



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

VOL. 40

April 2009

NO. 8

**General Meeting April 6
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**CVAS' Michael Zarky
To Present Birding in India**

India is home to at least 1200 bird species, but being on the opposite side of the world, it isn't an easy trip for most US birders. Luckily CVAS member, Michael Zarky, will be with us on April 6th to tell us about his recent trip to that amazing country, and show us his pictures of the birds which were willing to sit still long enough to be photographed.

His journey began in Mumbai where he was able to spend a few hours birding the mudflats of that city's bay. Then he spent three days with a small group and a guide at a forest camp in Goa. Another tour with a private guide covered three days near a forest reserve in Kerala followed by two days in the mile-high mountains around Munnar, one of Kerala's largest tea-growing areas.

Near the southeast coast, he found good birding in the semi-rural environs of a university where his traveling companion was attending a conference. Michael then made a serendipitous connection with the nearby Rishi Valley School, founded by J. Krishnamurti, who also founded a school in Ojai. This school fosters an interest in ornithology as part of its program of land regeneration.

Finally, Michael spent several weeks visiting friends in the community of Auroville. For many decades, Auroville has worked on revitalizing severely degraded environments and has seen a great increase in its bird populations.

Don't miss the opportunity to chat with Michael at the pre-meeting dinner, which will be held this month only at Cafe India restaurant in Camarillo.

The two photos below were taken by Michael on his recent trip and are representative of the many species of India's birds that will be featured in Michael's presentation.

Photos by Michael Zarky



Roller



Frogmouths

CALENDAR

April

5	8:00 am	Field Trip	Simi Hotspots
6	5:15 pm	Dinner	Premeeting Dinner: Café India
6	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
9	9:00 am	Field Trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
11	7:30 am	Field Trip	Sisar Canyon
18	7:30 am	Field Trip	Sierra Vista
26	8:00 am	Field Trip	Camarillo Regional Park

***** Pre meeting Dinner ***
Café India 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 April Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20. 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, April 5 SIMI HOTSPOTS

Meet at Rancho Simi Park, located at Royal and Erringer. (Meet in Erringer parking lot at 8 am by the tennis courts.) Look for early migrants, lots of passerines, and check out Easy Street flood channel. Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 246-4598**

Thursday, April 9 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, April 11 SISAR CANYON

Check for warblers, and early migrants. Meet at Los Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the Sisar Canyon turnoff on 150 in the upper Ojai Valley at 8:00 am. Bring water and lunch if you want to hike up very far in the canyon. Leader is **Rich Congersky (805) 558-2297**.

Saturday, April 18 SIERRA VISTA

Look for early migrants; Lazuli Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, warblers, vireos, hawks and sparrows. Meet at Sierra Vista at 8:00 am in the main parking lot. Take Wendy to Lynn Road; turn right, go to the entrance to National Recreation Area / Sierra Vista and proceed to the main parking lot. Leader is **Thelma Williams (805) 492-2796**.

Sunday, April 26 Camarillo Regional Park

Look for Yellow-breasted Chat, orioles, hawks, sparrows and water birds at the pond. Follow directions to Cal State University at Channel Islands, but stop just past the bridge at the Park. Meet at gate at 8 am. Leader is **Carol Langford (805) 987-2721**

Shutterbugs *by Don Williamson*

The April 13th meeting will be in the multi-purpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 pm. The picture theme is "Sunsets/Sunrises", the educational topic will be "Image management" presented by Chrystal Klabunde, and the Common Thread Photography presentation will be by Jody Spector.

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.

Bird Festivals

April 4 – 6, 2009
**Godwit Days: California's North Coast
Spring Migration Bird Festival**
www.godwitdays.com

May 8-10, 2009
**12th Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival
Fallon, Nevada**
www.springwings.org

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Saturday, February 21 Santa Barbara Hotspots By Linda Easter

Nine of us carpooled to Santa Barbara on a cool day in February. We stopped first at Lake Los Carneros to look for the Least Bittern that has been reported there, but we didn't see it. We did see at least three Sora feeding in the reeds under the bridge. We also saw three White-tailed Kites chasing a Red-tailed Hawk. We saw 42 other species there, and then moved on to Orpet Park in search of the reported White-throated Sparrow. And we found it! It was perched quietly in a bush so all of us had good looks at it. Our last stop was to be Sea Landing, but first we had to fill up with excellent clam chowder at Brophy Brothers. After all were satisfied, we found the reported Pacific Loon in the harbor (we actually saw four of them), as well as the Red-breasted Merganser and Pelagic Cormorant. It was another great day of birding (and lunch)!

Photos by Lavonne Eden

Above right: Lunch at Brophy Brothers.

Below: Pacific Loon



Great Back Yard Bird Count Results

By Charlie Lucas

Preliminary results of the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) are now available at <http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/results>. The GBBC is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. This year's GBBC was a four-day event (February 13-16, 2009) that engaged bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Participants varied from beginning bird watchers to experts investing from as little as 15 minutes on a day to counting for as long they wished each day of the event.

Preliminary results as of this writing (Mar 4, 2009) follow:

Total Checklists Submitted	93,423
Total Species Observed	618
Total Individual Birds Counted	12,016,580

Rank	Most Frequently Reported Species	Most Numerous Species
1	Northern Cardinal	Snow Goose
2	Mourning Dove	Common Grackle
3	Dark-eyed Junco	Canada Goose
4	American Goldfinch	American Robin
5	Downey Woodpecker	European Starling
6	Blue Jay	American Crow
7	House Finch	Red-winged Blackbird
8	Tufted Titmouse	American Goldfinch
9	American Crow	Dark-eyed Junco
10	Black-capped Chickadee	Pine Siskin

A visit to the site's Map Room allows the viewer to compare the distribution of a species both geographically and temporally. Map data is provided from 1999 through 2009.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

April, 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
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Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
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Publicity	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
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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 Lavonne Eden
 This Pelican and Cormorant were observed by our CVAS birders on a recent field trip to the Santa Barbara Hotspots immediately following a convivial luncheon at Brophy Brothers in Santa Barbara.

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 _____



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 _____