

ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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VOL. 44 May, 2013 NO. **9**

General Meeting, May 6 7:30 pm Western Foundation Steve Rothstein The Galapagos Islands and their Diversity

The Galapagos Islands is one of the most intact ecosystems in the world because it has been exposed to human contact for a very short period of time. It is, of course, also a virtual showcase for evolution and biodiversity and a place naturalists and even tourists in general want to see. Visits to the Galapagos Islands have traditionally been based from mostly small boats with visitors going ashore onto various islands for a while each day. But if you are prone to seasickness, this way of seeing the islands can be a real challenge. Recently lodges have become established with tour services providing speedboad trips between lodges onto different islands, making visits a lot easier for those who do not want to spend long periods on small boats. This talk will describe this new way of seeing the islands, which also provides visitors with more freedom of movement while on the islands.

The talk will also discuss recent evolutionary research on the islands and new threats to this unique assemblage of unique plants and animals. Lastly, the talk will address the dilemma of whether the every growing numbers of visitors eager to see the inlands' unique biodiversity are essentially loving the Galapagos to death, because people of course have impacts wherever they go.

Conservation Column By Dee Lyon The Quaking Aspen Tree

Did you know that the quaking aspen, Populus tremuloides, is the most widely distributed tree in North America? It grows from Arizona to Alaska, as well as in the upper Midwest and in the Northeast. It's the star in the West because it is so well adapted in our rugged environment. Aspens are most prolific between 5,000 and 12,000 feet, and in dry climates. They all seem to look alike, and that's because they are. They are clones. They regenerate from a common root system and in fact are considered to be a single organism! In central Utah the largest aspen clonal colony is about 105 acres and is estimated to be up to 100,000 years old according to ecologist Dale Bartos of the U.S. Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station. The loss of a single tree in the clonal colony triggers the budding of multiple saplings.

The best time to see the leaves is in Fall in full color. All the trees in a single clonal colony will be an identical shade. Different clonal colonies can vary from bright yellow to gold or even orange. That's how you can tell where each clonal colony starts and ends.

See them in California at Conway Summit on US 395 where the Great Basin meets the High Sierra. Audubonguides.com has an easy tree app which will help you identify the trees of North America (\$4.99 online)

Dee

CALENDAR

May		
4	8:00 am	Field Trip: Wheeler Gorge
5	7:00 am	Field Trip: Butterbredt Springs
6	5:15 pm	Ottavio's dinner RESERVE CHRYSTAL
6	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
9	8:00 am	Field Trip: Beginner's Bird Walk
12		Field Trip: Tejon Ranch
19	8:00 am	Field Trip: Malibu Creek State Park
25		Field Trip: Ventura Mountains Owling Trip

Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 PM

Call CHRYSTAL KLABUNDE

For Reservations (805) 522-8023 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 May Board Meeting will be held on Friday, May 17 Contact Gary Evans at (805) 231-5692

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!

Saturday, May 4 Wheeler Gorge

Wheeler Gorge is a wonder to bird in the spring, when the oak trees team with migrating warblers, tanagers, vireo, and flycatchers. Swainson's Thrushes are also found regularly along the stream bed. Add to that resident woodpeckers, Steller's Jays, towhees, and titmice, and you have the perfect recipe for a great day birding. Meet at 8 am at the entrance to the campground on highway 33. Leader: Kay Regester (805) 258-1025

Sunday, May 5th Butterbredt Springs

Join us on an ambitious one-day trip to this oasis of migrating birds in the middle of the desert. We will meet early, at the entrance to Jawbone Canyon at 7 am. The road in to Butterbredt Springs is dirt, but well graded. However, it is remote, and we'll need to bring a picnic lunch and water. Expect to see multiple species of warblers, vireo, finches, and sparrows. Also likely are quail, Chukar, grosbeaks, and tanagers. As we leave the springs, we may stop at other locations in the area as conditions and reports indicate. Leader: Ron Barnes(805) 341-3983

Thursday, May 9th Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call **Angie Kobabe** (818) 991-4055 between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm to let her know you are coming and to find out where held.

Sunday, May 12th - Tejon Ranch

The Tejon Ranch encompasses the largest single privately held track of land in the state of California, and is uniquely situated at the convergence of the Mojave Desert, the Sierra Nevada, the Central Valley, and the Transverse Ranges. This results in a high degree of biodiversity and the members of the Tejon Ranch Conservancy are always gracious and eager to share this unique habitat. Previous trips have included memorable looks at Golden Eagle, Ferruginous and Swainson's Hawks, Scott's Oriole. Ladder-backed Woodpecker, quail, warblers, vireo, sparrows, and plenty more. We also stand a good chance at seeing reintroduced Pronghorn. We will drive up Interstate 5 to Highway 138, where we will meet with conservancy docents who will lead us on this trip. In addition to the birds, there may be wildflower blooms to view. Plan for the possibility of cool weather. There are no facilities once on the ranch, so please pack a picnic lunch and plenty of water. This trip requires pre-registration and initially will be limited to CVAS members only. Trip limit: 12. Please contact Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Sunday, May 19th – Malibu Creek State Park

Malibu Creek State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains features 15 miles of stream side trails through oak and sycamore woodlands. It has also been extensively used as a movie set for many features and TV shows. While here, we will look for hawks, sparrows, woodpeckers, bluebirds and orioles. There is a fee at Malibu Creek State Park, so bring money for the entrance fee and for gas. We will meet at the Rancho Park & Ride at the junction of Highways 101 and 23 at 8:00 am for carpooling. Leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

Saturday, May 25th – Ventura Mountains Owling

Join us as we head up to the Los Padres National Forest where we hope to encounter some of our local owls! We will try for Great-horned, Western Screech, and both Northern Saw-whet and Northern Pygmy owls. There's no guarantee we'll see them, but we will have lots of fun as well as have a picnic dinner and try our hand at stargazing. We will meet early so as to see diurnal species as well as the more nocturnal species. Reserve a spot now, as this trip is limited to 10 participants. For more information or to reserve, contact: Matthew Page (805) 990-6534

Pt. Mugu January 25th – Cheryl Williamson

This year Don and I missed going on the Mugu trip because of illness; in fact we used everyone on the stand-by list. This is a prime example of why being on stand-by should not hold you back from signing up for a trip! Twenty-five brave souls made this trip led by David Pereksta. This report was made with information provided by Email and phone from Bill Anderson and Jean Hulberg.

It was cold and windy and rained part of the time, but the birding was pretty good considering the weather. We made a last stop on the causeway on the way out to the main gate that made the whole trip worthwhile. A juvenile Reddish Egret was on the other side of the roadway perhaps 25 feet or so away walking on some reeds next to a Snowy Egret. He just walked around for maybe 5 minutes; what a time to be without a camera! Anyway that with the other birds there made the trip memorable.

There seemed to be a lot of shore birds and loons. Of course that brilliant Vermilion Flycatcher was there and on display with a total of 95 species for the day. Thank you, David! Next birding season look for a trip in November 2013 and January 2014. Get on the list; even if it is on the stand-by list; you never know you could be among lucky 25.

Here are the 95 species seen:

Snow Goose, Brant, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneve, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pacific Loon, Red-throated Loon, Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Black-vented Shearwater, Brandt's Cormorant, Brown Pelican, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Reddish Egret, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Kildeer, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Lesser Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, Red Knot, Sanderling, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Wilson's Snipe,

Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Western Gull, California Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Burrowing Owl, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Loggerhead Shrike, American Crow, Common Raven, Tree Swallow, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, Great-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, House **Sparrow**

Reddish Egret - Goleta State Beach

Photo by Don Williamson

Santa Barbara Birding Spots February 10th – Linda Easter

February 10, seven birders caravanned to the wilds of Santa Barbara in search of a little wildlife. Our first stop was the Andree Clark Bird Refuge, near the Santa Barbara Zoo. We saw many Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, and American Coots, as well as one Hooded Merganser. Also of interest was a flock of Nutmeg Manikins in the reeds around the lake, and pretty good views of the California Condors in their Zoo enclosure. We then drove on to Santa Claus Lane in hopes of seeing the immature Gray Hawk that has been reported there since November. No luck this time. We finished our morning at the Carpinteria Salt Marsh, always an enchanting place to bird. Since the tide was still relatively high we saw many Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal at close range. A sleeping flock of Long-billed Dowitchers completely surrounded a feeding Snowy Egret. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher popped up for some good looks by all, and the morning ended with an Osprey flyover. Another great day of birding -- what could be better?

ROADRUNNER

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

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

May, 2013

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Vice Pres			
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Send E-mail to	username@ConejoV	/alleyAudubon.org	
Webmaster CVAS Web Site	Frank DeMartino http://www.Conejo\	/alleyAudubon.org	webmaster



Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to staff officer positions currently open on the CVAS Board. For the term starting Fall 2012, both the President and Vice President positions will need to be filled in addition to the Special Events coordinator. We encourage you to consider volunteering.

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 Gary Evans, 29 Sabra Ave., Oak Park, CA 91377, or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

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