

Phainopepla



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MONTHLY PROGRAMS:

Thursday, February 24, 2011
Dave Weeshoff presents:
Vertebrates of the Galapagos and
One Invertebrate

Dave will be presenting photos from his recent trip to the Galapagos, and would like to include favorite photos from others who have been there as well. Please contact Dave at dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org, before February 15 to have your photos, with credits, included in the program. Especially needed are photos of flamingos, Red Footed Boobies, and underwater photos. ♪

Friday, March 11, 2011
SFVAS Annual Awards Banquet
Featured Speaker:
Mel White, Author, Explorer

2011 Conservation Award Recipient:
John Luker

Send in your reservation form found
on back page TODAY!

Looking ahead to April 28, Kimball Garrett, Ornithology Collections Manager at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum, will be presenting a program, "But it Doesn't Look Like the One in the Book!" ♪

San Fernando Valley Audubon's monthly General Meetings and Program Presentations are held on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. We meet at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd. Encino. See February 24 under Calendar of Events for directions.



Photo: Blue Footed Boobies, by Dave Weeshoff



2010 Christmas Bird Count, Comments and Commentary by Arthur Langton, Compiler

Even though the Valley Christmas Bird Count has been taking place for over fifty years, each and every count is a unique experience with its share of challenges, surprises, and demands. The 2010 count was no exception. With Christmas and New Years falling on a Saturday, opportunities for bird count dates were limited and resulted in several counts in the area being scheduled concurrently with birders faced with difficult decisions between which counts to attend. Due to the need to rearrange leadership several of our leaders were counting new areas. Some of the usual count areas didn't get counted at all for a variety of reasons including some confusion in directions and poor communication between compiler and counters. Due to ongoing construction and renovation, Reseda Park pond with its dozens of Mallards, wigeon, coots, and gulls wasn't counted at all.

Nevertheless in a record-setting December for rainfall, perhaps the wettest on record and with overnight rain within hours of the start of the count, December 26 was clear and cool with high overcast but no rain anywhere, a pleasant contrast to neighboring counts conducted on other dates. Thanks to Jim Moore for the suggestion of the 26th. This right call attracted 47 participants who recorded over 17,000 birds representing 132 species. These numbers are below last year's totals of 139 species and over 20,000 birds counted, perhaps a consequence of less comprehensive coverage of our count area and the need for additional counters at Sepulveda Wildlife Area and Hansen Dam. These are both large areas and need as many eyes as possible. The compiler still has horrible memories of showing up for the 1978 bird count in the pouring rain, terrible lighting conditions, and being the only one there. By four in the afternoon he was soaked through, the tally sheets were wet and disintegrating, and binoculars useless-wet both inside and out. He's never done a Hansen Dam bird count since.

On the brighter side, three new species made the count list. Two are exotics, the Mute Swan from Europe and the Nanday Parakeet, native to South America. The third was an eastern vagrant, the Pine Warbler, discovered earlier in the month and seen by many in the Hansen Dam Park adjacent to Foothill Blvd. Of almost equal interest were three count week species. Count week species are defined as those birds seen three days prior to count day or three days following count day, but not on count day. Birds that almost made the count list were a Broad-winged Hawk which had been well documented and observed in Sepulveda Basin since the beginning of the month but not reported after December 23 and a second-year Bald Eagle seen at Sepulveda December 24 along with some Bonaparte's Gulls, also not seen count day.

As always several expected species seen earlier or just after the count escaped observation on count day. These included Canvasbacks seen earlier in the month at Chatsworth Nature Preserve, Least or Western Sandpipers seen after January 1 along the banks of the Los Angeles River, White Pelicans, a staple at Sepulveda Basin for the past several years, and Wilson's Snipe always few in number under the best of circumstances. Of the common woodpeckers, no Downys were seen. Montane species which cold, wet weather might have pushed to lower elevations were missed. These were probably

somewhere, but not where counters were looking.

Long-eared and Western Screech Owls made the list for the third consecutive year returning to a restricted access area on the north slope of the Santa Monica Mountains in back of Encino-Tarzana. Canada Geese numbers may be high due to the ability of the geese to move distances quickly during daylight hours. Nevertheless geese were reported from eight different locations including El Carizo Park and the newly filled percolation basins near the intersection of Paxton Street, Devonshire, and Arleta Avenue.

Chatsworth Nature Preserve recorded approximately 70 species including the only harriers, Green-winged Teal, and rails plus most of the nuthatches, meadowlarks, Vesper and Savannah Sparrows seen count day. Large numbers of puddle ducks and geese were counted while taking advantage of the seasonal ponds newly filled with rainwater. Counters at Hansen Dam found nearly 80 species. Of note was the single White-tailed Kite, Townsend's Warbler, Hutton's and Cassin's Vireos seen count day along with all the White-throated swifts on the count. Of course the Pine Warbler, relocated by Kimball Garrett, the original discoverer of the bird, on count day in our count area was an added plus.

Doug Martin checking out El Carizo Park and golf course, Pacoima Wash, and Lopez Canyon recorded over 70 species including both Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsuckers and the only Barn Owl and Phainopepla, Cedar Waxwings, and Fox Sparrows seen in the count area. Lake Balboa provided over 1800 coots plus a good collection of ducks, a Ross's Goose, Eared Grebes, two Myrtle Warblers and a variety of herons and egrets.

Within the Sepulveda Wildlife Area and along the banks of the Los Angeles River were counted Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, more herons and egrets, two Osprey, and the Mute Swan which seemed to alternate between the wildlife area and Lake Balboa. A Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warblers and ten Hooded Mergansers were all part of this 70+ species count.

Pierce College, despite much of the campus being off limits due to construction, recorded over 40 species including a Gray Flycatcher, 450 Canada Geese, two Merlins, and lots of Black Phoebes. Limekiln Canyon had a count of 30 species while O'Melveny Park came in right behind with a count of 29 including Golden-crowned Sparrows.

The compiler extends his thanks and appreciation to all those who took part in the 2010 Christmas Bird Count whether participating in one of our formal count groups or by sending in feeder, yard, or neighborhood counts. Your time and effort plus good fortune with the weather contributed to the success of the count. Thanks also for the prompt return of count totals, fees, and all the information needed to satisfy the requirements of the National Audubon Society. Thanks also to the personnel of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for arranging our entrance into and the opportunity to continue our count within Chatsworth Nature Preserve. Next year those missing birds will be found somewhere by someone, but we'll still have a calendar dilemma with one Saturday being Christmas Eve and another being New Year's Eve. ♪



2010 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SPECIES SUMMARY

Including those reported count week as well as count day

Greater White-fronted Goose	11	Killdeer	63	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	87
Snow Goose	6	Black-necked Stilt	20	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9
Ross's Goose	2	Greater Yellowlegs	3	Western Bluebird	90
Mute Swan	1	Spotted Sandpiper	4	Hermit Thrush	17
Cackling Goose	26	sandpiper, species	18	American Robin	22
Canada Goose (large forms)	2,126	Bonaparte's Gull	CW	Wrentit	12
Wood Duck	1	Ring-billed Gull	133	Northern Mockingbird	75
Gadwall	21	California Gull	139	California Thrasher	18
Eurasian Wigeon	1	Western Gull	4	European Starling	874
American Wigeon	927	gull, species	365	American Pipit	65
Mallard	468	Rock Pigeon (Dove)	710	Cedar Waxwing	9
Cinnamon Teal	2	Band-tailed Pigeon	7	Phainopepla	1
Northern Shoveler	58	Mourning Dove	596	Orange-crowned Warbler	3
Green-winged Teal	4	Nanday Parakeet	6	Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler	793
Redhead	5	Greater Roadrunner	3	Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler	2
Ring-necked Duck	33	Barn Owl	1	Black-throated Gray Warbler	1
Lesser Scaup	8	Western Screech Owl	1	Townsend's Warbler	1
Bufflehead	42	Great Horned Owl	4	Pine Warbler	1
Hooded Merganser	23	Long-eared Owl	2	Common Yellowthroat	22
Ruddy Duck	92	White-throated Swift	40	Wilson's Warbler	5
California Quail	69	Anna's Hummingbird	187	Spotted Towhee	52
Common Loon	1	Allen's Hummingbird	39	California (Brown) Towhee	169
Pied-billed Grebe	98	hummingbird, species	5	Rufous-crowned Sparrow	6
Eared Grebe	51	Belted Kingfisher	8	Chipping Sparrow	38
Western Grebe	24	Acorn Woodpecker	35	Vesper Sparrow	14
Clark's Grebe	2	Red-breasted Sapsucker	2	Lark Sparrow	198
Double-crested Cormorant	506	Red-naped Sapsucker	1	Savannah Sparrow	139
Great Blue Heron	36	Nuttall's Woodpecker	18	Fox Sparrow	3
Great Egret	37	Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker	26	Song Sparrow	49
Snowy Egret	18	Gray Flycatcher	1	Lincoln's Sparrow	8
Green Heron	3	Black Phoebe	195	White-crowned Sparrow	604
Black-crowned Night Heron	29	Say's Phoebe	56	Golden-crowned Sparrow	7
Turkey Vulture	30	Cassin's Kingbird	133	Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco	167
Osprey	4	flycatcher, species	2	Red-winged Blackbird	343
White-tailed Kite	1	Loggerhead Shrike	6	Western Meadowlark	382
Northern Harrier	3	Hutton's Vireo	1	Brewer's Blackbird	458
Bald Eagle	CW	Cassin's Vireo	1	Great-tailed Grackle	34
Sharp-shinned Hawk	10	Western Scrub Jay	98	Brown-headed Cowbird	130
Cooper's Hawk	29	American Crow	347	House Finch	657
accipiter, species	2	Common Raven	128	Lesser Goldfinch	380
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	Tree Swallow	4	Lawrence's Goldfinch	3
Red-tailed Hawk	52	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	13	American Goldfinch	159
Broad-winged Hawk	CW	Oak Titmouse	60	goldfinch, species	10
buteo, species	1	Common Bushtit	340	House Finch	95
American Kestrel	30	White-breasted Nuthatch	13		
Merlin	8	Rock Wren	10	TOTAL SPECIES (on count day)	132
Peregrine Falcon	3	Canyon Wren	4	INDIVIDUAL BIRDS COUNTED	17,609
Virginia Rail	1	Bewick's Wren	49		
Sora	4	House Wren	10		
American Coot	2,570				



Calendar of Events

February

Saturday, February 5. 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, February 5. 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.

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

Saturday, February 12. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! 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.sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, February 12. 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 13. Chatsworth Nature Preserve. 8:00 a.m. Audubon members will join those of the Southwest Herpetologist Society for a tour inside the Preserve. Meet at the Plummer-Valley Circle gate on the north side of the Preserve approximately .9 miles west of the intersection of

Plummer and Topanga Canyon Blvd. and past three "STOP" signs. Call Art Langton and leave name and phone number to be admitted. As the gate will be locked behind us please be prompt, bring drink and snacks, and be prepared to stay until 12:30 p.m. Facilities limited and primitive. No smoking or pets. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Art Langton.

Sunday, February 13. 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 Herron Knode. For more information, contact Dottie Ecker, (818) 790-0659.

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

Saturday, February 19, Monthly Field Trip: Private Game Preserve, Oxnard. 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 the compound at 8 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 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, February 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 (s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796, muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Thursday, February 24. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura



Bldv., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. Our speaker, Dave Weeshoff will share his recent experiences in the Galapagos Islands. See Monthly Programs on page one.

Sunday, February 27. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See February 13 for details.

March

Tuesday, March 1. Antelope Valley Audubon Committee will hold its Quarterly Meeting. 6:00 p.m. The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street W., in Lancaster. Contact Bob or Bonnie Weatherman at (661) 269-2051 for more information. Program posted on www.avaudubon.com.

Saturday, March 5. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m. See February 5 for details.

Saturday, March 5. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See February 5 for details.

Sunday, March 6. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See February 6 for details.

Friday, March 11. SFVAS Annual Awards Banquet. 6:00 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner. 2011 Conservation Award Recipient: John Luker. Featured Speaker: Mel White. 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.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

March 19-20. Morro Bay Weekend

April 23. Morongo Valley

May 7. Walker Ranch and Placerita Canyon Park ♣

Friday, March 11, 2011 SFVAS Awards Banquet

Join us as we honor the 2011 Conservation Award Recipient—John Luker

John Luker is a Documentary Cameraman/Photographer. He is Vice-President of the Santa Susana Mountain Parks Association (SSMPA) and Chairman of the Santa Susana Volunteers working on developing an environmentally safe and sound cleanup plan for the former Rocketdyne plant in the Simi Hills.

Special Guest Speaker—Mel White

Mel White is a freelance writer who lives in Little Rock, Arkansas, and specializes in travel and natural history. He has written more than 40 articles for National Geographic Traveler magazine and more than a dozen for National Geographic. He has covered destinations including Australia's Great Barrier Reef, New Zealand, Borneo, the

Amazon River, Mount Kilimanjaro, Madagascar, Socotra Island, and the Swiss Alps. He has written or contributed to more than 25 guidebooks and nature-related publications. He wrote A Birder's Guide to Arkansas, Exploring the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, the National Geographic Guide to Birdwatching Sites, and National Geographic Complete National Parks of the United States.

For his program, Mr. White will discuss an expedition to the rainforest of the remote Foja Mountains of western New Guinea, where he accompanied only the second group of scientists to explore an area that has been called "the new Garden of Eden." Several new species of animals and plants were discovered in the Fojas, including the endemic Wattled Smokey Honeyeater. ♣

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@sfaudubon.org.

Local:	Beatrice Colminas	Wendy Gordon	L. Liberman	Mary Pozzo
Alfred Hockenmaier	Alice Cornell	Linda Graback	Tim Lignoul	Leslie Priske
Betty Makohon	Robert Corti	Elaine Graf	Lydia Linna	Fernando Ricardo
National:	David Daar	Jerome Hershman	Renny Maddox	Mary Ellen Riehmman
Judith Adams	Alex Damiano	Elaine Hoffman	Denise Marchitelli	Susan Rittschof
David Anderson	Rodney Davidow	Donna Huber	Frank Martinez	Gail Rose
Susan Angus	Carol Dawson	Ronald & Anne Hughes	Carol McKelly	Margaret Sartoris
Harry Applebaum	Ned Daylami	JW Jacobi	Charles McMurray	Cheryl Scott
Candace Avery	Lori Deeter	Phyllis Jergenson	Anne Mills	Parvis Shokrizade
Edward Avey	Gurdev Dhillon	Kieran Johnson	Paul Montgomerie	Teri Smith
Patricia Backes	Margaret Dixon	Ned Jordan	H. Moskowitz	Peter Spencer
Martin Beck	Robin Erdman	Mark Joseph	Henry Mowry	Tsovinar Tekkelian
Margaret Benya	Alice Evans	Donald Katz	Gladys Murphy	Isabelle Tranner
Lois Beze	Linda Feinfeld	William Keefe	Conrad Nisenholz	Sylvia Treep
Joseph Biernat	Dashiell Fisher	Eugenie Khajadourian	M. Novom	Kathleen Ungar
Betty Box	Valerie Franklin	Kimberlee Kimes	Sallie O'Neill	Mirjana Vanblaricom
Bunny Breneman	Patricia Fraser	Herbert Klein	Laura Osborne	Carol Walker
Pat Cheeseman	Brad Gaffney	Susan Kosberg	Justine Newton	Lisa Wentz
Bob & Pamela Childress	John Gardner	Jay Lack	Nancy Pennington	Teri Westerman
Judith Cline	Richard Gerardo	Robert Lapin	Heidi Pike	Dan Wexler
Nicole & John Clark	Gretchen Gesell	Judith Lawrence	Jo Ann Platkovsky	
Robert Clawson	Wendy Gish	Natalie Lehman	Ashot Potikyran	
Leslie Coca	Lori Gohlke	C. Liberman	Katharine Powers	



Thank You All 2010 Christmas Bird Count Participants

Jim Abernathy	Claire Englund	Muriel Kotin	Heather Medvitz	Mark Osokow
Aurelio Albaisa	Lynda Fenneman	Arthur Langton	Olivia Miseroy	Brenda Pfaff
Richard Barth	Pam Folgett	Ryan Langton	Jim Moore	Steve Ritt
Carla Breitner	Kimball Garrett	Rebecca LeVine	Robert Munsey	Judy Rothman
Dave Campbell	Wendi Gladstone	Rose Liebowitz	Richard Norton	Mel Sigman
Larry Clarfeld	Barbara Heidemann	Scott Logan	Ann Ohlenkamp	Dave Surtees
Maryann Cormier	Yukari Hirayama	Jarron Lucas	Kris Ohlenkamp	Donna Timlin
Mary Ellen Dittimore	Barbara Johnson	Doug Martin	John Oliver	Chris Van Beveren
Debbie Drews	Allan Kotin	Jason McClain	Carolyn Oppenheimer	Gary Wollard ✚

PHAINOPEPLA PHOTO OF THE MONTH by Mathew Tekulsky

There is no joy in life greater than taking a beautiful bird photograph. I have been photographing the birds in my side yard for the last fifteen years, and I really don't know which of the pictures I like best. Is it the Western Scrub-Jay with the green grape in his beak? Or the Allen's Hummingbird in midair, with his wings outspread? Maybe it is the Hooded Oriole proudly perched on the oriole feeder. I have also taken many bird photographs "in the field," including a headshot of the American White Pelican at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys, with the bird's beak tucked into his feathers; and a headshot of the Bald Eagle, taken on Catalina Island. When I look at each of these photographs, it brings back the memory of interacting with the bird and it reminds me of the challenge of producing a great bird image.

The advent of digital cameras has made bird photography more rewarding than ever. After a bird walk, bird photographers enjoy the pleasure of down-

loading the images, cropping them if necessary, printing them, or emailing them to friends. Bird photography also gives us a chance to consult the bird books and improve our identification skills.

Because we want to share the joys of bird photography, we at the Phainopepla have decided to institute a "Photo of the Month" feature, in which one of our members presents a bird photograph that is taken within our area, ideally on one of our bird walks. Each submission should include the location of the photograph, the date it was taken, whether it was on a SFVAS bird walk, what camera and lens was used, a short account of how the photo was produced, and a brief profile of the photographer. Please email your submissions by the end of each month to Rose Liebowitz at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org. A panel of three judges will select the photograph to appear in the Phainopepla. We are looking forward to seeing your bird photographs. Good luck! ✚

The Great Backyard Bird Count, February 18—21, 2011

Bird watchers coast to coast are invited to take part in the 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count, Friday, February 18, through Monday, February 21, 2011. 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. ✚

Audubon-at-Home Mailbox by Alan Pollack

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. ✚



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

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
1st Vice President:	Michael Van Norman	661) 263-2958
2nd Vice President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
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Corresponding Sec'y:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430

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Aurelio Albaisa	(818) 716-8096
Lynn Maddox	(818)845-5688

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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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
Finance:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130

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@sfvadubon.org.

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For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org

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Phainopepla

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Phainopepla February 2011



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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Awards Banquet

Friday, March 11, 2011 □ 6:00 p.m. No Host Bar □ 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

Conservation Award Recipient: John Luker, VP Santa Susana Mountain Parks Association
Featured Speaker: Mel White, Author, Explorer

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 March 4, 2011. THERE IS NO RESERVED SEATING. Reduced parking fee at Airtel or street parking is FREE. You will not receive a confirmation of your reservation. Reservations will be held at the door. For further information call Jeanne Polak-Recht, Chairperson, at (818) 360-1438.