



# ROADRUNNER

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## CVAS Annual Picnic Sunday, June 5 – Los Robles Trail



For the fifth year in a row, our CVAS Annual Picnic will be held at Los Robles Trail, located adjacent to the original Janss' House in Thousand Oaks. This beautiful location provides ample areas of both shade and sun. Go south on Moorpark Road to the end, approximately one mile south of the 101 freeway. Turn right on Greenmeadow Ave and proceed approximately one mile to the parking lot at the end of Greenmeadow. Carpooling is encouraged as there is limited parking.

There will be a potluck picnic at 11:00 am. Please bring these food items to share for eight. If your last name begins with:

- A to I bring a Salad
- J to Q bring a Main Dish
- R to Z bring a Dessert

Please bring your own table service, drinks and chairs. Come early and join the pre-picnic birdwalk which starts at 8:00 am.

## Conservation Column By Dee Lyon

Another 10 best Conservation tips:

1. DRIVE SMOOTHLY. Take care to avoid accelerating and braking too hard and too frequently. Aggressive driving increases fuel consumption by 40%.
2. Buy used, sell used. Remember the Puritans: Make do; wear it out; and do without. Rediscover the joys of garage sales, thrift stores and Craig's List. Freecycle can get you building materials, furniture and toys, among other things.
3. Take part in Buy Nothing Day, or go on a Financial Fast. It gives us an opportunity to think about the social, economic, and ecological impact of global consumption (watch The Story of Stuff on YouTube).
4. Use less wrapping paper. Save those Sunday comics and use them instead. Reuse wrapping paper.
5. Printer ink is highly toxic; use draft quality whenever possible.
6. When a tap is turned on, 5 to 15 gallons of pure drinking water flows out every minute. Be aware.
7. Use the Internet or telephone rather than traveling.

*(Continued on Page 3.)*

### CALENDAR

#### June

- |   |          |                              |
|---|----------|------------------------------|
| 5 | 8:00 am  | (Pre-Picnic) Birdwalk        |
| 5 | 11:00 am | Annual Picnic at Janss House |

### Fall Schedule

The annual picnic will be our last meeting for this season. We will resume our regular monthly meetings at the Western Foundation on Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. The first program of next season will be our traditional "Show and Tell".

Have a safe and happy summer.

## 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 next Board Meeting will be held in September. The date will appear in the September Newsletter. 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!**

### Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> Birdwalk & Annual Picnic

Held at the old Janss' House in Thousand Oaks. Go to south end of Moorpark Road, turn right on Greenmeadow and then proceed approximately one mile to parking lot at the end. Birdwalk will be at 8:00 am. Leader is **Carol Langford (805) 987-2721**

### Science Fair Awards

*By Linda Reynolds*

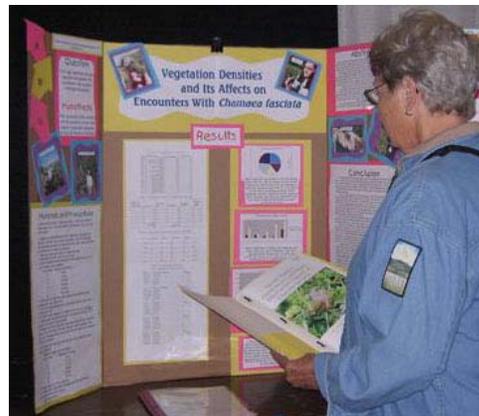
On Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, Chrystal Klabunde and Linda Reynolds had the honor of judging at the Ventura County Science Fair. They decided upon two awards to be presented on April 7<sup>th</sup> in honor of Dr. Elliott McClure, a former member of the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. These awards, consisting of a plaque and check for \$100, were given for outstanding research and presentation in the areas of Zoology and Environmental Sciences.

The first award was presented to Joelle Saute, a student at Sequoia Middle School. (See photo, upper right.) Her project was entitled, "Mist Net Vegetation Densities and its Affects on Encounters with *Chamaea fasciata* (Wrentits). She had volunteered her time on Saturdays to help Dr. Walter Sakai in his mist net studies. She had questioned if a high density vegetation area is needed to maximize the encounters with the Wrentits when using mist nets. She concluded that vegetation density does not

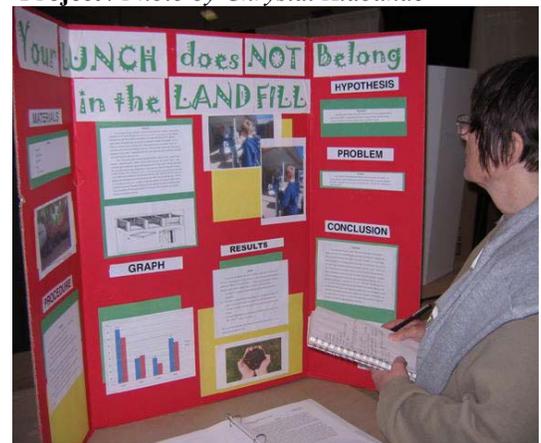
appear to be a valid measurement when determining the location of mist nets.

The second award was given to Benjamin Sullivan, a student at Mesa Union School. (See lower photo below.) He was disturbed by the amount of uneaten food being thrown away each day at school. Entitled "Your Lunch does not Belong in the Landfill", his display showed that through the use of composting and recycling at the school, almost fifty percent of the waste products could be diverted from the landfill.

Both students will be invited to attend our chapter meeting on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hope they will be able to bring their displays and give a short talk on their outstanding projects.



Linda Reynolds evaluates Joelle Saute's Science Project / Photo by Chrystal Klabunde



Chrystal Klabunde evaluates Benjamin Sullivan's Science Project / Photo by Linda Reynolds

### 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.

## Field Trip Reports

### **Carrizo Plains Nat'l Monument** by *Carol Langford* **Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**

On our Carrizo Plains trip of February 5<sup>th</sup> with vehicles stuck in the mud on Panorama Road eight adventurous, dedicated birders drove the gravel and sand of Elkhorn Road, definitely the long way around, to the "barns" with the reward of a flock of Mountain Plovers. While lunch was a picnic, it was literally beside the road. Mountain Bluebirds were the grace note of the trip while the LeConte's Thrasher was sought after, but not found. Maybe next year! For your planning purposes, some thought is being given to making the Carrizo Plains a two-day trip with the Saturday night spent at a motel in Buttonwillow.

### **Wind Wolves Preserve** by *Carol Langford* **Saturday/Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>**

It was a long drive, north on the "5", over the grapevine, about 120 miles one-way. However, when Burrowing Owls become a "trash bird" you know the drive was worthwhile! This was the case on our March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trip to the Wind Wolves Preserve. We watched two Golden Eagles, probably investigating a nest site. The harassing crows were their unwanted constant companions. We were fortunate to have a naturalist guiding our tour of the "high" country to the west of the canyon. Near the riparian area we spotted several Tri-Colored Blackbirds. For the seven of us, The Leader with the Band, one tri-colored Blackbird with a silver colored band was another highlight. The Tule Elk on the ridge wasn't bad either. For campers, watching the two bobcats in the meadow and the flickers flying inside the Willows camp shelter was the stuff memories are made of.

Wind Wolves is open to the public on Saturday and Sunday for hiking and picnicking. Camping is by reservation only.

### **Soule Park and Ojai Meadows** by *Linda Easter* **Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Six of us met at Soule Park in Ojai on April 23 to look for migrants and other likely suspects. Highlights included several Ash-throated Flycatchers, a group of Violet-green Swallows, Hooded Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Oak Titmouse. Two Yellow-rumped Warblers in full breeding plumage were a real treat. We watched a pair of Western

Bluebirds bring "building materials" to a nest cavity and we saw a White-breasted Nuthatch bring a tasty green worm and other food to another nest cavity.

After a couple of hours we moved on to Ojai Meadows, which was full of interesting birds, including a Yellow-headed Blackbird, a female Mallard with 10 very new chicks, an American Coot with four fluffy red-headed chicks, a male Phainopepla, and both Cassin's and Western Kingbirds. A special highlight was a Solitary Sandpiper feeding along the edge of the pond. Soon a Greater Yellowlegs came by and it was interesting to note the differences between the two birds. We ran into Jesse Grantham, who kindly showed us a Great Horned Owl and its chick, a Red-tailed Hawk nest with three chicks, and an inhabited Barn Owl box. It was a lovely, birdy day in Ojai!

### **Tejon Ranch** by *Charlie Lucas* **Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

A group of twelve CVAS birders left Thousand Oaks about 7:00 am and headed north by east to arrive at the 290<sup>th</sup> Street Gate which serves as the southern entrance to the vast Tejon Ranch property. We were met about 9:00 am by Lauren di Scipio, the Public Access Coordinator for the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, and Jim Dodson, a volunteer for the Conservancy, who then served as both guides and chauffeurs for our tour. The Ranch provided two of the three four-wheel drive vehicles we used to explore three regions of the Ranch including the Joshua tree woodlands in the Mojave Desert side of the Ranch and the Sycamore Canyon woodlands where we had lunch. The 27 species we saw included Swainson's Hawk, California Quail, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Acorn Woodpecker, Burrowing Owl, Chipping Sparrow, Western Bluebird and Meadowlark. The Scott's Oriole was perhaps the most appreciated, contrasting nicely with the dark foliage of the Joshua trees where it quite patiently remained for all to see and wonder at. A beautiful sight.

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

8. Give a locally potted plant rather than flowers that have traveled thousands of miles.
9. Do your part to preserve the environment; don't wait for someone else to do it.
10. Start a community cooperative where you can exchange your surplus of oranges, avocados, zucchini, or tomatoes. You'll find that you can also barter services

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

June, 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>		

**CVAS Needs Your Help  
Please Volunteer !!!**

If you look to your immediate left, you'll see our list of Officers and Committee Chairs. Besides the two open offices (Vice Pres & Special Events), and the three officers wearing two-hats (Publicity & Field Trip), our Membership Chair, **Bob Parker**, is retiring. This totals four open positions. **Cory Taylor** has volunteered to be our Publicity Chair for next year. If you can help why not let **Carol Langford** know of your interest?

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 for a family membership.

Additional Gift: \_\_\_\$25.00 \_\_\_\$50.00 \_\_\_\$75.00 \_\_\_\$100.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total (check payable to CVAS) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 Newsletter will be sent by E-mail.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_