



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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December, 2025

CALENDAR

Dec 1, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Dec 6, Sun, 8:00 am
Conejo Community Park and Botanic Garden
see page 2

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

Dec 14, Sun, all day
Thousand Oaks CBC
see page 2

Dec 20, Sat, all day
Ventura CBC
see page 2



Osprey
© CS Klabunde

DECEMBER 1st MONTHLY PROGRAM

PATCH BIRDING IN COLORADO LAGOON

Patch-birding will lead to better understanding of how our local birds use different parts of the landscape from year to year and season to season, which may be more useful than knowing how often birds stray far off-course.

Over the course of 8 years, Robb Hamilton has birded about 800 times at Colorado Lagoon, a cozy little body of water in Long Beach, recording 228 species out of the 246 that have been reported on eBird, and photographing the different species.

By achieving good coverage of the lagoon throughout the year, and across multiple years, Robb has been able to capture inter-annual variability, and has established the baseline conditions ahead of a major change in the configuration of the lagoon — the opening of a large channel between Alamitos Bay and the lagoon, which will greatly increase the tidal flushing of the lagoon and increase the area of native habitat available to the birds. Ultimately, Robb intends to collect several years of post-channel data and compare it with the extensive pre-channel data already collected.

Born in Santa Barbara, Robb Hamilton has been birding since he was 15. He's been an independent biological consultant since 1994.



© R Hamilton

JOIN US AT THE WESTERN FOUNDATION!



© WFVZ

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.

HELP EQUIP BOCAS VALLE DE AGUA HAWKWATCH



In Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, Panama, there's an indigenous hawkwatch team, Ignacio Quintero, Ovaldino Palacios, Reneiro Abrego, Raul Abrego who count raptors from Reneiro's cacao farm. Working under ADOPTA, this team spends 10 hours a day during the migration, eyes peeled to the sky and using only low quality binoculars and no spotting scope, manages to count up to one million raptors per day. If you want, you can see their data on the Hawk Migration Association site at https://www.hawkcount.org/month_summary.php?rsite=944&ryear=2025&rmonth=10

Anne Ardillo from the non-profit Wings of Wisdom Corp. had visited the team in Panama and contacted Linnea Hall at WFVZ to see if our local birding community might be willing to help support their work. She suggests three ways to help:

- Contribute on the Go Fund Me page: <https://gofund.me/761a1348c>
- Any discounts you may have that we can use when purchasing the equipment
- Slightly used equipment that you would like to part with.

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

December 6th, Sunday – Conejo Community Park & Botanical Gardens

Meet in the botanical gardens parking area off Gainsborough Road. There are toilets there and we'll begin our walk promptly at 8am. The botanical gardens are adjacent to the large open Community Park which offers several opportunities for a variety of birds this time of year. There may be wintering warblers. We'll look for pipits on the grass; bluebirds in the trees; sparrows, nuthatches and kinglets in the gardens, and hawks in the sky.

This will be a beginner-friendly walk designed to help those new to the hobby learn how to listen, look and identify various types of birds in our area. Check our [Field Trips website](#) for current information, updates and a link to sign-up. The botanical garden is a bit hilly, so wear appropriate shoes.

Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

December 14th, Sunday – Thousand Oaks Christmas Bird Count

Contact Dave Pereksta at pereksta@pacbell.net, if he hasn't already contacted you. Carol and Bill Langford will be hosting the post-count tally party. You can reach Carol at (360) 742-6059.

December 20th, Saturday -- Ventura Christmas Bird Count

Interested folks can email venturabirdcount@gmail.com to sign up.



White-breasted Nuthatch
© CS Klabunde

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa December 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, 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.

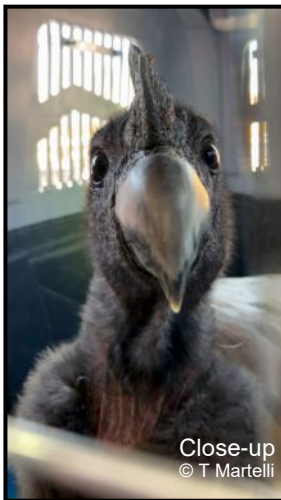
Contact walk leader Richard Armerding at (310) 701-3878 (texting is OK)

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!

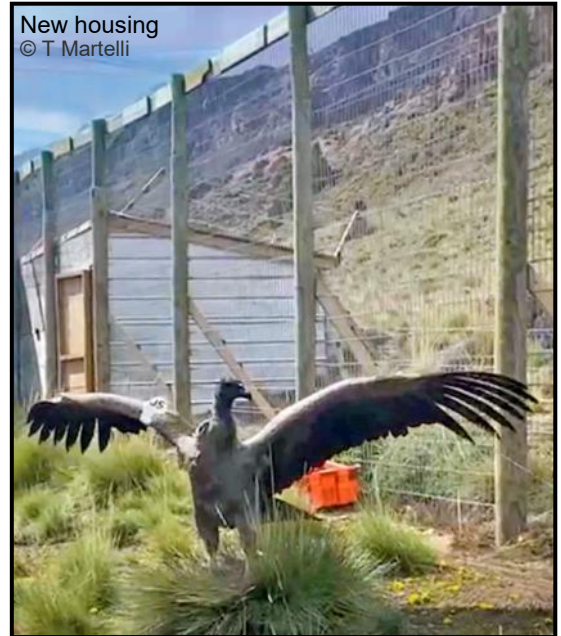
Here's another in our series of reports from our friend and fellow CVAS member, Teodelina Martelli, who has been working as a Fulbright Scholar on conservation of the Andean Condor in Chile. Enjoy:

Last week, I came alone to the condor rehab center. A white sun shone through a curtain of early mist, and Black-faced Ibises left their croaking huddles to land overhead in the branches and stare. The Chilean agriculture service was to pick up the young condors for their plane to Patagonia, and I was going to ask to see the birds off. It was early, and the place was still; I sat with a snack, then put it away in anticipation of the unpleasant smells during capture. A shuffling sound interrupted this thought. Looking in the shed, I saw the three big kennels lined up, and sure enough, the birds were already inside. The boss, Mauricio, appeared as I stood in mixed relief. "We need 60 kilos of meat for the flight enclosure, just put it in the wheelbarrow!" No escaping the smells! I sliced open unrefrigerated packets of weeks-old pork and rolled into the enclosure, holding my breath. Four birds remained there, watching as I dumped their feed. One was a teenaged bird, "Mailen", who had been destined for release but switched with younger "Carmen" by accident. It had been too costly to undo, and I felt for this bird, bound to another year in captivity.



Close-up
© T Martelli

There was not much else to do. "Mauricio, do you think the Servicio will let me come?" "Maybe," said the boss disinterestedly. But when two trucks rolled up, he went right into his genial mode, talking the ears off the government guys while they tried to fill paperwork with him. "She's here for photo and video, yes? Coming with?" they asked. "Yes," said Mauricio while I registered the easy in. "I'll send you everything!" I confirmed eagerly. We loaded the heavy kennels into the truckbeds, strapping them into place while the birds inside hissed softly. On the long drive to the airport, I asked about the Servicio's role. The California Condor's acute decline precipitated the creation of the federal Condor Recovery Program; the Andean Condor's population has not suffered such a crisis point, nor do they have a dedicated government program in Chile. Instead, several departments and private agencies play specific roles, the Servicio being in charge of transport. The lack of centralization means there is no reliable protocol; when and how the next step happens is up to the agency that has the birds (or the liquid funds) in hand. Some unseen process had run late; the birds still needed their two months of captive exposure to the Patagonian climate, so the release date was moved to January. Given my travel plans, this was my formal farewell to these condors.



New housing
© T Martelli



Special cargo
© T Martelli

We parked in the near-empty lot at LATAM Cargo under a baking sun. The guys went to wait in the shade, and I talked with a curious attendant, the chalky smell of feathers thickening the air. The interested ground personnel placed the kennels onto dollies, peeking in and asking questions. Inside, the young condors were alert but calm, "sitting" on their metatarsi. We checked them in two hours before their domestic flight. Plane tickets cost \$425 total for the three birds, who would ride in the pet cargo area of a commercial flight with unsuspecting passengers. Think about that next time you get on a plane! The kennels passed into cargo processing (photographed and ogled as they went), and with some signatures, our work was done. A day later, someone texted me a video: the freshly arrived condors flapping in a stiff wind, their new home, the Patagonian Andes, in the backdrop.

-Teodelina Martelli, Santiago de Chile, October 26th, 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 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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