



ROADRUNNER

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NO. 6

General Meeting February 7 7:30 pm Western Foundation

“Pelagic Birding off Southern California: What You See When You Go to Sea”

by David Pereksta

The waters offshore of southern California are one of the last birding frontiers in the state. An exciting mix of local breeders, arctic nesting migrants, and austral migrants that are rarely if ever seen from land can be found at sea if you know when, where, and how to look for them. A limited number of trips, unpredictable weather, and challenging viewing conditions make pelagic birding trips an adventurous way to explore this frontier. Birders wishing to see these special birds must find some of the few scheduled trips each year, get a reservation before they sell-out, and hope that the weather and birds cooperate. David Pereksta will show us what experiences southern California pelagic birding trips offer. David has spent over 100 days at sea off southern California and will describe the species that occur off our coast, where local pelagic trips go and how they operate, and how to best schedule a trip to see the birds (and marine mammals) you are looking for. Bring your soda crackers, Dramamine, and binoculars for this program that is richly illustrated with the best of the thousands of photos of birds and marine mammals David has taken at sea.

David is an Avian Biologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, where he studies and analyzes the effects of offshore oil and gas, and renewable energy

development on birds off the Pacific coast.

Throughout his career with various Federal and State agencies, he has studied several imperiled bird species including Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans, Spotted Owls, and Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers. An avid birder for over 30 years, he has birded throughout North America and the American tropics, including leading trips to Belize, Costa Rica, and Peru. He has seen over 1,500 species in his travels in the Americas; photographing nearly 1,000 species along the way.

Conservation Column

By Dee Lyon

Growing California Native Plants.

So you've made the decision to switch part of your yard to California Natives! Good for you; now if you plan ahead, you can avoid paying \$7 or \$8 each.

For ground cover, take cuttings from some nice low-growing-Ceanothus and dip them into rooting hormone (available at nurseries and Big Box Stores); then put them into sand in a sheltered spot. Don't forget to spray them with water occasionally! They'll be ready to set in about a year. Too much water can cause them to rot.

There are over 40 species of Ceanothus in California and some of them are really spectacular, especially Gentian Plume. They are evergreen and the flowers range through many shades of blue to white and some pinkish shades. They vary from creepers to almost tree proportions.

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CALENDAR

February

5	7:00 am	Field Trip: Carrizo Plain Nat'l Monument
7	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
7	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Beginner's Bird Walk
13	8:30 am	Field Trip: Lake Casitas
19	7:30 am	Field Trip: Santa Barbara Hotspots
27	8:00 am	Field Trip: Malibu Lagoon

*** Pre meeting Dinner ***

Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call Nobuko McClure

For Reservations (805) 482-0411

Reservation Deadline Before!

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 February Board Meeting will be held on Monday, February 21. 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 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, February 5th Carrizo Plain Nat'l Monument

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride for 7:00 am departure. Will travel over Hwy 33 to Soda Lake Rd. Will look for Mountain Bluebirds, Mountain Plovers and various sparrows and raptors. Bring lunch and warm clothes. Contact the leaders regarding possible overnight camping or motel. Leaders are **Bill** and **Carol Langford** (805) 987-2721.

Thursday, February 10th Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. This month is the Annual Westlake Boat Trip. (Must Reserve.) Call **Angie Kobabe** (818) 991-4055 between 9 am and 9 pm for reservation and directions. Rain will cancel.

Sunday, February 13th Lake Casitas

Those who wish to carpool, meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am else meet at Lake Casitas parking lot at 8:30 am. Lots of ducks, grebes, sparrows, hawks and woodpeckers. Leader is **John Pavelko** (805) 640-9040.

Saturday, February 19th Santa Barbara Hotspots

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:30 am. Leader will choose the spots. Leader is **Linda Easter** (805) 482-7537.

Sunday, February 27th Malibu Lagoon

Meet at 8:00 am at Rancho Road Park & Ride or at 8:30 am in the Malibu Lagoon parking lot (ocean side of Hwy 1). Shore birds, herons, gulls, ducks, and marsh birds make this oasis a great spot. Rarities are often seen! Leader is **Thelma Williams** (805) 492-2796.

Conservation Column

(Continued from Page 1)

Another excellent evergreen shrub to make a statement is the Manzanita. You have at least 20 species to choose from, again from low ground covers to trees. Their richly colored red bark gives very pleasing architectural forms to your garden, and the white or pink bells in the spring attract birds. These can also be propagated using cuttings, but a combination of peat moss and sand works best. Cuttings should not be allowed to dry out. Figure out some kind of a wood frame with plastic over it.

Wild Buckwheats are a great addition to a native garden. They support many butterflies. Grow them from seeds from Theodore Payne Foundation and they should reseed themselves. The giant red buckwheat is especially eye catching, as well as St Catherine's lace.

For the birds, you must put some sage in your yard, purple, black and/or white. Some of these are low-growing and spread as much as 12 feet across (Sonomenensis). Sage can also be increased by tip cuttings rooted in sand.

Toyon is one of my favorites. The white flowers in the summer, then red berries in the winter make this an attractive shrub (or small tree if you don't prune it!). The Cedar Waxwings came Dec 2 to dine, along with Hermit Thrushes, Robins, Mockingbirds; even the House Finches ate some berries.

SAVE THESE DATES
February 18 – 21, 2011
Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

The GBBC is sponsored jointly by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. Instructions on how to participate in the 2011 GBBC are available on the Internet at www.birdsource.org.

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society

on

Friday, March 18, 2011

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 3/4/11)

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 Carol Langford at:
805-987-2721 or president@ConejoValleyAudubon.org

All are tax deductible!

Dinner selections: All served with Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Vegetable, Chef's Choice Starch, Freshly Baked Breads & Butter, and Chef's Choice Dessert and Beverage.

- (1) Duet Plate: Petite Filet Mignon & Baked Salmon Filet
- (2) Hot Vegetable Plate

Please fill out this reservation form, tear it off, and mail it with your check (payable to CVAS) to:

CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

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!!!

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

February, 2011



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	president
Vice Pres			
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Treasurer	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trip: Co	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
Field trip: Co	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Publicity	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Newsletter	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Membership	Bob Parker		membership
Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Special Events			
Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	photographer
Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		

SAVE THESE DATES
April 8-10, 2011
Olympic BirdFest 2011

Visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Immediately following BirdFest, join us for a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 10-12, 2011. Contact: Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society, (360) 681-4076 or www.olympicbirdfest.org

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

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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 _____