



ROADRUNNER

Founded 1968

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NO. 5

General Meeting January 5 7:30 pm Western Foundation



John Krist To Address CVAS

John Krist was hired in February 2008 to serve as the chief executive officer of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County, the region's oldest and largest agricultural association. As CEO, he is responsible for managing the nonprofit organization's staff, daily operations and finances. He recommends policy to the organization's Board of Directors, implements board directives, and represents the interests of the membership at legislative and regulatory hearings. He also serves as the organization's liaison with the news media, as well as with numerous community organizations and groups.

Before joining the Farm Bureau, Mr. Krist worked for 24 years as a reporter, editor and Opinion-page columnist at the *Ventura County Star*. During that time, his commentaries on land-use policy, natural resources and environmental issues were distributed by Scripps Howard News Service and published in newspapers throughout the United States. His work has also appeared in *California Planning & Development Report*, a

statewide newsletter for land-use and public-policy experts, and *Planning*, the magazine of the American Planning Association.

The winner of numerous writing awards and journalism fellowships, he is the author of three books about California's parks and wilderness areas, as well as *Voyage of Rediscovery*, based on his experiences retracing the Lewis and Clark trail. He also has contributed to books on urban renewal and wildfire policy. His newest book is "*Living Legacy: The Story of Ventura County Agriculture.*"

Conservation Corner

By Laurie Van Stee

Anacapa Island is located just 12 miles off the coast of California. It is the second smallest island in the chain of eight at about 4 miles long and only 1.1 square miles of land mass. What it lacks in size it makes up for in conservation projects. Anacapa is for the birds-literally. The west end is closed for the protection of the California Brown Pelican, a species that was near extinction in the 1970-80's. Today, about 80% of the pelicans we see in our area were born and raised on Anacapa Island.

PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE

CVAS's Annual Dinner/Auction will be held at Sterling Hills Golf Club on Saturday, March 21, 2009. Fill out the form on page 3 and mail to Rich Congersky before March 8th for the early bird special.

CALENDAR

January

3	8:00 am	Field Trip	Sierra Vista
5	5:15 pm	Dinner	Pre meeting Dinner: Ottavio's
5	7:30 pm	General Meeting	Western Foundation
8	9:00 am	Field Trip	Beginner's Bird Walk
9	7:45 am	Field Trip	Pt. Mugu Navy Base
17	8:00 am	Field Trip	Santa Clara River Estuary
25	8:00 am	Field Trip	Gillette Ranch
31	8:00 am	Field Trip	Malibu Lagoon

*** Pre meeting Dinner ***

Ottavio's in Camarillo at 5:15 pm

Call Nobuko McClure

For reservations

24 hours in advance of the monthly general meeting (805) 482-0411.

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.

Board Meeting Notice

The January Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21. All CVAS members are invited to attend monthly CVAS Board Meetings. Meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the home of a board member with meeting location varying monthly. Please contact CVAS Secretary, **Linda Reynolds** at **805-386-4062** or secretary@ConejoValleyAudubon.org for meeting location and directions.

Field Trips

The times specified are departure times – **be sure to arrive 15 min earlier**. Try to carpool whenever possible and don't forget to offer the driver gas money!
RAIN CANCELS!

Saturday, January 3 Sierra Vista

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:00 am or at the Sierra Vista at 8:15. Lots of sparrows, hawks, and woodpeckers. Leader is **Tom Halpin (805) 746-4598**.

Thursday, January 8 Beginner's Bird Walk: Westlake Boat Trip (Must Reserve)

Explore and bird the inviting waters of Westlake on a comfortable pontoon party boat. Reserve by January 2. Call **Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055** between 9 am and 9 pm to reserve. Rain cancels.

Friday, January 9 Pt. Mugu Navy Base (Must Reserve)

Our best birding trip of the year is limited to 25 people. Call **Don Williamson at (818) 889-4498** to get on the list at least 3 weeks ahead of the trip. You must bring picture ID. Note that your car may be inspected. Cameras or video are not allowed on the tour. Meet at the base main parking lot at 7:45 am. Could see 100 species, including Vermilion Flycatcher, Peregrine Falcon, ducks, shorebirds, Reddish Egret, Long-tailed duck, Brandt, possible

Tundra Swan. We will have alternates on the list in case of drop outs! Leader is **David Pereksta**.

Saturday, January 17 Santa Clara River Estuary

Meet at 8:00 am at Las Posas Park and Ride or 8:30 at Surfer's Knoll parking lot on Spinnaker in Ventura Harbor. We'll look for shorebirds, ducks, Snowy Plovers, Black-necked Stilts, Amer Avocets, gulls, grebes and loons. Leader is **Thelma Williams (805) 492-2796**.

Sunday, January 25 Gillette Ranch

Meet at Las Posas Park and Ride at 8:00 am or at the Ranch at 8:30 New venue! We will explore to see what list we can put together. Should have lots of sparrows, bluebirds, riparian birds, and hawks. Leader is **Dee Lyon (805) 499-2165**.

Saturday, January 31 Malibu Lagoon

Meet at Rancho Park and Ride at 8:00 am. Always a hot spot for water birds; could see Sora or Virginia Rail. Leader is **Rich Congersky (805-558-2297)**.

Shutterbugs by Don Williamson

The January 12th meeting will be in the multi-purpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 PM. The picture theme is Action Blur, the topic will be "Depth of Field" presented by Don Williamson, and the Common Thread Photography presentation will also be by Don Williamson.

If you are interested in attending the Shutterbugs meetings, contact **Jerry Spector at (805) 384-9039** or jerbear007@yahoo.com to be put on the access list for Leisure Village.

THERE STILL MAY BE TIME FOR YOU TO JOIN our CBC!!!

Hopefully this issue of the Roadrunner reached you well before Sunday, December 28th, 2008, the date for our CBC. In that case, if you want to join our Christmas Bird Count, there still may be time. Contact **David Pereksta** by email to pereksta@pacbell.net or call **(805) 659-5740** to sign up.

You are cordially invited to join
Conejo Valley Audubon Society
on
March 21, 2009
at
Sterling Hills Golf Club
901 Sterling Hills Drive
Camarillo, CA 93010

Exit the Ventura Freeway (101) at Central Avenue in Camarillo.
Go north on Central (0.8 mi) to Beardsley Road and turn RIGHT.
Continue on Beardsley (0.75 mi) until you reach Sterling Hills Drive and turn RIGHT.
On the left you will see the golf course parking lot.

For

Cocktails, Dinner and Auction

No-host cocktails 5:30 PM - Dinner 6:30 PM

Ticket price per person \$40.00 (early-bird special \$35.00 - before 3/8/09)

5-FREE raffle tickets for each 1st time guest

We ask that everyone kindly bring an item for the raffles.

All types of donation items are acceptable and are not limited to those with an avian theme.
Anyone interested in donating items for the silent or live auctions please contact Rich Congersky at:
(cell) 805-558-2297 or (work) 805-381-2691

All are tax deductible!

Dinner selections: All plated and served with Camarillo Baby Greens Salad, Rolls and butter, and Dessert.

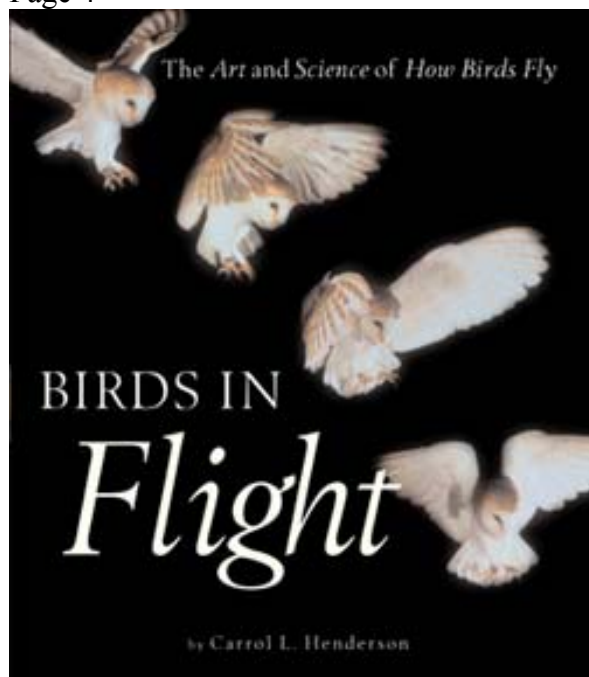
- (1) Sautéed Breast of Chicken served with Lemon Herb Sauce and Rice
- (2) Poached Salmon with Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables
- (3) Filet Mignon with Cabernet Sauce, Roasted Potatoes and Vegetables
- (3) Veggie Stack – Garlic mashed potatoes topped with Delicious Fresh Grilled Vegetables

Please fill out this reservation form, tear it off, and mail it with your check (payable to CVAS) to:

Rich Congersky, 5807 Topanga Canyon Blvd. # I-306, Woodland Hills, CA 91367
Print your name(s) as you would like it to appear on your place card and select an entrée by number

Name _____	Dinner # _____	Phone # _____
Name _____	Dinner # _____	
Name _____	Dinner # _____	
Name _____	Dinner # _____	
Name _____	Dinner # _____	

Thanks for your support!!!



Birds in Flight:

The Art and Science of How Birds Fly
By Carrol L. Henderson

160 pages, 150 photographs. Voyageur Press

Reviewed by *Charlie Lucas*

I wonder just how the reader might most profitably approach this artistic and informative study of “Birds In Flight” by wildlife biologist, devoted naturalist, author and photographer Carrol L. Henderson when reading this fine book for the very first time.

As a neophyte reviewer, I approached it as I do most books that I read simply for pleasure: I read the back cover, the front flap, the back flap and after reading the Dedication, I spent a little time studying the Table of Contents. After that I read it from start to finish without once putting it down. But, should you? Is there a better way?

First let me tell you about this book and then perhaps you’ll have a better understanding of what lies ahead for you. The book’s 160 pages contain 150 breathtaking highspeed photographs selected to demonstrate the art and science behind various aspects of bird’s flight. The accompanying text in short essay format elucidates the flight principles being demonstrated and 15 diagrams are used to explain the physics and aerodynamics of birds in flight.

After a brief Introduction entitled “Visions of Flight” in which the author attributes the roots of his lifelong interest in birds and flight to his childhood discovery of “mysterious V-shaped formations” of migratory geese in the sky above him along with equally intriguing white contrails left by “Air Force jets from the Strategic Air Command”, the art and science of how birds fly is then presented succinctly in the three remaining parts of the book: (I) The Art of Birds in Flight, (II) Avian Aerodynamics, and (III) On The Wing.

In Part I, the author provides a “Gallery of Birds In Flight” in which he “attempt[s] to share the wonder of birds in flight” with the reader noting that “the best aeronautical descriptions often fail to capture the beauty of flying birds.” The gallery highlights the wondering White-capped albatross, Andean Condor, Hoatzin, Blue-and-yellow Macaw, Black Vulture, Peregrine Falcon to name just a few of the singularly photographed species as well as pictures of ‘Sky Full Of Birds’ such as geese over Lac qui Parle and Pied Oystercatchers photographed over the North Island of New Zealand.

Part II treats Avian Aerodynamics with separate chapters for: Aerodynamic Principles; Feathers and Bones; Wings; The Tale of the Tail. The science of aerodynamics is initially presented using Bernoulli’s Principle and then through the use of easily understood diagrams the concepts of thrust, drag, lift, angle of attack, angle of stall, aspect ratio, wing loading and wingtip vortex are clearly presented.

Part III, On The Wing, consists of separate chapters that deal with Taking Flight, Types of Flight and the Art of Landing. Various species are cited as examples of the great variation in bone, feather, wing and tail that exists across all species that enable a specie to achieve its unique flight adaptation mode when taking off, flying and landing.

Well, what do you think? Are you going to read this book from start-to-finish or are you just going to jump right into the middle of it and let chance take you where it may? It’s clearly worth reading. It’s up to you to decide how best that might be done.

[The opinions expressed in this review are those solely of the reviewer and not of the Conejo Valley Audubon Society.]

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Pt. Mugu – U.S. Navy Base Friday, November 7

By Cheryl Williamson

We had a few problems with our Mugu trip. Our leader from the base took the day off and didn't get a substitute – so, thankfully, we got a gentle man called Ron Barrett to step in and lead our trip. He and Tom Halpin took us around the naval base. Our hunt for birds was really stymied by wind gusts of 35 MPH or more. At some places (especially the point), it was hard to stand up. We only saw 52 species. Two lucky people, Mike Zarky and Ron Barns, saw a Long-tailed Duck. Hopefully in January when we do this again there will be more birds and less wind!

The following species were seen: Loon (sp), Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Gadwall, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Long-tailed Duck, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Marbled Godwit, Whimbrel, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dowitcher (sp), Heermann's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, California Gull, Western Gull, Least Tern, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Elegant Tern, American Pipit, Northern Mockingbird, Loggerhead Shrike, American Crow, European Starling, House Finch, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, and Brewer's Blackbird.

Thousand Oaks Botanical Garden Saturday, November 29

By David Person

On Saturday, November 29th, seven individuals still feeling the effects of too much Thanksgiving dinner ventured through the Conejo Valley Botanical Garden in Thousand Oaks on a beautiful fall morning. Although there was a lack of Western Bluebirds in the adjoining community park, we managed to find 33 species of birdlife

that morning. Most notable was a brief glimpse of the yellow-shafted Northern Flicker that had been seen earlier in the week on several occasions. Seems the rain during the week did not chase it away. As we were leaving the garden, on the path back to the parking lot we ran across much activity in the oaks overhead and toyon on the ground. There were Cedar Waxwings and American Robins making the most of the toyon berries. The oak trees contained Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatches, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Townsend's Warbler. It was the perfect ending to a wonderful morning.

Filmore Hotspots Sunday, November 23

By Don Klabunde

Our trip was lead by Tom Halpin with about 12 people in our group. The highlight for most of the group was the Vermilion Flycatcher. A partial list of the species photographed includes:

At **Filmore**: Great Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, White-faced Ibis, Brewer's Blackbird, Coots, Dark-eyed Junco, Mallards, European Starling, Fox Sparrow, Nuttall's Woodpecker, American Robin, Scrub Jay, Goldfinches, White-crowned Sparrow.

At **Santa Paula**: Vermilion Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Bluebirds, Yellow-Rumped Warbler.



Vermilion Flycatcher
Photo
By Don Klabunde

Black-crowned
Night Herron
In Flight
Photo
By Don Klabunde



ROADRUNNER

Conejo Valley Audubon Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 4782

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359

January, 2009



Officers and Committee Chairs			Username
President	Carol Langford	805-987-2721	president
Vice Pres	Rich Congersky	805-558-2297	rcongersky
Secretary	Linda Reynolds	805-386-4062	secretary
Treasurer	Dixie Anderson	805-484-3985	
Programs	Chrystal Klabunde	805-522-8023	chrystal
Conservation	Laurie Van Stee	805-861-0988	sunnyinsamo@yahoo.com
Education	Thelma Williams	805-492-2796	thelma
Field trips	Dee Lyon	805-499-2165	chickadee
Publicity	Ron Barns	818-991-9967	rtbarns@netscape.net
Newsletter	Charlie Lucas	805-498-6447	newsletter
Hospitality	Patricia Turner	805-987-9147	hospitality
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Historian	Bets Buchanan	805-482-0063	
Special Events			
Photographer	Don Klabunde	805-522-8023	
Special Projects	Nobuko McClure	805-482-0411	nobuko
Webmaster	Bob Sakamoto		rsakamoto
CVAS Web Site	http://www.ConejoValleyAudubon.org		
Send E-mail to	username@ConejoValleyAudubon.org		



Photo by D & C Williamson
Alerted by the Ventura County Birding web site, the Williamsons went to Camino Real Park looking for their namesake bird, the Williamson's Sapsucker. They had to go twice to get the picture but saw it both times.

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 Charlie Lucas, 465 Havenside Ave., Newbury Park, CA 91320, or by E-mail: newsletter@ConejoValleyAudubon.org.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students), payable to **National Audubon Society**, for an introductory membership.

Mail it to: National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P. O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322-2529

Renewing memberships should be sent to National Audubon with the renewal form and envelope you receive.

For questions regarding national membership status call: National Audubon Customer Service 1-800-274-4201

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

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CONEJO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enroll me as a member of Conejo Valley Audubon Society. I have enclosed \$20, payable to CVAS, for a family membership. Mail to: CVAS, P.O. Box 4782, Thousand Oaks, CA 91359 __ Please send my newsletter by E-mail.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____