



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society a Chapter of the National Audubon Society
visit us at: www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon

Volume 53, Number 4

December, 2021

CALENDAR

Nov 16, 7:00 pm
CVAS Board Meeting
ask Richard for Zoom link

Dec 5, 8:00 am
Rustic Canyon
see page 2

Dec 6, 7:30 pm
Monthly Program via zoom
see easy instructions →

Dec 8, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

Dec 11, 8:00 am
Paramount Ranch
see page 2

Dec 19, all day
Christmas Bird Count
look for emails from
David Pereksta

Dec 27, 8:00 am
Chesebro Canyon
see page 3



White-crowned Sparrow
CS Klabunde

CVAS MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

Due to the ongoing threat of covid variants, we will for the time being, continue conducting our CVAS Monthly Programs online using Zoom, which is a computer tool that allows you to meet with other people online. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone. We will send out an email prior to each meeting with instructions for joining the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before, you may wish to watch this video for some tips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

The link to join the Monthly Programs is: <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

When you join the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the presenter on your computer. If your computer has a microphone and camera, you will also be given the choice of whether other meeting participants can hear or see you. However, in most cases we will be muting all meeting participants except for the presenter.

DECEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM THE BIRDS NEED OUR HELP!



Bank Swallow
CS Klabunde

Population declines have hit many of our favorite birds, and it's time we talk about how we can help them out. Join our President, Frank DeMartino, who will take a closer look at Cornell's Seven Simple Actions as well as some other local organizations and projects that are helping restore lost habitat. He'll talk about turning your yard into a Certified Wildlife Habitat and how native plants can help turn the tide for our feathered friends. Frank is an avid birdwatcher whose passion for birds has led him to serve on the board of both Ventura Audubon Society and Conejo Valley Audubon Society where he is currently President. He even opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Ventura in 2017.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

David Pereksta

If you are looking for a way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 122nd annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sunday December 19, 2021, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 46th CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 194 species! Last year's highlights included one first for our count circle; Tricolored Heron. We also had repeats of several firsts from the previous year including Gray Flycatcher and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. Other notable birds included 6 White-winged Scoters, 9 Least Bitterns, 9 Reddish Egrets, 62 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 2 Ridgway's Rails, a White-winged Dove, a Short-eared Owl, 2 Red-naped Sapsuckers, 9 Vermilion Flycatchers, 4 Mountain Bluebirds, a Bell's Sparrow, and a Green-tailed Towhee. Birds recorded within a week of the count, but missed on count day were Plumbeous Vireo and White-throated Sparrow. Notable misses for the count period were Cackling Goose, Wood Duck, Black Scoter, Common Merganser, Common Ground-Dove, Common Gallinule, Forster's Tern, Black Skimmer, Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Tricol-

ored Blackbird, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. However, when all was said and done, we recorded nearly 28,000 individual birds! We hope to do even better this year, but need CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and being ready to bird.

Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic may again affect CBC participation this year. Pending local restrictions, many counts will be done under the COVID-19 guidelines sent to compilers. Online registration will not be available this year so please contact me directly at pereksta@pacbell.net. Due to the pandemic, we will not be sending out large groups at locations where we normally include numbers of novice birders. Since we will be focusing on small groups, we will not be able to accommodate many beginners or first-time counters again this year.

As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. We need people to cover the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs Park, Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the Oxnard Plain, Hidden Valley, Satwiwa, and many other areas around Camarillo and Thousand Oaks.

You can also help by “staking out” unusual or hard to find species such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Lawrence’s Goldfinch. In addition, we often come close to missing a few common species including Hutton’s Vireo, Townsend’s Warbler, and Brown-headed Cowbird so keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the “side hunt.” Participants in the “side hunt” would split up into teams and see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals in a day. Dr. Chapman proposed instead to identify, count, and record the birds they saw, thus founding what is today considered the most significant citizen-based conservation effort in the USA. The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you do not wish to go out and count birds, consider “feeder watching” in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or keep an oriole around for us to include.

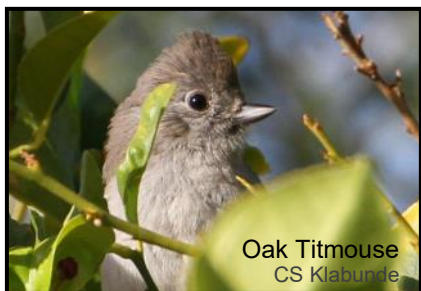
While we normally gather in the evening to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals, we will likely be doing that via Zoom. Details of how we will gather, virtually or otherwise, will be shared with participants before count day. ■



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Don Klabunde

DECEMBER BIRDING TRIPS

Since we’re still living with pandemic concerns, CVAS will continue its careful approach to birding trips. Rather than sharing guidebooks, we encourage you to bring your own or download one on your mobile phone (the Sibley guide is available as an app for both Android and iPhone). Regrettably, we won’t be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own pair. And finally, **please wear your mask and observe social distancing**.



Oak Titmouse
CS Klabunde

Dec 5, Sunday - Rustic Canyon

(CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL SCHEDULE) Meet at the gate at 8:00 am. We will walk along the path, looking for birds who like the edge of the golf course. Leader is Dee Lyon, (805) 427-0987.

Dec 11, Saturday - Paramount Ranch

Meet at 8:00 am, in the parking lot. Great birds in the oak trees. Leader to be arranged, check with Dee, (805) 427-0987.

Dec 19, Sunday - Christmas Bird Count

Look for emails from David Pereksta.



Lewis's Woodpecker
CS Klabunde

Dec 27, Monday - Chesero Canyon

Meet at 8:00 am in the parking lot. Always great for woodpeckers. Leader to be arranged, check with Dee, (805) 427-0987.

Wednesday, December 8, 8:00 am – Beginner Bird Walk

Conejo Valley Audubon invites birders of all experience levels to attend our monthly Beginner Bird Walk at Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa. These walks are held on the second Wednesday of each month. We will meet at 8:00 am at the main parking lot, which is accessible off Lynn Road at Via Goleta in Newbury Park. Rancho Sierra Vista is an excellent place to see many of the oak woodlands birds that are common in the Conejo Valley area. We will take time to introduce beginning birders to these species and will teach the best techniques for locating and identifying them. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Bring masks and water and social distance. Please register in advance by contacting walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878.

Disclaimer: Everyone is welcome to attend any Conejo Valley Audubon field trip, but Conejo Valley Audubon assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a CVAS sponsored activity and in order to attend, all attendees agree that CVAS is not liable for such accidents. Everyone attends at their own risk.

CONSERVATION PERFECT HABITAT

by Mary Hansen

Recently I was in Anaconda, Montana visiting friends. I love the mountains in Montana and birding there is a treat. An eBird list from Anaconda had shown an American Dipper close to where I was, and considering how difficult it is to see our local Dipper, I decided to look for it. The location was a small city park with a perfect fast moving shallow stream running through it, so I followed the stream for about 0.3 miles without any luck. I came to a larger city park with a small, shallow, concrete aeration pond in it. Who should be poking around in this twenty foot diameter manmade pond but the American Dipper. Absolutely not in the place I would have looked for it; all the lovely habitat seemingly ignored for a bit of concrete and water.

This observation dovetailed perfectly with an article in the magazine of the American Birding Association, August, 2021. The author, Brendan Murtha, talks about how birds view habitat and how we do. First, it is important to acknowledge that loss of habitat has proven to be one of the major reasons for the decline in the number of species and the total number of birds. No one can or should dispute that. But Mr. Murtha has come to the conclusion that it is important to “rewild” our urban/suburban environments. By that, he doesn’t mean physically changing the landscape, but changing how we view it.

“In an age of increasing urbanization, finding and sharing the wild in developed habitats will be an essential task of educators and conservationists alike; for every person who loses sight of the wild amid habitat loss, many more never find it in the first place.” For those who may never be privileged to see the beauty of the cloud forest in Ecuador, they must be helped to see the “wild” in those places they can explore. I live in an area with a beautiful lake surrounded by acres of wonderful habitat readily acknowledged as a great place to bird. Does that mean that a budding birder or nascent naturalist living in the middle of Los Angeles surrounded by mostly concrete and asphalt cannot, also, appreciate the wonders of migration because the only place available to look for birds is an empty lot with a few trees and some grass? Certainly not as far as the birds are concerned. A tired migrating warbler will look at that grass and those trees as a perfect place to settle for the day. To help those for whom the wild is that empty lot so sparsely green is to introduce not just more people to birding, but to increase the diversity of those who appreciate the beauty of all the world around them. We have to start somewhere, why not the concrete pond in the middle of a city park? The American Dipper found it to be perfect. ■



American Dipper
CS Klabunde

ROADRUNNER

Page 4

Volume 53, Number 4

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4782
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359



OFFICERS		USERNAMES
President	Frank DeMartino	<i>president</i>
Vice Pres	Richard Armerding	<i>vice president</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>
COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>programs</i>
Conservation	Mary Hansen 805-390-4586	<i>conservation</i>
Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>garden tour</i>
Education	Thelma Williams 805-492-2796	<i>thelma</i>
Field Trips	Dee Lyon 805-427-0987	<i>fieldtrips</i>
Publicity	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin 805-405-5632	<i>publicity</i>
Newsletter	Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>newsletter</i>
Membership	Jean Stoutenborough/Catherine Armerding	<i>membership</i>
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough	<i>librarian</i>
Photographer	Don Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>photographer</i>
Webmaster	Richard Armerding	<i>webmaster</i>
Facebook	Matthew Page	<i>media</i>
member at large	Nobuko McClure 805-482-0411	<i>nobuko</i>
Newsletter Emeritus	Gary Evans	<i>gary</i>



To contact board members, add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after each username above

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Under normal circumstances, meetings would be held on the first Monday evening of each month (second Monday when the first one's a holiday) at 7:30 pm, at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA. Directions: from the corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Lewis Road in Camarillo, go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo, and 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 and dedicated to the study of birds and their habitats. As a world-class natural history collection, they have long made significant contributions to original research, and conservation. They also accept contributions. Visit WVZ.org

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members via either email or snailmail. Members are invited to submit articles, reviews, letters, photos etc. for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the previous month. Send items to Chrystal Klabunde at newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org, or 1229 Nonchalant Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

For information on joining the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, please visit www.audubon.org

To join **CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** please visit www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or mail in this

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 for a family membership. (An additional gift of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 or any amount would also be greatly appreciated.)
 Make check payable to CVAS for membership at \$20.00 plus donation \$? equals a total of \$ _____
 Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

() Check here to receive a black and white newsletter by snail mail, otherwise a color version will be sent by email.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____