



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 55, Number 1

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## CALENDAR

**Sep 2, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Santa Clara River Estuary**  
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**Sep 9, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Bob Kildee Tams**  
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**Sep 11, Mon, 5:00 pm**  
**Pre-meeting dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo**

**Sep 11, Mon, 7:00 pm**  
**Monthly Program**  
WFVZ or Zoom

**Sep 13, Wed, 8:00 am**  
**Beginner Bird Walk**  
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**Sep 16, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Big Sycamore Canyon**  
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**Sep 23, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Matilija Riparian Area**  
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**Sep 30, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Laguna Road Tams**  
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Townsend's Warbler  
© Don Klabunde



## JOIN US AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

This year our meetings will be back at the **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology** (also known as the Bird Museum), 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. Masks will no longer be required for our meetings, and if you arrive when the doors open at 6:30, you'll have the rare opportunity to look around the museum for a half hour before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. (Also check out [wfvz.org](http://wfvz.org))

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

We usually take our guest speaker to dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo before the meeting. If you'd like to join the "party" simply arrive at the restaurant **by 5:00 pm** to be included.

## SEPTEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM MEMBER SHOW & TELL

Each September, our first meeting of the season is dedicated to the birding trips and adventures of our members, so you are invited to show off your recent, or not-so-recent photos.

Bring them on either thumb drive or other medium to WFVZ for the meeting, or for those who wish to share your photos via Zoom or need technical advice, please contact Don Klabunde at username [Photographer](#) plus [@ConejoValleyAudubon.org](#) for instructions and the link where you can upload your files. Then, as long as you have a microphone on your computer, you will be able to narrate your own show on Zoom during the meeting.

Whether or not you need advice, **please let Don or Chrystal know** if you plan to participate, so we can schedule your contribution.



Surf Scoters  
© Don Klabunde

## SEPTEMBER 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 may not be offering extra binoculars to share, so please bring your own. And finally, **please bring water, wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and observe good birding etiquette.** **RAIN CANCELS**

### September 2nd, Saturday - Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at the Surfer's Knoll parking lot off Spinnaker Dr. at 8:00 am. The Santa Clara River Estuary (SCRE) is a great place to look for shorebirds during fall migration. Target species include Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Red Knot, phalaropes, and more!

Trip leader - Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987.

### September 9th, Saturday - Bob Killdee Tams

Park along Eston St. or Curt Dr. at 8:00 am. Migrating warblers need a place to stop and refuel during their long fall migrations, and the row of tamarisk trees at Bob Killdee Park provides ample food for these little songbirds! Just be prepared to be looking up into the trees a lot!

Trip leader - John Mueller (818) 625-9584.

### September 16th, Saturday - Sycamore Canyon Campground

Meet at the parking lot off Hwy 1 at 8:00 am. Parking costs \$9 for three hours, so carpooling is encouraged! The creek and sycamore trees at this aptly named campground provide great refuge for all sorts of migrating birds.

Trip leader - Matthew Page (805) 990-6534.

### September 23rd, Saturday - Matilija Riparian Area

Park by Rattlesnake Canyon along Forest Route 5N13 at 8:00 am. The cottonwood and willow forest upstream of Matilija Lake provide great habitat for mixed foraging flocks of migrating songbirds. The terrain is rugged, so hiking sticks and waterproof shoes/boots are encouraged!

(may be subject to change, depending on road conditions).

Trip leader - Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098 .

### September 30th, Saturday - Laguna Road Tams

Meet at 8:00 am. Parking is somewhat limited along this busy road, so carpooling is encouraged! Like Bob Killdee, the row of tamarisks here along Laguna Road provide a great rest stop for migrating warblers and other songbirds!

Trip leader - Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733.



Long-billed Curlew  
© Don Klabunde



Wilson's Warbler  
© Don Klabunde

### Wednesday, September 13, 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.

**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.



## SIMPLE BIRDING ETIQUETTE

- Be aware of sensitive or threatened species that might be vulnerable to disturbance, and never broadcast their nest locations.
- Stay far enough back to avoid agitating birds or effecting their behavior, especially near nests.
- Use pishing and playback sparingly, and never in heavily birded areas or with sensitive species.
- Stay on designated trails, and don't trample vegetation.
- Leave dogs at home!
- Respect private property, not pointing binoculars towards other people or directly into yards or windows.
- Be polite to non-birders and share your knowledge when appropriate.
- But always be encouraging and share your knowledge with beginning birders.



Chestnut-backed Chickadee  
© CS Klabunde

## BIRD-FRIENDLY TREE CARE



Western Bluebirds  
© CS Klabunde

Trimming trees outside of the nesting season is the best way to promote healthy bird populations in our community. Instead, trim between September 15th and December 31st. There are many benefits to healthy bird populations. The first is natural insect control. Did you know that a Black Phoebe can eat up to 1000 insects in one day? That's amazing! Birds also play a significant role in rodent control thus reducing the need for poisons which can be detrimental to our local wildlife and pets. Pollination is yet another benefit our birds provide.

Please consider trimming during the suggested time period. When you do trim, please be sure to hire professionals familiar with state and federal laws and guidelines and trained to survey for nests prior to trimming.

Some of our local birds do nest almost year-round, while others (such as owls and hummingbirds) begin early. Trimming trees during the nesting period oftentimes diminishes shelter and increases predation and also exposes young birds to weather – all of which can be deadly.

You can find a brochure from Los Angeles Audubon here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c0dc82225bf0243064f21a9/t/5c3a9bdb03ce64866ce41bfd/1547344859488/tree-trimming>. This excellent resource contains information on local birds, nests, tree pruning, state and federal laws protecting nesting birds, and additional resources and links.