



Phainopepla

Published by the
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Vol. 65 No. 4

August / September 2014

Monthly Program

Thursday, September 25, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
Encino Community Center

Speakers: Pat Meyer and Keri Dearborn of Friends of the Island Fox

Topic: "Saving the Endangered Channel Island Fox"

The Channel Island fox is a rare species of canine found only on California's coastal islands. Between 1994 and 2000 the populations of island foxes on four islands plunged toward extinction. On Santa Rosa Island, the population dropped from over 1,700 to only 15 individual animals. Why did this happen? And what efforts were taken that changed near tragedy into the most successful recovery of an endangered species in North American history? Come discover the unique ecosystems of the California Channel Islands as Friends of the Island Fox founder and Program Director Pat Meyer and Education Director Keri Dearborn reveal the world of the Channel Island fox and how a community working together can save a species.

Pat Meyer founded Friends of the Island Fox (FIF) in 2005 as a joint effort of conservation professionals and concerned private citizens striving to create public awareness about the endangered island fox and to raise funds to support education, research and conservation measures to ensure the island fox's survival. Friends of the Island Fox is a program of the Channel Islands Park Foundation a 501 (c) (3) public benefit organization. To date FIF has provided funding for 107 radio-tracking collars and 500 identification microchips for island foxes in the wild, funded annual island fox health checks and vaccinations as well as a variety of other conservation efforts.

Keri Dearborn has an MA in Environmental Education and has developed the educational materials and programs for

FIF that have enabled them to reach over 11,000 students and 43,000 local concerned people.

Channel Island fox conservation is the story of two birds, a fox, and the interconnections between species. Find out more about Channel Island foxes on the Friends of the Island Fox website: islandfox.org

Friends of the Island Fox. A program of the Channel Islands Park Foundation islandfoxnews@gmail.com

Sign-up for the FIF monthly [e-newsletter](#)
Visit our website for current island fox information:
www.islandfox.org



SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (except July, August, and November). ALL ARE WELCOME to join us at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and view our sales table; program begins at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd. Encino. See Calendar of Events, pages 4–5, for directions.



2014 Birdathon Donors *by Diana Keeney*

Many thanks to the enthusiastic Birdathon 2014 event leaders and participants, and especially to the generous donors listed below, who allowed us to raise **\$10,467.00**. Keeping expenses to a minimal \$62.00, we are able to utilize \$10,405.00 for our ongoing conservation and education programs and operating expenses.

Thank you to:

Aurelio Albaisa
Ellen Alkon
Marcia Balbus
Richard Barth
Pat Bates
Kyle Basler
Debbie Beckett
Roger and Patricia Blount
Joyce Bobo
Teresa and Edwin Bosworth
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Dave Weeshoff
William and Carole Weinman
Ruth Weiss
Nicholas Wilhelm
Jack Willis
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Marlene Winstead
Irwin Woldman

Thank you for your support!

A Tribute to David Weeshoff

Dave Weeshoff is our retiring President, and as he steps down from his two terms in office I want to recognize all that he has given to San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. We are thriving as an Audubon Chapter thanks to his effective leadership. Dave set our agendas and chaired our meetings, and as anyone who has attended a General Meeting knows, he has a great sense of humor and can keep the audience happy for a very long time.



Behind the scenes, though, he has been an unsung hero. In addition to being a regular docent at the Descanso Gardens Bird Center, he runs our School and Audubon Adventures program. He visits schools frequently and introduces children to the wonders of nature and birds. I recently met a college teacher who invites him into her classes annually because he is such an engaging and informative presenter. He is someone who is unable to resist a plea for help and has often helped at our Outreach activities at the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve clean-ups. Where there is a need, Dave is there! After the Army Corps of Engineers destroyed much of the South Reserve at the Sepulveda Basin, Dave and Kris Ohlenkamp created a committee to work with them and prevent further damage being done. Next year, he will be chairing our chapter's conservation committee.

Beyond the chapter, Dave is well known in birding circles. He is deeply involved with International Bird Rescue in San Pedro, speaks on behalf of Heal the Bay, and has represented environmental groups at the state level. Recently, he raised money from Audubon Chapters up and down the coast to supplement the financial shortfall of a program to help the Brown Pelican.

Dave has vision and creativity. We have been fortunate to have those qualities working for our chapter during the last four years as President. Thank you, Dave! *By Rose Leibowitz / Photo by Mathew Tekulsky*

Calendar of Events

August

Saturday, August 2. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, August 3. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, August 9. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Saturday, August 16. Monthly Field Trip to Chilao and Buckhorn. 7:30 a.m. Birding the San Gabriel Mountains along the Angeles Crest. Meet at the Chilao Visitor Center at 7:30 a.m. We will look for Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadee and many other montane species. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take the 210 Fwy. east to Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2). Go north for about 45 minutes, look for the Chilao Campground signs and take the second entrance road to the Visitor Center. Your vehicle must exhibit a National Forest Adventure Pass or Golden Age Pass. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, August 16. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the

freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, August 17. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton.

Tuesday, August 19. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. **RAIN CANCELS.** Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, August 30. Young Birders Group Bird Walk. Sepulveda Basin. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant/Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leaders Alexander and Olivia. For more information please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405, or check out our website sfvaudubon.org. All young birders are welcome!

There is NO General Membership Meeting in August. See you September 25!

September

Tuesday, September 2. Antelope Valley Audubon Quarterly Bird Meeting. 6:30 p.m. The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street, Lancaster.

Saturday, September 6. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign

(Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, September 7. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, September 13. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Tuesday, September 16. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. **RAIN CANCELS.** Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, September 20. Monthly Field Trip: Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (in Huntington Beach). 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Slater Avenue parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Directions from the San Fernando Valley: Take the San Diego Freeway (405) south and exit at Golden West. Go south approximately three miles on Golden West to Slater. Turn left on Slater to the parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. We will picnic at the park and afterwards caravan to Bolsa Chica. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, September 20. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, September 21. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader: Art Langton.

Monday, September 22. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Wild Wings Nature Store. 4337 Woodman Ave., Sherman Oaks. (818) 995-0022. Please bring your own chair.

Thursday, September 25. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speakers: Pat Meyer and Keri Dearborn of Friends of the Island Fox. Topic: "Saving the Endangered Channel Island Fox" Come discover the unique ecosystems of the California Channel Islands as Friends of the Island Fox founder and Program Director Pat Meyer and Education Director Keri Dearborn reveal the world of the Channel Island fox and how a community working together can save a species. Location: Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura Blvd., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. For more information see "Monthly Program", page one.

Saturday, September 27. Young Birders Group Bird Walk. Young Birders, for walk time and location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.

Future Field Trips (details later):

October 18. El Dorado Park

November 15. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds 

Phainopepla Photo of the Month *by Dave Weeshoff*



Forster's Tern (verified)

Location: Bolsa Chica Wetlands


Date: May 17, 2014, 9:44 a.m.

Camera and lens info: Canon EOS REBEL T3i with 75-300 zoom

Taken on the SFVAS Bolsa Chica Wetlands field trip led by Vic Leipzig of Sea and Sage Audubon, while on the wooden bridge leading from the parking lot to the Wetlands.

Profile of the photographer: Dave Weeshoff, immediate Past President of SFVAS; Chair, Conservation Committee;

Chair, Classroom Education; self-proclaimed world traveler, and "hail fellow well met."

Please submit your photos to Jackie.Wollner@sfaudubon.org. One picture per photographer, per month, preferably of a native bird in our local area. Please include location, date, camera and lens info, a short account of how the photo was taken, and a profile of the photographer. Let us see your bird photos! Thanks, Jackie. 

SF VALLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY CONNECTION *by Mark Osokow*

This brief article is designed to introduce our members to the San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory (SFVBO), a scientific program of San Fernando Valley Audubon. SFVBO has been operating now for more than two and a half years, primarily at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) in the Simi Hills west of Chatsworth. Among the principal activities of SFVBO are the censusing, capture, mark, and release of birds in the area for the purpose of evaluating and tracking bird populations at many levels; including, obtaining data on species presence, population sizes and structures, breeding and condition information, migration timing, and much more.

A related concern is evaluating the impacts on birds of past and present activities at SSFL that led to the deposition of a variety of chemical and radiological contaminants in the area that are currently targeted for extensive clean-up. A principal finding of SFVBO activity to date is the absence of any unusual mortality, disease, mutations, or other ill effects that might have been attributable to contaminant effects.


SFVBO will continue to monitor bird populations at SSFL and other locations with the hope that the acquired information will assist with bird conservation. In particular, the desire is to assure that SSFL will be cleaned up in a manner

that is respectful of the biological resources present in the area and consistent with the eventual use of the area as open space in which wildlife can endure.

Conservation Committee


In keeping with our mission statement element "to promote the conservation of resources, to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory," SFVAS is keenly interested in expanding our Conservation Committee to address local, regional, state and national issues affecting the quantity and quality of our bird habitat in light of such pressures as housing development, global warming, drought, and other human disturbances and encroachments.

Maybe you'd like to address a local issue though working with local government officials, or write an article for publication, or gather like-minded friends for a coordination meeting, etc. You can help.

If you have a passion for conservation, and would like to join the Conservation Team, please contact Dave Weeshoff (dave.weeshoff@sfaudubon.org) or (818) 618-1652 to discuss how you can make a difference. 

Monthly Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*

Walker Ranch in Placerita Canyon was our destination on May 10. The weather was pleasant---clear and cool. A Rufous-crowned Sparrow was seen from the parking area before the walk began. Out on the trails Lawrence's Goldfinch, Cassin's Vireo and Olive-sided Flycatcher were notable finds by our participants. We did especially well with Western Tanagers, Swainson's Thrushes, Phainopeplas and Black-headed Grosbeaks. A single Wrentit was tallied. The warbler species seen were Hermit, Townsend's and Wilson's. In addition to the Olive-sided, our flycatchers were Ash-throated, Pacific-slope, Western Kingbird and Western Wood-Pewee. Among the expected resident birds here were Steller's Jay, Western Bluebird, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch and Spotted Towhee. Other species of interest: Warbling Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Chipping Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole and House Wren. We spotted a couple of female Lazuli Buntings but unfortunately no males.

We visited Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve in Ventura County on June 14. Target birds Grasshopper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting eluded us, but we did okay otherwise. Blue Grosbeaks and Greater Roadrunners were readily found and Bullock's Orioles, Hooded Orioles, California Quail, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Black-chinned Hummingbirds were obligingly on hand for us. At least a dozen Black-hooded Parakeets flew over the preserve. Other species of interest on the day included Say's Phoebe, Western Bluebird, Lark Sparrow (seen after the walk concluded), Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Cassin's Kingbird, Red-winged Blackbird, and Spotted Towhee. 


Bird Fest

Save the date!

Saturday, October 18, 2014

NPS Visitor Center at Gillette Ranch

SFVAS, in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Western National Parks Association, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Society, Conejo Valley Audubon Society, and the Audubon Center at Debs Park is going to have a Bird Festival!

The full-day event will include bird walks and talks (including ones by our own Art Langton and Alan Pollack!) There will also be plenty of exhibitors (including Wild Wings Backyard Bird Store, Woodland Hills Camera, and a book signing by author Mathew Tekulsky) and lots of great activities for children. There will also be food and bird related goods for sale. Look for more information in the next copy of the *Phainopepla* and in the *Outdoors* brochure distributed by the Parks Association. 



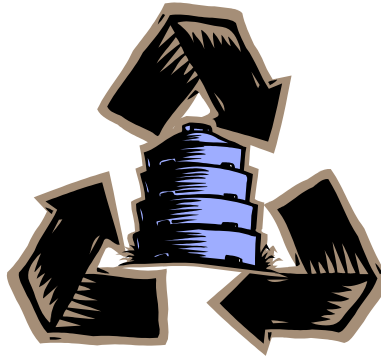
Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

“Boy, it stinks here, Dad”

Those were the memorable words of my son as we sat down on a bench in my garden near my compost pile. Then he looked at me, saw my smile, and then he smiled too and said “...and you probably love it, don't you?” Yes, Adam, I really do. It is the smell of fresh earth pulsing with life.

It has been said that humans are the only animal on the planet that takes out of the earth more than it puts back (in usable form). Every other species puts useful stuff back into the earth where it is recycled into new life and some species do more than their share, e.g., the ants. Even death, which for most species means the elements of life being reassembled into new life, means being locked in an impermeable box or urn for humans—our life stuff unavailable (at least for a long time) to create new life. Composting in your garden is one, small way to aid Mother Nature in maintaining the cycle of life...nature's balancing act.

Building and maintaining a compost pile requires very little effort. One doesn't need any fancy boxes or bins to create compost, though those are available to build or buy. All one needs to do is create a large pile of vegetable matter (i.e., no animal flesh) and keep it moist (not soaking wet): brown stuff (dead leaves, straw, horse manure) and green stuff (leaves, grass clippings, weeds, kitchen scraps) in alternating layers. You would be wise to avoid adding weeds that have gone to seed, as some of these can withstand composting. It needs to reach a certain size before it begins to “cook.” Smaller amounts of vegetable



matter will decompose too, just at a slower rate. Building it in a shady spot helps keep it moist and turning it every so often helps aerate the pile and will speed the process. Decomposition takes a few months and generates heat (you will see steam arising from the pile as it “cooks”). In the absence of animal flesh, no flies are attracted to a composting pile. When fully “cooked” the material is no longer recognizable as the material that you put in, but as a dark, crumbly material teeming with life that smells like Mother Earth herself! Use it as a mulch on the surface or dig it into soil that you want to enrich or improve (but don't do the latter for native plants! They are accustomed to

our native soil). In fact, if you would like to make a flower bed or vegetable garden in an area that has poor soil for growing things, build a compost pile on that spot. If it's a grassy area, cover it with cardboard or several layers of newspaper first. These will also decompose and once most of the compost has been removed, the soil beneath will be vastly improved and ready for planting.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable or don't wish to keep a compost pile, make sure you (or your gardener) put(s) all your yard trimmings into the city's green barrels (only) and the city will compost it for you and make it available, for free, at several locations in LA. It's not the rich stuff one can make at home, but it has its uses as a mulch.

And there's one more use for a compost pile that I've discovered: dogs LOVE to play “hide the ball” in it! And that helps to keep it mixed!



Please e-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have with regard to creating a wildlife-friendly garden that can be used for publication. Alan offers **FREE** consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife friendly. He also gives a **FREE**, PowerPoint slide show/lecture to community groups, high school, and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be contacted at (818) 340-2347 or at alan.pollack@sfvadubon.org.

The Roadrunner by Gertrude E. (Gee Gee) Barden, SFVAS member


The first time we looked at our current house in Porter Ranch, California, located in the northwest corner of the city of Los Angeles, we were surprised and delighted to spot a roadrunner in the front yard, a good omen we thought. After we moved here in 2002 we occasionally and regularly saw roadrunners on our property and sometimes around the neighborhood. They seemed to be very fond of the lizards which we have in abundance here. Sometimes a roadrunner could be seen perched on the top of one of our metal fences with a lizard dangling from its beak. Once I saw a pair of them in the backyard, one following or pursuing the other, apparently involved in mating behavior.

A book entitled *The Birds of Los Angeles* (Fisher and Clarke, 1997), which I purchased soon after we moved here, stated the following: *Although few roadrunners still exist in the Los Angeles area, rumors continually circulate about the presence of these charismatic birds in some of the remaining natural canyons.* The thought crossed my mind a number of times that maybe I should somehow try to contact one of the authors to let them know that the birds were alive and well in our area. We enjoyed the roadrunner sightings for a number of years, but then all of a sudden they stopped, and it had been many years since we had seen one. I occasionally thought of them wistfully, wondering why they had disappeared and hoping that maybe someday they might return.

Recently, as I was belatedly finishing my lunch outside at the table on our patio just outside the

kitchen door, I looked up from what I was reading and was shocked to see right in front of me on the cement of the patio only about eight feet away a roadrunner. It stood there for a couple of seconds, seeming to acknowledge my presence but apparently not frightened by it. It was a very beautiful bird, a wonderful example of its species, and I was so close, much closer than I had ever been to one, that I could clearly see the bright blue of the small patch of skin behind its eye. It raised and lowered its tail a bit and then very purposefully walked to the side of the house and disappeared around the end of it.

I was amazed and stunned for a few seconds but then went quickly inside to get my camera, after which I tried to locate the roadrunner again, but I could not find it. In reliving the encounter in my mind it seemed almost like a surreal experience such as a vision, a perfect little dream-like episode. Knowing, however, that it was in fact very real, I felt so fortunate to have had this special experience.

During the few weeks since I have kept a careful watch to hopefully spot the roadrunner again, but so far there have been no further sightings. Yesterday I briefly heard a noise that could have been the unusual wooden clacking sound that roadrunners sometimes make, so I have hope that the bird may be still around and that its presence may mark the beginning of the return of these impressive birds to our neighborhood. 

Project and Grant Proposals


SFVAS is looking for a few good ideas how to expand our efforts in furtherance of our mission to promote the conservation of resources and enhance natural habitat in the San Fernando Valley and beyond. Perhaps you have an idea regarding community outreach, education, habitat preservation, youth activities, etc. you'd like to see happen. If you do, please send it to Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair, (dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org) and we will work with you to first, determine whether we can be of help, then towards implementation, including clarifying the objective, determining the funding necessary, and marshaling the resources to make it happen. Call or e-mail Dave with questions, (818) 618-1652. 



Photo: California Towhee by R. LeVine

Phainopepla Club Awards —by Diana Keeney

Phainopepla Club Welcomes 12 Members!

Twelve members of SFVAS responded to the Phainopepla Club birding challenge by birding in LA County for 12 months and recording their sightings on eBird. Pins and certificates of achievement were presented to the following members at the Potluck in June.

Swallow Level (50-99 species):

None

Rose Leibowitz (177)

Vern Benhart (190)

Finch Level (100-149 species):

Teri Carnesciali (107)

Lynn Maddox (121)

Barbara Gaitley (122)

Heather Medvitz (136)

Avocet Level (200-249 species):

Georgia Doyle (210)

Phainopepla Level (250 species):

Art Langton (295)


Kris Ohlenkamp (307)

Jared Knickmeyer (317)

Lynda Elkin (357)

Vireo Level (150-199 species):

John Willis (157)

This birding challenge is being repeated for the 12 months from July 2014 to June 2015. Join eBird (www.eBird.org), log in your LA County sightings, and send in your species count report next June. The Phainopepla Club wants you! 

Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program

Free Teacher's Workshop & Student Field Trip

San Fernando Valley Audubon is pleased to announce 2014–15 field trip grants for its popular Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP). Audubon will subsidize the full cost of the education program at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (SBWR) for up to 30 schools (a \$430 value). The cost of transportation is not included.

Schools must arrange for their own travel using district transportation. Teachers who have not participated in this program before must attend the teacher's workshop prior to the date of their field trip. The workshop and field trip is open to teachers of grades four thru six.

The Teacher's Workshop, "Water, Wetlands, and Wildlife," will be held Saturday, November 1, 2014.

Its goal is to offer curricular support and preparation for the subsequent field trip you'll be taking with your students. Topics include the energy cycle, food web, local birds, native plants, water-resource awareness and classroom activities. Teachers who have attended the workshop before do not have to repeat it, and are still eligible for a field trip using the same application form. Workshop participants will be informed later of event details.

The Field Trip is a two-hour program in environmental education at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (SBWR) delivered by the education staff at the Resource Conservation


District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM). The program runs from 10 am to 12 pm, and the content is aligned with state standards. Field trips can accommodate from 45 to 70 students divided into four groups. Schools must provide at least four adult chaperons (one for each group). Experienced RCD educators will

lead the students in a rotation system through the wildlife area. Activities include identifying plankton with microscopes, observing wildlife with binoculars, testing the water quality of the lake, and learning about native plants.

To maximize the number of students per field trip, fourth- and fifth-grade teachers should apply two per school. Sixth-grade teachers may apply singly or in pairs. Among other criteria, selection will be based on (1)

the date your application is received (2) previous student interest, conduct, and preparation (3) proximity to SBWR, and (4) achieving a balance between new and returning schools.

To Apply please download an application from www.sfvaudubon.org. For questions, contact Paula Orlovich, SBEEP Chairperson: paulasbeep54@yahoo.com.

For more information about Audubon programs visit www.sfvaudubon.org. For more information about RCD programs visit www.rcdsmm.org/education. 



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For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our website:

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Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, the science and ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the *PHAINOPEPLA*.

Material from other newsletters or newspapers should include the source and date. Copy for the *PHAINOPEPLA* should be in the hands of the editor by the 3rd of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

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If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Lynn Maddox at (818) 845-4688 or e-mail her at Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org.



Phainopepla

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Membership

A big thank you to the National Members who responded to last month's article by becoming local members too! Whether you belong to National or Local or both, remember you are always welcome on any of our activities and we have plenty to get involved in! Please contact Lynn Maddox, Membership Chair, with any questions at lynn.maddox@sfvaudubon.org.

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