



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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## CVAS Annual Picnic Sunday, June 3 – Los Robles Trail



For the sixth 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 10:30 am. Please bring these food items to share for eight. If your last name begins with:

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

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

### CALENDAR

#### June

3 8:00 am (Pre-Picnic) Birdwalk  
3 10:30 am Annual Picnic at Janss House  
14 10:00 am Field Trip: Beginner's Birdwalk & Picnic

#### July

28 6:00 pm Field Trip: Owling on Pine Mountain

## Looking Back, Looking Forward

by Carol Langford

In the fall of 2001 I was at a CVAS meeting when someone announced the group was looking for volunteers. I had recently changed jobs, had a relatively regular schedule and thought I'd like to participate more with this group. I thought----- I can help. Thereby started my time on the CVAS board, first as Vice-President (although we had no President) and then in September, 2002 as President.

Now, in the spring of 2012 I'm again looking forward to changes. I'll probably have no job in the near future, have no schedule and, no longer President, will participate less with CVAS. Instead I'll travel and move about the country a bit more. Again, the announcement has been made at a CVAS meeting that the group is looking for volunteers.

Looking back I think about what has changed and what has remained the same, or close to it.

When looking back I realize the quantum leaps in using electronic media as a communication tool, both for gathering information and sharing data and information. When I started as a CVAS Board member we had a very capable web master, Bob Sakamoto and a very informative website. I remember raising the issue of placing our newsletters on our website. After some discussion and more than a couple of meetings, Bob started posting our newsletters on our website as Frank DeMartino does today. As a Birder I am extremely grateful for the sharing that takes place on our venturacobirding yahoo group.

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### 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 10<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 3<sup>rd</sup> Birdwalk & Annual Picnic

Held at the old Janss' House in Thousand Oaks. Go to the south end of Moorpark Road, turn right on Greenmeadow and then proceed approximately one mile to the parking lot at the end of Greenmeadow. Birdwalk will be at 8:00 am. Leader is **Dee Lyon** **(805) 499-2165**.

#### Thursday, June 14<sup>th</sup> Beginner's Birdwalk & Annual Picnic T.O. Library Park

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 confirm location and time.

#### Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup> Owling on Pine Mountain

Join us as we spend part of the night on Pine Mountain attempting to locate Northern Saw-whet, Northern Pygmy, Western Screech and Great-horned Owls. We may also be able to find Common Poorwill here. Trip is limited to 10 people, so please see registration details below. Meet at the Las Posas Park & Ride at 6 pm where we will carpool together to Pine Mountain. A high-clearance or 4WD vehicle is desirable for the drive as the condition of the road is generally poor. Bring flashlight, binoculars, snacks,

and a folding chair, as well as quiet, warm clothing. Call trip leader **Matthew Page** at **(805) 990-6534** or email [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org) to register.

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### Conservation Column By Dee Lyon

#### LOW WATER-USING PLANTS CANNOT BE PROHIBITED BY CC&RS

Who knew how useful Sacramento could be? Civil Code now is at least on our side. The Boards of Directors of homeowner's associations can no longer have enforceable provisions outlawing water-efficient landscapes. Now if the homeowners will band together and show them pictures of low water-using plants, and yards that have been changed to low-water, they can start making changes. The homeowners can also obtain invoices showing how much is spent on landscaping and water each month. Owners can then form a group and pressure the board on the issue.

Conejo Valley Audubon is now offering free consulting services to anyone who wants to change their yard to a Natural Habitat. Saving birds and saving water are crucial to So. California. Our goal is to transform fifty yards this year. Call **Dee Lyon** at **805-499-2165** to set up a consultation.

#### HOW TO CUT DOWN ON FOOD WASTE

1. Smaller, more frequent shopping trips (combined with wherever else you're going) with a specific list.
2. Use the whole thing - Skin on veggies, scraps into stock and gravies (There are tasty recipes for overripe produce)
3. Sell-by date - **MEANS THAT THE STORE SHOULD STOP DISPLAYING THE GOODS**. Food is usually fine for several more days - see USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service/home storage. Use your senses - smell it.
4. Finish the leftovers - throw them in a Crockpot for soup or stew - Wrap it up in eggs for a breakfast burrito. Check out [lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://lovefoodhatewaste.com)
5. Store smarter - freeze it if you won't use it in 2 to 3 days is the #1 way to reduce spoilage in the kitchen. Compost as much of your waste as possible (but no meat or dairy).

**Looking Back, Looking Forward** by Carol Langford

(Continued from Page 1)

When I travel I depend upon the BirdsEye app, using data from eBird to assist me in finding target birds and good birding places. Our Christmas Bird Count data, now entered electronically, provides researchers with a 100 year long data set.

Looking back reminds me that some things don't change. Willing volunteers are the glue of our organization—always have been, always will be. The CVAS board has been graced by the presence of Dee Lyon, Thelma Williams and Nobuko McClure since before my time on the board and beyond my Presidency. They exemplify the commitment required to maintain CVAS and move it forward as the board and its individual members initiate and continue programs making the organization meaningful to its members and the community.

Looking forward I realize the more things change (and they will), the more they stay the same (somewhat). Volunteers will remain the glue holding our group together. I want to thank each person who has volunteered as a CVAS board member, as a trip leader and as a volunteer at one of our events. On the second Thursday of the month, we can absolutely count on Angie Kobabe leading her Beginners Bird Walk as she has done since before the beginning of my CVAS newsletter collection, which starts in 1993!

Looking back and forward, I realize our community has changed and our group needs to change. We need to reinvigorate our outreach efforts to develop the next group of birders, environmentalists and CVAS board members and trip leaders. We want to continue to inform ourselves about the birds as they continue to be our main interest. We want to inform ourselves about what we can do as individuals to improve the environment for birds and to recognize what we need to do to inform others including local, state and national government leaders about the needs of birds.

Landscaping with native plants, keeping cats indoors, going on a field trip in the great outdoors while learning more about birds, donating to environmental organizations and voting for environment-friendly legislators are a few of the things we can do as individuals and as group members. Also, we can volunteer as board members and trip leaders for CVAS. So, the next time someone stands in front of a CVAS general meeting and announces we are looking for volunteers, please think about it. You can help!

**Message from the Editor**

The editor would appreciate any articles of interest, photographs, or field trip reports from members. Please get them to me by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. I prefer them in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in jpeg format.

**Field Trip Reports****Tejon Ranch** by Matthew PageSunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

On Sunday, April 29, 2012 Conejo Audubon traveled to the Tejon Ranch in Kern County to bird this treasure of a location. We were greeted by the land itself, with a full spectacle of poppies and other wildflowers in bloom due to the late rains of the season. The fields leading up to the entrance gate were awash in orange, purple, white, and yellow, and to say that it was breathtaking wouldn't begin to describe the beauty of it. Upon arriving at the ranch we met up with our guides for the day who would prove to be gracious, knowledgeable, and more than accommodating. We first spent time at the east end of the ranch among the Joshua trees where we observed Lark Sparrow, Horned Lark, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Sparrow, Cactus Wren, and Loggerhead Shrike. Raptors seen included Swainson's, Cooper's, and Red-tailed Hawks, and two Golden Eagles soaring high above the hills, offering size comparisons with the Red-tailed Hawks. Further along into the canyon we were able to hear Mountain Quail, but never saw them. As we returned west, our patience and determination was rewarded with a good look at a single Scott's Oriole perched and singing on top of a Joshua Tree.

Heading west, we stopped at a small pond along the way to Los Alamos Canyon. We were able to identify Western, Least, and Spotted Sandpipers, Killdeer and Semi-palmated Plovers, a Greater Yellowlegs, and in the adjoining hillside, several Burrowing Owls. But most majestic of all may have been the half dozen Pronghorn that we observed, running down the hills and out onto the fields south of the access road. It was hard to press on, but we did.

At Los Alamos Canyon we picnicked and casually birded the riparian area alongside the abandoned mine house. This area provided us with our greatest diversity of passerines. We observed Pacific-slope and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, and Western Bluebirds. Warbler species included Orange-crowned, Wilson's, Nashville, MacGillivray's and Yellow-rumped. We also saw Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, and a Chipping Sparrow before returning to the entrance gate where we had started our day. Our thanks go out to our trip guides, and we felt very grateful to return again to this wonderful location.

**Save That Date****Eighth Annual  
Monterey Bay Birding Festival****September 13 – 16, 2012**

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

June, 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 trips	Mathew Page	805-990-6534	Fieldtrips
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		

**Volunteers Needed**

Volunteers are needed to staff officer positions currently open on the CVAS Board. For the term starting Fall 2012, both the President and Vice President positions will need to be filled in addition to the Special Events coordinator. If you plan on attending our June Picnic, we encourage you to discuss your interests in volunteering for any of these positions.

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 \_\_\_\_\_