



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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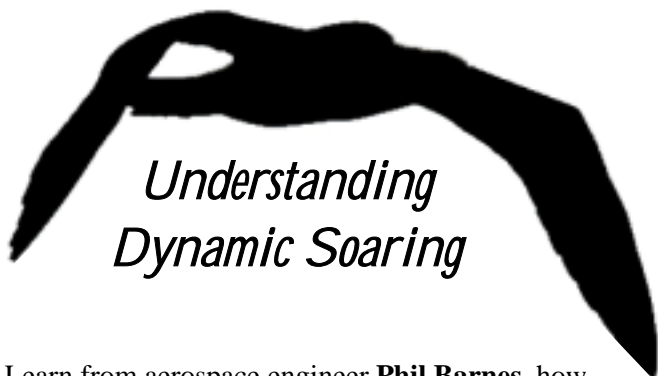
VOL. 39

January 2008

NO. 5

General Meeting December 3
7:30 pm Western Foundation

How Flies the Albatross



Understanding Dynamic Soaring

Learn from aerospace engineer **Phil Barnes**, how the Wandering Albatross remains aloft, without flapping its wings as it travels several times per year around the globe. This multi-disciplinary presentation, with something for everyone, applies math and science to understand the phenomenon of dynamic soaring.

Phil has a master's degree in aeronautical engineering, and has been with Northrop-Grumman Corporation for over 25 years. He hopes that the presentation, which closes with computer simulations of the albatross in flight, will stir greater interest in halting the slide to extinction of this wonderful bird.

Editor's Note

The E-mail edition of this newsletter is published in glorious color. You may want to reconsider how you receive your copy. If you are interested in receiving your newsletter by E-mail; contact me!

Friends of the Santa Clara River

by Ron Bottorff

One of the groups that CVAS supports is "Friends of the Santa Clara River". This excerpt is from a thank you note the CVAS board received from its president, Ron Bottorff, for our donation to Friends of the Santa Clara River. He gives an update on what their group is doing. - Editor.

Our restoration work at the Hedrick Ranch Nature Area continues at a lively pace. Numerous volunteers are now helping do the planting and weeding with Jackie Worden, a professional ecologist, coordinating the work. We will soon be carrying out a new demonstration project there, involving "bioswales" for improving the quality of runoff from agricultural fields. UCSB is the primary consultant for this project, which will continue into 2009.

Our Santa Clara River water quality monitoring project is shifting into a new phase wherein volunteers have been trained in monitoring methods and the operation is in high gear. We are also working with a collaborative group of agencies and farm organizations to study and reduce the chloride levels in the River. High chlorides come mainly from Santa Clarita's two sewage treatment facilities, and are at levels which can harm downstream avocado orchards and strawberry crops.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report has been released on the first "village" of the Newhall Ranch project, known as Landmark Village. We will be following this environmental review process closely, with the goal of further limiting the undesirable impacts of this very large development.

CALENDAR

January

5	7:45 am	Field trip	Lake Casitas
7	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginners Bird Walk
11	7:45 am	Field trip	Point Mugu Naval Bse
19	7:45 am	Field trip	Santa Clara River Estuary
27	2:00 pm	Field trip	Simi Valley Hotspots

*** * * 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, Jan 5 Lake Casitas

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the Lake at 8:30. Lots of ducks, grebes, sparrows, hawks, and woodpeckers. **John Pavelko** leads (805) 640-9040.

Thursday, Jan 10 Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe** (818) 991-4055 between 9 am and 9 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be.

Rain cancels.

Friday, Jan 11 Point Mugu Naval Base

Meet at the main Gate at 8 am. Call Don Williamson at (818) 889-4498 to get on the list at least 3 weeks ahead of trip. Our best birding trip of the year - limited to 25 people, must bring picture ID; Could see 100 species, including Vermilion Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, ducks, shorebirds, Reddish Egret, Long-tailed duck, Brandt, possible Tundra Swan. Leader will be David Pereksta.

Sunday, Jan 19 Santa Clara River Estuary

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at Surfer's Knoll parking lot on Spinnaker in Ventura Harbor at 8:30. We'll look for shorebirds, ducks, Snowy Plovers, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, gulls, grebes and loons.

Leader is **Thelma Williams** (805) 492-2796.

Saturday, Jan 27 Simi Valley Hotspots

Meet at 2 pm at Rancho Simi Park (on the Erringer side) We will bird the Park for ducks, herons, passerines, also the Arroyo Simi, then on to the Ferruginous Hawk roost - Leader is **Tom Halpin** (805) 746-4598 (and he's on a roll this year!)

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The January 14th meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 PM. The topic will be "Photoshop Elements", presented by Chrystal Klabunde. The picture theme for Jan. will be "Night Shots".

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 the date

February 15 - 18, 2008 Great Backyard Bird Count

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society need your help in spreading word about this event.

Choose your level of involvement - from putting up posters in your neighborhood to contacting newspapers or leading workshops. Visit www.birdcount.org and see the "Get Involved" section for more information.



Help make this year's Great Backyard Bird Count the best ever!

Bird Festivals

February 6 - 11, 2008
San Diego Bird Festival
Keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman
(619) 682-7200
sandiegoaudubon.org

April 4 - 6, 2008
Olympic Bird Fest 2008
Contact: Dungeness River Audubon Center
P.O. Box 2450
Sequim, WA 98382
360-681-4076
info@olympicbirdfest.org
www.olympicbirdfest.org

Field Trip Reports

Lake Sherwood

by Dee Lyon

Mary Hansen led 25 of us on this very popular and beautiful walk around Lake Sherwood; then back to her house for fruit, coffee cake and coffee! We are forever spoiled.

Saw lots of lovely birds under very gray skies; Common Loon, Osprey, Harrier, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker, many White-crown and Golden-crown Sparrows, Fox and Song Sparrows, Spotted and CA Towhees, many Ruby-crown Kinglets, American and Lesser Goldfinches, House Finches, CA Thrasher, CA Quail, Red-winged Blackbirds, Juncos, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Robins, Hermit Thrush, Mockingbird, Bewick's Wren, Bushtit, Oak Titmouse, Wrentit, Crow, Scrub Jay, Black and Say's Phoebe,



Belted Kingfisher, Anna's Hum, Mourning Dove, Rock Pigeon, Spotted Sandpiper, Coot, Mallard, Wigeon, Ring-necked duck, Great Egret, Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, Red-tailed Hawk, Eared and Pied-billed Grebe, Buffleheads, Ruddy Ducks, No Shoveler, and Canada Goose.

Ahmanson Ranch

by Kevin Pickard

The walk was scheduled to start at 8:30 but the birds wouldn't wait. Even as we were gathering at the north end of Las Virgenes Road to begin our walk into Ahmanson Ranch the birds were busy all around us! With the burnt trees there, we had lots of woodpeckers, mostly Acorn, a few Nuttall's and a Flicker. Then Tom Halpin called out seeing a dark-backed woodpecker. Others saw it and it was our first Lewis's Woodpecker of the day. About 200 yards up the trail we spent quite a while near the sulphur-smelling spring which attracts lots of birds, including Savannah, Song, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows. A little further along Dee Lyons found a Downey Woodpecker, giving us 5 woodpecker species. Dave Person

found a perched Loggerhead Shrike, which was a lifer for Bob Parker. On the hillside above us and on the ridge-top



we saw on several occasions, up to 3 **Lewis's Woodpeckers** at a time. That gave us time to debate either there were around 10 of them moving around the area, or only 3 that liked to follow birders around. We ended up in the parking lot seeing White-throated Swifts high above us for our 38th species for a great morning.

T.O. Twin Ponds/Borchard Ponds

by Babette Lawall

On Sunday Dec 9, 2007, a group of 14 birders met at a new birding area of Newbury Park (Dos Vientos section), for a windy morning of birding. First we hiked to two small ponds, with panoramic views of Camarillo. At the ponds we were rewarded with Hooded Mergansers, Bufflehead and Ruddy Ducks. Birding along the way we saw American and Lesser Goldfinches, cooperative Wrentits, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, California and Spotted Towhees, Black and Say's Phoebes. Fighting the wind were Red-tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-Shinned Hawks, and a Northern Harrier. Leaving that area we caravanned to another pond in Newbury Park at the end of Kimber Dr., near Cypress School. Despite the wind we had a total of 32 species. A few birders suggested that this field trip be repeated in the spring.



Canyon Wren

Photo by Paul Hulberg