



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

VOL. 40

November 2008

NO. 3

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

COSTA RICA BIRDING ADVENTURES *With OLGA CLARKE*

Join **Olga Clarke**, as she presents a program illustrated with excellent color slides, on an introduction to the birds and wildlife of **Costa Rica**. Experience the wonders of this tiny country, as we travel through habitats ranging from semi-arid ranchlands, to misty cloud forests, and lowland rainforests up to the treeless paramo. See some of the highlights of scenic **Costa Rica**, with views of the incredible birds and animals along the way on both the Pacific and Caribbean slopes, best known by birders as one of the top destinations in the world.

Olga, a world class birder, has led numerous natural history trips including many to Costa Rica, Africa and most other continents over the past three decades. In addition, she served as Director of the Los Angeles Audubon Society's famous bookstore for almost 30 years, and assumed the position of that Society's Travel Director about 10 year ago.



Map of Costa Rica

Save That Date

This year's CVAS Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be held on Sunday, December 28. **David Pereksta** will be CVAS leader for this event.

2nd Notice: Membership Dues

The Board of Directors recently decided to change our membership from a rolling 12 month renewal to a fixed calendar. All memberships will match our activity year, so that the current membership year will run from July 2008 to June 2009. To be fair to members who renewed earlier in 2008, we have extended their memberships through June 2009. Multi-year memberships have been extended similarly. If you have questions about when your membership ends, please contact the membership secretary (membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

CALENDAR		
<u>November</u>		
1	7:15 am	Field Trip Mugu Rock
3	5:15 pm	Dinner Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
3	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
7	7:45 am	Field Trip Pt. Mugu – U.S. Navy Base
13	9:00 am	Field Trip Beginner's Bird Walk
16	8:00 am	Field Trip Ahmanson Ranch
23	7:30 am	Field Trip Fillmore Area Hotspots
29	8:00 am	Field Trip Thousand Oaks Botanical Garden

***** Pre meeting Dinner *****
Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call **Rich Congersky**
For reservations
24 hours in advance of the monthly
general meeting (805) 558 - 2297.

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.

Board Meeting Notice

The November Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 17. All CVAS members are invited to attend monthly CVAS Board Meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the home of a board member with meeting location varying monthly. Please contact CVAS Secretary, **Linda Reynolds** at **805-386-4062** or secretary@ConejoValleyAudubon.org for meeting location and directions.

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, November 1 Mugu Rock

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:15 am. We will look for coastal migrants such as Red-throated, Common, and Pacific Loons, Scoters, possible Shearwaters, and lots of shorebirds. We will also check the nearby lagoons and possibly Sycamore Canyon Campground (for vagrant warblers). The leader is **Dee Lyon 805-499-2165**

Friday, November 7 Pt. Mugu - U.S. Navy Base

The group size is limited to 25 people and the Navy requires name (as on picture ID), social security number, address, phone, and citizenship. The list must be in to Mugu at least 2 weeks in advance. Note that your car may be inspected and be sure to bring picture ID. Cameras or video are not allowed on the tour. Meet at the base main parking lot at 7:45 am. This is one of our best birding locations - shorebirds, ducks, pelagics, raptors. A spotting scope is very helpful. Our host at Mugu will be Martin Ruane. The leaders are **Don & Cheryl Williamson (818) 889-4498**.

Thursday, November 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

Sunday, November 16 Ahmanson Ranch

Meet at the Rancho Rd Park & Ride at 8 am. This turns out to be a great area for sparrows, and other perching and grassland birds. We saw several Lewis Woodpeckers last year. The leader is **Ron Barnes 818-991-9967**.

Sunday, November 23 Fillmore Area Hotspots

Meet at the Vons parking lot at the intersection of Highways #23 and #126 in Fillmore at 8 am. or at the Janss Park and Ride at 7:30 am. The leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598**. He will select locations such as the Fillmore settling ponds, Camulos Adobe, the fish hatchery, and the road to Lake Piru.

Saturday, November 29 Thousand Oaks Botanical Garden

Meet at the parking lot off of Gainsborough Road at 8:00 am. Look for Lark Sparrows, Allen's Hummingbirds, raptors, etc. The leader is **David Person - 805-496-9587**.

TREE Program Update By Linda Reynolds

On a recent morning at Satwiwa, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, CVAS embarked upon a year of assisting Mr. Allen Saute with the TREE (Teens Restoring Endangered Ecosystems) program. We were accompanied (see photo) by students, parents and other park staff. Enthusiasm was as high as the soaring temperatures with the students demonstrating their prior knowledge and eagerly filling out their observation forms. They discussed the identification and habits of the birds and how they interacted with their environment. If you are interested in participating in this program, please call Thelma Williams at 805-492-2796. Most sessions will be held on Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00.



Field Trip Reports

Santa Clara River Estuary Saturday, September 6

By Dee Lyon

Our 16 intrepid birders were treated to a wide variety of shorebirds, raptors and seabirds on a lovely overcast day at the Santa Clara River Estuary. Probably the highlight of the day was the mature Bald Eagle with blue tags that flew over us near the harbor, chased by gulls. We really enjoyed watching a Peregrine Falcon as he put up all the birds in the estuary, and the 3 Black Oystercatchers sitting on the jetty with 20 Surfbirds and a few Black Turnstones were a big treat. We saw Black and Says Phoebes, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, a flock of Horned Larks, and a wave of about 300 Sanderlings swarmed the beach to our amazement. We also saw 2 Black Skimmers, a Pom Jaeger, many Brandt's and DC Cormorants, Curlew, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwits, Dowitchers, Western and Least Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers and Kildeer, Western, Heerman, Ring-billed and California Gulls, Foster, Elegant, and Royal Terns, Brown Pelicans, many TV's, Gt Blue Heron, Snowy and GT Egrets, Orange-crown Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Mockingbirds, House Finches, Common Moorhen, Coots, Mallards, Ruddies, Cinnamon Teal, Shoveler, Gadwall, Night Herons, Red-necked Phalaropes, Brewer's Blackbirds, Western Grebes, Tree and barn Swallows.

Tamarisk Trees & Sod Farms

Sunday, September 14

By Dee Lyon

CVAS folks peered through the haze to find Yellow, Townsend's, Wilson's, Hermit, Orange-crowned warblers and Common Yellowthroats Sunday morning, as well as Cedar Waxwing, Juncos, several Warbling Vireos, Pacific Slope Flycatchers, wrens, many Anna's, and about 25 other species, including 2 or 3 unidentified ones!

Mugu Wetlands, Mugu Rock, Sycamore Cyn. Saturday, September 20

By Tom Halpin

Fourteen people arrived at the overlook at the Mugu wetlands where we saw all the common shore birds (Dowitchers to Curlews), and probably thousands of peeps. The star of the show was a Reddish Egret which followed us from its first distant location to a much closer second viewing site.

At Mugu Rock we saw: Royal and Forster's Terns, White Throated Swifts, and Western and Heerman's Gulls.

Sycamore Canyon was a delight! There are now about 60 Black Hooded Parakeets. Lots of Swallows and Swifts were in the air. Lots of chaparral and riparian birds were in the bushes. Quail were on the ground. A young Cooper's Hawk stayed perched on top of a metal rail fence while hikers passed within 4 feet of it. What a great day!



“Ferruginous Hawk”, *Water Color by Tom Halpin*

You've probably noticed the Fall migration is in full swing. Lots of ducks and shorebirds are seen regularly and White Crowned Sparrows are showing up. This water color by Tom Halpin shows a Ferruginous Hawk in Simi Valley where at least a dozen of them usually roost communally. They usually arrive around mid-November. Keep your eyes open for Peregrine Falcons and Zone-Tailed Hawks, too!!

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

November, 2008



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	carol.langford
Vice Pres	Rich Congersky	805-558-2297	rcongersky
Secretary	Linda Reynolds	805-386-4062	secretary
Treasurer	Dixie Anderson	805-484-3985	
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Laurie Van Stee	805-861-0988	sunnyinsamo@yahoo.com
Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trips	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
Publicity	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Newsletter	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Hospitality	Patricia Turner	805-987-9147	hospitality
Membership	Bob Parker	805-446-2710	membership
Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Special Events			
Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	
Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Bob Sakamoto		rsakamoto
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



Photo by Don Klabunde
A breeding adult Cattle Egret displaying orange-buff plumage on crown & foreneck

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. **Everyone is welcome.** Take Pleasant Valley Road or Lewis Road to where they cross south of the 101 Freeway. Go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo. Turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left.

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote the study and conservation of birds and other vertebrates. The organization makes contributions in the areas of natural history collections, original research, and conservation.

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members only. Members are invited to submit articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month. Send items to Charlie Lucas, 465 Havenside Ave., Newbury Park, CA 91320, or by E-mail.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students), payable to **National Audubon Society**, for an introductory membership.

Mail it to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P. O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Renewing memberships should be sent to National Audubon with the renewal form and envelope you receive.

For questions regarding national membership status call: National Audubon Customer Service 1-800-274-4201

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20, payable to CVAS, for a family membership. Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 __ Please send my newsletter by E-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____