



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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## General Meeting September 8 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Our general meeting, normally held on the first Monday of the month, will be held this month on the second Monday, September 8th, due to the Labor Day holiday.

At this month's general meeting, to commemorate the start of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, a retrospective media presentation will be given by Chrystal Klabunde our programs chair. Materials for the presentation have been selected from the CVAS historical archives with the objectives of informing our present membership of CVAS's challenges and accomplishments over the past forty years, renewing and recalling friendships made during those years, and encouraging renewed commitment from each of us as we now look ahead in time and plan for CVAS's future.

As in past years, the first program of the year has been a "Show and Tell", which will hold for this year as well, immediately following our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary retrospective. All members are encouraged to bring photos, movies, slides or anything you would like to share to the meeting. Contact Chrystal Klabunde, our programs chair, so she can setup computer and projector to show your pictures and time the program. You can reach Chrystal at (805) 522-8023 or at [chrystal@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:chrystal@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

## SHARE THE JOURNEY By Carol Langford

Conejo Valley Audubon Society was founded in 1968 in Thousand Oaks as a chapter of the National Audubon Society. Even though we are relative youngsters we'll celebrate our 40th birthday with cake at our September meeting. And we are mighty pleased to be around to celebrate this birthday!

The history of the National Audubon Society can be traced back to 1886 when George Grinnell started a campaign to stop the unmitigated slaughter of birds, primarily egrets for their feathers. National Audubon was incorporated in 1905 with conservation efforts continuing resulting in federal and state laws prohibiting "plume hunting". The Migratory Bird Treaty signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1918 was an early conservation success.

When Frank Chapman proposed the first Christmas Bird Count in 1900 as an alternative to the Christmas hunt he started a tradition which became part of the Audubon tradition of involving ordinary people in the science of birds. In 1900 there were CBC observers in 25 locations. On December 21, 1974 at its first Christmas Bird Count CVAS had 36 observers in the field. Among the 146 species on that first count were 1200 Tri-colored Blackbirds, one Green-tailed Towhee and one Northern Goshawk.

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### CALENDAR

#### September

6	8:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Clara River Estuary
8	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
11	9:00 am	Field Trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
14	7:45 am	Field Trip	Tamarisk Trees & Sod Farm
20	8:00 am	Field Trip	Pt. Mugu Lagoon / Sycamore Canyon
28	7:30 am	Field Trip	Camino Real Park

#### 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 Common Thread photos presented by Jerry Spector and Chrystal Klabunde and picture theme is Vacation Photos. If you are interested in attending contact Jerry Spector at (805) 384-9039 or [erbear00@yahoo.com](mailto:erbear00@yahoo.com) to be put on the access list for Leisure Village.

### CVAS Events

Everyone 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

#### Field Trips

The times specified are departure times – **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier.** Try to carpool when ever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money!  
**RAIN CANCELS!**

#### Saturday, September 6

##### Santa Clara River Mouth

Meet at the 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 **Dee Lyon** at (805) 499-2165.

#### Thursday, September 11

##### 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 or temperatures above 90 cancels.

#### Sunday, September 14

##### Tamarisk Trees & Sod Farms

Meet at 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** at (805) 482-0063.

#### Saturday, September 20

##### Pt. Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Canyon

Private property is not allowing us on as planned, so we'll meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am, head to Pt. Mugu Lagoon and on to Sycamore Canyon to see what is migrating. The leader is **Tom Halpin** at (805) 746-4598.

### Sunday, September 28

#### Camino Real Park

Open grassy area ringed by pines & Eucalyptus trees along barranca - many migrants, vagrants and rarities. Meet at Los Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the Park at 8:00 am. Take 101 to Main St., right on Mills Road, then right on Dean and a right into the Park. Leader is **Thelma Williams** at (805) 492-2796.

#### 2008-2009 FIELD TRIPS

#### MARK THEM ON YOUR CALENDAR BUT CHECK THE NEWSLETTER

Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans. Volunteers to lead trips please call Dee Lyon at (805) 499-2165. Trips alternate on Sat and Sun; bring water, snacks, bug repellent, jacket, lunch (if all day trip). **RAIN CANCELS!**

Oct 4, Sat	Malibu Lagoon
Oct 12, Sun	Canada Larga Road
Oct 18, Sat	Ormond Beach
Oct 26, Sun	Ventura Ponds
Nov 1, Sat	Mugu Rock & Mugu Lagoon
Nov 9, Sun	Ahmanson Ranch
Nov 14, Fri	Pt Mugu Navy Base (Must reserve)
Nov 23, Sun	Lake Piru & Fillmore Fish Hatchery
Nov 29, Sat	Conejo Valley Botanic Garden
Dec 7, Sun	Sepulveda Basin
Dec 13, Sat	Paramount Ranch
Dec 20, Sun	Saticoy Ponds
Dec TBD	Christmas Bird Count
Jan 3, Sat	Sierra Vista
Jan 9, Fri	Pt. Mugu Navy Base (Must Reserve)
Jan 17, Sat	Santa Clara River Estuary
Jan 25, Sun	Gillette Ranch
Jan 31, Sat	Malibu Lagoon
Feb 7, Sat	Camino Real Park
Feb 15, Sun	Lake Casitas
Feb 21, Sat	Santa Barbara Hotspots
Mar 1, Sun	Hill Canyon
Mar 7, Sat	Flower Walk
Mar 15, Sun	Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp
Mar 21, Sat	Private Property
Mar 29, Sun	Soule Park /Ojai Hotspots
April 5, Sun	Simi Hotspots
April 18, Sat	Sierra Vista
April 26, Sun	Camarillo Regional Park
May 2 /3, Sat /Sun	San Diego overnight
May 9, Sat	Wheeler Gorge
May 17, Sun	Malibu Creek State Park
May 30, Sat	Wind Wolves Preserve
June 6, Sat	Annual Picnic
June 13/14	Big Bear

## FIELD TRIP REPORTS

### ARIZONA 2008 Trip Report

by Dee Lyon

The star of the trip was the FLAME COLORED TANAGER, which I believe was a new bird for everyone! We eventually saw close to 100 species.

All 14 of us gathered at Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon at dusk on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, when the Elf Owl came to the edge of his hole and couldn't believe the crowd of about 30 people watching for him.

We had wonderful looks at both Elegant Trogans nesting near the trail. It's always a treat to see the Magnificent, Violet Crowned, Broad-tailed, Broad Billed, Black-chinned and Anna's hummingbirds. There were Arizona, Acorn and Gila Woodpeckers, Vermilion Flycatchers, Thick-billed Kingbirds, Plumbeous Vireos, Bell's Vireos, Vaux Swift, a Northern Pygmy Owl calling, and Wild Turkeys in several places, with good looks at a Gray Hawk. White-winged Doves were everywhere as well as some Inca and Common Ground Doves. We all liked the Bridled Titmouse, and got used to saying Grey-breasted Jay. We saw Curve-billed Thrashers, Black-throated Sparrow, Painted Redstarts, Western, Flame-colored, Summer and Hepatic Tanagers; Canyon, Green-tailed and Abert's Towhee; Lazuli Bunting, Northern Cardinal; Hooded, Bullocks, and Scott's Orioles; Pyrrholoxia, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Cactus and Canyon Wren; and Mexican Duck, among other wonderful birds. Our route began at Madera Canyon: then on to the Roadside stop in Patagonia; then to the Patton's, and the Preserve; on to Sierra Vista with most of us going into Ft. Huachuca and Garden Canyon; then on to the San Pedro River.

#### 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 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. I prefer them in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in jpeg format.

#### Roadrunner Newsletter Delivery Option

We'd like all our members to enjoy their Roadrunner Newsletter as early in the month as possible. Bird images are now reproduced in full color in the email edition of the Roadrunner. Members can change to email delivery by requesting same via email to: [membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org)

### “INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY” CLASS TO BE OFFERED SEPTEMBER 15 - NOVEMBER 21, 2008

The birding community of Ventura County is invited to join Dr. Linnea S. Hall and Mr. René Corado, of the *Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology* in Camarillo, for a 9-week (60 hour) course that will meet 2-3 times per week. Classes will include lectures on diverse topics including anatomy, ecology, and evolution; taxonomy work using the Foundation's bird specimens; and identification of birds in the field (students must provide their own binoculars). The cost is \$500 per person -- the equivalent of only **\$8 per hour** of instruction! Specific meeting times will be determined depending on the needs of the students in the class, so **PLEASE LET US KNOW BY NO LATER THAN SEPT 5TH IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ENROLL!** Call 805/388-9944 or e-mail [bookkeeper@wfvz.org](mailto:bookkeeper@wfvz.org) for more information. **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!** Dr. Hall and Mr. Corado have 40 years of combined experience working with birds in both museum and field settings, and students taking this class in 2007 stated that it was the best science course they'd ever had!

#### SHARE THE JOURNEY

(continued from page 1)

Each year is interesting, with 15 Varied Thrush present in 1978, then only one in five different years, but none since 1996. Clark's Nutcrackers made an appearance only once, in 1996, although something was going on that year as 58 Red Crossbills were also found. One Crossbill was seen in 2004 but no more Clark's Nutcrackers. The Great Backyard Bird Count was initiated in 1998 by National Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as another project in the arena of "citizen science". This count provides a snapshot of bird populations in February, just before the spring migration. E-bird, the latest of the citizen science projects, offers the opportunity for each of us to enter our sightings all year long into an online database.

While National Audubon and Conejo Valley Audubon have seen many changes during the years, both continue to promote a culture of conservation and science by connecting people with nature. Please join us in September as we celebrate our 40 years of conservation, citizen science and getting together with friends who enjoy birds.