



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 55, Number 10

June, 2024

## CALENDAR

June 2, Sun, 8:00 am  
**Pre-picnic Bird Walk**  
see page 2

June 2, Sun, 8:00 am  
**CVAS ANNUAL PICNIC**

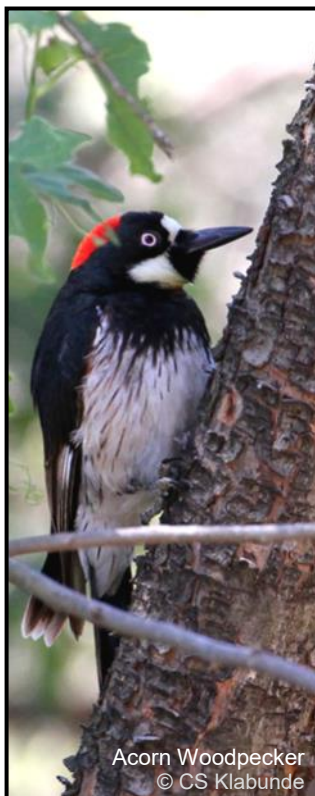
June 8, Sat, 6:30 pm  
**Burritos and Birds**  
see page 2

June 8, Sat, 8:00 pm  
**Evening Owling**  
see page 2

June 12, Wed, 8:00 am  
**Beginner Bird Walk**  
see page 2

June 13, Thurs, 8:30 am  
**Pelagic Trip**  
see page 2

June 15, Sat, 11:00 am  
**Ojai Raptor Center**  
see page 2

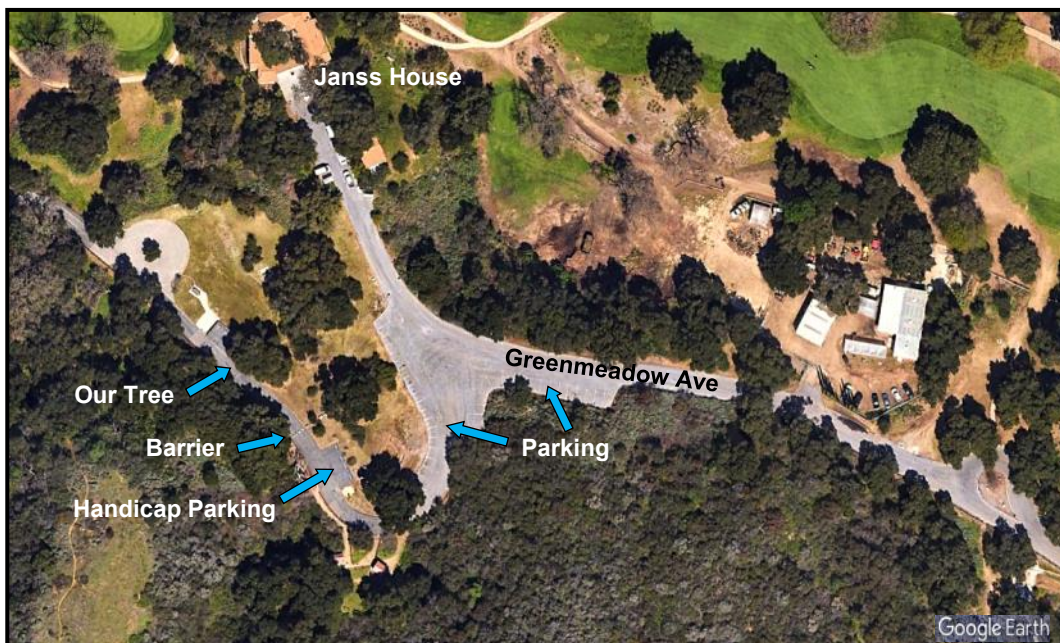


Acorn Woodpecker  
© CS Klabunde

## SPECIAL EXTRA JUNE EDITION NEXT MONTHLY PROGRAM IS SEPTEMBER

# THE CVAS ANNUAL PICNIC

Sunday, June 2 at Los Robles Open Space



Meet at 8:00 am for the morning bird walk, then at 11:00 for the potluck lunch.

It's been twenty-three years since we first held our CVAS Annual Picnic at the Los Robles Trail area adjacent to the original Janss House in Thousand Oaks, and the area has changed a bit. 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, and this year, bring whatever dish you like. :-)



## SPECIAL JUNE BIRDING TRIPS

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**

**Sunday, June 3th, 8:00 am - Pre-Picnic Bird Walk** Meet at 8 am at our picnic location. See page 1.

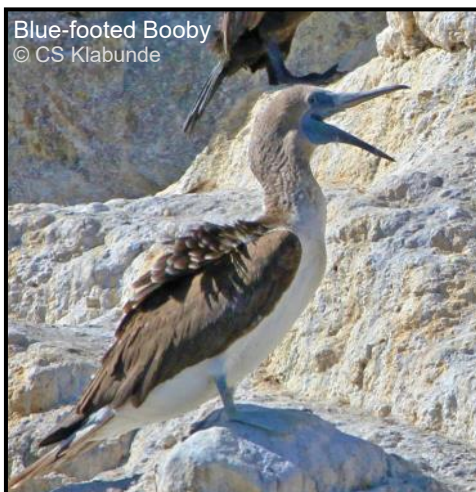
### **Saturday, June 8th, 8:00 pm - Evening Owling at Palo Comado Canyon**

Meet at **8 pm** at the Sunrise Meadows Open Space Trailhead on Smoke Tree Ave in Oak Park. We'll look and listen for Great Horned Owls, Barn Owls, and Western Screech Owls! We may also run into other nighttime creatures as well! Bring flashlights and/or headlamps! Also, for those interested, we will be meeting for dinner at 6:30 pm at Margaritas Mexican Grill at Kanan and Lindero Canyon in Oak Park.

As this was a popular trip last year, please contact Sammy Cowell (818 470 7098) so we can keep the trip from getting too crowded!



Great Horned Owl  
© CS Klabunde



Blue-footed Booby  
© CS Klabunde

### **Thursday, June 13th 8:30 am - Santa Barbara Channel Pelagic**

If you've never been birding out on the open ocean, this is a perfect opportunity to get your feet wet! Join us as we cruise around the eastern Santa Barbara Channel looking for pelagic birds like jaegers, alcids, boobies, shearwaters and storm-petrels. This trip is 3 hours and will stay within Ventura County waters. We may stop by to look at the Anacapa Arch from the boat, but won't land on the island.

**Check-in is at 8:45 am** at Island Packers' Channel Islands Harbor office at 3550 Harbor Blvd, Oxnard. We will be departing from the harbor at 9:30 am and will return at 1 p.m. This trip is limited to 70 passengers, so you must **RSVP by May 23** at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org).

The cost is \$50 per ticket. Visit [www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org](http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org) to find out ways to pay.

### **Saturday, June 15th, 11:00 am - Tour of Ojai Raptor Center**

We have scheduled a private tour of the Ojai Raptor Center for 15 participants! During this one-hour experience, we will meet a few of the raptor ambassadors, learn about their personal stories, and watch demonstrations of their natural behavior.

Space is first-come first-served, so if you're interested in coming please contact us at [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org). The cost is \$27 per guest. Visit [www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org](http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org) to find out ways to pay.

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

This Swallow-tailed Kite was seen in Santa Rosa Valley on Saturday, April 27th during our CVAS field trip. It was the first Ventura County record of this species, and only the 3rd for the State of California.



© Melissa Pilikian

**June 12th, 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.



Lazuli Bunting  
© Don Klabunde

## SMITHSONIAN'S BIRD FRIENDLY® COCOA - PART 2

### BIRDS AND CHOCOLATE - DOES IT GET ANY SWEETER THAN THAT?

by Tina Tan

Yum....There's nothing like the taste of that first bite of chocolate. Imagine how much better it tastes knowing that the cacao is being grown in a tropical forest supporting birds and wildlife rather than in the full sun monoculture where all the native plants are removed.

Whereas Smithsonian's Bird Friendly Coffee certification has been around since 1996, Bird Friendly Cocoa certification is still in its infancy, just beginning last year.



Black-throated Blue Warbler  
© B Clarfield-Bylin

Zorzal Cacao, located in the Dominican Republic, is the first to receive Smithsonian's Bird Friendly® Certification for cocoa. Reserva Zorzal is a 1,019 acre bird sanctuary. "Zorzal" in English means thrush. It is named for Bicknell's Thrush, which is a rare bird that breeds in the northeastern United States ( New York, Vermont, Maine) and in eastern Canada. It winters in a small area which includes the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Jamaica. The conservation status for Bicknell's Thrush is vulnerable and its worldwide population is a little over 100,000. The Reserva Zorzal provides valuable habitat for this and other birds such as the Broad-billed Tody and the Black-throated Blue Warbler.

Zorzal Reserva began in 2012 when eco investors/conservationists purchased the land and it became the first private bird sanctuary in the Dominican Republic. It is forever wild where 70% of the land has to be wild and up to 30% can be used for agriculture. Zorzal Cacao helps to finance the Zorzal bird sanctuary.

Currently, there are three chocolate manufacturers that use Bird Friendly Cocoa from Zorzal Cacao and their chocolate can be purchased online at this website: <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-cocoa>

Some might be tempted to ask, why should I care about habitat loss in another country so far away when we have our own problems here in our own country? The answer is, birds know no boundaries. The Bicknell's Thrush and other migrating birds interconnect the global community and countries. Our love of birds compels us to do what we can to help declining populations due to habitat loss. Buying Bird Friendly® cocoa and coffee is one way to help preserve the habitat for these birds.