



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 55, Number 8

April, 2024

CALENDAR

Apr 1, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Apr 6, Sat, 8:00 am
Sisak Canyon
see page 2

Apr 10, Sat, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Apr 13, Sat, 6:00 am
Bear Divide
see page 2

Apr 20, Sat, 8:00 am
Las Lajas Canyon
see page 2

Apr 27, Sat, 8 am
Spook Canyon
see page 2

Apr 28, Sun, 8 am
Big Morongo Preserve
see page 2



Eurasian Griffon
© B Clarfield-Bylin

APRIL 1ST MONTHLY PROGRAM

The April program will be available via Zoom only. The Zoom link is, as always, <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, but you can sign in any time after 6:45. Sorry, there won't be a pre-meeting dinner this month, but we'll be back to that in May.

For information about the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology (also known as the Camarillo Bird Museum) check out wfvz.org.

MIGRATION

Migration is one of the most amazing feats that birds perform. Humanity has been fascinated with the pattern of appearing and disappearing birds for millennia. Understanding migration is a key step to realizing the challenges and threats that birds deal with on a regular basis. We will look at some of the myths that have surrounded migration and highlight the many obstacles birds face and the incredible ways they have evolved to deal with them. Finally, we will discuss current conservation issues that pertain to migration, including Cornell's "Seven Simple Actions to Bring Birds Back".



APRIL BIRDING TRIPS

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**

Saturday, April 6th: Sisar Canyon

Sisar Canyon is a great spot to see migrating warblers, vireos, and flycatchers as they forage throughout the oaks and riparian habitat of the canyon. It's also a decent spot to see Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds! Meet at 8 am at the parking lot off Sisar Rd. Parking is very limited, so carpooling is suggested.

Trip leader: Spencer Seale (805 746 9789).

Saturday, April 13th: Bear Divide

Bear Divide is a narrow pass in the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County that funnels literally thousands of birds through a tiny gap in the mountain ridge. Some dawn flights are so thick with birds that hundreds of migrants may pass by per minute. Meet at Janss Park & Ride opposite T.O. Library, at 7:30 am to carpool, or meet at Bear Divide on Sand Canyon Rd. The flow of migrants peaks at dawn, and is mostly done by 9 am.

Trip leader: Dee Lyon (805 427 0987).

Saturday, April 20th: Las Lajas Canyon

An underbirded area in east Simi Valley, Las Lajas has great potential as a spring migrant trap! Park on Evening Sky Dr. This is a pretty popular mountain biking spot, so it might be a good idea to carpool and get there a bit before 8:00 am!

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818 470 7098)

Saturday, April 27th: Arroyo Santa Rosa - Spook Canyon

This secret little gem of a trail in Santa Rosa Valley runs along the Arroyo Santa Rosa and is a good spot for spring migrants! Bonus: the trail runs past a little small animal farm filled with goats, donkeys, and peacocks! Meet at 8:00 am on East Las Posas Rd. just north of Pradera Rd.

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818 470 7098)

Sunday, April 28th: Big Morongo

Big Morongo Preserve is one of the best places in southern California for migrant flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and other species, but it also hosts some great breeding birds. We can expect to see (or hear) Summer and Western Tanagers, Brown-crested and Vermilion Flycatchers, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, as well as migrants and desert residents. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. In the afternoon we may look for Black-throated Sparrow and Scott's Oriole. Meet at 8:00 am at Covington Park. Take I-10 to Hwy 62, go north 10 miles to Morongo Valley and then turn right on Park Avenue.

Trip Leader: Pete Robertshaw (909-771-9720)



Vermilion
Flycatcher
© CS Klabunde



Costa's Hummingbird
© CS Klabunde

April 10th, Wednesday, 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.

THE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CAR

by Tina Tan



Subject to federal approval, California plans to phase out gas cars (aka internal combustion engine/ICE cars) by incrementally mandating car manufacturers to sell Electric Vehicles (EV) or Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV). By 2026, 35 percent of them. By 2030, 68 percent. By 2035, 100 percent of new vehicles sold would be EV or PHEV.

There are two types of EVs: Battery Electric Vehicles (BEV) and Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles (FCEV). FCEV are more environmentally friendly than BEV, but more car manufacturers make BEV and most charging stations are for BEV. FCEV tend to be more expensive and less popular.

Are BEVs environmentally better than ICE cars? According to MIT Climate Portal, for brand new vehicles, a BEV would produce 50-80 percent more carbon dioxide. This is because of the manufacturing of the batteries and the mining and refining of lithium and cobalt used in the batteries. Also recycling the battery can be a problem. Another issue are the fossil fuels in the electric grid that charges the BEV. As the cars are driven more, BEV eventually ends up being more environmentally friendly than gas/ICE cars, because of the zero tailpipe emissions.

There are also other options which combine BEV and ICE car technology - Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) and the Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles (PHEV). Both have an internal combustion engine and a battery, and both use gas. However, a PHEV is more like a BEV in that its battery can be charged on the electric grid and run for short distances before it switches to gas.

Purchasing a vehicle is a huge expense and there are many factors that go into choosing the right vehicle. For now, I personally prefer the HEV and PHEV. They are still environmentally better than a gas car, but since gas stations are more widespread than charging stations and taking into account that it takes 30 to 40 minutes to charge a car versus a few minutes of pumping gas, the HEV and PHEV seem more practical. Also, BEVs tend to be more pricey, although their prices have been decreasing and there is a possibility of a \$7500 tax credit.

Driving minimally is probably the best for the environment. As birders, setting up a native habitat and bird friendly garden allows you to enjoy the common and rare birds right in your own home. However, some birders like to chase the Snowy Owl in Orange County or the Roseate Spoonbill in Kern or the Swallow-tailed Gull in Santa Barbara County. Thankfully there are a variety of cars out there to fit everyone's needs.

Who knows whether California's plans will go into effect? President Biden has refrained from setting a date to eliminate ICE cars, but EV, HEV, and PHEV are continuing to gain in popularity, particularly with gas prices being so high!

Check out CVAS's pelagic trip June 13 out of Oxnard



Laysan Albatross
© Don Klabunde



Rhinoceros Auklet
© Don Klabunde

ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION

It was a great party!

Thanks to a great team of volunteers, without whom it wouldn't have worked: David Person, Richard Armerding, Jennifer de la Torre, Staley Stewart, Ann Glass, Tina Tan, Sammy Cowell, Thelma Williams, Dee Lyon, Gary Evans, Jean Stoutenborough, Catherine Bourne, Carol Langford and Cory Taylor.

Thanks also goes to all of those who donated their time, talents and interesting items to be auctioned: Dave Pereksta, Dan Cooper, Linda Reynolds, Linda Easter, Brenda Chew, Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, Matilija Nursery, Wild Birds Unlimited Thousand Oaks and Wild Birds Unlimited Ventura, Island Packers, Trader Joe's, many of the above volunteers and all those who arrived bearing donations.



photos by Don Klabunde and Jennifer de la Torre

Just a note from your editor: "These look like fun."



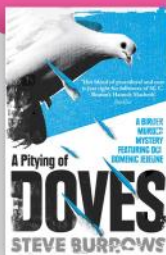
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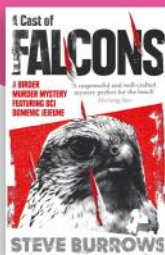
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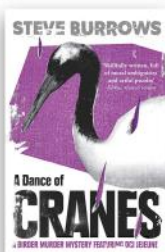
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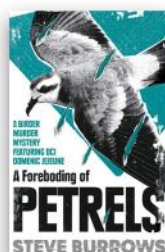
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THE BOOKBAG

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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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