



Phainopepla

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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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Monthly Program

SFVAS POT LUCK

JOIN US FOR THIS FUN-FILLED ANNUAL EVENT
FOR AUDUBON MEMBERS & FRIENDS

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

Thursday, June 23, 2016



~~Set-up from 6:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Appetizers, wine, and other
beverages

7:20 Dining

D I N N E R 8:00 Reports and presentation of new board
and officers

NERD BIRD AWARDS! Will you win a gift certificate to
Wildwings? A surprise gift? See the article on these awards for
details.

8:15 Share up to ten slides maximum on a thumb drive or upload
them to the Dropbox folder that Pat Bates has set up. They should
be uploaded as a PowerPoint presentation or a pdf file. The
filename should be your last name underscore and first initial. If
you have more than one file (e.g. individual jpgs) they should be
followed by a number. For example, bates_p1.jpg, bates_p2.jpg,
etc. That way Pat can have them ready to go on the computer.

POTLUCK SHARING

In keeping with our interest in ecology, please bring your own
plate, cup, and utensils. For a dish to share, please try to follow
the plan for last names as follows. If you always bring the same
special dish you may bring something outside your category.
Please note that your category is different from last year.

- A-F Side Dishes
- G-L Salads
- M-P Main Dishes
- Q-Z Desserts

AngelFest Decision Imminent: US Army Corps of Engineers Will Make Crucial Decision Now

Although the proposal to hold AngelFest—65,000 people a
day for three days—in Woodley Park and parts of the Wildlife
Reserve has been postponed until October of next year, the US Army
Corps of Engineers will make a crucial decision now. Please act
quickly. The public comment deadline is May 27.

Soon after that the Army Corps will decide whether to
waive many of its restrictions on special events here. We need to
convince them **not** to sign a Finding of No Significant Impact. It is
obvious to SFVAS and most people who learn about the AngelFest
proposal that this huge event would have very significant impacts on
the Sepulveda Basin Reserve and the wildlife that depend on it.

We need you to do the following **right away**: **Sign and
share** the **on-line petition** at <https://works.audubon.org/petition/stop-giant-music-festival-harming-sepulveda-wildlife-reserve>.

- Please add something in the comments section that shows
you are familiar with the Wildlife Reserve, Woodley Park,
and/or music festivals.
- Share the link with friends, family and neighbors. Everyone in
each household should be encouraged to sign.

Contact elected officials and their staff.

Everyone who answers these phones is very receptive. It can be
quick or you can talk more.

- Congressman Brad Sherman. His district includes the
Sepulveda Basin [\(818\) 501-9200](tel:8185019200)
Email: Brad.Sherman@mail.house.gov
- Scott Abrams, District Director, Congressman Brad Sherman.
Email: scott.abrams@mail.house.gov
- Mayor Garcetti's rep is Brian Gavidia, phone: [\(818\) 778-4990](tel:8187784990) email: brian.gavidia@lacity.org
- City Councilmember Nury Martinez. Her district includes the
Sepulveda Basin [\(818\) 778-4999](tel:8187784999)
Email: councilmember.martinez@lacity.org
- Your specific [Congressional rep](#) and [City Council](#) rep are
next priorities. After that CA Assembly & Senate.
- Encourage friends, family and neighbors to call as well.

Email your objections to the Army Corps to
angelfest.2016@usace.army.mil no later than May 27.



Birdathon 2016 Results *By Pat Avery*

Pledges are still coming in, so the amount of money raised and acknowledgment of donors will be in the next edition. Below are the results of the 2016 Birdathon events. A big "Thank You" to all our Birdathon leaders! We had a wide range of events this year that included several of the regular monthly bird walks, traveling caravans covering wide geographic areas, and a two-hour sit-in at a single location.

Birdathon leaders liberally gave of their expertise and time to host events and our donors gave generously to support the education and conservation efforts of SFVAS. Donations can still be sent to SFVAS, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or made online at www.sfvaudubon.org (click Annual Birdathon, Donate). **Thank you for your support!**

2016 Birdathon Event Results

Date	Event place	Leader(s)	Probable Species Count	Actual Species Count
04/03/16	Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve	Kris Ohlenkamp	60	66
04/17/16	Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin	Jeanne Polak-Recht	30	26
04/17/16	Malibu Creek State Park	Art Langton	45-50	45
04/17/16	Lori Willis Memorial Fund Ballona Wetlands, Del Rey Lagoon	John and Andrew Willis	60-70	57
04/19/16	O'Melveny Park	Carolyn Oppenheimer	32	31
04/20/16	Antelope Valley Big Day	Jim Moore	120	113
04/24/16	Morongo Valley Field Trip	Richard Barth	65-70	61
04/24/16	LA and Orange Counties "24-hour marathon"	Allan and Muriel Kotin	100	96
05/06/16	Simi Hills & Santa Susana Mts.	Mark Osokow	65	42
05/07/16	Children's Birdathon at Sepulveda Basin	Paula Orlovich	30	20

Highlights of Birdathon 2016 *by Pat Avery*

Our Birdathon events attracted experienced birders, new birders, and youth. While some of our species counts were slightly less than expected, birder enthusiasm was high. We wonder if our species numbers were impacted by the drought's effect on bird habitat. One event, the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains walk, was rained out after a few damp hours of birding. The result for that event was far fewer sightings of birds than in previous years.

Kris Ohlenkamp's Sepulveda Basin walk attracted 30 birders who were treated to viewing four Great Horned Owls. In total 66 species were observed. Jeanne Polak-Recht's Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin resulted in 26 species including a Red-Tailed Hawk posing for several minutes on the railing leading down from the amphitheater. Art Langton's Malibu Creek walk resulted in 45 species including Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, and Yellow Warblers.

Carolyn Oppenheimer's walk in O'Melveny Park on an unusually warm day resulted in 31 species including Black-throated Gray Warbler and Phainopepla. Jim Moore's Big Day in the Antelope Valley tallied 113 species including Plumbeous

Vireo, Tricolored Blackbird, Long-eared Owl and Lesser Nighthawk. Richard Barth's trip to Morongo Valley and Black Rock Campground resulted in 61 species including stunning Vermilion Flycatchers and Summer Tanagers.

In spite of being rained out early in the day, Mark Osokow's group tallied 42 species including a Golden Eagle, Cedar Waxwings and Lazuli Buntings. Our Children's Birdathon at Sepulveda Basin was led by Paula Orlovich. Ten young birders bagged over 20 species including watching a Nuttall's Woodpecker feeding her young in a tree cavity.

John and Andrew Willis birded as a tribute to the Lori Willis Memorial along Ballona Creek and Wetlands. In total they identified 57 species. Muriel and Allan Kotin tallied 96 species on their twenty-four hour Birdathon marathon through Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Their sightings ranged from numerous shore birds to birds found in our local mountains. What a great way to take advantage of the varied habitat Southern California has to offer birders!

You will find more details on these events on our website! www.sfvaudubon.org.

It's Official! Antelope Valley Audubon Chapter – by Donald Goeschl

We are the Antelope Valley Audubon, it's official! The May 10, 2016, meeting marked the first Official meeting as an Audubon Chapter. Special VIP's from Audubon, and our friends from San Fernando Valley Audubon, were in attendance. We have a great board of directors, and many new members have signed up and are anxious to get involved. AV Audubon's big project is saving the 20.6 acres of nearby pristine desert woodland. We are searching the ways and means to acquire this land. Once this property is purchased, we will enlist our children and community to make our Desert Woodlands even more beautiful and special.

Some highlights of our future Chapter activities will be to enlist support of Antelope Valley Schools to introduce children to wildlife and their habitats. We have also been asked to head up the Audubon effort to monitor Piute Ponds. Misty Hailstone, from Edwards AFB/Piute Ponds, has engaged an Ornithologist to monitor the ponds. For the first year, we will be working with the Ornithologist to understand what exactly we need to do to make this an efficient effective project. All are welcome to join! (See article below for more information.)

Antelope Valley Audubon Chapter of the Audubon Society– by Rose Leibowitz

On Tuesday, May 10 the newest Audubon Chapter in the country had its first official meeting. The Antelope Valley Chapter has spun off from the San Fernando Valley Chapter and all zip codes that begin with 931 have been reassigned to the new chapter. If you live in the Antelope Valley, you are strongly urged to check them out! They meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve, 43210 35th St West, Lancaster. For more information email: avaudubon@verizon.net.

They have already started working on some habitat preservation in the area near the Prime Desert Preserve and on ensuring that the breeding flock of Tri-colored Blackbirds at Holiday Lake will thrive. Their new website is www.avaudubonsoc.org.

We at San Fernando Valley Audubon Society are thrilled to be working with them as they develop the new chapter in an area that has been rich in birds but poor in Audubon presence.

Phainopepla Photo of the Month By Norm Brennan

Great-Horned Owlet

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, April 1, 2016

Nikon Coolpix P610

f5.6 at 1/100, ISO 400

The pair of Great-horned Owls that have been nesting in Woodley Park in recent years are much beloved by birders, photographers and the community in general. "I enjoy birding and taking photos as a hobby. I got hooked when I went on a birding trip to the Chesapeake Bay with a science teaching colleague," says Norm Brennan who got this lovely shot of one of the owlets peering back at him from a tree near the cricket fields.

Do you have an interesting photo of a bird taken in/near the San Fernando Valley? Please submit your photos to Jackie.Wollner@sfvaudubon.org. 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.



2016–2017 BOARD ANNOUNCED

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the new SFVAS Board of Directors for our 2016–2017 year which begins on July 1, 2016.

Officers (2-year terms):

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

Board Members at Large:

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

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

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

June

Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 4. 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, June 5. 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, June 11. Monthly Field Trip: Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (Second Saturday). 7:30 a.m.

We expect to see Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, orioles, flycatchers, raptors, possibly Grasshopper Sparrow. Directions: Take the Ventura Freeway (101) to the Lynn Road exit in Thousand Oaks. Go south on Lynn Road and proceed 5.3 miles to Via Goleta. Turn left at Via Goleta to the preserve entrance. The main gate officially opens at 8:00 a.m. but a ranger usually opens it much earlier. We will meet at the gate at 7:30, ready to drive down to the parking lot and get an early start. We will bird until about 11:30. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, June 11. 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, June 12. 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 onto 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, June 14. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Prime Desert Woodland Preserve. 43210 35th Street West, Lancaster, CA. Directions: Take 30th Street West, to K8 turn west to the juncture of K8 and 35th Street West. Drive straight into the parking lot. Enter building to right. For more information contact Don and Kathy Goeschl at (661) 940-0055, or avaudubonsoc@verizon.net.

Saturday, June 18. 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, June 19. 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.

CANCELLED: Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills will be on hiatus for the months of June, July, and August. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvadubon.org.

Thursday, June 23. SFVAS General Membership Meeting: Annual Potluck. 6:30 p.m. The program includes the installation of new officers, food, and photos. All are welcome! For more information, see Monthly Program, page one. **San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA, (818) 697-5525.** 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.

CANCELLED: Hansen Dam Bird Walk will be on hiatus for the months of June, July, August, and September. See you in October. Leader Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962 or pat.bates@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, June 25. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: O'Melveny. 9:00 a.m. 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.

Monday, June 27. 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.

July

Saturday, July 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, July 3. 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, July 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, July 10. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m.

See June 12 for directions. Leaders: Nick Wilhelm and Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Tuesday, July 12. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Prime Desert Woodland Preserve.43210 35th Street West, Lancaster, CA. Directions: Take 30th Street West, to K8 turn west to the juncture of K8 and 35th Street West. Drive straight into the parking lot. Enter building to right. For more information contact Don and Kathy Goeschl at (661) 940-0055, or avaudubonsoc@verizon.net.**Saturday, July 16. Monthly Field Trip: Mt. Pinos. 7:30 a.m.**

Join us for summer montane species such as Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Hairy Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker. Meet in the parking lot at Iris Meadows. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent and lunch. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take I-5 north to the Frazier Park exit. Go under the freeway and head west on Frazier Park Road, which becomes Cuddy Valley Road and then becomes Mount Pinos Road and leads up to the top parking lot on Mt. Pinos (dead end). We will meet in the lot. The mileage from the freeway exit to this top parking lot is approximately 20 miles.) Your

vehicle must exhibit a National Forest "Adventure Pass" or Golden Age Passport in order for you to park and bird in this area. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, July 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, July 17. 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.

CANCELLED: Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills will be on hiatus for the months of June, July, and August.Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfgvaudubon.org.**CANCELLED: Hansen Dam Bird Walk will be on hiatus for the months of June, July, August, and September. See you in October.**Leader Pat Bates, pat.bates@sfgvaudubon.org or (818) 425-0962.**NO SFVAS General Membership Meetings in July and August. See you September 22.****Saturday, July 30. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Franklin Canyon Park. 9:00 a.m.**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, or call (818) 990-5405.**Future Field Trips (details later):****August 20. Chilao and Buckhorn****September 17. Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica****October 15. El Dorado Park****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, above for directions.**

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 minimize 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.*

March and April Monthly Field Trip Reports (by Richard Barth)

Our Morro Bay Weekend was on March 19-20, with some of us arriving a day early to make it a three day event. Perfect weather prevailed again this year. Among our highlight sightings were two fly-over adult Bald Eagles seen from the peninsula boardwalk at the Morro Bay SP Marina. Pigeon Guillemots had reliably returned to Spooner's Cove and we saw Chestnut-backed Chickadees at several locations. An interesting experience was watching four male Wild Turkeys displaying for five females on the Black Hill Golf Course. On Morro Rock two pairs of Peregrines and many Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants were in nesting mode. A single Common Murre visited the mouth of Morro Bay and what appeared to be a sizable flock of murrelets teased us well off shore almost out of scope view. Jim Moore and the Turleys tallied two Harlequin Ducks on a side trip to Estero Bluffs State Park. Other notable species for the weekend included Brant, Red-breasted Merganser, Greater Scaup, the three expected loons, Horned Grebe, American White Pelican, Great Horned Owl, Osprey, Merlin, Black Oystercatcher, Surf-bird, Black Turnstone, Dunlin, Long-billed Curlew, Wilson's Warbler and

Purple Finch. Our waterfowl species total was sixteen and our shorebird species total was also sixteen.

On April 23 we birded Morongo Valley and then Black Rock Campground in Joshua Tree NP. The trip doubled as a Birdathon Event. Working in two small groups, we combined our efforts and came up with 61 species. Some of the expected notables on hand were Vermilion Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Yellow-breasted Chat, Ladder-backed Woodpecker and Cactus Wren. A Gray Flycatcher was a good find and brought considerable discussion. We tallied White-winged Dove again this year. Other special species seen or heard included Bell's Vireo, Gambel's Quail, Olive-sided Flycatcher, MacGillivray's Warbler, Verdin and Great Horned Owl. We should also mention Western Wood-Pewee, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Phainopepla, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hooded and Bullock's Orioles, Cassin's and Western Kingbirds, Warbling Vireo and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
1 st Vice President:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430
2 nd 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

Dave Collins	(661) 406-7689
Jackie Wollner	(818) 989-4543
Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Jeanne Kolasz	(818) 421-9807
Travis Abeyta	(818) 648-4800

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
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For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our website:

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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, Inc.
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 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.

Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
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Please NOTE the Tuesday O'Melveny Park Bird Walks will take a summer hiatus and resume in September. And the Hansen Dam Bird Walks will as well and resume in October. Enjoy your summer!

Nerd Bird Club Awards by Heather Medvitz



Don't forget to Submit your Year Report (July 1, 2015-June 15, 2016) from eBird to heather.medvitz@sfvadubon.org by June 19. Swallow (50 species), Finch (120), Vireo (200), Avocet (280), NERD BIRD CLUB (325)

Expect to see some fun awards for the winners this year!

1. Log your sightings at www.eBird.org
2. Create a report by the following path:
 - a. Select **Explore Data** tab
 - b. Under **Summary Tables** at the bottom right of page, select **My Observations**
 - c. Create a **Year Report** to start on **July 1, 2015**
 - d. Select the California locations among your sightings.
 - e. Print or download the report showing the **Date and Total # of Species**
3. Send report to Heather Medvitz at SFVAS, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409 or e-mail to heather.medvitz@sfvadubon.org
4. Reports received by June 19 will be acknowledged at the Potluck General Meeting on June 23.

Hansen Dam Birdwalks

The Hansen Dam Birdwalks will be suspended for the warm months – June through September, 2016. We aim to resume them in October.

We have had many enthusiastic participants on the walks and have compiled a good species count. On our last walk we saw a large quantity of Ash-throated Flycatchers, the Cactus Wrens put in an appearance, and we have a nesting couple of Phainopeplas. On a trip to Gabrielino last Saturday to do some photography I was treated to a flock of Cedar Waxwings!

Hope to see many of you back in October.



Thank you! to all the volunteers who came and helped out at the April 16 Spring Clean-up of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. Your willingness to get your hands dirty is appreciated by all who visit the basin.