



ROADRUNNER

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**General Meeting March 3
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

Urban Tropicana the Parrots of Southern California

When you think of parrots, do you envision steaming tropical jungles? A pirate with a macaw on his shoulder? Of course, you know of the Black-hooded Parakeets at Sycamore Canyon. But do you know of the parrots of Southern California's suburbias? In fact, the southland is home to more than a dozen naturalized



species of parrots and parakeets. **Larry Allen** will discuss origins of the local flocks, the biological factors that help them succeed here, and the identification of our locally breeding species. A handout will supplement the lecture.

Larry Allen is Project Coordinator for the Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas and a member of the California Parrot Project. He conducts annual gull workshops for the Los Angeles Audubon Society and the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. His research interests include gulls, psittacids, and desert birds.

Why is California gold?

by Dee Lyon

When Europeans first came to California they thought they had found Paradise. In letters they described the territory as a huge park with endless vistas of bunchgrass, wildflowers and huge trees.. The catastrophic transformation was caused by many factors, over-grazing, the introduction of exotic annual grasses, mass killing off of indigenous fauna, mono-culture, logging, development, and control of fire and natural drainage. The biggest problem was over-grazing. Millions of cattle and sheep ate the heart out of California's native ecology in a few generations.

California's native bunchgrasses covered thousands of square miles, virtually all the coastal ranges and Great Valley and they were perennial. They had deep roots and stayed GREEN for much of the year, many all year. Some types lived for 200 years which means that they didn't need many seeds or much reproductive power. That means they could not compete with the annual exotic grasses brought in by the ranchers.

Native grazers, such as elk, just clipped the tops of the bunch grasses, but sheep and cattle ate the grasses down to the ground, even wrenching it up from its roots. The bunch grasses were more nutritious and tasty ,



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CALENDAR

March

1	8:00 am	Field trip	Hill Canyon
3	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
8	5:30 pm	Dinner/Auction	Sterling Hills Golf Club
9	7:15 am	Field trip	Sepulveda Nature Preserve
13	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
15	9:00 am	Field trip	Rancho Sierra Vista
23	7:15 am	Field trip	Private Property
29	7:15 am	Field trip	Soule Park

***** 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, March 1 Hill Canyon

Meet at the Santa Rosa Park , over the bridge and into the Park in Hill Canyon on Santa Rosa Road at 8 am. Look for the sign for the Water Treatment Plant. Goldfinches, sparrows, hawks, ducks, wrens, Phainopeplas, Yellow-rump Warblers. Leader is **Jean Hulberg (805) 491-2666**

Sunday, March 9 Sepulveda Nature Preserve

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 7:30 to carpool (bring gas money). See the ducks, water birds, as well as lots of sparrows, hawks, songbirds. Leader will be **Rich Congersky (805) 558-2297** ,who will meet us at the parking for the Preserve.

Thursday, March 13 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.

Saturday, March 15 Sierra Vista Plant/Birdwalk

Meet at Sierra Vista at 9 am. Take Wendy to Lynn Road; turn right, go to the entrance to National Recreation Area/ Sierra Vista and meet at the main parking lot. Learn what the name of that bush is that the birds are sitting on. Leader is **Mary Ann Campbell (805) 522-2354.**

Sunday, March 23 Private property

Carpool from Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am (bring gas money) Meet at the private property at 8 am to walk in; lots of shorebirds, should still be some ducks, hawks, herons, blackbirds; possible American Bittern, Sora Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

Saturday, March 29 Soule Park

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am. Should be Woodpeckers, sparrows, hawks and possible early migrants. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165.**

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The March 10th meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 PM. The topic will be using your camera in manual mode presented by Don Klabunde. The picture theme for March will be "Bugs" (insects/spiders/creepy-crawlers).

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.

Bird Festivals

April 4 - 6, 2008
Olympic Bird Fest 2008
Sequim, WA
info@olympicbirdfest.org
www.olympicbirdfest.org

April 16 - 20, 2008
Yuma Birding & Nature Festival
Yuma Visitors Bureau
Yuma, Arizona
Birding@visityuma.com
www.visityuma.com

Why is California Gold? (continued from page 1)

so the cattle and sheep killed the plants by the millions and left behind in their excretions the seeds of the annual grasses, brought in by the ranchers, which filled in the spaces between the bunch grasses and took over. The annual grasses sprout, bloom, set seed and die with a few months. It doesn't have much in the way of roots, because it gets its water from precipitation , and therefore has no power to keep the topsoil on the hillside. This is why California is now gold instead of green. Each native plant that is planted by an aware person is a blossom in the cracks of ignorance and indifference. We don't have the water to continue the horticultural pretense that we live in northern Europe. We are now embarked upon an adventure of learning how to live with the native bunchgrasses, sages, ceanothus, toyons, coffeeberries, laurel sumacs, coyote bush, buckwheats, penstemons and wildflowers that our birds and other wildlife need.

Last Chance For Your Dinner Reservations

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society

on

March 8, 2008

at

Sterling Hills Golf Club
901 Sterling Hills Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Exit the Ventura Freeway (101) at Central Avenue in Camarillo.
Go north on Central (0.8 mi) to Beardsley Road and turn RIGHT.
Continue on Beardsley (0.75 mi) until you reach Sterling Hills Drive and turn RIGHT.
On the left you will see the golf course parking lot.

for

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

No-host cocktails 5:30 PM - Dinner 6:30 PM

Ticket price per person \$40.00 (**early-bird special \$35.00 - before 2/24/08**)

5-FREE raffle tickets for each 1st time guest

We ask that everyone kindly bring an item for the raffles.

All types of donation items are acceptable and are not limited to those with an avian theme.

Anyone interested in donating items for the silent or live auctions please contact Rich Congersky at:
(cell) 805-558-2297 or (work) 805-381-2691

All are tax deductible!

Dinner selections: All plated and served with Camarillo Baby Greens Salad, Rolls and butter, and Dessert.

- (1) Sautéed Breast of Chicken served with Lemon Herb sauce
- (2) Poached Salmon with Classic Dill Beurre Blanc Sauce
- (3) Veggie Stack – Garlic mashed potatoes topped with delicious fresh grilled vegetables

Please fill out this reservation form, tear it off, and mail it with your check (payable to CVAS) to:

Rich Congersky, 5807 Topanga Canyon Blvd. # I-306, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Print your name(s) as you would like it to appear on your place card and select an entrée by number

Name _____	Dinner # ____	Phone # _____
Name _____	Dinner # ____	
Name _____	Dinner # ____	
Name _____	Dinner # ____	
Name _____	Dinner # ____	

Thank for your support!!!

