



# Phainopepla

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

Vol. 65 No. 3

June / July 2014

## Monthly Program

### SFVAS EXTRAORDINARY POT LUCK JOIN US FOR THIS FUN-FILLED ANNUAL EVENT

Thursday, June 26, 2014, 7:00 p.m.  
Encino Community Center

Be prepared to:

- Share a dish
- Play a little bird call Bingo
- Test your bird vocabulary
- Hear the Phainopepla Club Outcomes
- Meet fellow birders and share great food
- Bring or enjoy slides and accompanying bird stories of others

Bring your own plate and utensils. For a dish to share, try to follow the plan for last names as follows:




- A-F Desserts
- G-L Main Dishes
- M-P Side Dishes
- Q-Z Salads

(If there is no way you can bring something in your category, we won't turn away whatever else you may prefer to bring)

We will begin at 7:00 p.m. with some fun activities and appetizers and begin the Pot Luck Supper at 7:30 p.m. allowing a bit more travel time or those coming from work. If you have a bird story with pictures to show and tell, some special California birds, some great shots taken with your new photographic skills, or some exotics from a special trip, bring them on a DVD or thumb drive and give them to Alan Pollack who will run the projector.

Please limit your selections to about 15 pictures and presentations to 10—15 minutes.

We will also hold the installation of our new (and continuing) Board of Directors and say a farewell to Board Members terming out (*see below*). 

## 2014—2015 SFVAS Board

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates to serve on the for the Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for our 2014—2015 year which begins on July 1, 2014.

### Officers (2-year terms):

- President: Rose Leibowitz
- 1st VP: Heather Medvitz
- 2nd VP: Diana Keeney
- Corresponding Secretary: Becky Arntzen
- Treasurer: Pat Bates
- Recording Secretary: Lynn Maddox

### Board Members at Large:

- Scott Logan
- Paula Orlovich
- Dave Collins
- Jackie Wollner
- Jim Houghton
- Jeanne Kolasz

*Nominations Committee: Dottie Ecker, Rebecca LeVine, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Chair Muriel Kotin*

**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 5—6, for directions.**

## Birdathon 2014 Results and Information by Diana Keeney



Below are the results of the 2014 Birdathon events. The pledges are still coming in, so the amount of money raised and acknowledgment of donors will be in the next edition.

A big “Thank You” to all our Birdathon leaders. We had a wide range of events this year that included several of the regular monthly birdwalks, several traveling caravans covering many miles over wide geographic areas, a 24-hour birding marathon, and a two-hour sit-in at a single location. The participants ranged in age from 8-80!

The Birdathon leaders exemplified the best in good natured competition and the donors gave generously to support the education and conservation efforts of SFVAS. Donations can be sent to SFVAS, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or made online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) (click Annual Birdathon, Donate).

Date	Event Location/Name	Leader	Expected Species Count	Actual Species Count!
04/15/14	O'Melveny Park	Carolyn Oppenheimer	30	43
04/19/14	Lori Willis Memorial Fund	John & Andrew Willis	75	75
04/23/14	Highway 33	Art Langton	70	83
04/23/14	Antelope Valley	Jim Moore	125	129
04/25/26	Los Angeles & Orange Counties	Allan & Muriel Kotin	100	96
04/26/14	Morongo Valley	Dick Barth	65-70	65
05/02/14	Santa Susana Mts. Simi Hills	Mark Osokow	65-70	66
05/03/14	The Big Sit	Linda Jones	35	34
05/04/14	Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve	Kris Ohlenkamp	60	63
5/10/14	Children's Birdathon	Diana Keeney	30	Varied by child
05/18/14	Malibu Creek State Park	Art Langton	45	46

*Thank you for your support!*

## BIRDATHON 2014 HIGHLIGHTS *by Lynn Maddox*

We had a great line-up of Birdathons this year! Most of the events met or exceeded their projected number of species, despite various handicaps, including heat, wind, rain, poison oak, and venomous reptiles.

Leaders reported some of their best sightings. Mark Osokow reported Gray Flycatcher, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Verdin.

Linda Jones and her group enjoyed a family of Canada Geese and a close encounter with a Snowy Egret, all while remaining seated.

Kris Ohlenkamp's mostly first-timers were treated to stunning American Avocets.

Carolyn Oppenheimer spotted many warblers and a Hutton's Vireo.

Dick Barth's event is detailed in his Monthly Field Trip Report in this issue.

Jim Moore's group birded from 5:30 am to 8:30 pm, encountered law enforcement, and watched Lesser Night Hawks over the lake at Apollo Park in Lancaster.

Allan and Muriel Kotin spent 24 hours birding in Orange County, with a break for a good night's sleep, and saw Reddish Egret at Bolsa Chica.

Art Langton birded solo this year, seeing many birds but lamenting his missing common species.

The Lori Willis Family Memorial Birdathon covered the Malibu coast in memory of a dedicated naturalist/educator. Highlights included a lesson in cormorant ID, with three species on one rock. Mammals were also seen--three coyotes and a whale.

For more details on all these events, please see our website!



---

## Children's Birdathon *by Diana Keeney*



Twelve students from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at Mar Vista Elementary School, plus parents and siblings, joined in the Children's Birdathon on Saturday, May 10. Led by several SFVAS volunteers, small groups scoured the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for avian species to record on their taxonomically ordered checklists. The colorful plumage of Western Bluebirds, Bullock's Orioles, and Red-winged Blackbirds were highlights. Also, the American White Pelicans, both flying and feeding, were a source of amazement. But the WOW factor goes to the family of Great Horned Owls perched high in Pine and Eucalyptus trees near the Cricket Field. Students recorded their sightings and many tallied well over 30 species. Next step for the young birders is to collect pledges from their sponsors. Kudos to the parents and to teacher Marne Treves for fostering the next generation of birders!



*Photos by Pat Bates*

Twelve students from the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades at Mar Vista Elementary School, plus parents and siblings, joined in the Children's Birdathon on Saturday, May 10. Led by several SFVAS volunteers, small groups scoured the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for avian species to record on their taxonomically ordered checklists. The colorful plumage of Western Bluebirds, Bullock's Orioles, and Red-winged Blackbirds were highlights. Also, the American White Pelicans, both



## Calendar of Events

### June

**Sunday, June 1. 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](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

**Tuesday, June 3. Antelope Valley Audubon Quarterly Bird Meeting. 6:30 p.m.** The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Lancaster.

**Saturday, June 7. 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.

**Saturday, June 14. Monthly Field Trip to Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (Second Saturday) 7:30 a.m.** We expect to see Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, orioles, flycatchers, raptors, possibly Grasshopper Sparrow. Directions: Take the Ventura Freeway (101) to the Lynn Road exit in Thousand Oaks. Go south on Lynn Road and proceed 5.3 miles to Via Goleta. Turn left at Via Goleta to the preserve entrance. The main gate officially opens at 8:00 a.m. but a ranger usually opens it much earlier. We will meet at the gate at 7:30, ready to drive down to the parking lot and get an early start. We will bird until about 11:30. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, June 14. 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.

**Sunday, June 15. 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, June 17. 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, June 21. 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.

**Monday, June 23. 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, June 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Annual Pot Luck, and Photo Show. 7:00 p.m.** 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.

The evening's program will include the installation of new officers for the 2014–2015 year. It will also feature presentations from our own talented photographer members sharing their best photos. All are invited to participate. Limit the number of images to 15 or less. Presenters must narrate. Possibilities are birds, nature, vacations, field trips, or backyard natural wonders.

Don't miss this always-enjoyable annual get-together of friends, food, and photos as our activity year draws to a close. For more information see "Monthly Program", page one.

**Saturday, June 28. Young Birders Group Bird Walk. Location TBA.** Young Birders join our leaders Alexander and Olivia. For walk time and location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405, or check out our website [sfvaudubon.org](http://sfvaudubon.org) for information. All young birders are welcome.

### July

**Saturday, July 5. 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, July 6. 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](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

**Saturday, July 12. 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, July 15. 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, July 19. Monthly Field Trip: Mt. Pinos. 7:30 a.m.** Join us for summer montane species such as Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Hairy Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker. Meet in the parking lot at Iris Meadows. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent and lunch. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take I-5 north to the Frazier Park exit. Go

west through Frazier Park and continue for about 20 miles up Mount Pinos Road to the end (and parking lot.) Your vehicle must exhibit a National Forest "Adventure Pass" or Golden Age Passport in order for you to park and bird in this area. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, July 19. 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, July 20. 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.

**There are NO General Membership Meetings in July and August. Enjoy your summer!**

**Saturday, July 26. Young Birders Group Bird Walk.** Young Birders, for walk time and location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

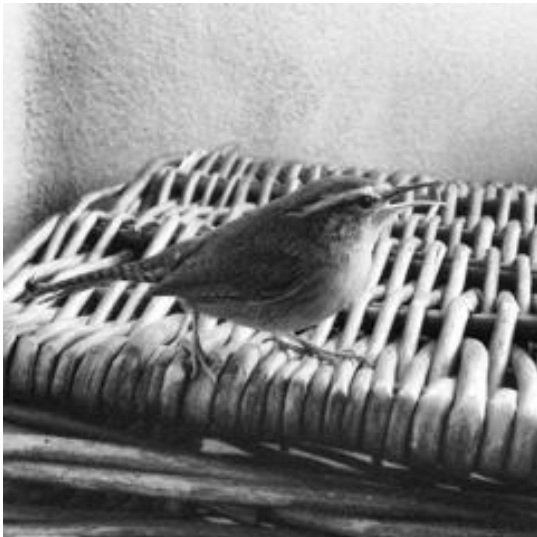
**Future Field Trips (details later):**

**August 16. Chilao**

**September 20. Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica**

**October 18. El Dorado Park**

## **Phainopepla Photo of the Month** by Robin Tarne



National Audubon member Robin Tarne took this photo of a Bewick's Wren in an unusual spot in Woodland Hills last December. Here is what she had to say: "The bird came into my kitchen through an open door and finally escaped through an opened window after I removed the screen. He initially flew into the glass and was stunned by the blow for a few minutes." Robin used an iPhone 4 to take the picture. Thanks for the submission, Robin!

Please submit your photos to [Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.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, Lynn



## SFVAS Fledges Young Birders Group—By Helene White (Photos by R. Levine)

On April 19 we had our first official young birders walk at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife



Refuge. It was led by Alexander, a ninth grader, and Olivia, a college student. The leaders were joined by five young birders and a parent. It was



a lovely spring day in which they saw 27 species of birds! They were treated to a Great Horned Owl and her three babies, a Cooper's Hawk nest, Cormorant's nests, and a hummingbird's nest. They also saw ducklings and goslings on the lake! The following are all the bird species seen:

Bullock's Orioles, White-throated Swifts, Red-winged Blackbirds, House Finches, Great Horned Owls, Black Phoebes, Cooper's Hawk in its nest (only saw the tail) and possibly the dad

in another tree, Mallards (two had seven babies), California Towhees, White Crowned Sparrows, Canada Geese with four babies, Grackles, Coots, American Goldfinches, White Pelicans, California Thrasher, Green Heron, Cormorants, Lesser Goldfinches, Ruddy Ducks, Snowy Egrets, Spotted Towhees, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, Turkey Vulture, Allen's, and Anna's Hummingbirds.



The next bird walk will be held on June 28. We hope to see many young birders again!





## Monthly Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*



Our Morro Bay Weekend was March 15 & 16, with some of us arriving a day early to tally birds for a three-day list. Perfect, sunny weather. The weekend produced target birds Pigeon Guillemot, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Brant (the number of Brant has declined here in recent years). A previously-reported Bald Eagle was well seen on Friday morning. Peregrine Falcon and Pelagic Cormorant were in breeding prep on Morro Rock again this year. Receiving the most attention on our shorebird list were Black Oystercatcher, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, American Avocet and Black-bellied Plover. In addition to Brant on a strong waterfowl list were favorites like Northern Pintail, Greater Scaup, the three teals, Bufflehead and Red-breasted Merganser. American White Pelican and Brown Pelican got our attention, as did Common Loon, Pacific Loon, Herring Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Caspian Tern and Forster's Tern. Also of interest: Purple Finch, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, Pacific-slope Flycatcher (heard only), Western Bluebird, Wild Turkey, California Thrasher (heard only), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Fox Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. Our warblers were Wilson's, Townsend's, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped.

We birded the Morongo Valley area on April 26, also visiting Black Rock Campground in nearby Joshua Tree National Park. The visit doubled as a SFVAS Birdathon. Windy conditions sometimes challenged our efforts but the trip tally was a respectable 65 species, including a few sightings from elsewhere in the high desert reported by our participants over the weekend. Among the highlights, a Pinyon Jay posed for us atop a Joshua tree at Black Rock Campground and a cooperative White-winged Dove sunned itself on the ground at the Big Morongo Canyon Preserve. Our list featured other notable birds: Vermilion Flycatcher, Scott's Oriole, Black-throated Sparrow, Costa's Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Cactus Wren, Summer Tanager, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Lazuli Bunting, Gambel's Quail, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Verdin and Greater Roadrunner. The warblers were Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, Yellow-breasted Chat (heard), Black-throated Gray, Wilson's and Townsend's. Other species of interest found: Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Phainopepla, Western Kingbird, Hooded Oriole, Western Bluebird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Oak Titmouse, Western Tanager and Warbling Vireo.

*(Photo: Richard Barth at Morro Bay, by Rose Leibowitz)*

## Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

### "Have some poison, my dear...."

Just suppose you gave a party for some dear friends and without being aware of it, many of the dishes you served up were poisoned! Not a pleasant thought, but that is exactly the scenario that takes place when you reach for the rodenticide, insecticide or herbicide to get rid of those pesky moles, insects, or weeds in your garden. Your garden is an invitation to our wildlife friends and they eat what is served, including the just poisoned rodent, insect or weed. And let's not forget that as these poisons are being applied and leach into the soil and water table, humans are also being exposed and slowly poisoned. So, what are the alternatives? There are many! Let's consider one problem at a time.

**PESTS:** Such as rats, moles, mice, etc. Eliminate food sources (such as fallen fruit, or dog and cat food placed outdoors) and shelter (such as large patches of Algerian ivy) . Build or buy nesting boxes to attract barn owls (one family of barn owls will eat 1000 or more rodents/year). If you must, traps that kill quickly and humanely.

**INSECTS:** To begin with, learn to distinguish harmful from beneficial insects, such as praying mantids, assassin bugs, green lacewings, lady beetles, and hover flies. Biologic control is an effort to keep insects controlled (not eliminated) and begins with purchasing plants that are resistant to insect attack and/or are attractive to beneficial insects. Most often these are plants that are native to your area. Keep plants healthy by first, choosing plants likely to grow well in your garden spot (and again, natives are a good choice) and by giving them the proper water, food (if needed) and maintenance. Watch for early signs of disease or infestation. If either is observed, mechanical controls include removing the diseased portion of the plant or, the whole plant, if necessary;

a strong spray from your water hose can remove clinging insects; a gentle spray of water in the morning will get rid of powdery mildew (whereas at night, it will encourage mildew). If chemical controls are necessary (hopefully, the last resort), using the least toxic is best for our environment. Many common household products can be effective and are less harmful than the chemicals sold in garden stores. For example, a mixture of baking soda and liquid soap will treat both blackspot fungus and powdery mildew. An insecticidal soap solution can be purchased at garden stores. In time, when the good bugs establish themselves, these measures will be unnecessary.

**HERBICIDES:** Most of the herbicide use in the U.S. is applied to lawns. Since a lawn has very little value for wildlife and also consumes an enormous amount of water, fertilizer, and care (read \$\$\$\$\$) in addition to herbicide, reducing the size of (or totally eliminating!) your lawn would make a big dent in herbicide use. And since Mother Nature abhors bare soil the way she abhors a vacuum, keeping a layer of mulch on all bare soil areas will inhibit weed growth (as well as conserve soil moisture and improve soil structure). When weeds appear, pulling them out works well (best done before they go to seed) and is good exercise! Weeds in cracked concrete or asphalt can be killed with a propane torch or a strong vinegar solution.

Learn more about non-toxic, environmentally-friendly, sustainable gardening practices at [www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com) (click on pests and diseases) and at [www.wasteless.org](http://www.wasteless.org) (click on environmentally preferable purchasing and then on less toxic gardening/IPM).

There, now, aren't you less worried about throwing your next "garden party?" 🍷

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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org).



The following is the first part of a two part series of articles by Bonnie McFarlin of Wild Wings - Your Backyard Nature Store\*. Co-writer Heather Medvitz

## Friends of the Earth

### Part 1

In honor of our earth, we thought it would be a good time to review some earth friendly practices that can greatly help our wildlife friends. Please take the time to read and share, and see if there are any that apply to your backyard.



*(Photo: Bobcat by Dave Collins, in his backyard!)*

Feeders should be cleaned bi-monthly or more often. Soap and water, an enzyme or a highly diluted bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts water) is recommended. An enzyme solution like "Poop off", or fruit and vegetable wash can help remove the debris from feeders, baths and surrounding areas. Wearing gloves while you're cleaning is a good idea. Please let feeders fully dry in the sun for at least a day before re-filling with seed. At a minimum, spray empty feeders thoroughly with a hose and let dry.

Providing fresh water for birds is one of the most important things you can do, especially during this drought, and with our very hot months approaching, Birdbaths need fresh water, at least every few days. Keeping the area under and around feeders free of excessive debris is healthier for you, your pets and of course, the birds. It will also help reduce the

likelihood of attracting unwanted wildlife friends like rodents.

Rodents are a natural part of our ecosystem, and provide much needed food for our predatory birds and mammals. PLEASE, NEVER USE RAT POISON (RODENTICIDE). Rodenticides are killing Mountain Lions, Bobcats, Coyotes, Hawks and Owls because these animals feed on rodents and thus, also consume the poison. The anticoagulant poisons in rodenticides can cause internal bleeding and death in these larger animals. You can gain additional information about this from several websites. ([www.EarthFriendlyManagement.com](http://www.EarthFriendlyManagement.com)) has more educational material. You may have seen the April 17, 2014 article in the *LA Times*, "Household Rat Poison Linked to Death and Disease in Wildlife," by Martha Groves ([marthagroves@latimes.com](mailto:marthagroves@latimes.com)) Additional information can be found at [www.SafeRodentControl.org](http://www.SafeRodentControl.org) and at [www.UrbanCarnivores.com](http://www.UrbanCarnivores.com)

The loss of larger animals has led 20 communities throughout California, including Malibu, Calabasas, and San Francisco, to pass resolutions urging residents not to purchase and businesses not to sell second generation anticoagulants. These supposedly less harmful poisons are responsible for the death of a number of larger mammals in Los Angeles County in the past few years.

If you are using a regular professional fumigation service, either for rodents or insects, please make sure they are not using Rat Poison and strongly consider stopping your service. It is not necessary and is harmful in a variety of ways. Your yard will find its natural balance, and you will most likely end up with a wider variety of birds and butterflies.


Sometimes people ask why we want to have larger prey animals in our environment. It is because they are necessary for the balance of nature. When all of the Mountain Lions, Bobcats, Coyotes, and raptors are removed from an area, there are no wild predators left to help control the proliferation of gophers, snakes, rabbits, squirrels, rats and mice. A family of Barn Owls consumes about 3,000 rodents a year!

*(Continued next page)*



(Continued from previous page) Wild Wings continues to search for and carry earth friendly and Made-in-the USA products. We carry Barn Owl Boxes and are also now carrying the "Raticator" a humane form of rat control. The cessation of rat poison and the escalation of Barn Owl Habitat need to happen in succession.

\*Stay tuned for the August-September article on Monarch Butterflies, Spiders and Insects.

(Photo: Bobcat by Wild Wings customer Peter Jon Pearce, in his backyard!) 

---


## Phainopepla Club Awards —by Diana Keeney



Don't forget to submit your Year Report (July 2013-June 2014) from eBird to [diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org) by June 19.

Swallow (50 species), Finch (100), Vireo (150), Avocet (200), **Phainopepla Club!** (250)

Here's how to create a Year Report:

1. Log your sightings at [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org)
2. Create a report by the following path:
  - a. Select **Explore Data** tab
  - b. Under **Summary Tables** at bottom right of page, select **My Observations**
  - c. Create a **Year Report** to start on **July 1, 2013**
  - d. Select the **LA County locations** of your sightings
  - e. Print or download the report showing the **Date and Total # of Species**
3. Send report to Diana Keeney at SFVAS, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or e-mail to [diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org).
4. Reports received by June 19 will be acknowledged at the General Membership Meeting (Pot Luck) on June 26, 2014. 



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Rose Leibowitz (818) 990-5405  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430  
 Treasurer: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962  
 Corresponding Sec'y: Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Recording Sec'y: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688

**DIRECTORS**

Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Mathew Tekulsky (310) 962-5653  
 Scott Logan (818) 995-0022  
 Paula Orlovich (818) 728-9838  
 Dave Collins (661) 406-7689  
 Ron Gotcher (818) 341-4034

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Antelope Valley Co-Chairs: Linda Edwards (661) 948-3524  
 & Vern Benhart  
 Audubon-at-Home: Alan Pollack (818) 340-2347  
 Bird Observatory: Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Birdathon: Lynn Maddox/ (818) 845-4688  
 Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Christmas Bird Count: Jim Moore (661) 298-1130  
 College Conservation: Carolyn Oppenheimer (818) 885-7493  
 Communications: OPEN  
 Community Outreach: Sharon Ford (818) 780-5816  
 Conservation: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 Conservation Banquet:  
 Descanso Bird Station: Dottie Ecker (818) 790-0659  
 Education Classroom: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 Education-Sepulveda Basin: Paula Orlovich (818) 728-9838  
 Facebook: Jackie Wollner (818) 989-4543  
 Field Trips: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342  
 Finance: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962  
 Hospitality: Pam Folgert (818) 348-9904  
 Malibu Creek Bird Walk: Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796  
 Art Langton (818) 887-0973  
 Membership: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688  
 O'Melveny Bird Walk: Carolyn Oppenheimer (818) 885-7493  
 Phainopepla Editor: Rebecca LeVine (818) 776-0881  
 Programs: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430  
 Publicity: OPEN  
 Sales & Service: OPEN  
 Sepulveda Bird Walks: Kris Ohlenkamp (747) 444-9683  
 Sep. Basin Steering Comm. Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796  
 Web Coordinator: Dave Collins (661) 406-7689  
 Youth Activities: Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796

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

**[www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)**



PHAINOPEPLA is copyrighted ©2014 by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. All rights reserved. All photographs used in the PHAINOPEPLA are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

Become a member of the  
**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

Mail the form below, and include a check made payable to SFV Audubon Society:

P.O. Box 7769  
 Van Nuys, CA 91409  
 Attn: Membership

**SFVAS MEMBERSHIP**

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 1-yr Chapter Membership (No paper copy of *Phainopepla*).....\$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax Deductable Contribution to SFVAS \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about SFVAS?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The *PHAINOPEPLA*, published six times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a non-profit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

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 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

Membership in the National Audubon Society is \$20 and should be sent separately to:

National Audubon Society  
 P.O. Box 420235  
 Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235

For renewals, use the form in the National Audubon magazine, "Audubon."

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](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).





## Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society  
PO Box 7769  
Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Birdathon Results-pg. 2  
Birdathon 2014 Highlights-pg. 3  
Children's Birdathon-pg. 3  
Calendar of Events-pgs. 4-5  
Photo of the Month-pg. 5  
SFVAS Fledges Young Birder's  
Group-pg. 6  
Monthly Field Trip Reports-pg. 7  
Audubon-at-Home-pg. 8  
Friends of the Earth-pgs. 9-10  
Phainopepla Club Awards-pg. 10  
SFVAS Chapter Information-pg. 11

---

## 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@sfaudubon.org](mailto:lynn.maddox@sfaudubon.org).

### National:

Tony Abbott  
David Abrams  
Sandra Alpert  
Neil Angell  
Larry Arbino  
Dawn Baker  
Kathryn Banbury  
Katie Barfield  
Connie Barton  
Donna Benson  
Joan Berg  
Nancy Blackmer  
Amanda Braun  
Jean Brousseau

Betty Buchanan  
Elena Caballero  
Mariana Camilleri  
Chris Carlson  
David Carnesciali  
Jessica Caviness  
Ann Chadney  
Keely Craig  
Rhea Damon  
Darlene Dauer  
Thomas Dodt  
Lynn Dompe  
Bonnie Duecker  
Brenda Ellis  
Carol Esterkin

Aaro & Mandi  
Forehand  
Patricia Freeman  
Amalia Garcia  
Elliott Goldkind  
Cris Gordovez  
Tracy Grandstaff  
Kenyon Greene  
Sue Grimshaw  
Yamira Guerrero  
Theresa Hancock  
Nanette Hauser  
Estelyn Hive  
Lingfei Hui  
Marina Kavanagh

Susan Kennedy  
Deborah Klein  
Nancy Kwong  
Doris Leal  
Dena Lovett  
Elise Madison  
Elizabeth Marcus  
Norma Martin  
Rosalind Martini  
The McGoverns  
Linda Moriarty  
Terrell Mundhenk  
Geraldine Nigg  
Kathleen O'Dell  
Zoe Ohl

Aeleysia Olsasky  
Mikail Orloff  
Alina Osborne  
Kevin Owers  
Emilie Pallos  
Richard Peoples  
Gary Raines  
Rosalie Rifkin  
Freddi Rokaw  
Anna Rundle  
Kristin Sabo  
Joel Saken  
Sharleen Schwartz  
Jonny Skinner  
Frederick Smith

Jane Soloway  
Antonia Stolo  
Herbert Thompson  
Nancy Traina  
Emily Urnick  
Flora Villalta  
Stephen Vye  
Marjorie Webster  
Nancy Westfall  
Mary Yablonsky  
Sarah Younglove  
Robin Zimbert