



ROADRUNNER

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**General Meeting January 8th
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

Conservation Corner
by Cheryl Williamson

The California Bird Records Committee

Have you ever wondered where your favorite field guide might get its information on the really uncommon birds you could hope to find in California? Well, join us on January 8th when **Matt Heindel** will provide an overview of the California Bird Records Committee, the organization that keeps track of such things. Why does the CBRC exist? What does it do? How does it work? Matt will answer these questions and more. He'll show pictures of recent rarities and examples of actual records. Plus he'll discuss some of the heated controversies that occasionally come up, and you'll get a preview of the upcoming CBRC book, expected out in early 2007.

The California Bird Records Committee is the oldest state records committee in the US and has served as a model for many other states when they formed their own committees. Matt has served on the CBRC off and on since 1991 and is currently completing his second year as Chairman of the committee. In addition, he is the author of several articles on bird identification and has contributed extensively to the recent *National Geographic Complete Birds of North America*.

With a new year approaching, I started thinking about my New Year's resolutions and what I'm going to try to do. I ran across an article in the Ventura County Star by Jo Ellen Heil in the Literary Happenings column on Nov. 26, 2006. It was a recycling article a friend of hers found in the *Anglican Digest* magazine. It gave this list of items Americans throw away each day and how long each one takes to naturally decompose back into the environment. It's an eye-opener.

Newspapers: Six weeks.

Apple core: Two months.

Cardboard boxes: Two-four weeks.

Orange peel: Six months.

Tennis shoe soles, wool socks: 1.5 years.

Plastic bags, filtered cigarettes: 10-12 years.

Nylon fabric: 30-40 years.

Milk cartons, wax cups, tin cups: 80-100 years.

Aluminum can tabs: 100-200 years.

Soft drink/beer cans: 200 years.

Plastic six-pack holders: 400 years.

Plastic bottles: 450 years.

Disposable diapers: Estimates vary from 12 to 400 years.

Styrofoam cups: Estimates vary from 50 to 500 years.

Monofilament line: Never.

Many of the above items are recyclable. I'm going to pay more attention to the things I purchase and throw away this year.

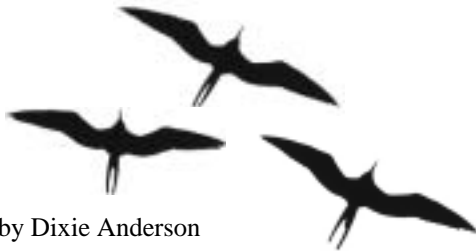


Photo by Dixie Anderson

CALENDAR

January

6	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Casitas
8	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
11	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
12	7:45 am	Field trip	Pt Mugu Naval Base
17	7:00 pm	Board meeting	Langford home
21	7:45 am	Field trip	Santa Clara River Estuary
27	2:00 pm	Field trip	Simi Valley Hot Spots

***** 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, Jan 6 Lake Casitas

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the Lake at 8:30. Lots of ducks, grebes, sparrows, hawks, and woodpeckers. The leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598** (and he's on a roll this year!)

Thursday, January 11 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.

Friday, Jan 12 Point Mugu Naval Base

Call **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165** to get on the list at least 3 weeks ahead of trip. Our best birding trip of the year - limited to 25 people, must bring picture ID. Could see 80 species, including Vermilion Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, ducks, shorebirds, Reddish Egret, Long-tailed duck, Brandt, possible Tundra Swan

Sunday, Jan 21 Santa Clara River Estuary

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at Surfer's Knoll parking lot on Spinnaker in Ventura Harbor at 8:30. We'll look for shorebirds, ducks, Snowy Plovers, Black-necked Stilts, Amer. Avocets, gulls, grebes and loons.
Leader is **Kevin Picard (805) 492-6962**.

Saturday, Jan 27 Simi Valley Hotspots

Meet at 2 pm at Rancho Simi Park (on the Erringer side) We will bird the Park for ducks, herons, passerines, also the Arroyo Simi, then on to the Ferruginous Hawk roost - Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023**.

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

There will be no January meeting of the Shutterbugs. The next meeting will be in February.

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!

**February 16-19, 2007
Great Backyard Bird Count
www.birdsource.org/gbbc**

It's easy...here's how.

Before you count, go to the above web site for easy-to-follow instructions and local checklists.

Count the birds in your backyard, park, refuge, or anywhere! For each species of bird, write down the highest number of individuals you see at any one time during your count. (Don't add a bird every time you see one at your feeder: you could be counting the same individuals many times.)



Bewick's Wren

Take part on one, two, three, or four days. Watch the birds for as long as possible (15 minutes or more) each day.

Report your results on line. Go back to the above web site and complete an online checklist to report your sightings electronically.

View your results! You can see lists and maps online, continually updated throughout the count. See how you and your town fit into the big picture.

**March 10, 2007
*** CVAS annual Dinner/Auction *****

Bird Festivals

**February 7-12, 2007
San Diego Bird Festival
Mission Bay
www.sandiegoaudubon.org**

**April 28-29, 2007
Spring Nature Festival
Kern River Preserve
<http://kern.audubon.org>**

Field Trip Reports

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, Sharpshinned 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.

Ahmanson Ranch

by Dee Lyon

Seven of us from CVAS enjoyed a very birdy walk in Ahmanson Ranch this morning as it is recovering from the fire 3 years ago.

We finished with a Prairie Falcon and Cooper's Hawk fly-over, but were amazed at the number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Lots of White-crowns, Ca and Spotted Towhees, Lesser Goldfinch, House Finch, Bewick's Wrens, Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Ravens and Crows, Acorn & Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Flicker, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Meadowlark, Scrub Jay, Loggerhead Shrike, Yellow-rump Warblers, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Harrier, Black Phoebe, Starling, CA Thrasher, Mourning Dove, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-shouldered Hawk, Wrentit, American Kestrel and Anna's Hummingbird. Beautiful warm day; glad to see all with willows and oaks coming back.

Santa Clara River Valley Hot Spots

Tom Halpin's trip on Nov 26 to the Fillmore Fish Hatchery, Rancho Camulos, and the Piru area was very successful; they saw 55 species. The group was most excited about seeing a California Condor fly over in the Piru area. An interesting happening at the fish hatchery was a Great Egret eating a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Yikes!

Cañada Larga by Chrystal Klabunde

A mere five of us ventured out to Cañada Larga on December second. I suppose that people were put off by the high winds in Camarillo and points east, but when we got there we found only gentle breezes. It was beautiful, so the five of us piled into one car and prowled our way up the canyon. White-crowned Sparrows had arrived in force and were by far the most abundant bird, but there were lots of other species as well and a few real treats. We had a very good look at a beautiful Red-naped Sapsucker, watched numerous Say's Phoebes hovering in place and Tom Halpin was able to spot the Magnolia Warbler that had been reported there. Across the highway, we stopped briefly at Foster Park and picked up an additional eleven species including American Robin, Cedar Waxwing and a flock of handsome White-faced Ibises that flew right by us. We had 47 species in all.

Galapagos Islands



Bill and Dixie Anderson recently took a trip to the Galapagos Islands. They saw 33 species, 18 of which were new to them. Among the birds they observed were Waved Albatross sitting on a nest, Magnificent and Great Frigate birds, Swallow-tail Gull, and Masked Boobies (above). Dixie said it was one of the best trips they have been on. Both Dixie and Bill are members of the Shutterbugs and you'll find Dixie's photos sprinkled throughout our newsletter this month.

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 email me.