



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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CALENDAR

Oct 5, Sat, 8:00 am
Laguna Tams
see page 2

Oct 6, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Oct 11 and 12
The Big Sit
see page 2

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

Oct 19, Sun, 8:00 am
Arroyo Vista Park
see page 2

Oct 26, Sun, 8:00 am
Oxnard Plain
see page 2



Sora
© CS Klabunde

OCTOBER MONTHLY PROGRAM

FREE-FLYING LOS ANGELES PARROT PROJECT

Non-native parrots have become a very present and boisterous element of the urban ecosystems throughout Southern California. Now through the Free-Flying Los Angeles Parrot Project (FLAPP) on iNaturalist, we created a dataset focused on two of the more prominent species in Southern California, the Red-crowned and Lilac-crowned Parrots. After being introduced through the illegal pet trade, these sister-species have established their populations and even created mixed-species flocks that would not be possible otherwise. Our



Red-crowned Parrots
© David Pereksta



Lilac-crowned Parrot
© David Pereksta

research has focused on distinguishing the two species based on morphological features, comparison of the environmental conditions between their respective native ranges and their introduced range, and we are now shifting to understanding how their genetic makeup has been affected.

Join Brenda Ramirez to learn how you can help contribute to our research from your own neighborhoods! Become a member of FLAPP on iNaturalist:

<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/free-flying-los-angeles-parrot-project>.

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 at WFVZ (recommended) and on Zoom. The link to join on Zoom is <https://zoom.us/j/6155249106>.

If you would be 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.

OCTOBER 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

October 5, Sunday – Laguna Road Tamarisks

Meet at 8 am at the row of Tamarisk trees on Laguna Road just east of Pleasant Valley Road. Target species will be warblers of all sorts. This hundred-year-old row of trees has historically been one of the best places in California to find migrating warblers in the Fall. We will walk carefully along the road to listen and look for these beautiful yellow visitors.

Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

October 11th at 12:00 am to the 12th at 11:59 pm – The Big Sit

The Big Sit is a semi-competitive international event, sponsored by the New Haven Bird Club, in which birders sit in a 17 ft. circle and count birds for the weekend. If you're interested in joining a circle, contact John Mueller at (818) 625-9584. You could also form your own circle to compete. Visit <https://www.thebigsit.org/> for more info or to register a circle. Also let John know if you register a circle in case other folks want to join you.

So, pick a nice birdy spot, bring snacks, make yourselves comfortable, and see how many bird species you can document over the weekend from inside your circles. Then Monday morning, send your totals to fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org. We'll publish which individual or team got the most species, and who found the best bird.

October 19, Sunday – Arroyo Vista Park

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot at the far end of the park off Tierra Rejada in Moorpark. We'll look for all sorts of birds around the park and in the adjacent stretch of Arroyo Simi. There may be youth sports taking place, so come early.

Leader TBD contact John Mueller (818) 625-9584 for info

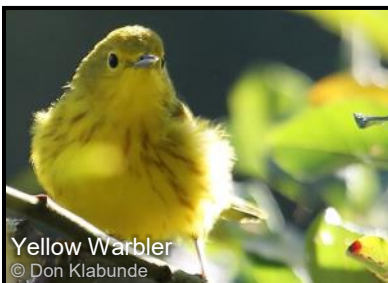
October 26, Sunday – Pipits, Plovers and Pipers of the Oxnard Plain

Meet at 8 am at the end of Arnold Road. We'll spend about an hour on Arnold Road, then from there we can carpool to the sod farms on Arnold and Casper where parking is limited. We'll look for pipits, plovers, sandpipers, raptors and who knows what else. Bring a scope if you have one. We can discuss as a group when we're there to come up with a game plan.

Leader TBD contact John Mueller (818) 625-9584 for info



American Pipit
© CS Klabunde



Yellow Warbler
© Don Klabunde

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa October 8, 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, accessible from 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.

CONSERVATION CORRESPONDANT'S REPORT!

Here's another in our series of reports from our friend and fellow CVAS member, Teodelina Martelli, who has been working as a Fulbright Scholar on conservation of the Andean Condor in Chile. Enjoy:



"I'm outside!" came the text message, and I checked the clock. It was 6:42 AM, just shy of the agreed meeting time. Chilean punctuality means 15-20 minutes after the agreed time, something I was glad not to have trusted on this early morning as I grabbed my things and headed out into the chill darkness. Technically, I was not supposed to be in Santiago anymore, but September 4th was an important day. Three young Andean Condors from the rehab center needed a ride into town for a medical checkup at the national zoo. These are the same birds that were flown – yes, flown – into Patagonia the last week of September, and the same birds who will be attended by a large audience of conservationists, Indigenous representatives, journalists, and philanthropists on the day of their release into the wild this December. It will be a lofty day – and you will hear about it – but the preceding months of unsung work are grimy. Arriving at the rehab center in the freezing dawn, I was handed a bag of black plastic so putrid that I nearly tossed it before realizing it held the zip ties for the condor kennels.

We snapped the three large dog kennels together, the director brushing away a large sleepy *Polybetes martius* spider he called *arañon del monte* (mountain spider). Soon it was time to capture. The sight of the three of us peering in at the enclosure door was too much for the condors; a few of them were already pumping their heads comically up and down, ejecting chunks of meat. Vultures vomit under stress, a feature that comes in handy when they have ingested too much meat to fly from a threat. "See that one?" whispered my supervisor behind us, "the young one barfing, we want that one." It seemed to know. A volunteer brought the *chinguillo* (large sturdy net) and started chasing. Andean Condors are visibly less agile than the California Condor in a small space; the panicking birds crashed around the flight cage, rushing past with powerful gusts of air only to cower hissing in the corner as the net came down. Getting them out of the net is delicate business. The bird is extracted feet first, the wings are then pinned by two more people, and then the hissing, glaring head has to be managed. At one point, the head started to slip from the volunteers' grip, inciting a round of curses from the otherwise polite team. This is absolutely the most dangerous part of the bird, and also the least pleasant; I felt bad for Mitchel, who was holding the beak shut against bubbles of vomit while also ensuring the bird was breathing through its nostrils. The smell was beyond description; the condors' steaming breath physically stung when it hit our faces, and I turned aside to the merciful reek of the old feed meat on which we knelt. California Condors similarly hiss and struggle when handled, but I had never dealt with them puking in the hand; how nice that had been!

Opening each wing, we riveted wing tags into the loose flap of skin at the birds' elbows, and then bundled each bird into a kennel. They scrambled to their feet, glaring darkly as we strapped the kennels into two truck beds. The roughest part of the day was over. We drove, stinking but relieved, into Santiago, where each condor was put under for measurements and X-rays. The volunteer team stood around under the clinical light, chatting quietly. We conjectured about the young zoo-bred male, who had been operated on months prior for an open leg fracture. The doors swung open and we were called – "Vengan! Fijense!" The X-ray image shone from a screen – the bone had healed strong. The birds were all declared healthy and cleared to proceed to their eventual freedom.

-Teodelina Martelli, Province of Buenos Aires, September 8th, 2025



Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.
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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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