



# ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 56, Number 8

April, 2025

## CALENDAR

Apr 5, Sat, 8:00 am  
**Sisar Canyon**  
see page 2

Apr 7, Mon, 7:00 pm  
**Monthly Program**

Apr 9, Wed, 8:00 am  
**Beginner Bird Walk**  
see page 2

Apr 13, Sun, 8:00 am  
**Conejo Valley Botanical Garden**  
see page 2

Apr 19, Sat, 6:00 am  
**Bear Divide**  
see page 2

Apr 26, Sat, 8:00 am  
**Big Morongo**  
see page 2

Red-bellied Woodpecker  
© CS Klabunde



## APRIL 7th MONTHLY PROGRAM THE KLABUNDES' GREAT ECLIPSE BIRDING ADVENTURE



Dook'o'oosííd  
© Don Klabunde

On April 8th 2024, North America was treated to the spectacle of a total solar eclipse as the moon's shadow passed across the continent, from Mexico to Newfoundland. Many of us scurried to points along the path of totality. Some were greeted by clouds, but others got lucky and had beautiful clear skies. Don and Chrystal Klabunde were among the lucky. So, join us on April 7th as they present photos from a few birding hot spots along their cross-country drive to Indiana as well as Don's awesome photos of the 2024 total eclipse!



Common Grackle  
© CS Klabunde

Evening Grosbeak  
© 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](http://wfvz.org))

CVAS's meetings will be hybrid, simultaneously live at WFVZ (recommended) 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.

## APRIL 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, April 5th: Sisar Canyon

Meet at 8 am at the parking lot off Sisar Rd. Parking is very limited, so carpooling is suggested. Sisar Canyon is a great spot to see migrating warblers, vireos, and flycatchers as they forage throughout the oaks and riparian of the canyon. It's also a decent spot to see Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds!

Trip leader: Spencer Seale (805 746-9789).

### Sunday April 13th: Conejo Valley Botanical Garden

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot off Jeanine Dr. As migration heats up, the Conejo Valley Botanical Garden offers birds a nice resting stop in the middle of Thousand Oaks. There is a decent chance to see multiple different warbler species, vireos, flycatchers, orioles, and other migrants.

Trip leader: David Person (805) 469-6806



Plumebeous Vireo  
© CS Klabunde

Prairie Warbler  
© Don Klabunde



### Saturday, April 19th: Bear Divide

Bear Divide is a narrow pass in the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County that funnels thousands of birds through a tiny gap in the mountain ridge with hundreds of birds flying by at eye level per minute. Dawn flight is the best time to witness this spectacle, so we plan to be at Bear Divide by 6 a.m. If you want to carpool, contact Sammy Cowell to arrange a meeting spot. There may also be an opportunity to watch banders catch and tag migrants with mist nets.

Trip leader: Sammy Cowell (818) 470-7098

### Saturday, April 26th: Big Morongo

Big Morongo Preserve is one of the best places in southern California for migrant flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and other species, but it also hosts some great breeding birds. We can expect to see (or hear) Summer and Western Tanagers, Brown-crested and Vermilion Flycatchers, Bullock's and Hooded Orioles, Yellow-Breasted Chat, Bell's Vireo, as well as migrants and desert residents. Bring lunch, snacks, and plenty of water. In the afternoon we may look for Black-throated Sparrow and Scott's Oriole.

Meet at Covington Park. Take I-10 to Hwy 62, go north 10 miles to Morongo Valley and then turn right on Park Avenue. Please contact Pete Robertshaw (909) 771-9720 ahead of time if you are interested, in order to better coordinate meeting times and carpools.



Willow Flycatcher  
© Don Klabunde

Multicolored Tanager  
© BIRDS by BIJS



## COLOMBIA TRIP NEXT DECEMBER

We are going to the Central Andes from December 6-14. The website to sign up is:



Gray-breasted Mountain Toucan  
© BIRDS by BIJS

<https://secure.holbrooktravel.com/myaccount/TripOverview/CODPS40V1-C>



## Beginner Bird Walk

**Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa April 9th, 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 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)

**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.

## LAWNS TO HABITAT GRANTS



Suffering lawn  
© D Person



Black-headed Grosbeak eating blue elderberries  
© CS Klabunde

Do you have a lawn that's turning brown, or worse, artificial turf that's fading in the sun? Would you like to create a beautiful native garden that supports birds, pollinators, and other wildlife instead, while saving water and money? Starting June 1, we will be accepting applications for Conejo Valley Audubon Society's LAWNS TO HABITAT grant program, helping people turn their sad looking yards into thriving native plant habitats, resplendent with wildlife!



Garden with California native plants  
© CS Klabunde

Each summer CVAS accepts applications for these grants to help people make the transformation from LAWNS TO HABITAT. Successful applicants will receive:

- \$250 worth of native plants (40-50 plants, depending on size)
- Design advice from local gardening experts

**Additionally**, in response to the wildfires that have wreaked such destruction in Southern California this past decade, CVAS has inaugurated a new program, ASHES TO HABITAT, with special stipends for people in our area whose homes or neighborhoods were directly affected by our local fires, from 2018's Woolsey Fire to the more recent Mountain Fire. Stay tuned to the CVAS website for more details as the application period approaches.



© Don Klabunde



Please join us on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM until 3 PM for the  
**2025 CVAS BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR**



Our tour will feature yards which provide habitat for our native birds and demonstrate the use of drought tolerant California native plants in the landscape. This year the gardens will be located in Ventura. Hosts will be on site to answer questions. *The tour is free of charge.*

CVAS has a mission to make the public aware of the importance and beauty of birds, natural habitats, native plants and wildlife. At a time when bird populations are in decline due in large part to loss of habitat, we are dedicated toward promoting the creation of viable habitat for both local and migratory birds in our area. Our Bird-Friendly Garden Tours serve to educate and promote awareness about the importance of California native plants in supporting our bird populations, because native plants support the native bugs that birds feed to their babies. We encourage you to spread the word and bring your friends!

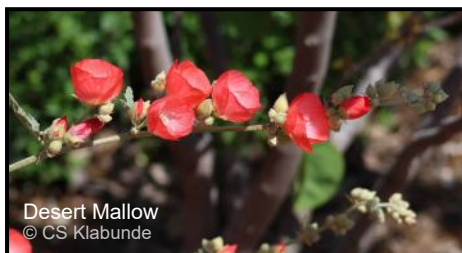


Cooper's Hawk in native garden  
© J de la Torre

If you are interested in attending this year's tour, please RSVP to [cvasbfqt@gmail.com](mailto:cvasbfqt@gmail.com) NO LATER THAN Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

When registering, please include the **FIRST and LAST NAME** of each guest who will be attending, along with your **E-MAIL** and a **PHONE NUMBER**. You will receive confirmation within 72 hours of your RSVP. If you do not receive confirmation, please check your SPAM or Junk mail. If you do not find the confirmation, please resubmit your RSVP and add this e-mail to your safe-senders list.

Two days prior to the tour, you will receive a list of addresses. After the tour, you will receive a follow-up e-mail with information relevant to planting a bird-friendly native garden habitat.



Desert Mallow  
© CS Klabunde



Western Redbud  
© CS Klabunde

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **No restroom facilities will be available.** Sorry
- **No dogs** will be allowed in any of the gardens.
- We encourage plant photography
- There will be no charge for this educational tour.



We hope our Bird-friendly Garden Tour will inspire you to install a bird-friendly habitat of your own, and we encourage you to spread the word and bring your friends!



California Poppy  
© CS Klabunde



Western Bluebird  
feeding her chick  
© CS Klabunde



Heuchera  
© CS Klabunde

## CVAS BEGINNER BIRDING CLASS IS COMING



Snowy Egret  
© CS Klabunde

Spread the word to Beginner Birders! Three Saturday classes are scheduled for 8 am: May 31, June 7 and June 14. Learn the basics of birdwatching, field guides and your binoculars setup. Location details to be posted on website soon.



Western Bluebird  
© CS Klabunde

# ROADRUNNER

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

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Vice Pres	Sammy Cowell	<i>vicepresident</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>



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Field Trips	Sammy Cowell	<i>fieldtrips</i>
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Lawns to Habitat	Ann Glass	<i>lawnstohabitat</i>
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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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