



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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May 2011

NO. 9

General Meeting May 2 7:30 pm Western Foundation

Arroyo Simi Greenway Plans

Many of us have long enjoyed the great birding along the channel of Arroyo Simi and the adjacent parks in the City of Simi Valley, from Hooded Mergansers and White-faced Ibis to breeding Snowy Egrets. And some have heard of plans for an improved Greenway along the arroyo, and even that the project was awarded a state grant to begin work. Whether you're excited, concerned or simply curious, join us as Ed Hayduk, Assistant General Manager of Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, provides us with an in-depth look at what is planned in the way of park improvements, access, trails, interpretive signage and habitat restoration along Arroyo Simi.



Arroyo Simi Greenway plan
looking east toward First Street

Our Annual Dinner and Auction By Carol Langford

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Once again Conejo Valley Audubon enjoyed a festive evening of food and fund-raising with friends who enjoy birds. Sterling Hills provided the setting while each of you, our friends, provided the fun and the funds.

The annual dinner and auction has been a long-standing tradition. Since before 1994 when I first joined CVAS the auction has provided operating, programming, and special project monies to keep the chapter solvent. Each year we expend monies for Audubon Adventures, our monthly speakers, our newsletter, our Science Fair awards, our donations to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, donations to several other conservation organizations and more. *(Continued on Page 3)*

Conservation Column By Dee Lyon

My 10 favorite conservation tips:

- 1.) Rediscover your grandmother's remedies: use lemon juice for polishing copper; dishwashing solution for oil stains; vinegar for cleaning soap scum and windows; soda for coffee and tea stains. An average family uses 30 gallons of chemical cleaners a year, containing substances that are harmful to health and the environment.
- 2.) Drive more slowly. Each 5 mile increase above 60 is like paying an additional 10 cents a gallon for gas.
- 3.) Half of all car trips in the US are less than 2

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CALENDAR

May

2	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
2	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
7	8:30 am	Field Trip: Wheeler Gorge Campground
12	9:00 am	Beginner's Bird Walk
15	8:00 am	Field Trip: Malibu Creek State Park
21	7:30 am	Field Trip: Sisar Canyon
29	7:00 am	Field Trip: Pine Mountain / Reyes Peak Campground

***** 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 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, May 7th Wheeler Gorge Campground

Meet at the campground entrance at 8:30 am. The campground is on Hwy 33 north of Ojai. This should be a good place to look for spring migrants and nesting birds. After birding the campground, those who wish may go to bird other locations further along Hwy 33. Previous year's highlights included close looks at a Western Tanager at Wheeler Gorge and the sighting of a Condor from Rose Valley. Leader is **John Pavelco (805) 640-9040**.

Thursday, May 12th 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 to find out where it will be held. Rain or temperatures above 90 degrees will cancel.

Sunday, May 15th Malibu Creek State Park

Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 8:00 am for carpooling. (There is a fee at the Malibu Creek State Park; bring money for gas and entrance fee.) Look for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, bluebirds and orioles. Leader is **Ron Barnes (818) 991-9967**.

Saturday, May 21st

Sisar Canyon

Check for warblers and early migrants. Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:30 am or at the Sisar Canyon turnoff on Hwy 150 in the upper Ojai Valley at 8:00 am. Bring water and lunch if you want to hike very far in the canyon. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

Sunday, May 29th Pine Mountain / Reyes Peak Campground

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:00 am. Leader is **Carol Langford (805) 987-2721**. Will caravan up Hwy 33 with stops along the way. Our usual lunch stop is the Reyes Peak Campground. Bring lunch, water and sturdy shoes/boots. High clearance vehicles recommended. Will look for Green-tailed Towhee, Purple Finches, White-headed Woodpeckers, Western Tanagers and more.

Conservation Column (Continued from Page 1)

miles! Get out that bike and a backpack; it will take you about the same amount of time and you'll get some exercise.

- 4.) You have everything (TV, cell phone chargers, DVD player, computer, etc) on multi-socket surge protectors; turn them off when you go out of town!
- 5.) DRINK TAP WATER! Its quality is rigidly checked. 1.5 million tons of plastic goes into those water bottles; get a refillable bottle (or two) and the water is 250 to 10,000 times cheaper.
- 6.) Reduce your meat consumption and feed the world. 2/3 of the grain in this world is destined for livestock. Livestock take too much energy, water and soil.
- 7.) Say no to disposable products. Paper plates, napkins, tablecloths, towels, plastic razors, knives, forks, spoons, and cups are a huge waste. Bring your own coffee cup everywhere.
- 8.) Don't pour food oils down the drain. Vinaigrette, oil from tuna cans, bacon fat, oil used for frying, interfere with the functioning of water treatment plants by suffocating the bacteria that remove pollution. Put in a closed container and discard in the trash.
- 9.) Pick up one piece of garbage a day. If each of us bent down and picked up one piece of trash a day, we would remove 290 million pieces of garbage from the streets and sidewalks each day!
- 10.) PLANT A TREE. You will be joining the fight against global warming. Send the money to The National Forest Foundation to plant a tree if you don't have room.

Field Trip Reports

Sunday, March 29th

Private Property Ventura Game Preserve

by Ron Barnes

It was dark overcast and threatening to rain when the ten participant birders arrived at the gate to the Preserve. After the early morning rain the grounds were a bit muddy, wind was minimal, but the skies cleared and all thought it was a perfect morning for birding. We all noted the terrific number of swallows present and recorded Cliff, Tree, Barn, Rough-winged and Violet-green. We recorded fifty-seven species with a noted absence of shorebirds. These were limited to Least Sandpipers, a lone Willet, numerous American Avocet, Black-necked Stilts and White-faced Ibis and a Greater Yellowlegs. The east side of the property produced one Virginia Rail (heard several others), Green Heron and American Bittern. Over the fence we spotted a Snow Goose and a Greater White-fronted Goose. No entry for the Greater White-fronted is found in the check list for the Birds of Point Mugu Naval Base so that may be uncommon.

Northern Shoveler, Cinnamon and Green-wing Teal, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck and Mallards were present in full ponds. There were a few Yellow-headed blackbirds with the other expected species of blackbirds. We also observed a Red-throated Loon fly over, which was unexpected since it came from the inland side of the Preserve. Hawks and Falcons included Peregrine, Red-tailed, Northern Harrier and Kestrel. We spent several minutes trying to locate the previously reported Nelson's Sparrow but only found a Western Kingbird in that area. Exotic species included Bobwhite Quail and Pheasants housed on the preserve and several Bighorn cross sheep. All-in-all a good day for all!

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 in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in JPEG format.

Our Annual Dinner and Auction

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Since we spend money, we need to raise money. Each year our auction provides approximately 50% of our income!

Each of us contributes to the organization. However, what would we do without Marge Coler's works of art? Each year we look forward to a new creation. Nobuko McClure and Dee Lyon have steadfastly supported the chapter with generous donations of great places to bird. Linda Reynolds, Chrystal Klabunde, Cia Bates, Don Klabunde, Frank DeMartino --- who knew friends who enjoy birds and were such talented artists? Thank you to each one of you.

The support crew, Thelma Williams, our raffle expert with her able assistant Lavonne Eden, the multi-talented Don Klabunde, doing double duty as photographer (see photos below) as well as auctioneer with his talented assistants Ron Barnes and Gary Evans, our greeter Barbara Hopkins, our auction organizer assistant Linda Reynolds, Chrystal Klabunde our invitation designer and name tag printer; all of them and more made the evening fun.

Thanks to each of you who supported our Books for Young Birders project. This is a new project with a ways to go—I'll be asking for your ongoing ideas and support.

Thanks to all who continue to support CVAS, being the people who introduce others and help sustain interest not only in birds but the great outdoors with all its native plants!



ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

May, 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		



Linda Reynolds reports that this old suet feeder has been put to good use for nesting materials for birds. She got the idea from “Birds and Blooms”. It contains yarn, cotton batting, dog hair, twigs, threads and thicker strings – all natural materials. The birds are making good use of it.

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

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 _____