



ROADRUNNER

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March 2009

NO. 7

**General Meeting March 2
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Richard Handley To Provide
Overview of Nature Conservancy's
Work At Ormond Beach Wetlands**

Ormond Beach stretches for 2 miles between Port Hueneme and Point Mugu. Historically there were 1,000 acres of wetlands along this stretch of coast between the Santa Clara River Estuary and Mugu Lagoons. The Nature Conservancy currently owns a 276 acre remnant wetland at Ormond Beach and the State Coastal Conservancy owns another 250 acres adjacent to Point Mugu. These lands provide habitat for 200-300 species of birds and 70 species of mammals. The threatened and endangered species that can be observed at Ormond Beach include the California Brown Pelican, Western Snowy Plover, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, California Least Tern; Salt Marsh Bird's-beak (plant) and tidewater goby (fish). Migrant visitors include the Northern Harrier, Osprey, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, White Tailed Kite and Red Tailed Hawk. Current sightings include snow geese and white faced ibis.

Nature Conservancy Land Manager Richard Handley will provide an overview of the Conservancy's local work with an emphasis on the Ormond Beach wetlands and the efforts underway to restore 750 acres of wetland habitat.

Photographs by Chrystal Klabunde of two of the birds featured in Richard Handley's address are provided below.



Western Snowy Plover



California Least Tern

Education Column
by Thelma Williams

Matching Grant Scholarship Awarded

We are delighted to learn that a student from Mr. Allen Saute's Sequoia Middle School class has been awarded a matching grant scholarship to attend the Youth program of the Audubon Assembly (Sun-Tues, March 15-17, 2009 at Asilomar in beautiful Monterey).

His name is Quintin Azpeitia, and he will be accompanied by his father. Quintin has participated in the very successful TREE (Teens Restoring Endangered Ecosystems) program which CVAS has been involved in, along with Mr. Saute's class and the Santa Monica National Park Area staff.

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CALENDAR

March

1	8:00 am	Field Trip	Hill Canyon
2	5:15 pm	Dinner	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
2	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
7	9:00 am	Field Trip	Sierra Vista
12	9:00 am	Field Trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
14	8:00 am	Field Trip	Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp
22	7:30 am	Field Trip	Private Property
28	7:30 am	Field Trip	Soule Park

***** 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 March Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 16. 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 whenever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money!
RAIN CANCELS!

Sunday, 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. Expect goldfinches, sparrows, hawks, ducks, wrens, Phainopeplas, and Yellow-rump Warblers. Leader is **Jean Hulberg (805) 491-2666**

Saturday, March 7 Sierra Vista

Plant/birdwalk with **Mary Ann Campbell (805) 522-2354**. 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.

Thursday, March 12 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, March 14 Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp

Meet at the Rustic Canyon gate at 8 am. Take 23 to

Princeton, then left and follow signs to Rustic Canyon Golf Course. We walk the path along the golf course and find Cactus Wrens, sparrows, possible warblers, hawks, and other birds along the edge of the golf course. Then on into Happy Camp and the oaks for those hardy souls with lunch in the trees. Leader is **Rich Congersky (805) 558-2297**.

Sunday, March 22 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. There will be lots of shorebirds; should still be some ducks, hawks, herons, blackbirds; possible American Bittern and Sora. Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598**.

Saturday, March 28 Soule Park

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am. Should be woodpeckers, sparrows, hawks and possible early migrants. Leader is **John Pavelko (805) 640-9040** whom we will meet at 8am at the Park.

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The March 9th meeting will be in the multi-purpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 pm. The picture theme is "Patterns and Textures", the educational topic will be "Cropping & Resizing" in Photoshop Elements presented by Don Williamson, and the Common Thread Photography presentation will be by Betty Murray.

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.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE

CVAS's Annual Dinner/Auction will be held at Sterling Hills Golf Club on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Fill out the form on page 3 and mail to Rich Congersky before March 8th for the early bird special.

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society
on
March 21, 2009
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 3/8/09)

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 and Rice
- (2) Poached Salmon with Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables
- (3) Filet Mignon with Cabernet Sauce, Roasted Potatoes and Vegetables
- (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 # _____	

Thanks for your support!!!

Matching Grant Scholarship Awarded

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He is becoming an enthusiastic birder, and shows his interest in many ways. He will share the experiences of the TREE program with the assembly youth.

One of our goals has been outreach to youth, and we are pleased to match the scholarship grant to enable him to have the exciting exposure of other conservation minded youth.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Gillette Ranch, Sunday, January 25

by Dee Lyon

About 20 of us enjoyed beautiful weather and birds at Gillette Ranch, although we did discover that there is a \$5 parking fee! We'll figure out carpooling next time. Oak Titmice were calling everywhere. There were Western Bluebirds, Scrub Jays, Lesser Goldfinch, Red Tails, Red-shouldered Hawks, Song and Lark Sparrows, Bewick's Wren, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Flickers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, many White-breasted Nuthatches, Mallards, Coots, Ring-necked Ducks, Bufflehead, DC Cormorant, and a Great Blue Heron on its nest! There were Black and Say's Phoebe, Robins, CA Thrashers singing, CA and Spotted Towhees, Townsend's and Yellow-rump Warblers, Allen's and Anna's Hummers, Killdeer, Mourning Doves, Crows, Juncos and House Finches. That place is a keeper and we just touched the surface of it.

Malibu Lagoon, Saturday, January 31

by Rich Congersky

A group of twelve met on an absolutely beautiful day in Malibu Lagoon and saw a total of 44 species. We started out on Malibu Creek and saw Coot, Pied-Billed Grebe, American Widgeon, Mallards, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Bufflehead and Gadwall before we even passed the bridge. After the bridge, we saw Black Phoebe, Green Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Whimbrel, American Avocet, Killdeer, Spotted

Sandpiper, Sanderlings, Brown Pelican, Double Crested Cormorants and Western Gulls. Next we headed to the reeds and marsh areas. We stopped on both footbridges and saw Mockingbird, Yellow Rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, Great Blue Heron, Common Yellow Throat, Willet, Least Sandpiper, Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Allen's Hummingbird, California Towhee, and a brief look at a Virginia Rail. From the beach we saw, Royal Tern, Ring-Billed Gull, Heerman's Gull, Marbled Godwit, Red Breasted Merganser, Western Grebe, Eared Grebe, a Red Throated Loon, and Pelagic Cormorants. As we headed back, we spotted White Crowned Sparrow, American Crow, European Starling and while back at the reeds, several good looks at Sora. A great day was had by all.

Pt. Mugu Naval Base, Friday, January 9

by Cheryl Williamson

On Friday January 9, 25 hardy souls led by David Pereksta birded Point Mugu Naval Base. The day was sunny and crisp. The wind was light when we started out and really awful when we left at 11:30 am. Highlights of the trip were: one Sandhill Crane, a Long-tailed Duck (a life bird for most on the trip), 3 species of cormorants, a Burrowing Owl and a Short-eared Owl, Black Scoters, a Red-throated Grebe, and 15 species of ducks. We saw a total of 87 species. (A complete list is given below.) It was worth the trip even with the wind. Many thanks to Martin Ruane, of the Point Mugu Naval Base, for escorting our trip and kudos to our leader David Pereksta.

Interested in the fall trip? Look for the sign-up sheet at the Sept. general meeting. Remember we have to have the list of participants to the base three weeks before the trip.

LOONS

Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon

GREBES

Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe

SHEARWATERS AND PETRELS

Black-vented Shearwater

PELICANS

Brown Pelican

CORMORANTS

Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant

HERONS EGRETS AND BITTERNS

Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret

IBIS AND SPOONBILLS

White-faced Ibis

DUCKS, GEESE AND SWANS

Greater White-fronted Goose, Brant, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal,

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Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, Greater Scaup, Long-tailed Duck, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES

Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk

FALCONS AND CARACARAS

American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon

CRANES

Sandhill Crane

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS

American Coot

AVOCETS AND STILTS

Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS

Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer

SANDPIPERS

Short-billed Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper

GULLS

Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, American Herring Gull, Bonaparte's Gull

TERNs

Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern

JAEGERS AND SKUAS

Parasitic Jaeger

PIGEONS AND DOVES

Eurasian Collared-Dove

OWLS

Burrowing Owl, Short-eared Owl

HUMMINGBIRDS

Anna's Hummingbird

KINGFISHERS

Belted Kingfisher

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher

SWALLOWS

Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow

WAGTAILS AND PIPITS

American Pipit

GNATCATCHERS

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

SHRIKES

Loggerhead Shrike

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES

American Crow

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow

NEW WORLD WARBLERS

Common Yellowthroat

BUNTINGS, SPARROWS, SEEDEATERS, ALLIES

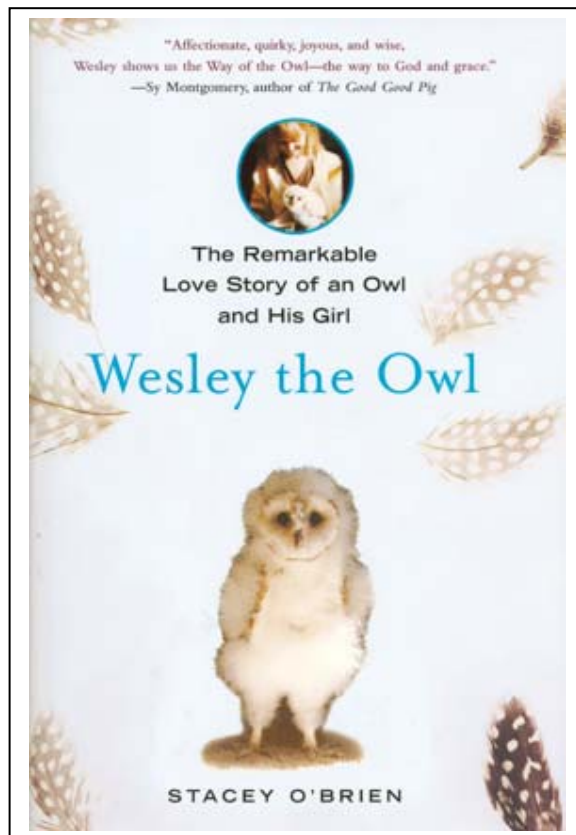
Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES

Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle

Message from the Editor

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

**Wesley the Owl****Book Review by Cheryl Williamson**

I used my Border's Christmas gift card on a book called *Wesley the Owl*. What a wonderful choice this turned out to be. This is a heart warming love story of an Owl and his girl Stacey O'Brien, a research biologist at Caltech. She writes about raising and living with Wesley the Barn Owl for his life span of 19 years. Through the pages of this book you learn "the way of the owl". This book is funny and interesting. Most of all though, it will get you thinking. It also has great photos of Stacey and Wesley. You will never look at or think about an owl in the same way again.

Don Williamson provided the photo below to complement Cheryl's review of Wesley.



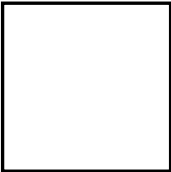
ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

March, 2009



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	
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Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
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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 Charlie Lucas
I observed this Great Egret in the park by the Thousand Oaks Library on two occasions over a three week period in April of 2008. I hope for a revisit.

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: newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

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 _____

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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 _____