



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 53, Number 2

October, 2021

CALENDAR

Oct 4, 7:30 pm
Monthly Program via zoom
see easy instructions →

Oct 10, 8:00 am
Cañada Larga Road
see page 2

Oct 13, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

Oct 16, 8:00 am
Hill Canyon
see page 2

Oct 19, 7:00 pm
CVAS Board Meeting
ask Richard for Zoom link

Oct 24, 8:00 am
Mugu Lagoon and
lower Sycamore Canyon
see page 2

Oct 31, 8:00 am
Ventura Settling Ponds
see page 2



Cooper's Hawk
CS Klabunde

CVAS MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Due to the ongoing threat of covid variants, we will for the time being, continue 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.

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

THE WONDERFUL LIFE OF A DYING TREE

A dead tree needlessly cut down and hauled away is a tree deprived of half its life value and commendable destiny. Gillian Martin's presentation unveils the habitat value of dead trees. She persuasively illustrates their contribution to the health and sustainability of forests, yes, even the urban forest. Attendees will learn what to consider when selecting and converting a hazardous tree as a habitat tree. They will forever view a dead tree with greater interest and appreciation.

As a passionate bird advocate, naturalist, public speaker and writer, Gillian Martin has invested the last 20 years advocating for birds. One of her earliest missions was to



Western Bluebird nest
Peggy Honda

establish the Cavity Conservation Initiative to encourage the safe retention of dead trees as habitat. She is also the co-founder of [Tree Care for Birds and other Wildlife Program](#) of the Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture. Her articles have been published in numerous professional journals and newsletters.

OCTOBER BIRDING TRIPS

Since we're still living with pandemic concerns, CVAS will continue its careful approach to birding trips. Rather than sharing guidebooks, we encourage you to bring your own or download one on your mobile phone (the Sibley guide is available as an app for both Android and iPhone). Regrettably, we won't be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own pair. And finally, please wear your mask and observe social distancing.

Oct 10, Sun - Cañada Larga Road

Meet at the start of Cañada Larga Road at 8 am.
We will look for sparrows, sapsuckers, raptors and other various field birds.
This is car birding with several stops.
Bring masks and water.
Leader is Dee Lyon, (805) 427-0987.

Oct 16, Sat - Hill Canyon

Meet at Hill Canyon Park at 8 am.
We will look for White-throated Swifts, sparrows and oak woodland birds.
Bring masks and water.
Leader is Bonnie Clarfield Bylin (805) 405-5632



Burrowing Owl
CS Klabunde



Hermit Warbler female
CS Klabunde

Oct 24 - Sun - Bob Killdee Tams in Camarillo
Meet on Eston Street near tennis courts at 8 am.
We will look for **warblers!**
Bring masks and water.
Leader is Linda Easter (818) 519-2833

Oct 31 - Sun - Ventura Settling Ponds
meet at the gate at 8 am.
We will look for water birds and **warblers.**
Bring masks and water.
Leader is Frank de Martino (856) 906-8733

Warbler Bingo

At this writing, it's not too late to play.
Visit <https://wp.conejovalleyaudubon.org/activities/warbler-bingo/> to get your bingo card.

Wednesday, October 13, 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. Bring masks and water and social distance.

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

Disclaimer:

Everyone is welcome to attend any Conejo Valley Audubon field trip, but Conejo Valley Audubon assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a CVAS sponsored activity and in order to attend, all attendees agree that CVAS is not liable for such accidents. Everyone attends at their own risk.

CONSERVATION

BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

by Mary Hansen

I recently passed the local elementary school which was celebrating the return of the students to the campus. That's a very exciting thing for these students who have had to learn under more than difficult circumstances these past 18 months. The campus was festive-looking with at least 50 mylar balloons and as many, if not more, latex balloons. As much as I enjoy a good party with lots of decorations, balloons cause me angst. While many people are trying to reduce their use of single-use plastic bags, bottles, utensils and straws, balloons are often overlooked.

One of the things I love to do is take Island Packers out of Ventura on the pelagic trips they run several times a year. In the main cabin is a mesh bag full of the mylar balloons they have picked up while out looking for birds or whale watching; I have been on trips where the captain pulled in a dozen colorful balloons. At least they were retrieved before they could become attractive "food" for the local sea life. There are hundreds of photos of albatross, seals, sea lions, whales, dolphins, porpoises and other sea life that have starved to death because their gut was full of this undigestible garbage. Mylar balloons have been seen thousands of feet up in the atmosphere with most coming to rest in the oceans, forgotten by the people that had released them in a feel-good celebratory moment. There is nothing to celebrate about the destructive effect these balloons have on the environment.

This is one of the most common types of balloons we see at sea. You can get them for \$1 at Dollar Tree which sells a ton of them.



David Pereksta



David Pereksta

Latex balloons are just as bad if not worse. To quote an article on balloon debris, "Unlike Mylar balloons, latex balloons burst in the atmosphere, shredding into small pieces that, when floating on the surface of water, resemble jellyfish or squid. Plastic debris in the ocean can also become coated with algae and other marine microbes that produce a chemical scent, which sea turtles, seabirds, fish and other marine life associate with food. Because they are soft and malleable, latex balloons easily conform to an animal's stomach cavity or digestive tract and can cause obstruction, starvation and death.

As a result, latex balloons are the deadliest form of marine debris for seabirds. They are 32 times more likely to kill than hard plastics when ingested. Balloons tied with ribbons and strings also rank just behind discarded fishing gear and plastic bags and utensils due to the high risk of entanglement and death that they pose to marine life."

Contrary to what balloon makers would like us to think, balloons are not biodegradable. If they were made from 100% natural latex they would be, but latex balloons that we buy at the local party store are made from latex processed with dyes, plasticizers and other chemicals making them non biodegradable.

There are alternatives to the release of balloons. Dozens of websites pop up in response to a Google search "Environmentally friendly alternatives to balloons". I urge you to check them out.

For more info see:

- Odors from marine plastic debris elicit foraging behavior in sea turtles: Current Biology (cell.com)
- Marine plastic debris emits a keystone infochemical for olfactory foraging seabirds (science.org)
- Odours from marine plastic debris induce food search behaviours in a forage fish | Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences (royalsocietypublishing.org)
- Rubber Jellyfish – proudly supported by the Documentary Australia Foundation (rubberjellyfishmovie.com)

ROADRUNNER

Page 4

Volume 53, Number 2

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Field Trips	Dee Lyon 805-427-0987	<i>fieldtrips</i>
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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

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