



ROADRUNNER

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**General Meeting April 2nd
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

The Loons of the Morro Estuary



There are five species of loons in North America, the Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Arctic Loon, and Yellow-billed Loon. Most of these birds breed, migrate and winter north of the Canadian border, but a few once bred as far south as the lakes of the Sierra Nevada range. Although the last reported Loon nest in the state of California was on Lassen Lake in the 1960s, loons can still be seen wintering along the coast, and notably on the Morro Estuary, where they will get counted by the Morro Bay Winter Loon Survey.

The birds that can be seen and heard on Morro Bay during the winter are quite different from the familiar loons of the northern summer, but they are the same bird

in another disguise. They answer to the same rhythms of migration, molt, choosing of a mate, rearing of young, hunting and avoiding predators as the rest of the 9 million year old species.

This important study of loons on Morro Bay is being conducted by Darwin Long, head field biologist of the Biodiversity Research Institute, aided by a team that includes Henry Pontarelli current president of the Morro Coast Audubon Society.

Please come join Darwin and Henry for an exciting and informative presentation that addresses general loon ecology, behavior, migrations, adaptations and population ecology. We will also learn more specifics on the genetics, habitat use, plumage progression and toxicology of wintering loons on the Morro Estuary and coastal California.

Welcome Back

We would like to welcome back our former Conservation Chair, Laurie Van Stee. She has just returned from Maine, Georgia, and South Carolina where she was working on getting her Masters Degree in Environmental Education. Laurie has agreed to resume her former post. Watch for her articles in the coming months. It's great to have you back Laurie!

Nominating Committee

It's that time of year again. The nominating committee, Jean Hulberg, David Person, and Babette Lawall, will be looking for people interested in serving on the Board of Directors.

CALENDAR

April

2	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
7	7:15 am	Field trip	Sisar Canyon
12	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
14	1:15 am	Field trip	Wheeler Gorge
16	7:00 pm	Board meeting	TBA
22	8:00 am	Field trip	Santa Clara River Estuary
27 - 29		Field trip	Big Morongo

***** Pre meeting Dinner *****

**Ottavio's in Camarillo
at 5:15 pm**

**Call Carol Langford
for reservations**

**24 hours in advance of the
monthly general meeting
(805) 987-2721.**

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, April 7 Sisar Canyon

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 to carpool, and meet Tom up there at the Summit Café at 8:30 (in the upper Ojai Valley). Look for woodpeckers, bluebirds, sparrows, early migrants.

Leader is **Tom Halpin 805-246-4598.**

Thursday, April 12 Beginners Bird Walk

Leisure Village, call **Arlene Miller** let her know you are coming and get on the access list for Leisure Village **(805) 987-1135.** Rain cancels.

Saturday, April 14 Wheeler Gorge

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 Look for early migrants, Stellar's Jay, Canyon Wren . Carpool with those who will go on up the mountain on 33 to Rose Valley (or not) Bring gas money, lunch, water and jacket. Leader is **Dee Lyon 805-499-2165.**

Sunday, April 22 Santa Clara River Estuary

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:15 or meet at Surfer's Knoll parking lot at 8:30 and bring scope if possible. Lots of waders, shorebirds, gulls, and assorted water birds. Last field trip there saw 65 species.

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

April 27 - 29 weekend Big Morongo

We will meet at the Big Morongo Preserve in Morongo Valley at 3 p.m. on Friday, April 27, for a late afternoon/early evening walk through the Preserve. We will spend all day Saturday at the Preserve, and will decide as a group what to do on Sunday – possibly the golf course near the Yucca Inn (always productive), Joshua Tree National Park, Cottonwood Springs, or what have you. As

many of you know, the Preserve was damaged by a wild-fire about 15 months ago, but it is back in all its glory. During spring migration, it provides riparian habitat for many migrating species and we always have a spectacular birding extravaganza. Ask anyone who has been there, and you will find out that this is no exaggeration! We have reserved a block of rooms at the Yucca Inn in Yucca Valley (800) 989-7644. **Please call as soon as possible as the hotel is filling fast.** Ask for one of the rooms reserved for Linda Easter. If the hotel is full, there is good camping at Black Rock Canyon campground, but it also fills quickly. There is also a Super 8 motel in Yucca Valley, which is probably filling quickly as well. Trip leaders are Linda and Darryl Easter at 805-482-7537 and Corine and Gary Barksdale at 658-2285. Join the fun!

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The April meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic will be Image Organization and picture theme for April's meeting is Pets/Animals.

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 this Date

Weekend of June 2nd & 3rd CVAS Annual Picnic at Los Robles Trail

8:00 am - 10:00 am Birdwalk.

11:00 am - Picnic

Book Shelf

Editor's note: If you are reading something you think might be interesting to the birders and/or conservationists in our group send me a review by E-mail or typewritten in the mail.

Lives per Gallon

by Terry Tamminen

It's available at Borders Book Store and I have only found it in the hardback version. He writes about our addiction to oil and how the oil and auto companies have worked to continue and increase that addiction. He parallels the actions of tobacco companies and oil companies; studies he references indicate that living in a smoggy city is equal to smoking 1/2 pack per day. It's an interesting read even if you do not agree with all that he writes.

- **Bill Anderson.**

2007 CVAS Dinner/Auction

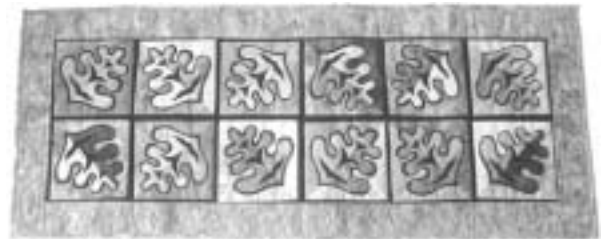


Margery and Don Coler
With Robin quilt



Audrey Watkins, Special Events Chair;
with Patricia Turner and Sandy Pereksta

We had another wonderful evening at the Sterling Hills Golf Club. Thanks to the generous donations from our members and various merchants in the area, and a live and silent auction we were able to raise over \$5000. Among the things that were auctioned off were different vacation home stays, Margery Coler's "Robins and Nests" quilted wall hanging and "Oak Leaves" quilted table runner. The live auction of "A Day of Birding" with our own Tom Halpin was lively and competitive. To the crowd's delight, Tom modeled a shear ling coat which was up for auction. Our auctioneer this year was Don Klabunde, who drew every dollar out of the bidders for each item.



Margery Coler's Oak Leaf table runner

The evening required a lot of work and planning. A big thank you to Audrey Watkins, the Special Events Chair, for making this evening possible. We also thank the following workers; Carol Langford, Dixie Anderson, Thelma Williams, Lavonne Eden, Margery and Don Coler, Patricia Turner, Ron Watkins, and Cheryl Williamson who made the center pieces. Special kudos go to Jean Hulberg and Don Williamson who had the difficult task of handling the bookkeeping for the evening.



Tom Halpin and Don Klabunde

Please thank these businesses for their generous support with your patronage: Island Packers; Hollywood Wax Museum, Fit 2B Thai Healthy Cuisine, California Pizza Kitchen, Crabtree & Evelyn, Karizma Hair Studio, Simoniz Janss Mall Car Wash, Sunset Hills Golf and Country Club, Vons, Ola's Mex Grill, Ottavio's Restaurant, Trader Joes, Sterling Hills Golf Club, Albertson's, Bogey Bob's Discount Golf Center, Hooper's Camera and Imaging, Newbury Park Feed and Pet, ProfessiaNAIL and Spa, Purebeauty, Home Depot, Imperial Garden Chinese Restaurant, and Soula's House Cleaning Service.



Jean Hulberg greeting guests

CVAS SHIRT ORDER FORM

Name	Phone #
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Style	Color	Size	Unit Price	Total
T-Shirt Adult (G-2000)	Prairie Dust	S M L XL	\$ 9.00	
		2XL	\$11.00	
T-Shirt Youth (G-2000B)	Prairie Dust	S M L XL	\$ 9.00	
Sweatshirt (G-9000)	Prairie Dust	S M L XL	\$18.00	
		2XL	\$21.00	
Denim Shirt Men's Long-Sleeved One Pocket (SP-3211)	Dark Blue Light Blue	XS S M L XL	\$21.00	
		2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL	\$24.00	
Denim Shirt Men's Short-Sleeved One Pocket (SP-0211)	Dark Blue Light Blue	XS S M L XL	\$21.00	
		2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL	\$24.00	
Denim Shirt Women's Long-Sleeved No Pocket (SP-5211)	Dark Blue Light Blue	XS S M L XL	\$21.00	
		2XL	\$24.00	
Poplin Shirt Men's Long-Sleeved Two Pockets (BG-7215)	Tan	XS S M L XL	\$26.00	
		2XL 3XL	\$29.00	
Poplin Shirt Men's Short-Sleeved Two Pockets (BG-7215s)	Tan	XS S M L XL	\$25.00	
		2XL 3XL	\$28.00	
Oxford Shirt Women's Long-Sleeved One Pocket (BG-6216)	Tan	XS S M L XL	\$25.00	
		2XL 3XL	\$28.00	
Please make check payable to CVAS			Total	

MAIL THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK BEFORE APRIL 24TH TO:
CVAS, P.O. BOX 4782 THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91359
 OR BRING IT TO THE MAY 7TH MEETING
ORDERS WILL BE PLACED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE MEETING
 SHIRTS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE PICNIC IN JUNE
 OR CALL CHRYSTAL AT (805) 522-8023

BIRD FRIENDLY PLANTS

by Dee Lyon

Used for food, cover and nesting; see <http://www.laspilitas.com> for California Native Plants.

Aquilegia - Columbine -Hummingbird feeder

Archostaphylos - Manzanita - many birds eat fruits and use the flowers , good cover

Artemisia - Sagebrush - many birds eat the leaves, flowers and seeds

Asters - birds eat the seeds (leave the seed heads on)

Ceanothus - Calif. Lilac - birds eat the seeds and use for cover and nesting

Cercis occidentalis -Redbud -birds eat seeds and flowers - makes a great small tree

Cornus - Dogwood - birds eat buds and fruit

Eriogonum - Buckwheat - many bird species eat the leaves, seeds and flowers, make good cover

Eschscholzia - Calif. Poppies - quail love the seeds

Geranium - birds eat the seeds

Honeysuckles - Lonicera - Hummingbirds, Towhees, Thrasher, Robin and Bluebirds work flowers and eat the berries.

Mahonia - Oregon Grape - Bluebirds, Robin, Thrasher, Towhees eat the berries

Penstemons- MAKES THE BEST HUMMINGBIRD FEEDER YOU CAN PROVIDE

Pinus - Pines - Jays, Nuthatches, etc eat seeds, pick insects out of bark

Quercus - Oaks - The most useful tree for birds - They eat the acorns, leaf galls, insects, use for nesting - Jays, Quail, Titmouse, Bushtits, Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, Kinglets

Rhamnus - Coffee berry - berries attract many species

Rosa species - Wild Rose - Jays, Thrashers, Towhees and others eat the hips, great cover

Salix species - willows - many bird species eat young catkins, scales, aphids, important bush for cover and nesting

Salvia species - Sages - many bird species eat the seeds, work the flowers

Helianthus - Sunflowers - Goldfinch, Bushtits and others eat the seeds

Heteromeles arbutifolia - Toyon - Bluebirds, Robins, Cedar Waxwings, Mockingbirds and others eat the red berries.

CONSERVATION CORNER

by Laurie Van Stee

Hi Everyone! I'm back and I just want to thank you all for voting me back into my old position.

I can't believe I'm almost done with school and on my way to a more environmental career. I am not one to talk about myself very much but I thought I would say a little about school and where I've been the past year and a half.

I am attending Lesley University, Audubon Expedition Institute, in Cambridge, MA, although I have only been to the school once since I started. We actually traveled to different regions in the U.S. learning in the field, no classrooms. I have been to the Adirondacks, Appalachians, Hawaii, Maine, Georgia, and South Carolina. It has been a wonderful experience and I am very fortunate to have been able to study in this way. I am currently in my last semester working for Island Packers, in Ventura. I am a naturalist on the boat, environmental education teacher, and hike leader on the islands. I graduate in May along with the 20 other students in my class. I'm sure I have left out a lot of things but if anyone has any questions, just ask.

West Nile Virus Hot Line

The public can report dead birds either by calling 1-877-968-2473 or by submitting an online report at www.westnile.ca.gov

Field Trip Report

Hill Canyon

by Jean Hulberg

Despite the relentless winds, 16 windswept birders were able to identify 40 species. We started our walk at the treatment plant where a Wood Duck, Wigeons, Coots, Double-crested Cormorant and the ever present Mallards have continued their residence since the CBC. At least 8 Great Blue Herons are now incubating eggs on platforms of sticks, twigs, leaves and grass. Northern Rough-winged, Violet-green and Tree Swallows were very busy chasing bugs above the stream as were Black and Say's Phoebes. Seen and heard, a Nuttall's Woodpecker



and a Flicker. Sharp eyes spotted White-throated Swifts, a Titmouse, both Towhees and a Hermit Thrush. Overhead, a Red-tail, Red-shouldered Hawk and a Merlin. Thanks to Summer Wilson and David Person for generously sharing their spotting scopes with all of us, and thank you David for discovering that Merlin perched high on the hillside.