



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**
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Volume 55, Number 5

January, 2024

CALENDAR

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

Jan 6, Sat, all day
Ventura Co. New Year's Count
See page 2

Jan 8, Mon, 5:00 pm
Pre-meeting dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo

Jan 8, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program
WFVZ or Zoom

Jan 10, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Jan 13-14, Sat-Sun
Salton Sea
see page 2

Jan 19, Fri, 8:00 am
Point Mugu Navy Base
see page 2

Jan 29, Mon, 8:00 am
Bard Lake
see page 2

White-crowned Sparrow
© CS Klabunde



JANUARY 8th MONTHLY PROGRAM

7 pm, January 8th 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)

Our January speaker will be joining us via Zoom rather than in person, so there won't be a group dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo before the meeting.

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>.



OWL: A YEAR IN THE LIVES OF NORTH AMERICAN OWLS

Join Paul Bannick for a program featuring video, sound, stories from the field and several dozen new images from his award-winning and best-selling bird book: *Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls*. Paul uses intimate yet dramatic images to follow owls through the course of one year in their distinct habitats. Audiences will witness the four seasons on territory, as each stage in an owl's life is chronicled through rare images: courtship, mating, and nesting in spring; fledging and feeding of young in summer; dispersal and gaining independence in fall; and, finally, winter's migrations and competitions for food. His program shows how owls use the unique resources available to them in each habitat to face those challenges. All 19 species found in Canada and the United States are featured in photos, video and narrative throughout the book, with a special focus on the Northern Pygmy-Owl, Great Gray Owl, Burrowing Owl, and Snowy Owl. Owl is a stunning follow-up to Bannick's bestselling title, *The Owl and the Woodpecker*, giving bird lovers yet another gorgeous photographic tribute, engaging natural history, and a compelling call to preserve the habitats that sustain these most iconic of birds. Nearly ten years of working in some of the most remote parts of the continent, at the darkest hours of the day, tracking owls as they move through their lives has



© Paul Bannick

rewarded Paul with striking images that he uses in his book and presentations. His programs can broadly focus on North America as a whole, or they can be customized for states, geographic regions or habitats such as the Arctic Tundra, Boreal Forests, Dry Forests, Temperate Forests, Mountain Meadows, Oak Habitats, Deserts, Shrub-steppe, Grasslands, Western Mountains, and Eastern Forests.



Long-eared Owl
© Paul Bannick

JANUARY 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**

January 6, Saturday - 2024 Ventura County New Year's Count

Join us for a county-wide count of wintering birds in Ventura County, from the east to the west, the mountains to the seas! Please note this count is different from the CBC's in that:

- 1) it covers the entire county, not just a given CBC circle. This allows us to include some areas in Oak Park, Moorpark, Simi Valley, the mountains, etc. that aren't covered by the CBC circles. And,
- 2) this isn't a nationally organized event, but rather something for our curiosity and desire to understand the species that overwinter in our county. While we don't have any direct plans for how this data can be used, we plan on keeping annual records for future use on local conservation planning, habitat management, etc.!

If interested in helping out, please contact:

Lukas Le Grice (lukaslegrice@gmail.com) or Sammy Cowell (samueldavidcowell@gmail.com)

January 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.

January 13 - 14, Saturday - Sunday - Salton Sea

This oasis in the desert beckons! For this overnight trip, we will start early Saturday afternoon, near the north end of the Salton Sea, and then bird down the west side of the lake to Unit 1. We'll spend the night in Brawley, bird a little around the town early on Sunday, then continue to work our way north on the east side of the lake, stopping at a few hotspots before heading home Sunday afternoon. Please note that the trip will require limited driving on unpaved roads. Target birds: thousands of Snow and Ross's Geese, Sandhill Cranes, lots of ducks and waders, rails, raptors, Burrowing Owls, and desert species like Gambel's Quail, Abert's Towhee, Ground-Doves, Gila and Ladder-Backed Woodpeckers, and Vermilion Flycatcher.

If you're interested, please contact Peter Robertshaw (peterrobertshaw@verizon.net) to arrange for carpooling and lodging recommendations (recommended: Brawley Inn)

January 19, Friday - Point Mugu Naval Base

For those who weren't able to attend the November field trip (or who want to visit the base again), here's another opportunity! Please note, that this trip is open to current CVAS members only! The Navy must background check each attendee, so members will need to email fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org to complete and return the **form before December 29th!** Also, this trip lasts longer than our normal field trips (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.), and you are not allowed to be on the base without an escort. So come early and leave together. If you cannot make it the whole time, please come another time. Target species include Brant, Black Skimmer, shorebird species, Vermilion Flycatcher, and more!

Trip Leaders – Martin Ruane and David Pereksta.

January 29, Monday - Bard Lake

Bard Lake is a 230 acre reservoir operated by Calleguas Water District. After a brief introduction by the water district, we will walk the 3-mile loop around the reservoir looking at different duck and gull species (note: golf carts are available for those who would like them). The lake is typically closed to the public, so this is a special treat for CVAS! Be sure to email Sammy at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org to complete the liability form!

Trip leader - Sammy Cowell



Abert's Towhee
© 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.

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON

INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL

COCKTAIL DINNER AND AUCTION



SATURDAY
MARCH 9, 2024
PALM GARDEN
HOTEL

495 VENTU PARK ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320

NO-HOST COCKTAILS AT 5:30 PM
DINNER AT 6:30 PM

TO DONATE ITEMS FOR
AUCTION CONTACT THE
KLABUNDES AT
(805)-522-8023 OR
DPKLABUNDE@MSN.COM

TICKETS \$45.00
EARLYBIRD SPECIAL \$40.00 BEFORE FEBRUARY 22
(STUDENTS \$30.00)

ALSO BRING BIRDY WHITE
ELEPHANTS FOR THE RAFFLE TABLE

**5 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR EACH FIRST-TIME GUEST**

BUFFET (BUF)

garden salad
beef and peppercorn sauce
mahi mahi
vegetable
roasted potato
bread and butter
coffee, tea and sodas
dessert

CUSTOM ENTRÉE (CUS)

vegan, GF or special order

**WINE AND COCKTAILS
WILL BE AVAILABLE**

Please fill out this form, mail it with your check (payable to CVAS) to CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359, or register at ConejoValleyAudubon.org (we take PayPal)
Enter names as you would like them to appear on your place card and select BUF or CUS.

Contact Email or Phone # _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____



OR REGISTER AT ConejoValleyAudubon.org WITH PAYPAL

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

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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>
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.](#)

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