



ROADRUNNER

FOUNDED 1968

Published by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society a Chapter of the National Audubon Society
visit us at: www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org or www.facebook.com/ConejoValleyAudubon

Volume 57, Number 6

March, 2026

CALENDAR

Mar 2, Mon, 7:00 pm
Monthly Program

Mar 7, Sat, 7:00 am
Carrizo Plain
see page 3

Mar 11, Wed, 8:00 am
Beginner Bird Walk
see page 3

Mar 14, Sat, 5:30 pm
Annual Dinner/Auction
see page 2

Mar 28, Sat, 8:00 am
Lake Piru
see page 3

Apr 11, Sat, 8:00 am
Beginner Birding Class
see page 4

Apr 18, Sat, 9:00 am
Family Birding Event
see page 4

Apr 26, Sun, 9 am - 3 pm
Bird-Friendly Garden Tour
see page 5



Merlin
© Don Klabunde

MARCH 2nd MONTHLY PROGRAM CALIFORNIA CONDORS BACK FROM THE BRINK



California Condor
© CS Klabunde

This presentation will include natural history details about the critically-endangered California Condor from their emergence during the Pleistocene through their decline and their eventual status as “extinct in the wild”. The Condor Recovery Program, which has successfully reintroduced California Condors into the wild, will be discussed including captive breeding efforts, how the wild flock is managed, and ongoing threats.

Maria Montag is the Board President of Friends of California Condors Wild and Free, a non-profit that works in partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), which manages the two National Wildlife Refuges northwest of Los Angeles, Bitter Creek NWR and Hopper Mountain NWR, which protect the historic nesting sites of the critically-endangered California Condors. Maria is also a USFWS Maintenance Volunteer performing defensible space activities on the refuges. While not a trained biologist, she is an avid student of these fascinating birds and welcomes the opportunity to share her love of them with you today.



© Maria Montag



© WFVZ

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.

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)

Rustic Salad, Grilled Sirloin,
 Mediterranean Herb Chicken,
 Roast Red Potatoes, Grilled
 Vegetables, plus dinner roll
 and butter, coffee, tea, sodas
 and OF COURSE PIES

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 _____

OR REGISTER AT ConejoValleyAudubon.org WITH PayPal

MARCH 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

Your Fieldtrip Chair says: Stay current with each trip by joining our Conejo Valley Audubon Society (CVAS) WhatsApp community group (<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DhgPyJj3mOkImKLWq3AH1J?mode=wwt>) 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.

March 7th, Saturday – Carrizo Plain

Meet at 7am on highway 33 under the bridge off Casitas Vista Road. Organize your own carpool with a vehicle suitable for bumpy dirt roads and a full tank of gas. We will meet at the dirt parking area under the highway 33 bridge (where many bikers and hikers park) and caravan up Hwy 33 to the south entrance of the National Monument via Soda Lake Road. Road conditions may vary so a higher clearance vehicle is recommended. Please bring water, food, and suitable clothing as this may be an all-day event depending on weather, traffic and overall conditions. There may be traffic in the valley due to the high wildflower bloom this season so there may be many visitors. Cell service will be limited. Hopefully we will see lingering Mountain Plover and raptors, but there will also be a good chance of incoming Spring Migrants. We will be sensitive to the natural vegetation and only stay on roads and approved trails.

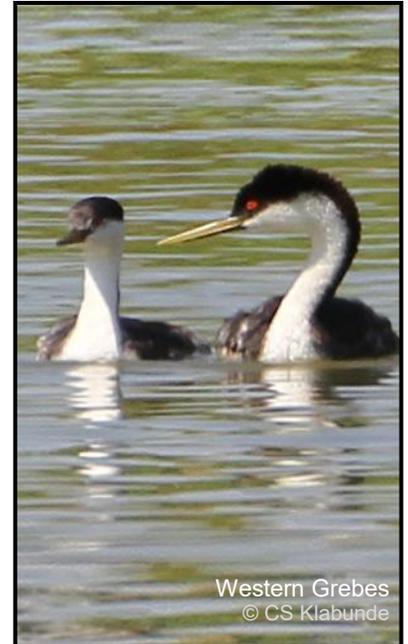
Trip Leader – John Mueller (818)625-9584

March 28th, Saturday – Lake Piru

Meet at 8 am at Warring Park in the town of Piru. We will then carpool (Lake Piru entrance fee is \$14 on weekends) and slowly go up the road to the lake entrance. The road up may have a better chance of seeing Condor, Eagles and other raptors. Once at the lake we'll explore the shoreline, the grass park and trees and perhaps go a little further time permitting.

Bring a scope for waterfowl far out on the lake and check the weather as the Piru area experiences extreme weather conditions. Dress accordingly.

Trip Leader – Peter Robertshaw (909) 771-9720



Western Grebes
© CS Klabunde



White-tailed Kite
© Don Klabunde

Beginner Bird Walk Rancho Sierra Vista / Satwiwa March 11th, 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)



Rufous-crowned Sparrow
© Don Klabunde

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.



Snowy Egret
© CS Klabunde

BEGINNER BIRDING CLASS: SATURDAY, APRIL 11 AT 8:00 AM

Come learn the basics of birdwatching and how to use a field guide and binoculars. Learn to ID the birds in your backyard and our local parks. A bird walk in the Conejo Community Park will follow.

Meet at 8:00 am at the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden (CVBG), 400 W. Gainsborough Rd., Thousand Oaks. Drive to the parking lot on Jeanine Drive. Class will be held in the Kids' Adventure Garden. A \$10 cash donation will be collected for CVBG. Bring water & snacks, wear comfortable shoes and binoculars if you have them. After this one class, you'll feel ready to join our regular schedule of birding trips. Look for them on our website.



Western Bluebird
© CS Klabunde

FAMILY BIRDING EVENT SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 9-11 AM

In collaboration with Moorpark City Library, come and learn the basics of birdwatching. Learning activities for all ages and a bird walk through the park will help you ID the birds in your backyard and our local parks.

Meet at 9 am at Arroyo Vista Community Park, 4550 Tierra Rejada Road, Moorpark.



California Scrub Jay
© CS Klabunde

Please join us on Sunday, April 26th from 9 AM until 3 PM for the
2026 CVAS BIRD-FRIENDLY GARDEN TOUR



This tour will feature yards which provide habitat for our native birds and demonstrate the use of drought tolerant California native plants in the landscape. This year we will once again partner with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS Channel Islands). All of the gardens will be located in the city of Camarillo, and the hosts will be on site to answer questions.

CVAS has a mission to make the public aware of the importance and beauty of birds, natural habitats, native plants and wild-life. At a time when bird populations are in decline due in large part to loss of habitat, we are dedicated toward promoting the creation of viable habitat for both local and migratory birds in our area. Our Bird-Friendly Garden Tours serve to educate and promote awareness about the importance of California native plants in supporting our bird populations, because native plants support the native bugs that birds feed to their babies. We encourage you to spread the word and bring your friends!

If you are interested in attending this year's tour, please RSVP to gardentour@conejovalleyaudubon.org NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, APRIL 17th, 2026.

When registering, please include the **FIRST** and **LAST NAME** and **EMAIL** of each guest who will be attending, along with the **PHONE NUMBER** of the person who will be registering. You will receive confirmation within 72 hours of your RSVP. If you do not receive confirmation, please check your SPAM or Junk mail. If you do not find the confirmation, please resubmit your RSVP and add this e-mail to your safe-senders list.

Two days prior to the tour, you will receive a list of addresses.

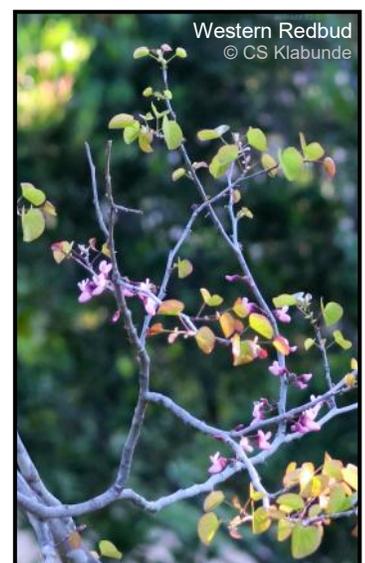
Then after the tour, you will receive a follow-up e-mail with information relevant to planting a bird-friendly native garden habitat.

And we hope that our Bird-Friendly Garden Tour will inspire you to install a bird-friendly habitat of your own.



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **No restroom facilities will be available.** Sorry
- **No dogs** will be allowed in any of the gardens.
- We encourage plant photography
- There will be no charge for this educational tour.



ROADRUNNER

Page 4

Volume 57, Number 6

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

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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

Programs	Gena Nicole Ball	<i>programs</i>
Field Trips	John Mueller	<i>fieldtrips</i>
Conservation	Sangeet Khalsa	<i>conservation</i>
Lawns to Habitat	Ann Glass	<i>lawnstohabitat</i>
Garden Tour	Jennifer de la Torre	<i>gardentour</i>
Education	Meg Thackoorie	<i>education</i>
Membership	Catherine Armerding	<i>membership</i>
Publicity	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	<i>publicity</i>
Social Media	Bonnie Clarfield-Bylin	<i>media</i>
Newsletter	Chrystal Klabunde	<i>newsletter</i>
Webmaster	Chrystal Klabunde	<i>webmaster</i>
Photographer	Don Klabunde	<i>photographer</i>
Librarian	Jean Stoutenborough	<i>librarian</i>
Member at Large	Carol Langford	<i>carol.langford</i>
Member at Large	Dee Lyon	<i>dee</i>
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 _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email address _____