



Phainopepla

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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Vol. 66 No. 4

August / September 2015

NEW MEETING PLACE: San Fernando Valley Art and Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, 91356



We are delighted to move to a new meeting place for our **General Membership Meetings**. It is an Art Gallery as well as a meeting place, so there will be a chance to enjoy the art as well as the

birds! Our sales table will be resurrected and we look forward to having some great meetings there!

Directions: It is between White Oak and Reseda. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center.

Monthly Program

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

San Fernando Valley Art and Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard St, Tarzana, 91356

SPEAKER: Dave Weeshoff

TOPIC: The National Audubon Convention 2015



Dave Weeshoff, our Conservation Chair, attended the bi-annual National Audubon Convention 2015, Leesburg, VA in July. Dave will review Audubon programs and messages, in development and

under way, to achieve our mutual goals, including, to "Become the Most Effective Conservation Network in America." Dave will also share a few photos taken at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, behind the scenes, of extinct bird specimens, etc., and rare bird books from their library. He will also discuss his efforts to lobby on Capitol Hill for an important bill in Congress.

As a Chapter, we enjoy the advantages of National Audubon's Chapter Services support, tools and techniques to help us meet our chapter's mission and to protect more birds and their habitat. If we leverage their support we can achieve greater results, sooner. Knowing what is available is a first step.

Come one, come all. This is not an "Insider" story, but rather an open discussion of the messages of how your San Fernando Valley Audubon chapter, in cooperation with National Audubon, can better support our entire community of bird activists for the betterment of the environment and the critters that live here. We hope to share our goals and answer any questions regarding our mission, conservation and education activities at this meeting.

SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (*except July, August, and November*). ALL ARE WELCOME to join us at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments; program begins at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the San Fernando Valley Art and Cultural Center. See Calendar of Events, pages 4-5, for directions.



Birdathon 2015 Donors *By Diana Keeney*

Many thanks to the enthusiastic Birdathon 2015 event leaders and participants, and especially to the generous donors listed below who contributed a total of **\$10,183**. These funds will enable us to continue our ongoing conservation and education programs and help with operating expenses.

Thank you to:

Aurelio Albaisa
Ellen Alkon
Anonymous
Patricia Avery
Marcia Balbus
Richard Barth
Pat Bates
Joyce Batten
Debbie Beckett
Carol Becker M.D.
Bettina Bennewitz
John Birsner
Roger and Patricia Blount
Joyce Bobo
Paul Butler
Andrea Call
David Campbell
Teri Carnesciali
Tracy Carpenter
Paul Cooley
Fox Connor
Roxanne Correa
Mary Daly
Stephen Dane
Mary Ellen Dittmore
Theo Doyle
Eric Drewry
Dorothy Ecker
Claire Englund
Carolyn Fisher
Pam Folgert
Sharon Ford
John Fox
Jane Gebers
Michael Golub

Michael & Sonia Gottesman
Steve Hartman
Robert Hathcock
Susan Haugland
Nancy Herron-Knode
Carole Hill
Martha Horton
Lynne Hopkins
Judy Howell
Pamela Huffman
Anna Iker
Linda Jones
Diana Keeney
Priscilla Klemic
Jeanne Kolasz
Allan and Muriel Kotin
Kathy Kusner
Arthur Langton
Johannah Lee
Rose Leibowitz
Virve Leps
Frederick Lesemann
Rebecca LeVine
Robert & Carolyn Lofrano
Becky and Dan MacDonald
Lynn Maddox
Eileen Marder
Roger and Judy McClure
Joanne McLaughlin
Nancy McTigue
Heather Medvitz
Marilyn Molnar
Jim Moore
Denise Murphy
Carolyn Oppenheimer

Joan Pearce
Dylan Penn-Kraus
Brenda Pfaff
Laura Pogoler
Jeanne Polak-Recht
Gail Porter
Eleanor Rosa
Judith Rothman
Gertrude Rothschild
Robin Sampson
Janet Scheel
Phillip Schlosberg
Henry and Loretta Selinger
Mel Sigman
Robert Slingerland
Christine Smith
So. Cal. Garden Club
Paula Spector
Ed and Jane Stauss
Sara Stevens
Eugene & Audrey Taylor
Meredith Taylor
Mathew Tekulsky
Donna Timlin
Marne Treves
Allan and Sue Wallander
Dave Weeshoff
William & Carole Weinman
Ruth Weiss
Nicholas Wilhelm
John Willis
Marlene Winstead
Irwin Woldman
Amy Worrell

Thank you for your support!

Update on DonorsChoose Donations by SF Valley Audubon Society

As we announced in the last *Phainopepla*, the SFVAS Board authorized a total of \$5,000 to be allotted toward donations through this website to classrooms in our area whose teachers make bird-oriented requests for classroom materials.


Since DonorsChoose doesn't fund requests that are granted near the end of the school year, we only had a few applications, not all from the SF Valley. As summer comes to a close and teachers start to gear up for the new school year, we hope there will be many more local requests like the ones we did help to fund.

So far, we have helped Mrs. Fernandez at Robert Frost Middle School in Granada Hills purchase 40 *Birds of Southern California: A Guide to Common & Notable Species (Quick Reference Guides)*, 10 *Mac's Field Guide To Southern California Park and Garden Birds (Mac's Guides (Flash Cards))* and a copy of "Winged Migration." In her thank-you note, Mrs. Fernandez wrote: "I cannot thank you enough for providing an opportunity to allow my students to become aware of the wonders in their world through being engaged in bird watching. You have made a difference for my students. There will be smiles and wonderment as we search to study local and migrating birds." This is exactly what we're after!

We helped Mrs. Wong at Gates Elementary School (in Los Angeles, not strictly in our area, but her request was too spot-on to deny) to acquire plush birds with authentic bird sounds and several copies of *National Geographic Kids Bird Guide of North America* for her kindergartners and first graders. Get 'em while they're young! In her thank-you note, Mrs. Wong wrote: "Three tweets for San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for funding our project! This is such a great way to culminate our animals integrated unit!"

We helped Mrs. Yokoyama, also at Gates, to buy plush birds, bird books and birdhouse building kits for her youngsters. In her thank you note, she wrote: "Thanks to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, we have a great opportunity to learn about birds! There was a large poster included in our bird book so that is displayed on our bulletin board. My students will work in groups to research 1 plush bird they received. They will make an oral presentation and culminate the lesson with their creative birdhouse."

So far, our original donation allotment has been drawn down to \$4,161.88 and it seems the expense has achieved its desired results. As more requests come in, we'll be a bit more disciplined about keeping project funding in our area, i.e. the Valley. Hopefully by the time the next *Phainopepla* comes out, we'll have granted more requests and more teachers will have added -- at our urging and with our help -- bird-centric elements to their curricula.

I urge our members to go to www.donorschoose.org to get a feel for the wonderful resource they provide our hardworking educators. 

Jim Houghton, for the Scholarships and Grants Committee

Grants and Scholarships AVAILABLE!

Our chapter is always looking for ways to help other people enjoy the glories of birding and to enhance the environment so that birds can continue to thrive in this world. Recent climate problems have made it difficult for many species, especially in view of our drought.

We are offering annual Scholarships of up to **\$1000** for a young person(s) (school age or student(s)). The scholarship could be used to attend a birding camp, a conference, or to defray expenses on a special birding trip. The application form is on our website www.sfvaudubon.org. The recipient(s) will be expected to give us a short report on the activity attended and we would also publish that in the *Phainopepla*. Applications are invited in September and the decision will be made by mid-October.

We also are offering five grants a year of up to **\$200** each. This can be used in a variety of ways, examples might include planting a bird friendly garden or creating an environment conducive to seeing birds in a public place (maybe a school or maybe a senior citizen center or maybe...) or purchasing and installing a bird box to help a species with successful breeding. **The ideas are yours!** Our Grants Committee will meet in October and April and will review all applications that come in between meetings at that time. The decisions will be made by the end of October and April.

The applications are on our website, please download one, print it out, and mail it in to **Grants and Scholarships, SFVAS, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA, 91409.**



Calendar of Events

August

Saturday, August 1. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

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

Sunday, August 2. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.

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

Saturday, August 8. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, August 9. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Directions: From the I-5/Golden State Fwy. N: Take Exit 146A toward Olive Ave. merge onto E. Angeleno Ave. and turn left onto S. 1st Street, then take the first right onto E. Olive Ave.

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1st Street then take the 3rd right on to E. Olive Ave.

Continue 1.3 miles on E. Olive through downtown Burbank and up the hill. Turn left onto N. Sunset Canyon Dr. Go .5 miles and turn right onto E. Harvard. Drive .4 miles skirting the golf course and meet at the entry kiosk area. Extra binoculars are available. Leaders: Nick Wilhelm and Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Saturday, August 15. Monthly Field Trip: Chilao and Buckhorn 7:30 a.m.

Birding the San Gabriel Mountains along the Angeles Crest. Meet at the Chilao Visitor Center at 7:30 a.m. We will look for Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadee and many other montane species. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take the 210

Fwy. east to Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2). Go north for about 45 minutes, look for the Chilao Campground signs and take the second entrance road to the Visitor Center. Your vehicle must exhibit a National Forest Adventure Pass or Golden Age Pass. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, August 15. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m.

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

Sunday, August 16. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.

Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

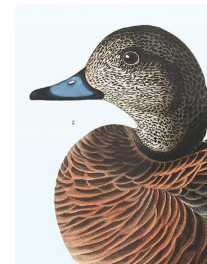
Tuesday, August 18. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m.

Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. **RAIN CANCELS.** Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfgvaudubon.org.

**There is NO General Membership Meeting in August.
See you in September at our NEW LOCATION!**

Saturday, August 29. Young Birders Group Bird Walk. O'Melveny Park. 17300 Sesnon Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344.

The Young Birders Group walks are for young birders who are serious about birding, know some birds, and are willing to learn. All are welcome to join! 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. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.



American Widgeon
John J. Audubon

September

Saturday, September 5. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at

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

Sunday, September 6. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvadubon.org or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, September 12. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, September 13. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. See June 14 for directions. Leaders: Nick Wilhelm and Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Tuesday, September 15. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. **RAIN CANCELS.** Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, September 19. Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach. 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Slater Avenue parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Directions from the San Fernando Valley: Take the San Diego Freeway (405) south and exit at Golden West. Go south approximately three miles on Golden West to Slater. Turn left on Slater to the parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. We will picnic at the park and afterwards caravan to Bolsa Chica. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, September 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, September 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 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Thursday, September 24. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. NEW MEETING PLACE: San Fernando Valley Art and Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard St, Tarzana, 91356. Directions: It is between White Oak and Reseda. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. **SPEAKER: Dave Weeshoff. TOPIC: The National Audubon Convention 2015.** Dave will review Audubon programs and messages, in development and under way, to achieve our mutual goals, including, to "Become the Most Effective Conservation Network in America." Dave will also share a few photos taken at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, behind the scenes, of extinct bird specimens, etc., and rare bird books from their library. He will also discuss his efforts to lobby on Capitol Hill for an important bill in Congress. For more information see Monthly Program, page one.

Saturday, September 26. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Franklin Canyon. 9:00 a.m. A Young Birder is a young person who is serious about birding, knows some birds, and is willing to learn. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the Ventura Freeway (101) or Ventura Boulevard to Coldwater Canyon Boulevard. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. (This means crossing Mulholland) Road signs read "Road Closed 800 Feet" "Sunset to Sunrise"; this is the park entrance. Meet in the parking lot on the left. Allow some extra time, as Coldwater Canyon can be a slow road. For more information please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.

Monday, September 28. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Wild Wings Nature Store. 4337 Woodman Ave., Sherman Oaks. (818) 995-0022. Please bring your own chair.

Future Field Trips (details later):

October 17. El Dorado Park

November 21. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds

**Phainopepla Photo of the Month
August/September 2015 by
Jordan Kirschner**

**Brewer's Blackbird Harassing Great
Blue Heron**

The Japanese Gardens, Van Nuys, CA
Panasonic FZ1000 @ f4.0, ISO-640,
1/5000 s. 300 mm




SFVAS member Jordan Kirschner has been drawing and painting most of his life. Although he is relatively new to bird photography, he clearly brings an artist's eye to this photo. "After purchasing a new camera last November, I was instantly drawn to wildlife shooting, and bought a macro and telephoto lens. Since then, I have frequented different locations (The Arboretum, Santa Monica, Malibu Creek State Park, Will Rogers, Huntington Library, and several other botanical gardens), connecting with nature, and capturing various birds, flowers and other wildlife. I love photographing herons, phoebes, towhees, and any other bird that will sit still for a second, or who I am lucky to capture in flight."

Jordan, who lives in Sherman Oaks, considers the Japanese Gardens to be a local gem. "I was almost done with my tour of the garden for the day when I spotted the Great Blue Heron high up in the tree. I set up my camera and began shooting, which is when I noticed the Brewer's Blackbird continually stalking it, circling and dancing around the heron, which seemed to be frozen in a serious pose. This went on for quite a while."

Do you have an interesting photo of a bird taken in/near the San Fernando Valley? Please submit your photos to JackieWollner@gmail.com. Or you can post to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sfvaudubon. Please include location, date, camera and lens info, a short account of how the photo was taken, and a profile of the photographer. Let us see your bird photos!
Thanks, Jackie.

Monthly Field Trip Reports for May and June by *Richard Barth*

We birded Walker Ranch in Placerita Canyon on May 9. Our little group found most of the species expected here for this date. Costa's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Steller's Jay, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hutton's Vireo, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Acorn Woodpecker, House Wren, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Warbling Vireo and Spotted Towhee were present and accounted for. A species not often seen when we visit here is Bell's Vireo, but we found one foraging in the riparian willows. The nomadic Phainopepla is an interesting find wherever it shows up. Oak Titmouse is a "can't miss" species in the canyon. Swainson's Thrush and Hammond's Flycatcher made our list as they have on most of our past May visits.

June 13 marked our trip to Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve near Thousand Oaks. The number of birds seemed to be down this year at the preserve, unless we were just unlucky in our search. Ash-throated Flycatcher did not disappoint, however, and we were pleased to pick up Lawrence's Goldfinch for the first time in memory on this trip. Wrentit, Bullock's Oriole, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Spotted Towhee, California Thrasher (heard), Western Bluebird, Common Yellowthroat and Black-hooded Parakeet were tallied. Among our target species, Blue Grosbeak was easily seen but Lazuli Bunting was uncooperative. Cliff Swallow showed very well and we had good looks at House Wren, Lesser Goldfinch, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe and Song Sparrow. 

Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack Are You Living with a Killer?

The domestic cat, like its larger cousins in the wild, is a territorial creature. The size of its territory is a function of its food supply: the more food that is available, the smaller its territory needs to be. Where food is available on a regular basis and at the same place, as in a household, a cat's territory is likely to be small areas within the house itself. Domestic cats then do not need to be wandering loose outdoors and there are very good reasons to keep them indoors. Roaming cats are food for larger predators and they are also vulnerable to contagious diseases and being killed by cars. They are also the greatest threat to our bird population, killing HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of birds each year. Even well fed cats will do this, as the instinct to hunt is distinct (in the cat's brain) from the need to eat. The feral cat population can be kept in check if there are larger predators in the area, but if that is not the case and/or if well-meaning people help to

sustain the feral cat population, that worsens the problem for our birds.

We can protect our feline friends and our birds by not letting kitty wander outdoors. A fresh air experience can be provided, if necessary, by an enclosure outdoors, a screened porch or window, or training kitty to walk on a leash. Kitty and our birds will thank you! 🐾

*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@sfaudubon.org.*

RIM OF THE VALLEY CORRIDOR SPECIAL RESOURCES STUDY

The official period for public comments on the National Parks Service (NPS) Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Resources Study (the Study) ended on June 30, 2015. The Study described four options for expansion of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SMMNRA):

Alternative A – No expansion

Alternative B – Cooperative conservation plan

Alternative C – Boundary adjustment to the SMMNRA to provide more recreational opportunities, protection of resources and habitat

Alternative D – Same as C with much more area covered, providing authority for NPS to provide technical assistance to surrounding communities, agencies and landowners to maintain habitat connectivity, protect resources and plan for new parks and trails.

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) conservation committee provided a letter of comment to the NPS strongly supporting Alternative D. We are especially encouraged by Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's strong support not only of Alternative D but also of an expansion to the alternative to include all the tributaries of the Los Angeles River.

During this post-public comment stage of the study process, NPS will revise the report, as needed. The final step in the special resource study process is transmittal of the final report from the Secretary of the Interior to Congress after review by the Office of Management and Budget, along with a recommendation regarding the Secretary's preferred management option for the area. Implementation of any of the recommendations in the report is a separate process, whether by private, local, state or federal actions, or some combination.

SFVAS, as a member of the steering committee of the Rim of the Valley Coalition, will continue to work on advocacy for the eventual enactment of legislation expanding the boundaries of the SMMNRA. *By Pat Bates*

Phainopepla Club Welcomes Six Members!

Six members of SFVAS responded to the 2014-15 Phainopepla Club birding challenge by birding in LA County for 12 months and recording their sightings on eBird. Pins and certificates of achievement were presented to the following members at the Pot Luck in June:

Swallow Level (50-99 species): none

Finch Level (100-149 species): none

Vireo Level (150-199 species): Rose Leibowitz (153), Barbara Gaitley (158)

Avocet Level (200-249 species): Heather Medvitz (208), Andrea Call (221)

Phainopepla Level (250 species): Art Langton (261), Kris Ohlenkamp (267)

Keep on birding and don't forget to post on eBird! 🐦



How can we enjoy birds and nature if it's unhealthy to breathe the air outside? *Submitted by Audubon California*

Audubon's own research shows that global warming caused by carbon pollution will threaten 170 California bird species in the coming decades. This includes iconic birds including: Brown Pelican, Golden Eagle, Allen's Hummingbird, and the Yellow-billed Magpie, to name just a few.

The recent release of findings from the American Lung Association about the dangers of air pollution in California puts more urgency into current legislative efforts to reduce carbon pollution. While air pollution in the form of greenhouse gas emissions is the leading cause of global warming, air pollution is also a major threat to public health, as well as the health of our birds and environment. We need to be able to breathe clean air if we are to truly enjoy the natural wonders of California.

Audubon California is supporting a legislative package moving through the California State Senate aimed at addressing the problem of carbon pollution and air pollution. Prominent among the bills in the package are Senate Bill 32, which would expand California's current climate pollution reduction target to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and Senate Bill 350, which calls for a 50% reduction in petroleum use in cars and trucks, a 50% increase in energy efficiency in buildings, and a goal of 50% of state utilities' power coming from renewable energy, all by 2030.

But the American Lung Association's 2015 State of the Air Report makes it clear that the stakes are high for Californians, as well:

- Seventy percent of Californians (28 million residents) live in counties affected by unhealthy air.
- Eight California cities appeared among the top-ten most polluted metro areas in the nation for ozone and particle pollution. (Bakersfield, El Centro, Fresno, Hanford, Visalia, Los Angeles, Modesto-Merced, Sacramento, San Francisco Bay Area).
- All 8 San Joaquin Valley counties experienced higher numbers of unhealthy particle days, and received a failing grades.
- The Los Angeles metro area remains ranked among the five most polluted in the nation for ozone and short-term and annual particles. Parts of the Los Angeles region experience more than 100 unhealthy ozone days per year. 🐦

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY			
INCOME AND EXPENSE (PRELIMINARY)			
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015			
			Percent
			of income
INCOME			
Membership	\$ 9,200		19.2%
General contributions	4,300		9.0%
Annual dinner	1,600		3.3%
Birdathon fundraiser	10,900		22.7%
Investment income, net of expenses	22,000		45.8%
		\$ 48,000	100.0%
EXPENSES			
Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Project	13,200		27.5%
Depreciation (mostly optical related to SBEEP)	1,500		3.1%
Newsletter printing	9,000		18.8%
Newsletter mailing	4,200		8.8%
Other conservation/education grants	1,700		3.5%
Other research/education activities	1,000		2.1%
Monthly general meeting expenses	700		1.5%
Storage	2,300		4.8%
Insurance	2,100		4.4%
Accounting	1,500		3.1%
Website costs	1,100		2.3%
Office expenses	1,100		2.3%
Promotion and fund-raising	1,000		2.1%
		40,400	84.3%
NET INCOME		\$ 7,600	15.8%

How your donations are used:

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) is an all-volunteer §501(c)(3) organization. We rely on donations received in the Birdathon to fund the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP). Other donations, membership receipts, and investment income fund the remaining portion of SBEEP expenses as well as all our other environmental, educational and outreach activities.

The amount of revenue SFVAS receives from the National Audubon Society only covers about 42% of the cost of preparing and mailing our newsletter, the *Phainopepla*. The cost of printing and mailing the *Phainopepla* is significant, and only partially mitigated by receipt of local dues. That said, the *Phainopepla* is a very important source of Chapter information including bird walk and other event schedules, information on local conservation and environmental issues, and other items of interest to the community. Your donations help fund this valuable community resource.

SBEEP is a wonderful program, providing local students in grades 4–6 with field trips led by trained naturalists. The students receive hands-on instruction in observation of wildlife and environmental issues, using binoculars and microscopes provided by SFVAS. Each year, approximately 2,000 children (and their teachers) participate in this program. The annual Birdathon is the primary source of funding specifically earmarked for SBEEP—we thank you for your donations to the Birdathon and throughout the year!

Introducing Merlin Bird Photo ID

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has been working on a new bird photo ID feature for the Merlin app, and we're ready for you try it on our test website! Just upload a photo, click on the bird's bill, eye, and tail, and let computer vision help you ID the bird. It currently recognizes 400 common North American bird species. Because it's powered by machine learning techniques, it gets "smarter" the more people use it. Help us improve the accuracy so we can add it to the Merlin app some day! [Try Photo ID.](#)

Coming Soon!

Hansen Dam Area Bird Walks

We are planning some scheduled bird walks in the Hansen Dam area, probably beginning late September through the cooler season—Pat Bates will be one of the leaders. There are several good areas to bird there—we will initially bird either near the Equestrian Center on Orcas, or near the dam off Dronfield (thanks to Brad Rumble from LA Audubon for the recommendations and a tour of the sites).

Watch for an announcement on www.sfvaudubon.org and Facebook for the September 2015 walk—will give date, meeting time and driving directions.



WOODPECKER QUIZ

According to Sibley, there are 22 species of woodpecker in North America (not counting the controversial Ivory-billed Woodpecker). Not all woodpeckers have "woodpecker" in their names. Sapsuckers are also considered woodpeckers. How many can you name? Three species are common in the SF Valley. Add the foothills for several more. If you attended all of the usual SFVAS bird walks and also the usual fieldtrips for a couple of years, you would likely have seen eleven of them. For the others, you may have to go further afield. Look them up in your field guide and notice where they can be found on the range maps. -Submitted by Linda Jones. *Answer on back page.*

SAVE THE DATE:

The 2nd Annual BIRD FEST

will be held at the

NPS Visitor Center at

King Gillette Ranch

Saturday, December 5, 2015

Bird walks, and activities for
the whole family!



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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1 st Vice President:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430
2 nd Vice President:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
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Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Bird Observatory:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Birdathon:	Pat Avery	(626) 840-8226
Christmas Bird Count:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
College Conservation:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Conservation:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Descanso Bird Station:	Dottie Ecker	(818) 790-0659
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
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Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
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SSFL Public Participation Grp	Mark Osokow	unpublished
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Social Media:	Jackie Wollner	(818) 989-4543
Web Coordinator:	Dave Collins	(661) 406-7689
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Conservation Banquet:	OPEN	
Malibu Creek Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
	Art Langton	(818) 887-0973
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Photo of the Month:	Jackie Wollner	(818) 989-4543
Recycled Water Advisory Grp:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Young Birders Group:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405

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

www.SFVAudubon.org



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Become a member of the
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 Mail the form below, and include a check made payable to SFV Audubon Society:
 P.O. Box 7769
 Van Nuys, CA 91409
 Attn: Membership

SFVAS MEMBERSHIP

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...	\$25	\$ _____
1-yr Chapter Membership (No paper copy of <i>Phainopepla</i>).....	\$20	\$ _____
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...	\$10	\$ _____
Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS		\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

New Member ___ Renewal ___ School _____

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How did you learn about SFVAS?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Membership Whether you belong to National or Local or both, remember you are always welcome on any of our activities and we have plenty to get involved in! Please contact Lynn Maddox, Membership Chair, with any questions at lynn.maddox@sfaudubon.org.

Local:

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- Steve Daly
- Lisa Dumke
- Anita Hirsh
- Carlo Loffredo
- Caress Maggiore
- Jeffrey Mann
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- Alfonso ROLDAN
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- A. Sawatzke
- Darlene Smolik
- Kenneth Stack
- Jill Thraves
- Scott Wilson

Woodpecker Quiz

Answer: Nuttall's Wp,
Downy Wp, Northern
Flicker, Acorn Wp, Lewis's
Wp, Red-breasted
Sapsucker, Red-naped
Sapsucker, White-headed
Wp, Hairy Wp, Ladder-
backed Wp, Williamson's
Sapsucker, Gila Wp,
Golden-fronted Wp,
Arizona Wp, Gilded
Flicker, Red-bellied Wp,
Red-headed Wp, Yellow-
bellied Sapsucker, Three-
toed Wp, Black-backed
Wp, Red-cockaded Wp,
Pileated Wp.