



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Visit Us At: <http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org>

Or: <http://www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon>

VOL. 43

November 2011

NO. 3

General Meeting November 7 7:30 pm Western Foundation

The Pantanal

Join us as zoologist and photographer Paul Abravaya presents beautiful pictures of birds and other wildlife from his travels in Brazil's Pantanal, one of the world's largest wetlands.

Paul's interest in photography started with an interest in tropical nature. He took his first trip to the tropics in 1966, traveling as far as El Salvador by train and bus. In 1968, while working on his B.S. in zoology, he took part in a biological expedition to Panama. Then from 1969 to 1974, while a member of the Peace Corps, he worked as a resident zoologist at the *Museu Mello Leitao* with Augusto Ruschi, Brazil's leading naturalist, conservationist and authority on hummingbirds, bromeliads and small mammals. It was then that he discovered a new genus of mammal, *Abrawayomys ruschii*.



Chestnut-eared Aracari / Paul Abravaya

He continued to pursue several research projects including population ecology of small mammals, earned a master's degree in zoology and published his research in scientific journals.

Since then, he's had a career as a biology teacher, and owned and run *Tropical Eco-Tours*, a business that introduced teachers and others to the fascinating tropical diversity of Costa Rica, Panama and Brazil.

Conservation Column

By Dee Lyon

Plastic bags are a thorn in any environmentalist's side. Blowing in the wind, floating in the ocean – the image of bags in the environment is not easily forgotten because people find them hard to recycle.

While reusable bag use is on the rise, plastic bags are still churning. About 89 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are used each year in the U.S. Despite increased public campaigns about the need to recycle plastic bags, Americans recycle only about 12 percent each year.

With plastic bags still being in high demand, and serious environmental concerns needing addressing, Hilex Poly, a leading plastic bag manufacturer, created the only closed-loop bag and film recycling facility in North America. With more than 100 million pounds of bags collected for recycling, now the company's main eco-goal is to shift cultural perceptions on what bags should actually look like.

(Continued on Page 3)

CALENDAR

November

5	7:45 am	Field Trip: Mugu Rock, Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Canyon
7	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
7	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
10	9:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner's Birdwalk
10	7:45 am	Field Trip: Pt. Mugu Navy Base
12	4:00 pm	Field Trip: Canada Larga Rd at Sunset
20	7:45 am	Field Trip: Saticoy Ponds: Beginning Birder's Workshop
27	8:30 am	Field Trip: Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

Pre meeting Dinner

Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call Nobuko McClure

For Reservations (805) 482-0411

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 November Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 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 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, November 5th

Mugu Rock, Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Canyon

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:45 am. We will look for coastal migrants such as Red-throated Common and Pacific Loons, Scoters, possible Shearwaters, and lots of shorebirds. We will also check the nearby lagoons. Trip Leader is **Dexter Kelly** (805) 246-5462.

Thursday, November 10th 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.

Thursday, November 10th Pt. Mugu Navy Base

This trip, only for CVAS members, requires pre-signup at least 3 weeks prior to trip and is limited to 25 people. Contact **Don Williamson** at (818) 889-4498 to check on availability. US citizenship required as well as picture ID. No cameras or video equipment permitted. Meet at base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd and Navel Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is **David Pereksta**.

Saturday, November 12th Canada Larga Road at Sunset

What would be better than a stroll along Canada Larga Road during sunset? Spotting a majestic Barn

Owl gliding silently over the valley, that's what! Come join us for an early evening bird walk to look for owls as they head out on their nightly hunt. We will meet at the start of Canada Larga Road, just off the exit from route 33 at 4:00 pm. Leader is **Frank DeMartino** (856) 906-8733.

Sunday, November 20th

Saticoy Ponds: Beginning Birders Workshop

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:45 am or at the gate off Hwy 118 (just east of Saticoy and the Santa Clara River) at 8:00 am sharp. Birds seen here in past winters include many types of Ducks, Snipes, Rock Wrens, Gnatcatchers, Horned Larks, Merlins, a Peregrine Falcon, and even a Crested Caracara. Leader is **Matthew Page** (805) 990-6534

Sunday, November 27th

Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

Meet at the Garden Parking at 8:30 am. Look for Lark Sparrows, Allen's Hummingbirds, raptors, etc. Trip Leader is **David Person** (805) 496-9587.

Thank You for Your Generosity

The CVAS Board would like to thank members who have included an additional gift donation when submitting their annual membership dues. Our heartfelt thanks go out to:

John Pavelco
Carolyn Palmer
Marlene Winstead
Carol Hahn
Mitch Okui
Dennis Allen
Carol Langford
Barbara Eichberger
Friends of Camarillo Library.

Please Plan Ahead Now!

Carrizo Plains Weekend—February 4th and 5th

Join us for one or both days as CVAS explores the Carrizo Plains. We'll plan on meeting at the south end of the Carrizo at 8:00 on Saturday morning, search for the elusive Le Conte's Thrasher and Mountain Plovers while enjoying the brilliant Mountain Bluebirds and delicately marked sparrows. We'll spend the night in the comfort of a motel at Buttonwillow on I-5. On Sunday we'll continue our trek, possibly including Bitterwater Road. Last year vehicles were mired in the mud south of Soda Lake necessitating the exploration of Elkhorn Road. Who knows what we'll find this year. Carol and Bill Langford are organizing the trip. More details will be available in January. If you can't wait please **email Carol** at president@conejovalleyaudubon.org

Field Trip Reports

Camino Real Park by *Frank DeMartino*

Saturday, September 10th

Seven of us met up for the first New Birder walk on a surprisingly chilly and gray morning at Camino Real Park. Several people present had never been to the park before, so we visited the usual hot spots only to find them completely empty. After about an hour, our bird list contained 1 Anna's Hummingbird. The trip leader promised everyone more birds until, at last, the birds were found. It was one of those moments where all of a sudden there are birds everywhere and you can't turn fast enough to see them all. Near the dog park, we had some great looks at Scrub Jays, Juncos, Allen's Hummingbirds, and Robins before the bird of the day made an appearance. With the group twisting, turning, pointing, and generally enjoying the chaos, a small, dull bird hopped out right in front of us. Books instantly came out, pages were recklessly turned, binoculars were passed around, and everyone got several moments to appreciate an Orange-Crowned Warbler foraging less than 6 feet from us! (Picture of the OC Warbler is on our Facebook page and below in this column) It was a beauty that put smiles on all of our faces and ended the trip on a very exciting note.



Frank DeMartino / Orange-Crowned Warbler

Frank's notables from two subsequent field trips:

9/18 Camino Real Park	9/25 Ventura Set. Ponds
Western Tanager	Mute Swan
Pacific Slope Flycatcher	Lesser Scaup
Wilson's Warbler	Cinnamon Teal
Townsend Warbler	Blue-Winged Teal
Blk. Throtd. Gray Warbler	Green Herron
Downey Woodpecker	
Nuttall's Woodpecker	
Cooper's Hawk	

Save That Date

This year's Christmas Bird Count will be on Friday, December 30.

Conservation Column

(Continued from Page 1)

Why ditch the white bags?

Essentially, the darker a bag is, the more it can be made of recycled material. A white plastic bag can only contain about 10 percent recycleables, which is typically only post-industrial, not post-consumer, waste. A blue bag can contain about 35 percent post-consumer recycled plastic, with gray bags moving closer to 40 percent.

Referencing the poor color mixing styles of preschoolers with finger-paint, Phil Rozenski, director of sustainability and marketing for Hilex Poly, describes how the various colors of bags the company brings in for recycling from more than 30,000 collection points across the country render the plastic a buff to gray hue when it's all melted together.

"So, if you have a store that's using a white bag, we can't use recycled content in it because it will change the color," he says. "We've been helping educate retailers that if they change to a brown or gray bag, we can start using 30 percent, 40 percent recycled content."

So why not produce only colored plastic bags? The answer: Marketing.

From restaurants and grocers to pharmacies, white bags "feel" more clean, fresh and new. "It's kind of a cultural thing – food, medicines, everybody wants white," says Rozenski, who works with retailers to explain why they should make the switch.

"A retailer will tell me 'I don't want to move from a white bag because my logo looks good on it,'" he says. "You need to bring marketing, sustainability, purchasing, all of them together." But once retailers make the switch, they don't seem to go back. "We've never really had any complaints – once people change, they stay with that bag," he adds.

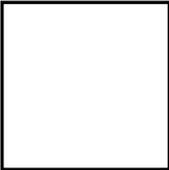
ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

November, 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	Cory Taylor		publicity
Newsletter	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Membership	Barbara Hopkins		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		

**Yes, You Can Help CVAS
This Season.
Please Volunteer!**

If you look to your immediate left, you'll see our list of Officers and Committee Chairs. Once again, we have openings that we hope you will consider volunteering for. The three openings include: Vice President, Field Trip Coordinator and Special Events.

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.

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 _____