



ROADRUNNER

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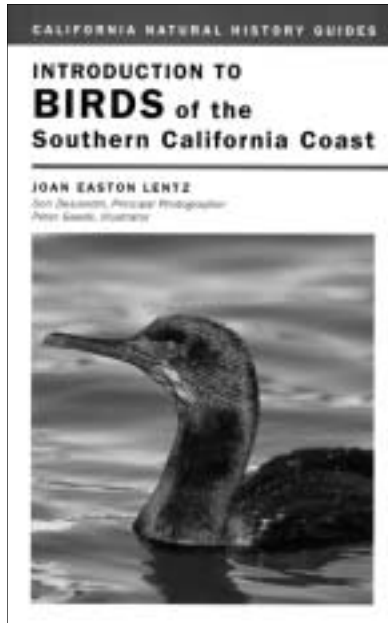
December 2006

NO. 4

General Meeting December 4th 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Birds of the Southern California Coast

Join us December 4th when **Joan Lentz** will give a slide presentation on her new book, *Introduction to Birds of the Southern California Coast*, just published by University of California Press. She will take us on an imaginary journey along the world-famous Southern California coast for a bird's eye view of the region. From San Luis Obispo County south to the Mexican border, an abundant avifauna has made this area a birders' destination for years. Learn which species you can expect to see along our beaches and coastal wetlands, which habitat each frequents, and at which locations they can be found.



Joan Easton Lentz, a long-time resident of Santa Barbara, has been a Research Associate with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and a teacher of birding classes for the Santa Barbara Community College Continuing Education Division. She is the author of *Great Birding Trips of the West* (1989) and *Birdwatching: A Guide for Beginners* (1985).



Camarillo Regional Park Committee for Next Steps

Please call Dee Lyon to help brainstorm about the "Next Steps for Camarillo Regional Park". Some possibilities: Get trails mapped with distances to put on Kiosk, restore native Plants, plant oak trees, remove invasive plants, obtain flooding for natural wetlands, and remove "Scary Dairy"; call me at (805) 499-2165 or (805)-427-0987, or email me at dlyon@adnetsol.com. Now that we have successfully gotten the park open - we need to follow through on the restoration of CRP. **Please Help!**

CALENDAR

December

2	7:45 am	Field trip	Canada Larga
4	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
10	7:45 am	Field trip	LaJolla Canyon
11	7:30 pm	Shutter Bugs	Leisure Village
14	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
16	7:45 am	Field trip	Saticoy Ponds
31	7:45 am	Field trip	Christmas Bird Count

*** 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!

Saturday, December 2 Canada Larga

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am. Lots of sparrows and possible sapsuckers, bluebirds, hawks and grassland birds. Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023.**

Sunday, Dec. 10 LaJolla Canyon

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am; Good chance to distinguish sparrows; usually Canyon and Rock Wren, Raptors and Wrentit. Leader is **Dee Lyon 805-499-2165.**

Thursday, December 14 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.

Saturday, Dec 16 Saticoy Ponds

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am, or at the gate at 8:30 Many species of ducks, hawks, sparrows, Horned Larks, Amer. Pipits, possible Bald Eagle, some shore-birds. Leader **Tom Halpin 805 -746-4598.**

Sunday, Dec 31 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Sign up at Dec meeting with a leader - we need everyone to come out and help locate and count our birds!! Call **David Pereksta at 805-659-5740** or email **peresta@pacbell.net .**

David Campbell 1935—2006

Our dear friend, David Campbell, lost his 9 year battle with ALS. David, we will miss you very much. He did a super job for CVAS as Field Trip Chair for many years - by showing how it should be done. He was extremely modest, didn't flaunt his Doctorate or his climbing feats - Mt. McKinley, Kilimanjaro, Matterhorn and many others. His indomitable spirit will always be remembered. We hope Mary Ann will continue to keep us informed on all the plants we encounter on our walks.



Two of his favorite causes are SOAR (soarusa.org) and Mono Lake Committee (monolake.org). Donations are also being made to CVAS for Audubon Adventures in his name.

Join Meredith Campbell Solano, Harry Campbell and Mary Ann on Saturday, November 18, at 1PM for a Celebration of Life for David. It will be held at the Campbell home, 1511 Rambling Rd, Simi (522-2354). Please write down and bring a favorite story, a happy memory, poem, or any other remembrance of David to share. They'd like to make a collection of these memories to keep. Please let Mary Ann know by November 11th.

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The December meeting of the Shutterbugs will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village in Camarillo and will feature Jerry Spector and Chrystal Klabunde talking about image composition.

If you are interested in attending the Shutterbugs meetings, contact Jerry Spector at (805) 384-9039 or jerbear007@yahoo.com to be put on the access list for Leisure Village.

Save these Dates!

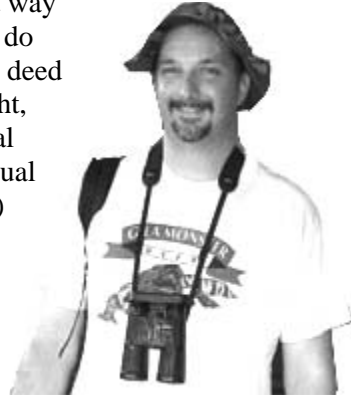
December 31, 2006
CVAS Christmas Bird Count
March 10, 2007
CVAS annual Dinner/Auction

Bird Festivals

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

Christmas Bird Count by David Pereksta

If you are looking for a great way to close out 2006, or want to do one last good birding-related deed before partying until Midnight, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 107th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Sunday December 31st, 2006** and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's CBC circle.



This is our 32nd CBC, and we're hoping to find a few more than last year's 177 species. That was good enough for a shared 17th place for CBCs held north of the Mexican border. We hope to do even better this year, but need hardy CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and be ready to bird. The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program is up and working, so just go to www.audubon.org/bird/cbc and click on "Get Involved" or "Data Entry/Review" for more instructions (The Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO). This system allows you to register for as many CBCs as you wish, and if you want to participate in four or more CBCs, you can do so for a flat \$20. 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. You can also pay on-line, which simplifies my life amazingly during the post-count dinner. For those who prefer to contact me directly, please send an e-mail to pereksta@pacbell.net, call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the December meeting at the WFVZ.

As we did last year, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. As always, 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'd like to bird, and who you'd like 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, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Yellow Warbler, White-throated sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed

Blackbird, and Lawrence's Goldfinch.

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 don't wish to go out and count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, 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 5:30 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. If you plan on attending please call **Nobuko at (805) 482-0411** so she can plan accordingly and provide directions to her house.

Mugu Rock and Points South by Chrystal Klabunde

On Sunday, November fifth, sixteen of us caravanned down the coast. Starting at Mugu Lagoon, where the tide was at a record high, we scoped most of the usual species of shorebirds, Great and Snowy Egrets, a Great Blue Heron, Belding's Savannah Sparrows, a Double-crested Cormorant and a gathering flock of Northern Pintails. Raptors were well represented by Red-tailed Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk and an Osprey.



From Mugu Rock, splashed by windswept spray, we watched a flotilla of Western Grebes, a beautiful Common Loon with most of its breeding plumage still showing, both Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants and a distant Jaeger, while a swarm of White-throated Swifts darted above the cliffs.

Later in the morning, most of us continued down to Big Sycamore Canyon which was alive with Yellow-rumped Warblers, but the strong breeze kept California Quail, Wrentit, Oak Titmouse and Ruby-crowned Kinglet out of sight where we could only hear them. All in all we counted 38 species.