



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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## General Meeting March 5th 7:30 pm Western Foundation

### Hooked on Galapagos Birds

More than three years have passed since Avian Video Center Producer **Tom Kaminski** presented his original "Hooked on Hummingbirds" program, the 2004 revised, version of which Kenn Kaufman described as "A fantastic video!" Join us Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> when Kaminski presents his new program, "Hooked on Galapagos Birds." Based on footage and information gathered during four trips (1996-2005) to the islands that Darwin made famous, the video is termed "stunning" by the Audubon Naturalist News. It depicts the natural history and ecology of most of the endemic, resident and migratory birds of the islands with Kaminski's unique blend of great wit, beautiful footage, and interesting information.

Kaminski says that it was his 1996 travels to the Galapagos Islands and Costa Rica that turned him from a wildlife generalist to a bird enthusiast. He began his career in the American Forces Radio and Television Service then went on to work in commercial broadcasting, college teaching, and aerospace communications for Northrop Grumman, Rockwell and Boeing. He holds an MS in mass communications from San Diego State University. A real renaissance man, he also studied music composition at USC and UCLA, and has subtly used some of his own works in his videos.

Kaminski and his wife, Janelle, reside on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. They have four grown children and two grandsons.

## Nature Adventures by Thelma Williams

Great Fun for Youngsters 7-12 years old. March 24, 2007, 9:00 am---12:30 pm.

Conejo Valley Audubon Society is sponsoring a wonderful morning for students ages 7-12. It is to be held at the Oakbrook-Chumash Museum, at 3290 Lang Ranch Parkway (off Westlake Blvd) in Thousand Oaks.

The Chumash center is in a natural oak grove with lush meadows and creeks. Birds and wildlife can be seen throughout the park, as well as unique landscapes and rock formations. Reconstructed Chumash sites are located in various locations in the park.

Included in the events will be:

- \*The Ojai Raptor Society with birds of prey and snakes
- \*Bird walks-led by expert birders, with binoculars and bird guides supplied to the hikers
- \*A Nature hike with naturalist Sharon Hardee
- \*Chumash lore with Chumash interpreter Julie Tumamait Stenslie
- \*A Craft project-bird feeders to assemble
- \*Gifts and a raffle for bird items
- \*Display tables
- \*Entrance to the museum and gift shop.

We are happy to open the registration to children and grandchildren of the Audubon Society. Registration will be \$5:00 per student. Contact: Thelma Williams at 805-492-2796.

(Continued on page 2)

## CALENDAR

### March

3	8:00 am	Field trip	Hill Canyon
5	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
10	5:00 pm	Dinner/Auction	Sterling Hills
11	8:00 pm	Field trip	Descanso Gardens
17	8:00 am	Field trip	Camarillo Regional Park
25	7:15 am	Field trip	Private property
31	7:30 am	Field trip	Soule Park

### \*\*\* 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, March 3 Hill Canyon

Meet at the Santa Rosa Park, over the bridge and into the Park in Hill Canyon on Santa Rosa Road at 8 am - goldfinches, sparrows, hawks, ducks, wrens, Phainopeplas, Yellow-rump Warblers.  
Leader is **Jean Hulberg (805) 491-2666.**

### 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.

### Sunday, March 11 Descanso Gardens

Meet at Descanso Gardens at 8 am for their regular bird-walk. Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 7:15 to carpool (bring gas money). See the Red-whiskered Bulbuls that nest there, as well as lots of sparrows, hawks, songbirds. Leader will be the regular docent at the Gardens.

### Saturday, March 17 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 the gate on the left. Lots of chaparral birds, roadrunner, Wrentit, sparrows, water birds along Calleguas Creek.  
Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023.**

### Sunday, March 25 Private property

Carpool from Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am (bring gas money) Meet at the private property at 8 am to walk in; lots of shorebirds, should still be some ducks, hawks,

herons, blackbirds; possible American Bittern, Sora  
Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

### Saturday, March 31 Soule Park

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am Should be woodpeckers, sparrows, hawks and possible early migrants. Leader is **Kevin Pickard (805) 492-6962.**

### Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The March 12th meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic and picture theme have yet to be determined.

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

## Bird Festivals

April 27 - 30, 2007  
Spring Nature Festival  
Kern River Preserve  
(760) 378-2029  
<http://kern.audubon.org>

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

Spend quality time with birdsong expert Don Kroodsma, 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](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars)

### Nature Adventures (continued from page 1)

We will be counting on many of the Audubon members to help us with this exciting venture. We will need parking organizers, field trip helpers, registration and table monitors, bird feeder assistants, group watchers, binocular counters, and other assistants. Any time you can donate will be gratefully appreciated. **Please notify Thelma Williams at (805) 492-2796, to offer your willing and enthusiastic help!**

# Field Trip Report

## Birding the Volcanos in Mexico

by Audrey Watkins



It was so exciting to see the volcano spewing towering ash clouds on the drive to our birding site. The Vol-

can de Fuego (Volcano of Fire) eruptions lasted only a few minutes, but were awesome photo opportunities. December in the state of Colima, Mexico is sunny and warm. We started at sea level, then traveled up through pastures, cropland, dense forest to the pine-oak slopes at an altitude of nearly 12,000 feet.

Our great good fortune was in finding local guides, Eduardo and Elena Ruvalcaba, who speak English and are

very knowledgeable about the volcano birding. Our base camp was Laguna La Maria. These rustic but adequate accommodations with a small restaurant were located on a lake. Vermillion Flycatchers were on every fence post. Eastern Bluebirds, Audubon and other warblers, and sparrows were all foraging at sunset.

After being on the warm coast, we asked for extra blankets and turned in. We awoke to the Chachalacas calling back and forth across the ridges. We piled into Eduardo's 4-wheel drive vehicle and began our first ascent of Volcan de Fuego. Dirt roads crossed over small creeks and boggy wet areas to fields with huge trees. There was a Berylline Hummingbird in the bog. Then we were entranced by the unique, squeaky, metallic, jangling song of a flock of highland forest Brown-backed Solitaires. (Lifer's for us!)

Next morning, all bundled up with plenty of food we got a very early start to get to the highest elevations on Valcan de Nieve. Here Eduardo was at his best. The road was a challenge, but the lifers we sought were no match for him. Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Blue Mockingbird, Slate-throated Redstart, Red Warbler, Golden-browed Warbler, Grey-barred and Spotted Wren. The Volcano list was 59 species - and it was winter!



### Early-Bird Special expires Feb 25! CVAS Dinner and Auction, March 10th.

**Sterling Hills Golf Club**  
**901 Sterling Hills Drive, Camarillo**

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)

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) 277-4755

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 # \_\_\_\_

Thank for your support!!!