



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Visit Us At: <http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org>

Or: <http://www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon>

VOL. 47

June, 2016

NO. 10

Annual Picnic, June 4th 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. 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 by Dee Lyon

Peter Kereiva has moved from the Nature Conservancy to UCLA. Cities are where the action is. Most people live in cities. As Mr. Kereiva says, "Cities are taking action on the climate. Cities are innovative. If we can get the cities right, we can pretty much solve our environmental problems. What do you want the world to be like in 2050? There is no way to get there without new energy sources. The existing technology with existing infrastructure is not going to get us there."

He asked Jane Goodall what one thing people could do to make the biggest difference and she said "Stop eating meat." It saves energy, water and habitat.

The world is undergoing inescapable change because of climate change and population growth. We cannot make conservation about keeping things as they were. Conservation must look forward. We must get away from partisan stuff and solve problems instead of arguing about ideology.

Dee



CALENDAR

June

- | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------------|
| 4 | 8:00 am | (Pre-Picnic) Birdwalk |
| 4 | 10:30 am | Annual Picnic at Janss House |



by Don Klabunde

Eurasian Wigeon

by Teodelina Martelli

Anas Penelope. Greek for literally “Penelope duck ” Penelope, she who weaves, she who waits for Ulysses. Quack. Ulysses is in love with a duck!

I remember meeting a male of the species close up for the first time, at Conejo Creek North Park, in Thousand Oaks, CA.

The Eurasian Wigeon’s normal range is actually a few thousand miles from where this vagrant stood. In summer the ducks are found in Europe and inland continental Asia. In winter large flocks migrate as far south as Africa. They occupy fields, marshes, ponds and bays.

The female builds a nest of vegetation, hidden in reeds and lined with down, in which she deposits 7-8 cream-colored eggs. The males utter a descending whistle “whee-oo” and the female gives a low growling “krr krr,” especially when flushed.

The breeding males are handsome; they have a mostly gray body, with a buffy pink breast, a white belly and rump and a black vent and tail. Their heads are chestnut, with a buffy yellow streak adorning the forecrown – like a drunken king whose crown perches precariously on his forehead!

The birds acknowledge their crowning feature, it seems; they follow diving ducks and snatch their prey from them. And here in the park, this male scared off the American Wigeons and the larger Mallards (20 to 25 in. to the Eurasian Wigeon’s 18 to 20 in.) in order to have his personal space and (of course) the bread handouts.

In comparison, our American counterpart has a gray speckled head, with a streak of iridescent green extending from behind the eye to the nape, and a creamy white crown. Also, the body of the American Wigeon is mostly brown in the front half, darkening to gray towards the tail. The females of both species are very alike; both have a speckled gray-brown body and head, and a white belly and vent. But the head of the American Wigeon female is paler and grayer, and the greater coverts (the row of feathers above the shiny green speculum) are much paler than those of the Eurasian female.

The males of the two species are similar in that they both have white extending from the belly ending right under the rump, wrapping all around it before the body ends in a black vent and tail. They also share the white forewing, visible at rest, which they retain in their eclipse plumage and which distinguishes them from the females. From a distance the male Eurasian Wigeon appears dark-headed with a light body, while the male American Wigeon appears dark-bodied with a lighter head.

All adults of both species have a small gray-blue bill with a black nail and edges. Eurasian Wigeons are grazing ducks, almost completely vegetarian. They are relatively rare on this continent, but the numbers that winter on the West Coast seem to be increasing. One may be found at the Bette Davis Picnic Area (northern rim of Griffith Park), and they have been found at Lake Elizabeth and Madrona Marsh. And if you come by Thousand Oaks, set some time aside to visit the beautiful library by the park. If you don’t see the duck, you can certainly read some books on it!



Pygmy Nuthatch by *David Plotkin*



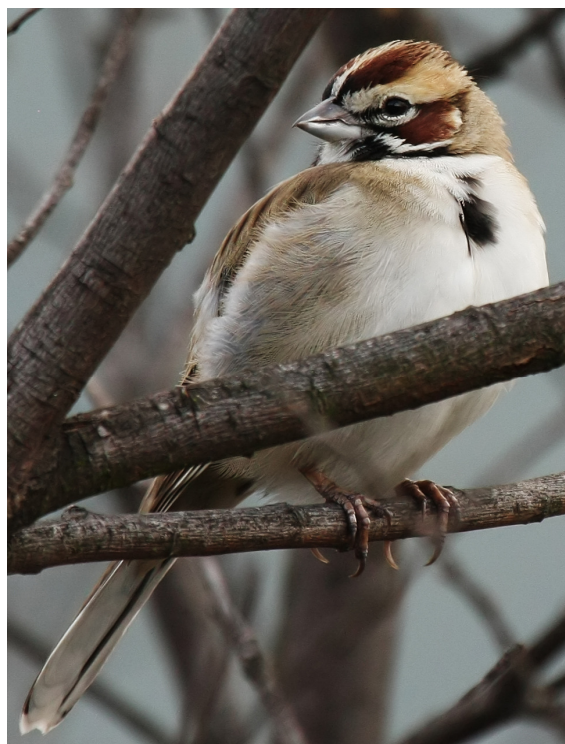
Black-headed Grosbeak by *Don Klabunde*



Townsend's Warbler by *Jean Kohut*



Ash-throated Flycatcher by *Don Klabunde*



Lark Sparrow by *Don Klabunde*



Phone _____ E-mail address _____