General Meeting, January 8  
7:30 pm Western Foundation  
Birding Down Under  
Richard Armerding

Australia is home to 700+ species of birds, almost half of which are found nowhere else in the world. In December, 2016, Richard and Catherine visited Australia to see and photograph some of these birds, with a particular focus on cockatoos. From the rainforests and wetlands of Queensland to the dry woodlands and rocky shores of Western Australia, Richard will present a snapshot of “Birding down Under.”

Western Corella by Richard Armerding

Conservation  
by Dee Lyon  
Greater Mekong Species

The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) issued a report outlining 163 new species found in the Greater Mekong, a region that includes Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar. There are 14 reptiles, 11 fish, 3 mammals, 9 amphibians and 126 plants that are new to science.

The new species include a spiky lizard, an orange-eyed frog and a flower with “mouse ear” petals as well as the “Klingon Newt”. The “Klingon Newt”, found in Thailand, has bright orange ridges on top of its head and snaking down its back. The ridges call to mind the bumpy foreheads of Klingons from “Star Trek”. Since 1997 there are 2409 new species found in the Mekong.

This region’s biodiversity is increasingly threatened by human activity.

***Pre meeting Dinner***  
Ottavio’s in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call Nobuko McClure  
For Reservations (805) 482-0411  
Reservation Deadline: 9:00 am  
Day of General Meeting
CVAS EVENTS

Everyone is welcome to attend any CVAS meeting or field trip. CVAS assumes no responsibility for injuries, personal or otherwise, incurred while attending a society-sponsored activity and will not be held liable for such accidents. One attends at one’s own risk.

Saturday, January 6, 8:00 am
Ventura River Estuary
Emma Wood State Beach

Birders will be treated to great views of the Pacific Ocean, the Ventura River Estuary, gulls, terns, shorebirds and ducks. All of these and more are reasons to join us for a leisurely Saturday morning stroll from Emma Wood State Beach to the estuary. To carpool meet at the Las Posas Road Park and Ride lot at 7:30 am. Directions: From Camarillo take the 101 north to California St. in Ventura. Turn right on California and left on Main St. Follow Main St. to the entrance to Emma Wood State Beach Group Campground on the left. You may park on the north side of Main St. and walk in. Or you may pay $10 to drive in if you prefer. Be sure not to leave valuables in your car. Spotting scopes are welcome. Leader: Bruce Henderson (805) 312-2650. Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, January 14, 7:00 am
Join us for birding at Lake Sherwood on Sunday, January 14. We will meet just inside the Stafford Gates at 7:00 am in hopes of seeing the Red-winged Blackbirds as they leave the reeds. 60+ species were encountered on one morning in early December. These included Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Eared Grebe, Least Bittern, Osprey, Merlin, Lincoln’s Sparrow and Purple Finch. The Stafford Gate (2186 Stafford Rd.) is accessed from Potrero Rd. just west of Sherwood Dr. near the fire station. Meet at the large parking lot on your left after you enter the gate. Spotting scopes are encouraged. As entry into this community is restricted please RSVP to fiedltrips@conejovalleyaudubon.org by Saturday, January 13, to place your name on the guest list. Leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987. Heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, January 20, 8:00 am
Arnold Road/ Ormond Beach

We will look for a variety of shorebirds at this excellent coastal location. We should see Willets, Whimbrels, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers and other interesting birds. We will also look for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Peregrine Falcons, Loggerhead Shrikes and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Dress in layers as the morning may be chilly. Please bring a scope if you have one. Directions: Exit Hwy 101 at Rice Avenue and go south. Continue on Hueneme Rd. and turn right. Take a left on Arnold Rd. and continue to the end of the road. Please note: Avoid leaving valuables in your car. There are portable restrooms at the beach entrance. To carpool meet at the Las Posas Road Park and Ride lot at 7:30 am. Leader: Dee Lyon (805) 427-0987. Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, January 28, 8:00 am
Rancho Simi Community Park

Rancho Simi Community Park in Simi Valley is perhaps an under-birded location. It offers up a variety of habitats, such as stands of conifers, a pond and an adjacent arroyo. The park has hosted such species as Plumbeous Vireo, Cackling Goose, Wood Duck and fall migrating warblers. Resident species include Canada Goose, Western Bluebird, Belted Kingfisher and Black-crowned Night-Heron. There almost always seems to be a least one White-faced Ibis in Arroyo Simi. We may also find Chipping Sparrow and winter visitors hanging around. Meet in the parking lot nearest the swimming pool at 8 am. Directions: Take 118 freeway to Erringer Rd. Exit and head south. Turn right at Royal Ave. Enter the park along Royal just before you get to the brick building near the pool. Trip leader: Don Klabunde (805) 522-8023.
In case you missed the last excursion to Mugu Naval Base, we have another opportunity on Friday, February 23!

Once again advance registration is required. Please email completed forms to fiedltrips@ConejoValleyAudubon.org by January 26 or turn them in to Angela at the January 8 member meeting. If you went in December and wish to return, we can resubmit the form you previously completed – just please let Angela know as soon as possible that you wish to be included in the February trip (there are already 8 people signed up.) If you are a Department of Defense civilian or military employee, you do not need to fill out the form, but you do need to let Angela know that you are coming (DoD contractors are required to complete the form.)

This trip is limited to a maximum of 20 current CVAS members only.

**Hooded Oriole** by Don Klabunde

**Say’s Phoebe** by Don Klabunde

**Brown Pelican** by Don Klabunde

**Yellow-headed Blackbird** by Don Klabunde
Regular meetings are held on the first Monday evening of each month at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology, 439 Calle San Pablo, Camarillo at 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted. Everyone is welcome. Take Pleasant Valley Road or Lewis Road to where they cross south of the 101 Freeway. Go west to the second street, Calle San Pablo. Turn right. The Foundation is the fifth building on the left.

The Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology is a non-profit organization founded in 1956 to promote the study and conservation of birds and other vertebrates. The organization makes contributions in the areas of natural history collections, original research, and conservation.

The Roadrunner is published monthly except July and August by the Conejo Valley Audubon Society. It is sent to paid CVAS members only. Members are invited to submit articles, announcements, letters, photos, and drawings for publication consideration. Copy deadline is the 5th of the month. Send items to Gary Evans, 29 Sabra Ave., Oak Park, Calif. 91377-1126 or by E-mail: GaryE@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

For information on joining the National Audubon Society, please go to www.audubon.org