



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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**General Meeting December 1
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Don DesJardin Presents:
"Ventura County Birds &
Other Natural Things"**

Don DesJardin has been part of the birding scene in Ventura County since 1989. During that time, he has spent countless hours capturing birds on both film and video. Although he has traveled to many exotic places around the world to see new birds and places, he always returns to what he calls his "local patch", Ventura County. His first video, "Birds of Ventura County" was well received around the Southern California Audubon circuit, including being shown for VAS, CVAS, and at the Ventura County Fair, but now Don has worked hard and crafted a new video called "Ventura County Birds & Other Natural Things". This video was shot with a new camera, which delivers video in a widescreen format.



This video started out as a short 10- minute demonstration video showing the use of different lenses on this new camera, and was originally intended for a friend in the UK who shoots with the same camera and also a variety of different lenses. But as time progressed, more and more video content was added, until the video grew to be an hour long. All video was shot in Ventura County, and contains 67+ annotated species of birds that are either resident or spring migrants, along with a sprinkling of other things that are part of our natural world. This video is rated "GB" (Good Birds), and is suited for Audubon audiences that can't get enough of them.

*Photos by Don DesJardin
Upper left: Lazuli Bunting;
Lower Left: Yellow-breasted Chat*

Prefer Less Paper from National Audubon?

By Carol Langford

Many members have been dismayed by the number of mailings they received from National Audubon reminding them to renew their membership. They are concerned about the resources expended in the form of paper, postage, energy and time. Rosalie Valvo, Membership Chair of Morro Coast Audubon Society informed their members of a simple way to stop extra mailings. She is happy for us to pass the information on to you.

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CALENDAR

November

1	5:15 pm	Dinner	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
1	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
7	8:00 am	Field Trip	Sepulveda Basin
11	9:00 am	Field Trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
13	8:00 am	Field Trip	Paramount Ranch
21	8:00 am	Field Trip	Saticoy Ponds
28	TBD am	Field Trip	Christmas Bird Count

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

Call Nobuko McClure
For reservations
24 hours in advance of the monthly
general meeting (805) 482-0411.

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, December 15. 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!

Sunday, December 7 Sepulveda Basin

Lots of ducks, waterbirds, sparrows, possible Bald Eagle. Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 8:00 am. Leader is **Rich Congersky 805-558-2297**.

Thursday, December 11 Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055** between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be. Rain cancels.

Saturday, December 13 Paramount Ranch

Paramount Ranch new birding area - Lots of riparian birds. Let's see what's there! Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 8:00 am. Leader is **Dee Lyon 805-499-2165**.

Sunday, December 21 Saticoy Ponds

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:00 am, or at the gate at 8:30 am. Many species of ducks, hawks, sparrows, Horned Larks, Amer. Pipits, possible Bald Eagle, and some shorebirds. Leader is **Tom Halpin 805 -746-4598**.

Sunday, December 28 Christmas Bird Count

Sign up at the December meeting with a leader - we need everyone to come out and help locate and count our birds!! Call **David Pereksta at 805-659-5740** or email him at pereksta@pacbell.net

Field Trip Reports

Ormond Beach Saturday, October 18 *By Linda Easter*

Eleven of us gathered on a pleasant Fall day to bird the Ormond Beach wetlands area, at the end of Perkins Road in Oxnard. Although none of us had birded this area in the past, we saw over 30 species including common yellowthroat, ruby-crowned kinglet, Sayes phoebe, black phoebe, white-crowned sparrow, lesser goldfinch, red-shouldered hawk, American kestrel, black-crowned night-heron, and western meadowlark. We also clearly heard a marsh wren, but were unable to see him. We also are pretty sure we heard a Virginia rail deep in the marshes. Everyone agreed that the highlight bird of the day was the green heron. We saw two of them and they took turns posing in great light for all of us to admire.

Paper Free Audubon Renewal Program *Continued from Page 1*

If you are a loyal renewing member, call 800-274-4201 and ask to be placed on the Paper Free Renewal Program. You will receive one reminder that will arrive approximately two months before your expiration date. Per Rosemary, "the program has been around for a number of years, but they apparently don't advertise it widely." Rosemary understands there are other options available: among them, the ability to choose to belong to a particular chapter even if you don't live in the chapter area. If you call and find out about other possibilities, please let us know. I'll be telephoning to sign up for the Paper Free Renewal Program; I hope you do too!

CVAS Christmas Bird Count

By David Pereksta

If the Nation's economic downturn has you feeling "Bah Humbug," and you are looking for a cheap alternative for Holiday cheer, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 109th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Sunday December 28th, 2008**, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 34th CBC, and we're hoping to find a few more than last year's impressive count of 185 species. That was good enough for 14th place for CBCs held north of the Mexican border (2,029 total CBCs). Highlights included a Red-necked Grebe, Reddish Egret, Wood Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, Long-tailed Duck, four Black Scoters, two Common Goldeneyes, Burrowing Owl, and Short-eared Owl at Point Mugu (138 species there alone); Tropical Kingbirds at Lake Sherwood and CSUCI; a Eurasian Wigeon and Ferruginous Hawk at Lake Sherwood; a Williamson's Sapsucker at CSUCI; a Red-naped Sapsucker at Camarillo Regional Park; a Grasshopper Sparrow at Satwiwa; a Rhinoceros Auklet and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers off Mugu Rock; a Prairie Falcon on the Oxnard Plain; and two Wood Ducks at Hill Canyon. Notable misses were White-winged Scoter, American Bittern, Osprey, Black Oystercatcher, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Hairy Woodpecker, Vermilion Flycatcher, Purple Finch, and Pine Siskin. When all was said and done, we recorded over 27,500 individual birds!! We hope to do even better this year, but need hardy CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and be ready to bird.

The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program is up and working, so just go to www.audubon.org/bird/cbc and click on "Get Involved" or "Data Entry/Review" for more instructions (The Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO). This system allows you to register for as many CBCs as you wish, and if you want to participate in four or more CBCs, you can do so for a flat \$20. Your name and contact information is forwarded to me, so I have a better idea of how many people are going to participate, and can plan accordingly. You can also pay on-line, which simplifies my life during the post-count dinner. For those who prefer to contact me directly, please send an e-mail to pereksta@pacbell.net, call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the November and December

meetings at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

As we did last year, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. As always, we need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs Park, Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the Oxnard Plain, Hidden Valley, Satwiwa, and many other areas. Please pre-register as soon as possible, and let me know where you are available to bird or who you want to bird with.

You can also help by "staking out" unusual or hard to find species such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. In addition, last year we came close to missing a few common species including Hutton's Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Townsend's Warbler, so keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

We will gather to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals, compare notes, and socialize beginning at 5:30 pm at Nobuko McClure's home. We will have pizza and other potluck goodies. If your last name begins with A – M please bring hors d'oeuvre or munchies to share; N – Z, a finger food type dessert which is easy to serve. Paper goods, plastic utensils, coffee, and tea will be provided – or bring your own beverage.

The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you don't wish to go out and count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or keep an oriole around for us to include.

To cover the cost of the pizza and paper goods etc. we will be asking for a \$5/person donation. If you plan on attending please **call Nobuko at (805) 482-0411** so she can plan accordingly and provide directions to her house.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

December, 2008



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	president
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	805-446-2701	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 Chrystal Klabunde

This common male House Finch was photographed on a recent visit to Satwiwa, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, where CVAS participates in the TREE middle school education program.

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 _____
 Phone _____ E-mail address _____



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 _____