

Phainopepla



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PROGRAM NOTES

Anna Reams to Speak at Thursday, February 25, SFVAS General Membership Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Wildlife Care of Ventura County (WCVC) was founded in 1994 by a group of individuals who saw with increasing regularity that wild animals were becoming victims of urbanization and therefore the desperate need for experienced wildlife rehabilitators to care for our native wildlife. Anna Reams is the executive director of WCVC and has been rehabilitating wild animals since 1993. In addition to rehabilitating wild animals WCVC's mission is to educate the public on how to co-exist with our new urban immigrants. We will be bringing a few non-releasable wild animals which will include a California King Snake, Screech Owl, Barn Owl, and Skunk. Alan Pollack, an Audubon-at-Home Chair and WCVC volunteer, will also be participating in the presentation. See Calendar Section for directions (page 5.) ♪

SFVAS Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, March 5, 2010, Airtel Plaza Hotel, 6:00 p.m. Conservation Awards Recipient: Carolyn Oppenheimer

The Mission of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is to promote the conservation of resources, to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory, to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of bird life and the natural environment, and to create a social environment that encourages individual knowledge, development, and participation. No one has worked more consistently, effectively, and enthusiastically at helping fulfill this Mission than Carolyn Oppenheimer.

She has held numerous Board of Directors positions over the last 20+ years including two years as President. However, her most valued contributions have often come from ideas that she originated and successfully followed through on. Foremost in my mind are her contributions toward making our Centennial Celebration such a rousing success, and her most recent project—the College Conservation Committee.

Her first volunteer activity with the Chapter was as a docent for our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Project. Now she manages SBEEP and coordinates the docents, materials and equipment, teacher training, and dozens of 4th through 6th grade classroom visits to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area every year.

Although Carolyn has engaged in hands-on environmental improvement activities (such as our annual trash clean-up of Haskell Creek), and direct lobbying of our representatives, her efforts always stress the importance of education (for our children, ourselves, and our elected representatives) as the best long term hope for a clean, healthy and diverse environment. We thank her for her efforts and are proud to present her with this year's Conservation Award.

Continued on back page



2009 Christmas Bird Count Highlights

The 2009 bird count concluded with 139 species recorded and over 21,000 birds counted. These totals compare favorably and exceed last year's totals of 129 species and over 20,000 birds counted. The 139 species mark has been exceeded only on a couple of occasions during the 50 plus year history of the San Fernando Valley Count. This was a very good count!

Undoubtedly contributing to the success of the count were the 48 participants (including neighborhood counters and feeder watchers) who came out and took part on December 26. Some areas attracted sufficient participation to divide up into additional counting groups. Total counting groups, both large and small (single individuals), totaled 16. This permitted more comprehensive coverage which is a key to a successful count as 24 percent of the species reported were by a single group or individual. The near perfect weather on count day, no rain and practically no wind, also encouraged participation. Cooperative birds also deserve some credit.

Highlights include the sighting of a Glaucous-winged Gull at Hansen Dam, a well-verified Williamson's Sapsucker at Veteran's Park, a calling Northern Pygmy Owl at the top of Day Canyon, the return for the third consecutive year of a pair of Long-eared Owls to a private canyon on the north side of the Santa Monica Mountains near Encino, and the return of Harriers to the count after being absent last year. Three have been sighted in the past. A Brown Pelican stray was seen during count week but not on count day and may have been the same bird reported earlier in the month at the Sepulveda Wildlife Area. Mountain Bluebirds and Lawrence's Goldfinches put in appearances after being missed for several years. A Bullock's Oriole at Pierce College was a nice surprise, and all the expected sparrows were recorded somewhere.

High counts were obtained for Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, Peregrine Falcons, Black Phoebes, and Lark Sparrows. Duck numbers were low but a good variety was reported. Missing entirely from the count were White-tailed Kites, all vireos and swallows except for a lone Tree Swallow from Hansen Dam. Seven Loggerhead Shrikes proved they are not quite extinct in the Valley, but that is only 10 percent of the counts of the mid and late 1980s.

Hansen Dam and vicinity led all areas with nearly ninety species reported including many of the ducks seen, particularly 30 plus Hooded Mergansers, one Common Merganser, 19 Canvasbacks, plus Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Redheads, and both Clark's and Western Grebes. Sepulveda Wildlife Area recorded 79 species including the bulk of the count's pelicans, herons, and egrets as well as the few shorebirds seen count day. Chatsworth Nature Preserve had a count of 59 species and the only rails, Vesper Sparrows, Costa's Hummingbirds, Marsh Wren and two of the three harriers seen on the count. Snow and Ross's Geese were sighted at Lake Balboa along with the count's only Pintail and Wilson's Snipe. Counters at Pierce College found 45 species including



350 Canada Geese as well as the aforementioned Bullock's Oriole. Limekiln and Aliso Canyons padded count totals with 28 species.

A survey of the north Valley by Doug Martin and night-time owling added 17 Great Horned Owls to the count, five from a night-time visit to Veteran's Park. Included were the only Barn Owl seen, two Lawrence's Goldfinches and the only Mountain Bluebirds seen for a count of 76 species. Additional Great Horned Owl reports came in from several directions around the periphery of the count area. Veteran's Park also provided the Williamson's Sapsucker and the only Mountain Chickadee seen count day.

Bee Canyon/O'Melveny Park counters found over 50 species. While owling, 11 Great Horned Owls, four Screech Owls, and one Northern Pygmy Owl were heard or seen. Also included in their count total were the only two Phainopeplas found on the count plus 21 Lawrence's Goldfinches. Sadly and unfortunately the early birders were late returning to O'Melveny Park by noon to meet additional counters, a situation for which the compiler apologizes for allowing the logistics of an impossible situation to develop and will rectify in the future.

Speaking of difficult situations, in 2010 two Saturdays will be lost during the count period allowed by National Audubon to Christmas and New Years. The compiler would be interested in possible solutions: count on one of the following Sundays, hold a mid-week count, or compete for personnel with other counts using December 18, 2010, the first Saturday in the count period. Your opinions and preferences would be of interest.

The compiler is always most grateful and appreciative of all those who took part including several visitors from the east who joined with one of our groups to learn local birds. A special thanks to those who led groups, compiled the results, and signed up the participants: Ron Melin, Carolyn Oppenheimer, Kris Ohlenkamp, Jim Hardesty, Jim Moore, Jim Abernathy, Brenda Pfaff, Mark Osokow. A special note of thanks to personnel of the LA Department of Water and Power for arranging admittance into Chatsworth Nature Preserve and for giving estimates of waterfowl on Encino Reservoir.

—Art Langton, compiler (Photo: Jim Hanley) ♣



**2009 Christmas Bird Count Summary
Species Reported**

Greater White-fronted Goose	8	Spotted Sandpiper	1	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	95
Snow Goose	2	Least Sandpiper	8	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	32
Ross's Goose	7	Western Sandpiper	1	Western Bluebird	107
Cackling Goose	9	Wilson's Snipe	1	Mountain Bluebird	9
Canada Goose (large forms)	2,264	Ring-billed Gull	402	Hermit Thrush	35
Wood Duck	1	California Gull	420	American Robin	38
Gadwall	23	Western Gull	22	Wrentit	53
American Wigeon	821	Glaucous-winged Gull	1	Northern Mockingbird	71
Mallard	498	Rock Pigeon	393	California Thrasher	47
Cinnamon Teal	2	Band-tailed Pigeon	51	European Starling	876
Northern Shoveler	65	Mourning Dove	1,116	American Pipit	21
Northern Pintail	1	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	8	Cedar Waxwing	82
Green-winged Teal	6	parrot, species	4	Phainopepla	2
Canvasback	33	Greater Roadrunner	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Redhead	12	Barn Owl	1	Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	1,439
Ring-necked Duck	69	Western Screech Owl	4	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	2
Lesser Scaup	24	Great Horned Owl	33	Black-throated Gray Warbler	3
Bufflehead	27	Northern Pygmy Owl	1	Common Yellowthroat	25
Hooded Merganser	61	Long-eared Owl	2	Spotted Towhee	35
Common Merganser	1	White-throated Swift	136	California (Brown) Towhee	238
Ruddy Duck	228	Anna's Hummingbird	348	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	10
California Quail	65	Costa's Hummingbird	3	Chipping Sparrow	113
Pied-billed Grebe	149	Allen's Hummingbird	71	Vesper Sparrow	12
Eared Grebe	7	hummingbird, species	5	Lark Sparrow	455
Western Grebe	11	Belted Kingfisher	7	Savannah Sparrow	135
Clark's Grebe	1	Acorn Woodpecker	53	Fox Sparrow	2
American White Pelican	94	Williamson's Sapsucker (male)	1	Song Sparrow	110
Brown Pelican	CW	Red-breasted Sapsucker	7	Lincoln's Sparrow	16
Double-crested Cormorant	817	Red-naped Sapsucker	1	White-crowned Sparrow	1,094
Great Blue Heron	50	sapsucker, species	1	Golden-crowned Sparrow	27
Great Egret	172	Nuttall's Woodpecker	45	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	395
Snowy Egret	127	Downy Woodpecker	8	Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco	2
Green Heron	10	Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	69	Red-winged Blackbird	307
Black-crowned Night Heron	52	Gray Flycatcher	1	Western Meadowlark	371
Turkey Vulture	41	Black Phoebe	204	Brewer's Blackbird	140
Osprey	4	Say's Phoebe	37	Great-tailed Grackle	74
Northern Harrier	3	Cassin's Kingbird	79	Brown-headed Cowbird	140
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	Loggerhead Shrike	7	Bullock's Oriole	1
Cooper's Hawk	16	Western Scrub Jay	111	Purple Finch	3
accipiter, species	1	American Crow	1,125	House Finch	1,018
Red-shouldered Hawk	14	Common Raven	187	Lesser Goldfinch	314
Red-tailed Hawk	56	Tree Swallow	1	Lawrence's Goldfinch	24
American Kestrel	22	Mountain Chickadee	1	American Goldfinch	373
Merlin	5	Oak Titmouse	28	House Finch	139
Peregrine Falcon	5	Common Bushtit	605		
Virginia Rail	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	17		
Sora	2	Rock Wren	17		
American Coot	1,038	Canyon Wren	2	TOTAL SPECIES (on count day)	139
Killdeer	212	Bewick's Wren	56	INDIVIDUAL BIRDS COUNTED	21,353
Black-necked Stilt	2	House Wren	15		
Greater Yellowlegs	3	Marsh Wren	1		



Calendar of Events

Saturday, February 6. 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, jim.hardesty@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, February 6. 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. 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 of LA Co Parks at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, February 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. For more information contact him at (818) 986-7785 or kris.ohlenkamp@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, February 13. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! The White Pelicans have returned why don't you? These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, have resumed for the current cool season. 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. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Linda Jones, (818) 831-6061. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Rain Cancels. Please visit our Website www.sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, February 13. 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.

Sunday, February 14. Chatsworth Nature Preserve. 8:00 a.m. Chapter members will join members of the Southwest Herpetologist Society on a tour inside the Preserve. We will divide according to interest, herps or birds. Meet at the Plummer-Valley Circle gate on the north side of the Preserve approximately .9 miles west of the intersection of Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Plummer, past three (3) "STOP" signs and opposite 9439 Valley Circle. Phone Art Langton, (818) 887-0973, at least one week in advance of the date and leave your name in order to be admitted. As the gate will be locked behind us please be prepared to stay until 12:20 p.m. Bring drinks, snacks. Facilities limited and primitive. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Art Langton.

Sunday, February 14. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 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 Heron Knode. For more information, contact Karen at karen.johnson@sfvadubon.org or (818) 790-1687.

Tuesday, February 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, with any questions (before 7 p.m.) or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, February 20. Monthly Field Trip: Private Game Preserve, Oxnard. Meet at 8:00 a.m. An excellent spot to observe a wide variety of birds including waterfowl, wetland birds and raptors. IMPORTANT—We will be birding the preserve entirely on foot, as vehicles are not allowed out on the habitat roads. Covering the circuit will probably require 4+ hours. Also, no parking is allowed inside the preserve compound—our cars must be parked on the left (north) side of the paved road outside the compound. Directions: From the 101 Freeway take the Las Posas Road exit south (left), then Hueneme Road west (right) to Casper Road. Turn south (left) on Casper Road and continue to where the road eventually turns left through a large entrance gate and leads to the preserve compound. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and drinking water. Allow one hour and fifteen minutes driving time from the Valley. Leader is Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, February 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, February 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(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796, muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Thursday, February 25. General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. 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 will be Anna Reams. See "Program Notes" on page 1.

Sunday, February 28. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See February 14 for details.

Tuesday, March 2. Antelope Valley Audubon Bird 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 at (661) 269-2051. www.avaudubon.com.

Friday, March 5. SFVAS Annual Awards Banquet. 6:00 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner. Featured Speaker: Richard Halsey, director of the California Chaparral Institute. 2010 Conservation Award Recipient: Carolyn Oppenheimer, Sepulveda Basin Education Chair. Location: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys. Send in your reservation form today (located on back page.) For more information, contact Chairperson Jeanne Polak-Recht, at (818) 360-1438.

Saturday, March 6. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m. See February 6 for details.

Saturday, March 6. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See February 6 for details.

Sunday, March 7. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See February 7 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

March 20–21. Morro Bay Weekend

April 24. Morongo Valley

May 8. Walker Ranch and Placerita Canyon Park ♪

THE COLLEGE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

San Fernando Valley Audubon has instituted a new group dedicated to encouraging college students to participate in volunteer activities that help preserve local natural environments and wildlife. Events will periodically be advertised through area colleges in order to offer college students a chance to get involved. These events may meet the needs for those students who are looking for volunteer credit hours.

Many of our members would like to offer our expertise to students who are interested in learning about native birds and plants. If you are a college student who would like to become familiar with the wild birds and native plants in the San Fernando Valley you are invited to either join us at one of our regularly scheduled bird walks or contact the chairperson for special lessons tailored to your needs. With a little practice you could end up leading nature walks for Audubon as a volunteer activity.

Additionally, we would like to locate students who are interested in taking a greater leadership role in planning environmental projects. Students might be interested in starting an Audubon group on their own campus or organizing clean-ups or restorations of wild areas under Audubon supervision. If you are a student who would like to participate in leadership on this committee please contact the committee chairperson, at Carolyn.Oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Another way college students can help their environment is to join San Fernando Valley Audubon in fighting environmental challenges that threaten our local resources. At times we need the voice of every person we can find to help us protect land from urban sprawl or freeway extensions. As an Audubon member you can join our e-mail group that sends notifications when local habitat is threatened. Your response to e-mails, letters and/or meeting attendance can make the difference in saving the last few open spaces available in our area.

We now have a new chapter student membership for only \$10. We hope you will join our chapter under this new membership plan and participate in all the above offerings. Of course membership is not required for you to participate. We do these activities as a free public service. However, your membership will really represent a greater commitment on your part to furthering the goals of wildlife protection.

—Carolyn Oppenheimer, Chairperson, College Student Conservation Committee ♪

UPCOMING EVENT FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Pass the word to any college students you know!

February 27: Habitat improvement project at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area supervised by Kris Ohlenkamp. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Refreshments and snacks provided. RSVP to participate to carolopp@aol.com. Rain cancels.

The entrance to the Wildlife Area is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn in at the sign for the Japanese Garden but keep to the right. Follow the park road about a half mile to the last parking area. Meet at the concrete buildings. ♪



Audubon-at-Home Mailbox by Alan Pollack

In this now and then column, Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, will answer your questions about gardening for wildlife and sustainable gardening practices. Please e-mail him with any questions you have regarding creating a wildlife-friendly garden that can be used for publication. Alan also 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. ♣

Thank You All 2009 Christmas Bird Count Participants

Jim Abernathy	Claire Englund	Nancy Howard	Ann Ohlenkamp	Dave Surtees
Aurelio Albaisa	Jim Estes	Barbara Johnson	Kris Ohlenkamp	Bob Thille
Gee Gee Barden	Lynda Fenneman	Arthur Langton	Carolyn Oppenheimer	Donna Timlin
Richard Barth	Frank Gilliland	Jarron Lucas	Mark Osokow	Larry Walker
Phil Booth	Susan Gilliland	Doug Martin	Brenda Pfaff	Stuart Wells
Carla Breitner	Wendi Gladstone	Heather Medvitz	Donna Pfaff	Helene White
Larry Clarfeld	Jim Hanley	Ron Melin	Joshua Rose	Olivia White
Darren Dowell	Jim Hardesty	Jim Moore	Judy Rothman	Grace Wong
Tracy Drake	Fleury Hershman	Robert Munsey	Mike San Miguel, Sr.	
Debbie Drews	Jerry Hershman	Richard Norton	Mel Sigman	

Birdathon: This is an early reminder that the Birdathon, our annual bird counting marathon and fundraiser is on the horizon. If you would like to get involved this year to keep watching this space. Thank you.

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 Rose Leibowitz, Membership Chair, with any questions at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org

Local:	James Ebert	Margaret Karg	Janice O'Connell	Marshall Smart
Stephen Beck	Carol Fortner	Lisette Katz	Jacque Oconnor	Ernestine Smith
Lance & Debbie Haliday	Dan Gam	Judy Kollack	Stuart Otte	Norma Sorianello
Terry Karsh	P. Georgia	Judith Kollman	Gaylord Parker	Jack & Janice Standel
William Steig	Pete Geiss	Magda Krachmalnick	Erik Pontoppidan	Sally Stevens
National:	Harry Gertz	Allan Langdon	Matthew Puente	K. Teramura
Evan Aldrich	Nathan Green	Cynthia Lewis	Frances Quick	Kieran Trehy
Mizna Aziz	Sarah Greenwald	Anita Mac Kenzie	Samuel Resnick	A Lillian Trilling
Pavel Babooie	Michael Gross	Betty Makohon	Lory Root	Mary Watson
Arlene Barker	Christina Gubrud	Susan Maydeck	Arthur Rosenbaum	Susan White
Brett Bell	Stephen Habbershaw	Jean McOsker	June Rosenberry	Virginia Williams
Mark Berney	Hillcrest Christian School	Jan Michael	Joycelyn Russell	Roxane Wirkler
Susan Bowe	Phyl Holmes	Marylou Miller	Anna Rydberg	Robert Wlodarski
Michael Brady	Ronald Howard	Karen Mishkin	Frances Schenkel	Sylvia Wollner
Jean Brunie	Tom Hsu	Carole Morton	Lynn Schiff	Janet Wolodkin
Ken Clark	Rita Hudson	Mary Mosman	Steven Schoneberg	Jeannie Wood
Elizabeth Cola	Michelle Indjayan	Mara Nehdar	Richard Scott	Betsy Young
Jacqueline Crabtree	Ann Jackson	Douglas Ninneman	Shattuckstachura Family	
Keith Culhane	Carla & Todd Johns	Hillary Nissen	Lynn Shepard	
Maria Curtis	Norma Johnson	Bernard & Loren Nizinski	Alvin Shuster	
Sean Derek	Cheryl Justice	Catherine Norman	N. Smallbone	

Take a Mid-Winter Nature Break With the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12–15, 2010

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY—Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 12, through Monday, February 15, 2010. Participants in the free event will join tens of thousands of volunteers of all levels of birding experience to count birds in their own backyards, local parks or wildlife refuges.

Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from novice bird watchers to experts. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. For more information about the GBBC, visit the website at www.birdcount.org. Or contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at gbbc@cornell.edu, or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, Ext 16. ♣



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 \$ _____
 Student 1-yr Chapter Membership....\$10 \$ _____
 Optional First-Class Postage.....\$5 \$ _____
 Contributions to SFVAS.....\$ _____
 Total.....\$ _____

New Member ____ Renewal ____ School ____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 How did you learn about SFVAS? _____

Save a tree! I DO NOT want to receive a hardcopy of the *Phainopepla*; I'll get my news online

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 3rd 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 Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405 or e-mail her at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
1st Vice President:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
2nd Vice President:	Margie Maseda	(818) 378-1084
Treasurer:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Recording Sec'y:	Donna Timlin	(818) 341-9354
Corresponding Sec'y	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430

DIRECTORS

Bettina Bennewitz	(323) 874-9135
Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Brenda Pfaff	(818) 989-5284
Michael Van Norman	(661) 263-2958
Sara Huang	(818) 947-2877
Mathew Tekulsky	(310) 962-5653

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Antelope Valley Chair:	Bob and Bonnie Weatherman	(661) 269-2051
AV Communications:	Linda Edwards	(661) 948-3524
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Birdathon:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
Christmas Bird Count:	Art Langton	(818) 887-0973
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Conservation:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(818) 986-7785
Coordinating Council Rep:	Jim Hardesty	(818) 346-6712
Descanso Bird Station:	Dottie Ecker	(818) 790-0659
Descanso Bird Walks:	Nancy Herron Knode	unpublished
Descanso Bird Walks:	Karen Johnson	(818) 790-1687
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-Sep. Basin:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
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www.SFVAudubon.org

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Phainopepla

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Phainopepla February 2010



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SFVAS Awards Banquet Featured Speaker: Richard W. Halsey

Richard W. Halsey is the director of the California Chaparral Institute, a nonprofit research and educational organization focusing on the ecology of California's shrubland plant communities, wildland fire, and how Mediterranean-type ecosystems have helped shape human culture. Mr. Halsey also works with the San Diego Museum of Natural History, publishes *The Chaparralian*, a journal focusing on chaparral and wildfire issues, and continues to teach natural history throughout the state. Mr. Halsey earned undergraduate degrees from the University of California in environmental studies and anthropology. During graduate work he received teaching credentials in life, physical and social science and a masters in education. He has also been trained as a Type II wildland firefighter. The second edition of his book, *Fire, Chaparral, and Survival in Southern California*, was awarded the 2008 Best Nonfiction-Local Interest Book by the San Diego Book Awards Association. ♪

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Awards Banquet
Friday, March 5, 2010 _ 6:00 p.m. No Host Bar _ 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys
Music provided by keyboardist, David Boelke

Featured Speaker: Richard W. Halsey, Director California Chaparral Institute
Conservation Award Recipient: Carolyn Oppenheimer

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check (\$50.00/person, \$35.00/student) for \$ _____

Additional Names _____

Please make check payable to: San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Mail to: Jeanne Polak-Recht, 11002 Garden Grove Avenue, Northridge, CA 91326. The buffet-style dinner will also include selections for vegetarians. The cost is \$50.00 (\$35.00 for college students) including tax and tip. Reservations must be made in advance. Please list names of all guests in your party and mail in this form by February 26, 2010. THERE IS NO RESERVED SEATING. Reduced parking fee at Airtel or street parking is FREE. You will not receive a confirmation of your reservation.