



# Phainopepla

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

**Vol. 68 No. 3**

**June / July 2017**

## General Membership Meetings

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

SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (*except July, August, November, and December*). 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 5–6, for directions.

*Thank you!* to all the volunteers who came and helped out at the April 8 Spring Clean-up of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. Your willingness to get your hands dirty is appreciated by all who visit the basin.

## Monthly Program

### AUDUBON MEMBERS & FRIENDS:

**Join Us for this Fun-filled Annual Event!**

**What: SFVAS POT LUCK**

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

**When:** Thursday, June 22, 2017

6:30 p.m. Volunteer Set-up

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

7:20 p.m. Dining: POT LUCK SHARING

Please bring a dish to share from the following categories (which are different from last year).

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

To minimize the trash created at this event, please bring your own non-disposable plate, cup, and utensils. Mother Earth will thank you!

7:50 p.m. Game answers

8:00 p.m. Reports, thanks to retiring board members, and presentation of new Board Members and Officers

8:15 p.m. Membership Slide-show:

Share up to ten slides maximum on a thumb drive or copy 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. Here is the link to the Dropbox folder—if this does not work, email Pat and she will send you a direct link.

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/qo2toppo81818u5/AACcc0HBT-UpG7yNI4jLUPkra?dl=0>





## Birdathon 2017 *By Pat Avery*

As this issue of the Phainopepla goes to press, eight of the ten Birdathon events have taken place. Below are the results of the 2017 Birdathon events so far. A big "Thank You" to all our Birdathon leaders! We had a broad 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 give liberally of their expertise and time to host events, and our donors give 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](http://www.sfvaudubon.org). *Thank you for your support!*

### 2017 Birdathon Event Results

Date	Event Place	Leader	Probable Species Count	Actual Species Count
04/02/17	Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve	Kris Ohlenkamp	60	57
04/18/17	O'Melveny Park	Carolyn Oppenheimer	30	37
04/19/17	Antelope Valley Big Day	Jim Moore	120	117
04/22/17	Morongo Valley Field Trip	Richard Barth	65-70	51
04/22/17	Hansen Dam	Pat Bates	30	29
04/28/17	Simi Hills Santa Susana Mtns. Big Day	Mark Osokow	65	63
04/29/17	Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin	Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery	30	30
04/30/17	Lori Willis Memorial Fund	John and Andrew Willis	60-70	53
05/21/17	Malibu Creek State Park	Art Langton	45-50	Pending Completion
05/26/17- 05/27/17	LA and Orange Counties Marathon	Allan and Muriel Kotin	100	Pending Completion

### Highlights of Birdathon 2017

With more events to come, below are the highlights of what has taken place. Kris Ohlenkamp's Sepulveda Basin walk attracted twenty-five birders who viewed Yellow Warbler, Bell's Vireo, and a Great Horned Owl. In total 57 species were observed.

Ten birders joined Carolyn Oppenheimer for a walk in O'Melveny Park that resulted in 37 species including White-breasted Nuthatch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and Hutton's Vireo.

Fifteen birders joined Jim Moore's Big Day in the Antelope Valley that tallied 117 species including three vireo species (Cassin's, Plumbeous, and Warbling), five flycatcher species (Olive-sided, Willow, Hammond's, Gray, and Dusky) and Lesser Nighthawks.

Richard Barth's trip to Morongo Valley and Black Rock Campground with 12 birders resulted in 51 species including stunning Vermilion Flycatchers and Summer Tanagers, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-winged Dove, and Costa's Hummingbird.

Three birders joined Pat Bates on a scorching day at Hansen Dam. In total 29 species including several Canyon Wrens and Phainopeplas were seen. A Belted Kingfisher surprised them by flying by and they had a fabulous look at a Yellow Warbler.

Four birders joined Mark Osokow for his Big Day in the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills. They tallied 63 species including ten White-faced Ibis at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Ecology Pond observed from Chatsworth Oaks Park. Other special finds were

*(Birdathon continued)* displaying Common Poorwills, an unexpected flight of forty Vaux's Swifts, an active Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hooded Oriole nests, and a Hermit Warbler.

Five birders joined Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery for the Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin. In total 30 species were identified including Bullock's Orioles and a female Mallard with fourteen hatchlings.

Andrew and John Willis birded Rancho Palos Verdes for the Lori Willis Foundation and identified 53 species including Blue Grosbeak, Red-whiskered Bulbul, three Cormorant species (Pelagic, Double-crested, and Brandt's), and a Peregrine Falcon.

Events to come are Art Langton's walk at Malibu Creek State Park and the Kotin Marathon. You will find more details on these events on our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org). All funds raised support our vital education and conservation programs. Please join us by sponsoring Birdathon! 🐦

---

## **March and April Field Trip Reports**

*(by Richard Barth)*

*Our Morro Bay Weekend fell on March 18-19, with some folks arriving a day early to help build a three day list. Among the outstanding finds for the trip were Rhinoceros Auklet, Eurasian Wigeon and White-winged Scoter! We saw Canyon Wren, Rock Wren, Peregrine Falcon and the three expected cormorant species. Pigeon Guillemot, Chestnut-backed Chickadee and Brant are target birds on the central coast and they accommodated us again this year. Black Turnstone, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew and Black Oystercatcher highlighted our list of fifteen shorebird species. Other species of note found over the weekend were Merlin, Osprey, Wild Turkey, Red-throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Common Loon, Belted Kingfisher, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Hairy Woodpecker, Hutton's Vireo, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, California Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Wrentit, Bullock's Oriole, Wilson's Warbler and Purple Finch.*

*On April 22 our destination was Morongo Valley, where we birded Big Morongo Valley Preserve and nearby Covington Park. After lunch we covered Black Rock Campground up in Joshua Tree NP. The day trip served as an SFVAS Birdathon---we tallied only 51 species but some were notable. We did very well with Yellow-breasted Chat this year, getting good looks at a vocalizing bird and hearing at least four others. Summer Tanagers made several appearances and a White-winged Dove visited the feeders by the preserve host's trailer. Black-chinned and Costa's Hummingbirds are expected on this trip, and we saw both. Vermilion Flycatcher has become automatic in spring at Covington Park. Gambel's Quail and Cactus Wren were seen at Black Rock Campground but we missed Scott's Oriole and Pinyon Jay there. Honorable mention on the trip: Great Horned Owl with a fledgling, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, California Thrasher, Phainopepla, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager and Hooded Oriole. 🐦*

---

## **Fond Farewells and Thanks**

Rose Leibowitz

As our year ends, we are bidding a farewell and thanks to several board members.

Dottie Ecker, recipient of our Service Award in 2015, is resigning after many years serving on the board and running the wonderful Descanso Gardens Station. She has been a fixture at Descanso for the weekend crowds and has introduced many people to the joys of birding. We look forward to seeing her at meetings.

Heather Medvitz, a Board member for ten years, and former Vice President is stepping down from her job as Program Chair. For the last several years she has found us a stream of excellent, interesting speakers and events. She has promised to give her successor support and ideas, thank you Heather!

Pat Bates, a Board Member for five years, four of which were spent in the post of Treasurer is termed out as Treasurer. She is also our liaison with the San Fernando Valley Arts and Cultural Center, where we hold our meetings, and has taken on many other duties including, the Birds and Beer after the Christmas Bird Count. She will be greatly missed but does promise to continue the Hansen Dam walks and to attend General Meetings.

Jeanne Kolasz has been a Board Member for three years, she has made herself indispensable working on the sales table at our meetings and at the Bird Fest. She has also promised to continue the sales work and to come to our meetings.

Helene White was our Hospitality Chair until family commitments forced her to seek a replacement. Thanks for your work Helene and we will still see you at meetings and on walks! 🐦

## 2017–2018 Board Announced

The Nominations Committee (Kathy Barton, Felipe Lepe, and Muriel Kotin) is pleased to announce the new SFVAS Board of Directors for our 2017–2018 year which begins on July 1, 2017.

### Officers (2-year terms):

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

### Board Members at Large:

- 3rd Year Board: David Barton and Teri Carnesciali
- 2nd Year Board: Becky Amtzen and Felipe Lepe
- 1st Year Board: Barbara Heidemann and Velda Ruddock

The election was held at the May 25 meeting and installation will take place at the June 22, 2017 Pot Luck.

## Audubon-at-Home

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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org).

## Phainopepla Photo of the Month

### Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Richard Medvitz



Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 4/29/2017

Canon D7 Mark II, Lens Canon 100-400mm Mark II. Exposure 1/1000 f8 ISO 400

Our photo this month comes to us from Richard Medvitz, who participated in the SFVAS Big Sit and the Young Birders Walk at Sepulveda Basin on April 29, 2017. Richard writes, "This mother Mallard and her brood of fourteen (14) emerged from behind the reeds at the first sitting station beside the lake as the Young Birders group arrived. Everyone, young and old was delighted to see such a large family to start the birding day. It was interesting to see the different sizes of the ducklings. The small ones stayed near the center of the group, the larger one out front closer to Mom."

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](mailto:Kathy.Barton@sfvaudubon.org). Or you can post to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sfvaudubon](http://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. 📷



### Children's Bird Day by the Numbers -By Paula Orlovich

There are three important numbers for our first Children's Bird Day at the Sepulveda Basin on Saturday, May 13. The first is **17**. That's how many enthusiastic children attended from Mar Vista Elementary School, City Charter, New West Charter, and Kester Magnet Elementary School. The second important number is **37**. That's how many species were identified during our walk in the Wildlife Reserve. The final number is **3**. Our three walk leaders did such an amazing job sighting and identifying birds. Alexander, Olivia, and Justine answered endless questions and supplied interesting information such as explaining the naming of the Mourning Dove due to its' mournful call.

Fortunately, we happened to be there when Carolyn Oppenheimer and Mark Osokow were banding the Western Bluebirds. Carolyn allowed us to share the tiny blue egg they found with the baby birds they banded. The students were captivated by the Great Horned Owls and scurried around the base of the tree to collect owl pellets that they could bring home to dissect.

The morning ended with a recap of the species identified and a snack. All in all, it was a wonderful event thanks to our Youth Leaders, teachers who came along or shared the information about the event and of course the parents who provided transportation and encouragement their children. I hope to see everyone next year! *Photo by Paula Orlovich* 📷

## Calendar of Events

### June

**Saturday, June 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. Turn right and park in the front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

**Sunday, June 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@sfvadubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvadubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

**Saturday, June 10. Monthly Field Trip: 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 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, June 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, then take the first right onto E. Olive Ave.

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street then take the 3<sup>rd</sup> right 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, June 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 front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

**Sunday, June 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.

**NOTE: Tuesday Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills is 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvadubon.org).

**Thursday, June 22. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Annual Pot Luck, Board Elections, 6:30 p.m (set-up).** The program includes the installation of new officers, food, and photos. For more information, see Monthly Program, 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!

**Saturday, June 24. 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](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

**CANCELLED: Hansen Dam Bird Walk is cancelled due to a prior commitment.** Leader: Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962 or [pat.bates@sfvadubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvadubon.org).

**Monday, June 26. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana. It is located between White Oak & Reseda. It is recommended to approach on Etiwanda Ave. and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center.

## July

**Saturday, July 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. Turn right and park in the front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

**Sunday, July 2. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sfvadubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvadubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

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

**Saturday, July 15. 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 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 front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

**Sunday, July 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.

**NO SFVAS General Membership Meetings in July and August. See you September 28.**

**Saturday, July 29. SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** We will walk along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way and sometimes go in a different direction to the lake. Meet at the lower parking lot, Dronfield Entrance. Directions: Take Osborne exit from Golden State (5) Freeway. Go northeast about two miles passing Glenoaks Blvd. Turn right on Dronfield to enter the park. Turn right at the end of Dronfield and then take a quick left and proceed downhill to the large parking lot. Alternate directions: Exit Osborne from the eastbound Foothill Freeway (210). At the off ramp, turn right onto Foothill. After a short distance, turn left on Osborne and then left on Dronfield. Follow above directions to the lower parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962, [pat.bates@sfvadubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvadubon.org).

**Please NOTE the Tuesday Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park is on summer hiatus and will resume in September.**

**Saturday, July 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](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

**Future Field Trips (details later):  
August 19. Chilao, Buckhorn, and Charlton Flats  
September 16. Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica  
October 21. El Dorado Park**



Children's Bird Day 2017, Sepulveda Basin  
Photo: Paula Orlovich

# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Treasurer:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Corresponding Secretary:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Recording Secretary:	Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692

## DIRECTORS

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	(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](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)

Follow us on:



Instagram @sfvaudubon and



Twitter #sfvaudubon

Like us on  Facebook

Found and injured animal? Call Wildlife Rescue Center at (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](http://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 *Phainopepla*).....\$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 (PLEASE INCLUDE):  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about SFVAS?  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Membership to National Audubon is separate and can be initiated on the website [www.Audubon.org](http://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](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).

*PHAINOPEPLA* is copyrighted ©2017 by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. All rights reserved. All photographs used in the *PHAINOPEPLA* are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

# Phainopepla

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

## INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Birdathon-pg. 2  
Monthly Field Trip Reports-pg. 3  
Fond Farewell-pg. 3  
New Board Announced-pg. 4  
Photo of the Month-pg. 4  
Audubon-at-Home-pg. 4  
Children's Bird Day-pg. 4  
Calendar of Events-pgs. 5-6  
Chapter Information-pg. 7

## Conservation Corner *by Dave Weeshoff*

Soon after retiring in late 2004 I started volunteering at International Bird Rescue, and then, within the next 12 months, with Heal the Bay's Speakers Bureau and San Fernando Valley Audubon's Classroom Education Program. What binds these three organizations together is a love of avian wildlife and the desire to preserve and improve their habitat. Each contributes in their own way, according to their primary mission. The synergy provided by the intersection of their missions and programs energizes and adds relevance to what I do in education, outreach and conservation for all three.

### **The Problem:**

What is now evident to these three organizations, and indeed for many conservation organizations, is that now that California has banned the single-use plastic bag (Thank You!), we need to step up to the next anthropogenic threat to wildlife—polystyrene foam, what we commonly call Styrofoam. It is everywhere—wherever we do a beach or watershed cleanup, including our precious Haskell Creek and Wildlife Lake, we find huge amounts of this persistent plastic pollutant, in particle sizes large and small. Not surprising, given that Americans discard 2.5 billion foam cups every year and rarely recycle their used polystyrene foam takeout containers. Our local waters should be teeming with wildlife, not trash. We need to stop the flow of polystyrene foam trash into the ocean.

### **The Solution:**

A good start would be to follow Heal-the-Bay's advice: "Rethink The Drink." They say, "Beverage-related items form the bulk of trash collected at our cleanups—plastic water bottles, straws, bottle caps, and bits of Styrofoam cups. To stem the deluge, we're launching a community campaign encouraging people to go reusable, while our policy staff pursues regulations that hold dischargers responsible for drink-related waste." "It's estimated that plastic will outweigh fish in the ocean by the [year 2050](#). We simply must end our addiction to single-use plastics if we want to reverse this frightening trend."

### **How You Can Help:**

Skip the straw. Pass on the plastic bottle. Forget the foam. See their website [www.HealtheBay.org](http://www.HealtheBay.org). Call me at (818) 618-1652 or email me at [Dave.Weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org](mailto:Dave.Weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org) for more information. I'm watching individual cities and the California legislature for the introduction of bills to address this issue legally, but we can do much as individuals.