



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 53, Number 9

May, 2022

CALENDAR

Apr 24, Sun,
9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Bird-friendly Garden Tour

May 2, Mon, 7:30 pm
Monthly Program via zoom
see easy instructions →

May 7, Sat, 8:00 am
Cal Lutheran University
see page 2

May 11, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

May 15, Sun, 8:00 am
Las Lajas
see page 2

May 28, Sat, 8:00 am
Mission Oaks Park
see page 2

Jun 4, Sat, 8:00 am
Pre-picnic bird walk
see page 2

Jun 4, Sat, 11:00 am
Annual CVAS Picnic
see page 2



Sora
CS 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.

MAY MONTHLY PROGRAM BIRDS OF THE WETLANDS

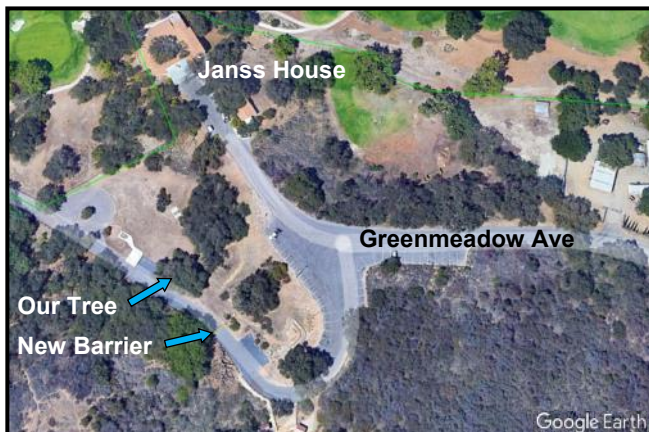


Snowy Egrets
Sandor Havasi

Sandor "Alex" Havasi and his wife, Marilyn Fordney, will take us to visit a variety of wetland locations in our area with stories about their experiences while taking photos of the birds they found in each place. They'll also report how these areas have been affected by encroachment and the effect of weed killers. Each photo will have the names of the birds, the time of year and the location.

Alex and Marilyn created the Havasi Wilderness Foundation in 2004, and they have previously entertained us with their birding adventures in Africa, Costa Rica, Madagascar, and Around the World. Their foundation's media specialist, Isaac Yelchin, will be joining them to lend his expertise. During the pandemic, they spent their time doing photo shoots and have published an educational book entitled *My Adventure in the Wetlands*.

CVAS ANNUAL PICNIC



June 4, Saturday - Los Robles Trail

Meet at 8:00 am for the morning bird walk, then at 10:30 for the potluck lunch.

Were it not for the pandemic, this would have been the twenty-first year in a row that our CVAS Annual Picnic was held at the Los Robles Trail area adjacent to the original Janss House in Thousand Oaks, and there have been some changes since we were last there. We can no longer drive right down to "our" oak tree, the lawn is gone and a few new picnic tables have been added, but "our" tree is still there as shady as ever.

At the south end of Moorpark Rd turn right onto Greenmeadow Ave and proceed approximately one mile to the parking area. Carpooling is encouraged as parking is limited. Please bring your own table service, drinks and chairs.

Unless you have a special "signature dish", please bring food items according to your last name as follows:

A to I bring a Dessert
J to Q bring a Salad
R to Z bring a Main Dish.



MAY 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. Wear a hat, comfortable shoes and bring water. And finally, please wear your mask and observe social distancing.

May 7, Saturday - California Lutheran University

Meet at north end of Mountclef Blvd at 8 am.
We'll look for Cactus Wrens and California Gnatcatchers.
Leader is Dennis Allen dkallen47@gmail.com

May 15, Sunday - Las Llajas Canyon

North on Yosemite Ave, right on Evening Star Dr, Simi Valley
Meet at the trailhead at 8 am. Hilly terrain, bring water.
We'll look for Lazuli Buntings, grosbeaks and flycatchers.
Leader is Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023

May 28, Saturday - Mission Oaks Park

Mission Oaks Blvd and Oak Canyon Rd, Camarillo.
Meet in the parking lot at 8 am.
We'll look for spring Migrants.
Leader is Thelma Williams (805) 551-8663



California Gnatcatcher
Don Klabunde

Wednesday, May 11, 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.

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

SUMMER IS NOT THE BIRDING DOLDRUMS

by Mary Hansen



In a recent New York Times article, the author, Margaret Roach, talks about being in her garden this spring and noting the incessant bird activity around her. It encourages her to, "... tune in—and to bear witness, in an official, purposeful way." That purposeful way is through the use of eBird and its "Codes for Bird Breeding Behaviors." Toggling into a particular species in eBird brings up a box titled "BREEDING CODE"; clicking into that box shows 22 bird behaviors associated with birds that may build a nest and raise young. There is a 23rd code, but that one isn't directly associated with breeding behaviors.

The article brought to mind a well-known birder from Santa Barbara County, Mark Holmgren. Mark and Adrian O'Loughlen, as well as a host of volunteers, have officially maintained a Breeding Bird Study (BBS) for Santa Barbara County since 2016. Myself being minimally aware of the particulars of this program, I approached Mark for more details. To follow is an edited version of the information that Mark provided in written form to me:

Briefly, what is the history of the BBS?

Three things came together to help get the project off the ground. The Birds of Santa Barbara County (BOSB) by Paul Lehman dealt primarily with the status and distribution of birds, but only generally with breeding birds. Second, during the course of research in the 1990's on Vandenberg AFB, we had gathered many breeding bird records that we wished to expand upon. Coincidentally, a "handy and free software" (Google Fusion Table, no longer in the public domain) was available as a way to organize and map the data. This was the third piece we needed to move forward. Initially, we approached eBird to see if its breeding bird efforts in other states might work here, but with no budget we were unable to meet the contract requirements of eBird.

What were your goals?

"We hoped to broaden local birders' perception beyond the idea that the spring and summer months are a time of relative inactivity." This limited view resulted in "people setting aside birding during those months when birds were actually most active." A decision was made to focus on several questions. Why do some habitats support breeding birds better than others? What are the resources they use to breed? Would the data reveal a pattern in the choices birds make about when and where they choose to breed? There was also a concern about the adequacy of regulatory limits designed to protect breeding birds as put forth by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other regulatory agencies which focus only on nest avoidance. This narrow view of what it takes to breed successfully fails to address the problem that disruption to any aspect of breeding, from "Summer is Not the Birding Doldrums" pair bonding to final independence of young, can be as damaging as actions that disturb the nests.

What benefits have come from Santa Barbara's 7-year effort?

There is a greater awareness on the part of the general public to respect breeding birds and their needs. Santa Barbara Audubon has placed ads in local news outlets reminding people to **"Please plan your maintenance schedule so that work is conducted in months ending in 'ber' so that the breeding season (February through August) is as maintenance-free as possible."**

Is there anything else you would like to add?

We now know the timeline of breeding for each species. We know in which trees, shrubs or artificial structures bird species choose to nest. We know which species of trees are most useful for breeding birds. **We know the importance of native vs. non-native trees.**

If Conejo Valley Audubon chooses to undertake a Breeding Bird Survey, it must consider if there are enough birders in the county willing to commit to the effort from December to August...for several years. It's a commitment that goes beyond counting nests and observing behaviors. It includes availability of knowledgeable leaders, members who will chase support dollars, how it will store and display records, and who will respond to questions from data gatherers, users, the general public and the press?

I want to thank Mark for taking the time to answer my questions. He passed on much more information to me, but space limited what I could include. To access more about this valuable program visit:

<https://santabarbaraudubon.org/santa-barbara-county-breeding-bird-study>