



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 57, Number 1

September, 2025

CALENDAR

Aug 31, Sun, 8:00 am
Camarillo Warbler Walk
see page 2

Sep 6, Sat, 8:00 am
SCRE
see page 2

Sep 8, Mon, 7:00 pm
**Monthly Program
Member Show&Tell**

Sep 13, Sat, 8:00 am
Bob Kildee Park
see page 2

Sep 10, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Sep 20, Sat, 8:00 am
Big Sycamore
see page 2

Sep 27, Sat, 8:00 am
Grant Park
see page 2



Wilson's Warbler
© Don Klabunde

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.



Shag
© CS Klabunde

Bring them on either thumb drive or other medium to WFVZ 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 know** if you plan to participate, so he can schedule your contribution.

If you're interested in joining us for dinner before the meeting, text Chrystal at (805) 261-9885 and meet us at WoodRanch Camarillo at Daily and Lantana by 5:00 pm.



Red-bellied
Woodpecker
© CS Klabunde



Kori Bustard
© B Clarfield-Bylin

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

August 31, Sunday - Camarillo Outlet Tipus

Meet at 8 am at the corner of Camarillo Center Drive and Plaza la Vista, near the Crossroads church. Best parking is at the outlets along Camarillo Center Dr. Target species will be early fall migrants (warblers, vireos, tanagers, orioles). Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

September 6, Sunday - Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at 8 am at the Surfer's Knoll parking area off Spinnaker Dr. Best parking is along Spinnaker as the parking lot now requires a fee. Target species will be fall shorebirds and perhaps waterfowl. Leader is Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987

September 13, Sunday - Bob Kildee Park

Meet at 8 am at the corner of Eston St. and Curt Dr. near the baseball fields. Target species will be warblers as we will be discussing the CVAS Warbler Bingo game and how to sign up and participate. Blank Bingo cards will be made available. Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

September 20, Sunday - Sycamore Campground and Beach

Meet at 8 am at the paid day-use parking area at the campground. Parking is \$3/hr. Target species will be fall migrants and perhaps shorebirds at the beach. Leader is TBD [text John at (818) 625-9584 for info].

September 27, Sunday - Grant Park Hawk Watching

Meet at 8 am at the parking area by the Serra Cross in Grant Park in Ventura. Target bird will be the Broad-Winged Hawk which has been recently spotted here. Bring good walking/hiking shoes as we may climb modest trails. Leader is TBD [text John at (818) 625-9584 for info].



Willet
© Don Klabunde



Prairie Warbler
© Don Klabunde

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa September 10, 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.

SPECIAL REPORT!

Another in our series of reports from our friend and fellow CVAS member, Teodelina Martelli, who is working as a Fulbright Scholar on conservation of the Andean Condor in Chile. She is now our new Conservation Correspondent. Enjoy:

Hyperarid
© T Martelli



On June 1st, I threw the last of my belongings in a rental car and took a final look around. The volcanoes Licancabur and Juriques were silent outlines under a shimmering field of stars. I bade them farewell. It was well before dawn when I drove out, following a long line of their smoking neighbors to the South. That's the great advantage of the Chilean Andes: they guide you through the entire length of the country. The Andean 5,000-mile range is the longest continuous region of the American Cordillera, which runs from the Alaska Range all the way down through the Antarctic Peninsula. As New World vultures expanded Northward from their radiation in South America, they would have followed thermals along this network of ranges, eventually leading to the divergence of California and Andean Condors from a common ancestor 10 million years ago. Now, I was driving in the opposite direction, that of increasing Andean Condor density towards central Chile and the next location of my Fulbright research.



© T Martelli

Armed with an extra fuel drum, I could afford to skip La Negra – a dystopic, sprawling mining town and point of no return – and begin my straight shot over the vast, uninhabited stretch of the Atacama. Stopping at the great Desert Hand statue, I realized I did not have a nozzle. Attempts to refuel were messy, and I got back in and drove on, drenched and reeking of gasoline. The tank soon ran low, and I stopped near what looked like an exploded truck. Half-expecting more sinister remains, I sorted through and found a large bottle, which proved useful for refueling while an unpleasant wind whipped through the surroundings. Thanking circumstance, wiping my hands, and impatient to return to the calm interior of the car, I suddenly noticed movement – the only life seen so far. A compact butterfly had fluttered past me, nearly flattened to the ground by the headwind. I recognized it as a *Vanessa* species and expected it to turn in a moment, to pick a new, more reasonable direction. The creature performed a zig, and then a zag, struggling obstinately Southward, and before long disappeared over the sands. A look at my recapacitated car made me feel entirely foolish. I had been worrying while this lady butterfly, amounting to a small slip of paper, went by on its own power.

Gratefully, I got back in and drove onward through Mars-like sequences strewn with inert stone. I would see ten more *Vanessas* as I crossed the Atacama, all of them flying Southwards over empty stretches of the driest sands on Earth. Over a hundred miles later, I would see the first tree, and first birds, in small numbers of Austral Turkey Vultures clustered around roadside bins. This desert population may be primarily made possible by human refuse, in the same way that Andean Condor numbers are propped by the dumps outside Santiago. The issue is double-edged. Juveniles and female condors, who may be excluded at carcasses by more dominant males, can rely on real food at the dumps during hard times; they also inevitably ingest plastics there, a dangerous tendency they share with the California Condor.

On the third day of driving, coming from Punta de Choros, I finally saw an Andean Condor again. I jumped out of the car while it soared low overhead, flanked by a silvery-primaried Black Vulture on either side. Condors have retracted from the coastal plain, but this adult appeared just five miles from the coast, accompanied by a competing species. It was a hopeful sight.

-Teodelina Martelli, Santiago de Chile, August 5th, 2025

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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

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