



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 55, Number 9

May, 2024

CALENDAR

May 4, Sat, 7:00 am
R'cho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa
see page 2

May 6, Mon, 5:00 pm
Pre-meeting Dinner

May 6, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

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

May 11, Sat, 7:00 am
Ventura Settling Ponds
see page 2

May 19, Sun, 6:00 am
Mount Piños
see page 2

May 26, Sun, 7:00 am
Santa Clara River Cienega
see page 2



Northern Cardinal
© CS Klabunde

MAY 6TH MONTHLY PROGRAM

The May program will be live at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm, doors open at 6:30. It will also be available via Zoom. The link is, as always, <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>. There will also be a pre-meeting dinner with our speaker. If you'd like to be there, let Chrystal know. See page 6 for contact info.

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

PELAGIC BIRDING OFF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA: SEARCHING FOR SEABIRDS IN THE OPEN OCEAN

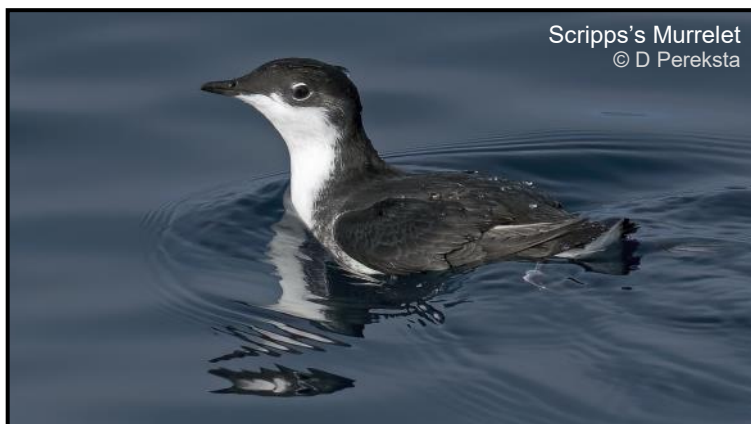
with David Pereksta



Nazca Booby
© D Pereksta

While 70 percent of the earth is covered by oceans, the lives of the birds that inhabit those waters still hold a number of mysteries that science is only just starting to unravel. Many seabirds come ashore only to breed and then spend the majority of their lives ranging around the world's oceans; some of which travel incredible distances during foraging trips and migratory movements. The waters offshore of southern California are one of the last birding frontiers in the state, where an exciting mix of seabirds that are rarely if ever seen from land can be found at sea if you know when, where, and how to look for them. A limited number of trips, unpredictable weather, and challenging viewing conditions make pelagic birding trips an adventurous way to explore this frontier. Birders wishing to see these special birds must find some of the few scheduled trips each year, get a reservation before they sell-out, and hope that the weather and birds cooperate.

David Pereksta took his first pelagic trip in 1994, which was a major birding-life changing event. That trip was the start of his fascination with seabirds and since then he has spent a considerable amount of time at sea looking for them. With hundreds of days on the water in the Pacific and Atlantic, trips to remote breeding areas in Russia and the South Pacific, David has immersed himself in understanding the lives of seabirds. Tonight he will show us what great experiences southern California pelagic birding trips offer, including the species that occur off our coast, how the status and distribution of many species have



Scripps's Murrelet
© D Pereksta

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MAY 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, May 4th - Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa

For those who can't make the beginner bird walks on Wednesdays, this is a great time to check out this hidden gem in Newbury Park! Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the end of the parking lot where you'll see plenty of Cliff Swallows nesting under the eaves of the restroom. We'll also look for Lazuli Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, and any late migrants!

Trip leader: Ryan Burnett: (530) 258-6742

Saturday, May 11th - Ventura Settling Ponds

While most waterfowl species have left the ponds this time of year, there are still tons of birds around! Large numbers of swallows and swifts gather over these waters, so be on the lookout for Purple Martins and potentially even Black Swifts! Other songbirds call this area home for the breeding season like Swainson's Thrush, Yellow-breasted Chat, and plenty of Yellow Warblers! Meet at 7:00 a.m.

Trip leader: Frank De Martino (856) 906-8733

Sunday, May 19th - Mount Pinos

Join us as we go into the mountains to find some alpine birds! We will carpool from the Janss Park & Ride at 6 am. Janss Park & Ride is located on the east side of the 23 freeway at the Janss Road Exit by the soccer fields. Alternately, meet at 8:00am at the Mt. Pinos Nordic Base parking lot at the end of Mount Pinos Road (GPS: Cuddy Valley Rd, Forest Rte 9N24, Frazier Park, CA 93225 – or – coordinates 34.8134, -119.1263). Please note that each vehicle that parks at the Mount Pinos Nordic Base parking lot will need to display a valid **Adventure Pass**.

Bundle warm! Target species include – Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, White-headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, Red Crossbill and more!

Trip leader: Richard Armerding (310) 701-3878.

Sunday, May 26th - Santa Clara River - Cienega

The Sespe Cienega is a restoration project aimed at restoring the wetlands of the Santa Clara River! Normally, this area is restricted to the public, but we will be able to enter with friend of CVAS, Linnea Hall! Target species include Bell's Vireo, White-tailed Kite, Northern Harrier, and others! Meet at 7:00 a.m. on the road to Fillmore Fish Hatchery.

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098



Lazuli Bunting
© Don Klabunde

April 8th, 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.

SMITHSONIAN'S BIRD FRIENDLY® CERTIFICATION - PART 1

WHY BUY BIRD FRIENDLY® PRODUCTS?

by Tina Tan

The purpose of the Bird Friendly® certification is to encourage growers to preserve the tropical rainforest habitat for birds and wildlife by setting certain standards for the habitat. One of the prerequisites for this certification is that the product is already certified organic. But being organic alone does not guarantee that the habitat is preserved. As consumers, we have the power to preserve the natural habitat for birds and wildlife when we buy Smithsonian's Bird Friendly® products.

This month in Part 1, the focus will be on Bird Friendly Coffee. Next time Part 2 will cover Bird Friendly Cocoa.



Yellow Warbler
© Don Klabunde

According to Kirstin Hill, Bird Friendly® Program Manager for the Smithsonian Institute, coffee used to be grown in the shade. However, in the 1970s, when global demand for coffee grew dramatically, coffee growers moved to a monoculture system to get a higher yield of coffee. This also meant removing the tropical forest habitat so this one crop could grow in full sun.

Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center (SMBC) is based in Washington DC and is one of the newest research organizations of the "Smithsonians" founded in 1991. An area of its focus is neotropical migration - the migration of birds between North and South

America. Soon after, in 1996, Smithsonian ornithologists developed a set of criteria to provide effective habitat for birds on coffee farms and the Bird Friendly® certification program was born.

In order for coffee growers to receive Smithsonian Bird Friendly® certification, they must meet several conditions. Being organically certified is a prerequisite, which means no synthetic pesticides. The shade canopy should have 3 different levels, not just low coffee bushes. There must be at least 11 different tree species. The shade canopy should provide at least 40% shade. Bird Friendly® is the gold standard for biodiversity, because it has concrete, specific, and strict standards for maintaining the tropical rainforest habitat. Some coffee brands say "Shade Grown" but there is uncertainty in what that means. It could be a couple banana trees or there could be a shade canopy; we simply don't know. For example, with the Rainforest Alliance certification, shade coverage is optional for the growers. The irony here is that it is called Rainforest Alliance certification, but preserving the rainforest habitat is not required.

According to the Smithsonian website, there are only three places in Ventura County that sell Bird Friendly Coffee: the two Whole Foods branches and the Wild Birds Unlimited store, owned by our own chapter president, which sells the Birds and Beans brand). However, I recently went to the Whole Foods coffee section in Oxnard and saw a lot of other certifications, but no Bird Friendly®. Finally, I talked to one of the Whole Foods employees and showed him the pictures of the two brands of coffee that were Bird Friendly® and were supposed to be sold at Whole Foods. He looked at the picture and said, "Oh yeah, I remember seeing that a couple years ago, but it got discontinued."



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
© Don Klabunde

Fortunately, there are quite a few roasters that sell Bird Friendly Coffee and it is easy to find online at Smithsonian's National Zoo website <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/buy-bird-friendly-coffee-online>.

MAY 6TH PROGRAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

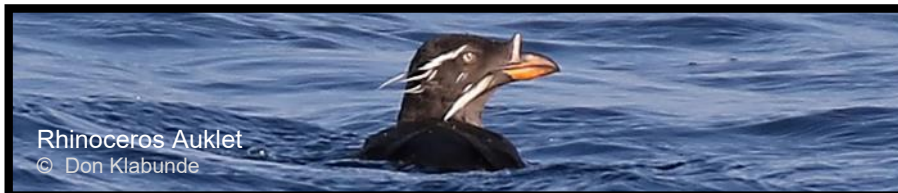
changed recently, where local pelagic trips go and how they operate, and how to best schedule a trip to see the birds (and the marine mammals) you are looking for. He will also share anecdotes from some of the most memorable local trips. So, bring your soda crackers, Dramamine, and binoculars for this program which is richly illustrated with the best of the thousands of photos David has taken at sea.



David Pereksta is an Avian Biologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, where he studies and analyzes the effects of offshore oil and gas, and renewable energy development on birds off the Pacific coast and Hawaii. Prior to his position at BOEM, Dave spent 16 years working on endangered species issues with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Throughout his career with various Federal and State agencies, he has studied several imperiled bird species including Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans, Spotted Owls, and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. An avid birder for over 45 years, Dave has traveled throughout North America, South America, the American tropics, the South Pacific, and East Asia including leading trips to Mexico, Belize, Costa Rica, Peru, and Chile. He also organizes pelagic trips off southern California and leads trips elsewhere in the Pacific and in the Atlantic. He has seen over 2,300 species of birds in his travels; photographing nearly 1,800 species along the way.

Be sure to ask Dave about that poor, exhausted warbler on his lap.

© D Pereksta



Rhinoceros Auklet
© Don Klabunde

**Check out CVAS's
PELAGIC TRIP
June 13 out of Oxnard**

Since CVAS didn't have a garden tour this year, we thought you might be interested in this:

REWILD OJAI NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Saturday, April 27, 2024
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



OJAI VALLEY LAND
CONSERVANCY

Join us for our first annual Rewild Ojai Native Garden Tour, featuring 10 superb native plant gardens across the Ojai Valley. From formal gardens to wildflower meadows, see what your neighbors are planting and get inspired!

Before the start of the tour, you will receive a Rewild Ojai Native Garden Tour booklet, including the tour map, information about the gardens, how to care for native plants, and so much more!

Gardens around the valley will open their gates at 9am. Each location will have a knowledgeable docent to answer your questions about the gardens. You can peruse the gardens at your leisure until 1pm. After you visit the various gardens around the valley, please join us in wrapping up your tour at Birdsong Ranch, open from 11am to 3pm. There will be spirits provided by our sponsor, Ventura Spirits, as well as a food truck, birdwatching, and, of course, an exemplary native plant garden.



© Don Klabunde

Several of our members traveled to various points east to experience the total solar eclipse that took place on April 8th. Don and Chrystal Klabunde were among those who were lucky enough to be in the center of the path of totality at the appointed time, and Don had his astronomical equipment ready to capture images and video the event. Consider this a preview of next fall's Monthly Program about the Klabundes' Trip to See the Moon Photobomb the Sun ... with a few nice birds along the way.

ROADRUNNER

Page 6

Volume 55, Number 9

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

USERNAMES



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Programs	Gena Nicole Ball	<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 _____