



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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## CALENDAR

**Sep 7, Sat, 7:30 am**  
**Hopper Mountain NWR**  
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**Sep 9, Mon, 7:00 pm**  
**Monthly Program**

**Sep 11, Wed, 8:00 am**  
**Beginner Bird Walk**  
see page 2

**Sep 14, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Santa Clara River Estuary**  
see page 2

**Sep 17, Tue, 7:00 pm**  
**CVAS Board Meeting**  
via Zoom

**Sep 21, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Bob Kildee Tams**  
see page 2

**Sep 28, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Valle Lindo Park**  
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White-crowned Sparrow  
© CS Klabunde

## 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](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>.

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.

## 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 WFWZ 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](https://www.facebook.com/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, Chrystal or Nicole know** if you plan to participate, so we can schedule your contribution.

## HEALTHY TREES AND SHRUBS MEAN HEALTHY HOMES FOR THE BIRDS!

by Tina Tan



Allen's Hummingbird  
in a pine tree  
© Don Klabunde

As the nesting season is winding down, year-round birds such as the Oak Titmice and seasonal visitors such as the Hooded Orioles, have fledged their youngsters. Some of us may have been lucky enough to experience nesting birds right in our own yards. Now it's time to turn our attention to our trees and shrubs that have sheltered those nests.

Just as we try to maintain and take care of our own homes, we want to make sure to provide good homes for those birds when they are ready to nest next spring. Part of that depends on how and when we decide to trim our trees and shrubs. Although some bird species nest early or all year round, according to Audubon

California, most birds nest from February 1st through August 31st, so the ideal time for tree and shrub trimming is from September through January.

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## SEPTEMBER 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. 7 - Hopper Mountain NWR

Meet at 7:30 am in the Vons parking lot at A Street and the 126 in Fillmore. Join us as we venture up Hopper Mountain to look for the California Condor! Be advised, roads may not be suitable for low-clearance vehicles, so carpool from Vons on up.

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

### Saturday, Sep. 14 - Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at 8 am at the Surfer's Knoll parking lot off Spinnaker Dr. in Ventura Harbor. 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! Be advised that we may walk out onto the mudflats, so bring water shoes or shoes you don't mind getting muddy!

Trip leader – Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098



California Condor  
© CS Klabunde



Prairie Warbler  
© Don Klabunde

### Saturday, Sep. 21 - Bob Kildee Tams

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

Trip leader – Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

### Saturday, Sep. 28 - Valle Lindo Park

Meet at 8:00 am. From Ponderosa in Camarillo, turn north onto Valle Lindo Dr. and park on the street where Valle Lindo turns onto Aileen St. With a beautiful combination of sycamores and pines, this park produces some lovely habitat for migrating vagrant songbirds. Past species seen here include Yellow-throated Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Palm Warbler, and Blue-headed Vireo!

Trip Leader -- Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

### Sep 11th, 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.



American Kestrel  
© Don 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.



## HEALTHY TREES AND SHRUBS MEAN HEALTHY HOMES FOR THE BIRDS!

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Always check for active nests before trimming. Keep in mind that birds' nests can be hard to detect and that there are different types of nests. Spend time observing any nesting behavior of the birds in your yard. Are they carrying nesting material or acting territorial in a certain area of vegetation? Check for a concentration of droppings. If you do find an active nest, postpone trimming. For large yards or sensitive habitats, hire a certified biologist to conduct a nesting survey. Referrals can be found by calling the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology at (805)388-9944 or checking out this link <https://treecareforbirds.com/find-a-wildlife-biologist/>.

It is also much healthier for the tree to be trimmed during its dormant period instead of cutting off its leaves while it still needs them. When dormant, it can concentrate on healing the cuts. In addition, there are fewer bugs around which could potentially pass on diseases to the tree.

According to arborist Jonathan Frank, tree trimming is meant to preserve the tree, to improve the structure of the tree by making it stronger, particularly against unfavorable weather such as wind and rain. He does not pay attention to the leaves or canopy, but will look at the skeletal structure of the tree starting with the root flare, up the trunk to the angle of attachment of the branches and how they are spaced.

Non-arborists tend to over-prune, which is unhealthy for the tree. There are some trimming practices that should absolutely be avoided: Tree topping is one, where large branches at the top of the trees are cut down to stubs. For the uninformed tree trimmer, it might seem easier and more efficient to get rid of as much volume as possible. This practice stresses out the tree, because the leaves and canopy that it uses to feed itself through photosynthesis are cut off. The tree goes into panic mode and grows water sprouts (long thin branches at the base of the stubs, also known as sucker growth). The cut stubs make the tree more susceptible to diseases. Another over pruning practice is lion-tailing. The inner branches and leaves of the tree are gutted out, so that what remains are large bare branches with tufts of leaves at the end, resembling a lion's tail. This reduces suitable habitat for birds to nest in. Also, lion-tailing causes the weight to be unevenly distributed to the ends of the branches increasing the chances of breakage.

Ideally, it is best to hire a wildlife friendly arborist certified either by the TCIA (Tree Care Industry Association) or the ISA (International Society of Arboriculture). You can look up ISA certified arborists here: <https://www.treesaregood.org/findanarborist/arboristsearch>. And avoid the bargain tree-trimmers who are not required to have any education on tree care.

Whether hiring a professional or doing it yourself, keep in mind that **"less is more"** when it comes to pruning trees.

For more information on tree trimming and birds, check out these links:

<https://wfvz.org/healthy-trees-healthy-birds/>

<https://laist.com/news/climate-environment/so-theres-something-arborists-say-we-should-stop-doing-to-trees-its-called-topping>

<https://www.arboristnow.com/news/gutting-is-for-fish-not-for-trees>

**Did you know it is illegal to harm an active bird's nest? In the next conservation article, the focus will be on the laws that protect birds.**



Red-tailed Hawk nest  
in a California Sycamore  
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