



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 53, Number 6

February, 2022

## CALENDAR

**Feb 5, Sat, 9:00 am**

**Carrizo Plain**

see page 2

**Feb 7, Mon, 7:30 pm**

**Monthly Program** via zoom

see easy instructions →

**Feb 12, Sat**

**Malibu Creek State Park**

see page 2

**Feb 9, Wed, 8:00 am**

**Beginner Bird Walk**

check with Richard

**Feb 19, Sat, 8:30 am**

**Lake Casitas**

see page 2

**Feb 26, Sat, 8:30**

**Lake Sherwood**

see page 2



White-tailed Kite  
Don Klabunde

## CVAS MEETINGS IN THE TIME OF COVID

**Due to the ongoing threat of covid variants**, we will for the time being, continue conducting our CVAS Monthly Programs online using Zoom, which is a computer tool that allows you to meet with other people online. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone. We will send out an email prior to each meeting with instructions for joining the meeting. If you have never used Zoom before, you may wish to watch this video for some tips: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

The link to join the Monthly Programs is: <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

When you join the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the presenter on your computer. If your computer has a microphone and camera, you will also be given the choice of whether other meeting participants can hear or see you. However, in most cases we will be muting all meeting participants except for the presenter.

## FEBRUARY MONTHLY PROGRAM NESTING IN THE CITY

Bird populations, particularly in urban areas, are in constant flux, with some species adapting and thriving, and others declining. Daniel S. Cooper Ph.D. will describe two studies he recently conducted as part of his dissertation for his Ph.D. from UCLA (Biology, 2020). First, he examined patterns of urban tolerance in nesting raptors of the upper Malibu Creek watershed along the Ventura-Los Angeles county border between Thousand Oaks and Calabasas. Here he found major changes in the distribution of nesting raptors since earlier surveys were conducted in the 1970s and 80s, with certain species becoming very urban-tolerant, and others not. He also investigated the role of ecological and behavioral traits that may be accounting for distributional shifts in more than 50 species of nesting birds in the Los Angeles area, using two datasets separated by over 20 years. He will discuss trends in species distribution and abundance, explore traits that appear to confer success in urban areas, and offer predictions as to which species – or types of species – will continue to thrive in urban and urbanizing Southern California. He will also discuss species that declined during this time period, and offer suggestions for their conservation.

Daniel S. Cooper is a lifelong resident of Southern California, and is regarded as an expert on the birds of the region. Through research and independent consulting, he has spent more than 20 years conducting surveys and analyzing bird populations from the deserts to the coast, including rare and protected species such as the California Gnatcatcher and the coastal Cactus Wren. Dan has served on many environmental advisory boards and committees, including most recently on the Oak Park – Park and Recreation Planning Committee. Since 2012, he and his family have made their home in Oak Park, where he enjoys the natural beauty and outdoor recreation opportunities, even if his two kids don't.



## FEBRUARY BIRDING TRIPS

Since we're still living with pandemic concerns, CVAS will continue its careful approach to birding trips. Rather than sharing guidebooks, we encourage you to bring your own or download one on your mobile phone (the Sibley guide is available as an app for both Android and iPhone). Regrettably, we won't be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own pair. And finally, **please wear your mask and observe social distancing.**



Horned Lark  
CS Klabunde

### Feb 5, Saturday - Carrizo Plain

Meet at 9 am at the beginning of Soda Lake Rd. where it intersects Hwy166/33. We'll look for Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Golden Eagle, Mountain Bluebird, Horned Lark and Mountain Plover (Dee plans to camp, but this can be done as a long day-trip if you prefer) Leader is Dee Lyon - (805) 427-0987.

### Feb 12, Saturday - Malibu Creek State Park

Meet at the parking lot off Las Virgenes Rd. We'll look for grassland birds, hawks and woodpeckers. Leader to be arranged. Check with Dee.

### Feb 19, Saturday - Lake Casitas

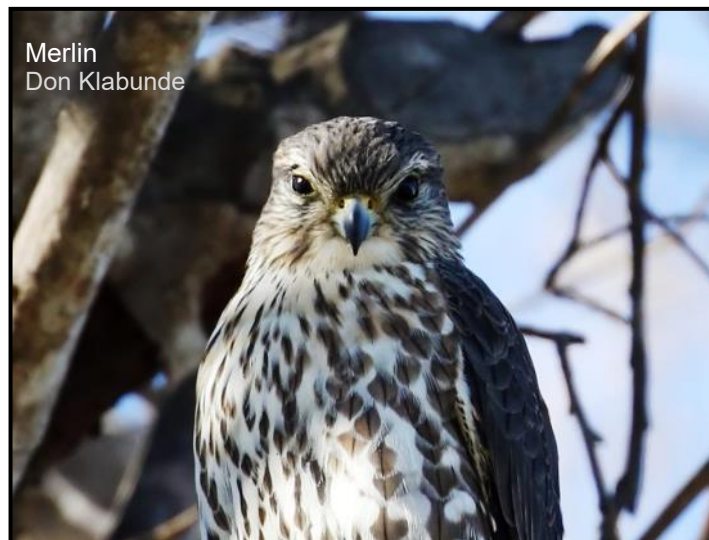
Enter from Hwy150 west of Ojai and meet outside the park gate at 8:30 am. We'll look for water birds, Bald Eagles, grassland birds and maybe interesting vagrants. Leader is Linda Easter - (818) 519-2833.

### Feb 26, Saturday - Lake Sherwood

Meet at 8:30 am. Enter on Stafford Rd. off of Potrero Rd. We will see lots of great water birds and oak woodland denizens. Leader is Mary Hansen. Call her at (805) 390-4586 to get your name onto the list to get in through the gate.

### Wednesday, February 9, 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 masks and water and social distance. Please register in advance by contacting Your walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878.



Merlin  
Don Klabunde









**Disclaimer:** Everyone is welcome to attend any Conejo Valley Audubon field trip, but Conejo Valley Audubon 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.

## CONSERVATION CALIFORNIA IS IN A DROUGHT

by Mary Hansen

That statement should come as no surprise to anyone as we are in the third year of a drought cycle. I have received two notices from the Department of Water and Sanitation regarding my new outdoor watering schedule as the department asks us all to voluntarily reduce our water usage by 15%.

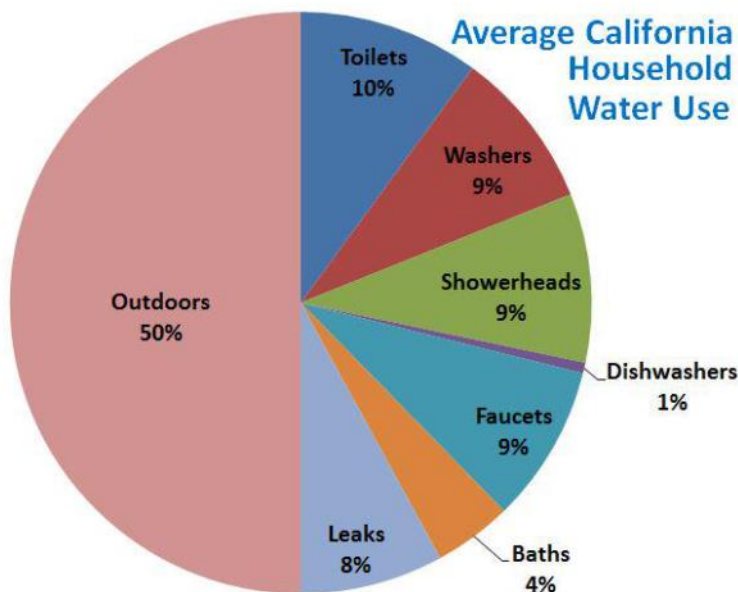
This chart from the Water Research Foundation dated 2016 shows how the average US home uses water indoors:

							
Toilet <b>24%</b> 32.6 gphd	Faucet <b>20%</b> 27.0 gphd	Shower <b>20%</b> 26.9 gphd	Clothes washer <b>16%</b> 22.0 gphd	Leak <b>13%</b> 17.8 gphd	Bath <b>3%</b> 4.4 gphd	Other* <b>3%</b> 4.0 gphd	Dishwasher <b>2%</b> 2.2 gphd

gphd = gallons per household per day

The Ventura County Public Works agency lists several things we can do to mitigate our water usage inside the home. All of them are very familiar and pretty much common sense, but I thought I would list them here.

- Fix leaks, including leaky toilets,
- install water saving shower heads and ultra-low flush toilets,
- take shorter showers, ideally 3-5 minutes,
- monitor your water bill,
- turn off water when brushing teeth or shaving,
- use dishwashers and washing machines with full loads only.



All these things help, but as this 2015 pie chart from Pacific Institute shows, the biggest use of our water happens outside, sometimes as much as 80%. According to a recent New York Times article, after the rains in October many people skipped watering their lawns resulting in a drop of 13.2% over the usage in 2020 for the same period. While most of that water fell in Northern California, this illustrates how we here in SoCal can help reduce water usage now as we are receiving rain here (I am writing this in mid-December and I hope, hope, hope I'm right about more water falling from the sky here before the season is done).

This all segues nicely to Conejo Valley Audubon's Lawns to Habitat program. This years grants have already been awarded, but we will be looking for new grantees starting in May, 2022. Converting a lawn to native plants not only helps reduce water usage, as native plants have developed strategies to survive times of low water, but it is a way of helping the native birds, butterflies, bees and insects. We all have a part to play.