

Phainopepla



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AUDUBON AT HOME

NATIVES IN YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN: AN INTRODUCTION

by Alan Pollack

This is the first of a series of articles on using California native plants in your wildlife garden. In an earlier article, I had listed good reasons to “go native.” To reiterate those: native plants attract and support our native birds/wildlife; they are adapted to our climate; need less to no maintenance; need less to no soil preparation; and, by planting them, we are helping to restore and conserve California’s native habitat.

I am a relative newcomer to the world of gardening with natives and am learning through experience, contacts with the California Native Plant Society, native plant nursery Web sites, and books about native plant gardening. I have borrowed heavily from them in these articles and wish to acknowledge them.

By way of introduction, “*A Short History of California Native Plant Horticulture*” gleaned from *California Native Plants for the Garden*.

California’s indigenous peoples have long had an intimate knowledge of native plants. This wisdom was gained through centuries of daily interaction with the surrounding flora and the utilization of common plants for every purpose imaginable, including food, medicine, shelter, fuel, fiber, dye and ceremony. California Indians did not simply harvest plants; they actively managed many species to increase the quantity or improve the quality of desired products. Unfortunately, most immigrants who settled in California did not value or understand this knowledge, and much of it was lost through deliberate or inadvertent destruction of indigenous cultures and practices.

To make matters worse, the early settlers and Spanish missionaries brought non-native plants and seeds

with them and “...initiated the invasion of exotic species that continues to this day.” (Though the value of the native plants and practices was lost on the settlers, some of the early explorers were more impressed and they brought plants and seeds of California natives back to the Old World on their return trips home.)

It wasn’t until the early 20th century that we find a resurgent interest in our native flora, sparked by the artists and craftsmen who flourished at that period which we now call the “Arts and Crafts Movement.” In essence, they rediscovered the beauty to be found in California’s natural landscapes and California native plants began to appear in their works of art. As an appreciation for the natural flora around us grew, a demand for native plants for the garden was born and Theodore Payne, California’s first native plant nurseryman, made his appearance. (Payne’s legacy “...is perpetuated by the Theodore Payne Foundation in Sun Valley, which was founded in 1960.”)

Along with all this renewed interest in native flora, so, too did the concern about its disappearance, especially as population growth soared in California during the mid-20th century and conservation pioneers and movements began to emerge. Prominent among these was the California Native Plant Society, founded in 1965. A severe drought in the mid-1970s further accentuated the concern over restoring and conserving native flora.

Next month: What is a tree? Some definitions...

Bornstein, C., Fross, D., and O’Brien, B. *California Native Plants for the Garden*. 2005. Cachuma Press.

Reminder: Dr. Christina Sandoval to speak at May 22 General Meeting ✕



A NEW GARDEN AT CALVERT ST. SCHOOL

by Alan Pollack, Audubon-at-Home Chair

As part of the Mayor's Day event in April, 2007, the PTA of Calvert St. Elementary School in Woodland Hills initiated a number of projects to clean up and beautify the school. The biggest project was to install a (mostly) native plant garden where an (almost) bare piece of ground existed near the front entrance of the school. It is triangular in shape, sloping, and children often walk across it on their way in and out of an entry gate. Realizing that it was better to accommodate this usage rather than trying to keep children out of the garden, I incorporated two trails from sidewalk to gate in the design and these created in turn, three separate planting areas. The trails then served to attract the children into the garden and made watering and other maintenance chores easier.

The first task involved removing quantities of soil to partially flatten the paths and was going to require some heavy labor, but Bruce Crespo and the students from his landscaping class at West Valley Occupational Center came to the rescue with their digging machine. After finding and partially clearing a location on campus to dump the dirt (the site of a future, teaching garden?), it took two half-days to dig out two long, shallow trenches, edge the upper sides with concrete edging blocks and fill them to a depth of about two inches with decomposed granite mixed with a small amount of dry cement (which makes the DG slightly firmer but retains it's porosity). With the paths installed, we were ready for planting on Mayor's Day, 4/27/07.

On that day, a slew of volunteers showed up at the school and about six of them volunteered to help with weeding and planting. I had put in a request to the city to provide the native plants for the garden, but the only plants received were two Western Redbud trees. The other plants I purchased at Matilija Nursery were Desert Willows, Manzanita, and a Clematis vine. In addition, we had some California asters and some rosemary donated to us. The rosemary is non-native, but low water using and compatible with the natives.

With weeding and planting completed, the last chore that day was to spread heavy bark mulch between plantings. After it was installed, I hand watered all the new plants once or twice a week. There is an existing, overhead sprinkler system, but it is on for only five minutes, twice-a-week, which is about enough water to moisten the mulch on the surface but totally inadequate to stimulate the deep root growth we want the plants to achieve so that watering can eventually be eliminated (hopefully). Then, this past fall, I scattered some wildflower seeds which this years winter rains brought to life.

I would like to thank all the volunteers, businesses and organizations that contributed to creating this garden: the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, Home Depot/Woodland Hills, Jacobi Masonry, Matilija Nursery/Bob Sussman, Bruce Crespo and his class from WVOC, Norm's Nursery and Valley Crest Landscaping, the Calvert St. School volunteers, and PTA president Tracy Bartley (who initiated the idea). ♣



Join Alan Pollack for a one day workshop on attracting birds and butterflies to your garden at Pierce College on Saturday May 17, from 9–3. Contact Pierce Extension Division to enroll.

Alan Pollack, Audubon-at-Home Chair, 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 reached at alpat62@aol.com or (818) 340-2347 or at www.sfvaudubon.org.

BIRD QUIZ –Submitted by Bob Thille
Take the three bird names egret, crane and owl. Rearrange the 13 letters to spell three other bird names. They are all common names. What are they? Answer on Backpage.



Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

This year's Morro Bay Weekend fell on March 15–16. With some participants arriving a day early to bird, our three-day species total was 118.

Pigeon Guillemot, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Brant and Peregrine Falcon are special attractions here and did not disappoint. Rarities seen were a Clay-colored Sparrow (visiting feeders in a local birder's yard in Los Osos) and two Long-tailed Ducks! Our duck list of sixteen species also highlighted Hooded Merganser, Surf Scoter, Greater Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Cinnamon Teal, Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal. Thirteen species of shorebirds were found---notably Lesser Yellowlegs (unrecorded on this trip in recent history), Long-billed Curlew, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover and Greater Yellowlegs. Of interest on the rocky shorelines were Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone and Surfbird.

We found Red-throated and Common Loons, five species of grebes, White Pelican, and all three cormorants. Mew and Glaucous-winged were among the gulls on hand. Eurasian Collared-Dove is now fairly common in the area. Pine Siskin and an early Hooded Oriole were tallied in the Los Osos yard, and our search for Canyon Wren was successful on the inward face of Morro Rock. Favorites from our warbler list included Yellow, Wilson's and Townsend's. Other selected passerines of interest were Cassin's Kingbird (not widespread on the central coast), Belted Kingfisher, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Rufous Hummingbird, Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Western Meadowlark and Purple Finch. ♣

Chapter Election Set for May 22, 2008 –Submitted by Jim Hardesty

As per our By-laws, the annual chapter election will take place at the Thursday, May 22, General Membership meeting, at the Encino Community Center. Installation of officers will take place at the June 26 meeting. The following persons are presented for election for the 2008–2009 program year:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| President | (To be Determined) | Corresponding Secretary | Margie Maseda |
| 1st Vice President..... | Seth Shteir | 1st Year Director | Heather Medvitz |
| 2nd Vice President | Chris Van Beveren | 1st Year Director | Mike Van Norman |
| Recording Secretary | Donna Timlin | | |

Program Notes—May 2008

Dr. Christina Sandoval to speak at May 22 General Meeting

Christina Sandoval is a member of the Life Sciences Department at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the Director of the Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve. The Coal Oil Point Natural Reserve is one of the best remaining examples of a coastal-strand environment in Southern California. The Reserve protects a wide variety of coastal and estuary habitats which have become a nesting site for the endangered Snowy Plover, a species threatened due to loss of its preferred breeding habitat, the beach. Dr. Sandoval will discuss the Reserve with its sandy beach, sand dunes, and adjacent estuary mouth which is one of a few choice west coast locations where the Snowy Plovers can breed and thrive. Dr. Sandoval's presentation will reveal how the plovers must compete with beach users, unleashed dogs, and predators like crows. Without help, the plovers lose. Check out <http://coaloilpoint.ucnrs.org/> for more information. ♣



Membership

SFVAS is pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will get involved with our many field trips and activities. Please contact Chris Van Beveren, Membership Chair, with any questions. ♣

- | | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Meagan Alonso | Allen Chodor | Antoinette Johnson | Joyce Nussbaum | Joe Russin |
| Theresa Baker | Rudolfo Clautier | Syed Khawar | Ms. Pampuch | Susan Sarazell |
| Arturo Barajas | Deborah May Delhoyo | Louise Latham | Gerald Park | Stephanie Sayre |
| Margo Berger | Jeanne Donson | Ursula Levell | Grace Pedroza | Peggy Schwartz |
| Sydney Bisher | Heather Galeano | Morton Levy | Paula Raissner | Sharon Sides |
| Ms. Bragg | Rick Goldstein | Paty Magana | Partab Ramsingham | Wendy Wharton |
| Lisa Call | Jerry Goren | Rachel McDonnough | Glorya Rane | Virginia Williams |
| Mari Carlos | David Heiland | Louis Molina | Chava Belle Reel | |
| Marjorie Chesney | Chelsea Jensen | Elaine Nieves | Alice Reinhardt | |



Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 3. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.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. Once at kiosk, advise Lake Staff that you are there for the bird walk. Proceed to the Boating Instruction Safety Center (BISC) by turning right at the stop sign and follow the road to a white building down by the lagoon. Leader: Frank Hoffman who will bring rehabilitated birds of prey. For information contact Tina Nuss of LA Co Parks at (818) 322-6997. Parking fee will be waived for birdwatchers.

Sunday, May 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. A BIRDATHON EVENT. 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. For more information contact him at (661) 299-6986 or e-mail: Kris.Ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, May 10. Monthly Field Trip to Walker Ranch/Placerita Canyon (second Saturday). 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Walker Ranch entrance. We will look for Costa's Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, flycatchers, warblers, orioles and much more. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon Road. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and proceed for about two miles. Notice but do not stop at the signed entrance to Placerita Canyon Park. Continue for about 1.5 miles to the dirt parking area for Walker Ranch. After birding Walker Ranch, we will picnic in Placerita Canyon Park and bird there in the afternoon. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342. (Adventure Pass is NOT needed for Walker Ranch parking.)

Saturday, May 10. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 9:00 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. Leader: Bob Fischer. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Saturday, May 10. Antelope Valley Fieldtrip to Galileo Hills. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Lancaster Park-n-Ride located in front of the Community Center at 10th St. W. and K-8. Leader: Jim Moore.

Sunday, May 11, Chatsworth Nature Preserve. 7:00 a.m. Chapter members will join with the Southwest Herpetologist Society for a morning inside the Preserve. Meet at the Plummer/Valley Circle gate approximately .9 miles west of the intersection of Plummer and Topanga Canyon Blvd. and opposite 9439 Valley Circle. Bring

snacks, drinks, and be prepared to stay until noon as the gate will be locked behind us. No smoking or pets. Facilities are limited and primitive. RAIN CANCELS. Please call Art Langton (818) 887-0973 at least one week before if planning on participating, or for additional information. The DWP wants to know. Leaders: Stuart Wells, Art Langton.

Sunday, May 11. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. A BIRDATHON EVENT. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the first wide place after entering the gardens. Admission is free for early birders. Located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada. Leader: Karen Johnson or Nancy Herron Knode. For more information, contact Karen at (818) 790-1687 or lv2bird@aol.com.

Saturday, May 17. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101) at Las Virgenes Canyon Road and proceed north to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Please bring plenty of water and wear proper shoes. No toilets are available on site. Leader: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712, jnhardesty@roadrunner.com.

Saturday, May 17. 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) 255-3606.

Sunday, May 18. 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 \$8 per car. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796. aKotin@earthlink.net.

Tuesday, May 20. Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk at Wilson Canyon in Sylmar. 8:30 a.m. Directions: Exit the 210 Freeway at Roxford. Turn north on Roxford and continue on as the road curves to the right and changes to Olive View Drive. The entrance to the park is after 1.2 miles on the left at 14055 Olive View Drive. The parking area is about a half mile up the hill. Bear to the left where the road forks. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer with any questions (before 7:00 p.m., please) at (818) 885-7493 or e-mail to carolopp@sbcglobal.net.

Thursday, May 22. General Membership Meeting and Election. 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. 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. Come early for social hour. Our speaker, Dr. Christina Sandoval to speak on the plight of the Snowy Plover. See "Program Notes", page 3, for more information.



Sunday, May 25. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See May 11 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)
June 14. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (2nd Saturday)
July 19. Mt. Pinos
Aug 16. Chilao

Sunday, June 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See May 4 for details.

Tuesday, June 3. Antelope Valley Committee Meeting. 6:30 p.m. The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street, Lancaster. Contact Bob or Bonnie Weatherman (661) 269-2051.

BIRDING THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY—NO BORDER WALL –By Chris Van Beveren

As you may know, Homeland Security is proceeding with construction of a high physical barrier along hundreds of miles of the Lower Rio Grande, which is the border between Texas and Mexico. The stated reasons are to stop 1) terrorists, 2) smugglers, and 3) illegal aliens. This area is a magnet for birders, as many tropical species make their only ABA-area appearance here. One hundred million dollars has been spent acquiring refuge lands along the river and preserving natural habitat. The locals are aware of the presence of birders as tourists, and we are made to feel very welcome. Local B&B's advertise in birding publications. But the wall is a calamity to this area. Please check out: www.notexasborderwall.com for information.

Because of the imminent danger of these tropical birds becoming inaccessible or losing their habitat from construction of the wall, we decided not to wait for retirement to make the trip to Texas, and went there in February. We attended the city of Laredo's Bird and Butterfly Festival, which covered the area from Laredo to Salineño, with excellent local guides, and on our own went to Sabal Palm Reserve outside Brownsville, Santa Ana NWR south of Alamo, and the Williams private sanctuary in Pharr, near McAllen. We could have easily spent several more days as there is much we missed, such as an out of the way B&B that has Ferruginous Pygmy Owls in residence.

Our species list for five and a half days of birding were 100 species seen, of which 33 were life birds and six others were first time seen in the ABA area. Here are highlights:

Williams Sanctuary: Our first looks at Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Great Kiskadee, Black-crested Titmouse, Long-billed Thrasher, Pyrrhuloxia, and Altamira Oriole.

Vieh's B&B: Host Charlie Vieh took us on an evening walk to spot Common Parakeet.

Sabal Palm: Least Grebe, Plain Chachalaca, White-winged Dove, White-tipped Dove, Green Jay, a kingbird was also seen which would have been Tropical or Couch's.

On the way to Santa Ana: Black Vultures soaring.

Casa Santa Ana B&B feeding area: Golden-fronted Woodpecker, and good studies of Long-billed Thrasher next to Curve-billed Thrasher among others.

Santa Ana NWR: Orchard Oriole, Harris's Hawk perched for great looks.

City of Alamo evening pizza run: Green Parakeet flock screeching from wires.

So far we had 19 life birds and the Festival hadn't started yet.

1st Day Festival: Birding near Laredo, Neotropic Cormorant, Greater White-fronted Goose, Crested Caracara, Ringed Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher, Chihuahuan Raven, Cactus Wren, White-eyed Vireo, Olive Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Audubon's Oriole.

2nd Day Festival: Birding at San Ygnacio and a local ranch, Mottled Duck, Gray Hawk, Scaled Quail, Red-billed Pigeon, and White-collared Seedeater.

3rd Day Festival: Birding Salineño (the DeWind feeders) and Falcon Dam, Clay-colored Robin, Zone-tailed Hawk, Lark Bunting.

The trip was far more than just checking off birds from a list. We learned to tell soaring Black Vultures from Turkey Vultures at a glance, to tell the four Orioles apart, Pyrrhuloxias from female Northern Cardinals, and made some progress with sparrow Ids. Best of all, one day I looked up and suddenly saw the shape difference between hawks and falcons. This can be explained to you a dozen times, but one day you just see it when you couldn't before. So go outside—look up—enjoy. ♪

Birdathon 2008 Reminder by Rose Leibowitz



As we come into May, we are half way through our Birdathon. Thank you to all the people who have sent in pledges and to all the leaders who have led Birdathon walks. We still have a few walks to go—do join Kris Ohlenkamp at Sepulveda Basin on May 4 or Nancy Herron Knode at Descanso Gardens on May 11 (See Calendar section for directions and times.) If you have not yet made a pledge, (or now wish to add to it!) there is still time. Send your contributions made payable to SFVAS, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769. The drive ends at the end of May. Thank you again for all your support. ♪



IN MEMORIAM

Irene Langton 1910-2008

Early in April, Irene Langton, the Chapter's longest tenured member passed away following a prolonged illness. Irene's involvement with Audubon started when she was faculty conservation chairman at San Fernando High School promoting attendance at bimonthly Audubon Screen Tours, then sponsored by the school district. She had become a conservation activist opposing the building of dams along the Colorado River including dams within the Grand Canyon and other National Parks and Monuments. Of particular annoyance was the threat to Rainbow Bridge posed by the building of the Glen Canyon Dam and which she had visited via mule back in 1948.

She was invited by Paul Colburn, then chairman of the science department and president of the California Audubon Society, to join Audubon and later to become its treasurer in the late '50s. Paul, at this time, was in the process of moving the California Audubon Society into the San Fernando Valley and making it a branch of the National Audubon Society, recruiting members under the name San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Irene served two terms as treasurer covering a total of 23 years. Her first term started in 1959 and lasted nine years while the second of 14 years ended with her retirement in 1994. During her tenure on the Board she did much more than bookkeeping, banking the receipts, writing checks, paying the bills, and organizing quarterly financial statements. Much of the character and uniqueness of the chapter are due to her influence. She was the Chapter's conservation award recipient in 1987 much to her surprise.

In 1963, Irene, along with Harry Anderson and then president Clara Weedmark, extended the life of the corporation in perpetuity and retained the California Audubon Society as the corporate name. She helped write and revise much of the current by-laws. For several years she filled in and put out the summer edition of Phainopepla as well as making sure the first Friday of the month meeting time and place was reserved with the Department of Parks and Recreation. She found a newsletter printer when the Phainopepla changed from being mimeograph sheets typed and run-off by her students at San Fernando High School to its present format. Occasionally her contacts produced notable speakers for the Chapter including John B. Davidson, collector for the County Museum of Natural History, and Sheldon Campbell, then president of the San Diego Zoological Society.

Irene had a knack for suggesting the right person for the right job. At her suggestion Diana Peplow started and headed the Sales and Service Department for many years. The suggestion of Mark Urwiller, a CSUN student, as leader started the Sepulveda bird walks on a regular monthly schedule. Several of her non-birding friends became Audubon members and filled important roles in the Chapter.

Irene was always "for the birds." She was a regular at the Chatsworth Christmas count from the late 1950's and was still tallying the results in 2005. She enjoyed serving on the Descanso observation porch and was an occasional leader during in the very early days of the Descanso bird walks. She birded all over the world and on every continent except Antarctica plus such islands as the Hawaii, Galapagos, New Guinea, Madagascar, and New Zealand. Her bird list went well over 2500 species. Nevertheless, she was equally happy and comfortable birding with Arnold Small, Kenn Kaufman, or Jon Dunn as she was talking to potential future birders on the Descanso bird porch.

Irene was born in Sibbertoft, a small village in the English mid-lands, arrived with her family in Los Angeles in 1913 (the year of the Titanic sinking), attended Manuel Arts High School, was a member of the pioneer alumni of UCLA with a degree in economics, did graduate work at USC and the Huntington Library, worked for the County Welfare Department and MGM before starting her teaching career at Huntington Park adult school and the former Metropolitan School of Business. Later she spent time at Hollywood High School before transferring to San Fernando High where she was chairman of the business education department for many years.

In her youth she raised love birds, canaries, zebra finches, and parakeets, the sale of which financed her way through UCLA. She was the ideal person to answer the Chapter phone when the inquiries related to identification or bird problems, the latter usually coming in the spring when young birds were falling out of their nest. Callers were always invited to the next Chapter meeting and offered a free copy of Phainopepla. Audubon's mission, she believed as to introduce people to birds and birding and to educate all, particularly the young, on preserving and conserving habitat and resources for future generations.

Sorely missed will be Irene's spirit of adventure, commitment to family and friends, and her enthusiastic promotion of birds and the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

School is out, the class is over, the teacher has gone home, but the lessons linger on. —Submitted by Art Langton ♪

Charlotte Livingston Memorial

Thank you to Dennis Livingston for his generous donation in honor and memory of his mother Charlotte Livingston. She and her husband Stanley Livingston were active members of the chapter. There will be a memorial service held at noon, on June 8, 2008, at 17840 Tribune Street, Granada Hills. If you are planning on attending please call or e-mail Jeanne Polak-Recht at (818) 360-1438 or jprnor@verizon.net.



JOIN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON

To get started with your membership,
use the following form and mail to:

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

Make all checks payable to SFV Audubon.

SFVAS Membership

Regular 1-yr chapter membership....\$20 \$ _____

Optional First-Class Postage.....\$5 \$ _____

Contributions to SFVAS..... \$ _____

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The PHAINOPEPLA, published ten times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409, 818-347-3205. 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 newspaper should include the source and date. Copy for the PHAINOPEPLA should be in the hands of the editor by the 7th of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

An introductory membership to the National Audubon Society is \$20 and should be sent separately to:

National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center
P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322. Be sure to write "C12" on the form to assure assignment to our chapter. 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 Chris Van Beveren at (818) 998-3122 or e-mail her at becktravel@yahoo.com

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All Phones are area code 818 unless otherwise noted.

For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org

CHAPTER PHONE (818) 347-3205

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Phainopepla

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INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

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Grab your backpack and join
National Geographic
 and the
National Park Service
 in the **2nd Annual**
bioBlitz
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

MAY 30-31, 2008
NOON-TO-NOON



www.nationalgeographic.com/bioBlitz

GO ON ASSIGNMENT

Help gather species in the Santa Monica Mountains during a 24-hour inventory

The Santa Monica Mountains **BioBlitz**, presented and sponsored by National Geographic and the National Park Service in collaboration with Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, California State Parks, and Griffith Park, is a 24-hour inventory of the species in the Santa Monica Mountains. Teams of scientists and naturalists, along with volunteers, will comb the mountains' more than 150,000 acres, observing and recording as many species as possible.

You are invited to join us! Bring your family and friends to the Santa Monica Mountains and help the experts count species of bugs, birds, bats, and other organisms.

The goals of the **BioBlitz** are to add to species lists for as many taxonomic groups as possible and to increase public awareness about biodiversity in an urban environment.

Group and individual registration available. Classes, clubs, and Scout troops are encouraged to participate. One adult required for every four children. Children ages 8 and up are best suited for expedition

teams, but age-appropriate opportunities will be available for younger children.

Friday, May 30

10:00 a.m.
 Check-in
 Advance registration is required. Online registration will be available in April.

11:30 a.m.

Opening ceremony

Noon

BioBlitz begins promptly

Saturday, May 31

Noon

BioBlitz closing ceremony and announcement of species count

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Celebrate BioDiversity Festival*

*Ongoing activities, including lectures and interactive displays, will take place at Paramount Ranch over the 24 hours and afterwards at the Celebrate BioDiversity Festival.

Celebrate BioDiversity Festival

Saturday, May 31

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Paramount Ranch

2903 Cornell Road

Agoura Hills between

Kanan Road and

Mulholland Highway

featuring

Music by Banana Slug String Band

Live animal demonstrations

Noted scientists

Special guests