



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society a Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 50

January, 2020

No. 5

General Meeting, Jan. 6 Western Foundation Marilyn Fordney and Alex Havasi Madagascar the Mysterious Island



Crested Coua

When Madagascar split away from India during the late Cretaceous period, it allowed the island's plants and animals to evolve in relative isolation. Hence science has identified 88 species of birds alone as endemic to the island, including the extinct Elephant Bird. Marilyn Fordney and Alex Havasi, founders of the Havasi Wilderness Foundation, return to share their photos and stories of the birds, other wildlife and culture of Madagascar.

January

Jan. 6	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting dinner: Ottavios
Jan. 6	7:30 pm	General Meeting WFVZ
Jan. 8	8:00 am	Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
Jan. 10	7:45 am	Naval Base Ventura County
Jan. 19	8:00 am	Rancho Simi Community Park
Jan. 25	8:30 am	Bolsa Chica Wetlands

Conservation

by Dee Lyon

Create a Safer Environment for Birds

Do make your windows as birdsafe as possible; use hanging ribbons or place large decals/stickers on windows to make them more visible to birds.

Do install nest boxes for cavity-nesting raptors and other native birds for perching and nesting.

Do plant native plants that provide food and shelter for native birds and insects.

Do dispose of fishing line, kite and balloon strings in trash cans.

Do use lead-free hunting and fishing gear.

Do keep cats indoors where they are safe, and wildlife is safe from them. We have passed leash laws for dogs. It is time to do so for cats.

Don't use Halloween fake spider webs --- they can entangle small hawks and owls.

Don't use barbed wire if you can avoid it. If you must use it, make barbed wire more visible by tying mylar ribbons to it.

Don't use rodenticides. They cause indirect poisoning of raptors and other wildlife.

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.

January 2020 Field Trips

No trip the first weekend in January so members can help with Ventura Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, January 4

Wednesday, January 8, 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. 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 woodland 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.

Friday, January 10, 7:45 a.m. Naval Base Ventura County/Mugu Lagoon (Restricted Access – Pre-Registration Required)

This location is recognized as an Important Bird Area, supporting up to 10,000 shorebirds in winter! This trip required pre-registration and is full. Those who clear the Base's background check must bring a picture ID card with name matching that on your registration form. No cameras or video equipment are permitted on base. Vehicles, articles and personnel are subject to a search. Please bring a scope if you have one. Previously spotted species include Ruff, Vermilion Flycatcher, Wilson's Snipe, communities,

including salt marsh, coastal strand/sand dune, coastal sage scrub, freshwater wetlands and riparian woodland. As a result we may encounter Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Reddish Egret, Ferruginous Hawk, Eurasian Wigeon and Burrowing Owl. Directions: From Hwy 101 travel south on Las Posas Rd., west on Hueneme Rd., south on Wood Rd., crossing over PCH. Then head south on Naval Air Rd. Meet at the main entrance at the intersection of Naval Air Rd. and Mugu Rd., near Buildings 112 & 116, at 7:45 am. Trip leaders: Martin Ruane of Naval Base Ventura County, David Pereksta, and Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733.

Sunday, January 19, 8:00 a.m. – Rancho Simi Community Park

Rancho Simi Community Park in Simi Valley is perhaps an under-birded location. It offers up a variety of habitats, such as stands of conifers, a pond and an adjacent arroyo. The park has hosted such species as Plumbeous Vireo, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck and fall migrating warblers. Resident species include Canada Goose, Western Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher and Black-crowned night Heron. There almost always seems to be a least one White-faced Ibis in Arroyo Simi. We may also find Chipping Sparrow and winter visitors hanging around. Meet in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool. Directions: Take 118 freeway to Erringer Rd. Exit and head south. Turn right at Royal Ave. Enter the park along Royal just before you get to the brick building near the pool. Trip leader: Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023.

Saturday, January 25, 8:30 a.m. Bolsa Chica Wetlands (Donation Required)

The 1,449-acre Bolsa Chica Wetlands is the largest saltwater marsh between Monterey Bay and the Tijuana River Estuary and another Audubon Important Bird Area. A Bolsa Chica Conservancy (BCC) docent will lead us through three restored plant communities, including salt marsh, coastal strand/sand dune, and coastal sage scrub. As a result, we may encounter a great diversity of birds including Brant, Canvasback, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Redhead, Blue-winged, Cinnamon, and Green-winged Teal, Hooded, Common, and Red-breasted Merganser, Horned and Eared Grebe, Red Knot, Black and Ruddy Turnstone, Belted Kingfisher,

Osprey, American White Pelican, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, and many others. Each participant is requested to donate \$5.00 to BCC. We will meet at the Interpretive Center, 3842 Warner Avenue, Huntington Beach at 8:30 a.m. To carpool from Conejo Valley: Meet at the Thousand Oaks Transit Center (aka Rancho Park and Ride), 265 South Rancho Road, Thousand Oaks; we will leave by 7:00 a.m. For questions, or if you would like to carpool but live east of Thousand Oaks, contact Angela at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org or 805-509-2777.



Blue-winged Teal *by Don Klabunde*



Great Blue Heron *by Don Klabunde*



Pied-billed Grebe *by Don Klabunde*



Belted Kingfisher *by Don Klabunde*



Cinnamon Teal *by Don Klabunde*

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January , 2020

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

Officers and Committee Chairs

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Vice Pres	OPEN position	
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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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