General Meeting April 6
7:30 pm Western Foundation

CVAS’ Michael Zarky
To Present Birding in India

India is home to at least 1200 bird species, but being on the opposite side of the world, it isn't an easy trip for most US birders. Luckily CVAS member, Michael Zarky, will be with us on April 6th to tell us about his recent trip to that amazing country, and show us his pictures of the birds which were willing to sit still long enough to be photographed.

His journey began in Mumbai where he was able to spend a few hours birding the mudflats of that city's bay. Then he spent three days with a small group and a guide at a forest camp in Goa. Another tour with a private guide covered three days near a forest reserve in Kerala followed by two days in the mile-high mountains around Munnar, one of Kerala's largest tea-growing areas.

Near the southeast coast, he found good birding in the semi-rural environs of a university where his traveling companion was attending a conference. Michael then made a serendipitous connection with the nearby Rishi Valley School, founded by J. Krishnamurti, who also founded a school in Ojai. This school fosters an interest in ornithology as part of its program of land regeneration.

Finally, Michael spent several weeks visiting friends in the community of Auroville. For many decades, Auroville has worked on revitalizing severely degraded environments and has seen a great increase in its bird populations.

Don't miss the opportunity to chat with Michael at the pre-meeting dinner, which will be held this month only at Café India restaurant in Camarillo.

The two photos below were taken by Michael on his recent trip and are representative of the many species of India’s birds that will be featured in Michael’s presentation.

Photos by Michael Zarky

Roller

Frogmouths
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 April Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 20. 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!

Sunday, April 5
SIMI HOTSPOTS

Meet at Rancho Simi Park, located at Royal and Erringer. (Meet in Erringer parking lot at 8 am by the tennis courts.) Look for early migrants, lots of passerines, and check out Easy Street flood channel. Leader is Tom Halpin (805) 246-4598

Thursday, April 9
Beginner’s Bird Walk

Second Thursday of each month. Call Angie Kobabe (818) 991-4055 between 9:00 am and 9:00 pm to let her know you are coming and find out where it will be. Rain cancels.

Saturday, April 11
SISAR CANYON

Check for warblers, and early migrants. Meet at Los Posas Park and Ride at 7:30 am or at the Sisar Canyon turnoff on 150 in the upper Ojai Valley at 8:00 am. Bring water and lunch if you want to hike up very far in the canyon. Leader is Rich Congersky (805) 558-2297.

Saturday, April 18
SIERRA VISTA

Look for early migrants; Lazuli Buntings, Blue Grosbeaks, warblers, vireos, hawks and sparrows. Meet at Sierra Vista at 8:00 am in the main parking lot. Take Wendy to Lynn Road; turn right, go to the entrance to National Recreation Area / Sierra Vista and proceed to the main parking lot. Leader is Thelma Williams (805) 492-2796.

Sunday, April 26
Camarillo Regional Park

Look for Yellow-breasted Chat, orioles, hawks, sparrows and water birds at the pond. Follow directions to Cal State University at Channel Islands, but stop just past the bridge at the Park. Meet at gate at 8 am. Leader is Carol Langford (805) 987-2721

Shutterbugs
by Don Williamson

The April 13th meeting will be in the multi-purpose room at Leisure Village at 7:30 pm. The picture theme is “Sunsets/Sunrises”, the educational topic will be “Image management” presented by Chrystal Klabunde, and the Common Thread Photography presentation will be by Jody Spector.

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.

Bird Festivals

April 4 – 6, 2009
Godwit Days: California’s North Coast Spring Migration Bird Festival
www.godwitdays.com

May 8-10, 2009
12th Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival Fallon, Nevada
www.springwings.org
FIELD TRIP REPORT

Saturday, February 21
Santa Barbara Hotspots
By Linda Easter

Nine of us carpooled to Santa Barbara on a cool day in February. We stopped first at Lake Los Carneros to look for the Least Bittern that has been reported there, but we didn't see it. We did see at least three Sora feeding in the reeds under the bridge. We also saw three White-tailed Kites chasing a Red-tailed Hawk. We saw 42 other species there, and then moved on to Orpet Park in search of the reported White-throated Sparrow. And we found it! It was perched quietly in a bush so all of us had good looks at it. Our last stop was to be Sea Landing, but first we had to fill up with excellent clam chowder at Brophy Brothers. After all were satisfied, we found the reported Pacific Loon in the harbor (we actually saw four of them), as well as the Red-breasted Merganser and Pelagic Cormorant. It was another great day of birding (and lunch)!

Photos by Lavonne Eden
Above right: Lunch at Brophy Brothers.
Below: Pacific Loon

Great Back Yard Bird Count Results
By Charlie Lucas

Preliminary results of the 2009 Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) are now available at http://gbbc.birdsource.org/gbbcApps/results. The GBBC is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. This year’s GBBC was a four-day event (February 13-16, 2009) that engaged bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Participants varied from beginning bird watchers to experts investing from as little as 15 minutes on a day to counting for as long they wished each day of the event.

Preliminary results as of this writing (Mar 4, 2009) follow:
Total Checklists Submitted 93,423
Total Species Observed 618
Total Individual Birds Counted 12,016,580

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Most Frequently Reported Species</th>
<th>Most Numerous Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Northern Cardinal</td>
<td>Snow Goose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mourning Dove</td>
<td>Common Grackle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco</td>
<td>Canada Goose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
<td>American Robin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Downey Woodpecker</td>
<td>European Starling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Blue Jay</td>
<td>American Crow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>House Finch</td>
<td>Red-winged Blackbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tufted Titmouse</td>
<td>American Goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>American Crow</td>
<td>Dark-eyed Junco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>Pine Siskin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A visit to the site’s Map Room allows the viewer to compare the distribution of a species both geographically and temporally. Map data is provided from 1999 through 2009.
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.

---

![Photo by Lavonne Eden](image)

This Pelican and Cormorant were observed by our CVAS birders on a recent field trip to the Santa Barbara Hotspots immediately following a convivial luncheon at Brophy Brothers in Santa Barbara.

---

### 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 _________________________________________

---

### 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 _________________________________________