



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the **Conejo Valley Audubon Society** a Chapter of the **National Audubon Society**  
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Volume 56, Number 4

December, 2024

## CALENDAR

**Dec 2, Mon, 7:00 pm**  
**Monthly Program**

**Dec 7, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Mission Oaks Park**  
see page 2

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

**Dec 12 - 15**  
**Winter in Minnesota**  
see page 2

**Dec 22, Sun, all day**  
**Christmas Bird Count**  
see page 2

**Dec 28, Sat, 8:00 am**  
**Los Robles Open Space**  
see page 2



Tourmaline Sunangel  
© BIRDS by BIJS

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

## DECEMBER 2nd MONTHLY PROGRAM COLOMBIA: SOUTH AMERICA'S BIRDING MECCA



Gray-breasted  
Mountain Toucan  
© BIRDS by BIJS

Get ready for a dive into South America's birdiest country! Together we'll explore Colombia's unique ecology, breathtaking scenery, and unparalleled avian diversity! Colombia holds the record with nearly 2,000 bird species and an impressive 80 endemics!

During our time together, we'll discuss what has given rise to such incredible diversity. Topics include the country's five regions, how the Andes Mountain Range formed into three distinct cordilleras, the importance of the mighty Rio Magdalena, and national conservation successes. From sloth-eating Harpy Eagles to shy antpittas, and menageries of colorful tanagers and hummingbirds, Colombia's astonishing diversity will leave you wanting more!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates **BIRDS by BIJS** the bird-guiding business and lifestyle brand called (pronounced Bee-jus).

With a background in biology, ecology, and outdoor education, he has worked for over 13 years as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide. Benny offers guided birding outings in Southern California and small-group birding tours to his favorite tropical locales including Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Colombia.



Andean Cock of the Rock  
© BIRDS by BIJS

## 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**



Plumbeous Vireo  
© CS Klabunde

### **Saturday, Dec. 7 - Mission Oaks Park @ 8 am**

The trails around Mission Oaks Park offer a nice refuge for many interesting overwintering songbirds. Possible uncommon/rare species that we can find here include Plumbeous Vireo, White-throated Sparrow, Orchard Oriole, Summer Tanager, and more!

Meet at the parking lot by the tennis courts off Mission Oaks Blvd. in Camarillo.

Trip leader: John Mueller (818) 625-9584

### **Saturday, Dec. 22 - Christmas Bird Count all day**

See next page for details

### **Saturday, Dec. 28 - Los Robles Open Space @ 8 am**

The oak woodland and chapparal in the open space south of Thousand Oaks is quite beautiful in winter and provides a good place to see overwintering migrants like Fox Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows, and maybe even Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Meet at the Los Robles trailhead at the end of Moorpark Rd.

Trip leader: TBD

### **Beginner Bird Walk – Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa December 11th, Wednesday, 8:00 am**

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.

Contact walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878 (texting is OK)

### **Winter Wonderland in Minnesota (dates flexible)**

December 12 @ 8:00 am – December 15 @ 5:00 pm

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 12<sup>th</sup>: Fly into and bird around Minneapolis.
- Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>: Drive to Duluth and bird Lake Superior. Then drive to Sax-Zim Bog (potential owling in evening)
- Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Bird Sax-Zim Bog
- Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>: Return to Minneapolis and 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 at (818) 470-7098 or [fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org](mailto:fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org)



Boreal Chickadee  
© CS 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.



## GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Dave Pereksta



Osprey  
© Don Klabunde

If you are looking for a way to contribute to understanding the status of wintering birds in North America, please join us for the National Audubon Society's 125th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Sunday December 22, 2024, and help cover the Conejo Valley Audubon Society's "Thousand Oaks" CBC circle.

This is our 49th CBC, and we're hoping to top last year's count of 195 species and over 23,000 individuals! We hope to do even better this year but need CVAS members to close out the year right by getting up early and being ready to bird. As always, we will cover the area from Westlake to the Oxnard Plain, and from Leo Carrillo State Park to California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. Areas within our circle include the Santa Monica Mountains, La Jolla Canyon, Big Sycamore Canyon, Leo Carrillo State Park, Camarillo Regional Park, the CSU Channel Islands campus, Mugu Lagoon, Camarillo Springs Park,



Wood Duck  
© CS Klabunde

Thousand Oaks Botanic Garden, Los Robles Golf Course, Hill Canyon, Wildwood Park, Calleguas Creek, Revelon Slough, the eastern Oxnard Plain, Hidden Valley, Satwiwa, and many other areas around Camarillo and Thousand Oaks. Online registration will not be available this year so please contact me directly at [pereksta@pacbell.net](mailto:pereksta@pacbell.net).



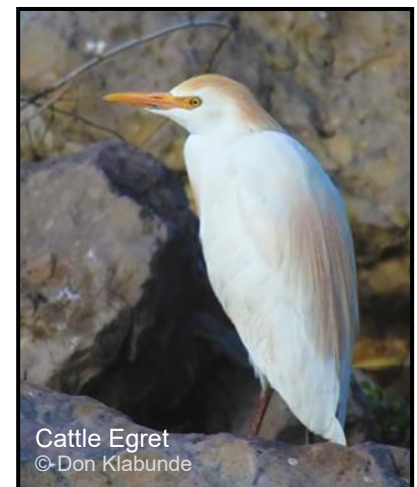
Burrowing Owl  
© Don Klabunde

You can also help by "staking out" unusual or hard to find species such as American White Pelican, Cattle Egret, Wood Duck, Cinnamon Teal, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Osprey, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Ground-Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Western Screech-Owl, Burrowing Owl, Common Poorwill, Lewis's Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Red-naped Sapsuckers, Yellow Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Tricolored Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Pine Siskin, and Lawrence's Goldfinch. In addition, we often come close to missing a few common species including Hutton's Vireo, Townsend's Warbler, and Brown-headed Cowbird so keep an eye out for them prior to the CBC.

The CBC began over a century ago when 27 conservationists in 25 localities, led by ornithologist Frank Chapman, changed the course of ornithological history. On Christmas Day 1900, this small group initiated an alternative activity to the "side hunt." Participants in the "side hunt" would

split up into teams and see who could shoot the most birds and small mammals in a day. Dr. Chapman proposed instead to identify, count, and record the birds they saw, thus founding what is today considered the most significant citizen-based conservation effort in the USA. The CBC is open to birders of all skill levels. If you do not wish to go out and count birds, consider "feeder watching" in your back yard. You might attract an unusual hummingbird to your feeder, find an uncommon sparrow or finch, or keep an oriole around for us to include.

We are still working on organizing an in-person gathering in the evening to tally up the Christmas Bird Count totals. Details of how we will gather, virtually or otherwise, will be shared with participants before count day.



Cattle Egret  
© Don Klabunde

### 2025 VENTURA COUNTY NEW YEAR'S BIRD COUNT - SATURDAY JANUARY 4TH

Contact Lukas Le Grice at [lukaslegrice@gmail.com](mailto:lukaslegrice@gmail.com) or Sammy Cowell at [samueldavidcowell@gmail.com](mailto:samueldavidcowell@gmail.com) for info.

# ROADRUNNER

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

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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](mailto:@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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org), or 1229 Nonchalant Dr., Simi Valley, CA 93065.

For information on joining the **NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**, please visit [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org)

To join **CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY** please visit [www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org](http://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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