



ROADRUNNER

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**General Meeting April 7
7:30 pm Western Foundation
BUT IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
THE ONE IN THE BOOK!**



BioBlitz Survey in Santa Monica Mountains by Carol Langford

The invitation invites you to "Grab your backpack and join National Geographic and the National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz". A BioBlitz is a 24-event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible. The Santa Monica Mountains BioBlitz begins promptly at noon on Friday May 30 and the closing ceremony takes place exactly 24 hours later. Ongoing activities will take place at Paramount Ranch throughout the 24 hours.

Advance registration by Monday, March 31 is required for teachers and classes. Pre-registration is encouraged for individuals. For more information check the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation website at www.nps.gov/samo. Registration is available at www.ngsednet.org/bioblitz. Information is also available via telephone at (805) 370-2301.

As an early riser, each of you is invited to come see and hear the wonderful birds in your national park. I know CVAS members will be determined to identify the birds of the park. Four-hour shifts are available so no one needs to stay in the park the entire 24 hours! See you there!

We've all been perplexed as to the identity of many birds we see in the field. It should be easy – just look at the bird and match it with a picture in your field guide! But of course it doesn't work that way, and the "match-the-picture" approach to field identification will get you in lots of trouble. So why DOESN'T the bird we see look "just like the one in the book"? Is the problem with the bird, the book, or the birder? **Kimball Garrett** will explore the art of identifying birds in the field by examining why birds so rarely look as depicted in field guides. He's been at it for about 40 years, mainly here in southern California. When not in the field, he resides with the bird collections at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County where he has served as Ornithology Manager since 1982. Garrett is co-author of several bird



books, including the recent "Birds of the Los Angeles Region" and the Peterson Field Guide to Warblers.



CALENDAR

April

5	7:15 am	Field trip	Sisar Canyon
7	7:30 pm	General meeting	Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Field trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
13	7:45 am	Field trip	Sepulveda Basin Refuge
19	7:15 am	Field trip	T.O. Botanic Garden
27	8:00 am	Field trip	Santa Clara River Estuary

*** 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, April 5 SISAR CANYON

(in the upper Ojai Valley)

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 to carpool, and meet Tom up there at the Summit Café at 8:30. Look for woodpeckers, bluebirds, sparrows, early migrants. Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598.**

Thursday, April 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.

Sunday, April 13 Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Refuge

Leave Rancho Park and Ride at 8 am. Look for water birds, sparrows, warblers, possible Red Bishop, shorebirds. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165.**

Saturday, April 19 Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 or meet at the Garden at 8 am. Spring migrants may be back, and the Thrashers, sparrows, Titmice, Kingbirds, Jays, Juncos, woodpeckers will all be there. Leader is **Roger Swanson (805) 375-5745.**

Sunday, April 27 Santa Clara River Estuary

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:15 or meet at Surfer's Knoll parking lot at 8:30 and bring scope if possible. Lots of waders, shorebirds, gulls, and assorted water birds. Last field trip there saw 65 species. Leader is **Bets Buchanan (805) 482-0063.**

Shutterbugs

by Don Williamson

The April 14th meeting will be in the multipurpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 PM. The topic will be making selections in Photoshop Elements presented by Don Williamson. The picture theme for April will be Architecture (if you have a "Tilt/Shift" lens now is the time to use it).

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.

Mark the Dates

April 22, 2008 Celebrate Earth Day!

Plant some native plants.
Conserve water.
Recycle and reuse.

Buy food that is in season (farmer's markets).
Reduce amount of packaging materials.
Consolidate your trips to save gas.

*** Sunday, June 1, 2008 *** CVAS Annual Picnic Los Robles Trail



Message from the Editor

The Editor would appreciate any articles of interest, photographs, or field trip reports from members. Please get them to me by the 5th of the month. I prefer them in electronic form. Articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in jpeg format.

CVAS Annual Dinner/Auction

by Cheryl Williamson



Rich Congersky and Carol Langford

Our annual Dinner/Auction fundraiser was held on Saturday, March 8th at the Sterling Hills Golf Club. Kudos to **Rich Congersky**, our vice president, who was the organizer of this successful event. He and his committee provided us with a wonderful dinner and great live and silent auction. Don Klabunde, with his wonderful sense of humor, was the auctioneer for the live auction. **Margie Coler** again made a spectacular wall hanging of Western Tanagers and poppies for this event.



Ron and Audrey Watkins

Ron and Audrey Watkins were honored at the dinner for all that they have done for our chapter. They will be relocating to Tucson, Arizona in late March. We will miss Ron's wonderful photography, which he generously shared with all of us. Many of the pictures used in this newsletter have been his. Ron has also done outstanding programs for us in which he showed pictures of the many birds and places where they have traveled.

Audrey is irreplaceable, she has done so much for our chapter. She has organized all the special events we have had - and has raised lots of money for our chapter. Her organizing skills, grace, elegance, and hospitality along with her friendly smile are going to be sorely missed. Good luck to you both from all of us in CVAS! And thank you for all that you have done for us.

Malibu Lagoon Field Trip

by Rich Congersky

We had a beautiful sunny, mild day on Saturday Feb 13th at Malibu Lagoon. Our group was small with a turnout of only four, but a great day was had as we enjoyed a leisurely walk throughout the lagoon. We saw over 40 species, several with a bit of discussion and field guide reference before identifying.

Species seen included Coot, Mallards, Ruddy Duck, Gadwall, Green Winged Teal, Red Breasted Mergansers, Ravens, Red Tailed Hawk, Rock Pigeon, Mockingbirds, Starling, House Finch, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Common Yellow Throat, Black Phoebe, California Towhee, Song Sparrow, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Bushtits, Allen's Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, and after considerable discussion... a Rufous Hummingbird.



Shorebirds included DC Cormorant, Brown Pelican, American Avocet, Killdeer, Black Crowned Night Heron, Western

Gulls, Ring Billed Gull, **Heermann's Gull**, Willet, Marbled Godwit, **Ruddy Turnstones**, Sanderling, Snowy Plover, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Pied-Billed Grebe,



Western Grebe and several Surf Scoters through the scope.

Welcome Aboard

The Board is proud to announce that **Ron Barns** has stepped forward to become our Publicity Chairman. Thank you Ron!

The Board of Directors is always looking for interested volunteers to help the chapter achieve its goals. We are looking for an historian to keep our scrapbook up to date. This might be a fun position for a creative person. Anyone interested can contact any board member for further information. We can also use short term volunteers to help with special projects like our annual picnic.