



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 44

June, 2013

NO. 10

## CVAS Annual Picnic Sunday, June 2 --- Los Robles Trail



For the seventh year in a row, our CVAS Annual Picnic will be held at Los Robles Trail, located adjacent to the original Janss' House in Thousand Oaks. This beautiful location provides ample areas of both shade and sun. Go south on Moorpark Road to the end, approximately one mile south of the 101 freeway. Turn right on Greenmeadow Ave and proceed approximately one mile to the parking lot at the end of Greenmeadow. Carpooling is encouraged as there is limited parking.

There will be a potluck picnic at 10:30 am. Please bring these food items to share for eight. If your name begins with:

A to I bring a Dessert

J to K bring a Salad

R to Z bring a Main Dish

Please bring your own table service, drinks and chairs. Come early and join the pre-picnic birdwalk which starts at 8:00 am.

## Conservation Column David Sibley on Using Bird Songs

With the recent surge in the availability of digital audio devices, the use of playback to attract birds into view has increased exponentially. This has fueled an ongoing debate among birders about the ethical issues surrounding the use of recorded bird songs in the field.

There is no debate that playback (playing a recording of a bird's song) is one of the most powerful tools in a birder's struggle to see birds in the wild. Birds that might otherwise be too shy to come into the open can be lured into view by the sound of a potential rival. Whether this trickery has any significant impact on the birds is not so clear.

Fundamentally, birding disturbs birds. Everything that we do has an impact on birds. A total ban on playback (as some advocate) should equally include a total ban on pishing and mimicking bird calls. In some situations playback can be less disruptive than other methods of attracting birds, at times even less disruptive than sitting quietly and waiting for a bird to show. Playback is analogous to hunters calling ducks; except we don't shoot birds.

Most of the debate about playback has focused on a polarizing question: Is playback ethical, or not? With no concrete evidence supporting either side it remains unresolved. In this post I assume that it will be used, and that it is just one of many birding activities that should be practiced with sensitivity.

(continued on page 3)

## CALENDAR

### June

- |   |          |                              |
|---|----------|------------------------------|
| 2 | 8:00 am  | (Pre-Picnic) Birdwalk        |
| 2 | 10:30 am | Annual Picnic at Janss House |

## Fall Schedule

The annual picnic will be our last meeting for this season. We will resume our regular monthly meetings at the Western Foundation on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. The first program of next season will be our traditional "Show and Tell"

Have a safe and happy summer!

## 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 next Board Meeting will be held in September. The date will appear in the September Newsletter. 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](mailto: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!**

### Sunday, June 2nd Birdwalk & Annual Picnic

Held at the old Janss' House in Thousand Oaks. Go to the south end of Moorpark Road, turn right on Greenmeadow and then proceed approximately one mile to the parking lot at the end of Greenmeadow. Dee Lyon will lead the birdwalk at 8:00 am.



Red-Tailed Hawk by Don Kalumbe

### On Tree Trimming and Bird Nests

There was discussion amongst board members about Home Owners' Associations doing tree trimming in the spring and affecting bird nests. Carol Langford forwarded the following letter from Reed Smith on the subject. Reed Smith passed on quite recently. He was a very knowledgeable voice for birds with the Ventura Audubon Society.

Reed Smith's letter follows on next page:

Hi Katrin,

There is no specific general prohibition on trimming trees. There is a section of the Fish and Game Code that deals with destroying nests:

Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code:

It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.

This is interpreted to mean a nest that has eggs or young in it. Once the nesting is finished and the birds have fledged the nest can be destroyed. In order to be enforceable there has to be an occupied nest in the tree. If you see the workers destroying occupied nests you can notify the Department of Fish and Game at: [1-888-334-2258](tel:1-888-334-2258) who will send a warden to investigate.

You might provide this information to your HOA. You might also check with the City of Thousand Oaks code enforcement folks to see if they can help.

Reed Smith  
Ventura Audubon Society

### BIRDING ADVENTURES videos

A year or so ago I discovered an excellent birding show, *Birding Adventures*, which appears on some cable channel (I don't have cable) but which can also be found complete on the web. Its YouTube channel page links to all their full 22-minute episodes. (shorter highlights are also available). The host hails from South Africa and has a great energy and enthusiasm, and a good bit of zaniness [and his accent is wild - check out the word "bill"]. A lot of spectacular birds can be seen and the local ecology is often a topic of discussion. Our April speaker Chris Calonje happened to mention collaborating in filming some episodes of *Birding Adventures* in Colombia, and that inspired me to make the link available for you all.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/BirdingAdventures>

Michael Zarky

**Pictures from our chapter photographer,  
Don Klabunde**

**David Sibley on Using Bird Songs**  
(cont. from page 1)

. Below I focus on suggesting some best practices to allow birders to enjoy the birds while minimizing the impact of playback on birds and on other birders.

**Summary**

First, it is important to point out that the use of playback is prohibited in many parks and refuges. It is also illegal to disturb any endangered or threatened species (and playback can be interpreted as disturbance). Any potential negative impacts of playback are more likely to occur in areas with a lot of birding pressure, so avoiding playback entirely in those places is a good idea. Where and how to use it in other situations is up the individual birder.

To be most effective and to minimize disturbance to the birds:

Have a plan – choose your spot and know your quarry, don't just play sounds.

Play snippets of sound – less than 30 seconds at a time, then a long pause before the next snippet (more silence than playback) and after five minutes or so give it a rest (but stay alert).

Be subtle – you are trying to tease the bird into the open, not stir up a fight.

To minimize disturbance to other birders:

No surprises – Announce your intention to play a recording, and hold the device above your shoulder while it plays (to avoid any confusion or false alarms)

Keep the volume low, and use only occasional snippets of sound. Do not broadcast loud or continuous sound.

Dee



Laysan Albatross



Vermillion Flycatcher



Nesting Hummingbird

**Save that Date**

**Ninth Annual  
Monterey Bay Birding Festival**

**September 12-15, 2013**

**Message from the Editor**

The editor would appreciate any articles of interest, photographs, or field trip reports from members. Please get them to me by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month. I prefer them in electronic form with articles in plain text or rich text format (RTF) and pictures in jpeg format.

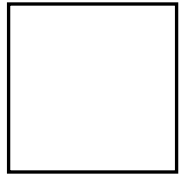
**ROADRUNNER**

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

June, 2013



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President			
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Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		

**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.

**NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION****C3ZC230Z**

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 for a family membership.

Additional Gift: \_\_\_\_\_\$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_\$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_\$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_\$100.00 \$\_\_\_\_\_Other

Membership \$\_\_\_\_\_ Donation \$\_\_\_\_\_ Total (check payable to CVAS) \$\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 ☐ **Check box to receive newsletter by mail.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **Otherwise newsletter will come by email.**

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_