



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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visit us at: www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon

Volume 54, Number 1

September, 2022

CALENDAR

Sep 3, Sat, 8:00 am
Santa Clara River Estuary
see page 2

Sep 11, Sun, 8:00 am
Laguna Tams
see page 2

Sep 12, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program
see instructions 

Sep 14, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

Sep 17, Sat, 8:00 am
Mugu Lagoon/Sycamore Cyn
see page 2

Sep 24, Sun, 8:00 am
Matilija Dam
see page 2

Cactus Wren
Don Klabunde



BACK TO THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

Hurray! It's time to cautiously meet again together at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will be required, and the in-person group will be limited to a maximum of thirty to allow for social distancing purposes, so please RSVP to [programs](https://www.westernfoundation.org) plus [@conejovalleyaudubon.org](https://www.facebook.com/conejovalleyaudubon.org) to reserve a seat ... or else Zoom in as before.

These new hybrid meetings will be simultaneously available live and on Zoom, so no one need be left out. The link to join us on Zoom is as before: <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

For those few who haven't yet used Zoom, it is a computer tool that allows you to meet with other people online. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone. You may wish to watch this video for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E> When you join the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the presenter on your device, and if your computer has a microphone and camera, you will also be given the choice of whether you want to be heard or seen by other meeting participants. Though, in most cases we'll be muting everyone except for the presenter until the question and answer period.

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM MEMBER SHOW & TELL

Each September, our first meeting of the season is dedicated to the birding trips and adventures of our members, so you are invited to show off your recent, or not-so-recent photos. Either bring them on a thumb drive or other medium to WFVZ for the meeting. For those who need technical advice or wish to share your photos via Zoom, please contact Don Klabunde at username [Photographer](https://www.facebook.com/Photographer) plus [@ConejoValleyAudubon.org](https://www.facebook.com/conejovalleyaudubon.org) for instructions and the link where you can upload your files. As long as you have a microphone on you computer, you will be able to narrate your show on Zoom during the meeting.

REMEMBERING JEAN HULBERG

Our friend and colleague, Jean Hulberg, passed away last March. Past CVAS President, Carol Langford, said of her, "As she greeted every guest at every meeting Jean Hulberg was the friendly face of Conejo Valley Audubon. As quiet, unassuming people Jean and her husband Bill also supported CVAS away from the view of the public as they set up the chairs for each and every monthly CVAS meeting. Bill was from Wisconsin and cherished his Norwegian heritage. Jean was not Norwegian, but she mastered the difficult art of the Norwegian Christmas Rosette cookies because Bill loved them. Those who



participated in the Christmas Bird Count get-togethers were also the fortunate recipients of these special treats. Many of us had the pleasure of birding with Jean and Bill at their special spot, Hill Canyon. We shared their joy and enthusiasm. They left us with I good memories and we often learned something. We miss them."

Jenifer de la Torre, another CVAS Past President, added, "Jean had such a kind and considerate soul. She was a lovely person - always willing to go the extra mile to help out and contribute. She will be missed..."

Jean will indeed be missed.

SEPTEMBER BIRDING TRIPS

Since we're still living with some degree of 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 bring water, wear your mask and observe social distancing.** **RAIN CANCELS**

September 3, Saturday - Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet in Surfer's Knoll parking lot on Spinnaker Dr. at 8 am. We'll look for shorebirds and pelagic visitors. Leader is Dee Lyon - (805) 427-0987

September 11, Sunday - Laguna Tams

Meet on at 8 am on Laguna Rd. between Las Posas and Wood or at 7:40 at Las Posas Park and Ride to carpool. We'll look for migrating warblers. Leader is Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733

September 17, Saturday - Mugu Lagoon & Sycamore Canyon

Meet at the Mugu Lagoon parking area on Hwy 1 at 8 am. We'll look for wetland birds. Leader is Matthew Page - (805) 990-6534

September 24, Sunday - Matilija Dam

off Hwy 33, north of Ojai. Meet at 8 am. Parking is very limited so carpool if you can. This is a great place for migrants. Leader TBA - check with Dee Lyon for info (805) 427-0987



Wednesday, September 14, 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 your 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.

WE NEED VOLUNTEER TRIP LEADERS

If you're interested, please call Dee Lyon at 805-427-0987 and leave a message saying which trip you're willing to lead.

Oct 1, Sat	Malibu Lagoon	
Oct 9, Sun	Canada Larga Road	
Oct 15, Sat	Hill Canyon	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin?
Oct 22, Sat	Bob Killdee Tams	
Oct 29, Sat	Ventura Settling Ponds	
Nov 6, Sun	Sycamore Canyon (lower)	
Nov 11, Fri	Pt. Mugu Naval Base	
Nov 19, Sat	Conejo Valley Botanic Garden	David Person?
Nov 26, Sat	Sierra Vista	
Dec 3, Sat	Hendrick's Ranch	
Dec 10, Sat	Paramount Ranch	
Dec 17, Sun	Christmas Bird Count?	
Dec 26, Mon	Cheseboro Canyon	
Jan 2, Mon	Arroyo Simi	Don Klabunde
Jan 7, Sat	Salton Sea	Pete Robertshaw?
Jan 15, Sun	CSU Channel Islands	
Jan 20, Fri	Pt. Mugu Naval Base	
Jan 28, Sat	Lake Casitas	

Feb 4, Sat	Carrizo Plains	
Feb 12, Sun	Lake Sherwood	
Feb 18, Sat	Foster Park	
Feb 26, Sun	Malibu Creek State Park	
Mar 4, Sat	Arroyo Verde Park	
Mar 11, Sat	Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp	Don Klabunde
Mar 18, Sat	Las Lajas Canyon	Don Klabunde
Mar 25, Sat	Hendrick Ranch	
Apr 1, Sat	Lake Piru	Pete Robertshaw?
Apr 8, Sat	Sisar Canyon	
Apr 15, Sat	Bear Divide	Dee Lyon
Apr 23, Sun	Mission Oaks	
Apr 29, Sat	Wheeler Gorge	Matthew Page?
May 6, Sat	Sierra Vista	
May 14, Sun	Gillette Ranch	
May 20, Sat	Mt. Pinos	
May 27, Sat	Santa Clara River Estuary	
Jun 4, Sun	Annual Picnic	

CONSERVATION WITH AUDUBON

Welcome to a new series of conservation articles that will focus on issues related to Southern California. We'll focus on threatened ecosystems, species in decline, science, networking, advocacy, and actions that you can take to help. Each month will highlight a region or ecosystem, profiling the natural and human history that has contributed to its present state as well as the current issues that put this area at risk. Want to do more? Want to get involved? That's the goal.

THIS MONTH: WILDFIRES IN VENTURA COUNTY



Simi Valley fire 2003 Don Klabunde

Wildfire is a natural part of ecosystems in southern California. Many species of plants and trees depend on fire for creating the conditions necessary for survival, from germination of seeds and return of nutrients to the soil, to removal of waste and dead material. Birds such as woodpeckers and owls utilize dead trees for homes and sources of food. Fire can come naturally, through lightning strikes and even volcanic activity. Fire can also be intentional. The Chumash and others who lived in California before Europeans arrived, used fire to open areas for habitation and to favor plants that attracted game. Chaparral plants such as oak, chemise, ceanothus, and manzanita are very well adapted to fire, growing and spreading quickly after fire creates ideal conditions for their survival.

Fire, however, can also be a great threat to native ecosystems. When fires are not allowed to periodically remove debris, fuel for large, dangerous fires can accumulate. When an ecosystem experiences large, devastating fires over time, native plants are damaged and have a harder time returning. Non-native grasses move in and out-compete natives. Climate change and human expansion into wild areas also alters habitats, creating conditions where fire becomes explosive and deadly. These changes have altered the timing, pattern, intensity, and impact that fires have on ecosystems.

In Ventura County, recent fires have been large and devastating. For example, the Woolsey Fire in 2018 burned 88% of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, making it the largest fire to have occurred in these mountains. In 2017, the Thomas Fire burned western Ventura County and eastern Santa Barbara County, becoming the largest fire in California history for a brief time. It has now dropped to seventh largest as other fires quickly eclipse its magnitude. These fires have killed and injured wildlife, including birds, mountain lions and bobcats, have destroyed homes (The Thomas Fire burned over 500 structures), and have created conditions that result in flooding, mudslides, and extreme destruction of native ecosystems.

So, what can we do about this?

In critical moments, when fire strikes, and if you are not in danger's way, you can accommodate wildlife by putting out water, food such as seeds and nectar, and bird baths. Birds escaping fire face extreme stress and competition when displaced. When fire is not looming, you can plant native plants in your yard as they are more resistant to fire and drought, and they help replenish and maintain native ecosystems that are hurt in large fires. You can also create defensible space from fires and remove non-native plants that burn easily. You can also support efforts by conservationists such as California Audubon and Los Padres Forest Watch (lpfw.org) to ensure that large fires do not happen, while upholding smart, eco-friendly environmental management. Sign up for updates and action points at <https://ca.audubon.org/conservation>.

Other sources:

<https://ca.audubon.org/news/how-do-californias-megafires-impact-birds>

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Science-Institute/Wildfire-Impacts>

https://www.fire.ca.gov/media/8657/live_w_fire.pdf



Black-backed Woodpecker working burnt-out pines

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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

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