



# ROADRUNNER

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## General Meeting September 13 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Our general meeting, normally held on the first Monday of the month, will be held this month on the second Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, due to the Labor Day holiday.

The program for this first meeting of our 2010 – 2011 season will, as in previous years, be a “**Show and Tell**” program. This is the evening when we can gather once again after our long summer break and renew our old friendships and hopefully make new ones as well.

All members are encouraged to bring photos, movies, slides or anything you would like to share to the meeting. Chrystal Klabunde, our programs chair, will coordinate the presentations and will setup the necessary computer and projector to show your pictures.

Be sure to call **Chrystal** at **805-522-8023** well in advance of the meeting to get information on presentation media formats and presentation times available.

It’s been a long summer break and at last we have an opportunity to share our experiences over the past few months as well as our birding plans for the upcoming season. Please try to attend this first meeting of the season. You’ll surely be missed if you don’t!

## Conservation Column

*By Dee Lyon*

**CATS - AN INVASIVE SPECIES?** Fluff, a neighbor cat killed my Mockingbird last week, and now another neighbor saw it going off with a Goldfinch! How many pet cats do we have in this world? How many are roaming free? In the United States, American Bird Conservancy estimates that we have 90 million pet cats and the majority of them roam outside at least part of the time. In addition, there are millions of stray and feral cats wandering our cities and even our beaches. These little hunters kill millions of birds, small mammal, reptiles and amphibians each year. Our birds did not evolve with all these efficient hunters ambushing them, and do not need this additional strain on their ability to survive. Native and migratory birds are protected by law, therefore, invasive species such as domestic cats need to be kept indoors.

Cats, wildlife and people all benefit when cats are kept indoors. There is less exposure to injury, disease, parasites, getting hit by cars, becoming lost, stolen or getting eaten by coyotes. With a window seat, cats can be very happy indoors.

‘Trap, neuter, release’ is not a good solution to the feral cat problem. One solution is implemented in Eugene, Oregon, where the cat lovers have a facility called Greenfield where unwanted cats are housed in exceptional comfort and people wander in to pet and play with them and adopt them if they wish.  
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### CALENDAR

#### September

4	8:00 am	Santa Clara River Estuary
9	9:00 am	Beginner’s Bird Walk
12	8:00 am	Laguna Tams
13	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s
13	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
18	8:00 am	Point Mugu Lagoon
26	8:00 am	Camino Real Park

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

Call **Chrystal Klabunde**  
For Reservations (805) 522-8023  
**Reservation Deadline: 9:00 am**  
Day of General Meeting

### 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 September Board Meeting will be held on Monday, September 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 locations varying monthly. Please contact CVAS Secretary, **Gary Evans** at (805) 231-5692 or [GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org](mailto:GaryE@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, September 4<sup>th</sup> Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at the Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am. Look for ducks, herons, sandpipers, terns, plovers, phalaropes, turnstones, moorhens, pipits, ospreys, etc. A spotting scope is very useful. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

#### Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 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, September 12<sup>th</sup> Laguna Tams

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am. The Laguna and other nearby "tams" are some of the best local places to see migrating warblers in the fall. Past Septembers have yielded Yellow, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's warblers as well as Warbling Vireos. We may later check out the nearby sod farms, in which case spotting scopes would be handy. Leader is **Bets Buchanan (805) 482-0063**.

#### Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> Pt. Mugu Lagoon

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am and head to Pt. Mugu Lagoon to see what is migrating. Trip leader is **Thelma Williams (805) 492-2796**.

### Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> Camino Real Park

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the Park (next to the 126 fwy) at 8 am. Famous for Warblers, vagrants and all our local birds. Trip leader Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

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#### 2010-2011 Field Trips MARK THEM ON YOUR CALENDAR BUT CHECK THE NEWSLETTER

Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans. Volunteer trip leaders are needed to lead trips marked with an (\*). Please call Dee at (805) 499-2165. Trips alternate Sat and Sun. April – May trips in next month's Newsletter.

- Oct 2, Sat Malibu Lagoon (\*)
- Oct 10, Sun Canada Larga Road (\*)
- Oct 16, Sat Camino Real Park (\*)
- Oct 24, Sun Hill Canyon
- Oct 30, Sat Ventura Ponds
- Nov 6, Sat. Mugu Rock & Mugu Lagoon (\*)
- Nov 12, Fri Pt Mugu Navy Base (Must reserve)
- Nov 14, Sun Saticoy Ponds
- Nov 27, Sat Conejo Valley Botanic Garden
- Dec 4, Sat Sepulveda Basin (\*)
- Dec 12, Sun Paramount Ranch
- Dec 18, Sat Chesebro Canyon (\*)
- Jan 1, Sat ? Christmas Bird Count
- Jan 8, Sat Sierra Vista
- Jan 16, Sun Santa Clara River Estuary (\*)  
(Note: Morro Bay - Jan 14-18)
- Jan 21, Fri Pt. Mugu Navy Base (Must Reserve)
- Jan 30, Sun Gillette Ranch (\*)
- Feb 5, Sat. Carrizo Plains
- Feb 13, Sun Lake Casitas (\*)
- Feb 19, Sat Santa Barbara Hotspots (\*)
- Feb 27, Sun Malibu Lagoon
- Mar 5/6, Sat/Sun Wind Wolves
- Mar 13, Sun Flower Walk (\*)
- Mar 19, Sat Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp (\*)
- Mar 27, Sun Private Property (\*)

#### "Introduction to Ornithology" Class to Be Offered September 27 – November 21, 2010

An 8-week course on the diversity, ecology, evolution, and taxonomy of the birds of North America, with an emphasis on identifying the birds of Southern California, will be taught by **Dr. Linnea Hall** and **Mr. Rene Corado**. One 1.5-hour lecture and one 3-hour museum or field trip weekly. Individual classes also may be taken; contact WFVZ (805) 388-9944 for more information and pricing. Whole course price: \$420 for currently enrolled college students and WFVZ Volunteers; \$560 for WFVZ Members; \$750 for non-members.

## Conservation Column

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It's very handy for all those who are not able to have a cat at their home. I have a dear friend who has very expensive cats and wouldn't dream of letting them wander outside. She values these beautiful animals. Owners who value their cats need to protect them (and our wildlife) by keeping them indoors.

### **FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

#### **Big Morongo Canyon Trip by Linda Easter**

Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Nine intrepid CVAS birders spent a lovely weekend in Yucca Valley April 23--25. Our target destination was Big Morongo Canyon, always a great spot for returning breeders and migrants. We visited there briefly on Friday afternoon and then spent the day there on Saturday. Highlight birds included Bushtits and Bewick's Wrens on nests, Brown-crested Flycatchers, several Western Tanagers and Vermilion Flycatchers, a Red-tailed Hawk with three young in the nest, several Lawrence's Goldfinches, Nashville Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Verdin, and a Long-eared Owl in a nest. On Sunday we visited Black Rock Campground and saw Scott's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Pinyon Jay, Cactus Wren, and Black-throated Sparrow, among others. Then we went to a new spot for us -- the abandoned Yucca Valley Golf Course. Although it was sad to see the dying trees, there were many birds present, including a Spotted Sandpiper in a remaining water trap, Bullock's Oriole, and Ladder-backed Woodpecker.

#### **Annual CVAS Membership Dues Reminder**

As a reminder to all members, CVAS membership dues now match our activity year. The current membership year runs from July 2010 to June 2011. So for most members – those who last renewed or joined prior to January 2010 – your dues for our next activity year are now due and payable using the CVAS Membership Application on page 4 of this newsletter. If you have questions about when your membership ends, please contact the membership secretary at ([membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:membership@conejovalleyaudubon.org)).

## An Arizona Search For Eight Elusive Birds

By Dee Lyon

Sunday, June 6, at 7:30 am, my little camper and I headed out to Arizona to find eight birds that had eluded me there. I was on the outskirts of Phoenix in less than 4 hours and on the outskirts of Tucson before 4 pm. Madera Canyon's campground was cool and full of those great Arizona birds, but not mine (highlighted in **boldface** below).

Monday morning at 4:30 I started my search in Florida Wash; no luck. Then at Lake de la Pena a **Montezuma Quail** answered my call and peaked out at me. Then several **Rufous-winged Sparrows** were calling and showing themselves. At the Patagonia rest stop, two **Rose-throated Becards** answered my call for very brief looks, but I did not find their nest. While 115 degrees at Patton's feeders, I had great looks at a Violet-crowned Hummingbird and Bronze Cowbirds. I headed to Miller Canyon where I stayed at Beatty's for two nights: \$15 the first night; \$10 for the second night. The **White-eared Hummingbird** male was very cooperative and came right to the front of the 14 feeders at their very comfortable viewing station up in the woods next to a running creek. That night the **Whiskered Screech Owl** called periodically, as well as Poorwill.

On Tuesday, no luck at Ft Huachuca or at Ramsey Canyon, but at Ash Canyon Bed and Breakfast, two gorgeous **Lucifer Hummingbirds** put on a show at Mary Jo Stafford's feeders. This is a place not to be missed; turkeys come jumping over the gate to clean up under the seed feeders in the back yard and even two deer jumped the fence to get in on the action. It's \$5 for a seat, but well worth it.

On Wednesday morning I headed to San Pedro River House, since the expert at Ramsey had given me good advice, and sure enough **Botteri's Sparrows** were singing in several places and one answered my call and sat on top for a good look. I gave up on the Five-striped Sparrow early. Not going down that canyon by myself. Fantastic trip!

If you like rocks, stop in Quartzite, across from Carl's Jr. at the most incredible place, with rocks from all over the world.

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

September, 2010



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Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
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Send E-mail to	<a href="mailto:username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org">username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org</a>		



**Two Great Horned Owlets**  
 Just last April, Frank DeMartino captured this image of two Great Horned Owlets about noon in Camino Real Park. Frank reports that they were as interested in getting a look at him as he was in getting to see them.

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](mailto:newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org).

### NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**C0ZC230Z**

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 \_\_\_\_\_