



ROADRUNNER

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General Meeting September 10 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Our meeting date is the 10th because of Labor Day. In past years the first program of the year has been "Show and Tell". This holds true for this year also. So if you have photos, movies, slides, or anything you'd like to share please bring them to this meeting. Contact Chrystal Klabunde, our programs chair, so she can setup computers, projectors, or anything else you need to show your pictures; and time the program. You can reach Chrystal at (805) 522-8023 or by E-mail at chrystal@conejovalleyaudubon.org. In past years we've had some spectacular programs because we have such talented photographers and videographers in our group. We'll be looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!

Don Williamson will be making nametags again this year. If you've lost, washed, or just want a new one the sample book and signup sheet will be at the meeting. The cost remains a \$3 donation to CVAS. You order at the September meeting and pay and pick your nametag at the greeting table in October. If Don doesn't have a picture you would like on your nametag he can use one of yours; just bring it with you to the meeting.

Our webmaster, Bob Sakamoto, has moved our website to our own web host. As a result our officers and committee chairs will have E-mail addresses like username@conejovalleyaudubon.org.

Our webmaster and newsletter editor are always looking for photos for the web site and the newsletter. Send your photos in jpeg format to Bob and/or Cheryl via E-mail. Their E-mail addresses are on the last page of the newsletter.

Share The Journey by Carol Langford

What a privilege it is to watch the same birds year after year. "Common Birds in Decline" is the name of an Audubon publication emphasizing the "precipitous population declines" of the birds we used to see all the time. In California, the population of Northern Pintails has declined 96% since 1967! In the same time period the Loggerhead Shrike population has declined 76%. During the early 90s when I first participated in Christmas Bird Count at Hill Canyon with Bill and Jean Hulberg, we always counted Loggerhead Shrikes. Now, we are thrilled to find them.

What can you do to reverse these population declines? Educate yourself. More information about the Common Birds in Decline analysis is available at www.audubon.org.

Take action and encourage others to take action. There are so many things to do. Here are just a couple. With California having lost more than 91% of it's wetlands between the 1780s and the mid-1980s, protecting wetlands and associated uplands is key for shorebirds. You can learn more about supporting state and federal conservation programs at <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/cleanWater2.html>. Locally, Ormond Beach and the surrounding uplands area are threatened once again by the pressure of housing and commercial development. While the period for public comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement has closed there will be opportunities to voice your opinion on the importance of this area to a healthy bird population.

(Continued on page 3)

CALENDAR

September

1	7:45 am	Field trip	Santa Clara River Mouth
9	7:45 am	Field trip	Tamarisk Trees & Sod Farms
10	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
13	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
15	7:45 am	Field trip	Mugu Lagoon
22	7:15 am	Field trip	Private Property
29	8:45 am	Field trip	Santa Cruz Island

2006 - 2007 Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamp

Do your part to help the migratory bird conservation effort; buy a stamp. Proceeds from its sales are used to acquire National Wildlife Refuge lands.

It is not only a duck hunting stamp it can also be used to gain entrance to any National Wildlife Refuge.

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, September 1 Santa Clara River Mouth

Leave Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 a.m. Look for ducks, herons, sandpipers, terns, plovers, phalaropes, turnstones, moorhens, pipits, ospreys, etc. A spotting scope is very helpful. The leader is Oscar Johnson call **Dee at (805) 499-2165.**

Sunday, September 9 Tamarisk Trees & Sod Farms

Leave Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:45 a.m. The Hueneme and Laguna "tams" are some of the best local places to see **migrating warblers.** Past Septembers have yielded Yellow, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's warblers, and even rarities like Prairie Warblers and redstarts, as well as many Warbling Vireos. At the nearby sod farms we will look for various plovers, pipits, and possibly Horned Larks. The leader is **Bets Buchanan (805) 482-0063.**

Thursday, September 13 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, September 15 Malibu Lagoon

Leave Rancho Park & Ride at 8 am Look for returning ducks, shorebirds, rails and wrens.
The leader is **Kevin Pickard (805) 492-6962.**

Saturday, September 22 Private Property

This trip will be limited to 25 people. Leave Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:30 a.m., or meet at the end of Casper Road at 8:00. This is usually one of our most productive locations. Expect numerous waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and also passerines. We hope to see Baird's Sandpi-

per, Pectoral Sandpiper, and maybe even a Ruff. The leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

Saturday, September 29 Santa Cruz Island

The Island Jay will take us to Prisoner's Cove on Santa Cruz Island.. Boat leaves Ventura Harbor (1/4 mile south of the Channel Islands National Park Headquarters) at 9 am and will return at 5, so bring water, lunch, snacks, Jacket (sea sickness patch if needed, but should be calmest time of year) We will look for other species that may attain full species recognition in the future.

Call ISLAND PACKERS at (805) 642-1393 to reserve your spot! Cost is \$46. per person, \$42 for seniors. If we have 20 we will all get the \$42 rate. We will look for pelagic species to and from the island; shearwaters, alcids, jaegers, Arctic Terns, as well as whales and dolphins. Leader will hopefully be David Pereksta or Oscar Johnson. Call **Judy Dugan at (805) 642-0842.**

Ornithology Class

Have you always wanted to take a formal class on birds, but never had the time? Now is your opportunity to participate in a real ornithology course, at a level that works with your schedule! Dr. Linnea Hall, Executive Director of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (WFVZ), in Camarillo, will be teaching an ornithology course in Fall 2007 for CSUCI science students, Audubon members, and resource agency personnel. The class starts August 27, 2007, and will meet at the Western Foundation from 1:30 to 2:45 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays, and from 8 to 10:50 a.m. on Fridays. Monday and Wednesday lecture/mini-lab classes are \$20 each; Friday labs (3-4 hours each) are \$40 each. You may take any lectures or labs in which you are interested. Labs include 4 fieldtrips to watch birds in the Ventura County area! Please contact Linnea at the WFVZ by 25 August 2007 to sign up for August and September classes (class starts 27 August; the first week is mostly introductory). Phone: 805/388-9944; email: linnea@wfvz.org.

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

There will be **no meeting** in September. The October meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic will be Photoshop Elements and picture theme is Butterflies - try to make it to Santa Barbara Natural History museum for the **Butterflies Alive!** exhibit.

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.

Field Trip Reports

Mykonos Island, Greece

by Bill Anderson

This is a White Pelican Dixie and I saw during our visit to Mykonos Island in Greece. In this picture it looks like Dixie is cornered, but she's just standing there. The other tourists were placing their heads next to the Pelican so they could have their pictures taken. That didn't seem too smart since it is a wild animal and had a very impressive beak. There were three birds total in the town; they were very interested in getting into the taverna since they had received food there before.



Share The Journey (continued from page 1)

Continue to participate in citizen science initiatives. Data from the Christmas Bird Counts was used in the analysis of bird populations. California Audubon stresses "participating in the Christmas Bird Count, the Great Backyard Bird Count and entering bird observations into California eBird are all important ways to help ornithologists track bird populations."

Audubon chapters in California hold over 1000 field trips per year. I know you will join us again this year as we scout for those "same old birds." Invite a friend or neighbor to join you. By increasing the number of people who appreciate the birds and habitats around us, we increase the number of voices willing to speak out in favor of conserving both the habitats and the birds. Check out the Audubon Advisory at <http://audubonaction.org/audubon/join.html> to share your opinions with those legislators who make decisions that affect birds and wildlife. I'm looking forward to seeing you in September to share good memories of those same old birds!



Birding in Big Bear

by Dee Lyon

photo by Lavonne Eden

7 intrepid birders rose above our 6 hour trip to Big Bear on Fri, June 22 (car breakdown with rental van replacement!) to find near 70 species in lovely weather.

The Williamsons were unable to make the trip due to illness and I'm hesitant to report that our best bird was, yes, Williamson Sapsuckers, probably 2 pairs plus juvenile, just west of Bluff Lake. Tom Halpin found an adult male on the ground showing brilliant yellow and red; quite a gorgeous bird. We saw Common Loons on the lake, plus a rare treat, a Peregrine Falcon making half a dozen passes at bats at dusk just over the lake. Quite a sight; don't know whether or not he caught any.

We had lessons in identifying Dusky Flycatchers from Summer Wilson and saw baby Wood Ducks floating by. We think we know the Green-tailed Towhee's song thanks to Kevin Pickard. Fortunately our usual bird feeder stop found a big male Mountain Quail that we had great looks at through the scopes. At our own feeder, we had a Rufous Hummingbird on its way back south already; the Wood Ducks were in eclipse but the ducklings were cute. Unfortunately, I don't have access to the internet up there, so we missed the two reports of Red-faced Warbler at Green Canyon! Oh well. Great looks at Townsend's Solitaire and we learned the Fox Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee songs. Lots of fun but not home till mid-day Monday.

Longbilled Curlew Survey

California Audubon is seeking volunteers to assist with a Long-billed Curlew survey anytime between September 13 and 16, 2007. If you're interested contact Dr. Gary Langan at glangham@audubon.org. For more information, go to our web site at www.conejovalleyaudubon.org.