



# ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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## General Meeting, January 5th 7:30 pm Western Foundation Paul Abravaya

Paul Abravaya will be presenting photographs of birds and mammals of southeastern Africa. Paul is a naturalist and award-winning nature photographer. He is best known for photos of colorful birds, butterflies, frogs and other creatures.

Paul has a special interest in tropical natural areas, due to their diversity and beauty. As a member of the Peace Corps, he worked in Brazil as a zoologist for five years. He discovered a new species of hummingbird *Phaethornis margarettae* and a new genus of mammal *Abravayaomys*. He also discovered the first living specimens of the enigmatic frog *Macrogenioglottus alipioi* and did ecological research. He spends time every year in Costa Rica.

His interest in nature photography is a direct extension of his work and love of the outdoors. He is a hunter with a camera, stalking and waiting for the moment to capture a good image.

Paul worked as a biology teacher for thirty years. He was the owner of Tropical Eco-Tours, a tour company whose goal was to educate teachers and others in tropical ecology. He has a Masters degree in zoology. He uses photographs to educate and to help make people aware of the beauty of nature.

\*\*\* Pre-meeting Dinner\*\*\*  
D'Amore's Pizza at 5:15 pm  
300 N. Lantana Camarillo  
Call Nobuko McClure  
For Reservations (805) 482-1411

*Save the Date, the Conejo Valley Audubon Society Annual Dinner and Fundraiser will be on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at the Palm Garden Hotel, Newbury Park. Stay Posted.*

## Conservation Wild Places are Never Saved by Carolyn Greene

As I looked over Frank and Cia's very fun weekend bird blitz, I realized how many of our favorite birding locations had been planned for development during the past 25 years. How fortunate I am to live within 30 minutes of rich birding locales, and to have friendly, knowledgeable and fun birding compadres.

I've lived in Ventura County only 22 years, but even in that time, citizens concerned about natural habitat have preserved and amazing list of unique ones --- Ojai Meadows (residential development), Cañada Larga (regional landfill and possible housing subdivision), Ormond Beach (residential and resort development), Upper Las Virgenes/Ahmanson Ranch (commercial and residential development – almost a new city), Round Mountain Pond area (2 golf courses and a Hollywood Bowl-style amphitheater nearby), Wildwood Park Mesa and MontClef Ridge -- (housing), Hill Canyon (golf course), Rancho Sierra Vista – 831 homes, Rancho Potrero (golf course and residential development), Big Sycamore Canyon (resort and conference center, housing).

No doubt you could add to the list of "saved" areas in your town.

I realize I owe a huge debt of gratitude to so many, including Audubon members, who studied, read **EIRs**, wrote letters, signed petitions, lobbied political representatives, attended late-night city council meetings and just plain wouldn't give up.

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## CALENDAR

### January

3	8:00 am	Rancho Simi Community Park
5	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: D'Amore's Pizza
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
10/11		Carrizo Plain
18	8:00 am	Seal Beach NWR (this is fully booked)
23	7:45 am	Pt. Mugu Naval Base
31	8:30 am	Arroyo Simi

### 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.

#### 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, January 3rd Rancho Simi Community Park

Rancho Simi Community Park in Simi Valley is perhaps an under-birded location, offering up a variety of habitat, such as stands of conifers, a pond and an adjacent arroyo. The park has hosted such species as Plumbeous Vireo, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck, and in the fall, migrating warblers. Resident species include Canada Goose, Western Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher and Black-crowned Night-heron. There almost always seems to be at least one White-faced Ibis in the arroyo. We may also find Chipping Sparrow and other winter visitors hanging around. Meet in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool at 8 am. Directions: From the 118 freeway, exit at Erringer and head south. Turn right at Royal. Enter the park along Royal as you see the brick building near the pool. Trip leaders: Chrystal and Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023

#### Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> Beginner's Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055 between 9:00 am and 10:00 pm to learn the location and let her know you are coming. Time is 9:00 am.

#### Saturday/Sunday January 10-11 Carrizo Plain Weekend

In addition to the breathtaking vistas, we will see Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, LeConte's Thrasher and Merlin. We will likely see Rough-legged Hawk and Mountain Plover. Sandhill Crane is a possibility as well.

We may also visit archeological or geological sites related to the cultural and seismological history of California. We will meet in Maricopa and drive around the plain all weekend. Some members will be camping on the plain.

Please call Carol Langford (360) 742-6059 to sign up. She will give meeting time, location and camping info. Reserve your own room in Buttonwood or Taft for Saturday. Alternatively, camp on the plain. FRS radios are just about required. Bring food and water for the weekend.

#### Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> Point Mugu Naval Base

This trip requires signup at least 3 weeks prior to the date and is limited to 20 people. **Signups are now only available in person at CVAS general meetings due to the extensive nature of the application.** US Citizenship, Driver's License number and Social Security number are required to complete application. Picture ID is required on the day of the trip.

No cameras or video equipment are permitted on the base. Meet at the base parking lot (corner of Mugu Rd. and Naval Road) at 7:45 am. Trip leader is David Pereksta. **Please sign up in person at the January general meeting as applications for the trip will not be accepted otherwise.**



**Landing of the Terns at Pt. Mugu**  
*by Jean Kohut*

#### Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> Arroyo Simi

Joint trip with Ventura Audubon Society! A mostly natural-bottomed channel in Simi Valley is host to a wide variety of excellent ( and sometimes surprising) birds.

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**Arroyo Simi**  
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Recent birding trips to this channel have given excellent views of wading birds, including Green Herons and Sora. We have also seen waterfowl such as Buffleheads, Hooded Mergansers and all three varieties of teals.

Sparrows are also seen here, including Lincoln's, Song and Savannah.  
Directions: From Hwy 101, take Hwy 23 north and exit Tierra Rejada Rd. Turn right on Tierra Rejada. Turn left on Madera. Turn right on Easy St. and park along the street near the entrance to the bike path. We will bird the channel on both sides of Madera Rd. Bring scopes if you have them! Meet at 8:30 am.  
Trip leader: Linda Easter (805) 482-7537

**Wild Birds are Never Saved**  
(continued from page 1)

During the Weldon Canyon Landfill proposal for Cañada Larga, I worked for an agency that advocated a landfill there as a local solution for trash disposal. Now I realized how precious this and other preserved areas are to habitat, native plants, and wildlife, including our avian friends.

So what can we do now to continue the efforts of these eco-pioneers? It seems that most of the big land battles are over in Ventura County, but there is much we still can and must do.

In addition to identifying critical habitat areas and monitoring their continued protection, we need to take our conservation ethic beyond our "choir" of environmentalists. We must make conservation interesting and vital to everyone in our communities, especially young people who are not yet connected to nature and wild lands. They will be the stewards of our wild natural resources long after we are gone.

How about volunteering for your local park district or natural area? How about volunteering for a local science program? Or write letters to local media about conservation issues, the Backyard Bird Count, why birds matter, bird-friendly tree trimming, water-wise

gardening, etc. There are so many ways we can volunteer to inspire our communities to care about wildlands.

Also important is to support the re-authorization of SOAR (Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources --- [www.soarusa.org](http://www.soarusa.org) -- our pioneering growth control ordinance.) It will be up for extension within the next couple of years in Ventura County cities and unincorporated areas. Organized opposition to SOAR is already building.

Two guiding quotes come to mind. First, to paraphrase Peter Douglas, the visionary Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission --- "Wild lands are never saved, they are always being saved". And one writing has inspired me recently, by poet Gary Snyder -- "Find your special place, dig in, and take responsibility from there".

Ventura County is indeed a special place, but it needs our efforts to keep it that way.



**Yellow Warbler** by Don Klabunde

<i>New Members</i>	
Catherine Beall	Monet Lemon
Joseph Abravaya	Loi Nguyen
Claire Thames	Phil Carroll
Steve Robinson	Sharon Riley
Nancy Conner	Craig Simmons
Margaret Bragg	Sue McCormick
<i>Donors</i>	
Nobuko McClure	Carolyn Palmer
Marlene Winstead	Stacey Bergman
Nancy Berry	Carol & Bill Langford
Nancy Conner	Craig Simmons

# ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

January, 2015



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Vice Pres	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	805-405-5632	vice-president
Secretary	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Treasurer	Richard Armerding		treasurer
Programs	Cia DeMartino		programs
Graphic Arts	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
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Field trips	Matthew Page	805-990-6534	Fieldtrips
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Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough		librarian
Special Events	Carol Langford	360-742-6059	carol.lee.langford@gmail.com
Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	photographer
Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Frank DeMartino		webmaster
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



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 C5ZC230Z**

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.**

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