



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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NO. 3

**General Meeting November 1
7:30 pm Western Foundation**

**CVAS Speaker Presents
The Adventures of Guy Commeau**

Naturalist and photographer Guy Commeau will present a program of his travels and adventures. An excellent photographer with an artistic bent, he will entertain us with his exciting stories and photographs. His travels have included New Zealand, Nepal, Alaska and Peru, but he says he loves California the best.

In 1991, Guy wrote *Mammals and Countries of the World: A Checklist*, which organized the mammals of the world much as the famous Clements checklist did for birds. He is now retired from the restaurant business and is a docent at the LAZoo ... when he's not on the road.

**Conservation Column
By Dee Lyon**

"ANIMAL, VEGETABLE, MIRACLE" is an excellent book by Barbara Kingsolver. This book has sent out a call to all of us to look at our food differently. Kingsolver says "The average food item on a U.S. grocery shelf has traveled farther than most families go on their annual vacations. Americans put almost as much fossil fuel into our

refrigerators as our cars; 17 percent of our nation's energy use is for agriculture; more than a quarter of this energy goes into synthetic fertilizers. Each food item in a typical U.S. meal has traveled an average of 1,500 miles."

This book has reportedly stimulated the new abundance of home gardens and growth of farmer's markets.

She also sounds the alarm about the seed industry: "Monsanto notes that growers who save seed from one year to the next were competitors and allocated \$10 million to prosecute them." Monsanto controls most of the seed market in this country.

"By purchasing local vegetables instead of South American ones, aren't we hurting farmers in developing countries? If you're picturing Farmer Juan happy that you buy that Ecuadoran banana, picture this instead: The CEO of Dole Inc. in his air-conditioned office in Westlake Village, CA. He's worth \$1.4 billion; Juan gets about \$6 a day. Much money is made in the global reshuffling of food, but the main beneficiaries are processors, brokers, shippers, supermarkets, and oil companies."

We export 1.1 million tons of potatoes, while we import 1.4 million tons. If you care about farmers, let the potatoes stay home.

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CALENDAR

November

- 1 5:15 pm Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
- 1 7:30 pm General Meeting Western Foundation
- 6 7:15 am Field Trip: Mugu Rock & Mugu Lagoon
- 11 9:00 am Beginner's Bird Walk
- 12 7:45 am Field Trip: Pt. Mugu Navy Base
- 14 7:30 am Field Trip: Saticoy Ponds
- 28 8:30 am Field Trip: Conejo Valley Botanic Garden

***** 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.

Board Meeting Notice

The November Board Meeting will be held on Monday, November 15. All CVAS members are invited to attend monthly CVAS Board Meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the home of a board member with meeting locations varying monthly. Please contact CVAS Secretary, **Gary Evans** at (805) 231-5692 or GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org for meeting location and directions.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times – **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier**. Try to carpool whenever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money!
RAIN CANCELS!

Saturday, November 6th Mugu Rock & Mugu Lagoon

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:15 am. We will look for coastal migrants such as Red-throated, Common and Pacific Loons, Scoters, possible Shearwaters, and lots of shorebirds. We will also check the nearby lagoons. Trip Leader is **Dee Lyon** (805) 499-2165.

Thursday, November 11th Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe** (818) 991-4055 between 9 am and 9 pm to let her know you are coming and to find out where it will be held. Rain or temperatures above 90 degrees will cancel.

Friday, November 12th Pt Mugu Navy Base

This trip for CVAS members only requires pre-signup at least 3 weeks prior to trip and is limited to 25 people. Contact **Don Williamson** at (818) 889-4498 to check on availability. US citizenship required as well as a picture ID. No cameras or video equipment permitted. Meet at base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd and Navel Air Road) at 7:45 am. Trip Leader is **David Pereska**.

Sunday, November 14th

Saticoy Ponds

Meet at Las Posas Park & Ride at 7:30 am or at the gate off Hwy 118 (just east of Saticoy and the Santa Clara River) at 8:00 am sharp. Birds seen here in past winters include many types of ducks, snipes, rock wrens, gnatcatchers, horned larks, merlins, a peregrine falcon, and even a crested caracara. Trip leader is **Thelma Williams** (805) 492-2796.

November 19-20, First Ojai Bird Festival

(See Announcement on Page 3)

Sunday, November 28th

Conejo Valley Botanic Gardens

Meet at the garden parking lot at 8:30 am. Look for Lark Sparrows, Allen's Hummingbirds, raptors, etc. Trip Leader is **David Person** (805) 496-9587.

Support California State Parks Vote YES on Proposition 21

By Carol Langford

California state parks have been threatened with closure during the dysfunctional state government budget process in 2008 and 2009. Our parks are falling apart. Funding has been slashed, infrastructure is crumbling, bathrooms don't work and staffing is minimal with rangers, biologists and naturalists rarely visible.

A Yes vote for Proposition 21 would fix state parks. Through an \$18.00 surcharge on vehicle registration, except for commercial vehicles and trailers, approximately \$500 million dollars will be generated for our 278 California state parks and wildlife areas. In return, the vehicles would be entitled to free day-use entry and parking at all state parks, every day, all year long.

As an objection, I've heard, "the state will find a way to use the money for other things." Proposition 21 creates a State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund which can only be used by state parks and wildlife programs. This money can not be used by state government!

The California Audubon website (ca.audubon.org) gives 50 reasons to Vote Yes on Proposition 21. Among them are some facts. One-third of California's coast is made accessible to the public because it is a part of a state park. I know I would not have access to California beaches if not for public land. Another is California State Parks offer some of the best opportunities for viewing birds and other wildlife. I think members of CVAS

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Conservation Column

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We need to speak up in order to increase the availability of local food. When they ask if you found everything you were looking for in the grocery store, say “No, I was looking for local produce.” Speak up at city, school board and county meetings, churches, social clubs and day-care centers about whether or not local foods are being served. Contact Ventura Produce Cooperative and exchange your zucchini for cilantro.

Environmental activism includes having an “Eco-home”; vegetable garden, composting and California Natives for the birds are what make us GREEN!

Vote YES on Proposition 21

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already know this, as McGrath State Beach, Emma Wood State Beach, Sycamore Canyon, and Malibu Lagoon and Malibu Creek State Park are some of our favorite birding spots. State Parks provided habitat for about 10% of the entire breeding population of the California Least Tern. McGrath State Beach is one of the most important state parks for the California Least Tern.

State parks provide space for swimming, surfing, camping, hiking, bicycling, running around, roasting marshmallows and just being outdoors. They provide the spark of enthusiasm for our next generation of birdwatchers, biologists, environments, and researchers.

California Audubon is a sponsor of Proposition 21. This spring CVAS gathered signatures to place the Proposition on the November ballot. Now CVAS needs to gather your support—we want you to provide information to your friends and neighbors, we want you to refer them to the California Audubon website to learn more about Proposition 21 and most important, CVAS urges you and your friends and neighbors to VOTE YES on Proposition 21.

Field Trip Reports

Santa Clara River Estuary by Dee Lyon

Saturday, Sept 4th

The first field trip of the year brought out only 7 birders (maybe the others were elsewhere for the Labor Day weekend.) --Thelma Williams, Barry Goldberg, Tom Halpin, Linda Easter, Alan from Ventura, Kim and me. It was really fogged in to

begin with, but we found a few of the regulars, plus a Pomarine Jaeger chasing a gull down for its meal. Snowy Plovers were on the sand and were considerate enough to include 2 Sanderlings for comparison purposes. Many Willets, some silhouette flycatchers, Crows, Barn Swallows, Great-tailed Grackles, Common Yellow-throats, Black-crowned Night Heron and 5 Great Blue Herons, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Coots, Western and Pied-billed Grebes, Ruddy Ducks, Mallards, Western, Ring-billed and Heerman’s Gulls, Caspian Terns, Brown Pelicans, then at the Harbor-Surfbird, Black Turnstones, Double-crested and Brandt’s Cormorants and at least 5 Black Oystercatchers.

Camino Real Park by Dee Lyon

Sunday, Sept 26th

10 of us had a great morning at Camino Real Park, with great looks at the immature male Baltimore Oriole, Band-tailed Pigeon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Orange-crown, Townsend’s, Wilson Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, Calif. Towhee, Nuttall’s, Downey, Acorn Woodpeckers and a Flicker, Pacific-slope, Willow and Hammonds Flycatchers, at least 6 immature Western Tanagers, a Black-headed Grosbeak, Mockingbird, American Goldfinches, Anna’s and Allen’s Hummingbirds, Starlings, Crows, an interesting pale Western Kingbird, House Finches and Sparrows, Juncos, Coopers Hawk, a huge flock of Robins, Black Phoebe, Eurasian Collared Doves, House Wren, and a Scrub Jay.

First Ojai Birding Festival

November 19-20

The Ojai Birding Festival is an educational event sponsored by The Ojai Retreat, a nonprofit group, located at 160 Besant Road, Ojai, CA 93023. The event begins Friday evening with check-in at 6:00 pm. The program begins at 7:00 with a presentation by Allen Bertke: “Birds of the Ojai Valley.” Saturday field trips include a guided boat tour of Lake Casitas, a walking tour of the Ojai Meadows with Jesse Grantham and an evening program.

Cost: General registration: \$25.00, includes Friday evening and field trips on land. Additional fee for boat tour of Lake Casitas: \$25.00.

Please register early, space limited to 40 participants. Sorry, because of costs we cannot make refunds. Call or email **Becky Donahue** for registration and more information. **(805) 272-5292** ojaibird@gmail.com.

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

November, 2010



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President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	president
Vice Pres			
Secretary	Gary Evans	805-231-5692	GaryE
Treasurer	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
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Field trip: Co	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



Don Klabunde's photo of a Great Blue Heron who is just about to have lunch, from his recent Pacific Northwest trip, was just one of the great images presented at our "Show & Tell" program at the September General Meeting.

Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month 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 Charlie Lucas, 465 Havenside Ave., Newbury Park, CA 91320, or by E-mail: newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

C0ZC230Z

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students), payable to **National Audubon Society**, for an introductory membership.

Mail it to: National Audubon Society, P. O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Renewing memberships should be sent to National Audubon with the renewal form and envelope you receive.

For questions regarding national membership status call: National Audubon Customer Service 1-800-274-4201

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20, payable to CVAS, for a family membership. Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 __ Please send my newsletter by E-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____