



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 43

April, 2012

NO. 8

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

**Conservation Column
By Dee Lyon**

Los Padres ForestWatch

On February 29, 2012, the *Los Padres Conservation and Recreation Act of 2012* was introduced in the US Congress. This bill would add more than 63,000 acres to the network of existing wilderness areas in the southern Los Padres National Forest; establish the 18,000-acre Condor Ridge Scenic Area along the crest of the Gaviota Coast; and protect 89 miles of free-flowing waterways in the southern Los Padres as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Join **Matt Sayles**, Wild Heritage Project Consultant with ForestWatch, to learn more about what this bill could do for our local environment, what its shortcomings are and what you can do to help.

ForestWatch was founded to pick up the slack in what the US Forest Service is able to do with their dwindling funding. They have been working with hundreds of stakeholders in the region (conservation organizations, landowners, ranchers, farmers, forest users, local businesses, educators, scientists and community leaders) to call for the protection of the southern Los Padres.



Matt Sayles

Grazing on the Los Padres: The LPNF supports over 860,000 acres of grazing and has the third-highest number of grazing allotments in the state of California. Because the LPNF has more sensitive species than any other national forest in California, livestock grazing is becoming increasingly incompatible with species preservation.

Unfortunately, the Forest Service allows grazing to continue in sensitive areas, including along the Big Sur coastline, pristine wilderness areas, and habitats of sensitive species such as the red-legged frog, steelhead, and the Smith's Blue Butterfly. Over half (57) of the grazing allotments in the Los Padres occur in wilderness areas, consuming over 120,000 acres of wilderness lands. In addition, livestock grazing has damaged and destroyed several local sites of cultural significance to Native Americans.

The Forest Service is not doing everything it can to reduce these impacts. In fact, a recent study found that most (78%) of the grazing allotments on the LPNF have not even been *studied* for their environmental impacts as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. This is the highest noncompliance rate of all 18 national forests in California.

Voluntary Grazing Buyout: Public lands livestock grazing is directly subsidized by our taxpayer dollars.

(Continued on Page 2)

CALENDAR

April

| | | |
|----|---------|------------------------------------|
| 2 | 5:15 pm | Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's |
| 2 | 7:30 pm | General Meeting Western Foundation |
| 7 | 7:45 am | Field Trip: Ojai Meadows |
| 12 | 9:00 am | Field Trip: Beginner's Bird Walk |
| 14 | 8:00 am | Field Trip: Sierra Vista |
| 21 | 7:30 am | Field Trip: Sisar Canyon |
| 29 | 7:00 am | Field Trip: Tejon 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 April Board Meeting will be held on Monday, April 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, April 7th Ojai Meadows

Car poolers meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:45 am or arrive at 8:30 am at Nordoff High School, Highway 33, in the parking lot near the football stadium. Ojai Meadow Preserve recently added species number 173 to its bird list, Sage Thrasher. For a complete bird list contact: www.darcy@ovlc.org. The preserve is an easy 2 hour stroll through three restored habitats: meadow, wetlands, and pond. See first-hand how the preserve has overcome the introduction of invasive plants, poor city/county management of roads and drainage, and destructive agriculture practices. Expect to see: Meadowlarks, Western Bluebirds, Cassin's Kingbirds, Black and Say's Phoebes, Sandpipers, raptors, lots of Coots and several other ducks, maybe a Green Heron, Sora, and Great Horned Owl. No bathroom facilities are available, but several nice restaurants/shopping areas are nearby. The weather is always nice in Ojai and it never rains, so dress with lightweight clothes and a nice light Chablis in water bottles would be good... Leader is **John Pavelco (805) 640-9040**.

Thursday, April 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.

Saturday, April 14th

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**.

Saturday, April 21st

Sisar Canyon

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the Sisar Canyon turnoff on 150 (take a right after the Summit Café on Sisar Road) in upper Ojai Valley at 8:00 am. In April this has been "the place to be" to see migrating warblers. Also look for flycatchers, thrashers, Lazuli Buntings. Bring water and lunch if you want to hike very far into the canyon. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

Sunday, April 29th

Tejon Ranch

This trip for CVAS members only requires pre-registration so please contact **Charlie Lucas (805) 498-6447** or CLucas1996@AOL.COM at least two weeks prior to the trip. "Walk-in" or "day-of" registration is not allowed. Meet at Janss Park & Ride at 6:30 am. We will drive up I-5 to 138 to the Tejon Ranch where we will be met by a conservancy docent. Besides the birds, the spring wildflowers should be in full bloom. Plan for the possibility of cool windy weather. There are no facilities on the property. Bring sunscreen, lunch, snack food and plenty of drinking water. Good walking/hiking shoes are recommended. Leader is **Matthew Page (805) 990-6534**.

Conservation Column (Continued from Page 1)

The federal government pays \$500 million every year to support grazing on our public lands. This is because the government charges only \$1.75 per cow per month, while the true market rate on private lands is over \$10.00 per cow per month.

There are varied solutions to reduce or eliminate the economic and environmental impacts of public lands livestock grazing. Some organizations are working to end public lands grazing completely, maintaining that it creates too many conflicts with other uses of public lands. Other groups are pursuing legislation that would compensate ranchers for voluntarily retiring their grazing permits in favor of wildlife and watershed values.

Field Trip Reports

Canada Larga Road by *Frank DeMartino* Saturday, November 12

Five nocturnal birders set out to locate some of Canada Larga's owls armed with binoculars, walkie-talkies, and no small amount of optimism. Walking / driving up and down the length of the road yielded a few non-owl birds (Flicker, Downy, Nuttall's, Red Breasted Sapsucker, WC Sparrows). Hope was dwindling fast as we neared the end of our trip. With the last corner in sight, Cia shouted the word we were all waiting to hear, "Owl!" Sure enough, perched atop a telephone pole, was the unmistakable silhouette of a Great Horned Owl. We pulled over and everyone got a quick look before a second owl was spotted nearby on top of a different pole. Giddy with post-owl delirium we all stood by our cars and discussed the tremendous luck that managed to salvage our walk when Cia pointed up above us as a third Great Horned Owl flew silently overhead. We unanimously agreed that the trip was a resounding success and we're all looking forward to the next one!

Sepulveda Wildlife Basin by *Dee Lyon* Saturday, December 3rd

Eight of us wandered through the Wildlife Basin and down to the LA River, enjoying the beautiful day until the wind blew us back to our cars. We found many White Pelicans, including one that snapped up an unlucky Pied-billed Grebe which came up in the wrong place! Many Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, one Western Grebe, Mallards, Amer Wigeons, Gt Blue and Black-crowned Night Herons, Gt and Snowy Egrets, Canada Geese, Gadwalls, Green-winged Teal, Coots, No Shoveler, Amer Pipit, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rump, Black-throated Gray, and Orange-crown Warblers, White-crown and Song Sparrows, CA Towhee, Ring-billed and Western Gulls, Osprey, Coopers, Peregrine, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Rock Pigeon, Anna's and Allen's Hummingbirds, Belted Kingfishers, Nuttall's and Downey Woodpeckers, Cassin's Kingbird, Black and Say's Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Amer Crow, Turkey Vulture, Oak Titmouse and Bushtits, House Wren, Cedar Waxwings, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch and Amer and Lesser Goldfinch for a total of 52 species.

CLU & Surrounding Open Areas by *Denny Allen* Saturday, December 17

A few brave souls weathered the heavy winds in search of birds hunkered down from the elements, displayed neatly by 14 Killdeer near the parking lot. Primary highlights were a Merlin, a Loggerhead Shrike, and a close-up of a male and female Kestrel in the hills. We were able to entice one

Cactus Wren to flutter up, but the rest of the lot stayed low. In the field, about 30 Meadowlark and 10 Redwings were flushed to the air as a White-tailed Kite hovered overhead and a Savannah Sparrow perched on a stalk. The on-campus habitat was fairly meager as well, with only 6 Robins, a few Juncos, and a small swarm of Bushtits. Only 28 species this trip, but the searchers remained committed to another day.

Pt. Mugu Navy Base by *Cheryl Williamson* Friday, January 6th

Every time I go to Point Mugu I realize just how lucky we are. Where else can you go and see 91+ species in one morning; and be blessed with a great trip leader like David Pereksta? He not only finds the birds but teaches you about them.

The five outstanding birds on this trip were: the continuing Yellow-crowned Night-herons, the visiting Crested Caracara, an Eastern Phoebe that posed on the fence for everyone to see, the Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker (David pointed out the red crescent on the nape), and the Vermilion Flycatcher looking like that one last Christmas tree ball you forgot to remove from your tree.

Thank you Martin Ruane, the base biologist, and the Naval Base for allowing us to visit.

If you wish to visit the Point Mugu Naval Base with us next year, you need to be sure to pay your membership dues – this is a members only trip – and watch for the November 2012 and January 2013 trips in your newsletter!

Sierra Vista / Satwiwa by *Thelma Williams* Saturday, January 7th

Twelve interested birders accompanied by three eager grandchildren enjoyed a beautiful day at Sierra Vista-Satwiwa on January 7th. Twenty-seven species were sighted, all of them interesting, but nothing unusual for this time of year. Three coyotes were visible for some time, and seemed to be acclimated to hikers and birders nearby. One in our group saw the Northern Shrike near the empty pond on the way out.

Santa Clara River Estuary by *Matthew Page* Sunday, January 15th

Today Conejo Valley Audubon visited the Santa Clara River Estuary. We had a nice, productive trip and the weather was perfect. Notable sightings included: a MERLIN devouring some small songbird in the dunes across from the NPS visitor center; three REDHEADS in the estuary; the continuing RED-NECKED GREBE and the hybrid AMERICAN X BLACK OYSTERCATCHER in the marina park area.

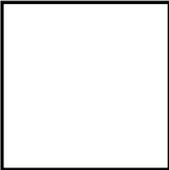
ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

April, 2012



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| Field trip: Co | Dee Lyon | 805-499-2165 | chickadee |
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| CVAS Web Site | http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org | | |
| Send E-mail to | username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org | | |

SAVE THAT DATE

Sunday, May 6th

**Dee Lyon to Speak
On
Birds & Native Plants**

**At The
Matilija Poppy Festival
In The
Kids Adventure Garden
Of The
Conejo Valley
Botanical Garden**

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 _____

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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.

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