



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 57, Number 3

November, 2025

CALENDAR

Nov 3, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Nov 9, Sun, 8:00 am
Conejo Creek Park North
see page 2

Nov 12, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Nov 16, Sun, 8:00 am
Rancho Simi Park & Arroyo
see page 2

Nov 30, Sun, 8:00 am
BIRD OUR PARKS
see page 2

Dec 14, Sun, all day
Christmas Bird Count
save the date



American Avocet
© CS Klabunde

NOVEMBER 3rd MONTHLY PROGRAM

BREEDING WATERFOWL OF HYPERSALINE MONO LAKE



Mono Lake
© D House

Mono Lake is well-known for its breeding population of California Gulls, and for the large numbers of Eared Grebes and phalaropes that use the lake in fall migration. Tucked away in the scattered wetlands, ponds and creeks around the shores of Mono Lake, there is also an established breeding waterfowl population. Deborah House has monitored the waterfowl at Mono Lake for over two decades, and she will take you on a virtual tour of the habitats that support waterfowl at Mono Lake, discussing the dynamic nature of these areas, how these systems have varied with lake level, and how breeding waterfowl have responded to these fluctuations.



© D House



© D House

Deborah is a semi-retired community ecologist who has conducted several long-term bird monitoring programs in the eastern Sierra region of California. She has spent her summers walking the incredibly beautiful and dynamic shoreline of Mono Lake, keeping track of the breeding waterfowl and their habitats as part of the restoration program for the lake.

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

November 9th, Sunday – Conejo Creek Park North

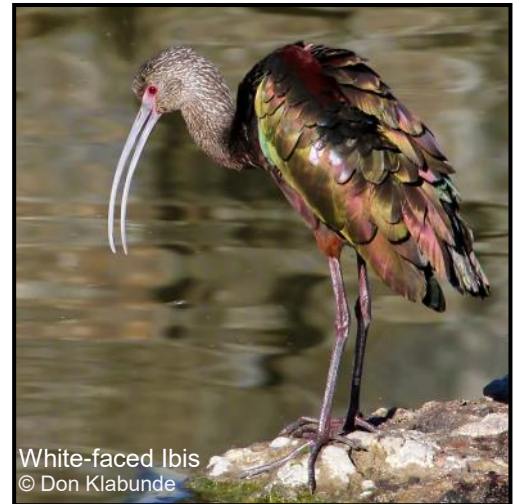
Meet at 8 am in the parking lot on the southern end near the exit. We will then walk a loop of the park to listen and look in the riparian area and grass for migrants and common park birds. This location may have returning waterfowl such as American Wigeon, and the trees and shrubs could be alive with various migratory birds such as warblers, vireos and sparrows.

Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

November 16th, Sunday – Rancho Simi Park

Meet at 8 am in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool off Royal Av west of Erringer Rd. Rancho Simi Community Park is a hot spot that offers up a variety of habitat such as a pond with an island, old sycamores, stands of conifers, and the adjacent Arroyo Simi. Resident species include Canada Goose, Western Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher, Black-crowned Night-heron, and there almost always seems to be at least one White-faced Ibis in the arroyo. We'll also look for Plumbeous Vireo, Cackling Goose, various ducks, sparrows, migrating warblers, and other winter visitors.

Leader is Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023



White-faced Ibis
© Don Klabunde



Belted Kingfisher
© Don Klabunde

November 30th, Sunday – BIRD OUR PARKS

This will be a social birding experiment where we as Ventura County residents will bird our own parks and see what kind of birds we can find. Birds commonly visit our parks so we will use social media (such as our new "Conejo Valley Audubon Society (CVAS)" WhatsApp community group) to count birds and discuss what we're seeing. Every city in Ventura County has multiple parks, so feel free to visit a couple and post your findings on our eBird Trip Report. If you would like to work together as a team, we will have a sign-up form closer to the date. We will then publish our results on the CVAS website and discuss at the December 1st meeting. Contact John Mueller (818) 625-9584 for info

Also, save the date. Our Thousand Oaks Christmas Bird Count will be Sunday, December 14th. Dave Pereksta will have more info as the time draws near. **And we'll need someone to host the tally party as our usual host will be out of town.**

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa November 12, 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.

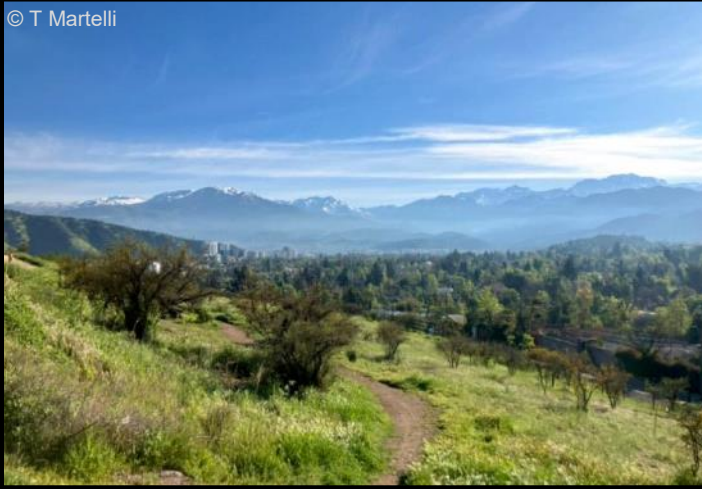
Contact walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878 (texting is OK)

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:

© T Martelli



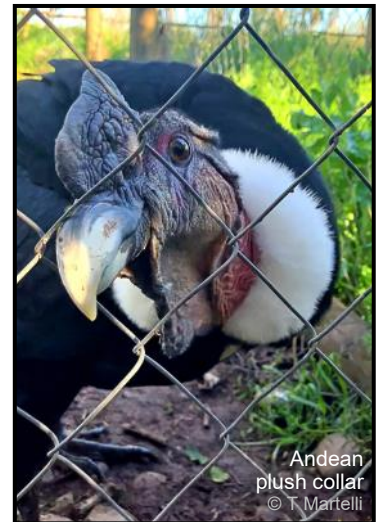
After a short visit to Buenos Aires, I decided to stay longer in Santiago in order to stay closer to my project advisors and work on my graduate applications. Spring has arrived here, with the keen, crystal-clear days that make March my favorite month in California. The landscape conspires to fit the theme; a recent birding walk took me along a hillside full of blooming California poppies. Yes, reflected across from you over the equator at latitude -33° , the Santiago region hosts not only California's state bird but also the state flower! The latter is an invasive here, and for the first time, I took a flaming bouquet home, trying to think of the space I was freeing up for native plants. The mountainsides are dressed with a local *Baccharis* brush like our chaparral; when warmth returns, the Andean Condor starts soaring higher up the canyons to scavenge. Most Chileans I've met in this region have personal sightings and awareness of their national bird. The California Condor is by contrast practically unknown to most people in their range, not to mention those outside the U.S.

Everyone down here wants to know what the other condor is like; they make a comparison with a hint of pride, noting that theirs is the one with the elegant white collar. Both condors carry ruffs, specialized feathers on the neck that can be worn low or pulled high to the nape when chilly or signaling submission to a threat. Though both seem to function similarly, they are quite different physically. Early in high school, the California Condor's ruff appeared soft to me, like a feather boa; during a workup out at Bitter Creek NWR, I put my hand out to touch one and got a surprise. It does look like a fancy boa – with sprays of 5-inch black feathers tapering to fine points – but feels quite stiff, the feathers barblike and abrasive.

The Andean Condor wears the counterpart to our bird's goth boa: a plush collar of snowy down, perhaps 2 inches thick. I observed the captive birds with great curiosity towards this major difference. Back in September when the young condors were being checked at the zoo, I had the opportunity to touch a ruff. Andean Condors, like their sister species, take a full seven years to reach maturity, so this was a collar-in-progress worn by a "teenaged" coffee-colored bird. Even so, it was markedly soft – a thick layer of down beginning to supersede the scale-shaped breast feathers. Continuing the photonegative theme, the Andean Condor appears "snowed" on the upper wing surface (coverts, tertials, and secondaries), where the California Condor wears its white on the underwing coverts, which are sleek and shiny. The white Andean flight feathers are by contrast matte and slightly velvety to the touch. It made me wonder if the differing textures held ecological advantages, such as managing flight or temperature. These two condors continue to present questions about the many parallels between their landscapes, physique, and natural history.

Standing on a street corner outside of town, looking absently into the distance, I suddenly felt a comfortable sense of home. The foothills were green-gray, ridges glowing softly in the diffuse afternoon light. They had transported me to the view off the freeway in Thousand Oaks, and I had to consciously recall that this was Cerro La Cruz and not Sandstone Peak. With the illusion undone, I could not "see" it again, but what a wonderful aftertaste it left!

-Teodelina Martelli, Santiago de Chile, October 6th, 2025



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

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Member at Large	Gary Evans	<i>gary</i>
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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 WFVZ.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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