



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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**General Meeting May 7th
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Between Science and Magic
The Continuing Search for the
Ivory-billed Woodpecker**

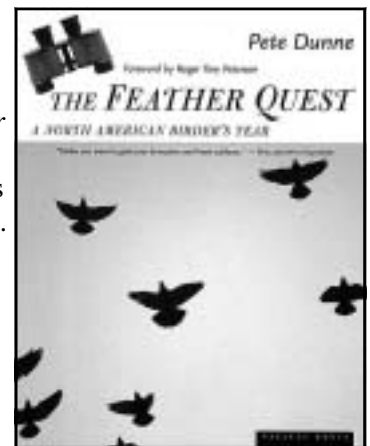
David Pereksta will take us on a journey through the tragic and misunderstood history of this magnificent bird. David will chronicle the history of its decline through the 1800s, the rediscoveries and apparent extinction in the first half of the 20th century, the litany of unconfirmed sightings and evidence through the latter half of the 20th century, the most recent rediscovery in 2004, and his own participation in Cornell University's search for the "Lord God Bird." David has just returned from his second trip to the southeast in search of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. If you do not believe the Ivory-billed Woodpecker still exists, you may need to reevaluate!

David is an Assistant Field Supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, where he works to conserve habitat for threatened and endangered species and migratory birds. Throughout his career with various Federal and State agencies, he has studied several imperiled bird species including Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans, and Spotted Owls. An avid birder for nearly 30 years, he takes every opportunity to get into the field to observe, study, and photograph birds. He has seen over 1,500 species in his travels in the Americas; photographing nearly 800 species along the way. Locally, he holds several records for Ventura County including top county big year (333 species) and top county big day (186 species).

Editor's Notes

This May meeting (the last formal meeting at the Western Foundation until next September) will be your last chance this year to order the CVAS club clothing with Chrystal Klabunde's great roadrunner design. There was an order form in the April issue of the newsletter. There will also be order forms at the meeting. Chrystal will submit the collected orders immediately after the May meeting. You can pick up your clothing at the June 2nd picnic or you can call Chrystal at (805) 522-8023 to make arrangements to pick up your order.

There also will be a raffle for an autographed book by Pete Dunne. It is a soft cover edition of *The Feather Quest, A North American Birder's Year*. The book was originally published in 1992. Pete updated the Introduction for the current edition published in 1999. This prized copy of the book was autographed by Pete Dunne on January 13, 2007 in big, bold letters. The book is an easy read, very enjoyable, describing Pete and his wife, Linda's adventures and perspectives seeking birds throughout the year of 1989 in U.S. locations ranging from Attu, Alaska to the Dry Tortugas off the coast of Florida. It is inspiring, the next best thing to being outside looking at the birds. A welcome addition to some lucky person's library.



CALENDAR

May

6	7:15 am	Field trip	Pine Mountain
7	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
12	7:45 am	Field trip	Fillmore Fish Hatchery/Lake Piru
16	7:00 pm	Board meeting	McClure's home
20	7:45 am	Field trip	Malibu Creek State Park
26	7:45 am	Field trip	Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge

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

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

Call **Nobuko McClure**
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, May 6 Pine Mountain

Leave Los Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am. Bring carpool money. An all day outing with a picnic at Pine Mountain Campground. Bring heavy jacket and gloves, water and lunch. Hope to see Green-tailed Towhee, Purple Finch, Mt. Chickadee, White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, possible Clark's Nutcracker, Red Crossbill, and Mt. Quail. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165.**

Thursday, May 10 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, May 12 Fillmore Fish Hatchery and Lake Piru

Leave Janss Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the Fish Hatchery at 8:30 am. We expect to see herons, egrets, warblers, bluebirds, Osprey and many more. Leader will be **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

Sunday, May 20 Malibu Creek State Park

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8 am to carpool. Excellent birding; should be orioles, woodpeckers, many riparian birds and lots of hawks and sparrows. Leader is **Kevin Pickard (805) 492-6962.**

Saturday, May 26 Sepulveda Wildlife Refuge

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8 am to carpool. Always lots of water birds, and can have many warblers, sparrows and the unexpected (Red Bishop). Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023.**

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The May meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic will be Matting & Framing and picture theme for May is Santa Barbara Zoo. There will be a Shutterbugs field trip to the zoo on May 5th, meet in the parking lot at 10:00 AM.

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.

*** * * June 2nd * * ***

**CVAS Annual Picnic
at Los Robles Trail
8:00 am - 10:00 am Birdwalks.
11:00 am - Picnic**

Field Trips

Private Property by Dee Lyon

What a gorgeous day for a 4 hour walk! Starting out on Hueneme Road, Tom Halpin (our leader) pulled over on a grass section near Wood Road to look at 63 Whimbrels, then as we (20 of us) entered the "private property" there were at least 2000 swallows swooping around. Quite a sight. We saw 2 bitterns flying off, numerous Marsh Wrens building their nests and very vociferous, Peregrine Falcon, kite, harriers, kestrel and lots of red-tails. Saw a Hooded Oriole and the ducks still around included Ruddy's, Buffleheads, Mallards, Gadwalls, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Common Golden Eye, Scaup, Coots, Snow Goose, Pintails, and we saw Willets, Least Sandpipers, Dowitchers, yellow-legs, stilts, avocets, ibis, yellow rumps and Orange-crown Warblers, Bushtits, Savannah and Song Sparrows, etc. (probably around 65 species), then Summer and I saw a black-headed gull which she got her scope on and decided after looking at the reference books was a second year FRANKLIN'S GULL .



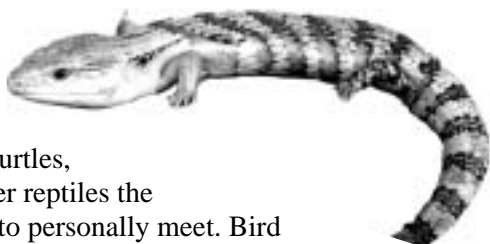
North Ranch Field Trip—Photo by Rich Wagner

Nature Adventures Day

by Thelma Williams

Nature Adventures Day March 24th, was a wonderful day. The weather was perfect, and the location, the Chumash-Oakbrook Park in Thousand Oaks, was magical. From 9:00 to 1:00, 50 youngsters with their parents and about 25 volunteers were happily occupied. We had trouble getting them to leave!!

We began with The Reptile Family and a fantastic array of snakes, turtles, lizards and other reptiles the kids were able to personally meet. Bird feeder assembly (a big hit), bird-- origami folding (another big hit), a gem and mineral display, a teaching kit from the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, and a coloring book of common birds, compiled by Chrystal Klabunde, all were popular visiting sites. Each of these tables was staffed by enthusiastic and willing volunteers.



With the binoculars we had purchased, groups were able to birdwatch with expert birders, Dee Lyon and Tom Halpin. Two naturalists, Mary Ann Campbell, and Sharon Hardee led others on plant and animal discoveries.



Another highlight was Chumash tribal leader, Julie Tumamait Stenslie, who kept the audience in rapt attention, with her stories and songs of Chumash Lore. Her costume was beautiful and her personality was captivating. The group assembled in the Chumash village for this event.



After another bird and naturalist walk, the group learned about raptors with the Ojai Raptor Society. Kim Stroud and her helper, displayed various hawks, owls, and other raptors to the interested audience.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers from the Conejo Valley Audubon, the Ojai Raptor Society, the Reptile Family, the Gem and Mineral Society, the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, the Chumash Learning Center, to Chrystal Klabunde for her sign and graphic expertise, to Ron Watkins for his photographic skill, to Linda Reynolds for handling registration and to my teacher friends.

Now we have to decide if this is to be the First Annual Nature Adventures Day --- time will tell!!

Photos by Ron Watkins

