



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

VOL. 41

October 2009

NO. 2

**General Meeting October 5
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Conservation Column
By Dee Lyon**

**Don DesJardin to Present Tim Barksdale's
Film: "The Search for the Jcotoco Antpitta"**



Tim Barksdale is not only one of the world's best wildlife videographers, he is also an ornithologist who's nuts about birds and conservation. Barksdale has filmed birds and other wildlife in every state in the US, as well as in Canada, Central and South America, and other places for almost 20 years.

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FREEDOM YARDS: Lawns are an environmental nightmare in Ventura County! Millions of gallons of drinkable water are dumped onto lawns every day. Each gas-powered mower puts 11 times more pollution into the air every hour than a car. Leaf blowers are just as bad. The nerve-racking noise is another nasty pollutant. Pesticides have been implicated in cancer, and the run-off of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers seriously affect plants and animal life in our waterways.

Native grasses thrive in our areas when kept free of the exotic weeds we have introduced. Many grow in clumps or bunches, such as Deer Grass, Needle grasses, Buffalo grass and hair grass, and some can be mowed. They require very little maintenance and no fertilizer.

PUTTING IN CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS IS RESTORING HABITAT FOR OUR BIRDS AND WILDLIFE! That is the biggest and best reason for you to get rid of your lawn. We will be focusing on making presentations to Homeowner's Societies to encourage everyone to change their gardening habits. Most folks need to be educated about California Natives, and not be alarmed when they go dormant in the heat. Plants in the eastern U.S. go dormant in the winter, which is the opposite of

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CALENDAR

October

3	8:00 am	Field Trip	Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Cyn.
5	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner:	Ottavio's
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
11	8:00 am	Field Trip	Canada Laga Road
17	8:00 am	Field Trip	Ventura Settling Ponds
25	8:00 am	Field Trip	Fillmore Fish Hatchery & Lake Piru

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

Call Nobuko McClure
For Reservations
24 hours in advance of 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 October Board meeting will be held on Monday, October 19. 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!

Saturday, October 3 Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Canyon

Leave Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am. Bring scope if possible. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

Thursday, October 8 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 to find out where it will be held. Rain or temperatures above 90 degrees will cancel.

Sunday, October 11 Canada Larga Road

Leave Las Posas Park & Ride at 8 am. This is a driving tour, stopping in several locations along the road. Leader is **Rich Congersky (805) 588-2297**.

Saturday, October 17 Ventura Settling Ponds

Leave Janss Park & Ride at 8 am. These ponds are always good for a variety of ducks, gulls, grebes, herons, and variety of song birds. Bring scope if possible. Leader is **Thelma Williams (805) 492-2796**.

Sunday, October 25 Fillmore Fish Hatchery & Lake Piru

Meet in Von's Parking lot at South East corner of Hwy's 23 and 126 in Fillmore. Leaving from there at 8 am. First stop will be the Fish Hatchery and then on to Lake Piru. In years past we have seen a free flying Condor or two. Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598**.

INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY A course offered by the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology

The course is 8 weeks long, from the first week of October to the last week of November, and will cover bird anatomy, breeding, conservation, evolution, identification, physiology, and taxonomy. Classes meet for 3 hours twice per week at the Western Foundation and various local field locations, for a total of at least 60 hours of instruction. Classes will include lectures, labs using the Foundation's bird specimens, and identification of birds in the field using binoculars and field guides.

The cost of the course is \$200 for currently enrolled college students and WFVZ Volunteers; \$300 for WFVZ Members; and \$400 for non-Members. Class size is limited to 20 people.

The times of the course will be determined depending on the needs of the class.

PLEASE CONTACT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION BY NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 18TH TO ENROLL!

Phone: 805/388-9944; E-mail:
bookkeeper@wfvz.org

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.

Film: “Search for the Jocotoco Antpitta”*(Continued from Page 1)*

Now Barksdale is working with Cortina Productions to bring his birding adventures to public television. “Adventures with Birdman” combines extreme eco-adventure travel with one wildlife cameraman’s personal quest to find, film, and share some of the world’s rarest, and most elusive birds—before they vanish.

In each of the new series’ 13 episodes, Barksdale (aka Birdman) travels to a different location, ranging from Andean cloud forests to Arctic glaciers. Birdman creates a lasting record of their behaviors, their songs, and the environments to which they are adapted.

In the series’ first episode, Birdman sets out in search of the Jocotoco Antpitta (*Grallaria ridgelyi*), which was discovered by Dr. Robert Ridgely in 1997. Only a few die-hard birders have ever seen it, and it has never been captured on film. Birdman travels to the Tapichalaca Reserve in the forests of southern Ecuador’s Andes. He sees and films an incredible array of birds species, including other antpittas (Moustached Antpitta, Yellow-breasted Antpitta, Giant Antpitta), but after an exhaustive search, the Jocotoca Antpitta remains elusive and not seen.

Six months later, Birdman is able to return to Tapichalaca, and this time with help from local bird guides, he finds the Jocotoco Antpitta, and viewers are treated to unbelievable, astonishing close-up views. Birdman is blown away, and you will be too.

By the end of this adventure, you will also see, in striking High Definition, a plethora of hummingbird species, including the Ecuadorian Hillstar, Booted Racquettail, Velvet-Purple Coronet, and Empress Brilliant, along with other birds like the Paramo Ground Tryrant, Black-billed Shrike Tyrant, Andean Gull, Andean Condor, Variable Hawk, Andean Coot, and Common Potoo, just to name a few.

“Adventures with Birdman” is designed to raise awareness and inspire conservation action, as well as take us on an armchair journey to encounter some of the rarest, most beautiful birds in the world. The show is currently in production and the team is planning for a fall 2010 broadcast on public television.

Don DesJardin was involved as second cameraman for this episode, and will be presenting this program for Tim Barksdale.

Conservation Column*(Continued from page 1)*

Ventura County. There are plants that stay green all year, such as Ceanothus, Manzanita, Toyon and Coyote Brush to name a few, and Penstemon make the best hummingbird feeder that you can have in your yard. The California Native Plant Society and the Theodore Payne Foundation can give you huge amounts of information on the plants for your yards. Also <http://laspilitas.com>; <http://www.Matilijanursery.com> (in Moorpark) and <http://www.TheodorePayne.org> (in Sunland) will show you pictures of the plants, and tell you how large the plant will get, what color the flowers are and how to plant it and what birds like to eat (also deer and rabbits). Take out part of your lawn and put in California Native Plants now; Fall is the best time to plant! Please let Dee Lyon know if you can help with presenting Freedom Yards to Homeowners Associations.

Field Trip Report**Saturday September 5
Santa Clara River Estuary**

John Pavelko led 12 of us from Surfer’s Knoll to the Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE) and then to the harbor. We loved seeing the flock of about 300 Snowy Plovers, but not the surfers running through them for a photographer! Additionally we saw Brown Pelicans, Least and Western Sandpipers, Red-necked Phalaropes, flocks of Willets, Marbled Godwits, Sanderlings, Whimbrel, Western and Heerman’s Gulls, Double-crested and Brandt’s Cormorants, Great Blue Heron, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Bufflehead, Coots, Black-crowned Night Heron, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, House Finch, Elegant and Forster’s Terns, Peregrine Falcon, Great-tailed Grackle, Mourning and Eurasian Collared Dove, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Surfbird, Wandering Tattler, Western and Piebilled Grebe, Barn Swallow, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer’s Blackbird, Black Phoebe, American Crow for a total of 41 species to start the year. Wonderful field trip!

Reporter /Dee Lyon

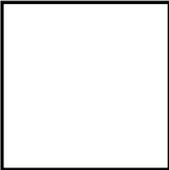
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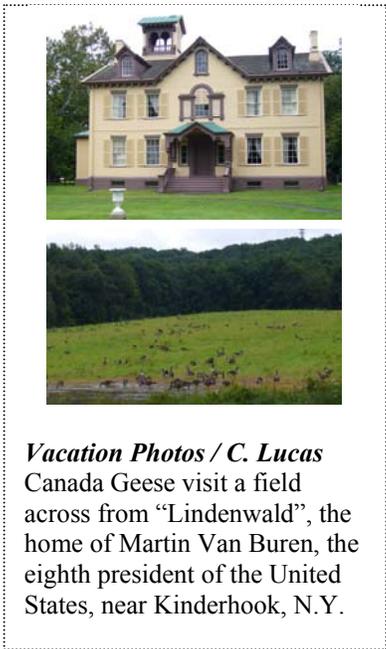
P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

October, 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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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



Vacation Photos / C. Lucas
 Canada Geese visit a field across from "Lindenwald", the home of Martin Van Buren, the eighth president of the United States, near Kinderhook, N.Y.

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 **C9ZC230Z**

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, P. O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

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 _____