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**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**

*A Chapter of the National Audubon Society*

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April / May 2016

## Monthly Programs

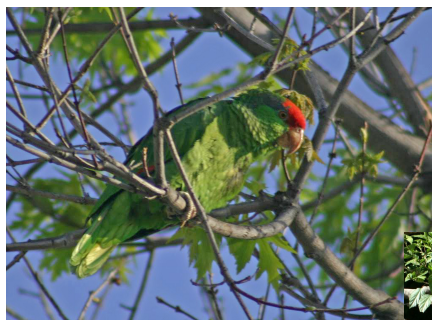
### Meeting Location:

San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center  
18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA, (818) 697-5525

Thursday, April 28, 2016, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

**TOPIC:** Identifying Parrots in our “Urban Jungle”

**SPEAKER:** Karen Mabb, member of California Parrot Project



The “urban jungle” of Southern California is home to more than a dozen species of parrots and parakeets.



Come learn where you can find parrot hotspots and how to identify parrots that you might see on your urban safaris in Southern California. Karen Mabb will discuss the origins of the California flocks, the ecological factors that help them succeed here and the identification of our locally breeding species. Many of these parrots are native to Mexico and South America. Some are even endangered in areas of their natural distribution. Karen Mabb has been a member of the California Parrot Project since 1995. She is now a biologist residing in San Diego. She has also developed the interests of multiple species habitat conservation and restoration.

Thursday, May 26, 2016, 7:00—9:00 p.m.

**TOPIC:** Hit the Ground Running: Roadrunners of Southern California

**SPEAKER:** Mark Mendelsohn



Mark Mendelsohn is a wildlife and vegetation biologist working under a cooperative agreement between the Mountains Restoration Trust and National Park Service in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. His love for field biology sprouted during his undergraduate work at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and he completed his master's degree at San Diego State University. There, he studied the effects of habitat fragmentation on the Greater Roadrunner in San Diego County. Mark remains very interested in this topic, in particular its application at Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SAMO). In his presentation, Mark will summarize his thesis work, and use it and the literature as a lens for studying the distribution—highlighting citizen science data—of this iconic bird in the greater Santa Monica Mountains region.

*Photo: Greater Roadrunner by Richard Medvitz.*

**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 Arts & Cultural Center. See Calendar of Events, pages 5—7, for directions.**



## Birdathon 2016 — It's Here! *By Pat Avery*

Join the annual SFVAS Birdathon as we put “fun” in fundraiser! April and May dates are scheduled for Birdathon leaders trying to improve on their last year’s count and competing with each other to see who identifies the most species. Everyone is a winner when SFVAS has the funding to continue its important functions. Anyone can participate in SFVAS’s only fundraising event by pledging sponsorship to one or more of the team leaders listed on the Pledge/Contribution form.



Practice your birding skills by joining one or more Birdathon events to help maximize the species count. Birdathon leaders welcome your participation at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve on April 3 (Kris Ohlenkamp), Malibu Creek State Park on April 17 (Art Langdon), and O’Melveny Park on April 19 (Carolyn Oppenheimer). Birders are welcome to join Jim Moore for the Antelope Valley Big Day on April 20, Richard Barth for the Morongo Valley Field Trip on April 24, and Mark Osokow for a Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains birding day scheduled on either May 5 or 6. Look for details about these activities in the Calendar of Events.

The Children’s Birdathon, for youth and their families, will occur on May 7. Details about the Children’s Birdathon and a special sponsor form are included in this newsletter. Please RSVP for the Children’s Birdathon to Paula Orlovich at [paulaSBEEP54@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaSBEEP54@yahoo.com).

Jeanne Polak-Recht will lead the Big Sit at the Sepulveda Basin on Sunday, April 17, once again proving a good way to see birds is to sit still and let them come to you! Join the Big Sit with your chair or cushion, hat, binoculars, and snack.

The funds raised through Birdathon enable SFVAS to host thousands of school children in the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program, support the San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory, contribute to habitat conservation efforts, and continue the SFVAS mission to increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment.

Donate by: sending in the enclosed envelope, use the sponsor form, or by donating online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).

Please contribute to the Birdathon as generously as you can! *Thank you for your support!*

For information about this appeal, call (626) 840-8226

- THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT - FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY -

**INFORMATION CARD NO. R4725**  
 Issued Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 4, Philanthropy

**CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
 aka **SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
 P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409

Person in charge of appeal: **Pat Avery**  
 Telephone number: **(626) 840-8226**

**Activity:** "Bird-a-thon" Pledge Drive through May 31, 2016

**Solicitation Dates:** April 1, 2016 to May 31, 2016

**Purpose:** Net proceeds to support operations and environmental education for Los Angeles schools and the general public.

**Previous Activity:** 2015 activity collected a total of \$10,183, of which \$331 (3.3%) was applied to expenses and \$9,852 was used for charitable purposes.

**DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION RESTRICTED TO THE HOURS OF 8 A.M. – 8 P.M.**  
*This Information Card must be displayed or presented to all prospective donors, and should not be altered in any manner.*

Date issued: 02/09/16

Cardholder registered with the Los Angeles Police Commission  
 Charitable Services Section, Commission Investigation Division  
 Telephone: (213) 996-1260  
 E-mail Address: [pccharity@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:pccharity@lapd.lacity.org)  
 Web Site: [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)

## Birdathon 2016 Pledge/Contribution Form

**1. Place an X in front of the team leader(s) you wish to support.**

- |   |   |                         |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kris Ohlenkamp       | April 3, Sepulveda Basin  | Probable Species: 60    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Polak-Recht   | April 17, Sepulveda Basin "Big Sit"   | Probable Species: 30    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Langton          | April 17, Malibu Creek State Park<br><i>\$12 Park entrance fee</i>  | Probable Species: 45-50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Oppenheimer  | April 19, O'Melveny Park  | Probable Species: 35    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Moore            | April 20, Antelope Valley Big Day   | Probable Species: 120   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allan & Muriel Kotin | April 23-24, LA & Orange Counties Marathon  | Probable Species: 100   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Barth        | April 24, Morongo Valley Field Trip   | Probable Species: 65-70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Osokow          | May 5 or 6, Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mts.  | Probable Species: 65    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Orlovich       | May 7, Children's Birdathon Sepulveda Basin   | Probable Species: 30    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John & Andrew Willis | TBD, LA River: Ballona Creek & Wetlands<br><i>Lori Willis Memorial Fund</i>   | Probable Species: 60-70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Your Family Team     | Ask your family and friends to support your birding day! Have a "Big Day," and send in the pledges you collect.               |                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The "Mean" Team      | Don't like picking a favorite? We can let you know the average or "mean" number of bird species from all the Birdathon teams. |                         |

**2. Choose your per species pledge.**

25 ¢    50 ¢    \$1 dollar    \$2 dollars   Other amount \_\_\_\_\_

**3. How may we contact you?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

4. **OR** send us a contribution now. You can designate it to a team leader if you wish. Make checks out to San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS).
5. Send the completed pledge/contribution form to SFVAS, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769.
6. You can also **DONATE** to the Birdathon online at our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) on the Annual Birdathon page.
7. To take part in a Birdathon Event check the Calendar Section, pages 5–7, for dates and meeting information.

For information about this Charitable Appeal please see our website at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org)

Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 4, Philanthropy

**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society  
Children's Birdathon Pledge Form  
May 7, 2016, 9-11:00 a.m.**



1. Sign up sponsors to pledge a donation for each species you see.
2. Then walk with your family and an experienced birder from 9:00—11:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2016. You can record your sightings on the checklist we will provide. We may see 30—40 species!
3. After the Birdathon, collect the money from your sponsors and send it to **San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, 91409-7769** by May 24, 2016. Please include your name, address and e-mail!
4. **PRIZES:** The family/child collecting the most money will win a **\$20 Target gift card**. **2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$15 iTunes GC** and **3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$10 Menchie's Frozen Yogurt GC**. A tie will be decided by lottery. Winners will be notified on June 1, 2016. *Prizes were donated so 100% of the monies you raise will go to support local Audubon programs!*  
For directions to the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve, see Calendar of Events, page six. We will meet at the Amphitheater. Bring binoculars if you have them. We will have a few to loan. Please RSVP for this event to insure we have enough leaders! E-mail Paula Orlovich: [paulaSBEEP54@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaSBEEP54@yahoo.com) or call: (818) 728-9838.

Name of Sponsor	Amount pledged / species	Money owed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total # of Species Seen: \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ Collected: \_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events

*April*

**Saturday, April 2. 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, April 3. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. PROBABLE SPECIES: 60** 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@sfaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

**Saturday April 9. Clean-up of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. 8:30—Noon. JOIN US!** Volunteers needed for our annual clean-up of Haskell Creek and the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. The Wildlife Area is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way toward the archery range for about a half mile to the last parking area. Meet at the amphitheater. See page nine for more information on clothing and supplies.

**Saturday, April 9. 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, April 10. 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. 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Street then take the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 0.5 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.

**Tuesday, April 12. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Prime Desert Woodland Preserve.** 43210 35<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA. Directions: Take 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, to K8 turn west to the juncture of K8 and 35<sup>th</sup> Street West. Drive straight into the parking lot. Enter building to right. For more information contact Don and Kathy Goeschl at (661) 940-0055, [avaudubonsoc@verizon.net](mailto:avaudubonsoc@verizon.net).

**Saturday, April 16. 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, April 17. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 45-50.** Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader: Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

**Sunday, April 17. A BIRDATHON EVENT: The "BIG SIT." Probable species: 30. 9:00–11:00 a.m.** Please join Jeanne Polak-Recht at the first viewing area at the Wildlife Lake. Bring a chair or cushion, hat, binoculars, and snack. 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 right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant/Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Jeanne Polak-Recht, for information call (818) 831-2438.

**Tuesday, April 19. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Probable Species: 35.** 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@sfaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org).

**Wednesday, April 20. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Butterbredt Springs, Galileo Hills, and Piute Ponds. Probable species: 120.** Meet at 5:30 a.m. at the McDonalds on Crown Valley Road in Acton, or 6:00 a.m. at the park-n-ride lot on the east side of Avenue S in Palmdale. This is a full day event, usually ending after dark. We will stop in Palmdale for a brief search for LeConte's Thrasher, then to Lancaster sewage ponds, Butterbredt Springs, with a stop for lunch and birding at California City, then onward to Galileo Hills and Piute Ponds, and finishing at Apollo Park in Lancaster. Leader: Jim Moore. Please advise Jim by e-mail, [moorebirder@gamai.com](mailto:moorebirder@gamai.com) if you plan to join him.

**Saturday, April 23. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m.** Time to see some cactus wrens. The walks will start at the Gabrieleno Equestrian Park, 11126 Orcas Avenue, Lake View Terrace,

California 91342. Directions: From the 118 Eastbound to the 210 Freeway, Exit at Osborne. Turn left, you will be on Foothill, follow Foothill Blvd. to Orcas and turn right, continue straight into park. From CA 210 in Pasadena go West on I-210. Exit at Wheatland and go right to Foothill Blvd., go left to Orcas, and then left on Orcas into Park. Follow driveway curving left to furthest (dirt) parking area. In the event of mud, park in the furthest paved lot. Rain may cancel—please contact Leader Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962 or [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org) if conditions are questionable.

**Sunday, April 24. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Monthly Field Trip: Morongo Valley. 8:00 a.m. Please note the SUNDAY date this year. Probable Species: 65–70.** This desert oasis offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Directions: Allow 2.5 hours to drive from the San Fernando Valley. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve. Bring lunch and drinks. In the afternoon we will drive to Joshua Tree National Park to look for wildflowers, Scott's Orioles, Pinyon Jays, Brewer's and Black-throated Sparrows. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Thursday, April 28. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. TOPIC: Identify Parrots in our "Urban Jungle" SPEAKER: Karen Mabb.** For more information, see Monthly Programs, page one. **San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA, (818) 697-5525.** Enjoy the art gallery and shop our sales table. **Directions:** Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center.

**Saturday, April 30. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Franklin Canyon Park. 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills.** 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: 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. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.



**Sunday, May 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

**Thursday, May 5 or Friday, May 6. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains. 7:30 a.m. Probable species: 65.** Prospective participants should contact the leader via e-mail to confirm the date, meeting place, and discuss access requirements to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Space will be limited. We will finish after owling in Browns Canyon in the dark. Leader: Mark Osokow. Contact him at [Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, May 7. CHILDREN'S BIRDATHON EVENT. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Youth, join us at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve to show off your birding skills!** Youth must be accompanied by a responsible adult. 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 right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant/Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Prizes will be given to the top three families/children who identify the most species. Pledge form and more information can be found on page four.

**Saturday, May 7. BirdLA Day.** SFVAS will again participate in the 2016 BirdLA Day, where Audubon California, Audubon chapters, and a huge collection of other cool groups participate in a super fun, de-centralized all-day celebration of birds all over LA County. We will be contributing to the mass migration of bird lovers with over 30 venues, each with a unique event, sponsored by individual organizations who have the common theme of birds, our avian friends. See <http://birdla.org/> for up-to-the-minute information about the events and activities on that day. SFVAS will be participating with:

- A special bird walk at the **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, 8:00 a.m.** (see the May 1 calendar entry for directions and information), led by Art Langton, world-renowned bird walk leader!
- A special bird walk at **Hansen Dam, 8:00 a.m.** (see the April 23 calendar entry for directions and information), led by Pat Bates, distinguished bird walk leader!
- Our regularly scheduled bird walk at **Castaic Lake, 8:00 a.m.** (see May 7 calendar entry below for directions and information), led by Roger McClure, "hale fellow well met" (hearty, friendly, and congenial) bird walk leader!
- SFVAS volunteers will staff the **Descanso Gardens Bird Observation Station** overlooking the Lake from 8:00

a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to informally chat with visitors about the birds of Descanso Gardens and other bird topics. Children's activities are being planned. Please note: Descanso entrance fees apply as usual, but the Gardens will open to the public early for this event.

**Saturday, May 7. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.** Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

**Sunday, May 8. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m.** See April 10 for directions. Leaders: Nick Wilhelm and Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

**Tuesday, May 10. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Prime Desert Woodland Preserve.** 43210 35<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA. Directions: Take 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, to K8 turn west to the juncture of K8 and 35<sup>th</sup> Street West. Drive straight into the parking lot. Enter building to right. For more information contact Don and Kathy Goeschl at (661) 940-0055, [avaudubonsoc@verizon.net](mailto:avaudubonsoc@verizon.net).

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

**Saturday, May 14. Monthly Field Trip: Walker Ranch. 7:30 a.m.** Meet at the Walker Ranch entrance. We will look for Costa's Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, flycatchers, warblers and much more. Directions: take the 405 Freeway or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon Road. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and proceed 3+ miles to the dirt parking area for Walker Ranch. We will bird until about 11:30 a.m. Leader: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342. (Adventure Pass is NOT required for Walker Ranch.)

**Sunday, May 15. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

**Tuesday, May 17. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m.** Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. **RAIN CANCELS.** Contact

Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or [carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, May 21. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m.** Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

**Monday, May 23. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard St., Tarzana. It is located between White Oak & Reseda. It is recommended to approach on Etiwanda Ave. & turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center.

**Thursday, May 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. TOPIC: Hit the Ground Running: Roadrunners of Southern California. SPEAKER: Mark Mendelsohn.** For more information, see Monthly Program, page one. We will also hold our election for new board members. **San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA, (818) 697-5525.** Enjoy the art gallery and shop our sales table. **Directions:** Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. ALL are welcome!

**Saturday, May 28. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m.** Time to see some cactus wrens. The walks will start at the Gabrieleno Equestrian Park, 11126 Orcas Avenue, Lake View Terrace, California 91342. Directions: From the 118 Eastbound to the 210 Freeway, Exit at Osborne. Turn left, you will be on Foothill, follow Foothill Blvd. to Orcas and turn right, continue straight into park. From CA 210 in Pasadena go West on I-210. Exit at Wheatland and go right to Foothill Blvd., go left to Orcas, and then left on Orcas into Park. Follow driveway curving left to furthest (dirt) parking area. In the event of mud, park in the furthest paved lot. Rain may cancel—please contact Leader Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962 or [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org) if conditions are questionable.

**Saturday, May 28. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Sepulveda Basin. 9:00 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(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

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

**June 11. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve**

**July 16. Mt. Pinos**

## AngelFest: Existential Threat to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

On January 26, 2016 Muriel Kotin of our Conservation Committee received a “heads up” email from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE) that: “LA City Rec and Parks has requested a waiver from the Corps in order to hold a three-day music festival in Sepulveda Basin on October 7, 8, 9, 2016. They expect 65,000 people each day. The set up would take approximately two weeks prior in order to set up stages, sound systems, lighting etc. with eight days post festival removal of equipment, clean-up and restoration.”

The USACoE email broadly identified the areas of the Basin where the festival events would take place, which includes acreage abutting or even including parts of our precious Wildlife Reserve. The email also gave an estimated time-frame (mid- to late February) as to when the details would be forthcoming and the public comment period would begin.

On the evening of March 3, in a focused, analytical meeting, with many voices heard, and using information provided by the festival proponents and USACoE as well as our detailed knowledge of the wildlife known to frequent the area, the Board of Directors of the SFVAS passed the following motion, for public dissemination:

“The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) is opposed to holding the special event known as AngelFest in the entire eastern area of the Sepulveda Basin known as Woodley Park on October 7–9, 2016 and urges the Army Corps to not waive the conditions of the Special

Events Policy and thereby not grant permission to hold the AngelFest event. The predictable negative impacts on the wildlife within Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and the adjoining park areas that support foraging wildlife, as well as the loss of public access to the area for up to 26 days are intolerable.”

The very next day, March 4, we received the following official email notice from the USACoE:

“Due to the many comments the Corps reviewers provided to the AngelFest proponent's contractor preparing the Environmental Assessment and issues to be addressed, the anticipated public review period is behind original schedule. At this time, I think it will be mid to late April before it is available for review.”

The SFVAS Conservation Committee is laser-focused on preventing this potentially devastating event from occurring anywhere near the Wildlife Area. Among our concerns, beyond the obvious impact of 200,000 attendees on the wildlife of the area, are: the use of high-volume acoustic systems as preferred by rock bands, the inclusion of pyrotechnics at the event, broad and intense lighting, limiting of public access to various areas prior to, during and after the event, and many others.

Please follow the continuing AngelFest saga by watching for our reports on our website and Facebook pages. For additional information or (helpful) comments, please contact Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair, at [dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org](mailto:dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org).

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### Phainopepla Photo of the Month By David Barton Male Allen's Hummingbird

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, January 15, 2016

Canon 7D Mark II with Canon EF 400 mm f/4 IS II USM lens f6.3 at 1/1600

David and Kathy Barton of Sherman Oaks are members of the San Fernando Valley chapter of Audubon Society. David, the photographer behind this lovely image says “I practice law, and enjoy photography and birding as hobbies. Only in the last few years have I begun to put the two hobbies together.”

Do you have an interesting photo of a bird taken in/near the San Fernando Valley? Please submit your photos to [Jackie.Wollner@sfaudubon.org](mailto:Jackie.Wollner@sfaudubon.org). Or you can post to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sfaudubon](http://www.facebook.com/sfaudubon). Please include location, date, camera and lens info, a short account of how the photo was taken, and a profile of the photographer.





**HELP PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE!**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE**  
**SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE**  
**SPRING CLEAN-UP**

**SATURDAY APRIL 9, 2016 - 8:30-NOON**

Haskell Creek, where it runs through lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods and willows. Songbirds forage and nest in the trees, while egrets and herons fish in this heart of the Wildlife Area. Sadly, it is infested with trash, especially plastic bags, foam cups and food containers. Please help clean up the mess, restoring our creek!

**Equipment and Clothing:** You will get muddy and maybe wet. Please wear rugged clothing and shoes or rubber boots. If you have them, bring work gloves and long-handled tools to reach trash.

**Directions:** The Wildlife Area is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way beyond the archery range for about a half mile to the last parking area.

**Meet:** at amphitheater behind the rock-faced buildings.

**More Information:** The event is appropriate for adults and older students. Students can get **certificates** and earn **community service hours**. Rain cancels.

**Questions:** 310.457-5796 (Muriel) or 818.998-3126 (Diana).

***Sponsored by San Fernando Valley Audubon***  
***[www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)***

*In conjunction with Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee*

## DRONES AND “FIGHTING KITES” IN THE SEPULVEDA BASIN *by Patricia Bates*

There are two very serious and pervasive problems occurring in the Sepulveda Basin Woodley Park and Wildlife Areas with illegal ‘drone’ (Unmanned Aircraft System) activity, and kite ‘fighting’, using abrasive kite line (cord). The kite line is extremely dangerous to persons, wildlife and property, not only when the fighting kites are aloft, but when enthusiasts leave behind lost strings they can’t or won’t retrieve. We have already collected huge amounts of kite line from trees in the area.

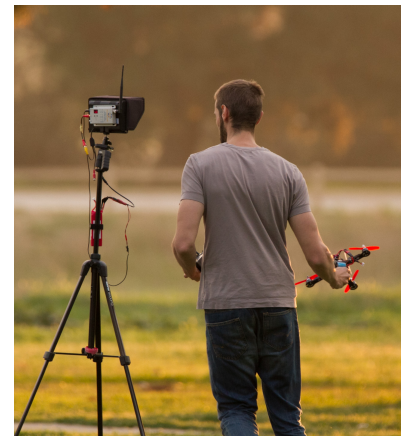


The LAMC needs to be amended to prohibit the flying of fighting kites equipped with abrasive string in these areas, followed by permanent signage and routine enforcement. The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) in concert with the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee is leading the fight to produce solutions to these very serious problems, passing a specific resolution addressing each issue (illegal ‘drone’ flying and kite fighting), and interfacing with Los Angeles Police, Recreation and Parks, and the Los Angeles City Council to request legislation, permanent signage, and enforcement. The Encino Neighborhood Council has passed similar resolutions.

It is already illegal to operate “drones” (unmanned aircraft systems) in any Los Angeles City Park (Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) §63.44.B.8). Furthermore, the recently enacted LAMC §56.31 prohibits use of drones within five miles of any

airport (this covers the entire Sepulveda Basin) except in designated areas (note that the Apollo model airplane park is a designated area for flying model airplanes and is tightly regulated and supervised). In the past year, the presence of drones in Woodley Park near the wildlife reserve has become routine, often with several of them airborne at the same time. There is a clear danger to users of the facility—many children, as well as wildlife, as a result of this illegal drone activity. The Sepulveda Basin is within five miles of the Van Nuys Airport flight path, which presents a further danger. In addition, there are escalating tensions between individuals attempting to enjoy the recreation facilities and the drone operators.

We commend the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks for installing temporary ‘NO DRONE ZONE’ signs in Woodley Park. Unfortunately, the signs were quickly removed and stolen by the drone operators. We understand permanent signage will arrive shortly. Furthermore, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Park Rangers have stepped up enforcement. The Los Angeles City Council approved a resolution supporting Senator Boxer's bill requiring no-fly zones for drones, and as a result of information provided by us, Councilmember Koretz added the following language to that resolution, which President Wesson accepted and the City Council approved unanimously: "and that no-fly zones for drones include areas designated as wildlife and nature preserves, preserves, refuges, national parks and the like."



See our website [sfvudubon.org](http://sfvudubon.org) for the text of the resolutions and more information.

*Photos: Barn Owl being treated for fractured wing caused by kite string and guy ready to launch drone at Woodley Park. 🐙*

## 2016 Conservation Awards Banquet



Photos clockwise: Program. Mark Osokow receiving the Conservation Award from Dave Weeshoff. Sharon Ford receiving the Service Award from Lynn Maddox. Raffle baskets by Carolyn Oppenheimer. Sharon Ford with LA Councilmember Paul Krekorian and Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian. Rich Eames, accompanist, and Susan Krebs performing JAZZ AVIARY.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS SLATE

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors of SFVAS for our 2016–2017 year which begins on July 1st. Officers and directors who will continue their current term are indicated with <c> after their name. Those to be elected currently are indicated by \*.

### Officers (2-year terms):

- President: Rose Leibowitz \*
- 1st VP: Paula Orlovich \*
- 2nd VP: Diana Keeney \*
- Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Maddox <c>
- Recording Secretary: Becky Arntzen <c>
- Treasurer Pat Bates <c>

### Board Members at Large:

- 3rd Year Board: Jim Houghton <c> and Jeanne Kolasz <c>
- 2nd Year Board: Teri Carnesciali \* and Ron Gotcher \*
- 1st Year Board: Kathy Barton \* and Felipe Lepe \*

\* Names followed by an asterisk (\*) will be elected this May.

Officers are elected for two year terms, with a limit of four continuous years in one office. The term of a first-year board member at large is three years, second-year is two years, and third-year is one year.

The election will be held at the May 26 meeting and installation will take place at the June 23 potluck.

We thank all SFVAS members who have served the chapter in any capacity. We invite those of you with an interest in becoming more active in chapter activities or joining a committee to let the officers or nominating committee know.

Nominations Committee: Dottie Ecker, Carolyn Oppenheimer, Paula Orlovich and Muriel Kotin

## January and February Monthly Field Trip Reports (by Richard Barth)

We birded Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on January 16. Cool, mostly sunny weather prevailed and we saw a nice assortment of species. A trip highlight was the sighting of a hybrid Eurasian X American Wigeon; two such hybrids had been reported at Upper Newport Bay this fall and winter. Loons are not regularly seen up in the bay but we tallied both Red-throated and Pacific Loons this year. Dunlin and Long-billed Curlew topped our contingent of twelve shorebird species. Our waterfowl list totaled fourteen species, with Hooded Merganser of special interest at UNB along with the hybrid wigeon. Ridgway's Rails serenaded us at two spots along the bay. Our raptors on the trip were Northern Harrier, Osprey, Cooper's Hawk and Turkey Vulture. Other birds of some note were White-faced Ibis, Clark's Grebe, Brown Pelican, Belted Kingfisher, Tree Swallow, Savannah Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, Cassin's Kingbird and Say's Phoebe.

A beautiful morning greeted us at the Ventura County Game Preserve on February 20. Highlight species seen included Vermilion Flycatcher, White-tailed Kite, Loggerhead Shrike and Dunlin. A Barn Owl flushed from trees just off the trail, a Sora was heard, Marsh Wrens were heard and one was seen, we had long-range looks at a Long-billed Curlew and two White-faced Ibises, Savannah Sparrows were everywhere (we saw at least one "Belding's") and a couple of Wilson's Snipes rose up to perform their zig-zag flight across the wetlands. Western Meadowlark flocks were readily found---one bird perched near us and broke into full song. Other species of interest: American Pipit, Northern Harrier, White-throated Swift, Tree Swallow, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead, Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Say's Phoebe and Common Yellowthroat. We missed Yellow-headed and Tricolored Blackbirds this year.

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## The Antelope Valley Audubon Society

(Sub-Chapter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society)

### Recap of February 9, 2016 Meeting

Visitors were welcomed and we had introductions all around. There were nineteen in attendance. Ten of which were first time visitors interested in Audubon as well and the preservation of the 20.6 acres adjacent to the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve (PDWP) as well as two people from our local radio station 1470.

Don presented an overview of Audubon History for the newcomers. Then he presented an overview regarding our current efforts to develop a Chapter in Antelope Valley, the Tri-Color Blackbird Habitat at Holiday Lake, and the effort to save the 20.6 acres adjacent to the PDWP. Don emphasized membership in Audubon to help preserve our habitats for our birds and other wildlife.

Don then introduced Dr. Pat Saatzer, Friends of PDWP, to provide background information on the ten-year fight to retrieve the acreage adjacent to the PDWP.

Some of the birds that visit the preserve are Yellow Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Merlin, Burrowing Owl, quail, Red-tailed Hawks, and Coopers Hawk, just to name a few, as well as many other desert animals.

An interview with Don and Pat was on the front page of the February 13, 2016 issue of our local newspaper, "Antelope Valley Press." Don and Pat were also interviewed live on our local radio station regarding the Desert property. Due to this exposure an interested individual has volunteered to create a social media page to communicate our efforts. A local Boy Scout troop leader has also come forward to ask for help to develop a program for Scout troops in the Antelope Valley Audubon.

ALL ARE WELCOME to attend our meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from **7:00–8:30 p.m. at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve**, 43210 35<sup>th</sup> Street West, Lancaster, CA. Directions: Take 30<sup>th</sup> Street West, to K8 turn west to the juncture of K8 and 35<sup>th</sup> Street West. Drive straight into the parking lot. Enter building to right. We are looking forward to meeting you there. Please contact Don and Kathy Goeschl, AV Audubon Society, (661) 940-0055, [avaudubonsoc@verizon.net](mailto:avaudubonsoc@verizon.net).



## Upcoming Events

### May 7 BirdLA Day

SFVAS will again participate in the 2016 BirdLA Day, where Audubon California, Audubon chapters, and a huge collection of other cool groups participate in a super fun, de-centralized all-day celebration of birds all over LA County. We will be contributing to the mass migration of bird lovers with over 30 venues, each with a unique event, sponsored by individual organizations who have the common theme of birds, our avian friends. See <http://birdla.org/> for up-to-the-minute information about the events and activities on that day. SFVAS will be participating with:

A special bird walk at the **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area, 8:00 a.m.** (see the May 1 calendar entry for directions and information), led by Art Langton, world-renowned bird walk leader!

A special bird walk at **Hansen Dam, 8:00 a.m.** (see the April 27 calendar entry for directions and information), led by Pat Bates, distinguished bird walk leader!

Our regularly scheduled bird walk at **Castaic Lake, 8:00 a.m.** (see May 7 calendar entry for directions and information), led by Roger McClure, "hale fellow well met" (hearty, friendly, and congenial) bird walk leader!

SFVAS volunteers will staff the **Descanso Gardens Bird Observation Station** overlooking the Lake from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** to informally chat with visitors about the birds of Descanso Gardens and other bird topics. Children's activities are being planned. Please note: Descanso entrance fees apply as usual, but the Gardens will open to the public early for this event.

### International Migratory Bird Day, May 14

In 2016, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) will focus on how birds have inspired many of the most significant environmental conservation actions in the Americas. We recognize the capacity of citizens in every country to support programs and laws that protect birds and their habitats, including a landmark treaty that, for the last century, has protected nearly all migratory bird species in the U.S. and Canada ~ the Migratory Bird Treaty. Please see our up-to-date postings on our website and Facebook pages as we move into April and May. You may also visit the IMBD website at <http://www.migratorybirdday.org/>

## EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE at Chatsworth Nature Preserve Sunday April 3, 2016 – 10am to 3pm

DWP is hosting the annual Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House in celebration of April Earth Day month. Environmental/conservation and community organizations will be exhibiting at the open house: Southwestern Herpetologists Society, SFV Audubon Society, Chatsworth Nature Preserve Coalition, SFV Sierra Club, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, Foundation for the Preservation of the Santa Susana Mountains, CA Native Plant Society, Chatsworth Historical Society, Poison Free Malibu, Placerita Canyon Natural Area, American Tortoise Rescue, National Wildlife Foundation, Wildlife Corridor Rep. and Wildlife Tracking Info by Julie Newsome. Other community organizations will be participating.



Dennis Garcia, Chumash elder, will perform a blessing for the opening ceremony. He is a traditional dancer and storyteller, and contributes to keeping the Chumash traditions alive through elementary school and public presentations. Dennis has gone on construction sites for buildings and utilities where there is digging in an area that may have been inhabited by Native people to monitor and prevent a disturbance in an area sensitive to Native Americans. Come for opening ceremonies to join Dennis in his Chumash blessing and storytelling.

A special remembrance tribute for Helen Treend, (February, 1932 – July, 2015) Treend fought against developer's bulldozers protecting oak trees in Chatsworth, Northridge, Woodland Hills, and Santa Clarita. She was a school teacher and led her students on "Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir Open Air Classrooms." We will honor Helen Treend during the opening ceremony.

Following the opening Chumash blessing ceremony, Marty Adams, Director of Water Operations LA-DWP and Mitchell Englander, Councilmember District 12, will speak. Join the environmental/conservation organizations at their displays and enjoy decent lead interpretive hikes to and around the Ecology Pond.

Good family fun and it's free!

#### Location and Parking:

Enter the chain-link fence gate on Valley Circle Blvd, just southwest of the curve where Plummer St. turns into Valley Circle Blvd. Parking is available inside the gate and along the street's shoulder.



We love all animals, but dogs and horses are not allowed. All trails are for humans to walk and bicycling is not allowed. Hiking boots are recommended for safety and comfort.

[www.SWHS.org](http://www.SWHS.org)

## Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

### PLANTING, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF YOUR NATIVE, WILDLIFE GARDEN

Although one can plant at any time, the best time to plant natives (and non-natives, for that matter) is in the late fall, just before the rainy season. The cooler weather and winter rains minimizes the amount of watering necessary to help plants get established before the dry, hot summer.

Planting is pretty simple: dig a hole twice the width and twice the depth of the pot the plant is in. If the soil is dry, fill it with water one or more times before planting. Refill the hole with the same soil that was dug out so that the surface of the root ball is slightly higher than the surrounding soil. Remove the plant from the pot with as little disturbance to the root ball as possible. Obviously, if it is root bound, one needs to scratch the surface of the root ball to free up the roots a little. With the plant placed slightly higher than surrounding soil, continue to refill with the original soil. With rare exception, **DO NOT ADD ANY AMENDMENTS OR FERTILIZER**. Use a chopstick or other poker to make sure air pockets are filled with soil. With left over soil, create a basin wall at the drip line of the plant. Add a layer of mulch around the plant, but not touching the trunk/stem crown. Give it some more water to settle the soil and you're done.

Until they are established (usually 2–3 years), all natives require watering. If you've planted at the beginning of the rainy season, Mother Nature will take care of much of that. If there isn't much rain or you've planted in the dry season, then more

attention must be given to water needs. A newly installed plant needs its root ball kept moist until its roots have extended into the surrounding soil (about two weeks). After that, many plants need watering only when the soil in the root zone is getting dry. Watering should be deep, whether that be with drip, overhead, microemitter systems, or hand watering. (Natives actually prefer overhead, but if that's your choice, do it sensibly, and that means do not overwater and do it before the sun comes up.) Once established, not all natives are low water users and drought tolerant. Some will need little to no water; others will need occasional deep watering; and some like regular moisture (e.g., riparian species).

A good sign that a plant is well established is when it doubles in size. Usually, you don't see much growth during the first year or two—that's when the plant is spending most of its energy putting its roots deep in the ground. Once that is accomplished, more outward growth occurs.

Native species generally require little, if any pruning. Some species need to be cut back annually and any pruning beyond that is likely to be for aesthetic reasons or to remove diseased growth. The best time to prune is during the plant's dormancy or right after flowering. Which brings up the fact that seasonal changes for many natives are the opposite of most non-natives. Winter rains stimulate growth which slows in the spring as flowers emerge. In the summer, dormancy begins as berries and fruits form. In the fall, berries and fruits have ripened, seeds are falling and most plants are fully dormant.

*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@sfvadubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvadubon.org). 🐦*

### National Audubon's Birdist's Rules for Birding

Interested in birds but not sure where to start? Birding doesn't have to be intimidating for beginners—look no further than **The Birdist's Rules for Birding**, a new weekly feature at [Audubon.org](http://Audubon.org) that will serve as a guide for all those looking to get deeper into the hobby.

In his first column, The Birdist explains Rule #1: spread the birding gospel to the masses. Learn to embrace your inner birder, no matter your experience level, because as this column will show, it's about love. So bird proudly and follow The Birdist's Rules for Birding. 🐦

**Joyce McKinnon** served SFVAS as recording secretary and a stalwart volunteer for our special nature walks for children and our bird walks for families and beginners, after retiring as the supervising nurse of a hospital operating room. She also served as an SFVAS alternate representative on the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee and as a member of her neighborhood council. She was an outdoor educator for the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains until health issues made it impossible. She was a frequent participant in many SFVAS birding trips, especially the Weekday Wanderers birding trips which were then to various locations around the valley. A woman with an iron will, Joyce did as much as possible to serve her community and introduce children to nature. Sadly, Joyce passed away March 9, 2016. 🐦

# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Rose Leibowitz (818) 990-5405  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Treasurer: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962  
 Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688  
 Recording Secretary: Becky Arntzen (818) 761-6692

## DIRECTORS

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 Jackie Wollner (818) 989-4543  
 Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Jeanne Kolasz (818) 421-9807  
 Travis Abeyta (818) 648-4800

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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 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  
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 Education-SBEEP: Paula Orlovich (818) 728-9838  
 Field Trips: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342  
 Finance: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Hansen Dam Rep: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 Hospitality: Helene White  
 Membership: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688  
 Phainopepla Editor: Rebecca LeVine (818) 776-0881  
 Programs: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430  
 Publicity: OPEN  
 Sales & Service: Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 SSFL Public Participation Grp: Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Scholarships and Grants: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Sep. Basin Steering Comm: Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796  
 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: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 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](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)

Follow us on  *Instagram* and  **Twitter**  
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 check made payable to:

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

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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 (No paper copy of *Phainopepla*).....\$20 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**National Audubon Society, Inc.**  
 225 Varick Street, 7th Floor  
 New York, NY 10014

**Attn: Chance Mueleck**

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

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

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# Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

PO Box 7769

Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Birdathon 2016-pg. 2  
Birdathon Pledge Form-pg. 3  
Children's Birdathon Form-pg. 4  
Calendar of Events-pgs. 5-7  
AngelFest-pg. 8  
Photo of the Month-pg. 8  
Spring Cleanup-pg. 9  
Drones & Fighting Kites-pg. 10  
Awards Banquet Photos-pg.11  
Board Nominations-pg. 11  
Monthly Field Trip Report-pg. 12  
Antelope Valley Audubon-pg. 12  
Upcoming Events-pg. 13  
Audubon-at-Home-pg. 14  
Chapter Information-pg. 15

## Conservation of the *Phainopepla* (Newsletter, that is) by Lynn Maddox

Our newsletter has a venerable history, dating from October, 1928. We love it! But it's expensive. Newsletter costs are among our highest budget items, ranging between \$12,000 and \$13,000 per year recently.

We are trying very hard to reduce this expense. Some local members choose to pay a higher membership fee to receive the printed paper by 1st-class US mail. Some local and national members (more than 200!) have opted to read the newsletter online only and receive email notifications when a new issue is published. These online subscribers often have access to the news about ten days before the printed copies arrive and also can see beautiful "Bird of the Month" photos in color. And nearly 2,000 (yes, 2,000!) newsletters are mailed out to national members for each publication. We receive limited reimbursement from National Audubon for these members, so our own dollars must help cover the newsletter costs for them.

*How can you help us reduce costs? So glad you asked!*

- You can request to receive the newsletter online only. Send an e-mail to [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com) or call Lynn Maddox at (818) 845-4688.
- You can let us know if you are receiving duplicate mailings or are not interested in local news by contacting Lynn by e-mail or phone as noted above.
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