



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**
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Volume 54, Number 9

May, 2023

CALENDAR

Apr 16, Sun, 9 am - 3 pm
Bird-Friendly Garden Tour

May 1, Mon, 5:00 pm
Pre-meeting dinner at
Wood Ranch Camarillo

May 1, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program
WFVZ or Zoom

May 6, Sat, 6:30 pm
Two Rivers Park
see page 3

May 10, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 3

May 13, Sat, 8:00 am
VRE and Emma Woods
see page 3

May 20, Sat, 8:00 am
Mount Pinos
see page 3

May 27, Sat, 8:00 am
Santa Clara River Estuary
see page 3

June 3, Saturday
Annual CVAS Picnic
see page 5



Anna's Hummingbird
© Don Klabunde

BACK AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

We are currently holding our meetings back at **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology**, 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will still be required in this facility, but at least you'll be able to talk to your friends face to face.

These meetings will be hybrid, simultaneously available live and on Zoom. The link to join on Zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>

Our illustrious May speaker will be in-the-flesh at WFVZ. Plus, he'll likely join us for the pre-meeting dinner at WoodRanch Camarillo, so you can chat with him about anything you want. For dinner reservations, leave a voice message for **Chrystal at (805) 522-8023**, no later than 9:00 am on Monday, May 1st.

MAY MONTHLY PROGRAM

BIRDING THE SPINE OF SOUTH AMERICA:

TRAVELS THROUGHOUT THE ECOSYSTEMS OF THE ANDES MOUNTAINS

By David Pereksta

The Andes Mountains form the backbone of South America; extending along the entire length of the western side of the continent through seven countries from Venezuela to Chile. The longest mountain range in the world, it is 5,530 miles long and 124 to 435 miles wide with an average height of 13,123 feet! The latitudinal and altitudinal changes lead to an incredible diversity of ecosystems, which is reflected in the mind-blowing biodiversity of the region including staggering numbers of birds. From the tropical Andes of the north, dry Andes in the central part of the range, and wet Andes in the south, thousands of bird species occur there, including some of the world's most iconic birds. David Pereksta has spent several months



Andean Cock-of-the-Rock
© David Pereksta

birding in the Andes from Colombia to Chile where he has encountered over 1,000 bird species. David will take us on a photo journey to the Andes that highlights the diversity of habitats including rain forests, volcanos, deserts, salt plains, cloud forests, and glaciers. He will



Andean Condor
© David Pereksta
© David Pereksta

share some of the unique birds that are found in these habitats including a variety of endemic species and some of the most wanted birds in the world. From birds you have never heard of, to ridiculous numbers of hummingbirds and tanagers, this presentation will illustrate why the Andes is one of the world's premier birding destinations.

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 worked 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 has seen over 2,200 species of birds in his travels; photographing 1,700 species along the way.

2022 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT REPORT

The 47th Thousand Oaks Christmas Count was held on December 18, 2022. Seventy-eight birders covered as much bird habitat as they could find in the count circle, which includes the Oxnard Plain, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, the Santa Monica Mountains, and the coast from Leo Carillo to Point Mugu. When the day was finished, the teams had collectively found **194 species** and nearly 31,000 individual birds. The addition of "count week" birds pushed the species total to 200! Rare species for the count included a first count record of **Tennessee Warbler** after an exceptional fall along the coast of southern California, a male **Summer Tanager**, a **Plumbeous Vireo**, and a **Winter/Pacific Wren** that may have been a **Winter Wren**. We just missed a first count record of **Neotropic Cormorant** at Lake Sherwood, which was seen during count week before and after count day. Uncommon species found included **Red-necked Grebe**, **American Bittern**, **Least Bittern**, **Golden Eagle**, **Ferruginous Hawk**, **Ridgway's Rail**, **Lewis's Woodpecker**, **Vermilion Flycatcher**, **Lapland Longspur**, **Nashville Warbler**, **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, **Grasshopper Sparrow**, **Bell's Sparrow**, and **Western Tanager**. In addition, **6 Reddish Egrets** and **85 Yellow-crowned Night-Herons** were found at Mugu Lagoon! Species found in unusually high numbers for the circle included **Greater White-fronted Goose**, **American Robin**, and **White-throated Sparrow**. Count week birds not seen on count day included **Eurasian Wigeon**, **Neotropic Cormorant**, **Pelagic Cormorant**, **Bald Eagle**, **Yellow-headed Blackbird**, and **Hooded Oriole**. Species we missed that are tough to find in many years included **Ross's Goose**, **Wood Duck**, **White-winged Scoter**, **Costa's Hummingbird**, **Red Knot**, **Short-billed Gull**, **Iceland Gull**, **Black Skimmer**, **Pine Siskin**, **Tricolored Blackbird**, and **Wilson's Warbler**.



Lewis's Woodpecker
© CS Klabunde

Thanks to everyone who participated and to Bill and Carol Langford for hosting the compilation in the evening.

MAY BIRDING TRIPS

Pandemic restrictions have been lifted, but CVAS will continue its careful approach to birding trips. Masks will no longer be required for outdoor events, but we won't be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own. And finally, **please bring water, wear comfortable shoes and observe good birding etiquette.** **RAIN CANCELS**

May 6th, Saturday - Two Rivers Park

Meet at **6:30 pm** at Two Rivers Park off River St. in Fillmore for some **evening birding**. We will be looking for Lesser Nighthawks at dusk! Afterwards, meet at **Hozy's Grill** in Santa Paula around 8 pm for some food and drinks! Leader is Tina Tan (909) 531-9544.

May 13th, Saturday - Ventura River Estuary and Emma Woods State Beach

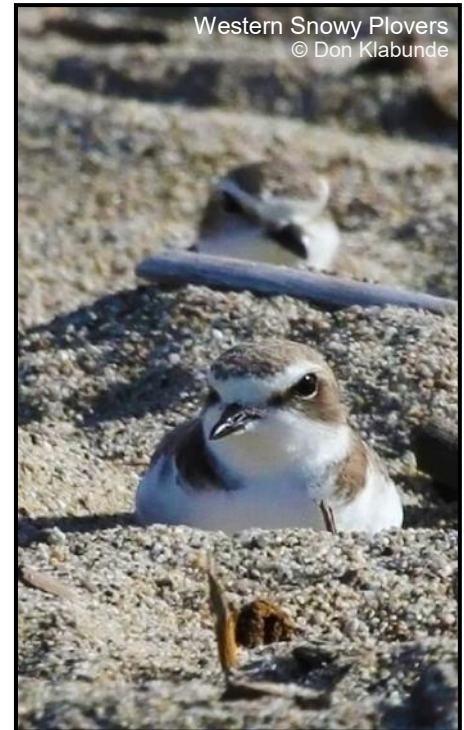
Meet at 8 am along Shoreline Dr. at Surfer's Point Park. We will walk west along the bike path towards the estuary. (Bring shoes or boots that you don't mind getting wet in case we need to cross the estuary!) Then, we'll explore the shoreline and forest of Emma Woods State Beach. Leader is Lukas Le Gricce (805) 707-3415.

May 20th, Saturday - Mt. Pinos

Meet at 7:00 am to carpool from Janss Park & Ride, by the soccer fields just east of the Janss Road exit from the 23 freeway. Hopefully we'll see some mountain birds (Mountain Chickadees, Clark's Nutcrackers, White-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper). Weather is unpredictable so bring food, water and clothing layers. Kern County updated their road status page on April 12th to show the road up Mt. Pinos is now open. Call or text leader, Richard Armerding, at (310) 701-3878 for info.

May 27th, Saturday - Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at 8:00 am at Surfer's Knoll parking lot. We will walk along the beach looking at shorebirds, gulls, and specifically California Least Terns and Western Snowy Plovers. Leader is Marc Better (510) 919-5283.



Western Snowy Plovers
© Don Klabunde



White-headed
Woodpecker
© CS Klabunde

Wednesday, May 10, 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.



California Poppies
© CS Klabunde

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.

LAWNS TO HABITAT GRANT

APPLICATION PERIOD FOR NEXT FALL BEGINS

THE FIRST OF MAY



CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY'S LAWNS TO HABITAT PROGRAM OFFERS:

- \$250 grants—Credit at El Natio Nursery good for 30-50 plants
- Free landscape design assistance, including a home-site visit
- Gardening advice to help your new native habitat thrive.



BENEFITS OF A GARDEN OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS:

- Water:** A native plant garden can use up to 50% less water than a lawn.
- Beauty:** Select from hundreds of native species in all colors, sizes and textures to suit your space and taste.
- Nature:** Provide habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife.

APPLY HERE BY MAY 31



<https://wp.conejovalleyaudubon.org/conservation/lawns-to-habitat/>



California Scrub-Jay
Mexican Elderberry
© CS Klabunde



Allen's Hummingbird
Bee's Bliss Sage
© CS Klabunde

WANT TO KEEP UP WITH OUR MONTHLY PROGRAMS, BIRD WALKS AND EVENTS?

Visit www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org, or Search Conejo Valley Audubon on Facebook, or at Instagram.com or on the Instagram App.

DON'T FORGET THE CVAS ANNUAL PICNIC



June 3, 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-second 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 those early days. 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 based on your last name as follows:

A to I - bring a Dessert

J to Q - bring a Salad

R to Z - bring a Main Dish

UPCOMING WFVZ CLASSES

Introduction to the Breeding Birds of Southern California: Taught by Sammy Cowell. Four in-person Wednesday evening sessions from 5:30-8:30 pm (Apr 19 and 26 and May 3 and 10), and three fieldtrips (weather depending) from 7:30-11 am (Apr 29 and May 6, 13). 30 people max for museum sessions; 22 people max in field.

Pricing: WFVZ Members \$120 for all 6 classes; or \$20 per class. Non-Members \$168 for all 6 classes; or \$28 per class; \$16 per class for current college students with valid ID. [Register Here.](#)

Professionals Workshop: Learning Vocalizations of Birds, with Emphasis on Riparian and Upland Birds of the California Coast: Taught by Linnea Hall. May 17th thru 20th

May 17th: 1 evening Zoom orientation session, and May 18th, 19th & 20th: 3 morning field sessions (6:30-10 am) 15 people maximum; open to professional biologists or those in training for a career in the field.

Extreme weather will cancel, and the class fee will be reimbursed.

Email linnea@wfvz.org for questions.

Pricing: \$280 for WFVZ Members, \$400 for Non-Members. [Register Here](#)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING ZOOM

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. Check 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, we will be muting everyone except for the presenter until the question and answer period.