



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 54, Number 10

June, 2023

CALENDAR

June 3, Sat, 8:00 am
Pre-picnic Birdwalk
see page 4

June 3, Sat, 10:30 am
Annual CVAS Picnic
see page 4

June 10, Sat, 8:00 PM
Owling - Palo Camado Cyn.
see page 5

June 14, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 5

June 17, Sat, 8:00 am
Beginning Birding Class
see page 5

June 24, Sat, 8:00 am
Beginning Birding Class
see page 5

July 1, Sat, 8:00 am
Beginning Birding Class
see page 5



Great Horned Owl
© Don Klabunde

SPECIAL EDITION

BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR REPORT



The Egret Garden
© J. de la Torre

FROM JENNIFER DE LA TORRE, BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR COORDINATOR

I am happy to report that the 2023 CVAS Bird-Friendly Garden Tour was a big success!

Attendance was higher than ever, which was truly wonderful. Everyone seemed to enjoy viewing the gardens and learning about both the importance and beauty of native plants. Hopefully many guests will be inspired to install or increase native habitat in their own gardens this fall!

This tour would not have been possible without the huge efforts of our gracious hosts, their helpers and the "behind the scenes" volunteers, and we are incredibly grateful to those hosts for kindly opening their gardens and sharing their knowledge.



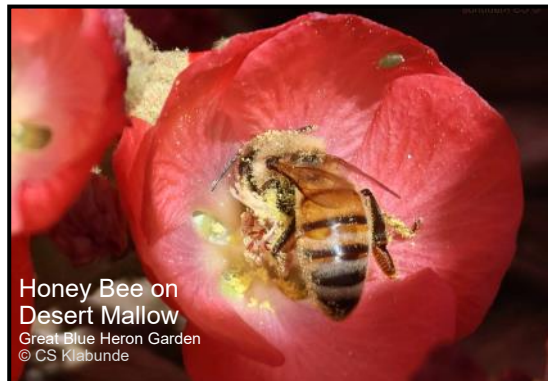
Ceanothus
© CS Klabunde



California Poppy
© CS Klabunde

Thank you Hosts:

- **Jim and Jennifer Hall** & Helper Allison (Rock Wren in Ventura)
- **Bob and Bonnie Sussman** (Thrasher in Camarillo)
- **Jim and Martha Ford** & Helpers Tom & Brandi (Spotted Towhee in Newbury Park)
- **Steve and Priscilla Lee** (Nuttall's Woodpecker in Newbury Park)
- **Erik Oberg and Jo Louie** & Helpers John, and Stoke (Barn Owl in Newbury Park)
- **Cheryl Pelly** (Cooper's Hawk in Thousand Oaks)
- **David and Angie Person** (Great Blue Heron in Thousand Oaks)
- **Trisha McCook** & Helpers Jenna and Marion (Whisker Wonderland in Thousand Oaks)
- **Jody Lyle** & Helpers Stevie and Janice (Black Phoebe in Thousand Oaks)
- **Tom and Marsha Sisolak** & Helpers Jim and Andrew (Hummingbird House in Thousand Oaks)
- **Dee Lyon and Thelma Williams** & Helper Hazel (Heritage Park in Thousand Oaks)
- **Mary Ann Campbell** & Helper Cory (Hermit Thrush in Simi Valley)
- **Frank and Jennifer de la Torre** & Helpers Stephanie & Staley (Egret in Simi Valley)
- **Jim, Judi and Jason Robinson** & Helpers Lil and Joni (Lesser Goldfinch in Agoura Hills)
- **Beth Ann and Madeleine Gee** & Helpers Hunter & Laura (Bewick's Wren in Oak Park)



Honey Bee on
Desert Mallow
Great Blue Heron Garden
© CS Klabunde



Douglas Iris
Thrasher Garden
© Don Klabunde



Scaly-breasted Munia
in Valley Oak
Rock Wren Garden



Special appreciation to:

- **Richard Armerding** for setting up the Bird-Friendly Garden Tour page and reservations on the website, and for e-mail distribution.
- **Rick Burgess** and **Trisha Munro** for help with recruiting hosts, plant ID, and botanical wisdom.
- **Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin** for her incredible publicity efforts and her support and enthusiasm for the program.
- **Gary Evans** for his cheery attitude, willingness to spread the word about the tour, for always being there if needed, and for keeping track of the tour day weather forecast!
- **Chrystal Klabunde** for her amazing talent with graphics, publications, and photography, and for organizing of tour-day photos from each garden for the website gallery.
- **Don Klabunde** for his great advice, for making the membership QR code, and for taking such beautiful photographs.
- **Erik Oberg** for securing several new gardens, and wholeheartedly supporting the Bird-Friendly Garden Tour program.
- **Staley Stewart** for creating the Anchor Plant List, for helping organize information for the anchor plant signs, for her tremendous organizational skills, logic and common sense, AND for being there with sound advice and encouragement at every turn.
- **Bob Sussman** for providing much needed comic relief AND a discount coupon for native plants at Matilija Nursery!
- **Laura Pasetta** of Wild Rootz for her wonderful CVAS program leading up to the tour, and for emphasizing "plan, plant and maintain".
- Finally, to the **CVAS Board of Directors** - thank you all for fully supporting all efforts toward our annual Bird-Friendly Garden Tour!

**With Sincerest Gratitude,
Jennifer**

Native plants feed the caterpillars that birds need to feed to their babies. Oak and Buckwheat are great for this.



LAWNS TO HABITAT GRANT APPLY BY MAY 31ST



CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY'S LAWNS TO HABITAT PROGRAM OFFERS:

\$250 grants—Credit at El Nativio Nursery good for 30-50 plants
Free landscape design assistance, including a home-site visit
Gardening advice to help your new native habitat thrive.



BENEFITS OF A GARDEN OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS:

Water: A native plant garden can use up to 50% less water than a lawn.

Beauty: Select from hundreds of native species in all colors, sizes and textures to suit your space and taste.

Nature: Provide habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

APPLY HERE
BY MAY 31



<https://wp.conejovalleyaudubon.org/conservation/lawns-to-habitat/>

DON'T FORGET THE CVAS ANNUAL PICNIC

June 3, Saturday - Los Robles Trail

Meet at 8:00 am for the morning bird walk, then at 10:30 for the potluck lunch.

Were it not for the pandemic, this would have been the twenty-second year in a row that our CVAS Annual Picnic was held at the Los Robles Trail area adjacent to the original Janss House in Thousand Oaks, and there have been some changes since those early days. We can no longer drive right down to "our" oak tree, the lawn is gone and a few new picnic tables have been added, but "our" tree is still there as shady as ever.

At the south end of Moorpark Rd turn right onto Greenmeadow Ave and proceed approximately one mile to the parking area. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Please bring your own table service, drinks and chairs.

Unless you have a special "signature dish", please bring food items based on your last name as follows:

A to I - bring a Dessert

J to Q - bring a Salad

R to Z - bring a Main Dish



JUNE BIRDING TRIPS

Pandemic restrictions have been lifted, but 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 good birding etiquette.** **RAIN CANCELS**

June 10th, Saturday - Owling Field trip: Palo Camado Canyon. Join us as we do some nighttime birding (aka "owling"). We will listen and look for Great Horned Owls, Barn Owls, and Western Screech Owls! Meet at the Sunrise Meadows Open Space Trailhead on Smoke Tree Ave. in Oak Park at 8 p.m. Bring flashlights and/or headlamps!
Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098.

Wednesday, June 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 walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878.

June 17, 24 and July 1 - Beginner birding classes: The first class meets at 8 am at Conejo Valley Botanic Garden. Interested in learning more about birds, but not sure where or how to start? Join us as we go over the basics of birdwatching, become familiar with field guides, binoculars and other equipment, and learn the local birds in the area! Suitable for all ages! Hilly terrain.



Barn Owl
© CS Klabunde

Disclaimer: Everyone is welcome to attend any Conejo Valley Audubon field trip, but Conejo Valley Audubon Society 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.



California Scrub-Jay
eating Mexican Elderberry
© CS Klabunde

ROADRUNNER

Page 6

Volume 54, Number 10

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

OFFICERS

President	Frank DeMartino	<i>president</i>
Vice Pres	Richard Armerding	<i>vice president</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass 818-383-5503	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>

USERNAMES



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	(Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023)	<i>programs</i>
Conservation	Erik Oberg 202-906-9932	<i>conservation</i>
Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>garden tour</i>
Education	Thelma Williams 805-492-2796	<i>thelma</i>
Field Trips	Sammy Cowell 818-470-7098	<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. 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

() [Check here to receive your newsletter by snail mail, otherwise a digital version will be sent by email.](#)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____