



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**
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Volume 56, Number 2

October, 2024

CALENDAR

Sep 28, Sat, 9am-2pm

Plantpalooza

Conejo Creek Park North

Oct 5, Sat, 8:00 am

Ventura Settling Ponds

See page 2

Oct 7, Mon, 7:00 pm

Monthly Program

Oct 9, Wed, 8:00 am

Beginner Bird Walk

see page 2

Oct 13, Sun, 9:00 am

Mount Pinos

see page 2

Oct 15, Tue, 7:00 pm

CVAS Board Meeting

all welcome via Zoom

Oct 20, Sun, 9:00 am

Anacapa Island

see page 2

Oct 27, Sat, 8:00 am

Arnold Rd. & Oxnard Plain

see page 2

Red-legged Thrush
© B Clarfield-Bylin



JOIN US AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!

We have the privilege of holding our meetings at the **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology** (also known as the Bird Museum), 439 Calle San Pablo in Camarillo. If you arrive when the doors open at 6:30, you'll have the rare opportunity to look around the museum's collections for a half hour before the meeting starts at 7:00 pm. (Also check out 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>.

Anyone interested in joining us for dinner at Wood Ranch Camarillo before the meeting, simply arrive at the restaurant before 5:00 pm to be included.

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

CUBA BIRDING

A 2024 PERSPECTIVE FROM A CVAS BIRDER

Ever wonder what it would be like to bird in Cuba? In one word, wonderful! Perhaps it is a bit more complicated than traveling to other international destinations, however birding in Cuba is very manageable. Cuba is the home of 28 endemic species of birds, including the smallest hummingbird in the world!

Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin, local birder, naturalist and travel enthusiast will share her Cuba birding experience from this past February. Her mantra is, "Look for an elephant, see an elephant, look for a bird and see everything."

Blue-headed Quail-dove (endemic)
© B Clarfield-Bylin



Cuban Parakeet
(endemic)
© B Clarfield-Bylin



Cuban Tody (endemic)
© B Clarfield-Bylin



OCTOBER BIRDING TRIPS

CVAS birding trips are open to everyone, regardless of skill level. Experienced birders lead these trips so that everyone has their best chance to see the wide variety of migrant and resident bird species that our area has to offer.

Please bring water, wear comfortable shoes, a hat, and observe good birding etiquette. RAIN CANCELS

Saturday, Sep. 28 - Plantpalooza and Eco Fest

9:00am to 2:00pm at Conejo Creek Park North, behind Thousand Oaks Library

Saturday, Oct. 5 - Ventura Settling Ponds

Meet outside the gates along Angler Court at 8 a.m. The Ventura Settling Ponds are a fantastic habitat to see both migrating warblers and most of our over-wintering waterfowl species. Potential warbler migrants include Nashville, MacGillivray's, Black-throated Gray, and Townsend's Warblers, with a good chance for a rare species or two!

Trip leader – Frank DeMartino (856) 906-8733



Clark's Nutcracker
© CS Klabunde

Sunday, Oct. 13 - Mount Pinos

Join us as we go into the mountains to find some alpine birds! We will carpool from the Janss Park & Ride at 7 am. Janss Park & Ride is located on the east side of the 23 freeway at the Janss Road Exit by the soccer fields. Alternately, meet at 9:00am at the Mt. Pinos Nordic Base parking lot at the end of Mount Pinos Road (GPS: [Cuddy Valley Rd, Forest Rte 9N24, Frazier Park, CA 93225](#) – or – coordinates 34.8134, -119.1263). Please remember that every vehicle that parks at Mount Pinos Nordic Base parking lot must display a valid [adventure pass](#). Bundle warm! Target species include – Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red Crossbill, Williamson's Sapsucker, and Evening Grosbeak.

Trip leader— Richard Armerding (310)-701-3878.

Sunday, Oct. 20 - Anacapa Island

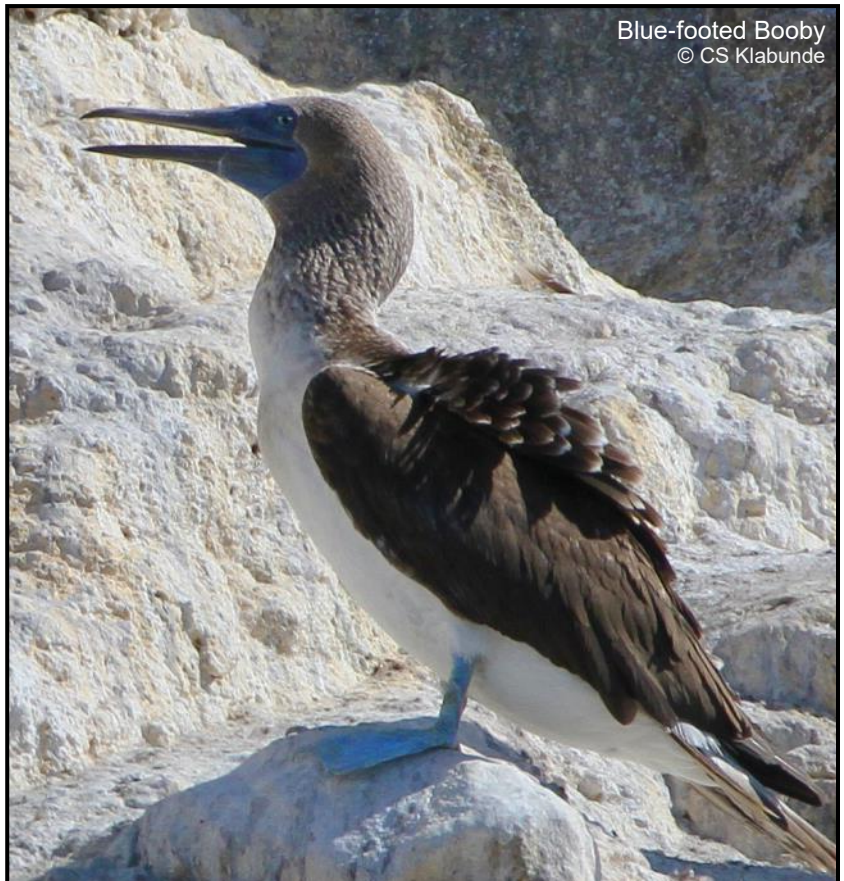
During migration, many birds can find themselves lost at sea and have to scramble to find the nearest land. Islands therefore are a great spot to find rare vagrant migrants. We will explore Anacapa to look for any rarities, check the seacliffs for boobies, and of course, watch the water on the way in for pelagic birds!

We will be leaving from Oxnard (Channel Islands Harbor, NOT Ventura Harbor) at 9:30 a.m. and will be on the island until 3:30 p.m. So, please bring food, water, and warm clothing! Also, be sure to purchase a ticket to the island AND a ticket back. One-way tickets are \$33 for adults and \$30.50 for seniors. (round trip cost is \$66 or \$61 respectively) For questions -- Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

Sunday, Oct. 27 - Arnold Rd. and the Oxnard Plain

The Oxnard plains are a great area for migrating shorebirds and open-habitat songbirds, particularly the sod fields. Likely target species include Baird's and Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, and Pacific Golden-Plover. Potential rarities include Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Mountain Plover, Red-throated Pipit, and longspur species! Meet at the parking lot at the end of Arnold Rd. at 8 a.m.

Trip leader – Ryan Burnett (530) 258-6742



Blue-footed Booby
© CS Klabunde

FIELD TRIPS continued**October 9th, Wednesday, 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.

THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT, TREE TRIMMING, AND NESTING BIRDS

by Tina Tan

A couple months ago, I was talking to my gardener on the phone. I asked him, "Did you know it is illegal to trim trees if there is an active bird nest in the tree?" He responded, "Yes, I know, it is legal." (Did I just hear him correctly?) "No, no it is illegal." And then he responded, "No, it is legal." I wondered if it was just a bad connection on the phone or maybe it was the language barrier. I cited the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and it only seemed to increase the confusion between us.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act or MBTA was created as a response to the massive decline of bird populations due to overhunting and the commercial use of feathers in ladies hats. In the mid to late 19th century, it became fashionable for ladies to wear real bird feathers (and in some cases whole bird(s)) in their hats.

When Boston socialites, Harriet Lawrence Hemenway and Minna B. Hall read about the cruel ways in which these birds were being hunted, they pushed back against this fashionable trend. They organized tea parties where they informed their peers of the massive numbers of birds that were being killed, and they encouraged them to boycott. Eventually, these meetings became the Massachusetts Audubon Society, and the efforts of Hemenway and Hall inspired similar organizations to form in other states.

The feathers of the Great Egret and the Snowy Egret were in highest demand, particularly those wispy "nuptial" feathers of the breeding adult Snowys. Hunters would go after the egrets in their rookeries, kill and strip the feathers off the breeding adults, and leave their young to starve to death. According to the Audubon California website (ca.audubon.org), "the American Ornithologist Union estimated that as many as 5 million birds per year were killed for the millinery trade."

It is no coincidence that the Great Egret is used as the symbol and in the logo for the National Audubon Society - an organization known for its bird conservation efforts and preserving birds' native habitats. As one of the oldest conservationist groups in the world, the National Audubon Society was born from the "Age of Extermination" - the period of time when people could freely and mercilessly kill birds for sport, food, and fashion without any repercussions.

After years of lobbying and boycotting, the Audubon Society and other conservation groups prevailed. In 1918, President Woodrow Wilson signed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) into law - one of the most important and foundational bird protection laws even today. Very simply the law is meant to protect birds from people.



Harriet Hemenway by John Singer Sargent

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the MTBA

Specifically, the federal law states:

703. Taking, killing, or possessing migratory birds unlawful

"...it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to barter, offer to purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, export, import, cause to be shipped, exported, or imported, deliver for transportation, transport or cause to be transported, carry or cause to be carried, or received for shipment, transportation, carriage, or export, any migratory bird, any part, nest, or eggs of any such bird, or any product, whether or not manufactured, which consists, or is composed in whole or part, of any such bird or any part, nest, or egg thereof..."

The MBTA does not cover "nonnative species whose occurrences in the U.S. are solely the result of international or unintentional human-assisted introduction." (i.e. House Sparrow, European Starling)

California State Law offers more protections stating:

3503. "It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto."

This morning I was walking above and along the Sespe Creek and was treated to the sight of 15 Great Egrets and 5 Snowy Egrets. Nowadays, these graceful and beautiful egrets seem so plentiful. It is hard to believe that only a hundred years ago, they were on the brink of extinction. Other bird species, such as the Passenger Pigeon and the Carolina Parakeet, did not survive that era.

So a couple weeks ago, I was talking to my new gardener and asked him if he was aware that "it was illegal to trim trees if there is an active native bird nesting in it?" He told me that he never knew about that law and expressed interest in knowing more about the law. He also assured me that even though he didn't know about the law, that his team do watch out for nests when they trim trees anyways. I told him that I would give him a pamphlet with more information on the law protecting nests and tree trimming.

Tree trimming pamphlets can be downloaded and printed from here:

<https://wp.conejovalleyaudubon.org/conservation/bird-friendly-tree-care/>



Snowy Egret
© Don Klabunde

Perhaps most of us in the birding circles already know that there are laws that protect birds, but there are plenty of people who do not. As people who enjoy nature and birds, it is important for us to share the information that we know. In my case, two gardeners whose profession it is to take care of gardens and trim trees had no idea that it was against the law to disturb an active bird's nest. By informing the uninformed, we plant seeds that will hopefully take root and grow. We can take inspiration from Hemenway and Hall in the way they spread the news of the cruel and inhumane ways in which birds were being killed in large numbers, they informed other ladies and encouraged them to boycott. Some of those ladies joined in the boycott and some continued to wear their feathered hats, but at least the seeds were planted.

Sources:

<https://www.fws.gov/story/2021-11/harriet-hemenway>

<https://www.audubon.org/about/history#:~:text=The%20National%20Audubon%20Society%20launched,Harriet%20Hemenway%20and%20Minna%20B.>

<https://ca.audubon.org/about-us/brief-history-audubon-california>

<https://www.thefrickpittsburgh.org/Story-Crimes-of-Fashion-Gilded-Age-Millinery-and-the-Plight-of-Birds>

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR

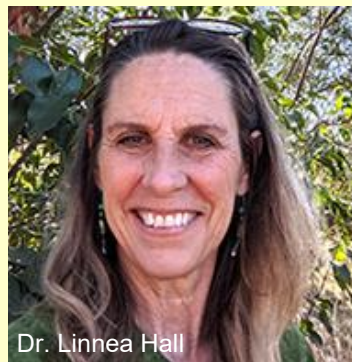
Hi CVAS Members,

Allow me to share a few of my thoughts about our beloved Audubon chapter:



Jean Hulberg

Back in September 2003, shortly after I'd retired from the animation industry, I attended my first CVAS meeting hoping to get some help with identifying the cool birds I was encountering in my neighborhood. At the entrance of the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, I was warmly greeted by Jean Hulberg who asked me to sign the guest list. Then when I entered the collections area, I involuntarily uttered the same gasp of awe that everyone does upon first seeing the place. In those days, there were only a couple of live mounts atop the specimen cases, but the magnificent ocean mural and the wall of flying ducks were already in place. At that time (before the classroom was built) there were fewer cases, and our meetings were held right out there in the collection, where temperatures were positively glacial throughout the winter months.



Dr. Linnea Hall

Carol Langford was President at the time, and during her welcome and introduction to the meeting, she announced that CVAS's Board was in need of a new Secretary. She also introduced Dr. Linnea Hall, who had recently taken the job of Executive Director of the WFVZ. Linnea was also asking for volunteers to help with the Foundation's work. After enjoying that year's Members Show & Tell (it being September), I walked right up to Carol and asked, "What does a secretary have to do?" With no applicable experience, I volunteered to be Secretary, and by the end of the week I had also become a WFVZ volunteer as well.



Carol Langford

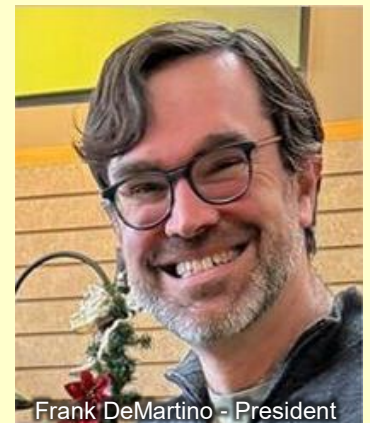
Back then it seemed to me that CVAS was a well-oiled machine. There was always someone who did what needed to be done, whether it was setting out chairs for the meetings, doing presentations for school children, or organizing major projects like the entire Annual Dinner and Auction fundraiser thing ... stuff got done. Over the years we played musical chairmanships, swapping roles from time to time. Myself, I switched back and forth between Secretary and Programs Chair, then took on Newsletter Editor ... and now added Webmaster on top of that.

These days we still have a dedicated team, but due to COVID, the advent of Zoom, and the inevitable limitation of lifespans, it seems there are now fewer of us, and even with some recent welcome additions, we're getting spread pretty darn thin. We need more help.

Our current Board is still a fun bunch who love the birds and care passionately about protecting the natural world. Board Meetings this season will be the third Tuesday evening of each month at 7:00pm on Zoom. Admission is free of commitment, so drop in to see what we're working on. You can email me for the link to join the meeting.

Cheers,
Chrystal Klabunde
Roadrunner Editor

JOIN THE TEAM!



Frank DeMartino - President

ROADRUNNER

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Volume 56, Number 2

PLACE
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Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 4782
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

OFFICERS		USERNAMES
President	Frank DeMartino	<i>president</i>
Vice Pres	vacant	<i>vicepresident</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>



COMMITTEE CHAIRS		
Programs	Nicole Ball	<i>programs</i>
Field Trips	Sammy Cowell	<i>fieldtrips</i>
Conservation	Tina Tan	<i>conservation</i>
Lawns to Habitat	Erik Oberg	<i>lawnstohabitat</i>
Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>gardentour</i>
Education	Thelma Williams and Meg Thackoorie	<i>education</i>
Membership	Catherine Armerding	<i>membership</i>
Publicity	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	<i>publicity</i>
Social Media	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	<i>media</i>
Newsletter	Chrystal Klabunde	<i>newsletter</i>
Webmaster	Chrystal Klabunde	<i>webmaster</i>
Photographer	Don Klabunde	<i>photographer</i>
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough	<i>librarian</i>
Member at Large	Carol Langford	<i>carol</i>
Member at Large	Dee Lyon	<i>dee</i>
Member at Large	Nobuko McClure	<i>nobuko</i>
Member at Large	Gary Evans	<i>gary</i>
Member at Large	Matthew Page	<i>matthew</i>

To contact board members, add @conejovalleyaudubon.org after each username above

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Monthly meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month (second Monday when the first one's a holiday) at 7:00 pm, at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo, CA. Directions: from the corner of Pleasant Valley Rd. and Lewis Rd. in Camarillo, go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo, and turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left. [Or join via Zoom \(see page 1\)](#)

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 and dedicated to the study of birds and their habitats. As a world-class natural history collection, they have long made significant contributions to original research, and conservation. They also accept contributions. Visit WVZ.org

The *Roadrunner* is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members via either email or snailmail. Members are invited to submit articles, reviews, letters, photos etc. for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the previous month. Send items to Chrystal Klabunde at newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org, or 1229 Nonchalant Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

For information on joining the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, please visit www.audubon.org

To join **CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** please visit www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or mail in this

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 for a family membership. (An additional gift of \$25.00, \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00 or any amount would also be greatly appreciated.)

Make check payable to CVAS for membership at \$20.00 plus donation \$? equals a total of \$ _____

Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

() [Check here to receive your newsletter by snail mail, otherwise a digital version will be sent by email.](#)

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