



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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VOL. 46

May, 2015

NO. 9

General Meeting Monday, May 4th

The Great Passenger Pigeon Comeback Ben Novak



Ben Novak graduated in 2005 from Montana State University, specializing in paleontology, genetics, ecology and ornithology. Novak was trained in paleogenomics laboratory protocols at the McMaster Ancient DNA Centre, exploring DNA extraction and sequencing of Mastodon fossils (2010 – 2012). It was at this laboratory that Ben began his first studies of Passenger Pigeon genomics. With this experience he has taken on the challenge of leading “The Great Passenger Pigeon Comeback,” beginning in 2012. His talk will describe this amazing journey towards passenger pigeon de-extinction.

Conservation by Dee Lyon

Bird populations all around the world are declining because of habitat loss. We have now learned that the young of birds are fed caterpillars and other insects. Insects are specialists. They are attracted to native plants with which they evolved. Without California native plants our birds cannot thrive. Look around your neighborhoods and you’ll see almost exclusively plants from other parts of the world. Our insects do not use those plants.

Birds are poisoned by rodenticides. They are also poisoned by systemic insecticides that are now added to products such as flower foods. Cars, windows, power towers and tall buildings all take their toll. Cats allowed to be outside kill millions of birds. Mammals, amphibians and reptile populations are also falling at an alarming rate.

We all need to do our part to make this world a safer place for wildlife and native plants. The world will then be a safer place for us as well.

Please encourage your local educators, city council members, neighbors and family members to plant native plants. Take paints, oil and batteries to disposal sites. Use environmentally friendly products in your home. Keep cats indoors.

Dee

CALENDAR

May		
3	8:00 am	Malibu Creek State Park
4	5:15 pm	Pre-meeting Dinner: Ottavio’s
4	7:30 pm	General meeting
9		Tejon Ranch BioBlitz
14	9:00 am	Beginning Bird Walk
17	8:00 am	Las Lajas Canyon
23	8:15 am	Cañada Larga Road
31	8:00 am	Annual Picnic

*****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.

Sunday, May 3 Malibu Creek State Park

Malibu Creek State Park in the Santa Monica Mountains features fifteen 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. We will meet at the Rancho Park and Ride at the junction of Highways 101 and 23 at 8:00 am for carpooling. There is a \$12.00 fee at Malibu Creek State Park, so bring money for the entrance fee and/or carpooling. Leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

Saturday, May 9th Tejon Ranch BioBlitz

Do you have good birding identifications skills and are you willing to spend the day on Tejon Ranch counting all the species we can find for the BioBlitz? Participants are needed to join teams scouring the ranch for all forms of life on this special day. Please contact Matthew Page at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org for more info or to sign up. Some participants may be able to camp on the ranch on May 8th.

Thursday, May 14th Beginning Bird Walk

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

Sunday, May 17 Las Lajas Canyon

Rusting steam shovels. Fossilized sea shells. Oaks, cottonwoods and willows. Lizards, hawks, woodpeckers and bluebirds. In the foothills

of Simi Valley lies Las Lajas Canyon, home to all of these attractions and more. We'll take a leisurely hike up this gentle canyon looking for evidence of 20th century oil exploration, geology and wildlife. We'll also just enjoy the cool spring air. The trailhead to Las Lajas Canyon is at approximately 5715 Evening Sky Drive in Simi Valley. Meet here at 8 am with water, sunblock & good hiking shoes. Dress in layers. We will hike for 2-3 miles and then return the way we came. The first and last 0.2 miles are steep, but the rest of the trail is gentle. This means that at the end of the hike we will have a short but steep climb out. Please plan accordingly. Directions: From the 118 Freeway in Simi Valley exit Yosemite and head north. Turn right on Evening Sky Drive and proceed to the trail head. Trip leaders: Don and Chrystal Klabunde (805) 522-8023

Saturday, May 23rd Cañada Larga Road

Cañada Larga Road is one of the more reliable spots in Ventura County to find good numbers of migrating and breeding birds in the spring. Though the road is only a few miles long, we can expect to find roadrunners, swallows, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, bluebirds, hawks, flycatchers, kestrels and perhaps even a Golden Eagle. Time allowing, at the leader's discretion we can also bird nearby Foster Park. Meet at the Las Posas Park and Ride at 7:45 am to carpool, or meet at Cañada Larga Road at 8:15 am. Directions: From the 101 take Highway 33 north to the Cañada Larga Road exit. Turn right and meet on the shoulder within the first several hundred yards. Trip leader: Linda Easter (805) 482-7537

Sunday, May 31st CVAS Annual Picnic Los Robles Trail

For the ninth 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.

(continued on page 3)

(Annual Picnic – cont. from pg. 2)

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:

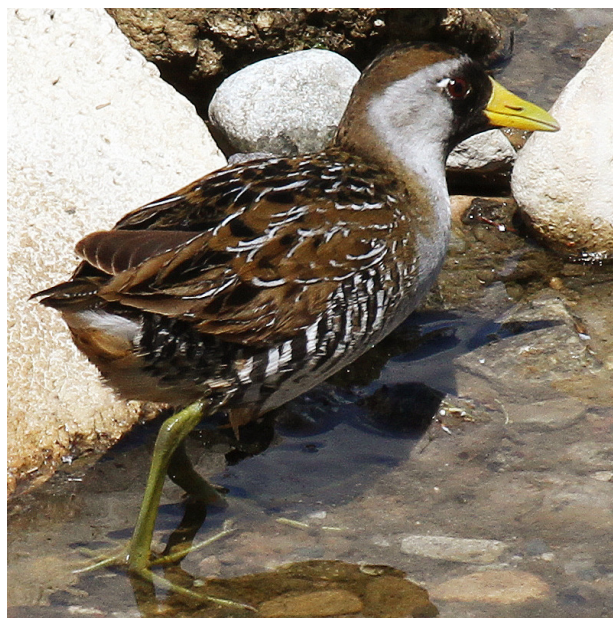
- A to I bring a Dessert
- J to K bring a Salad
- R to Z bring a Main Dish

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

*Needed! Front Yard to
convert to Habitat. We
provide plants, people to
plant and chips for mulch.
Contact Dee Lyon.
805-499-2165*



Lewis's Woodpecker by Don Klabunde



Sora by Don Klabunde



**Terns
over the
Marina**

by

Jean Kohut

ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

May, 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
Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trips	Matthew Page	805-990-6534	Fieldtrips
Publicity	Cory Taylor		publicity
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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, Calif. 91377-1126 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 to receive newsletter by mail

Name _____ Otherwise newsletter will come by email

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____