



ROADRUNNER

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**General Meeting February 5th
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**The Birds and Wildlife of Botswana
A photographic journey**



Join us for **Grant Reed's** presentation about wildlife in Botswana.

This presentation on Botswana is an armchair safari through some of Africa's most famous safari areas. The tale begins in the arid Kalahari and follows an ancient migration route to the vast Makgadikgadi Salt Pans. Here hundreds of thousands of flamingos flock to breed. To the north-west of the pans lies the world renowned Okavango Delta teeming with birdlife and wildlife this is truly paradise. In the north-east of Botswana lies Savuti where the elephant hunting lions prowl the savannah, and beyond lies the Chobe River. Known for its elephant sunsets, Chobe has the highest density of African elephant anywhere on earth and makes for a spectacular end to our photo journey of Botswana.

Help Wanted



Many of you don't want to be tied down by being a board member—but you do want to do something to help out. Here are three opportunities to work in various areas which you might have an interest.

Right now CVAS has three projects going on that need your help. The first one is our annual dinner/auction. The dinner will take place March 10th and the contact person is Audrey Watkins (805) 277-4755. This is a short term project and we always need help here—selling raffle tickets, working the raffle table, working on the silent auction table and helping the auctioneer.

The second project is the CRP next steps program. This involves planning how to restore Camarillo Regional Park. This is a long term project—the contact is Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165. This project is still in the planning stages and could be an exciting project to work on. There are many things needing to be planned. Getting rid of the “Scary Dairy”, removing invasive plants, and restoration of the wetlands.

Finally, Thelma Williams is working on Nature Awareness Day for the children. It is planned for Saturday, March 24th. We will have speakers from the Ojai Raptor Center, bird walks, feeder building, and possibly some other activities. This will involve about 60 children and will require several volunteers at each station. This project is still in the planning stages so if you want to help plan the event contact Thelma (805) 492-2796.

CALENDAR

February

4	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Sherwood
5	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
10	4:30 pm	Field trip	Owling
19	7:00 pm	Board meeting	TBA
25	7:15 am	Field trip	Santa Barbara 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!

Sunday, February 4 Lake Sherwood

Mary Hansen has invited us to see the birding wonders of Lake Sherwood. Come enjoy a morning of ducks, hawks, riparian birds, usually about 45 species. Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8 am. Leaders are **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598** , Sharon Hardee and Mary Hansen

Thursday, February 8 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, February 10 Owling

Something new! Limit of 10 people. We will meet at 4:30 pm at Las Posas Park and Ride Bring jacket, flashlight and be prepared to cross creek RAIN CANCELS until Feb 24th. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**

Sunday, February 25 Santa Barbara Hotspots

Where we go depends upon the Hotline. Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am Leader is **Oscar Johnson**. Call Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165 with questions.

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The February meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic will be composition by Chrystal Klabunde. The theme for the February pictures is "wood texture", E-mail your images to Jerry Spector at jerbear007@yahoo.com.

If you are interested in attending the Shutterbugs meet-

ings, 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

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

Bird Festivals

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

March 30 - April 1, 2007
Olympic Bird Fest 2007
Port Angeles, Washington
(360) 681-4076
www.olympicbirdfest.org

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

May 4 - 6, 2007 Yosemite Birding Festival Yosemite View Lodge

Spend quality time with birdsong expert Don Kroodsmma, author of *The Singing Life of Birds*, and photographer John Hendrickson, author of *Raptors*. Field trips with expert leaders go to diverse habitats for possible encounters with Peregrine Falcon, Great Gray Owl, Black Swift, Harlequin Duck, and scores more. Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with *Sialia mexicana*, *Carpodacus mexicanus*, and *Cinclus mexicanus*. And 'Birding for Beginners' course on Friday May 4, 2007.



www.yosemite.org/seminars

You are Cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society

on

March 10, 2007

at

Sterling Hills Golf Club
901 Sterling Hills Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010



Exit the Ventura Freeway (101) at Central Avenue in Camarillo.
Go north on Central (0.8 mi) to Beardsley Road and turn RIGHT.
Continue on Beardsley (0.75 mi) until you reach Sterling Hills Drive and turn RIGHT.
On the left you will see the golf course parking lot.

for

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

No-host cocktails 5:30 PM - Dinner 6:30 PM

Ticket price per person \$42.00 (early-bird special \$37.00 - before 2/25/07)

5-FREE raffle tickets for each 1st time guest

We ask that everybody kindly bring an item to donate,
all types of donation items are acceptable and are not limited to those with an avian theme.

All are tax deductible! Proceeds for Camarillo Regional Park Fund

Dinner selections: All plated and served with Camarillo Baby Greens Salad, Rolls and butter, and Dessert.

- (1) Sautéed Breast of Chicken served with Picatta sauce
- (2) Slow Roasted Prime Rib served with Yorkshire pudding and Rosemary Au Jus
- (3) Poached Salmon with Classic Dill Beurre Blanc Sauce
- (4) Veggie Stack – Garlic mashed potatoes topped with delicious fresh grilled vegetables

Please fill out this reservation form, tear it off, and send it with your check (payable to CVAS)
Mail to Audrey Watkins, 1780 O’Leary Court Newbury Park, CA 91320 (805) 455-2755

Print your name(s) as you would like it to appear on your place card and select an entrée by number

Name _____ Dinner # ____ Phone # _____

Name _____ Dinner # ____

Name _____ Dinner # ____

Name _____ Dinner # ____

Name _____ Dinner # ____

Thank for your support!!!

Conservation Corner

by Cheryl Williamson

Following-up on the places CVAS sends their yearly donations, this month I'm focusing on the Environmental Defense Center. All the information for this article was taken from the EDC's Summer 2006 newsletter.

The Environmental Defense Center is the only nonprofit environmental law firm on California's Central Coast. EDC works with community groups on environmental issues such as protecting air and water quality, preserving precious open spaces, saving species from extinction and guarding public health. EDC provides legal, educational and advocacy support to grassroots efforts.

What Can We Do About Global Warming?

What EDC is Doing

The primary contributors to global warming in our area are oil & gas development, vehicles, ships, and the threat of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) projects. We are doing our part by:

- Blocking the development of 37 federal oil and gas leases
- Opposing oil and gas development in state waters, within 3 miles of shore
- Fighting the Cabrillo Port LNG project
- Supporting fuel efficiency, clean fuels, and alternative transportation
- Advocating for ships that run cleaner and quieter
- Participating in Santa Barbara County's Bike Team competition!

What You Can Do

Think globally, act locally:

"C - E - R" *Conservation - Efficiency - Renewables*

Conservation

- Turn off equipment & lights when not in use
- Adjust thermostat
- Use appliances during non-peak times
- Drive less: carpool, ride a bike or walk, take the bus

Efficiency

- Drive a hybrid vehicle
- Replace appliances with more efficient ones
- Use compact fluorescent lights

Renewables

- Buy vehicles that run on alternative fuel
- Install solartubes, sky lights or solar panels on your home and business
- Encourage your utility, City and County to purchase renewable sources of energy

Birding in Arizona

by Cheryl Williamson

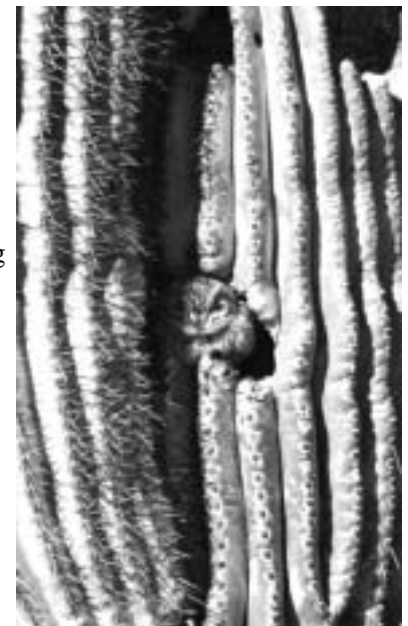
We recently made a trip to Arizona to visit our daughter and son-in-law and Don's brother, Lee.

Lee lives in the White Mountains in a city called Show Low. In order to get there we had to travel north from Mesa, where our daughter lives, through the Tonto National Forrest. My birding goal was to see the Juniper Titmouse. We found a turn-off to the Brundrett Group Timber Camp picnic area and stopped for lunch. We spotted 2 Hairy Woodpeckers, crows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Winter Wren, Acorn Woodpeckers, and to our delight, three Mexican Jays, a life bird – but, alas, no titmouse.

At Lee's, in Show Low, (at 6,000') we were treated to scores of Mountain Bluebirds. There were flocks of 50 – 70 birds flying about, sitting on power lines, and at one point sitting in a pine tree like so many blue Christmas ornaments. There were also White-breasted Nuthatches, American Robins, kestrels, and juncos. Scanning the juncos we found Grey-headed Dark-eyed Juncos among the Oregon Juncos. We had never seen the grey-headed subspecies before. It snowed lightly as we left Show Low and drove down to Mesa.

I was determined to see the Juniper Titmouse so as we came down the mountain we stopped at the Timber Camp picnic area for lunch again. We found the Hairy Woodpeckers, both types of Dark-eyed Juncos, and Red-breasted Nuthatches eating on the ground. Don was busy photographing when I heard the titmouse, and to my delight he landed on the ground in front of us. He got photographed too. Our only regret was that we couldn't stay at this spot longer – but we had family waiting for us in Mesa..

In the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, we were strolling along a path studded with desert plants when a docent came toward us. He had noticed we were wearing binoculars. He said, "Would you like to see something neat?" "Sure," we said, as we rushed down the path behind him. "What kind of bird is it?" "It's a Western Screech-owl in a saguaro right over there." We would have strolled by and never in a million years spotted that. Thank you, Charlie Brennan!



Field Trip Reports

Christmas Bird Count

by David Pereksta

The 32nd Thousand Oaks Christmas Bird Count was held on December 31, 2006. Sixty birders covered as much bird habitat as they could find in the count circle, which includes the Oxnard Plain, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, the Santa Monica Mountains, and the coast from Leo Carillo to Point Mugu. When the day was finished, the teams had collectively found 191 species; a new high for the count. In addition, over 38,000 individual birds were recorded!! Highlights included a White-winged Scoter, 1000s of Black-vented Shearwaters, and two Marbled Murrelets off Mugu Rock; an Eurasian Wigeon, six Black Scoters, a Swainson's Hawk, three Clapper Rails, a Black-legged Kittiwake, two Ancient Murrelets, five Burrowing Owls, a Short-eared Owl, and Vermilion Flycatcher at Point Mugu; a Cackling Goose and Red-naped Sapsucker at Lake Sherwood; a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at Peppertree Park; and seven Wood Ducks and a White-throated Sparrow at Hill Canyon. Thanks to everyone who participated and to Nobuko McClure for hosting the compilation in the evening.



Editor's Note

I received the following note from Nobuko McClure.

"I enjoyed hosting the party for the "Christmas Bird Count" on 31st of December 2006. Thanks to the members who brought the wonderful food and the people who put some money in the pot to help pay for the pizzas. It was almost enough to cover the cost of pizzas. I think everybody had a good time. I think we should have more parties like that!"

Lake Casitas by Tom Halpin

This is always a good spot. Before we started walking we had excellent, very close views of a Red-naped Sapsucker. Shortly thereafter we saw several Red-breasted Sapsuckers.

The first campground area held juncos, Anna's Hummingbird, lots of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Audubon's Warblers. Just up the road we found two Townsend's Warblers, Red-tailed Hawks, kestrels, and two Red-shouldered Hawks, both on and near a nest.

Heading toward the landing, we found a young Red-shouldered Hawk perched in a tree between the road and water. Very close and very cooperative!

The landing area held lots of cormorants, ducks, bribes, and grackles. There were also kites, a few Canada Geese, and White Pelicans. It was truly a beautiful day to be out birding!

Saticoy Ponds by Tom Halpin

On a cold stormy morning one week before Christmas seven brave souls showed up for birding. Seven turned out to be a very lucky number. Five minutes inside the gate a Water District employee informed us that since all the ponds were dry, we were welcome to drive around them. Arriving at the yellow pump house we flushed several Cinnamon Teal and a Great Egret. The small pond also held Long-billed Dowitchers, Spotted Sandpiper and Common Yellowthroat. Surrounding bushes and power lines supported goldfinches, two kites and a kestrel.



Photo by Chrystal Klabunde

Heading toward the inflow canal we passed a couple of Great Blue Herons and flushed a Peregrine Falcon from the ground. It seemed to follow us for the next forty five minutes. We named him "Peety" Using our cars as blinds; we were able to observe the birds on the water without spooking them. We counted all the teal species, Mallards, Ring-necked Ducks, scaup, pintail, shoveler, Gadwall, wigeon, lots of Canvasbacks, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Ducks.

Before heading toward the back ponds we had several Green Heron fly-bys. Night-herons were seen near the house. With the wind blowing up the face of the hills from the west, several raptors were taking advantage of the excellent lift. One peregrine was aggressively encouraging another to leave it's territory with loud vocalizations. With that accomplished, it then chose to go after a harrier. A pair of red-tails observed from a safe distance.

The back ponds held the usual assortment of gulls, ducks, and grebes. One of the highlights of the day was a total of at least eighty(!) Common Mergansers in two separate flocks. With a total of around fifty-five species, we all left for home very invigorated.



On returning the next day to try to get some photos I observed a light gray (Prairie form) Merlin near the river.