



Phainopepla

Published by the
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society

Vol. 68 No. 2

April / May 2017

Breaking NEWS!

Birdathon pledgers and donors can NOW do so online through a secure credit card transaction at www.sfvaudubon.org/annual-birdathon-2017. Save time and the stamp!

Monthly Programs

General Membership Meetings

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

Thursday, April 27, 2017, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Presenter: Luke Tiller

Topic: Tails from the Platform: Hawks, Hawkwatchers, and Hawkwatching



The mass migration of diurnal raptors must rate as one of the most magical birding spectacles in North America and for that reason it draws its own special brand of devotees. Join hawkwatcher Luke Tiller for a virtual tour of the nation's hawkwatch platforms and beyond. His talk will touch on: places to visit, the history of hawkwatching, how to get the best out of the hawkwatching experience and most importantly some of the pitfalls of trying to identify a bird in flight.

Luke has been employed as a hawkwatcher at sites across the US and beyond, including Europe and the Middle East. He has traveled the globe extensively as a natural history tour guide, often with a focus on raptors. As well as writing articles about hawks and hawkwatching, he is often invited to speak about them at bird clubs and festivals across the country. He was recently reelected to a second term on the board of the Hawk Migration Association of North America. *Photo by Luke Tiller*

Thursday, May 25, 2017, 7:00–9:00 p.m.

Program: HONDURAS-BIRDING FOR CONSERVATION

TOUR 2016 Southern California Participants: Jim Moore, Debbie Drews, Steve and Becky Turley, Richard and Heather Medvitz, and Mel Sigman.

In November 2016, five groups of birders traveled to Honduras to take part in their first Birding for Conservation Tour. Our group included ten participants. Our team was led by Tim Appleton, creator of the UK's most important island reserve called Rutland Water, a special protection area. He was also responsible for bringing breeding Osprey back to England after an absence of 150 years. Our local leader was William Orellana, a founder and guide for Beaks and Peaks Birding and Adventure Tours, based in Honduras.



This presentation will include photographs taken by various members of the group and we'll regale you with stories of our adventures and our celebrity style welcome in Honduras. The mission of this trip was to open Honduras up to international birding. In 2018, there will be a second Birding for Conservation trip which will include areas of Honduras not covered in the first trip. For more information see <http://www.hondurasbirdtour.com/>. *Photo by Richard Medvitz*

Birdathon 2017 — Starting in April! *By Pat Avery*



Join our annual SFVAS Birdathon that puts “fun” in fundraising! April and May events are scheduled for Birdathon leaders to improve on last year’s count and also compete to see who views the most species. We are all winners when SFVAS has the funding to support its mission. Anyone can participate 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. Birdathon leaders welcome your participation at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve on April 2 (Kris Ohlenkamp), Hansen Dam April 22 (Pat Bates), O’Melveny Park on April 18 (Carolyn Oppenheimer), and Malibu Creek State Park on May 21 (Art Langdon). Birders are welcome to join Jim Moore for the Antelope Valley Big Day on April 19, Richard Barth for the Morongo Valley Field Trip on April 22, and Mark Osokow for a Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains Big Day scheduled on April 28. Look for details about these activities in the Calendar of Events.

Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery will lead the Big Sit at the Sepulveda Basin on April 29, 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 (SBEED), 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 or save the stamp and donate online at 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. **R5225**
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, 2017
Solicitation Dates: April 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017
Purpose: Net proceeds to support operations and environmental education for Los Angeles schools and the general public.
Previous Activity: 2016 activity collected a total of \$9,469, of which \$349 (3.7%) was applied to expenses and \$9,120 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: 03/07/17

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



Phainopepla Photo of the Month

Merlin (Falco columbarius)

By Alex Viduetsky

Bette Davis Picnic Area, 12/10/2016

Canon 7D Mark II with a Canon EF 100-400mm lens

Our photo of the month shows the striking Merlin, a bird of prey formerly known colloquially as a "pigeon hawk." Not a common sight in the Southland, this particular individual delighted local birders by hanging around long enough for it to be observed and photographed by many. The photographer, Alex Viduetsky, is a member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, and has been photographing birds since 2007. He adds, "Birds of prey are among my favorite avian species and I especially like all falcons, including the Merlin."



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.

Birdathon 2017 Pledge/Contribution Form

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

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kris Ohlenkamp | April 2, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve | Probable Species: 60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carolyn Oppenheimer | April 18, O'Melveny Park | Probable Species: 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Moore | April 19, Antelope Valley Big Day | Probable Species: 120 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richard Barth | April 22, Morongo Valley Field Trip | Probable Species: 65-70 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pat Bates | April 22, Hansen Dam | Probable Species: 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark Osokow | April 28, Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mts. Big Day | Probable Species: 65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heather Medvitz
& Pat Avery | April 29, Sepulveda Basin "Big Sit" | Probable Species: 30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allan & Muriel Kotin | May 13-14, LA & Orange Counties Marathon | Probable Species: 100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Langton | May 21, Malibu Creek State Park
<small>\$12 Park entrance fee</small> | Probable Species: 45-50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John & Andrew Willis | TBD, Lori Willis Memorial Fund | 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 a per species pledge.

- 25 ¢
 50 ¢
 \$1
 \$2
 Other \$ _____

3. How may we contact you?

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____



4. **OR** send us a contribution now using the enclosed envelope. You can designate it to a team leader if you wish. Make checks out to San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS). Amount enclosed \$ _____
5. Send the completed pledge/contribution form to SFVAS, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769.
6. **OR** save the stamp and **DONATE** online at our website 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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2017 - 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 Reserve 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 the 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 818.998-3216 (Diana).

***Sponsored by San Fernando Valley Audubon
www.SFVAudubon.org***

In conjunction with Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

April

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 1. Castaic Lake Bird Walk.

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

Sunday, April 2. 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@sfvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Sunday, April 2. Annual Chatsworth Nature Preserve Earth Day Open House. **10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

Highlights include: Guided Nature Hikes, Community Booths, and Live Animal Exhibits. Directions: Head west on Plummer Street from Topanga Canyon Blvd. Parking is available along the shoulder of Valley Circle Blvd. Bring hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes. See back page for more info.

Saturday, April 8. 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. Questions? (310) 457-5796 (Muriel) or (818) 998-3216 (Diana). See page four for more information on clothing and supplies.

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

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

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

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

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo

Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1st Street then take the 3rd right 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, April 15. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. **8:00–10:00 a.m.**

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

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

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

Tuesday, April 18. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. **9:00 a.m. Probable species: 30.**

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.

Wednesday, April 19. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Butterbredt Springs, Galileo Hills, and Piute Ponds Big Day. **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@gmail.com if you plan to join him.

Saturday, April 22. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Monthly Field Trip: Morongo Valley. **8:00 a.m. 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.

Saturday, April 22. Santa Susana Nature Walk. 8:00-11:00 a.m. Join Boeing for a five-mile guided walk through the Southern Buffer Zone. Santa Susana is located at 5800 Woolsey Canyon Road, Canoga Park, CA 91304. Walkers must be 12 and have ID. RSVP by April 20 to santasusanacommunitytours@boeing.com. Heavy rain cancels. See page nine for more information.

Saturday, April 22. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m. Probable species: 30. 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@sfsvaudubon.org if conditions are questionable.

Thursday, April 27. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Topic: Tails from the Platform: Hawks, Hawkwatchers, and Hawkwatching. Presenter: Luke Tiller. 7:00 p.m. 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. Everyone is welcome!

Friday, April 28. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day. 7:30 a.m. Probable species: 65. Prospective participants must contact the leader to discuss access requirements to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Space will be limited. We will bird the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Sage Ranch, Chatsworth Oaks Park (including overlook the Chatsworth Nature Preserve's Ecology Pond), Chatsworth Trails Reserve, Browns and Mormon Canyons. After dinner we will end the event by owl in Browns Canyon. Leader: Mark Osokow, e-mail Mark.Osokow@sfsvaudubon.org.

Saturday, April 29. 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.

Saturday, April 29. A BIRDATHON EVENT: The "BIG SIT." Probable species: 30. Please join Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery at the first viewing area at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve from 9–11 a.m. 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. Leaders: Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery. For information call (626) 840-8226.

May

Saturday, May 6. 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 7. 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@sfsvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, May 13. 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, May 14. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. See Sunday, April 9 for directions. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Tuesday, May 16. 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@sfsvaudubon.org.

Saturday, May 13. Monthly Field Trip: Los Angeles River at Willow Street in Long Beach. 8:00 a.m. This trip substitutes for our usual May trip to Walker Ranch which will still be closed due to the effects of fire damage last summer including mudslide instability in the canyon. Directions to L.A. River Willow St: From the 405 Fwy South take the 710 Fwy South to Willow St East. When on Willow St you will immediately pass over the L.A. River and turn left at Golden Ave (the first stop light). Go only a short distance on Golden Avenue and turn left onto 26th Way which dead-ends into DeForest Avenue along the river. Park on DeForest Avenue and walk up the walkway to the river bicycle path where we will meet. A scope is recommended but not

imperative. We will study shorebirds, waterfowl (etc.) in the riverbed plus land birds along the river.

Saturday, May 20. 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, May 21. 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.

Monday, May 22. 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, May 25. SFVAS General

Membership Meeting.

Program: HONDURAS - BIRDING FOR

CONSERVATION TOUR 2016, 7:00 p.m.

This presentation will include stories and photographs by various tour members about their adventures in Honduras. The mission of this trip was to open Honduras up to international birding. 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. Everyone is welcome! *Photo by Richard Medvitz, Lake Yohao as seen from Panacam Lodge.*

Saturday, May 27. 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.

Saturday, May 27. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: O'Melveny Park. 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.

Future Field Trips (details later):

June 10. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve

July 15. Mt. Pinos



January and February Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*

On January 20 we visited Upper Newport Bay and nearby San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Cool, sunny conditions were ideal for birding. We found 14 species of ducks....the strong presence of Redheads and Northern Pintails was noteworthy this year, and a pair of Hooded Mergansers created considerable interest. Our shorebird contingent of only nine species did not meet expectations but included Long-billed Curlew, always a favorite. Raptors seen were Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrel, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk and Turkey Vulture (we missed Northern Harrier this time). Common Gallinule, White-faced Ibis, Forster's Tern, American Pipit, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Marsh Wren and Belted Kingfisher are always good finds. We had comparative looks at Clark's and Western Grebes, at one point side by side. American White Pelican, White-throated Swift, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird (heard), Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Common Yellowthroat, Downy Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee (heard) and Common Yellowthroat should be mentioned.

We were scheduled to bird the Ventura County Game Preserve on February 18, but very heavy rain the day before and more rain overnight resulted in the preserve being closed down. The uncertainty surrounding the storm had understandably discouraged any participants from making the trip, so I was alone and decided to check out the Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds up the coast. Some of my sightings of interest: A pair of Wandering Tattlers and several Surfbirds at the harbor. A Greater Scaup, a Common Merganser with a few Red-breasted Mergansers, a Northern Harrier, an American Pipit, and at least 40 Pied-billed Grebes (35 together) at the treatment ponds.



Conservation Committee Report

A Serious and Urgent Call to Action on a National Scale by Dave Weeshoff

Your Audubon Society is comprised of a national organization (New York City and Washington, D.C.) and over 450 local chapters, with each chapter operating as an independent, non-profit 501(c)(3). Each Chapter has its own Constitution (By-Laws), Mission Statement, Board of Directors, budget, and various committees, and is especially focused on local or regional issues related to the preservation of birds and their habitats, along with providing fantastic recreational and educational activities.

Every Chapter (including San Fernando Valley Audubon) has its own history, local commitments, constituencies, skills, educational programs, etc., but looks to the National organization for direction, support and advice, as we deem appropriate, both to avoid “reinventing the wheel” as well as to provide expertise in legal and political processes, thereby allowing chapters to work smarter, in concert, and to the advantage of all. Audubon is the largest “grassroots” environmental organization in the USA, and is truly non-partisan politically, with a national membership that reflects our nation as a whole. Please see www.Audubon.org, for much more information on the National organization’s missions and programs.

Consistent with our Mission, SFVAS has historically spent in the range of 97% of our resources (time, effort, and funds) on San Fernando Valley and neighboring areas of LA County programs and conservation efforts. Our Conservation Team has, time and again, taken advantage of hard-won State and Federal environmental laws and regulations and the support of national agencies (with their budget allocations) to achieve our results at the local level. For example, we frequently cite the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and regulations of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

Army Corps of Engineers, and other Federal agencies to support our local causes.

As soon as the current administration was officially situated, those laws, regulations, and resources came under immediate, direct, and relentless attack through every means possible. It appears that our nation’s respect for the environmental health of our planet and all its living inhabitants – flora and fauna – has been tossed aside in preference of immediate, short term, tactical, and (may I say it) self-serving objectives. Environmental science and facts are being thrown out the window in favor of what, profits and million-dollar annual corporate executive bonuses?

It is now clear that SFVAS must increase, reallocate, prioritize, and intensify our Conservation resources, and focus our attention on those issues that are truly existential to our mission and, indeed threaten the wellbeing of our entire world and the political stability of its nations.

As SFVAS Conservation Chair I am asking each of our members (all 1,800+ of you) to actively participate in a dedicated and focused manner to address the threats to our nation, and truly our entire planet, brought by the current, relentless attack on our environment and all its life forms. We will provide the insight and leadership, and I personally promise to encourage all points of view regardless of demographic or political perspective.

Please check our Facebook page, website (www.sfvsaudubon.org), and subscribe to our timely news at <http://www.sfvaudubon.org/support-sfvas/> to get the most urgent information on how you can help. Please contact Dave Weeshoff dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org or call him at (818) 618-1652 for more information on how you can help, and with any comments and opinions. Anytime. 🐦

Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

Alan’s series of articles focusing on gardening for wildlife is now on our www.SFVAudubon.org Website. Click on the Conservation page and then on Alan’s blog.

Please e-mail Alan Pollack, with any questions you have regarding creating a wildlife-friendly garden. Alan offers **FREE** consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife

friendly. He also gives a **FREE**, PowerPoint slide show/lecture to community groups, high school, and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be contacted at (818) 340-2347 or at alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org. 🐦

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 2017–2018 year which begins on July 1. Officers and directors who will continue their current term are indicated with <c> after their name. Names followed by an asterisk (*) will be elected this May.

Officers (2-year terms):

- President: Rose Leibowitz <c>
- 1st VP: Paula Orlovich <c>
- 2nd VP: Diana Keeney <c>
- Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Maddox *
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Barton *
- Treasurer: Jim Houghton *

Board Members at Large:

- 3rd Year Board: David Barton <c> and Teri Carnesciali <c>
- 2nd Year Board: Becky Arntzen * and Felipe Lepe <c>
- 1st Year Board: Barbara Heidemann * and Velda Ruddock *

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 25 meeting and installation will take place at the June 22 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: Kathy Barton, Felipe Lepe, and Muriel Kotin

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY 2017

Los Angeles  Department of Water & Power

ANNUAL CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, April 2, 2017 – 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day and enjoy the beauty of the only nature preserve in the City of Los Angeles!

Event Highlights:

- Opening ceremony & Chumash/Tataviam Indian Tribal Blessing
- Guided Nature Hikes around the Chatsworth Ecology Pond
- Environmental and Community Organization Booths
- Educational and Live Animal Exhibits

Location & Parking:

Head west on Plummer Street from Topanga Canyon Blvd. Parking is available along the shoulder of Valley Circle Blvd. Disabled parking is available inside the entry gate, which can be accessed from Valley Circle Blvd.







Please Note:

No bikes allowed on hiking path. No pets please. For your safety please bring hats and/or sunscreen and wear comfortable walking shoes.




Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-4208. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).



Santa Susana

Nature Walk

Saturday
April 22
8 – 11 a.m.

Santa Susana is located at:
5800 Woolsey Canyon Rd.
Canoga Park, CA 91304

In celebration of **Earth Day**, join Boeing for a five mile guided walk through the **Southern Buffer Zone**, home to coastal oak woodlands, protected plant species and thriving wildlife.

Attendees will walk through this vital wildlife linkage while learning more about the crucial role the site played in our nation's space program. Volunteer docents from the **Santa Susana Mountain Park Association** will serve as guides. In addition, members of the **San Fernando Valley Audubon Society** and **Southwestern Herpetologists Society** will share information about their onsite wildlife studies.






Santa Susana Freeway/Street Map



Nature Walk Reminders

- Walkers must be 12 and older and carry valid (state issued) ID at all times.
- RSVP by April 20 to santasusanacommunitytours@boeing.com.
- Confirmation email from Boeing is required to attend.
- The walk starts at 8 a.m. sharp. Gates close at 8:15 a.m.
- Late arrivals and early departures cannot be accommodated.
- In the event of heavy winds or rain, the walk will be cancelled.



The Annual Conservation Awards Luncheon was held on March 4, 2017, at Franklin Canyon Park. Kudos to Paula Orlovich, and Becky Arntzen and the rest of the banquet committee for a wonderful “rustic” event. It was a warm, sunny (no rain!) day. Muriel Kotin led a bird walk for early arrivals. Lunch was served while we enjoyed music from Steve McCroskey and a slideshow from Pat Bates.



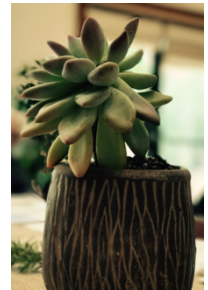
Anthony Beilenson



Due to illness, our honoree former Congressman Anthony C. Beilenson, was unable to attend. Accepting the 2017 Conservation Award on his behalf, was newly elected State Senator, Henry Stern, who gave us a glimmer of hope on state and national politics.

The AngelFest Committee (Sharon Ford, Jim Houghton, Muriel Kotin, Kris Ohlenkamp, Mark Osokow, Dave Weeshoff, and Jackie Wollner) was honored and given a well-deserved standing ovation for their hard work preventing a music festival from taking place next to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. The afternoon

concluded with the sale of the native plant centerpieces, and the once-again amazing basket raffle by Carolyn Oppenheimer.



Sadly, Anthony Beilenson passed away on March 5, 2017. His legacy of environmental stewardship for the Sepulveda Basin and the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area will not be forgotten. -*editor*



Bernie “Doc” from *The Love Boat* and his wife Catrina Kopell, and Rebecca LeVine. *Photo: Jeff Pollakoff*



California State Senator, 27th District, Henry Stern
Photo: Jeff Pollakoff



Pat Bates, Paula Orlovich, & Carolyn Oppenheimer
Photo: Jeff Pollakoff



(l-r) Kris Ohlenkamp, Sharon Ford, Mark Osokow, Muriel Kotin, Jim Houghton, Jackie Wollner, & Rose Leibowitz. Dave Weeshoff not shown.
Photo: R. LeVine

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
1 st Vice President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
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

Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Jeanne Kolasz	(818) 421-9807
Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Felipe Lepe	(818) 536-2060

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
Finance:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Hospitality:	Helene White	(818) 816-7933
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
Scholarships and Grants:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Social Media:	Jackie Wollner	(818) 989-4543
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Conservation Banquet:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
Hansen Dam Rep:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Hansen Dam Walks:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
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:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Recycled Water Advisory Grp:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(805) 727-5007
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

Follow us on  Instagram and  Twitter
 @sfvaudubon and #sfvaudubon

 Like us on Facebook

Found an injured animal? Call Wildlife Rescue Center, (818) 222-2658

Become a Member and Support the
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY
 You can become a member and/or renew online at
www.sfvaudubon.org or mail this form and include a
 check made payable to:

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

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

New Member Renewal School

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

How did you learn about SFVAS?

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

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

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

Membership 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.

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Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
PO Box 7769
Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (*except July, August, and November*). EVERYONE IS 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 5–7, for directions.

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Please visit our terrific new website (www.sfvaudubon.org) and subscribe to our news feed. You won't be inundated with emails — only when something wonderful or important — or both — happens!

Also, we're now set up to take credit cards on our 100% secure membership page, www.sfvaudubon.org/membership. You can still join/renew by snail mail — just print out the form. But we think the credit card option is the easiest way to start/continue your relationship with your local Audubon chapter. See you on the website!



Owens Lake Bird Festival April 28-30, 2017

Join Friends of the Inyo for the Owens Lake Bird Festival on Owens Lake where water, vast open sky, the high rise of the Sierra Nevada, thousands of migratory birds, and the story of human presence come together to define the geography of a special place. Join local experts on birding and natural history outings on and around Owens Lake. Keynote Speakers Tom and Jo Heindel explore "The Amazing Shorebirds of Owens Lake" at the Saturday evening dinner reception. Celebrate the return of thousands of migratory birds to a rejuvenated landscape at Owens Lake, a National Audubon Society designated Important Bird Area. Contact: Ben Wickham, (760) 873-6500, info@friendsoftheinyo.org <http://friendsoftheinyo.org/foiD7/owenslakefestival>