



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 53, Number 7

March, 2022

CALENDAR

Mar 5, Sat, 8:30 am
Arroyo Verde Park
see page 2

Mar 7, Mon, 7:30 pm
Monthly Program via zoom
see easy instructions →

Mar 13, Sun
Rustic Cyn/Happy Camp
see page 2

Mar 9, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

Mar 19, Sat, 8:00 am
Lake Piru
see page 2

Feb 27, Sun, 9:00
Wind Wolves Preserve
see page 2

Island Scrub-Jay
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.

MARCH MONTHLY PROGRAM CREATING AN EVOLVING BACKYARD HABITAT

Over the past 35 years, the Klabunde's have worked to create a comfortably natural environment in their half acre of rocky clay hillside in Simi Valley. Many bird, mammal and reptile species, visit them regularly to shelter, nest, and feed. To enhance the productivity of this backyard habitat, they've gravitated toward more and more native plants from Douglas Irises to a magnificent Valley Oak. On March 7th, they'll talk about what has grown successfully and what hasn't, and they'll share pictures of the birds that inhabit their yard now, including the ones that have come to nest there.

Don and Chrystal Klabunde are retired physicist and animator respectively. They are long-time active members of CVAS, both serving on the board.

House Finch nest in Valley Oak
CS Klabunde



MARCH 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.**

March 5, Saturday - Arroyo Verde Park - off of Foothill Road and Day Road in Ventura.

Meet at 8:30 am at the back parking lot by the baseball fields. Bring water. We will look for woodpeckers, early migrants and woodland birds.

Leader is Linda Easter (818) 519-2833 .

March 13, Sunday - Rustic Canyon/Happy Camp - west on Campus Park Drive in Moorpark then to the golf course.

Meet at 8:00 am at the parking area under the Eucalyptus trees east of the golf course parking lot. Bring water! We will look for migrants, sparrows, hawks and field birds.

Leader is Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023



Bald Eagle
Don Klabunde

March 19, Saturday - Lake Piru - from the 126, take Piru Canyon Road to the entrance to Lake Piru. At the entrance, tell the attendant that you are with the Conejo Valley Audubon Society group, and you will receive a discounted admission rate of \$5 per vehicle. After entering the park, take the first road on the right that leads down to the docks and then head up the hill on the left towards the store at Condor Point to meet the leader at 8:00 am. Bring water, snacks, binoculars, and a scope if you have one. There are restrooms in the park. The last time this trip was offered we saw 70+ species, including California Condors and Bald Eagles, as well as orioles and other spring arrivals.

Leader is Pete Robertshaw (909) 771-9720.

March 27, Sunday - Wind Wolves Preserve - Interstate 5 to the 166, west for 9.9 miles and left at the Wind Wolves sign.

Meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot. It's a 2 hour drive to get there in the south end of the San Joaquin Valley. We will walk in this beautiful preserve looking for elk, woodland birds and spring migrants.

Leader is Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987.

Wednesday, March 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.



Greater Roadrunner
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

CVAS's LAWNS to HABITAT PROJECT

by Mary Hansen

Back in 2013 the Lawns to Habitat program was launched by Conejo Valley Audubon Society. The brainchild of Dee Lyon, the goal was, and still is, to encourage people to take out their green grass and non-native plants, replacing them with local native plants. Why should one even consider this undertaking? For some, it is to provide an oasis for bees, butterflies and birds. Perhaps you are passionate about conservation and want a sanctuary that requires much less water and no pesticides. Maybe the thought of not having to mow the lawn is a motivator. Whatever the reason, going native requires work and time, but the payback is huge.

Every year since 2013, as many as twenty-five people and their yards have been chosen to receive a grant of up to \$200 to purchase plants from a native plant nursery. All monies given are used to buy the plants. People are chosen based on several criteria including the size of the area to be converted, the readiness of the area to be planted and whether or not there are any outdoor cats. If a portion of existing lawn is to be removed this has to be part of the planning process and requires a time commitment. According to Lowes website on lawn removal: "Some methods have more impact on the environment than others, and some may be more acceptable to your neighbors. Finding the right balance of all these factors and knowing the pros and cons of each removal method will help you choose the procedure that works best for you. You may even decide to use different methods on different parts of your lawn." Removing a lawn and preparing the area for planting native plants is generally not something that can be done in a weekend. Usually this means removing the grass over the summer and preparing the soil so planting can be done when the winter rains start.

Once the area to be planted has been designated and prepared, plants to fill the space can be chosen. This can be a daunting prospect for any gardener, but there are many resources to help in the process. We schedule a face to face meeting with the grantees to discuss the area to be converted, their personal vision for the garden as well as suggestions for plants that can be used. Websites, articles and resource books can also be found at conejovalleyaudubon.org.

In 2019 a cooperative study was published in the journal "Science" that showed that over the past fifty years three billion birds have been lost. As noted in the study it's the common birds that many people see everyday that have suffered some of the greatest losses. These include Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and even the Red-winged Blackbird. According to an action plan from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, there are several ways in which we all can help. One of them is reduce lawn by planting native species. Each lawn that is planted in native plants represents a win for Nature.

SAVE THE DATE! Our **Bird Friendly-Garden Tour** will be held on **Sunday, April 24th, 2022.**



See what folks have done with California natives in their gardens. See next month's Roadrunner and the CVAS website for updates on this year's tour.