



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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April 2019

No. 8

General Meeting - April 1

Fly Me To The Moon: Bird Migration

Myths & Realities

Frank DeMartino, president of the Conejo Valley Audubon Society, will discuss some longstanding myths and contemporary science relating to migratory birds. He will talk about some migration superstars and the extreme lengths that they go to in order to perform their bi-annual journeys. He will also touch on hot topics like fallout, migration obstacles, and current conservation efforts. Come celebrate April Fool's Day by taking in an educational and mind-blowing presentation with Frank's unique sense of humor.



April	
1	5:15 pm Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
1	7:30 pm General Meeting Western Foundation
6	8:00 am Hopper Mtn NWR Condor Trip
10	8:00 am Beginner Bird Walk – Satwiwa
13	2nd Annual CVAS Garden Tour
14	8:00 am Matilija Creek Walk
20	8:00 am Las Lajas Cyn Walk
27-28	Big Morongo Trip

*****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

BIRD- FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR

SATURDAY, APRIL 13th, 2019 from 9 AM until 2 PM

This year CVAS will be partnering with the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology as we host our Bird-Friendly Garden Tour.

This year's tour will feature yards which provide habitat for our native birds and demonstrate the use of drought tolerant native plants, non-native plants, along with a few water features. We invite you to visit the gardens in the order of your choice.

Members are encouraged to bring a friend who may be interested in birds, gardens, or perhaps installing a "bird-friendly" yard of their own. To paraphrase the film *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, they will come!"

At each site we will have literature available. There will be a plant list for each respective garden as well as a bird list to let you know what birds have visited the garden in the past. We will even have an interactive bird list at each site so that you may help spot birds visiting each garden on the day of the tour!

A handout with information on native plants and local resources will also be available. Coupons for a 20% discount on non-sale plants at Matilija Nursery will also be available.

We will be featuring SIX anchor plants on this tour. A matrix of these six plants and which birds they may attract will be included in the handout. *These six anchor plants will be labeled at each site so that you may see the variety and age of the plant.*

Each host garden will have a donation jar on site. **Donations are encouraged** and will support the CVAS "Lawns to Habitat Program" as well as funding for educational programs promoted by both CVAS and WFWZ. You do not need to donate at each site – one donation is plenty and greatly appreciated. Membership forms for CVAS and WFWZ will also be available at the welcome table at each site.

Hosts will be present to answer questions about plant species, maintenance, upkeep, irrigation and installation. All hosts and volunteers will be wearing nametags.

We hope our bird-friendly garden tour will inspire you to install a habitat on your own, apply for a CVAS Lawns To Habitat restoration (design assistance plus \$200 of native plants) or encourage a friend to apply.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Sorry, restroom facilities will not be available.

No dogs will be allowed in any of the gardens.

Plant photography is encouraged.

If you are planning to attend the tour, **please RSVP with your first and last name, the names of guests you will be bringing and your contact e-mail to shannon@wfvz.org NO LATER THAN April 8th, 2019.**

This year, the tour will be limited to the first 100 people to RSVP. If you are among the first 100 people to reply, you will receive an e-mail containing the tour addresses shortly before the tour date.



**Conservation
by Dee Lyon
California Conservation Corps**

What the heck is this? It's a California organization for individuals aged 18 to 25 (also veterans up to age 30) who do natural resource work throughout the state. These young folks must pass a background check and be California residents. They are paid about \$2000 per month.

The CCC is hired by agencies and institutions across California to carry out projects that improve and protect the environment. It is a cost-effective and trained labor force which tackles projects which otherwise would have been unfeasible, such as:

- Planting 25 million trees across the state
- Building or maintaining 621 miles of back-country trails in national parks and forests within California, as well as many more miles of trails in city, regional and state parks.
- Spending 11 million hours improving rural and urban parks and recreation areas.

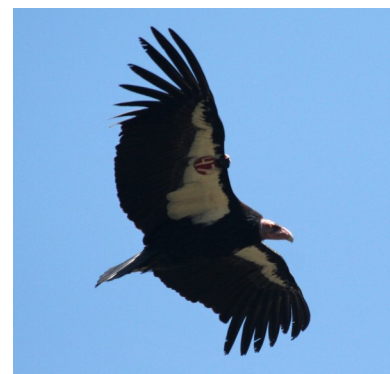
The CCC partners with CA Fire to cut down and remove dead and dying trees which could unexpectedly fall and cause injury. This lessens opportunities for wildfire and reduces the threat of bark beetle infestation.

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.

Saturday, April 6, 2019: Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, 8:00 a.m.

"A high mountain valley encircled by deep canyons, steep ridgelines, and rocky pinnacles, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge is the gateway into California condor country... where California condors safely forage, nest, and roost," states the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service web site. The 2,471-acre Hopper Mountain NWR abuts the southern boundary of the 53,000-acre Sespe Condor Sanctuary. Scopes are welcome, as there is a confirmed nest at Pole Canyon and Sespe Ridge! Other raptors we might encounter include Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl, Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Prairie Falcon, and Cooper's Hawk. With luck, we may also spot early migrating warblers, flycatchers, and orioles.



Meet at the Subway parking lot in Fillmore (612 W. Ventura St.), which will get us to Hopper Mountain by 9:00 a.m. At Fillmore we will consolidate into no more than six high-clearance vehicles (walkie talkies may be helpful). Limited walking required, as this is mostly a driving tour. The tour will end at 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. Bring lunch, water, sunscreen, and bug spray. Contact Angela at fieldtrips@ConejoValleyAudubon.org to sign up: maximum 24 people. Trip leaders: Vince Gerwe (Friends of the California Condor) and Bill Langford (360) 515-8765.

Wednesday, April 10, 8:00 a.m. – Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa

Conejo Valley Audubon invites birders of all experience levels to attend our monthly Beginner Bird Walks at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. These walks are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We are fortunate this gem within the Santa Monica Mountains emerged unscathed from the Woolsey Fire. As usual, we will meet at 8:00 am at the main parking lot, which is accessible off Lynn Road at Via Goleta in Newbury Park. Rancho Sierra Vista is an excellent place to see many of the oak woodlands birds that are common in the Conejo Valley area. We will take time

to introduce beginning birders to these species and will teach the best techniques for locating and identifying them. If you have binoculars please bring them. A few pairs of loaner binoculars will be available. Wear comfortable walking shoes. No sign-up is needed; just show up. In the event of heavy rain, we will cancel the walk. The walk leader will be Richard Armerding (310) 701-3878.

Sunday, April 14, 7:45 a.m. – Matilija Creek (Joint Trip with Ventura Audubon Society)

Matilija Creek is a major tributary to the Ventura River, located off Highway 33 a short distance from Ojai. We will explore the riparian habitat and lake upstream of Matilija Dam, which host a diverse array of birds, aquatic life, and native plants. The cattail marsh just behind the lake provides habitat for Least Bitterns, Sora, and Virginia Rail (which breed here), and the alder/cottonwood/willow gallery forest along the creek is an excellent place to look for migrants. Abundant rainfall this season means the creek will be flowing and the area will be wet, so wear appropriate footwear, sturdy rubber boots if you have them. To date, 145 species have been recorded there. Newest additions to the list last fall include Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, and Parula Warblers. The chaparral-dominated slopes and mountains above the creek (yes, Mountain Quail can be heard) will provide a scenic backdrop to our birding adventure. This is very important...we will traverse uneven ground, walking on cobbles, stepping over fallen limbs, and perhaps crossing wet areas. Not for the faint of heart. There is little parking, so we will meet at Nordhoff High School, 1401 Maricopa Hwy, in Ojai at 7:45 a.m. to consolidate into fewer vehicles and carpool to the site. There are no restrooms on site so we suggest you use the Shell station in Oak View. If you would like to carpool from the lowlands, meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride by 7:00 am. Trip leader is Jesse Grantham, (805) 746-0975. A checklist can be downloaded from eBird. Go to Hotspots, enter Matilija Riparian and Lake, and follow links.

Saturday, April 20, 8:00 a.m. – Las Lajas Canyon

Rusting steam shovels. Fossilized sea shells. Oaks, cottonwoods, and willows. Lizards, hawks, woodpeckers, and bluebirds. In the foothills of Simi Valley lies Las Lajas Canyon, home to all of these attractions and more. We'll take a leisurely hike up this gentle canyon looking for evidence of 20th century oil exploration. We'll see geologic formations and wildlife. We'll also just enjoy the (hopefully) cool spring air. The trailhead to Las Lajas canyon is at approximately 5715 Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley. Bring water, sunblock and good hiking shoes. Dress in layers. We will hike two to three miles and then return

the way we came. Most of the trail is gentle, but the first and last 0.2 miles are steep, so we will have a short but steep climb out. Please plan accordingly. Directions: From Highway 118 in Simi Valley exit Yosemite and head north. Turn right on Evening Sky Drive and proceed to the trailhead. Trip leader: Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023.

Saturday April 27 to Sunday April 28 – Big Morongo Canyon Preserve

Come with us and spend the weekend birding the desert canyons and campgrounds of San Bernardino County looking for northbound migrants and resident birds. Target species include Scott's Oriole, Gambel's Quail, Vermilion Flycatcher, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-throated Sparrow, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Verdin, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Hopefuls include migrating warblers, hawks, buntings, hummingbirds, and vireos (and perhaps desert bighorn sheep). We will explore a diversity of habitats, including Mojave riparian forest, fresh-water marsh, desert wash, and creosote bush scrub.

Trip leader Ron Barns (805-341-3983) plans to camp at the Joshua Tree National Park Black Rock Campground Friday and Saturday evening. If camping isn't your cup of tea, nearby motels can be found in Yucca Valley and Desert Hot Springs. Ron will begin birding at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning at the entrance to Big Morongo Canyon Preserve (Interstate 10 east to State Hwy 62, then north on 62 to East Drive, then east on East Drive one block to the Preserve sign on the left, turn into the Preserve and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the lane). Please call Ron for more details and to arrange carpools.



ROADRUNNER

April, 2019

Conejo Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 4782
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

Officers and Committee Chairs

President	Frank DeMartino
Vice Pres	OPEN position
Secretary	Cia DeMartino
Treasurer	Richard Armerding
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Graphic Arts	Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023
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Field trips	Angela Bonfiglio Allen
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Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough
Photographer	Don Klabunde 805-522-8023
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Member at Large	Carol Langford 360-742-6059
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Member at Large	Nobuko McClure 805-482-0411

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bonnie
nobuko



Except for Carol Langford – must add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after every username above.

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (except June, July, August) 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 Gary Evans, 29 Sabra Ave., Oak Park, Calif. 91377-1126 or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

For information on joining the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org

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 |__| ☐ Check to receive newsletter by mail

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