



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 52, Number 3

November, 2020

CALENDAR

Oct. 20, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting via zoom
everyone's welcome
contact Richard for invite

Nov. 2, 7:30 pm
General Meeting via zoom
with David Pereksta
see easy instructions →

Nov. 3
Election Day

Nov. 11, 8:00 am
Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
Beginner Bird Walk



Don Klabunde

Nov. 14, 8:00 am
Arroyo Simi at Madera



Don 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 and 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.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

THE BIRDS YOU MAY BE MISIDENTIFYING AND OTHER RANTINGS OF A GRUMPY EBIRD REVIEWER

While long regulated by the honor system, birding has gone through a significant change recently with the rise in popularity of eBird. This citizen science database created by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is used by 600,000 birders who have entered 48,000,000 checklists worldwide. However, with the need for quality control of the data and a review process for rare or unusual observations, we cannot trust the honor system to validate publicly entered records. Data entry in eBird, often supplemented with photos, has helped illuminate the birds that many birders have trouble identifying. This in conjunction with the now common practice of birders and photographers submitting photos to Facebook pages or websites for identification advice shows just how little many people know about identifying birds. Most misidentifications are rooted in innocent ignorance, but others result from more insidious motivations. As an active birder in Ventura County for over 26 years and now a local eBird reviewer, David Pereksta has seen it all and then some. He likens entering data in eBird to birding in one's underwear because everything is available for all to see. eBird review makes some of the commoners. He will discuss misidentify birds, what habits are, and what misidentified birds are no intention of making about their birding abilities and pointers for skills, how to be a better to identify the birds that troubles. You may be surprised at some of the species you are likely misidentifying. This talk will make you laugh, squirm, and maybe even cry if you are sensitive or harboring a lot of birding guilt. Dave was hoping to see all your faces in person as the blood rushes to them, so you are lucky that we are still in a social lockdown.



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GRUMPY eBIRD REVIEWER continued

David Pereksta is an avian biologist with the Pacific OCS Region of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in Camarillo, California. His primary duties are studying and analyzing the effects of offshore energy development on birds and bats off the Pacific coast of the U.S. and Hawaii. Before coming to BOEM in March 2010, he spent 16 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working on the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species along the Pacific coast, and 3 years with the U.S. Forest Service surveying, monitoring and managing late seral stage forest species in the Sierra Nevada. Throughout his 30-year career, he has studied a number of imperiled bird species including Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans, Spotted Owls, and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. An avid birder for 45 years, Dave has traveled throughout North America, Central America, South America, the South Pacific, and East Asia including leading trips to Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, and Peru. David is the top lister in Ventura County (449 species) and he also holds the big year (346 species) and big day (190 species) records for the county. He has seen 2,100 species of birds in his travels; photographing more than 1,500 species along the way.

CONSERVATION**WHY DOES IT MATTER TO CARE ABOUT BIRDS?**

In the year 2020, there are many things competing for one's attention. It's the year of COVID-19, the year of a very contentious election, fires are seemingly burning everywhere in California. It may be hard to remember, or for some, to believe that birds are important. There is the thought that we should care more about people than those cute little brown birds; that money should be spent making peoples lives better, roads smoother, housing more affordable and taxes less. Indeed, we have a moral obligation to care for our fellow human beings. So how can we show the importance of birds for everyone, not just for birders? According to an Audubon article from April 2013, "If we want policymakers and the public to take conservation seriously, then perhaps we must offer credible research showing that healthy bird populations are essential to human welfare."



Don Klabunde

The article goes on to offer a number of reasons that birds are more than important, they are essential. As I pointed out last month, birds are some of nature's best ways to control insects. "Insect-eating birds protect apple orchards in the Netherlands and safeguard Missouri Ozark white oaks, whose lumbar is highly sought by furniture makers. And they reduce pest levels at organic wineries." Don't mess with my wine.

We are all familiar with the canary in a coal mine. Coal miners would carry these little sentinels into the mines with them to help detect dangerous levels of gases such as carbon monoxide. Today, scientists follow the health of Common Loons in New York State to better understand the impact of atmospheric mercury from coal-burning power plants and incinerators. As the birds are very territorial, have a life span of 20+ years and are at the top of the food web, scientists have been able to correlate their breeding success with mercury contamination providing "evidence for the need to stringently regulate mercury and acidic emissions on national and global scales."

Birding and birders help support the economy spending roughly \$40 billion annually by feeding birds, purchasing equipment and traveling...well, one of these days we will be able to do that.

Last, but no means least, one cannot discount the importance of birds on a more emotional level. People have always admired birds using them as adornment on the walls of caves, in temples and on the walls of your home and mine, no doubt. Beethoven quoted the cuckoo in his Symphony #6. Storks deliver us at birth and owls mourn our deaths.

Birds are an integral part of who we are and how we exist. It's our job to make sure they remain.

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, November 11, 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 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. In the event of heavy rain, we will cancel the walk.

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



Don Klabunde



Don Klabunde

Saturday, November 14, 8:00 a.m. - Arroyo Simi (Madera)

Arroyo Simi has a great assortment of shorebirds, ducks, herons and gulls. It is easily accessed via a level bike path that runs from Madera Street to First Street and on through most of Simi Valley. We will walk slowly along the mostly natural bottomed channel scanning for birds and taking our time to better learn identification skills. Expected species include Green Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Belted Kingfisher, and White-faced Ibis. Possible birds include Hooded Merganser and Blue-winged Teal. Meet at the entrance to the bike path at Easy Street in Simi Valley, just east of Madera Road.

Please register in advance by contacting walk leader Don Klabunde at (805) 522-8023.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our Christmas Bird Count is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, **December 20th**, pending procedural guidance from National Audubon. The tally party will be via Zoom, so everyone will have to supply their own pizza. Look for more information in next month's Roadrunner.

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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4782
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OFFICERS		USERNAMES
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Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>garden tour</i>
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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.

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