



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**
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Volume 54, Number 2

October, 2022

CALENDAR

Oct 1, Sat, 9am to 2pm
Native Plantpooza & Eco Fest
See page 2

Oct 3, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program
see instructions →

Oct 9, Sun, 8:00 am
Cañada Larga Road
see page 2

Oct 12, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
check with Richard

Oct 15, Sat, 8:00 am
Hill Canyon
see page 2

Oct 22, Sat, 8:00 am
Bob Killdee Tams
see page 2

Oct 29, Sat, 8:00 am
Ventura Settling Ponds
see page 2

Verdin
CS Klabunde



BACK TO THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

We are now meeting together again at Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will be required, and the in-person group will be limited to a maximum of thirty attendees to allow for social distancing, so please RSVP to [programs](mailto:programs@conejovalleyaudubon.org) plus @conejovalleyaudubon.org to reserve a seat ... or else Zoom in as before.

These new hybrid meetings will be simultaneously available live and on Zoom, so no one need be left out. The link to join us on Zoom is as before: <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

For those few who haven't yet used Zoom, it is a computer tool that allows you to meet with other people online. Zoom can be used on a computer, tablet or smartphone. You may wish to watch this video for more information: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E> When you join the meeting, you will be able to hear and see the presenter on your device, and if your computer has a microphone and camera, you will also be given the choice of whether you want to be heard or seen by other meeting participants. Though, in most cases we'll be muting everyone except for the presenter until the question and answer period.

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM EVOLUTION OF VISUAL SYSTEM AND COLOR DIVERSITY IN BIRDS



Birds can see an astonishing diversity of colors that span not only the human visible spectrum but into the ultraviolet as well. They can also display these colors in their plumage. This array of hues is produced by various mechanisms and is perceived by birds differently depending on the sensitivity of each bird's visual system. Despite our wealth of knowledge on bird coloration and vision, few large-scale comparative studies have linked the evolution of the avian visual system and the colors birds produce. Using genomic data, 3D models of museum specimens, and the genetic relationships of all bird species, Whitney examines how the visual system evolves across the bird tree of life. Understanding the link between avian color perception and the plumage hues birds produce, we can gain a better understanding of how birds evolved such an incredible rainbow of colors.



Whitney Tsai Nakashima is a PhD Candidate in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Research Associate at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology at Occidental College. Her work focuses on using historical museum collections and modern genomic and analytical techniques to better understand the evolutionary processes that generate and maintain avian diversity. In addition to research, she is involved in museum and STEM-based outreach programs to support young women and underrepresented youth in STEM fields.

SEPTEMBER BIRDING TRIPS

Since we're still living with some degree of 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 bring water, wear your mask and observe social distancing.** **RAIN CANCELS**

October 1, Saturday - Native Plantpalooza & Eco Fest

9 am to 2 pm - Conejo Creek North Park, Lakeside Pavilion behind T.O. Library. We can also bird the park and ponds. CVAS will have a booth. Come visit us.

October 9, Sunday - Cañada Larga Road

Meet at 8 am east of the offramp from hwy 33
We'll look for raptors, sapsuckers and grassland birds.
Leader TBA - check with Dee Lyon - (805) 427-0987



Golden Eagle
Don Klabunde



Great Egret
Don Klabunde

October 15, Saturday - Hill Canyon

Meet at 8 am at the trailhead off Pleasant Valley Rd.
We'll look for oak woodland and riparian birds.
Leader is Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin - (805)405-5632

October 22, Saturday - Bob Killdee Tams

Meet at 8 am on Eston St.
We'll look for migrating warblers.
Leader TBA - check with Dee Lyon - (805) 427-0987

October 29, Saturday - Ventura Settling Ponds

Meet at 8 am on Angler Ct. off Spinnaker Dr.
We'll look for waterfowl, pond denizens and migrants.
Leader TBA - check with Dee Lyon - (805) 427-0987

Wednesday, October 12, 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.

The Conejo Open Space Foundation
presents:

**Saturday
Oct. 1st**

9:00 am to 2 pm

Register in advance
to get a free plant
cosf.org/ppza1

**Native
PLANTPALOOZA
& Eco Fest**

1379 E. Janss Rd
Thousand Oaks

Conejo Creek North Park
Lakeside Pavilion

WARBLER BINGO

Fall migration in Ventura County means hundreds of warblers chipping their way through our county. So, each fall we have our simple, yet challenging, game for birders to play while they are out craning their necks for those elusive little birds. The game is Warbler Bingo! So visit <https://wp.conejovalleyaudubon.org/activities/warbler-bingo/> to receive your game card.



American Redstart
CS Klabunde

Birding relies heavily on the honor system and so do we! Please record only birds that you are able to positively ID. Only warblers seen in Ventura County from September 1st to November 30th count for our game. If you are lucky enough to get five warblers in a row (horizontal, vertical, or diagonal) then email bingo@conejovalleyaudubon.org and let us know that you have a Warbler Bingo!

The first person to get a Warbler Bingo will receive a certificate of accomplishment for their outstanding warbler watching, a fabulous prize (to be determined by the Board of CVAS), and of course bragging rights.



Yellow Warbler
CS Klabunde

FIELDTRIP REPORT

SANTA CLARA RIVER ESTUARY AND VENTURA HARBOR

September 3rd, 2022 - CVAS's first fieldtrip of our 22/23 season turned out to be a lovely day with a big flock of White Pelicans, a handful of Western and Least Sandpipers, Willets, Godwits, Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls and Western Gulls, Lesser Scaup, Pied-billed and Western Grebes, Double-crested and Brandt's Cormorants, Barn Swallows, Snowy and Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Black Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbirds, and nice looks at a Marsh Wren.



Wandering Tattler
CS Klabunde

The Harbor had Black Turnstones and Surf-birds. Then as we were about to leave Thelma found a gorgeous Wandering Tattler on a nearby rock for folks to get some nice pictures.



Marsh Wren
CS Klabunde

ENJOY THE FUN AND COMPANIONSHIP OF OUR ORGANIZATION!

Volunteers are needed for upcoming events. We've got opportunities for folks of all birding skill levels. Starting with this October, there's the **Plantpalooza** (see page 2), maybe **BirdFest**, and certainly **Earth Day** celebrations next spring. **Our Lawns to Habitat** program needs help with everything from clerical to planting, coordinating with our **Bird-Friendly Garden Tour** in the spring. In March we have our **Annual Dinner/Auction** fundraiser which requires lots of volunteer help, starting soon. There are also chances to do outreach for school kids, and if you're a keen birder, we always need leaders for our weekly bird walks.

Of course you are absolutely welcome to join our **Board of Directors**. Board meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month, so contact any of our officers or committee chairs (see page 4) for exact info and the Zoom link. We always appreciate fresh ideas.