



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 43

December 2011

NO. 4

**General Meeting December 5
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Conservation Column
By Dee Lyon**

Don DesJardin To Present His Latest Video

Don DesJardin has been part of the birding scene in Ventura County since 1989. During that time, he has spent countless hours capturing birds on both film and video. Don put his 35mm camera away in 2000, and from that point in time has dedicated most of his spare time documenting birds on video, most of which are either in Ventura or Santa Barbara County. Although he has traveled to many exotic places around the world to see new birds and places, he always returns to what he calls his "local patch", Ventura County.

Don's presentation for December's meeting will be his latest video "More Birds & Other Natural Things Volume IV", which will be a 1 hour version of the original, which is 73 minutes. Again, most birds shown are Ventura County birds, but it also includes some great birds from Santa Barbara County, Imperial County (Tiaga Bean Goose), Kern County (Le Conte's Thrasher), San Luis Obispo County (Ivory Gull), and Ventura County (Indigo Bunting and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher).



Ivory Gull / Don DesJardin

Yard to Habitat Workshop. The Easter's yard looks terrific and all the folks who worked to pull it together had a great time! Doughnuts and coffee were served. The directions for changing your yard to a native habitat are now on our website, thanks to Frank DeMartino. Dee Lyon will consult on your project. If you need help, just email her.

A huge amount of work had already been done by the time we arrived about 9 am on Oct 30, a beautiful morning. The yard had been completely removed, a streambed dug out, and all the plants placed strategically (around 30 of them, including Ceanothus, Black Sage, White Sage, Manzanita, Arbuton, Society Garlic, Yellow Monkeyflower, Toyon, Lemonade berry, Coyote Mint and 3 Deergass to anchor the corner. The Easters were guided by one of California Native Plant Society plans.

We had only three folks from outside CVAS, so we need to work on participation, but participants, Richard Chapman and Kristi Enns, and members, Barry Goldberg, Frank DeMartino and his fiance, Cia, and Corinne Barksdale all rolled through the yard with shovels, water and mulch, so that we were through in less than 1 hour! This must be a new world record.

Fortunately, Don and Chrystal Klabunde caught it all on video and we're not sure whether we'll market our system, put it on YouTube or just our website.

After all getting folks to change over their yards is our main goal. The neighbors strolling by all gave us a thumbs up. Let's do some more.

CALENDAR

December

3	8:00 am	Field Trip: Sepulveda Basin
5	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner's Bird Walk
11	8:00 am	Field Trip: Paramount Ranch
17	8:00 am	Field Trip: CLU & Surrounding Open Areas
30	Assigned	Christmas Bird Count

*****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 January Board Meeting will be held on Monday, January 16. 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, December 3rd Sepulveda Basin

Lots of ducks, waterbirds, sparrows, possible bald eagle. Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 8:00 am. Leader is **Dee Lyon** (805) 499-2165.

Thursday, December 8th 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, December 11th Paramount Ranch

Meet at 8:00 am at main parking lot off of Cornell Rd. Take Kanan Rd. south from Fwy 101. Cornell is 1st left after crossing Agoura Rd. Follow to the park entrance on the right. Leader is **Ron Barnes** (818) 991-9967. Expect to see many varieties of chaparral birds, raptors, woodpeckers.

Saturday, December 17th CLU & Surrounding Open Areas

Meet at CLU parking lot at 8:00 am. From Camarillo area take 101 Fwy south; exit at Lynn Rd in Thousand Oaks. Turn left (north) onto Lynn Rd and go 3.4 miles to Campus Drive. (Note: Lynn Road changes in 2.7 miles to Olsen Rd at Ave. de los

Arboles.) Turn left on Campus Drive and go .25 miles to parking area on right next to soccer/track field; street parking also available. We'll be looking for flocks of Meadowlarks, Cactus Wren, White-tailed Kites, a Roadrunner and a wide variety of other birds along the riparian and on the campus as well. Trip Leader is **Dennis Allen** (805) 807-4501.

Friday, December 30th Christmas Bird Count

Sign up at the December meeting with a leader – we need everyone to come out and help locate and count our birds. (See signup details on Page 3).

Please Plan Ahead Now!

Field Trip - Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge.

The Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, part of the Naval Weapons Station, is open to visiting groups by appointment, under the guidance of the base biologists. Many shorebirds including Pacific Golden Plover, raptors, Clapper Rail, and wintering Nelson's (Sharp-tailed) Sparrow inhabit this prime wetlands site. **Michael Zarky** has arranged for us to tour there **Sunday Jan 22, 2012**, from 8 AM to noon. Pretty good high tide around 8 AM. Meet in the main public lot at 800 Seal Beach Blvd. ready to carpool within the base before 8 AM (the base has a big van, plus we will use some of our vehicles). Take Seal Beach Blvd exit from the 405 (just past the 605 interchange) and head south about two miles (past Westminster Blvd.), turn left into the base at the Forrestal Lane light, then left into the parking lot. Group is limited to 25, US citizens only. **Sign up with Michael at mzarky@earthlink.net**; phone number required. Bring photo ID, scopes. The rules have changed, and photography is permitted.

Nature Day, Oct 22 at Sierra Vista-Satwiwa by *Thelma Williams*

This event, sponsored and staffed by CVAS volunteers and talented teachers, was an outstanding event for those who attended. The weather was gorgeous after a week of fog, and the location was wonderful. The National Park staff was exceedingly helpful with tables, canopies, cones and parking directions. Chrystal Klabunde designed a banner par excellence, as well as directional signs and a large schedule poster for questioning attendees. The Reptile Family and the Ojai Raptor Society gave excellent presentations. Pictures and a small article were featured in the local Acorn October 27th newspaper.

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning to make it a success., and thanks to the National Park rangers for their assistance and for providing such a beautiful venue.

Christmas Bird Count

By David Pereksta

If you are looking for an easy way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 112th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on **Friday December 30, 2011**, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 37th CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 185 species. That was good enough for 14th place (after finishing 17th for 2 years in a row) for CBCs held north of the Mexican border (2,108 total CBCs). Highlights included two Long-tailed Ducks, two Black Scoters, two Common Goldeneyes, four Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, a Ferruginous Hawk, four Red Knots, a Stilt Sandpiper, a Burrowing Owl, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, two Vermilion Flycatchers, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and a Pacific Wren at Point Mugu (139 species there alone); a Wood Duck at Cal Lutheran; a Eurasian Wigeon at Lake Sherwood; a Redhead and Canvasback at Las Robles Golf Course; four Common Mergansers, four Violet-green Swallows, and a Rough-winged Swallow at Camarillo Regional Park; and an American White Pelican, eight Common Murres and a Rhinoceros Auklet along the coast. Birds recorded during count week, but missed on count day were White-throated Swift, Hairy Woodpecker, Tropical Kingbird, California Gnatcatcher, Sage Sparrow, and Western Tanager. Notable misses for the count period were Black-vented Shearwater, Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Common Ground-Dove, Costa's Hummingbird, Red-naped Sapsucker, Phainopepla, and White-throated Sparrow. However, when all was said and done, we recorded 46,400 individual birds! We hope to do even better this year, but need hardy CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and being ready to bird.

The National Audubon Society's web-based pre-registration program is up and working, so just go to www.audubon.org/bird/cbc and click on "Get Involved" or "Data Entry/Review" for more instructions (The Conejo Valley's four-letter CBC code is CATO). This system allows you to register for as many CBCs as you wish, and if you want to participate in four or more CBCs, you can do so for a flat \$20. Your name and contact information is forwarded to me, so I have a better idea of how many people are going to participate, and can plan accordingly. You can also pay on-line, which simplifies my life during the post-count dinner. For those who prefer to contact me directly, please send an e-mail to pereksta@pacbell.net, call (805) 659-5740, or sign up during the November and December meetings at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology.

As we did last year, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to

California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. As always, we need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs Park, Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the Oxnard Plain, Hidden Valley, Satwiwa, and many other areas. Please pre-register as soon as possible, and let me know where you are available to bird or who you want to bird with.

You can also help by "staking out" unusual or hard to find species such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. In addition, we often come close to missing a few common species including Hutton's Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Townsend's Warbler, so keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the "side hunt." Participants in the "side hunt" would split up into teams and see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals in a day. Dr. Chapman proposed instead to identify, count, and record the birds they saw, thus founding what is today considered the most significant citizen-based conservation effort in the USA. The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you do not wish to go out and count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or keep an oriole around for us to include.

We will gather to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals, compare notes, and socialize beginning at **6:00 pm** at Nobuko McClure's home. We will have pizza and other potluck goodies. If your last name begins with A – M please bring hors d'oeuvre or munchies to share; N – Z, a finger food type dessert which is easy to serve. Paper goods, plastic utensils, coffee, and tea will be provided – or bring your own beverage.

To cover the cost of the pizza and paper goods etc. we will be asking for a \$5/person donation. If you plan on attending please **call Nobuko at (805) 482-0411** so she can plan accordingly and provide directions to her house.

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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

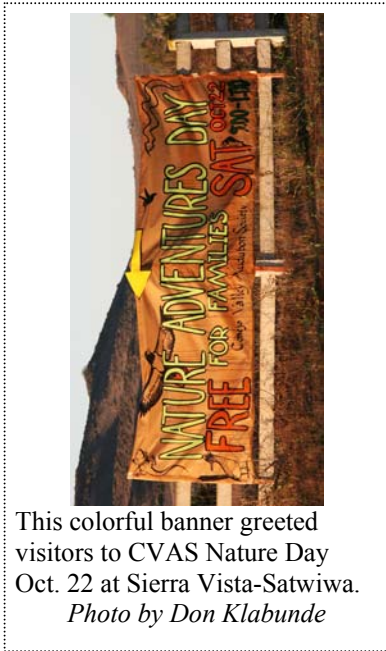
P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

December, 2011



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President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	president
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Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trip: Co	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
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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		



This colorful banner greeted visitors to CVAS Nature Day Oct. 22 at Sierra Vista-Satwiwa. Photo by Don Klabunde

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 _____

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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 _____

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