



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

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Volume 57, Number 4

January, 2026

CALENDAR

Jan 5, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Jan 10, Sat, 8:00 am
CSUCI Regional Park
see page 2

Jan 14, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 2

Jan 23, Fri 8:00 am
Pt. Mugu Naval Base
CVAS members only
see page 2

Jan 24, Sat, 8:00 am
Hill Canyon
see page 2

Mar 14, Sat, 5:30 pm
Annual Dinner/Auction
see page 3



JANUARY 5th MONTHLY PROGRAM

HOW DOES A SONGBIRD LEARN TO SING ESPECIALLY WHEN HE'S A COWBIRD WHO HAS NEVER MET HIS PARENT



Steve Rothstein will discuss generalizations regarding how songbirds learn their vocalizations as well as some exceptions to those generalizations. He will also discuss cowbirds and what's known about their vocal development and how both innate and genetic aspects combine with learning to produce vocal repertoires.

Steve Rothstein is a Research Professor, Professor Emeritus of Zoology, Department of Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology, at UC Santa Barbara.



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.

CONSERVATION CORRESPONDENT'S REPORT!

This marks the conclusion of my Fulbright year! Two weeks ago, we had a farewell barbecue at the rehab center, where I fed some choice bits of raw filet to my favorite Andean Condor, Bartolo. He looked away briefly, and I snuck a touch of his fluffy white collar through the fencing. The rehab team gifted me a condor poster with their signatures. This year has been a great adventure looking into the life and conservation of the California Condor's cousin. Thanks to the folks reading back home, and I hope to see you at a monthly meeting.

-Teodelina Martelli, Santiago de Chile, December 4th, 2025



JANUARY 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

Our Fieldtrip Chair is trying something new: You can sign up for trips at [new Field Trip Sign-Up Form](#). Also, you're invited to join our Conejo Valley Audubon Society (CVAS) [WhatsApp community group](#) from your phone or desktop and chat with others in real-time to discuss rare birds, get bird IDs, or just get to know each other.

January 10th, Saturday – CSU Channel Islands Regional Park & Ponds

Meet at 8:00 am. Take Lewis Road to Camarillo St. to Old Dairy Road (yes, the Scary Dairy) near CSUCI. This is one of the best open spaces in Ventura County for not only good habitat for sparrows as well as raptors and the back ponds for wintering waterfowl. Canvasbacks have been seen there most years as well as American White Pelicans among others. Expect to walk about 2 miles total. Not much shade so bring a hat and sunscreen.

Leader is John Mueller (818) 625-9584

January 23rd, FRIDAY (8am-1pm) – Point Mugu Naval Base

Pt. Mugu Navy Base has had more diverse bird species than anywhere else in Ventura County. This is a rare opportunity for **current CVAS members** to get an escorted birding tour of the base to see dozens of different species, from raptors to waders and sea ducks to hummers. Be sure to sign up at our [new Field Trip Sign-Up Form](#). Be sure to include your email address since the Field Trip coordinator will email you **the required documents which MUST be completed and returned by Dec 29th**. Check our [Field Trips page](#) for current updates, or email John Mueller, our Fieldtrip Chair for more information: fieldtrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org.

January 24th, Saturday – Hill Canyon

Meet at 8 am at Santa Rosa Valley Park, the equestrian parking area at the beginning of Hill Canyon. We will walk through the open space around the equestrian area including the short walk to the creek. Next, we'll walk across the bridge and up the canyon in search of wintering birds. Rain will cancel this trip. Bathrooms are available at the parking area.

Leaders are Carol & Bill Langford (360) 742-6059



White-throated Sparrow
© CS Klabunde

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa January 14th, 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.

The California Big Year 2026 Challenge from Fantasy Birding

Our Fieldtrip Chair would like to suggest a fun new game. Like an actual big year, the object is to guess where species might be found, but instead of actually going there and spotting those birds, you tally birds that other people see there on a given day. You might call it vicarious birding.

For more information and to participate, visit <http://www.fantasybirding.com> then select *Join Game*, and search for *California Big Year 2026*. The competition begins January 1—join for an engaging year of birding adventure.

Hi, CVAS Birders,

It's time to think about our Annual Dinner/Auction for 2026. This year it will fall on March 14th – π Day, Pi Day, or even Pie Day if you prefer.

CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL
COCKTAIL DINNER AND AUCTION



**SATURDAY
MARCH 14, 2026**

(3/14 AKA 3.14 AKA π DAY)

**PALM GARDEN
HOTEL**

495 VENTU PARK ROAD
THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91320

NO-HOST COCKTAILS AT 5:30 PM
DINNER AT 6:30 PM

TO DONATE ITEMS FOR
AUCTION CONTACT THE
KLABUNDES AT
(805)-522-8023 OR
DPKLABUNDE@MSN.COM

ALSO BRING BIRDY WHITE
ELEPHANTS FOR THE RAFFLE TABLE

TICKETS \$80.00
EARLYBIRD SPECIAL \$70.00 BEFORE FEBRUARY 28
(STUDENTS \$55.00)

**5 FREE RAFFLE TICKETS
FOR EACH FIRST-TIME GUEST**

DINNER BUFFET (BUF)

salad
2 entrees
2 sides
dinner roll and butter
coffee, tea and sodas
and of course pie

CUSTOM ENTRÉE (CUS)

vegan, GF or special order

**WINE AND COCKTAILS
WILL BE AVAILABLE**

Please fill out this form, mail it with your check (payable to CVAS) to CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359, or register at ConejoValleyAudubon.org (we take PayPal) Enter names as you would like them to appear on your place card and select BUF or CUS.

Contact Email or Phone # _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

Name _____ entrée _____

OR REGISTER AT ConejoValleyAudubon.org WITH PayPal

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

OFFICERS		USERNAMES
President	Frank DeMartino	<i>president</i>
Vice Pres	Kay Regester	<i>vicepresident</i>
Secretary	Ann Glass	<i>secretary</i>
Treasurer	David Person	<i>treasurer</i>

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Field Trips	John Mueller	<i>fieldtrips</i>
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Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>gardentour</i>
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Member at Large	Nobuko McClure	<i>nobuko</i>
Member at Large	Gary Evans	<i>gary</i>
Member at Large	Matthew Page	<i>matthew</i>



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

() [Check here to receive your newsletter by snail mail, otherwise a digital version will be sent by email.](#)

Name _____

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Phone _____

Email address _____