



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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visit us at: www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon

Volume 52, Number 2

October, 2020

CALENDAR

Sep. 15, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting via zoom
everyone's welcome
contact Richard for invite

Oct. 3
Annual Dinner/Auction
cancelled until further notice

Oct. 5, 7:30 pm
General Meeting via zoom
Member Show & Tell
see easy instructions →

Oct. 14, 8:00 am
Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
Beginner Bird Walk



CS Klabunde

Oct. 24, 8:00 am
Bob Kildee Community Park
Tams



CS Klabunde

CVAS MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

For health and safety, we will be conducting our CVAS Monthly Programs online using Zoom, which is a computer tool that allows you to meet with other people online. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone. We will send out an email prior to each meeting with instructions for joining the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before, you may wish to watch this video for some tips:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

The link to join the Monthly Programs is: <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

When you join the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the presenter on your computer. If your computer has a microphone or camera, you will also be given the choice of whether other meeting participants can hear or see you. However, in most cases we will be muting all meeting participants except for the presenter.

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

In 2014, developers and their lawyers filed a lawsuit to remove the coastal California Gnatcatcher from the Endangered Species List in a move to open thousands of acres to development in Southern California. The case was based on a flawed study that combined scientific errors with a hidden conflict of interest. In his talk, Dr. John McCormack, a Biology professor at Occidental College, will discuss the scientific kerfuffle that ensued and expose the hidden benefactors behind the flawed science. Counter-intuitively, the ordeal demonstrates that science, as a process that gets us ever-closing to the truth, works, but only when it is given the time to self-correct.



Don Klabunde

Dr. McCormack is Director and Curator of the Moore Laboratory of Zoology, a renowned bird and mammal collection at Occidental College. He studies how evolution causes birds to diversify on the landscape. His work has appeared in *Science*, *Nature*, *The Auk* and other leading journals.

OCTOBER 2020 TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

CVAS will continue its modified approach to birding trips now that we are living with a pandemic. **Each trip will be limited to 15 people maximum, and thus will require advance registration with the trip leader.** Since it will be hard to share guidebooks, we encourage you to bring your own or download one on your mobile phone (the Sibley guide is available as a book and an application for both Android and iPhone). Also, for safety we will not have extra binoculars to share, so please be sure to bring your own pair. Finally, given social distancing requirements, it may be difficult to hear each other. If you have a walkie talkie, it might be a good idea to bring that as well.

While you are out birding, please take precautions to ensure your wellbeing and that of those around you by wearing a mask over your nose and mouth and being prepared to follow these guidelines from ebird.org:

- **Keep your optics to yourself.** Don't share your scope, binoculars, or camera with others; disinfect the eye caps of your optics after each birding trip.
- **Maintain distance.** If you are birding near others (whether they are birders or not), maintain at least 6 feet of space between yourself and other people at all times. Take turns at blinds, shelters, and in other situations where proper distancing may not be possible.
- **Avoid touching communal surfaces.** This includes railings, doorknobs, handles, and other frequently used areas of public sites. If you touch these surfaces, wash your hands and/or use hand sanitizer immediately.
- **Respect restrictions and closures.** Check if your favorite park, trail, or wildlife refuge is still open before heading outside. Plan your birding trips in accordance with the latest recommendations of your local authorities.
- **Share checklists, not phones:** eBird Mobile users should avoid passing phones to review checklists for the time being. Confirm lists verbally before submission and if you need to make changes after you submit, it is easy to **share and correct lists** on the eBird Mobile app!

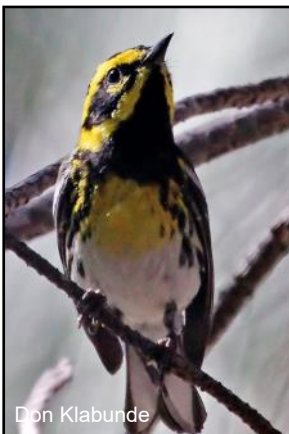
Wednesday, October 14, 8:00 am – Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa

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 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. Wear comfortable walking shoes.

Please register in advance by contacting walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878.



Don Klabunde



Don Klabunde

Saturday, October 24, 8:00 am – Bob Kildee Community Park Tams

We will visit the renowned tamarisk trees along the east edge of Bob Kildee Community Park. Previous October visits have yielded views of Black-and-White, Tennessee, Orange-crowned, Lucy's, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Blackpoll, Palm, Yellow-rumped, Prairie, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Hermit, and Wilson's Warblers. We might also encounter Downy Woodpecker, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglet, Red- and White-breasted Nuthatch, Cedar Waxwing, and Western Meadowlark. Meet at the southeast corner of the tennis courts (along Eston Street).

Please register in advance by contacting walk leader Matthew Page at (805) 990-6534

WARBLER BINGO

Full migration is nearly upon us once again! In Ventura County that means hundreds of warblers chipping their way through our county. We're bringing back our simple, yet challenging, game for birders to play while they are out craning their necks for those elusive little birds. The game is Warbler Bingo! Our game starts on September 1st, so start brushing up on those warbler field marks! Last year, John Mueller claimed a Warbler Bingo victory with a bingo consisting of MacGillivray's Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Hermit Warbler, and Black-Throated Gray Warbler.



CS Klabunde

HOW TO PLAY

- **Head** to our website, conejovalleyaudubon.org, and fill out your name and email to receive a game card
- **As** you go out birding after September 1st, simply mark off the birds on your card that you have seen or heard
- **If** you are lucky enough to get five warblers in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) then email username [webmaster](mailto:webmaster@conejovalleyaudubon.org) plus @conejovalleyaudubon.org (see page 5) and let us know that you have a Warbler Bingo!
- **Our** fall warblers seem to love tamarisks, so be sure to check those places out regularly!

- **Rules of Birding** rely heavily on the honor system and so do we! Please record only birds that you are able to positively ID
- **The** game starts on 9/1/20 and runs through 11/30/20 and sightings only count if they are within that timeframe
- **Only** warblers seen in Ventura County count for our game
- **Only** one Warbler Bingo card allowed per person

PRIZES

The first person to get a Warbler Bingo will receive two free tickets to Conejo Valley Audubon Society's annual dinner and auction in the spring! Tickets are not redeemable for cash, sorry.

The winner will also receive a certificate of accomplishment for their outstanding warbler watching.

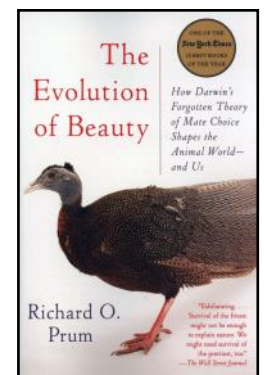
Bragging rights are optional.

BOOK REVIEW

Of Richard O. Prum's book, *The Evolution of Beauty*, *Science* says: "Reads like a memoir, argues like a manifesto, and shines with ... passion for all things ornithological." And *The Wall Street Journal* says: "Exhilarating ... Survival of the fittest might not be enough to explain nature. We might need survival of the prettiest too."

Prum is a Yale professor and head curator of Vertebrate Zoology at Yale's natural history museum. He has won MacArthur and Guggenheim fellowships and helped discover dinosaur feathers and their colors. I'd add that he's quite a charming speaker.

Chrystal



CONSERVATION

WHY DO BIRDS MATTER?

One of the programs that Conejo Valley Audubon is involved with is called **LAWNS TO HABITAT**. It has been working with local residents for the past several years to create urban oases for birds. Why are birds so important that we would be involved with this?

1) **Pest Management:** fifty percent of birds consume mostly insects during their life and nearly seventy-five percent eat insects at least occasionally. Native plants support the type of bugs that our local breeding birds need to successfully raise a brood of chicks.

2) **Seed Dispersal:** approximately 25% of all native seed plants in the world are dispersed by birds. Seed dispersal in turn impacts plant communities and the wildlife that live in those communities.

3) **Pollination:** over 1,000 birds worldwide pollinate native plants. In the United States, this job falls mainly to the variety of hummingbirds we have here. Think about the Allen's and Anna's Hummingbirds that zip around your garden. Hummingbirds have evolved with native plants, which are best adapted to local growing seasons, climate, and soil. Hummers prefer large, tubular flowers that are often (but not always) red in color; another reason to go with native plants.

4) **Carcass and Waste Disposal:** when thinking about your favorite bird, it's possible that the Turkey Vulture is not on the top of your list, but they are uniquely adapted to dispose of dead animals. To understand this benefit, think about how these animals became food for vultures. Some may have died from vehicle collisions or other human-related causes, but a number of the carcasses vultures feed upon are victims of disease. Generations of being an "obligate scavenger" — a term describing animals that feed almost exclusively on carrion — has developed a vulture digestive system that is highly acidic and is able to neutralize bacteria and other harmful organisms that are consumed along with decaying flesh. While this really isn't pertinent to Lawns to Habitat, I just wanted to put in a plug for the oft-misunderstood Turkey Vulture.

This is, by no means, a comprehensive list of the importance of birds. We matter to the birds, too. What we do to create a space that a bird will find welcoming is something of incomparable value. We are what hope looks like to a bird.



Don Klabunde

LAWNS TO HABITAT GRANTS - 2020



CS Klabunde

The Conejo Valley Audubon Society is offering its annual Lawns to Habitat Grant Program again this year. 25 grantees will receive a \$200 credit towards approximately 40 1-gallon California Native plants. CVAS consultants will provide design advice on converting your yard to a green, and mostly drought tolerant, bird and wildlife habitat. Consultations will be done outside with masks and social distancing.

If you are interested, see the guidelines and apply online at:

www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org

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



OFFICERS		USERNAMES
President	Frank DeMartino	<i>president</i>
Vice Pres	Richard Armerding	<i>vice president</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Programs	Dee Lyon 805-499-2165	<i>programs</i>
Conservation	Mary Hansen	<i>conservation</i>
Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>garden tour</i>
Education	Thelma Williams 805-492-2796	<i>thelma</i>
Field Trips	Angela Bonfiglio Allen	<i>fieldtrips</i>
Publicity	Ann Glass	<i>publicity</i>
Newsletter	Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>newsletter</i>
Membership	Jean Stoutenborough/Catherine Armerding	<i>membership</i>
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough	<i>librarian</i>
Photographer	Don Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>photographer</i>
Webmaster	Richard Armerding	<i>webmaster</i>
Facebook	Matthew Page	<i>media</i>
member at large	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin 805-405-5632	<i>bonnie</i>
member at large	Nobuko McClure 805-482-0411	<i>nobuko</i>
Newsletter Emeritus	Gary Evans	<i>gary</i>



To contact board members, add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after each username above

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Under normal circumstances, meetings would be held on the first Monday evening of each month (second Monday when the first one's a holiday) at 7:30 pm, at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA. Directions: from the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Lewis Road in Camarillo, go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo, and 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 and dedicated to the study of birds and their habitats. As a world-class natural history collection, they have long made significant contributions to original research, and conservation. They also accept contributions. Visit WVZ.org

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members via either email or snailmail. Members are invited to submit articles, reviews, letters, photos etc. for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the previous month. Send items to Chrystal Klabunde at newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org, or 1229 Nonchalant Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

For information on joining the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, please visit www.audubon.org

To join **CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** please visit www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or mail in this

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 for a family membership. (An additional gift of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 or any amount would also be greatly appreciated.)

Make check payable to CVAS for membership at \$20.00 plus donation \$? equals a total of \$ _____

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

() Check here to receive a black and white newsletter by snail mail, otherwise a color version will be sent by email.

Name _____

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