe** between 9 am and 9 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be **(818) 991-4055.** Rain cancels.

Sunday, November 12 Camarillo Regional Park

Meet at the gate at 8 am. Go South on Lewis Road until you see a sign for Cal. State Univ. at Channel Islands; turn left, after the bridge, you will see a gate on the left. Lots of chaparral birds, roadrunner, Wrentit, sparrows, and water birds along Calleguas Creek. Leader is **Carol Langford (805) 987-2721.**

Saturday, November 18 Ahmanson Ranch

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8; or north end of Las Vergenes Rd at 8:30; bring water & jacket; we'll see sparrows, hawks, Ruby-crown Kinglets, Oak Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warblers, woodpeckers, juncos, towhees, Phainopepla and other grassland and chaparral birds. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165.**

Sunday, November 26 Lake Piru and Fillmore Fish Hatchery

Leave Janss Park and Ride at 8 am; bring water & jacket; we'll see Ospreys, herons, egrets, possible Common Mer-

ganser, Bald Eagle, Mt. Bluebirds, woodpeckers and ducks. Leader **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

HELP-HELP-HELP-HELP-HELP-HELP

by Thelma Williams

One of the very worthwhile services our local chapter offers is to schools in our area. We donate **AUDUBON ADVENTURES KITS** to 3-6th grade teachers. This nationally acclaimed award-winning environmental education supplement is often the stepping stone for youngsters toward awareness of birding, nature and the need for balance in our environment.

This year, we have had overwhelming response to our offer. This is very exciting, but unfortunately, the budget allotment for the kits has been depleted. We are delighted to introduce birding to as many as possible. Consequently, I am appealing for donations to the fund. Each kit costs us \$45, we will take the cost of a kit, or any amount you can donate to this worthy cause. I donated in memory of a dear friend who just passed away. He would be honored. Please match my donation and help future birders at the same time. Checks can be sent to CVAS, P.O.Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359.

Save this Date!

December 31, 2006
CVAS Christmas Bird Count

Bird Festivals

January 12 - 15, 2007
Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival
Registration opens October 1st
www.morrobaybirdfestival.org

DUCK STAMPS

by Dee Lyon

Everyone who enjoys watching birds and wants to protect the land that these feathered creatures need can participate in conserving their habitats. Since 1934, duck stamp sales have contributed to wetland conservation, and today, 98 cents of every dollar goes toward the purchase or lease of wetland habitat. More than 700 million dollars have protected more than 5.2 million acres in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Birders can purchase the stamp online for \$15. at www.duckstamp.com or www.usps.com or at the post office. Please do your part.

Field Trip Reports

Private Property

by Tom Halpin

This is one of those places where you can't avoid seeing birds, no matter where you look. The minute you drive through the gate you can see sparrows, blackbirds, and meadowlarks along the road, kestrels on the power poles, and an occasional harrier cruising over the fields. Several of us were luck enough to see a Peregrine Falcon flying over the farm houses.

The weather for our trip was almost perfect: clear and coolish early; warmer with an onshore breeze by noon. The predicted Santa Ana winds didn't arrive 'till later in the day.

An early sighting was a flock of Cattle Egrets. Of course, Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Snowy Egrets were common. As we walked back along the paved road, a Green Heron flew out of the drainage ditch and posed on top of a tomato plant. One of my favorite birds, White-faced Ibis, seemed to be everywhere, with curlews and Whimbrels scattered in between flocks. Barn, Tree and Cliff Swallows were common, with several perched for comparison. White-throated Swifts flew overhead. After seeing a few Osprey perched, we saw three on the wing. One tree held nine White-tailed Kites, and two more flew in as we walked by. A few Red-tailed Hawks and Turkey Vultures finally showed up. Red-necked Phalaropes were very common, plus many ducks and other species too numerous to mention. This is one trip you should try not to miss for sure.

Malibu Lagoon

by Tom Halpin

Malibu Lagoon is another wonderful birding spot; especially in the fall. The parking lot area produced sightings of Common Yellowthroat, Bushtits, Anna's Hummingbirds, grackles, and several sparrows. From the boardwalks we could look right down on Red-necked Phalaropes, two Soras, Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Willets, Whimbrels, Black-bellied Plovers, Great Blue Herons, and Great and Snowy Egrets.

The lagoon was full of birds. There were Brown Pelicans, gulls (Western, Ring-billed, and Heerman's) and terns (Forster's, Elegant, and Royal). Others included Double-crested Cormorants, coots, one Brandt, and Eared and Pied-billed Grebes. The beach yielded many Snowy Plovers, two Dunlin, dowitcher, and Semi-palmated Plover.

One Osprey made an aborted dive at the lagoon. A Brandt's Cormorant was spotted offshore. One oyster-catcher and one loon (sp?) flew by over the ocean. One Red-shouldered Hawk and one probable Merlin were spotted over the land. A wonderful time was had by all!

Editor's Note

by Cheryl Williamson

Sometimes we might wonder what happens to the donations that CVAS makes to our various environmental groups. This month you can come to the November General Meeting and hear the presentation by Dr. Linnea Hall and René Corado from the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology and see for yourself what they are doing and you can read the following letter from Ron Bottorff of the Friends of the Santa Clara River - thanking CVAS for our donation and eloquently explaining what they are doing.

Friends of the Santa Clara River

by Ron Bottorff

Our restoration work at the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area continues at a lively pace. Numerous volunteers are now helping do the planting and weeding with Jackie Worden, a professional ecologist, coordinating the work. We will soon be carrying out a new demonstration project there, involving "bioswales" for improving the quality of runoff from agricultural fields. UCSB is the primary consultant for this project, which will continue into 2009.

Our Santa Clara River water quality monitoring project is shifting into a new phase wherein volunteers will be trained in monitoring methods. This exciting "stream team" effort should be in full swing by the end of Spring 2006. We are also working with a collaborative group of agencies and farm organizations to study and reduce the chloride levels in the River. High chlorides come mainly from Santa Clarita's two sewage treatment facilities, and are at levels which can harm downstream avocado orchards and strawberry crops.

Environmental Impact Reports are soon to be released on the first two "villages" of the Newhall Ranch project. We will be following this environmental review process closely, with the goal of further limiting the undesirable impacts of this very large development.

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The Shutterbugs' third meeting was on Oct. 9th in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village in Camarillo. Jim Gross and Don Klabunde displayed and explained a variety of camera support systems and digiscoping. Next month, Nov. 13th, Don Williamson and Don Klabunde will explore color correction of digital images. And on Dec 11th Jerry Spector and Chrystal Klabunde will cover image composition. Everyone was asked to provide a photo of pumpkin(s) for display and discussion at the next meeting. E-mail them to Jerry Spector at jerbear007@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in attending the Shutterbugs meetings, contact Jerry Spector at (805) 384-9039 to be put on the access list for Leisure Village.