



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 55, Number 4

December, 2023

CALENDAR

Dec 2, Sat, 7:00 am
Saticoy Spreading Ponds
See page 2

Dec 4, Mon, 5:00 pm
Pre-meeting dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo

Dec 4, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program
WFVZ or Zoom

Nov 9, Sat, 8:00 am
Arroyo Simi
see page 2

Dec 13, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Dec 17, Sun, all day
T.O. Christmas Bird Count
see page 3

Dec 23, Sat, 8:00 am
Conejo Creek Park North
see page 2

Dec 30, Sat, all day
Ventura CBC
see page 2



Red-breasted Nuthatch
© CS Klabunde

DECEMBER 4th MONTHLY PROGRAM

7 pm, December 4th 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. (For more information about the museum check out wfz.org)

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.

CVAS's meeting will be simultaneously available on Zoom, but will not be recorded for later viewing. The Zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>.

MOORE LAB'S oBird PROJECT



© R Campbell
Moore Lab of Zoology



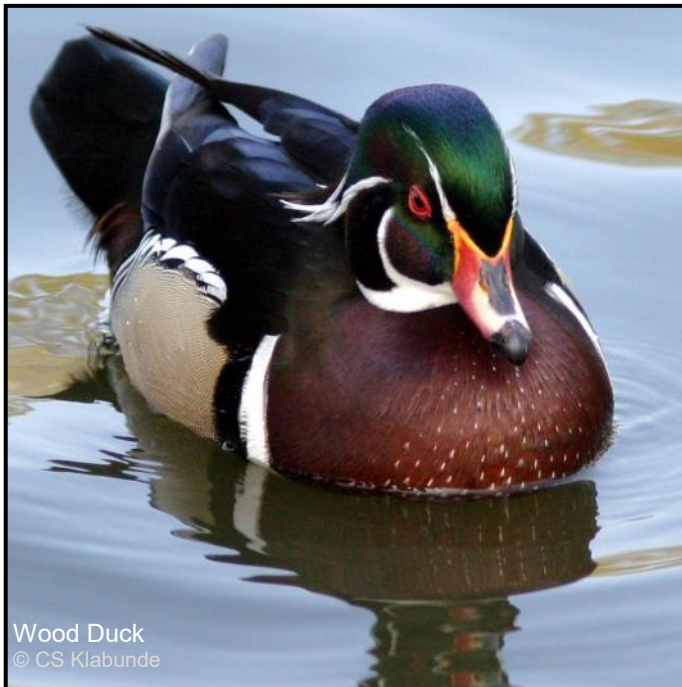
© R Campbell

The oBird project is an effort by the Moore Lab of Zoology to digitize bird specimens and the morphological data they possess. Using a technique called photogrammetry, hundreds of photos of a specimen are combined to create a 3D digital model. These models improve public access to museum specimens and can be used by scientists for research purposes anywhere in the world. Currently there are two main objectives: to model a wide array of genera across all bird life, and to model a selection of bird species in ultraviolet (UV) light to study the occurrence of UV reflectance in birds

Russell Campbell is a recent graduate of Oregon State University and current research technician at the Moore Lab of Zoology in Occidental College. He's passionate about wildlife in all forms and loves to share his interests with burgeoning biologists who want a career in the coolest field in the world!

DECEMBER 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**



Wood Duck
© CS Klabunde

Saturday Dec 2nd - Saticoy Spreading Ponds

Meet at the gate on Hwy 118 at 7 am. We will be looking for waterfowl in the ponds from 7 to 9 am. **NOTE:** Please email fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org for the waiver and rules from United Water Conservation District. All participants **must** have emailed the signed waiver to birding@unitedwater.org.
Trip leader - Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098.

Saturday Dec 9th - Arroyo Simi

Meet at 8:00 am at Easy St. and Madera Rd. We'll look for the abundant waterfowl, waders, gulls and riparian passerines.
Trip leader - Don Klabunde (805) 428-9839.

Sunday, Dec 17th - T.O. Christmas Bird Count

Compiler - Dave Pereksta pereksta@pacbell.net

Saturday, Dec. 23rd - Conejo Creek Park North

For those sticking around for the holidays, join us to casually bird Conejo Creek Park North, behind Thousand Oaks Library. Meet at 8 am by the larger duck pond to look for a variety of waterfowl. Mountain Bluebirds, American Pipits, Chipping Sparrows and rare sapsuckers have been seen in this park!
Trip leader - Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin (805) 405-5632

Saturday, Dec 30th - Ventura Christmas Bird Count

Compiler - Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733

Wednesday, November 8th, 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.

AVOID INVASIVE PLANTS

According to the California Invasive Plant Council, "Invasive ornamentals such as Scotch broom, pampas grass, and eucalyptus increase fire fuel loads and are dangerous near homes." Although some of these plants can be attractive, they reproduce and spread easily displacing native plant species which our local wildlife (including birds) depend on. Invasive plants are detrimental to our native habitat. Pampas grass in particular is difficult to eliminate due to its prolific seed heads and tough, razor sharp leaves. Please consider removing invasives (such as pampas grass) and planting a California native plant alternative. Cal IPC is an excellent resource which can offer beneficial alternatives to invasive species.

Remember, the best time to trim your trees is between now and January 31st. Not trimming trees during nesting season is one of the best way to promote a healthy bird population!



Pampas Grass
© oisc

2023 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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 124th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sunday December 17, 2023, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

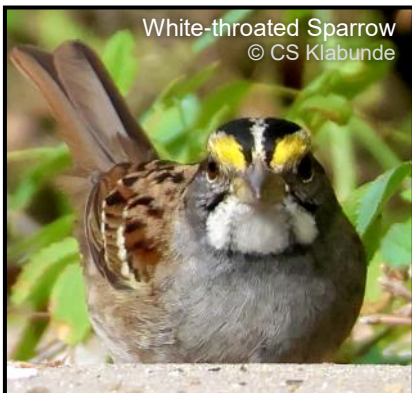


Cinnamon Teals
© Don Klabunde

This is our 48th CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 194 species and over 30,000 individuals! 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. 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, Thousand Oaks 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.

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.

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.



White-throated Sparrow
© CS Klabunde

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.



Cattle Egret
© Don Klabunde

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

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

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Vice Pres	Richard Armerding	<i>vicepresident</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass 818-383-5503	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>

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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>
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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, 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.](#)

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