



Phainopepla

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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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Monthly Programs

**2nd ANNUAL BIRDS & BEER
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WRAP-UP**
December 17, 2016, 4 p.m. to about 7 p.m.



Members and guests are welcome – counters and non-counters alike – our Phainopepla already has a head start! At the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. A really informal gathering to swap Christmas Bird Count data, celebrate the holiday season and the coming start of 2017! The hour is early so all ages are welcome (but no beer for the kiddies). We plan on providing pizza and salad

(around 5pm), beer (\$5 donation appreciated), soft drinks, paper plates and plastic utensils. Also will provide projector for anyone wanting to show off photos—bring them on a flash drive. Directions: Located between Lindley and Reseda. In order to park, it is recommended to go south on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area from the alley behind the center. Please RSVP to Pat.Bates@sfvaudubon.org, (818) 425-0962 (so we know how much stuff to get).

SAVE the DATE:

Our Conservation Award luncheon will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017. All information will be in the next copy of the *Phainopepla*.

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 7:20 p.m. We meet at the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center. See Calendar of Events, pages 4—6, for directions.

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2017, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Presenter: Mike Lynes

Topic: Salton Sea

San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center
18312 Oxnard Street,
Tarzana, CA

Mike Lynes joined Audubon California as the Director of Public Policy in 2014. Before that, Mike was the Conservation Director and then the Executive Director at the Golden Gate Audubon Society in the Bay Area. Mike previously worked as an attorney representing nonprofit groups in environmental cases and, prior to law school, as a conservation biologist for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory (now Point Blue Conservation Science). Mike's work at Audubon California includes working on conservation-related legislation in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., protecting threatened and endangered species, and making progress on large-scale issues such as the Salton Sea, the Klamath wildlife refuges, and Central Valley wetlands and refuges.

Mike Lynes will be speaking about Audubon California's efforts to help create a smaller, sustainable Salton Sea. As the Salton Sea continues to shrink due to water transfers to urban areas in Southern California, tens of thousands of acres of lakebed will be exposed, resulting in a massive loss of habitat and potentially creating the worst air pollution crisis in North America. The Salton Sea provides habitat for over 400 species of birds and is essential habitat for many species already facing population declines. Mike will discuss Audubon's work a broad coalition of nonprofit organizations, state and federal agencies, and private stakeholders to create and implement a plan that will create habitat on the exposed lakebed, reduce dust pollution, and stabilize the Salton Sea ecosystem.



Audubon California Assembly 2016 by Rose Leibowitz



Four of our members were fortunate enough to attend the Audubon California Assembly at Yosemite in early November. There were around 200 attendees from various chapters and there were many exchanges of information and experience.

The keynote speaker was David Sibley, a famous name in birding! His talk on the Psychology of Birding was witty and an eye-opener. The illustrations of how he mistook a Great Egret for a Loggerhead Shrike and how he managed to identify a piece of red trash as a Vermilion Flycatcher made us all feel better about how we can jump to conclusions! We even got our



Sibley Field Guides signed by the author.

The meat of the conference involved initiatives that Audubon California has taken that effect the whole state. The presentations by Audubon California staff were excellent as were the discussions that followed. We hope to share information with our members in the coming months. The most important issues were climate related, the impact of climate changes on habitat for birds and how we might be able to mitigate it and the affect of this long drought. As noted elsewhere in the *Phainopepla*, our January meeting will be about the Salton Sea, which is pertinent to both issues. We also spent time discussing partnerships with like-minded organizations and that reinforced for us how glad we are to work with other local Chapters, the Native Plant Society, the Sepulveda Basin Steering Committee, and our other friends.

It was a good few days and we were glad of the opportunity to see the bigger picture and to work with people from all over the state. Photos by David Barton. Left: Dave Weeshoff, Katheryn Barton, David Barton, & Rose Leibowitz. Right: David Sibley

Special Workshop on Shorebirds



Do you have trouble telling a Willet from a Whimbrel? Do Snowy Plovers get lost among the Sanderlings? If so you may enjoy our early spring workshop on Shorebirds!

On Thursday, February 2, Art Langton will present an evening overview of the birds likely to be seen at Malibu Lagoon to be followed by a field trip to Malibu Lagoon on Saturday, February 4. Not only is Art an expert birder, he is also a longtime educator who will bring both skills to the workshop. He will bring mounted specimens of several birds for a closer look. He is asking participants to bring a field guide if possible to the workshop.

So, book your calendar for February 2 at the San Fernando Valley Arts and Cultural Center, 18313 Oxnard St, Tarzana at 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and for Malibu Lagoon on February 4 at Malibu Lagoon from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Numbers will be limited to 20 and priority will be given to Local Members of our Chapter. National Members of our Chapter and non-members will be charged a nominal fee to cover rental of the gallery. Please contact Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405 to reserve your spot. Photo: Whimbrel, Malibu Lagoon, by Rose Leibowitz.



2016 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT Saturday, December 17, 2016 Birders Needed!

Once again this year, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will join chapters across the country and in North and South America, Hawaii, and the Caribbean to take part in the National Audubon Society's 117th annual Christmas Bird Count. The initial San Fernando Valley CBC was held in 1957 making this our 59th successive CBC. Over the years there have been some interesting changes in bird populations in the count circle as the valley has transitioned into a more suburban area.

Last year's results were disappointing, but hopefully just a single year glitch and not an indication of a long-term trend. We counted only 120 species and worse yet, just 9991 individuals. This compares with our average since 2000, counting 128 species and 15,935 individuals, a 37.5% decline in the number of individuals—a red alert in conservation terms. Thoughts are that the long-term drought or perhaps more urbanization was the cause, however it's just as likely we did not have enough counters in the field on count day. Often we have 60 counters, but last year, only 44.

To get a more comprehensive indication of the health of bird population in the valley, we need more counters. Extensive birding experience is not a prerequisite, only a willingness to come out and count—wind, rain, or shine. Those unable to join one of the count groups may assist by noting species and numbers of birds at backyard feeders, local parks and neighborhoods provided such counts take place within a 7.5-mile radius circle from the count center at the intersection of Balboa and Nordhoff. Please report all such counts along with the time spent observing to Jim Moore by e-mail, jimmoore@socal.rr.com no later than January 8, 2017.

Count participation is FREE and open to all. Traditional count sectors are listed below.

Hansen Dam and Vicinity. Meeting time: 7:00 AM

From the intersection of Osborne and Glenoaks, go north on Osborne to Dronfield (signal), turn right on Dronfield and enter park. Proceed downhill to large parking lot. Look for counters with binoculars. Bring lunch and drinks, and be prepared to walk. Leader: Jim Moore, jimmoore@socal.rr.com or 661-317-1600.

Hansen Dam Golf Course and adjacent parks. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

From the intersection of Osborne and Glenoaks, go southeast on Glenoaks to Montague and bear left. Proceed to the end of the road and park in the parking lot. Look for counters with binoculars. Bring lunch and drinks, and be prepared to walk. Leader: Heather Medvitz, jhmedvitz@yahoo.com or 818-667-6658.

Sepulveda Wildlife Basin & Lake Balboa. Meeting time: 7:30 AM

Meet in the parking lot at the end of the entrance road, east of Woodley Avenue, north of Burbank Blvd. and south of the Tillman Water Treatment Plant. Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp, kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

Bull Creek & west of Balboa Park. Meeting time 8:30 AM

Enter the park at the entrance road on the east side of Balboa Blvd, south of Victory Blvd. Meet in the small, paved handicapped and bus parking area in the dirt overflow parking lot between Balboa Blvd and Lake Balboa. Leaders: Allan and Muriel Kotin, akotin@earthlink.net.

Reseda Park & Los Encinos State Historic Park. Meeting time 8:00 AM

Meet in the parking off Victory Blvd, at the east end of Reseda Park. Leader: Pat Bates, Pat.Bates@sfvadubon.org.

Chatsworth Reservoir. Meeting time 8:00 AM

This sector is tentative, pending approval by DWP. Check with the leader before showing up.

Meet at the gate on Valley Circle Blvd. just west of the junction of Plummer and Valley Circle Blvd. Leader: Art Langton, wrentit@att.net.

O'Melveny Park. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

From the intersection of Balboa and Rinaldi, go north to Balboa and Sesnon. Turn left (west) on Sesnon and continue 1/2 mile. Park is on the right. Meet in the parking lot. Leader: Tracy Drake, t Drake@torranceca.gov.

Wilson Canyon and nearby parks in the northeast section. Meeting time 7:00 AM

Take the Roxford exit from the 210 and drive a short distance north to Olive View Drive. Turn right and proceed just past Olive View Hospital and park on the street near the entrance to the east parking lot. Leader, Judy Matsuoka, judy.matsuoka@sbcglobal.net.

Limekiln Canyon. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

Meet on the south side of Chatsworth Street, a half block west of Tampa. Park on the north side of the street. Leader: Rose Leibowitz, roselbirds@gmail.com.

Chatsworth Park, Oakwood Cemetery & other nearby parks. Meeting time 7:00 AM

Meet at McDonalds on the corner of Roscoe and Topanga. Leader: Jim Hardesty, jhardesty@att.net.

December

Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 3. The City of Glendale Community Services & Parks Department will host a "Birdwalk on the Riverwalk" at 8:00 a.m. The leader will be our own Alexander deBarros, leader of the SFVAS Young Birder walks and a past recipient of our campership award. Meeting place is Glendale Narrows Riverwalk, 300 Paula Ave, Glendale. RSVP is required and for more information please call (818) 548-3795.

Saturday, December 3. 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, December 4. 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@sfaudubon.org or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, December 10. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, are resuming for the current cool season. Binoculars are available for loan. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Diana Keeney, (818) 998-3216. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. **Rain cancels.** Please see page 2 for more information, or visit our website, www.sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, December 10. 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, December 11. 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. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Saturday, December 17. 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.

NO Monthly Field Trip—Join us for the Christmas Bird Count!

Saturday, December 17. Christmas Bird Count. Come out to count birds for the 117th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, all are welcome. See page three for meeting times and locations, then join us at 4:00 p.m. for **BIRDS and BEER** as we meet to compile count data and kick off the holiday season. Pizza and beer will be provided. Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana.

Sunday, December 18. 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, December 20. 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@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, December 24. 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 if conditions are questionable.

NO SFVAS General Membership Meeting in December

NO Young Birders Group Bird Walk. Please join us for the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 17.

January

Sunday, January 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 or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, January 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, January 8. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. See Sunday, December 11 for directions. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Saturday, January 14. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children. Binoculars are available for loan. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Diana Keeney, (818) 998-3216. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. **Rain cancels.** Please visit our website www.sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 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.

Sunday, January 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, January 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.

Saturday, January 21. Monthly Field Trip: Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and drinks. Allow about 1.5 hours driving time from the San Fernando Valley. Directions: Take the 405 Fwy. South into Orange County; exit Jamboree Road in the city of Irvine. Turn right (south) on Jamboree Road and proceed about four miles to San Joaquin Hills Road, turn right and drive down to the bay. Park on San Joaquin Hills Road just before the dead end. In the afternoon we will bird the nearby San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, January 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, January 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. Parking area up the alley behind the center.

Thursday, January 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Topic: Salton Sea. Presenter: Mike Lynes. 7:00 p.m. Mike Lynes is the Director of Public Policy for Audubon California. He will be speaking about Audubon California's efforts to help create a smaller, sustainable Salton Sea. For more information, see Monthly Programs, page one. **Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525.** Enjoy the 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, January 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@sfaudubon.org if conditions are questionable.

Saturday, January 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, or call (818) 990-5405.

Future Field Trips (details later):

February 18. Ventura County Game Preserve

March 18–19. Morro Bay Weekend

SAVE the DATE:

Our Conservation Award luncheon will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017. All information will be in the next copy of the *Phainopepla*.

Conservation Committee Report

All conservation organizations are currently reexamining their priorities and strategic plans, and Audubon is no different, including our National, California, and San Fernando Valley chapter organizations. But our core values will not change—together we, as a grass-roots organization—indeed the most effective in the United States—will do everything we can for the birds and the places they, and we, need to thrive. The National Audubon Society's bipartisan history and membership base is what makes us effective in addressing such critical issues as the effects of climate change on birds, the benefits of renewable energy, and the preservation of essential flora and fauna biodiversity that knows no legal boundaries. San Fernando Valley Audubon intends to continue to be a leader where we can, and enthusiastically support other leaders where we have the resources to do so. Now is the time to reenergize our conservation efforts, and we ask everyone to become active in our activities. Please call Dave Weeshoff at (818) 618-1652 or e-mail at dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org for ideas on how you can help. Everyone is invited!

AOU Taxonomy Changes

BirdsEye Nature Apps Newsletter, Oct. 2016

The annual AOU Supplement update was released in July and there are several changes that even casual birders will want to be aware of. In addition to the re-shuffling of the taxonomic sequencing of several families, the classification of some of the more frequently

seen, and many of the seldom seen, species has changed.

The Western Scrub Jay is gone!

A bird familiar to many birders in the West has been split into two new species:

California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*)

Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*)

The split was based on several factors including differences in behavior, habitat, morphology, differences in songs and calls, and very limited overlap in their range (overlap occurs in just a few locations in Nevada; there is also a small region with limited hybridization in the Pine Nut Mountains).

The California Scrub-Jay is a coastal species that frequents oak woodlands. It generally has a larger bill and is darker than Woodhouse's Scrub Jay.

Other changes:

1. Sandhill Cranes have been removed from the genus *Grus* and now are in the genus *Antigone*.
2. The taxonomic sequencing of New World Quail (family Odontophoridae) and the genus *Vireo* have been modified.
3. Several subfamilies and sequencing of the curlews, godwits, turnstones, and Calidrine sandpipers, dowitchers, snipes, and woodcocks have changed.

SoCal & Houston area birders take note: There's been a name change for the Orange Bishop (*Euplectes franciscans*)! It is now known as the **Northern Red Bishop**. Although this species is not included on the ABA *Checklist*, the AOU Supplement includes introduced populations, such as the Northern Red Bishops found in southern California and the Houston area.

Phainopepla Photo of the Month

Egyptian Goose (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*)

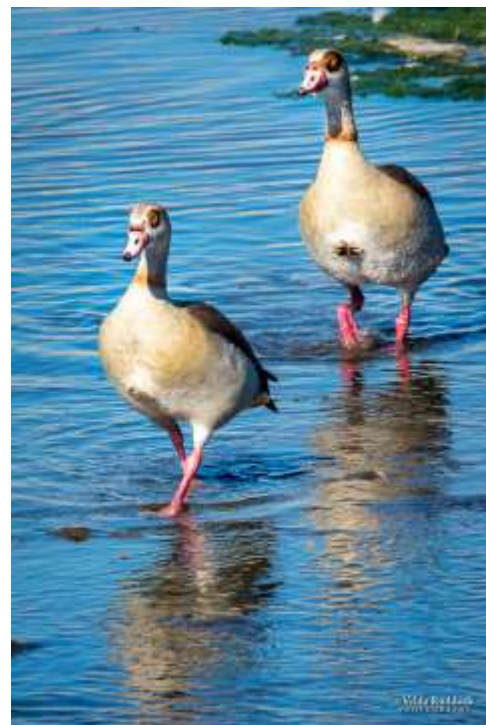
Velda Ruddock

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, June 3, 2016

Nikon 7100 with a Tamron 150-600 lens, at f13 at 1/320th second, ISO 200 and 600mm

Anyone who has spent time at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve will likely recognize these two Egyptian Geese, who frequent the adjacent park area. Although they are not among our native birds, they are beautiful, and many park visitors enjoy watching them. The photographer, Velda Ruddock, tells us "This is my absolute favorite photo of our June Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve field trip...they always stayed within a few feet of each other, and more often than not he was following her, both of them with happy grins on their faces." Though Velda has been concentrating on nature photography since 2010, creativity has always been important to her. She received her first Brownie camera for her twelfth birthday and can't remember a time she's been without a camera close at hand. "Photography has been a gift for me. It helps me see the world in a way I wouldn't otherwise, and it allows me to translate and share what I am passionate about with others."

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



September and October Field Trip Reports (by Richard Barth)

We birded Orange County's Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on September 17. Migrants were moving through HCP and we saw a couple of quite early Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Among the other migrants on hand were Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Tanager, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Hooded Oriole and Lazuli Bunting. Exotics are commonly seen in this park and on this visit we tallied Northern Red Bishop, Scaly-breasted Munia, Bronze Munia, Pin-tailed Whydah (a breeding-plumaged male glimpsed in flight) and Orange-cheeked Waxbill. We saw a lone adult Great Horned Owl. Other species that should be mentioned are Red-shouldered Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, Chipping Sparrow, "Oregon" Junco, Song Sparrow, House Wren, Western Bluebird and American Robin. On our way to Bolsa Chica we stopped at Harriett Wieder Park and found a Tropical Kingbird (a rarity, our "bird of the day") and heard a Marsh Wren. We had a bit of bad luck at the Reserve, missing target birds Ridgway's Rail and Reddish Egret. But of interest were American White Pelican, Marbled Godwit, Snowy Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Long-billed Curlew, "Belding's" Savannah Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Willet, Black Skimmer, Forster's Tern, Caspian Tern and Elegant Tern. No Common Tern. A Red Knot was spotted after the walk had concluded.

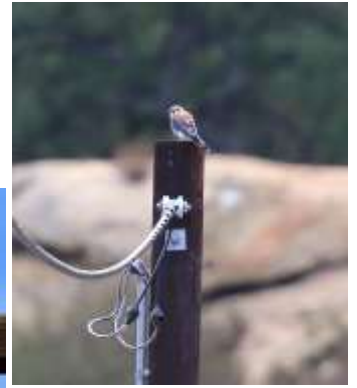
October 15 marked our trip to El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Only one participant joined me, a lady from Long Beach/El Dorado Audubon. The weather cooperated, cool and pleasant. Of interest in the Nature Center Area were Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hutton's Vireo, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Hermit Thrush. Areas II and III featured Marsh Wren, Western Meadowlark, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Bluebird, Great-tailed Grackle, Savannah Sparrow, Say's Phoebe, "Red-shafted" Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Lesser Goldfinch and the exotic Scaly-breasted Munia. Interestingly, our only warblers for the day were Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned. The lakes in the three areas of the park held very few waterfowl, and the little stream/wetlands in Area II gave us only Great Egret and Great Blue Heron. A Red-breasted Sapsucker had been recently reported in Area II and also a Tropical Kingbird in Area III, but we could not locate either bird. 🐦

Santa Susana Field Lab Tour by Diana Keeney



On Saturday, October 29, SFVAS members, family and friends braved the drive up Woolsey Canyon Road to arrive at the Santa Susana Field Lab high in the Simi Hills. After a slide show and a Q&A session, participants boarded an elegant bus supplied by the Boeing Company. The bus stopped at

several locations to allow people to disembark and experience the sights and sounds of the Simi Hills. At one location, Mark Osokow, our guide, helped us identify birds, plants and ground-dwelling mammals! We took note of the amazing rock formations of the Simi Hills and a rocket engine fuel container.



The birds seen or heard that day included White-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, CA Quail, many California Scrub-Jays, Acorn Woodpeckers, and evidence of a Red-tailed Hawk nest high in a rocky cliff. Deer tracks were seen in some muddy parts of a dirt road; later, two deer were observed!

Many thanks to Kamara Sams of the Boeing Company for this special invitation to tour their property which is being converted from a rocket engine testing site to "open space." And many thanks to Mark Osokow for the wealth of knowledge he shared about the local birds, plants, and animals.



Long after the tour, participants are still commenting on what an interesting and informative experience it was. "Just the right combination of lecture and sight-seeing," said one SFVAS member!



Photos (l to r): Group photo by Diana Keeney, Acorn Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Mark Osokow, California Scrub-Jay, and Hermit Thrush by Dave Barton.

Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

Why create a garden for wildlife?

In my youth, I considered myself lucky to live in an "advanced" civilization...in contrast to the "primitive" tribes in Africa or pre-colonial America. Now that I am much older and, I think, wiser, I have a different perspective on things. Our consumerist society has provided us with much comfort, ease and entertainment, but if one thinks long-term, it appears to be eroding our ability to sustain life on planet Earth. It was the tradition of Native Americans, when making decisions about tribal life, to ask what will be the effect seven generations from now? Nowadays, little thought is given to the effect of our decisions on the next generation, much less the next seven.

As our civilization "advances", we continue to destroy much of the biodiversity upon which human life on Earth depends. We are, in fact, in the midst of the greatest extinction of plant and

animal life since the dinosaur extinction 65 million years ago and it has been estimated that if it continues at this rate, we will lose **HALF** of our biodiversity by the end of this century. Poaching, pollution, invasive species, global warming, government sanctioned wildlife slaughter are all taking their toll on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Vast tracts of land are cleared of native flora and fauna to make way for yet more housing tracts, shopping malls, industrial parks, grazing fields and agriculture. Until recently, little thought was given to the effect of eliminating so much natural habitat on our future. Development is especially rapid in areas like coastal California which have a Mediterranean climate: hot, dry summers; cool, moist winters. There are only five small areas on Earth that share our climate and all have the potential of supporting a vast diversity of plant and animal life. Sadly, for every acre being preserved in these areas, eight acres are being lost.

In the lower 48 states, although new-growth forests have increased in the last century, 95 percent of old-growth forests have been destroyed. This is approximately California's loss as well. The Great Plains states at one time comprised one of the largest grassland areas in the world, providing habitat for a large variety of birds and other wildlife. Here in California, our Central Valley similarly had large swaths of grassland. 99% of these grasslands are now gone and the birds that depended on them are now the most threatened species in the country. Wetland losses, though reduced since the 1970s and 80s, are still immense: 91 percent of California's wetlands are gone.

This is all very depressing to contemplate, but the good news is that there is growing awareness of how important restoration and preservation of natural habitat is. The

Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, and many other groups are working hard to preserve our environment...our biodiversity. By creating a garden that is compatible with our climate and supports our native wildlife, each of us can contribute to this noble effort and to the health of our planet.

*Please e-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have regarding 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.*

Photos from 3rd Annual Bird Fest



There were over **1200** visitors! The children's section was buzzing from 8 to 3pm. Over **300** people went on bird walks. We were well represented with **15** board members taking part. Thanks to all that helped make this event such a success! Photos by R. LeVine



A SHORT TRIBUTE TO ELAINE TROGMAN, ANOTHER UNSUNG ENVIRONMENTAL HEROINE, WHO PASSED AWAY RECENTLY

Although I did not know Elaine Trogman as well as did many others battling to protect our environment, I got to know her well enough to appreciate her deep concern for the environment on many levels. I last saw her at the LADWP Earth Day Open House last April, where we had little time for more than an exchange of greetings. She was about to leave at the time, was smiling broadly, and appeared to be happy. She gave no hint of any illness bringing her down, and that, I have learned, was very typical for her.

Below, is a brief eulogy from her close friend, Carla Bollinger.

"As always, and even though she was struggling, [Elaine] was steadfast in being the creative engine/editor to finalize her last newsletter, (August, 2016) as well as each month for over ten years (uncertain as to the number of years) that gave us information about local and national environmental issues, local activities, concerns that helped all of us work together in our goals to care for our world.

"Elaine and I hiked through the . . . Garden of the Gods, 23 acres, once a section of the historic Iverson Movie Ranch, located in Chatsworth, west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard off of Santa Susana Pass Road. This historic property was saved from development by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, 1987. Elaine loved to visit the places of 'wins.'"

"I was able to see Elaine on Thursday before I left for an out of town family visit. It was difficult to see this amazing woman in her final days and more importantly, to see a friend I love who would soon be leaving this world. Her accomplishments were great as a defender of the environment, wildlife, plants, all life, and even her special love of watching and videotaping championship-Olympics ice skating competition. In her youth, she traveled world-wide, was an intellectual and creative force, and contributed so much to fighting for environmental justice here in the San Fernando Valley, local mountains, and beyond. I ache for our loss of Elaine.

"Elaine and I talked about the SSFL and she was a strong proponent to have a scientific assessment, not a witch-hunt mentality approach to the SSFL cleanup."

Here are some additional things I have learned about Elaine.

Among other things Elaine enjoyed were folk music, watching ballet, special trips around Christmas time to various places around the area to see the spectacular lighting displays, and Fourth of July fireworks. She lived in and loved a little house that an elderly friend had left to her in her will, especially the front and back yards. Elaine became very involved in the San Fernando Valley Chapter of the Sierra Club, editing a newsletter and writing environmental articles about world, national, and local issues. She took great joy and pride in sharing the work of local photographers and artists in the newsletter, helping them get their work seen by more people. A couple of big issues for her were climate change and nuclear power. She studied these issues a great deal and was well informed. Her social life at her new home seemed centered around her environmental connections. She was also quite involved with the local chapter of the United Nations Association. She was recognized in 2011 by the Southern California chapter of the association.

Elaine's ashes will be scattered at sea near San Diego. Her sister, Maxine, may have a small gathering for immediate family at her home. Maxine suggests that anyone wanting to make a donation in Elaine's memory might want to do so with Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, <https://www.pancan.org> or you could join or donate to the San Fernando Valley group of the Sierra Club, https://angeles.sierraclub.org/sfvq_about_us. Condolences can be sent to Maxine Asimov, 2901 Blazing Star Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362.

Submitted by Mark Osokow 

FYI: For problems at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and other park lands in Los Angeles: The non-emergency number to request a police response is 1-888-ASK-LAPD.

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Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
SSFL Public Participation Grp	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Young Birders Group:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405

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

www.SFVAudubon.org

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

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

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

Membership to National Audubon is separate and can be initiated on the website www.Audubon.org.

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

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Save the Dates for the 20th GBBC We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the 20th [Great Backyard Bird Count](#), coming up **February 17 through 20, 2017**.