



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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## **CVAS Annual Picnic Saturday, June 2nd—Los Robles Trail**



We had such a good time at this beautiful location last year that we decided to have this year's picnic there too. Located in front of the original Janss house in Thousand Oaks. Go south on Moorpark Road to the end approximately 1 mile south of the 101 freeway. Turn right on Green Meadow Ave. and go approximately 1 mile to the parking lot at the end of Green Meadow Ave. Carpooling is encouraged as there is limited parking.

There will be two bird walks this year - the 8:00 am walk will be led by **Dee Lyon** and the 10:00 am walk will be led by **Dave and Sara Person**.

There will be a potluck picnic at 11:00 am, please bring these food items to share. If your last name begins with:

- A to I      bring salad
- J to R      bring Main dish
- S to Z      bring Dessert

Please provide your own table service, drinks and chairs.

## **Share the Journey** by Carol Langford

What a year! Conejo Valley Audubon has had an exciting, exhilarating year. Also, a noisy year, as kids hammering away on bird feeder kits drowned out the voice of Kim Stroud, of the Ojai Raptor Center during our Nature Adventure Day for Kids.

Volunteer hours, especially the many hours spent by our NAD Chairperson Thelma Williams provided the manpower for the Nature Adventure Day. Volunteers hours, especially those provided by our Annual Dinner and Auction Chairperson Audrey Watkins provided the manpower for a delightful evening of fun and fund raising. In fact, volunteer hours provide the manpower or womanpower for every thing that happens at Conejo Valley Audubon.

Volunteer hours are spent each month as members of the Board of Directors meet to report on and debate the course of action for CVAS. These hours are minimal compared to the hours and hours spent by Don and Cheryl Williamson as they cajole article writers, prepare the newsletter for printing, and distribute the newsletter in a print version and an electronic version. Don also is our membership chair and maintains our membership database. Countless additional volunteer hours are spent by treasurer Dixie Anderson and secretary Linda Reynolds as they prepare and maintain our records. As a nonprofit corporation we are required to meet certain standards for record keeping. You can be assured with Linda and Dixie in charge, those standards are met!

Volunteer hours are spent each and every time Chrystal

(continued on page two)

### **CALENDAR**

#### **June**

|       |         |               |                       |
|-------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 2     | 7:45 am | Annual picnic | Los Robles Trail      |
| 10    | 7:45 am | Field trip    | Plant Walk Simi Hills |
| 14    | 9:00 am | Field trip    | Beginners Bird Walk   |
| 16    | 8:00 pm | Field trip    | Rancho Sierra Vista   |
| 23-24 |         | Field trip    | Big Bear Lake         |

**The annual picnic will be the last meeting for this year. We will resume our meetings and programs on September 10th. The first program of the year will be "Show and Tell".**

**Have a safe and birdy summer.**

## 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, June 2 Los Robles Trail

ANNUAL PICNIC held at the old Jans House. Go to south end of Moorpark Road and turn right to the end. Meet at 7:45 am. See page one.

### Sunday, June 10 Plant Walk - Simi Hills

Leave Jans Park and Ride at 8 am. Plant walk led by **Mary Ann Campbell.** She will help us identify the bushes and other plants, so that we can locate birds more easily (CA Thrasher on the Laurel Sumac or American Goldfinch on the Mulefat)

### Thursday, June 14 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, June 16 Rancho Sierra Vista

See our wonderful neotropical migrants (Lazuli Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, orioles etc) Meet at Sierra Vista at 8 am Leader is **Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023.**

### Saturday & Sunday June 23 & 24 Sun Big Bear Lake

We'll be looking for the Painted Redstart, Calliope Hummingbird, Pinyon Jays, owls, Mt. Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Williamson Sapsucker, Mt. Quail, White-headed Woodpecker, and other mountain birds. We'll meet at the Civic Center on Big Bear Lake Boulevard at 8 am on Sat. Call **Dee Lyon** if you are going **(805) 499-2165**

## Share the Journey by Carol Langford (continued from page one)

Klabunde sends an email to a prospective speaker and each and every time Dee Lyon makes a telephone call requesting one of you to lead a field trip. Dan Turner spent innumerable volunteer hours at the computer and telephone arranging the publicity for our general meetings and special events. Ron Watkins spent his volunteer hours behind the camera lens documenting the happenings at each of our events, providing pictures for our website, our reports to Audubon California, our newsletter and the media. Nobuko McClure and Patricia Turner spent hours arranging our pre-meeting dinners and pre-meeting greetings.

Volunteer hours and donated bits and bytes provided by Bob Sakamoto fuel our website. Linda Reynolds spent a day of volunteer hours judging the Ventura County Science Fair projects. Over 50 of you spent volunteer hours at our booth at the Ventura County Fair, at our Nature Adventure Day, attending Central Coast Council meetings and leading our field trips and more.

Volunteer hours are donated hours, they represent more than the time, the energy, the knowledge each of you provide for Conejo Valley. They represent our outreach to the community, sharing a new bird, and finding a new friend. Your volunteer hours continue the tradition of Conejo Valley Audubon Society as an organization. You share a history with the volunteers who met to form this organization in 1968. It is a cliché but the sum of your hours is worth so much more than each individual hour. I can't thank you enough! Thanks and thanks again. Yes, what a year, all thanks to you, our volunteers.

*Thank you, Hayes Graphics*



Hardy Hayes, Cheryl (Editor), & John Hayes

Conejo Valley Audubon Society would like to thank **Hayes Graphics** for their excellent reproduction work which contributed to our award winning newsletter.

## Field Trip Reports

### Camarillo Regional Park by Chrystal Klabunde

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> a mere four of us enjoyed a cool, drizzly morning at Camarillo Regional Park. The weather caused the model planes to get a late start, so the misty air was quiet except for a symphony of bird song. Abundant Wrentits and Common Yellowthroats seemed to be the predominant players, though there were outstanding solos by several Northern Mockingbirds and one spectacularly beautiful Western Meadowlark. As we watched, other Meadowlarks began to rise up out of the grasses. More and more rose until a flock of sixty-plus circled and disappeared over the hill.

The raptors put on a ballet as well. A northern Harrier strafed the hillside, a courting pair of Red-tailed Hawks did romantic acrobatics in the sky, and the resident pair of White-tailed Kites alternately showed off their flying skills. Not only did they hover in place, watching for prey, but floated slowly down on parachute wings to capture a tasty morsel.

We saw fifty species in all, including Bewick's and House Wrens, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds and four kinds of swallows. Our best birds were an Osprey and a Rufous-crowned Sparrow.

### Soule Park

by Kevin Pickard

On Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, seven of us met at Soule Park in Ojai for birding. We began by walking along the bridal path along the south edge of the park. There were plenty of birds out and moving! The first unusual bird was a small flock of Lawrence's Goldfinches foraging on the open grassy area. We had good looks through the scope and had several more throughout the walk, ending up seeing all three Goldfinches - Lawrence's (11 at one time), American and Lesser. There were lots of Acorn Woodpeckers and a few Nuttall's and Flickers. Several Violet-green Swallows were swooping around during our walk. Finally one of them landed and we were all treated to beautiful close-up scope views of the swallow in brilliant sunlight as it sat and preened itself. We also saw an early migrant- one (possibly two) Pacific-slope Flycatcher singing and flycatching. An unexpected surprise was the squawking from the resident manager's living area. While passing by, the friendly couple showed off their Red-lored Parrot and their Lilac-crowned Parrot to us.

Although Soule Park can get crowded on weekends it is a good place to make a stop when you're in the area. Not counting the exotics, we saw 40 species.

### Wheeler Gorge

by Dee Lyon

Seven of us from Conejo Valley Audubon enjoyed six warbler species on the west side of Rose Valley Lake this morning around 11 am; Yellow, Black-throated Gray, Nashville, Yellow-rumped, Common Yellowthroat and Wilson's, with really good looks. Lots of orioles and Western Tanagers at Wheeler Gorge

### A Big Morongo Weekend

by Linda Easter

From April 27 – 29, a lucky 13 CVASer's enjoyed a very warm and birdy weekend at the Big Morongo Preserve and Black Rock Canyon. We met at the Big Morongo Preserve on Friday afternoon and relaxed around the feeders outside the camp host's home. Then we took a late afternoon walk through the Marsh Trail, which has been beautifully restored after the devastating July 2005 fire.

On Saturday, we returned to Big Morongo at 6:30 a.m. due to the predicted high temperatures later in the day. We were lucky enough to see a total of 60 species, including Verdin, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Phainopepla, and Lawrence's Goldfinch, to name a few. We spent Sunday morning hiking near the Black Rock campground and saw 12 species, including Gambel's Quail, Cactus Wren, Brewer's Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, and Scott's Oriole. In the evenings, we



socialized around the hotel pool and enjoyed dinner in two of Yucca Valley's tastiest restaurants. Will YOU be joining us next year?

Photos by  
Don & Cheryl  
Williamson