



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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

VOL. 42

April 2011

NO. 8

## General Meeting April 4 7:30 pm Western Foundation

### Executive Director of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy to Address CVAS

Tom Maloney, Executive Director of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy will speak about the historic Tejon Ranch Conservation and Land Use Agreement of 2008 and the formation of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy. Tom's talk will focus on the ecological significance of Tejon Ranch and all that the Conservancy is doing to plan for the stewardship of and public access to the 240,000 acres of conserved lands on the Ranch.



*Birding @ Tejon / Don Klabunde 2010*

Tejon Ranch is the largest contiguous private property in California and sits at the confluence of four major ecological regions. Each of these ecoregions is represented on the Ranch and the configuration of the Ranch creates conservation linkages of continental significance which led to the signing of a visionary agreement in June of 2008. The Conservancy immediately began to fulfill its mission of protection, enhancement and restoration for the benefit of future California generations. Tom will update us on the active programs the Conservancy has in place.

CVAS has scheduled a field trip to Tejon Ranch for Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Be sure that you have signed up with the trip coordinator. Preregistration is required for this trip.

### Conservation Column By Dee Lyon

[This month's column continues a discussion of Matt Ridgeley's book entitled *THE RATIONAL OPTIMIST*.]

Throughout the world, birth rates are falling. There is no country in the world that has a higher birth rate than it had in 1960, and in the less developed world as a whole, the birth rate has approximately halved. So there is room for optimism. The inexhaustible river of invention and discovery irrigates the fragile crop of human welfare. Even with population tamed, fossil energy tapped and trade free, growth could be limited if knowledge stopped growing. But so long as it can hop from country to country and from industry to industry, discovery is a fast-breeder chain reaction; innovation is a feedback loop and invention is a self-fulfilling prophecy. In a free-exchanging world, anything is possible.

Even extinction is not as dire as we think; 27,000 dying out every year equates to just 2.7 per cent a century. (There are thought to be at least 10 million species.) No charity ever raised money for its cause by saying things are getting better. Radioactive doses are down 90 percent from the early 60s

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### CALENDAR

#### April

2	7:00 am	Field Trip: Tejon Ranch
4	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
4	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
10	8:00 am	Field Trip: Sierra Vista
14	9:00 am	Beginner's Bird Walk
16	8:00 am	Field Trip: Camarillo Regional Park
23	8:00 am	Field Trip: Soule Park

**\*\*\* 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 April Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 18. 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, April 2<sup>nd</sup> Tejon Ranch

This trip for CVAS members only requires pre-registration so please contact **Charlie Lucas** (805) 498-6447 or [CLucas1996@AOL.COM](mailto:CLucas1996@AOL.COM) at least one week prior to the trip. "Walk-in" or "day-of" registration is not allowed. Meet at Janss Park & Ride at 7:00 am. We will drive up I-5 to 138 to the Tejon Ranch where we will be met by a conservancy docent. Besides the birds, the spring wildflowers should be in full bloom. Plan for the possibility of cool windy weather. There are no facilities on the property. Bring sunscreen, lunch, snack food and plenty of drinking water. Good walking/hiking shoes are recommended.

#### Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Sierra Vista

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 main parking lot. Leader is **David Person** (805) 469-6806.

#### Thursday, April 14<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.

#### Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Camarillo Regional Park

Meet at 8:00 am at Las Posas Park & Ride. Leader is **Thelma Williams** (805) 492 2796.

#### Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> Soule Park, Ojai

Meet at the park at 8:00 am. It is located on the east side of Ojai, just off highway #150. Look for raptors, woodpeckers, sapsuckers, orioles, thrushes, sparrows and various migrants. Spotting scopes will be helpful. Leader is **Linda Easter** (805) 482-7537.

---

#### Conservation Column (Continued from Page 1)

when weapons test and nuclear accidents caused problems. Pessimism has always been big box office. For 200 years pessimists have had all the headlines, even though optimists have far more often been right.

Too few people listened to anxieties expressed about Hitler, Mao, Al-Qaeda and sub-prime mortgages, but pessimism is not without its cost. If you teach children that things can only get worse, they will do less to make it untrue.

"The pace of innovation will redouble and economic evolution will raise the living standards of the twenty-first century to unimagined heights, helping even the poorest people of the world to afford to meet their desires as well as their needs. Intelligence will become more and more collective; innovation and order will become more and more bottom-up; work will become more and more specialized, leisure more and more diversified. Doctors are having to get used to well-informed patients who research their own illnesses. News is being selected and assembled according to viewer demand. Engineers are sharing problems to find solutions, and manufacturers are responding to consumers who order their products a la carte. Dictators are learning that their citizens can organize riots by text message. This world is already glimpsed on the web. The bottom-up world is to be the great theme of this century. Dare to be an optimist."

## Field Trip Reports

### **Sierra Vista** by *Thelma Williams* Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

Seventeen hardy people turned out on a foggy cool morning for the field trip to Sierra Vista-Satwiwa Park in Newbury Park. We saw 32 species--Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, several Northern-Harriers, American Kestrels interacting with 5 or 6 White-tailed Kites. They seemed to be everywhere and put on a wonderful display for us.

We were able to get good looks at cooperative Lark Sparrows, as well as many of the other familiar birds of that area.

California Thrashers were singing to us as we walked through the trails.

In spite of the weather, all enjoyed the morning and the familiar species we were able to spot.

### **Santa Clara River Estuary** by *Chrystal Klabunde* Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

It was a gorgeous day on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> when ten happy birders strolled down the beach from Ventura Harbor to the Santa Clara River Estuary. Shorebirds were surprising by their absence, only a modest flock of Willets and a handful of Sanderlings to be found on the beach, and none in the estuary, but there were plenty of other birds to be seen. The settling ponds yielded Gadwalls, Ruddy Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon and Blue-winged Teals, American Wigeons as well as the usual Mallards, American Coots and Black-crowned Night-Herons. A Common Yellowthroat and Marsh Wrens lurked in the bushes, and Say's and Black Phoebes sallied from the fence line. Along the beach flew Brown Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants, Forster's Terns and Surf Scoters. Only Great Blue Heron and Snowy and Great Egrets foraged in the estuary, probably because of the Peregrine Falcon and Red-shouldered Hawk patrolling the area. For us the high points were a single Horned Lark who allowed us good looks and the eventual discovery of the resident flock of more than thirty Snowy Plovers hunkering in the footprints left in the sand by the numerous surfers.

We also found Whimbrel and Black and Ruddy Turnstones on the breakwaters, and Eared,

Horned and Western Grebes in the channel. The National Park's botanic garden provided the expected songbirds and a handsome, posing Anna's Hummingbird, so we went home satisfied, with 46 birds on our day list.

### **Pt. Mugu Navy Base** by *Cheryl Williamson* Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

We scheduled our January field trip to Point Mugu between two large wind events. Our Friday January 21<sup>st</sup> trip was absolutely beautiful, clear and no wind!

Our group was treated to a spectacular view of a male Vermilion Flycatcher. He looked like the red Christmas tree ball you forgot to put away! There also was a Tropical Kingbird posing out in the open only 60 feet away. Perfect camera shot - only cameras aren't allowed on the base! We saw flocks of Northern Shovelers and Marbled Godwits. We also saw a Long-tailed Duck in the surf of the sparkling Pacific; and on the way out a Burrowing Owl at the edge of the road. We saw a total of 93 species.

Thanks to Martin Ruane, base biologist, and our friend David Pereksta who led the trip. Wish you had been there! Watch for the opportunity to go to Point Mugu in fall 2011 and Jan 2012.



Don Williamson sends us his photo of a male Vermilion Flycatcher taken on a different day to compensate for the Pt. Mugu 'No Camera!' policy.

---

### 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 5<sup>th</sup> of the month in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in JPEG format.

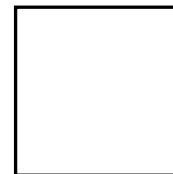
# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

April, 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	<a href="http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org">http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org</a>		
Send E-mail to	<a href="mailto:username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org">username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org</a>		



On Thanksgiving weekend, the Williamsons had a "Wow what's that!" moment. Cheryl reports noting a rather different bird eating in their feeding area. Don grabbed his camera and snapped away. In fact on the following Sunday they counted 15 Lark Sparrows in the yard. A very special Thanksgiving bird!

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

**C1ZC230Z**

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 \_\_\_\_\_