



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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## General Meeting November 5 7:30 pm Western Foundation

### Wildlife Habitat in Your Own Backyard



Looking for inspiration for your garden? Join **Alan Pollack** on November 5th, to see how to turn your yard into a certified wildlife habitat and attract more birds. Alan has been a long time member of the

Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy. After retiring from the practice of psychiatry in 1995, his interest in woodworking led him to volunteer with Habitat For Humanity for several years. For the past 11 years, he has been a volunteer with Wildlife Care of Ventura County, which rescues and rehabilitates injured or orphaned birds and small mammals. It was through them that he learned about the training given by the National Wildlife Federation to become a Wildlife Habitat Steward.

Having been a life-long gardener and having a knack for landscape design, he was delighted to be able to wed two of his passions: the love of gardening and of wildlife. His yard immediately became certified as an official, wildlife habitat site and for the past 3 years, he has been giving free consultation and landscape designs to homeowners, churches, and schools ... anyone who wishes to create a garden that is attractive to wildlife as well as humans. More recently, he has been leading the Audubon-at-Home Project and has been giving beautiful slide show presentations to various groups who are interested in the goal of preserving and restoring wildlife habitat.

## Please Report Observations of Color-Banded Tricolored Blackbirds!



Nearly 1800 tricolored blackbirds were color-banded during the 2007 breeding season; your assistance in reporting observations of these color-banded birds is essential to help us to learn more about tricolors. Please report observations to: [tricolored.blackbird@gmail.com](mailto:tricolored.blackbird@gmail.com).

All birds were fitted with a USGS aluminum band, a white color band (denoting the year) and an additional color band denoting county (Yolo County = green, Yuba County = blue, Colusa County = orange).

Please report the following information:

1. observer name(s)
2. observer(s) email, mailing address, and phone number
3. observation date and time
4. county and approximate map location (USGS quad or DeLorme)
5. latitude (decimal degrees)
6. longitude (decimal degrees)
7. number of color-banded birds and color combinations observed
8. dominant land cover type(s) where foraging or roosting flocks were observed
9. approximate number of birds in flock
10. land ownership (public/private), if known
11. were birds roosting or foraging?

(continued on page 3)

### CALENDAR

#### November

3	7:45 am	Field trip	Mugu Rock
5	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
11	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Sherwood
17	7:45 am	Field trip	Ahmanson Ranch
25	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Piru/Fillmore Fish Hatchery

#### \*\*\* 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, Nov 3 Mugu Rock

Leave Los Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at Mugu Lagoon overlook at 8:30 Take Hwy 1 north of Sycamore Canyon Campground to the big Rock on the ocean (or go south of Mugu Lagoon to the rock). We will look for coastal migrants, loons, possible shearwaters, grebes, gulls, possible alcids. We will also check the nearby lagoons and possibly Sycamore Canyon Campground. Leader is **John Pavelko (805) 640-9040.**

### Thursday, November 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, Nov. 11 Lake Sherwood

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am. We must enter the gate together at about 8:15. We will look for all the ducks on the Lake, as well as the resident woodpeckers, Ruby-crown Kinglet, sparrows, Western Bluebirds, possible Sora. Leader is **Mary Hansen** call **Dee Lyon** at **(805) 499-2165.**

### Saturday, Nov 17 Ahmanson Ranch

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8; or meet at north end of Las Virgenes Rd at 8:30; bring water & jacket; we'll see sparrows, hawks, Ruby-crown Kinglets, Oak Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warblers, woodpeckers, juncos, towhees, Phainopepla and other grassland and chaparral birds. Leader is **Kevin Pickard (805) 492-6962.**

### Sunday, Nov 25 Lake Piru and Fillmore Fish Hatchery

Leave Jans Park and Ride at 8 am; bring water & jacket; we'll see Ospreys, herons, egrets, possible Common Mer-

ganser, Bald Eagle, Mt. Bluebirds, woodpeckers and ducks. Leader **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

## Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The November meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village. The topic will be "Sharing Images on the Internet" and picture theme is "Autumn Leaves".

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

### January 18 - 21, 2008

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival  
c/o Chamber of Commerce  
PO Box 1175  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
Call: (805)772-4467 or (800)231-0592  
Fax: (805)772-6038  
Email: [birdfest@morrobaybirdfestival.org](mailto:birdfest@morrobaybirdfestival.org)

### February 6 - 11, 2008

San Diego Bird Festival  
Keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman  
(619) 682-7200  
[sandiegoaudubon.org](http://sandiegoaudubon.org)

## Save the Date

### December 29, 2007 Christmas Bird Count

## Audubon Adventures

A kit donated by our chapter to any interested 3rd through 6th grade teacher, is a great resource for the classroom. The program is based in Language Arts and Science, and it is aligned to state and national standards. Teachers and students who receive it are delighted with the themes of the newspapers. This year the title of the kit is "Back from the Brink-Success Stories from the Endangered Species Act". Topics of the newspapers are: Eagles, American Alligator, Grizzly Bear, and Gray Whale.

You can donate a kit to a classroom, request one for your classroom or for your own child or grandchild, as a memorial to a loved one, or just give a donation to the cause. Each kit costs our chapter \$45.00. We were delighted to have 18 kits in the schools last year.

Contact **Thelma Williams**, Education Chair, for more information.

# Field Trip Report

**Malibu Lagoon 9/15/07**

by Kevin Pickard



Eight of us eventually gathered at Malibu Lagoon State Beach for a great day of birding. We began by parking in the retail stores lot north of PCH and then birded the river feeding the Lagoon. It was birdy there, especially the trees lining the river which held many Warbling Vireos and at least 5 species of

Warblers (Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Yellowthroat, Wilson's and Orange-crowned). On the river were egrets (Snowy and Great), herons (Great Blue and Green) and a Belted Kingfisher. Things instantly hushed when a Cooper's Hawk cruised into the trees and landed for a few minutes. Above us we were treated to scores of migrating Vaux's Swifts feeding on an abundance of recently hatched insects.

Crossing the Highway and going into the Park we met up with Summer Wilson who had already re-found the highlight of our walk- an Eastern Yellow Wagtail. All of us got good scope looks at it (considering it was on the other side of the Lagoon) and the excitement ran high, as it was a life bird for all of us, and only the third sighting in California for this Asian/Alaska species. We proceeded to make our way around the Lagoon. The beach was busy with people and birds. We saw both Turnstones, 4 Plover species (Snowy, Black-bellied, Semipalmated and Killdeer) and had good opportunity to compare four different Terns (Forster's, Elegant, Royal and Caspian). As is usual at the Lagoon, we were able to spend time observing many shorebirds at very close range, including a Red Knot, Whimbrel and Marbled Godwits. We ended up seeing 68 species, including a great rarity!

Towards the end of the exciting walk someone commented that "You just NEVER know what's going to show up when you go birding"- well said.

## Cancelled Field Trip, Rainy Day Have Silver Lining

by Tom Halpin

Due to the cancellation of our regularly scheduled field

trip and the threat of rain on the horizon, only eight adventurous souls showed up at the park and ride. Ironically we were rewarded with one of the best days of the year. Through one of our newer members, we were allowed access to the Air Base at Point Mugu. Because all of us fit into one Air Force crew bus we were able to bird in comfort through large picture windows.

Writing as fast as I could as birds were sighted, I recorded seventy species; although I could have missed a few. To save space I won't list every bird we saw, but some just couldn't be left out.



The wet conditions attracted lots of birds to grassy fields, such as curlews, ibis, and Whimbrels. A very high tide pushed all the regular shorebirds up close to the road where we were treated to many sandpipers, yellowlegs, dowitchers, godwits, Willets, etc. Farther out were flocks of pelicans, skimmers, ducks (and mergansers), terns, gulls, and Brandt.

After passing the Blue Whale that had been towed to the base, we saw many birds on and from the rocks, including Surfbirds, Snowy Plover, and Parasitic and Pomarine Jaeger. Of course, no list is complete without the raptors. They included: Cooper's Hawk, kite, Osprey, Turkey Vulture, harrier, red tail, red shoulder, and kestrel.

Obviously, a wonderful time was had by all. If there's any moral to this story, I guess it could be: "when in doubt, go

## Tri-colored Blackbirds (continued from page 1)

12. were birds on or near a dairy or other source of stored grains? (Y/N)
13. approximate distance to stored grains
14. additional information (any additional information that you deem relevant)

You may obtain latitude/longitude coordinates from either Google Earth (free download from Google.com; requires high-speed internet connection) or by free utility on topozone.com.