



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society a Chapter of the National Audubon Society
visit us at: www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon

Volume 52, Number 8

April, 2021

CALENDAR

Apr. 5, 7:30 pm

Monthly Program via zoom
see easy instructions →

Apr. 14, 8:00 am

Beginner Bird Walk-**maybe**
check with Richard

Gray Catbird
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.

APRIL MONTHLY PROGRAM EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT CATIOS

Cats kill billions of birds and small animals annually. The outdoors are also perilous for cats. But relegating cats to the indoors can lead to unhappy felines with behavioral issues. Catios - cat patios or enclosures - are the most humane way to allow feline family members to experience the outdoors safely. This presentation will cover nearly everything there is to know about catios — including best practices, tips, and types of recommended materials. There will also be time for questions at the end.

Alan Breslauer, AKA Catio Guy on social media, launched Custom Catios in 2017 to serve cat guardians throughout Los Angeles, Orange County, and the surrounding areas. Catio Guy has worked with cat world luminaries Jackson Galaxy and Kitten Lady, rescues including CatCafe Lounge and Lange Foundation, and hundreds of feline families. An industry innovator, he relishes the opportunity to share his knowledge and expertise so that more fur-balls can experience the joy of the outdoors safely.



APRIL BIRDING TRIP NEWS

Due to uncertain COVID 19 restrictions, as of the time of publication, there are no organized CVAS trips scheduled for the month of April.

Check with Richard Armerding, close to Wednesday, April 14th, to see if his Beginner Bird Walk will take place on that day.

Be safe. Stay healthy.

Snowy Egret
Don Klabunde



CONSERVATION

Rat Poisons & the Food Chain

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Santa Monica Mountains
National Recreation Area

RAT POISON KILLS MORE THAN JUST RATS.

Poison-Free Alternatives:
Seal holes, remove hiding areas and food resources, and use traps.
go.nps.gov/natureneighbor

Poison detected in local wildlife includes:
BROMADIOLONE, BRODIFACOUM, CHLOROPHACINONE, DIFENACOUM, DIPHACINONE, & DIFETHIALONE


On January 1, 2021, a new law went into effect in California regarding the use of super-toxic rat poisons. The California Ecosystems Protection Act places important restrictions on the use of super-toxic rodenticides, known as second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides, to protect the state's animals. "Rodenticides are known to cause extreme suffering and death to non-target animals such as raptors who are harmed from secondary poisoning," said Kim Kelly, director of legislative affairs for the Animal Legal Defense Fund. "It makes complete sense to end this cruel practice with much safer alternatives available."

Both first and second-generation rodenticides prevent blood from clotting by inhibiting vitamin K. The first-generation rodenticides used warfarin, but rats appeared to be developing a tolerance to it so the second-generation products were developed. While the second-generation rodenticides are now somewhat restricted in California, the first generation poisons are on the store shelves and will continue to cause secondary poisoning to wildlife and pets. Instead of using rodent poisons, homeowners and businesses can focus on rodent control methods that include exclusion into buildings, by sealing holes and entry points, and removing things that attract rodents including bird feeders, thick vegetation, wood piles, and access to fruit trees, pet food, trash cans, and composting bins.

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CONSERVATION— continued from page 2:

There's no safe place or safe delivery system for second-generation rodenticides. After a rodent eats the poison bait, it stumbles around for three to four days, displaying itself as an especially tempting meal not just for raptors but for other predators, including red foxes, endangered San Joaquin kit foxes, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, badgers, mountain lions, bobcats, dogs, and house cats—all of which suffer lethal and sublethal secondary poisoning from eating rodents. Deer, non-targeted rodents, waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, songbirds, and even children suffer lethal and sublethal poisoning from eating bait directly. In a study done by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from 1999-2003, 25,000+ children under the age of six ate enough rodenticide to suffer poisoning symptoms. It is a parents worst nightmare to know that they may have had a part in such a tragic situation.



Lethal Dose: Rat Poison & Local Wildlife

Local residents may inadvertently be poisoning wildlife. National Park Service researchers have found a direct link between exposure to anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly known as rat poison, and the deaths of wildlife in and around the Santa Monica Mountains. How rodenticide works its way through the food chain:

1 Targeted rodents
Rats and other rodents who eat rodenticide do not die right away and may even become lethargic as they approach death, making them easy prey for larger predators.

2 Predators
Raptors, snakes and larger predators consume poisoned rodents.

3 Top of the food chain
Mountain lions feed on smaller predators laced with lethal poison.

Unintended victims

In the Santa Monica Mountains...

- 21 of 22 mountain lions tested positive for exposure and four died from poisoning.
- 93 of 105 bobcats tested positive for exposure and 70+ died from related secondary disease.
- 23 of 27 coyotes tested positive for exposure and 12 died from poisoning.

Updated as of April 2019

How anticoagulant rodenticide kills

These compounds interrupt blood-clotting, which leads to uncontrolled bleeding and death. They may also suppress the animal's immune system, making it susceptible to other diseases. **Symptoms include:**

- Nosebleeds
- Bleeding gums
- Ruptured blood vessels, causing bruising
- Internal hemorrhaging

What is mange?

A microscopic mite that burrows into the skin and causes...

1. Extreme itchiness and skin lesions.
2. Fluid and nutrient loss through the skin.
3. Infection, starvation, hypothermia or other complications, eventually leading to death.

Check the label

Here are the most common anticoagulant compounds:

- Bromadiolone
- Brodifacoum

- Diphacinone
- Difethialone

SOURCES: Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area research, L.E.K. Serriey, UrbanCarnivores.com

CREDIT: National Park Service <http://1.usa.gov/1SuhsXv>

Prevent rats from becoming a problem on your property!




Screen or close openings under overlapping roof lines.

Repair damaged ventilation screens.

Weather-strip garage doors so they close tightly.

Check garage shelves and storage lofts for evidence of rats.

Open up or remove double fencing.

Keep garden sheds closed and check regularly for evidence of rats.

Stack firewood off ground and away from buildings and fences.

Thin or remove dense vegetation such as ivy.

Harvest fruits/nuts regularly. Pick up all dropped fruits/nuts.

Use compost bins with secure covers.

Only feed birds in a cleanable area.

Keep all garbage cans covered.

Pick up pet droppings.

Feed your pet only the amount of food it will eat in one sitting.

Seal all openings around pipes, cables, and wires that enter walls and foundations.

Provide tight fitting covers for crawl spaces.

Do not accumulate trash.

How many rats can you find in this picture?

Publications provided by the National Park Service show alternatives to the use of these deadly poisons. In addition, it is important to know what your local pesticide control company is using on your property. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Know how you may be affecting the beautiful birds and animals that bring you so much joy.

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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4782
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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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