



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 54, Number 4

December, 2022

CALENDAR

Dec 3 Sat, 8:00 am

Hedrick Ranch

See page 2

Dec 5, Mon, 5:00 pm

**Pre-meeting dinner at
Wood Ranch Camarillo**

Dec 5, Mon, 7:00 pm

Monthly Program

see instructions



Dec 10, Sat,

Paramount Ranch

see page 2

Dec 14, Wed, 8:00 am

Beginner Bird Walk

check with Richard

Dec 18, Sun, all day

Christmas Bid Count

see page 2

Dec 26, Mon, 8:00 am

Cheeseboro Canyon

see page 2



BACK AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

We are now holding our meetings at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will be required for in-person attendees, but you can also 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>

Unfortunately, Ottavio's Italian Restaurant is no longer open on Mondays, but we have found a terrific replacement. Wood Ranch Camarillo meets all of our requirements (except for the cappuccino ice cream). For reservations, call **Nobuko McClure at (805) 482-0411, no later than 9:00 am the day of the Monthly Program.**

DECEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM SPECTACULAR JAPAN

There is no doubt that Japan is one of the great civilizations of our planet, yet there is another side that one usually doesn't contemplate, and this is the natural world of Japan. If one word had to sum it up, it would be spectacle—a nature spectacle! Picture thousands upon thousands of Hooded and White-naped Cranes, rivaling what one might see at Bosque del Apache or the Platte River. But in Japan there are more than two species of cranes. To the north one can see the rare and beautiful Red-crowned Cranes dancing on the ice—truly spectacular! Also imagine the spectacle of the largest fish eagle in the world, the Steller's Sea Eagle—and in numbers! Seabirds and waterfowl abound including some of the most iconic "rarities" for us Californians, Baikal Teal, Falcated Duck and yes even the Mandarin Duck—but wild! This is but a small taste of what Japan has to offer the birder. The spring migration is also spectacular with not only locally endemic breeders showing up, but also some of the Siberian goodies that people hope for when they go to vagrant hotspots in Alaska. All of this, and we have not yet mentioned the amazing food. Japan is awesome, and whatever your pre-conceptions are about the country, it is going to surprise you and endear itself to you.



Alvaro Jaramillo, who is owner of the birding tour company Alvaro's Adventures, was born in Chile but began birding in Toronto, where he lived as a youth. He was trained in ecology and evolution with a particular interest in bird behavior. Early research forays and backpacking trips introduced him to the riches of the Neotropics, where he has traveled extensively. He is the author of the Birds of Chile, an authoritative yet portable field guide to Chile's birds. He also writes the "Identify Yourself" column in Bird Watcher's Digest magazine, and recently wrote part of the sparrow chapter for the Handbook of Birds of the World, and the new ABA Field Guide Birds of California. He was recently granted the Eisenmann Medal by the Linnaean Society of New York, it is awarded occasionally for excellence in ornithology and encouragement of the amateur. He organizes and leads international birding tours, as well as a full schedule of pelagic trips in central California. Alvaro lives with his family in Half Moon Bay, California.

NOVEMBER BIRDING TRIPS

Since we're still living with some degree of pandemic concerns, CVAS will continue its careful approach to birding trips. **Masks will no longer be required for outdoor events**, but we won't be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own. And finally, **please bring water, wear comfortable shoes and observe social distancing**. **RAIN CANCELS**



Lewis's Woodpecker
CS Klabunde

December 3, Saturday - Hedrick Ranch

Meet at 8:00 am. We'll look for riparian birds in this restored section along the Santa Clara River
Contact Dee Lyon for directions - 805-427-0987

December 10, Saturday - Paramount Ranch

Meet at 8 am at the parking lot off Cornell Rd.
We'll see lots of grassland and oak woodland birds.
Leader is Ava Molnar - birdgirl.lookup@gmail.com

December 18, Sunday - Christmas Bird Count

Contact Dave Pereksta - pereksta@pacbell.net.

December 18, Sunday - Post-Count Tally Party

Meet at 6:30 pm at a place that will be decided by count day.

December 26, Monday - Cheeseboro Canyon

Meet at 8 am at the parking lot off Cheeseboro Rd.
We'll look for chaparral and grassland birds.
Leader is Dee Lyon - 805-427-0987

January 20, Friday - Point Mugu Naval Air Base

Contact Dee Lyon ASAP - 805-427-0987 to get your info submitted to the Navy.



Red-breasted Sapsucker
Don Klabunde

Wednesday, December 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 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.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

By Dave Pereksta

If you are looking for a way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for National Audubon Society's 123rd annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sunday December 18, 2022, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 47th CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 194 species! Last year's highlights included our second consecutive year of finding Tricolored Heron and Plumbeous Vireo; both of which were firsts for the count over the last few years. Other notable birds included all 6 geese species (we rarely get them all), 2 Eurasian Wigeons, a Black Scoter, 29 Canvasback, 4 Least Bitterns, 7 Reddish Egrets, 88 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 2 Ridgway's Rails, a White-winged Dove, a Short-eared Owl, a Common Poorwill, a Red-naped Sapsucker, and 9 Vermilion Flycatchers. Birds recorded within a week of the count, but missed on count day were Bald Eagle and Prairie Falcon. However, we had a number of surprising misses including Green Heron, Chipping Sparrow, Bell's Sparrow, and Grasshopper Sparrow. In addition, we missed a number of uncommon species that are not found every year but were generally around last winter (Lewis's Woodpecker, Mountain Bluebird, Pine Siskin, White-throated Sparrow, and others). However, when all was said and done, we recorded 37,000 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. This year we can now include two species that have not counted towards our total in the past; Nanday Parakeet and Lilac-crowned Parrot.

Please note that the COVID-19 pandemic may again affect CBC participation this year depending on the comfort levels of individuals participating. 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. Areas within our circle include 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, Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the eastern 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.

We are still working on organizing an in-person gathering in the evening to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals, which we have done the last few years via Zoom. Details of how we will gather, virtually or otherwise, will be shared with participants before count day.

NATIVE PLANT TIP

by Jennifer de la Torre



California Fuchsia
Zauchneria californica
Don Klabunde

Fall is a perfect time to start thinking about landscape renovations, or simply adding or replacing plants in your current landscape. Year round color and interest makes our yards so much more inviting, not only to us, but to our avian friends. In order to get the most bang for your buck, nice plants that are visually appealing AND useful for our native birds, why not consider planting California natives that are appropriate for your area?

One such native that affords a fabulous pop of color in the late summer and into the fall is California Fuchsia, *Zauchneria californica* (AKA *Epilobium canum*).



California Fuchsia
CS Klabunde

California Fuchsia is SUCH a great plant for several reasons - like its low water usage and its high value to pollinators. And here's the bonus - the brilliant red-orange blossoms are like CANDY to our hummingbirds. This plant fills in the “summer gap” when most other plants have stopped flowering. It might take a few years to come to its full glory and size (1 ½ feet tall by 2-3 feet wide), but it's well worth the wait.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING ZOOM

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.

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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
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To contact board members, add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after each username above

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (second Monday when the first one's a holiday) at 7:00 pm, at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA. Directions: from the corner of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Lewis Rd. in Camarillo, go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo, and turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left. [Or join via Zoom \(see page 1\)](#)

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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