



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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January 2012

NO. 5

**General Meeting January 2
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**Conservation Column
by Dee Lyon**

Papua New Guinea: Birds and People, with Chuck & Lillian Almdale

Papua New Guinea is a land of huge diversity, in terrain, birds and people. Almost half of its 750 avian species are endemic. Of its 830 indigenous languages, half have fewer than 1,000 speakers. In 2008, the Almdales visited six locales in three weeks. Their multi-media presentation features many endemic birds especially the birds-of-paradise as well as the fascinating people of New Guinea, including the Huli Wigmen of the central highlands and the Yukoim cannibal-headhunters of Konmei Village on the Karawiri River in the east Sepik lowlands. Come and remind yourself why you really want to go there.

Chuck & Lillian Almdale have been active in the Audubon Society for over 25 years. When not birding internationally, they lead local field trips, maintain records of Malibu Lagoon birds, census Snowy Plovers, comment on local and national bird blogs and chatlines, and have been on the board of Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society for over 20 years. They are retired accountants.

Blyth's Hornbill / Chuck Almdale



THE WATER CRISIS.

Half of the pure drinking water that comes to our houses, we throw out on the ground!

We do this while almost one billion people worldwide live without access to clean, safe drinking water.

Among many factors, pollution from industrial and household contaminants as well as changing weather patterns threaten water supplies globally, while shortages in parts of the U.S. are leading to enforced rationing in many heavily populated areas, such as Los Angeles.

IN THE NEWS:

Researchers from Columbia University found that the Southeast U.S. drought that lasted from 2005 to 2007 was due to severe water shortages as a result of population growth, rather than rainfall patterns. Figures show that in Georgia alone, the population rose to 9.54 million in 2007 from 6.48 million in 1990.

A major drought in East Africa has been a major generator of conflict as climate refugees begin to migrate and crowd larger areas. Organizations such as Oxfam and Cafod have launched emergency appeals.

After a three-year drought in California that has resulted in forest fires and extreme water shortages, officials are now tossing around the idea of restoring the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a collection of

(Continued on Page 2)

CALENDAR

January

2	5:15 pm	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
2	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
6	7:45 am	Field Trip: Pt. Mugu Navy Base
7	8:00 am	Field Trip: Sierra Vista
12	9:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner's Bird Walk
15	8:00 am	Field Trip: Santa Clara River Estuary
22	8:00 am	Field Trip: Seal Beach Nat. Wildlife Refuge
29	8:00 am	Field Trip: Gillette Ranch

*****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 Wednesday, January 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!

Friday, January 6th 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, January 7th Sierra Vista / Satwiwa

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 **Thelma Williams** (805) 492-2796.

Thursday, January 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, January 15th Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at the Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am. Look for ducks, herons, sandpipers, terns, plovers, phalaropes, turnstones, moorhens, pipits, ospreys, etc.

A spotting scope is very useful. Leader is **Matthew Page** (805) 990-6534.

Sunday, January 22nd

Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge

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.

Sunday, January 29th

Gillette Ranch

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 8:00 am or at the Ranch at 8:30 am. In 2009 we discovered there is a \$5 parking fee at the ranch so car pooling is doubly encouraged. Should have lots of sparrows, bluebirds, riparian birds and hawks. Leader is **Ron Barnes** (818) 991-9967.

Conservation Column (Continued from Page 1)

channels, natural habitats and islands that is a major source of the state's drinking water. According to reports, it would be the largest environmental restoration project in the U.S., surpassing the effort underway in the Florida Everglades.

Photography Work Shop

25/26 Feb 2012, 9am-1pm

WFVZ classroom & Ventura Harbor

Basic Camera skills, Nature/bird photo hints,
classroom exercises

Bring camera and manual – Limited
enrollment

Send name, email address, and phone number
to reserve a spot to:

photographer@conejovalleyaudubon.org

Tom Halpin**October, 1946 – November, 2011***[Article by Nancy Rapoport, Jennifer de la Torre,
& Sharon Hardee]**Tom at the CVAS 2009 Annual Picnic / Don Klabunde*

It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Tom Halpin. Tom was an active member of Conejo Valley Audubon since the early 1990's and had made many good friends during his extensive volunteer activities with Audubon and other community groups.

Tom loved to share his enthusiasm for bird watching with others. He met Elliott McClure, PhD through a Ventura Community College adult education class called Birds of Lowland Ventura County. Eventually Tom began helping with the class, and later taught the it. Tom also taught a bird identification class through Rancho Simi Parks and Recreation. Tom volunteered teaching bird identification and art in public school classrooms and with home-schooled students. He also volunteered at science camp with public school classes. The students and teachers alike loved working with Tom due to his gentle nature, intelligence, sensitivity, and wry sense of humor.

Tom participated nearly every year in the Birdathon fundraiser and Christmas Bird Count. He was CVAS hike and conservation committee chairman for several years. Tom led many bird walks each year. He looked forward to talking with visitors to the Audubon booth at the Ventura County Fair, and often prepared exhibits and illustrations for it. Tom regularly supported Nature Day and other awareness activities. He was a volunteer naturalist for Conejo Recreation and Parks District's Sycamore to the Sea hike. He also was a SOAR activist.

Tom was very popular on field trips for his uncanny bird spotting ability. That talent helped raise funds for CVAS

when he was auctioned at the annual dinner as a bird walk guide.

Tom's love of nature and passion for bird watching was revealed in his artwork and photography. He frequently entered photos, drawings and paintings in competitions at the Ventura County Fair, and often earned ribbons for his pieces. His paintings and photographs are familiar to club members from publication in the CVAS newsletters and on the club website. His drawing of a Red-tailed Hawk is on the cover of the Naturalist Handbook of Plants and Animals of the Santa Monica Mountains and Surrounding Areas written by Sharon Hardee, and his portrait of a Killdeer is inside of the book.

Tom seemed to love anything in the sky. He had an avid interest in airplanes and volunteered at the Santa Paula Airport Museum. Tom could identify nearly any plane flying overhead. He loved attending local air shows and the Santa Paula Citrus Classic Balloon Festival. He also enjoyed the bi-annual summer astronomy talks at Lake Casitas.

In tribute to the invaluable contributions that Tom made to Conejo Valley Audubon, an annual bird walk will be named in his honor.

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society
on

Friday, March 16, 2012

at

Sterling Hills Golf Club

901 Sterling Drive

Camarillo, CA 93010

For

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

No-host cocktails 5:30 PM – Dinner 6:30 PM

Ticket price per person \$40.00

(Early-bird special \$35.00 – before 3/2/12)

5-Free raffle tickets for each 1st time guest

We ask that everyone kindly bring an item for the raffles. All types of donation items are acceptable and are not limited to those with an avian theme. Anyone interested in donating items for the silent or live auctions please contact Carol Langford at (805) 987-2721 or president@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

**Menu choices and reservation forms
will appear in next month's Newsletter**

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

January, 2012



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		



Great Horned Owl / D. Klabunde

Amongst the many attractions at the recent CVAS Nature Day, October 22 at Sierra Vista-Satwiwa was this Great Horned Owl, caught in the act of out staring those who attempted to pass him by.

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 **C2ZC230Z**

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 _____