



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 56, Number 3

November, 2024

CALENDAR

VOTE YES ON PROP 4

Nov 2, Sat, 8:00 am
Bitter Creek NWR Condors
see page 2

Nov 4, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Nov 9, Sat, 8:00 am
Arroyo Simi
see page 2

Nov 13, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 3

Nov 16, Sat, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Owling Palo Comado Cyn
see page 2

Nov 19, Tue, 7:00 pm
CVAS Board Meeting
all welcome via Zoom
text 805-428-9839 for the link

Nov 23, Sat, 11am - 1 pm
Hawk on Hand Falconry
see page 2

Nov 30, Sat, 8:00 am
Santa Paula Canyon
see page 2



Hooded Mergansers
© Don 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)

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, let Chrystal know you're coming (805-261-9885), then meet at the restaurant by 5:00 pm.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

The Importance of Sierra Meadows for Birds, Other Wildlife, and People
Ryan Burnett with Blue Point Conservation



Wet meadows cover less than 2% of the vast Sierra Nevada, but they are ecosystem workhorses that punch far above their weight. These emerald jewels can support an incredible diversity of birds and other wildlife, including a number of threatened and endangered species. These meadows also play important roles in the function of watersheds; storing, purifying, and cooling water. They can store a tremendous amount of carbon helping mitigate the climate crisis. They are also culturally significant places for many indigenous communities.

Unfortunately, most wet meadows are in a degraded state, reducing their ability to provide these services. Ryan Burnett with Blue Point Conservation will discuss the importance of Sierra Meadows and how, through a large partnership he leads, we are working to restore their vitality.



© R Burnett

NOVEMBER 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



White-faced Ibis
© Don Klabunde

Saturday, Nov 2 - Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

Meet at 8 am at the Porter Ranch Park and Ride to carpool. Join us as we venture up to Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge to look for the **California Condor**! Be advised, roads will not be suitable for low-clearance vehicles. In fact, 4x4 cars are necessary (if you have a 4x4 car, please contact Sammy).
Trip leader – Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098



California Condor
© CS Klabunde

Saturday, Nov 9 - Arroyo Simi

Meet at 8:00 am on Easy St, just east of Madera Rd in Simi Valley. Arroyo Simi has a great assortment of shorebirds, ducks, herons and gulls along the mostly natural bottomed channel, which is easily accessed via a level bike path that runs through most of Simi Valley. We will walk slowly scanning for birds like Green Heron, Black-necked Stilt, Belted Kingfisher, and White-faced Ibis. Other possible birds include Hooded Merganser and Blue-winged Teal, warblers and other passerines.
Trip Leader – Don Klabunde (805) 428-9839

Saturday, Nov 16 - Owling at Palo Comado Canyon

Meet at 6:30 pm at the Sunrise Meadows Open Space Trailhead on Smoke Tree Av. in Oak Park. Bring flashlights and/or headlamps! We'll listen and look for Great Horned Owls, Barn Owls, and Western Screech Owls, and may also run into other nighttime creatures as well. As this was a popular trip last year, please contact Sammy to be included. Also for those interested, we will be meeting for dinner at Margaritas Mexican Grill in Oak Park at 5 pm.
Trip leader – Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

Saturday, Nov 23 - Group Falconry Experience

If you've ever wanted to hold a bird of prey on your hand, then this is the experience for you! We will be visiting Hawk on Hand Falconry Services in downtown Los Angeles to learn about the ancient art of falconry and get hands-on experience working with different raptor species. We'll meet Jasper the Harris's Hawk, Kanoni the Augur Buzzard, and Archie the Barn Owl. Each individual participant will get to hold and fly multiple birds, practicing basic falconry techniques.

Cost is \$100 per participant, and group size is limited to 15 people. We are still working on how to reserve/pay for our entire group. So, please do not buy tickets just yet. Instead, simply contact Sammy Cowell at fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org if you are interested.

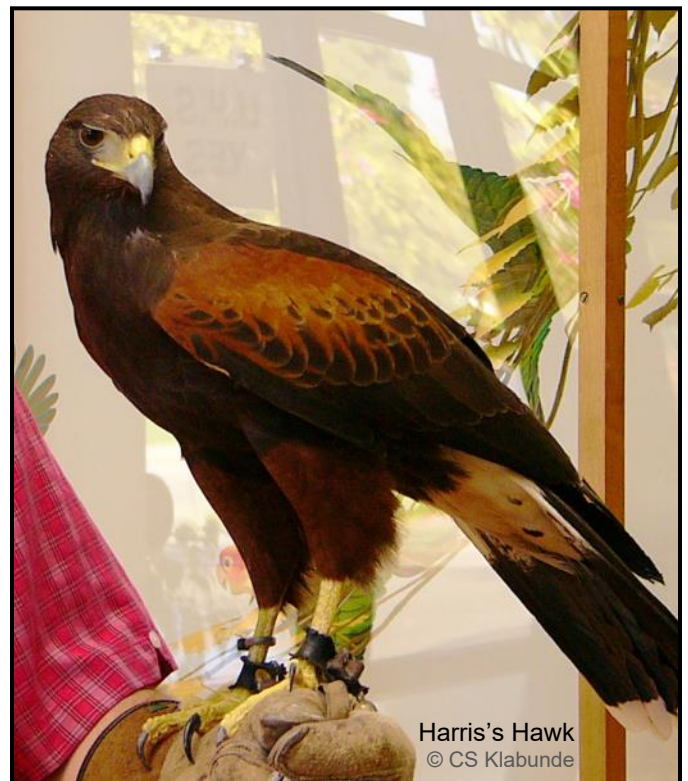
If you want to carpool, meet at 9:30 am at the Kanan Park and Ride south side of Hwy 101 at Kanan Rd.

Saturday, Nov 30 - Santa Paula Canyon

Meet at 8:00 am at the trailhead which is on Hwy 150, just past Thomas Aquinas college. Parking is limited at the trailhead, so carpooling is encouraged. Nestled in the Topatopa Mountains between Santa Paula and Ojai, Santa Paula Canyon feels like a retreat into the wild. We'll be looking for American Dippers along the river, and Golden Eagles along the cliffs.

Disclaimer: This is a moderately difficult hike with multiple stream crossings. If you do not feel comfortable walking across wet rocks or up steep hills, consider skipping this trip

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098



Harris's Hawk
© CS Klabunde

November 13th, 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 and layered clothing, and bring water.

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.

QUESTION: Would you be interested in a trip to Minnesota: December 12 - 15

Interested in birding other places in the country? Then, join us for an out-of-state experience to Minnesota! We will be primarily targeting species that live in the boreal forests of Canada but are pushed farther south during the winter. Hopeful songbirds include Boreal Chickadee, Common Redpoll, Snow Bunting, Bohemian Waxwing, and more! Potential raptors include Snowy Owl, Great Gray Owl, Northern Hawk-owl, and Boreal Owl!

Rough itinerary is as follows:

- Thursday, December 12th: Fly into/bird around Minneapolis
- Friday, December 13th: Drive to Duluth, bird Lake Superior. Drive to Sax-Zim Bog (potential owling in evening)
- Saturday, December 14th: Sax-Zim Bog
- Sunday, December 15th: Return to Minneapolis fly out

We may try and split rental cars/lodging to reduce costs. Group size will be limited to 8-10 people. If interested, please contact Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098 or fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org

PLANTPALOOZA AND ECO FEST



Last month's Plantpalooza was a fun event where we spoke with many people interested in birds and native plants. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our CVAS Booth. We gave away 125 4-inch native plants, and 20 small oaks. And as author Doug Tallamy says in his book *Bring Nature Home*: "Every little bit helps."

One of CVAS's goal is to help local yards become more bird-friendly, even if it is only one plant at a time! During Plantpalooza we promoted our annual, Lawns to a Habitat Grant program. Each giveaway plant had a sticker with a QR code linking to our website's Lawns to Habitat Grant page, because our local birds evolved with our California native plants, and bird activity and species diversity will increase when native plants are incorporated into the landscape!

During the event, we raffled off the one-gallon native plants we had for display to folks who were CVAS members. So several expired members renewed their CVAS memberships, and we welcomed eight new members. Congratulations to Sharyl, Max, Jo, Maria, Lynda, Meg, Whitney, Sarah, and Brooke who each took home a nice one-gallon bird-friendly native plant!

BIRD-FRIENDLY WINDOWS: PREVENTING BIRD COLLISIONS

by Tina Tan

Approximately one billion birds die per year from colliding with houses and buildings. According to Audubon, bird collisions are the number two cause of human driven bird deaths. (*Feral cats are number one.*)

Glass windows and night lighting are two stimuli that disorient and confuse birds. They don't see glass as solid. Instead the reflection of the sky and vegetation on glass windows makes them think it's safe to fly through. And night-time lighting can be a danger as well, particularly during migration season. Since birds mostly migrate at night, they can be drawn to the light from houses and buildings, making them susceptible to collisions.

A few of my birding friends have experienced bird collisions at their own homes. I have not, and I mistakenly thought that because I haven't seen any injured or dead birds in my own home, that I don't have bird collisions. According to Audubon, "up to 50% of bird-window collisions leave no evidence at all, and many of the birds that fly away are likely to die later from concussions and/or internal injuries." So just because you haven't experienced a bird collision, it doesn't mean that it hasn't happened.



Allen's Hummingbird seen through a bamboo curtain protecting him, and other birds, from a glass window.

So, what precautions can we each take to make our windows more bird friendly?

- 1) Limit nighttime lighting particularly during migration season. In lit rooms, cover windows with blinds or curtains.
- 2) Move bird feeders to within 3 feet of the window, so birds don't gain deadly speed as they fly away from the feeders.
- 3) Apply window treatments so that birds can "see" the windows. Here are some options:
 - a) Insect screens
 - b) Parachute cord curtains that can be hung outside. Get **Acopian Bird Saver** online, or you can make them yourself. Instructions here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_jy7qAY_-k
 - c) Bird tape and decals can be purchased online or at **Wild Birds Unlimited** stores. It is ideal to try not to leave more than 2x2 inches of clear window space to protect the smaller birds, such as hummingbirds. One decal on your window may not be very effective.
 - d) Window films come in many effective and attractive styles. They can be purchased online from **Feather Friendly** among others vendors.
 - e) Non-toxic paint is an inexpensive alternative to tape and decals. Just paint the dots or designs yourself.
- 4) If installing new windows, consider choosing Bird-Friendly glass. Find info at abcbirds.org
 - a) Acid-etched, fritted or frosted glass
 - b) Ultraviolet Patterned glass
 - c) Textured or Channel Glass

If a bird collision happens at your home and the bird is injured, contact a rehabilitation center. Nearby rehabilitation center contact information:

- Wildlife Care of Southern California (Simi Valley): 805-581-3911 wildlifecareofventura.org
- Camarillo Wildlife Rehabilitation (Somis): 805-482-7617 camarillowildliferehab.org
- California Wildlife Center (Calabasas): 818-591-9453 cawildlife.org
- Ojai Raptor Center: 805-649-6884 ojairaptorcenter.org
- Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Hotline: 805-681-1080 sbwcn.org
- Ventura Hummingbird Rescue: 805-320-2438

If the bird is injured or dead from the collision, take a photo and report it on dbird.org and/or on **iNaturalist's Bird Window Collisions Project**. It's very quick and easy to do. The data on collision hotspots is used to advocate for a reduction of human caused dangers to birds.

Also, consider bringing any dead bird to the **Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology**, as they can add the bird to their collections for education and research. Bring only birds that haven't started decomposing, and freeze them ASAP. For info call 805-388-9944 or visit wfvz.org.

Perhaps some of you may have heard about the massive bird collision at a convention center in Chicago called McCormick's Place. McCormick's Place is the height of a three-story building and sits right next to Lake Michigan, so it is a continuing hazard for migrating birds. On the night of October 4th 2023, the lights were fully on at McCormick's Place. It was the peak of fall migration and the weather conditions were perfect for a strong push of migrating birds. The next day almost 1,000 birds were found dead. (Palm warblers were the most abundant species with 335 found dead, followed by yellow-rumped warblers at 182.)

How light affects bird collisions has been studied extensively at McCormick's Place for over 40 years. In 2021, Willard and Van Doren found that dimming the lights at McCormick's Place reduced bird collisions by 60 percent. Simple acts like turning off the lights or drawing the curtains has an enormous impact on reducing bird collisions during migration season. Some cities like Dallas, San Francisco, and Toronto have adopted the **Light Out program** - a city-wide initiative to encourage businesses and homeowners to reduce lighting during migration season. For more information on how to impact the greater community, check out audubon.org/lights-out.

Sources:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/building-collisions-are-greater-danger-some-birds-others>

<https://nationalaudubon.app.box.com/s/d909zwufevx9ib194ykhbdwzfkzpibo>

<https://www.fws.gov/story/threats-birds-collisions-buildings-glass>

<https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/a-single-night-of-bird-collisions-in-chicago-points-to-the-need-for-window-safety/>

<http://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>



Chestnut-backed Chickadee
© CS Klabunde

Ceanothus
© CS Klabunde

Steller's Jay
© CS Klabunde

PROPOSITION 4

Audubon, as well as 180 other environmental organizations, supports Proposition 4 - The Climate Bond, also known as the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024

Let your voices be heard and help the birds, the environment, and us. A yes vote will allow the state to borrow 10 billion dollars to:

- Protect biodiversity and implement nature-based climate solutions: \$1.2 billion
- Wildfire and forest resilience: \$1.5 billion
- Safe drinking water, drought, flood, and water resilience: \$3.8 billion
- Sea level rise and coastal resilience: \$1.2 billion
- Clean air programs: \$850 million
- Park creation and outdoor access: \$700 million
- Climate-smart and sustainable farms, ranches, and working lands: \$300 million
- Extreme heat mitigation: \$450 million

Source:

<http://ca.audubon.org/landing/climate-bond-2024>

ROADRUNNER

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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	Sammy Cowell	<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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