



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**  
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Volume 55, Number 2

October, 2023

## CALENDAR

**Oct 2, Mon, 5:00 pm**  
**Pre-meeting dinner at**  
**Wood Ranch Camarillo**

**Oct 2, Mon, 7:00 pm**  
**Monthly Program**  
WFVZ or Zoom

**Oct 7, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Ventura Settling Ponds**  
see page 2

**Sep 11, Wed, 8:00 am**  
**Beginner Bird Walk**  
see page 2

**Oct 15, Sun, 8:00 am**  
**Oxnard Plain Sod Fields**  
see page 2

**Oct 21, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Oxnard College**  
see page 2

**Oct 28, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Lake Piru**  
see page 2

Bewick's Wren  
© CS Klabunde



## JOIN US AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

This year our meetings will be back at the **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology** (also known as the Bird Museum), 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will no longer be required for our meetings, and if you arrive when the doors open at 6:30, you'll have the rare opportunity to look around the museum for a half hour before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. (Also check out [wfvz.org](http://wfvz.org))

CVAS's meetings will be hybrid, simultaneously live and on Zoom. The link to join on Zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>.

We usually take our guest speaker to dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo before the meeting. If you'd like to join the "party" simply arrive at the restaurant **by 5:00 pm** to be included.

## OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM CALIFORNIA CONDOR UPDATE



#811 Lulutti  
with her downy chick  
© Dave Meyer

California Condors are a critically endangered species that were once widespread throughout the western United States and Baja, Mexico. In the 1980s, there were as few as 22 birds remaining, but with breeding programs and governmental protections, the population has rebounded, growing to 561 as of December 2022.

Debbie Parisi will review the history of the California Condors and what led to their endangered status. She will also talk about the California Condor Recovery Program and how with its partners including the Santa Barbara Zoo and US Fish and Wildlife Service, we are "Saving the California Condors."

Debbie is a board member of the non-profit, Friends of California Condors, Wild & Free. The organization supports the USFWS refuges that are home to these endangered birds. She has been a USFWS volunteer since 2008 working on the refuges as a nest monitor and radio telemetry tracker in support of the California Condor Recovery Program. She has also completed University of California's California Naturalist Program and has a level 3 wildlife Track & Sign Certificate.



#247 and #289  
© David Schindler

## OCTOBER 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 may not be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own. And finally, **please bring water, wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and observe good birding etiquette.** **RAIN CANCELS**



Black-bellied Plover  
© CS Klabunde



Black-throated Gray Warbler  
© Don Klabunde

### Saturday, October 7th: Ventura Settling Ponds

The Ventura Settling ponds are a great habitat to see both migrating warblers and most species of our over-wintering waterfowl. Potential warbler migrants include Nashville, MacGillivray's, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's Warbler, with a good chance for a rare species or two!

Meet outside the gates along Angler Court at 8 a.m.

Trip leader - Tina Tan: (909) 531-9544

### Sunday, October 15th: Oxnard Plain Sod Fields

The Oxnard plains are a great area for migrating shorebirds and open-habitat songbirds, particularly the sod fields. Likely target species include Baird's and Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, and Pacific Golden-Plover. Potential rarities include Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Mountain Plover, Red-throated Pipit, and longspur species!

Meet along Arnold Rd. at 8 a.m.

Trip leader - TBD

### Saturday, October 21st: Oxnard College

The Oxnard College campus is a severely under-birded area of the county, with a potential for many interesting migrants and rarities! Past species of interest have included Swamp Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Pine Warbler, and Prairie Warbler, to name a few! Parking on campus is not allowed without a permit, so park along Bard Road and meet at the parking lot at 8 a.m.

Lunch afterwards at 12 p.m. at Mik's Pizza in Oxnard.

Trip leader - Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

### Saturday, October 28th: Lake Piru

Join us as we look for late fall migrants, early wintering waterfowl, and of course, condors at Lake Piru! Meet at 8:00 am at the store/Condor Point, beyond the entrance. The entrance fee is \$5 per car, (Normally it is \$10, however the fee was reduced for this field trip, so be sure to tell them you are part of the CVAS birding group).

Trip Leader - Peter Robertshaw (909) 771-9720.

### Wednesday, October 11th, 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 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.

## GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS

As fall arrives, the weather begins to cool and the rainy season approaches, we contemplate planting California natives that will attract birds to our yards. But where to start?



Black-headed Grosbeak  
eating Mexican Elderberries  
© CS Klabunde

Here are a few amazing websites which offer great information and tips to help inspire you.

- Theodore Payne Foundation (Sunland): <http://theodorepayne.org/>
- Las Pilitas Nursery (Santa Margarita; ships plants): <https://www.laspilitas.com/>
- Tree of Life Nursery (San Juan Capistrano) <https://californianativeplants.com/plants/>
- CALSCAPE: <https://calscape.org/>

And, why not plan a field trip to one of our local botanical gardens to check out the natives *and* bird at the same time?

- Conejo Valley Botanic Garden: <http://conejogarden.org/>
- Ventura Botanical Gardens <https://venturabotanicalgardens.com/>
- Santa Barbara Botanic Garden and Nursery: <https://www.sbbg.org/>

Before you know it, you'll have the plans drawn and your garden will come to life!

## NATIVE PLANTPALOOZA & ECO FEST

This free educational festival brought to you by Conejo Open Space Foundation and Calleguas Municipal Water District will feature dozens of exhibits and fun activities for kids. Exhibitors will have native plants and other eco-related goodies for sale, as well as plenty of freebies, swag and snacks too! Here's your chance to get your questions answered about water-wise, fire-resistant native-plant gardening. Learn how to fight climate change, and get tips on being a good steward of our public lands, while kids learn about plants and animals and what they can do to help the environment. For more info, check out Conejo Open Space Foundation at [www.cosf.org](http://www.cosf.org) or on Facebook or Instagram.

CVAS will have a booth there, so join us for this FREE, fun, and educational event Saturday, October 7th 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Lakeside Pavilion, Conejo Creek North Park, in Thousand Oaks, behind T.O. Library just west of the 23 freeway at Janss Rd.

## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Hey everyone,

Our logo now appears on the Project Phoenix site (<https://www.project-phoenix-investigating-bird-responses-to-smoke.org>). It's very simple to participate in their project. Register on their website under the Get Involved section. There's a 5 minute questionnaire involved. When you report sightings on eBird you put [#ProjectPhoenix](https://twitter.com/ProjectPhoenix) in the trip comments.

Frank



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# ROADRUNNER

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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.  
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## 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

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Education	Thelma Williams 805-492-2796	<i>thelma</i>
Field Trips	Sammy Cowell 818-470-7098	<i>fieldtrips</i>
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Newsletter	Chrystal Klabunde 805-522-8023	<i>newsletter</i>
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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](mailto:newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org), or 1229 Nonchalant Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

For information on joining the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, please visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

To join **CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** please visit [www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org](http://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.](#)

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