Roadrunner

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General Meeting October 1
7:30 pm Western Foundation
Kenya
Birds & Wildlife of the Gem of East Africa

Join Roy Poucher and Bird Odysseys on a wild and wonderful photographic safari to Kenya...

Your virtual-reality tour will transport you to the expansive grasslands of the Masai Mara and to other scenic locations where exotic and comical-looking birds and the big game such as hippos, rhinos, zebra, elephant, giraffes and lions live out life's drama.

Bee-eaters & Rollers, Hamerkop & Fish Eagles, Weavers & Sunbirds, Hoopoes & Hornbills, Bustards & Lapwings, Longclaws & White-Eyes.....These magical birds and more are captured in stunning photos taken by our Sea & Sage trip participants.

Grasp the mind-boggling millions of Lesser Flamingoes blanketing Lake Nakuru. Enjoy the antics of the gangly Secretary Bird and of the male Kori Bustard, the largest flying bird in the world, as it displays for females.

Plus we visit beautiful and bird-rich Lakes Baringo and Naivasha, the verdant Kakamega Forest, and famous Treetops Lodge, built above big game watering holes in Aberdares National Park.

Come to this fun presentation for the entire family! Experience why it’s called “Magical Kenya”.

Roy Poucher has been a Sea and Sage trip leader and field assistant in their introductory birding classes for 15 years. He has lead multi-day trips to the Eastern Sierra, Arizona and Texas. His birding Big Years were major accomplishments (472 species in CA in 1996; 677 in the ABA Area in 1998). His bird tour company, Bird Odysseys, has taken groups to North Dakota & the Great Lakes, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands. Trips to Thailand and Costa Rica are planned. His trip assistant, Linda Oberholtzer, will join Roy in presenting this program.

CVAS Newsletter via E-mail

Please reconsider receiving your newsletter by E-mail. Postage has gone up again and it also saves the cost of printing and reduces the usage of paper. Sign up to have your newsletter sent to you by E-mail. It will look the same as the printed version and you can even print it out if you wish. All you need to receive your newsletter is a computer with internet access, an E-Mail service capable of receiving attachments and Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or later. If you do not have Acrobat Reader you can download it from www.adobe.com FREE!

To sign up, E-mail Cheryl Williamson, at newsletter@conejovalleyaudubon.org requesting your newsletter via E-mail. Include your full name and street address to help us avoid errors.
CVAS Events

The public 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. Please call the trip leader in advance to learn of any changes to the field trip plans.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times - be sure to arrive 15 min earlier. Try to car pool when ever possible and don’t forget to give the driver gas money! RAIN CANCELS!

Saturday, October 6
Camino Real Park

Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am to carpool, or meet us at the park at 8:30 am. We will look for Fall warblers, many different species of vagrants, and the regulars. We have seen many wonderful birds in this Park over the years. Bets Buchanan will lead this trip (805) 482-0063.

Thursday, October 11
Beginners Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call Angie Kobabe between 9 am and 9 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be (818) 991-4055.

Rain cancels.

Saturday, October 13
Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge

The Condors have moved to Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and they have said we can come in that day and watch them feed in the pens. The others are attracted to the ones in the pens. This Refuge is way up by Mt. Pinos and the Pine Mt Club. Thelma Williams will coordinate (805) 492-2796 so call to reserve your spot.

Sunday, October 20
Ventura Wildlife Ponds

Come see what ducks have come back! 1400 Spinnaker Road at Ventura Harbor. Leave Las Posas Park and Ride at 8 am or meet at the gate to the ponds at 8:30. Kevin Pickard will lead (805) 492-6962. We have seen Canvasback, Red-Head, Ring-neck, Scaup, Mallard, Ruddy, Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Shovelers, Green-winged, Cinnamon Teal and many different herons and egrets at these ponds.

Friday, October 26
Pt. Mugu Naval Base

As you know, this is our best birding site in Ventura County. Dave Pereksta has agreed to lead, and that means we could see as many at 80 to 90 species! Maximum group size is 25 people, and those who sign up at our Sept meeting will have first dibs. Call Don Williamson at (818) 889-4498 to see if trip is filled. We will meet at 8am at parking lot with your ID, or at 7:30 at Las Posas Park and Ride.

Bird Watching Etiquette

Lest we forget, when birding with a group, please keep conversations quiet and to the rear of the group. Keep behind the leader, so that when a bird is spotted, everyone can stop and get a chance to see the bird. Wear muted colors; no white (a danger signal to birds) or red or bright colors. When you spot a bird, please say clearly where the bird is, such as 2 o’clock in the big pine, or 10 feet down in the right hand willow. It’s helpful if you can say robin-sized or acts like a kinglet or some distinguishing characteristic. Remember, if you disagree with the proposed ID of a bird, be respectful and say which field marks cause you to think it may be something else. Even experts disagree on IDs. When using a field scope, take a quick look at the bird, then move aside so everyone gets a look, then go back for a longer look.

No dogs please, but children are welcome if they can follow the rules. Carpool, if at all possible, and offer some gas money to the driver. Be at the meeting place before the time the trip starts. Bring water and snacks. Last, but not least, thank the leader for volunteering their time.

Bird Festivals

November 13 - 18, 2007
Bosque del Apache
National Wildlife Refuge
Sorro, New Mexico
(505) 835-2977
friendsofthebosque.org/crane

January 18 - 21, 2008
Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival
C/o Chamber of Commerce
PO Box 1175
Morro Bay, CA 93442
Call: (805)772-4467 or (800)231-0592
Fax: (805)772-6038
Email: birdfest@morrobaybirdfestival.org

February 6 - 11, 2008
San Diego Bird Festival
Keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman
(619) 682-7200
sandiegoaudubon.org
Field Trip Report

The Pantanal, Brazil
by Dee Lyon

300 of the signature birds of Brazil, plus Jaguar, Giant River Otters, lots of Caiman and Capybaras made an unforgettable introduction to South American birding.

The area is reminiscent of Africa, but the thousands of Caracaras, Snail Kites and Limpkins tell you differently. Great new sounds in the morning with Horneros and Chachalacas sounding off, Jabirus are often seen on their huge nests “747 coming in” We saw 5 different kingfishers daily, with the exotic Agami and Zigzag Herons finally. Undulated Tinamou, Sun Grebe and Sun Bittern were seen well, lots of varieties of ant birds, as well as many parrots and parakeets, Rhes, Seriemas, Bare-faced Currasows and Piping Guans.

We all were asked to name our top 5 birds, which was very difficult. The #1 bird was the Hyacinth Macaw. Ho hum, everyone has seen lots of pictures of it, but when they fly in 30 feet from you in perfect light in a palm tree, they take your breath away; they are so huge and in your face! I also loved the Dacnis sitting on the face of a waterfall guarding while his mate bathed on a ledge, the Scissor-tailed Nightjar was ethereal; the Helmeted Mannikin was fun, and the Scarlet-headed Blackbird was terrific.

The trip also included 3 days in Chappada, which is the dry forest with quite different and wonderful birds, such as the Crowned Eagle and King Vultures. Actually Brazil was an eye-opener to me, while flying from the east in Sao Paulo to the west in Cuiaba, there were only fields and pasture below me with tiny fragments of forest! The place is all deforested as far as I could see.