



Phainopepla

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

Vol. 68 No. 6

December 2017 / January 2018

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. See Calendar of Events, pages 3–4, for directions.

SAVE THE DATE!

SFVAS Annual Awards Luncheon at Franklin Canyon Park, Saturday, March 3, 2018.

Join us for delicious food in the lovely park while we honor and recognize members of our birding and educational community. Ticket prices and specifics will be posted on our website and in the next *Phainopepla*. Any questions contact paulaorlovich@yahoo.com.

Monthly Program

3rd ANNUAL BIRDS & BEER CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WRAP-UP

Saturday, December 16, 2017, 4:00 to about 7:00 p.m.

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



Please join us—counters, non-counters, members, visitors, family, all ages—for an informal gathering to swap Bird Count data and celebrate the holiday season. We will provide pizza, soft drinks, and beer at 5:00 pm (\$5 donation appreciated). Please RSVP to Pat.Bates@sfvaudubon.org or (818) 425-0962 so we can have plenty of pizza for you!

See Calendar for driving directions. If you have photos from the count to share, please bring them on a flash drive. 🐦

Thursday, January 25, 2018

6:45–9:00 p.m.

Movie Night!

The Big Year



Even if you have already seen this humorous film highlighting the crazy commitment of the featured birders, won't it be fun to see it with a whole audience of birders? Starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, and Jack Black. Will we see ourselves in the committed, competitive birders they portray? Audience comments should fly!

Movie-style treats will be provided. As this is a feature-length film, we will be starting a bit earlier than usual. As always, there will be door prizes. Come and share laughs with our birding community! 🐦



2017 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 16, 2017

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 118th Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

The initial San Fernando Valley CBC was held in 1957 making this our 60th consecutive 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 developed area.

Last year we counted 121 species and 13,141 individuals, somewhat less than our average since 2000, 128 species and 15,935 individuals, continuing a downward trend.

Thoughts are that the longterm drought or perhaps more urbanization is the cause; however it is just as likely we do not have enough counters in the field on count day. Often we have 60 counters, but last year, only 51.

To get a more comprehensive indication of the health of the 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, 2018.

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

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@sfaudubon.org.

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@sfaudubon.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, (818) 887-0973.

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, tdrake@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. Leaders: David and Kathy Barton, kebarton@pacbell.net

Calendar of Events

December

Saturday, December 2. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. 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, December 3. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, December 9. Nature Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come out for a fun bird walk at the Sepulveda Basin! These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, have resumed. 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 two for more information, or visit our website, www.sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, December 9. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, December 10. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Directions: From the I-5/Golden State Fwy. N: Take Exit 146A toward Olive Ave., merge onto E. Angeleno Ave. and turn left onto S. 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.

No Monthly Field Trip in December—Join us for the Christmas Bird Count!



Saturday, December 16. Christmas Bird Count. Come out and count birds for the 118th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count (*the SFVAS's 60th count!*) All are welcome. See page two 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.

Saturday, December 16. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, December 17. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Tuesday, December 19. 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, December 23. 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@sfvaudubon.org.

NO Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Please join us for the the Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, December 16.

NO SFVAS General Membership Meeting in December

January

Saturday, January 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. 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, January 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@sfvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, January 13. Nature Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Come out for a fun bird walk at the 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 see page two for more information, or visit our website, www.sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 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, January 14. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. For more information and directions see December 10. Extra binoculars are available. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Tuesday, January 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 20. 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 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 front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, January 21. 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.

Monday, January 22. 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.

Thursday, January 25. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 6:45–9:00 p.m. MOVIE NITE! *The Big Year*, starring Steve Martin, Owen Wilson, and Jack Black. For more information, see Monthly Programs, page one. **Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525. Directions:** Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. ALL are welcome!

Saturday, January 27. 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 27. 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 Canon Drive. (This means crossing Mulholland) Road signs read "Road Closed 800 Feet" "Sunset to Sunrise"; this is the park entrance. Meet in the parking lot on the left. Allow some extra time, as Coldwater Canyon can be a slow road. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.

Future Field Trips (details later):
February 17. Ventura County Game Preserve
March 17-18. Morro Bay Weekend

Brown Pelicans by Kathy Barton, BirdFest 2017



Santa Clarita Christmas Bird Count

This year the Santa Clarita CBC will be held on December 30. People are assigned to teams of 2-4 people as we spread across the valley. Each team starts on their own time/location. We will be meeting at 1:30 p.m. at El Pato Mexican restaurant at 22950 Lyons Ave., Newhall, for a mid-day wrap up and determine if and where to focus afternoon efforts. If interested, people should contact me directly at this email address and I will work with them to see what territory works best for them to bird. Brian Bielfelt, speedyperegrine@yahoo.com

Phainopepla Photo of the Month by David Barton

Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Setophaga caeruleascens*)

David Barton
Sherman Oaks

This month's Photo of the Month is proof of the dividends paid by attending to your own backyard! David Barton, a chapter member and Director, writes, "This Black-throated Blue Warbler, a rare fall migrant on the West Coast, dropped into our backyard bird bath at about 4:30 p.m. on Nov. 2, 2017. I did not have my camera with me at the time (which was probably a good thing, because I might have dropped it in shock). The bird continued in our backyard for several days, and I eventually succeeded in capturing this image with my Canon 7D Mark II, equipped with a Canon EF 400mm f/4 DO IS II USM. I shot at 1/800 of a second and an ISO of 4000. The image was captured in RAW and later converted to JPG. It's not every day that we add a new North American wood warbler to our yard list!"



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. 🐦

Olympic BirdFest 2018

Come Bird With Us
Sequim, Washington
April 13-15, 2018

Grab your binoculars and join the 15th annual Olympic BirdFest 2018 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, April 13-15, 2018.

The stage is set...quiet bays and estuaries, sandy beaches, a five-mile-long sand spit, and a protected island bird sanctuary on the Strait of Juan de Fuca; wetlands, tide pools, rainforests, and lush river valleys. The players are ready...Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, Black Oystercatchers, Peregrine Falcons, Barred and Pygmy Owls will be sporting their finest spring plumage for this celebration. Enjoy guided birding trips, boat tour, and a gala banquet. Our featured speaker this year, Claudio Vidal has been exploring & birding since the age of 12 and currently leads birding/nature

tours & photo safaris through Patagonia, Chile & South America.

Come bird with us and experience with others the spectacular landscapes of the Olympic Peninsula...you just might go home with a new bird for your life list! Check out the offerings by going online (www.olympicbirdfest.org).

Precede your BirdFest weekend with a three-day, two night birding cruise of the spectacular San Juan Islands on April 10-12, 2018. Visit San Juan and Sucia Islands, and more. Stay at the historic Roche Harbor Resort. Extend your Birdfest weekend with the Neah Bay post-trip, April 16-17, 2018: two and one-half days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders. Contact us by phone, at (360) 681-4076, E-mail us at info@olympicbirdfest.org. 🐦

Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

Concerned about visiting birds, a reader inquires how to rid herself of feral cats coming uninvited in her backyard. This is a difficult problem. First, determine if they are really feral and not a neighbor's pet cat. A flyer in mailboxes and/or a posting on the Nextdoor website can be helpful in this. If it is feral and there are many ferals in the neighborhood, animal control can be contacted for trapping. If there are just one or two, you could try to trap and bring to animal control, but be very cautious with the captured animal. A territorial dog in the backyard works well and motion sensor sprinklers might work. Guaranteed to work would be an invitation to a coyote to hang out in the neighborhood...LOL. Living near Pierce College, coyotes nesting there eliminated the feral cats in my neighborhood.

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. 🐦

September and October Field Trip Reports by Richard Barth

On September 16 we birded Orange County's Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. HCP yielded Red-shouldered Hawk, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, House Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Wilson's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Western Bluebird and Song Sparrow. An ephemeral lake in the center of the park attracted Belted Kingfisher and Green Heron, while Red-winged Blackbirds unexpectedly roamed the property. We had quick looks at what appeared to be a Tennessee Warbler that had been reported recently in the park. Of interest were the numerous flocks of exotic finches featuring Scaly-breasted Munia, Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Bronze Mannikin and Pin-tailed Whydah. A female Lazuli Bunting briefly joined one of the flocks. Our Bolsa Chica visit was also very productive, with Reddish Egret being the star species on hand. We had thirteen species of shorebirds including Ruddy Turnstone, Snowy Plover, Whimbrel and Long-billed Curlew. Well seen were Caspian, Royal, Elegant and Forster's Tern (Common Tern was missed but some of the tern flocks were too far away to be effectively studied). State endangered "Belding's" Savannah Sparrow was tallied, but we couldn't find Ridgway's Rail.

October 21 marked our trip to El Dorado Park in Long Beach. No SFVAS members attended but ten birders from Long Beach joined me. We found an immature female Vermilion Flycatcher in Area III and a male Hairy Woodpecker in the Nature Center---probably the highlight sightings of the day. A Northern Flicker in Area II showed yellowish wing and tail feathers in flight but could not be confirmed as a pure "Yellow-shafted" with no clear look at the head markings. Our warblers were Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, Orange-crowned and Townsend's. Sparrows on hand were Chipping, Lincoln's, Song, White-crowned and "Oregon" Junco. We heard Red-shouldered Hawk, Hutton's Vireo and Hermit Thrush. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is always a treat in this park. Other species of interest for the day were Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Green Heron, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, "Red-shafted" Flicker, Western Bluebird, Say's Phoebe and Cassin's Kingbird. We missed a Tropical Kingbird that had been reported recently. 🐦

Conservation Corner by Dave Weeshoff

Hints for Helping Hands

In this era of multiple existential threats to avian populations, their habitats, food sources and safety, sometimes it feels really good to do some little things that collectively will make a big difference. I found a very interesting article in an old WildBirds Magazine, January/February 2011, which lists 25 things each of us can do to improve the plight of birds, worldwide and locally.

The full description of each hint can be found at: <https://www.petcha.com/25-conservation-tips-to-benefit-birds/> or Dave will email a scanned copy of the original article to you upon request (see his contact info below). If you have other ideas (e.g., tree trimming) I'll pass them on in a future commentary.

I have made brief annotations, after the colons, where it might be helpful.

1. Drink bird-friendly coffee: shade-coffee plantations
2. Buy better bananas for the birds: certified and shade-grown
3. Use sustainable lumber: certified as sustainable
4. Talk about bird-friendly cell-phone towers: work with local city planners - call Dave
5. Shed light on nocturnal collisions: SFVAS is looking for volunteers to help
6. Consider climate change: see www.Audubon.org for much information
7. Choose safer seafood: see www.abcbirds.org about seafood bycatch
8. Discuss alternative energy: SFVAS is looking for volunteers to help
9. Talk about birds at plant nurseries: SFVAS Alan Pollack can help - see his listing
10. Buy a hunting license: their sales support wildlife management
11. Encouraging keeping cats indoors: my cats will live longer, healthier and happier indoors
12. Get the lead out: learn about the issue: chat with your hunter friends about lead-free ammo
13. Follow pesticide instructions: <http://audubonmagazine.org/backyard/backyard0005.html>
14. Purchase a US FWS Duck Stamp: 98% of the \$15 goes to wetlands and grassland conservation
15. Chat with the pest-control staff: about pesticides, if you have a service
16. Thank corporations that promote bird conservation: let Dave know - he'll write nice letters
17. Create safer windows: apply film over windows, decals, etc.
18. Clean your feeders often: and pick up seed waste, to protect bird health
19. Learn more about birds: call Dave for many books and publications; also bird walks, field trips
20. Prepare the proper menu at feeders: chat with your local, knowledgeable bird food provider
21. Ensure safe feeding stations: near brush or trees; very close or very far from windows
22. Participate in citizen science: Christmas Bird Count; Climate Watch; and others - call Dave
23. Volunteer: what can I say? SFVAS and many other non-profits need all kinds of help
24. Donate used optics, field guides and other materials: SFVAS will help you - call Dave
25. Share your passion for birds: never miss a chance to spread your enthusiasm! It's infectious.

SFVAS would like to help direct and publicize your efforts, call Dave Weeshoff at (818) 618-1652 or e-mail dave.Weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org. 🐦

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:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Corresponding Secretary:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516

DIRECTORS

Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
David Barton	(818) 981-1418
Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692
Felipe Lepe	(818) 536-2060
Barbara Heidemann	unpublished
Velda Ruddock	unpublished

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Bird Observatory:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Conservation:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	Pat Avery	(626) 840-8226
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Birdathon:	Pat Avery	(626) 840-8226
Christmas Bird Count:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
Conservation Banquet:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
	Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Hansen Dam Rep:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Hansen Dam Walks:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Hospitality:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Malibu Creek Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
	Art Langton	(818) 887-0973
Membership:	Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Photo of the Month:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Programs:	Joanne Millius	
Recycled Water Advisory Grp:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(805) 727-5007
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Social Media:	Jackie Wollner	(818) 989-4543
SSFL Public Participation Grp	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Young Birders Group:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405

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

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

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If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Becky Arntzen at (818) 761-6692 or e-mail her at Becky.Amntzen@sfvaudubon.org.

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

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Bird Fest 2017 Photo Recap. The estimate again was around 1200 visitors and the weather was very kind. Thank you to all who came and helped make it a success! All Photos by Kerry Perkins, except where noted. For more pictures go to <http://www.kerryperkinsphotography.com/p63672516>



California Condor by Kathy Barton



Photo by Pat Bates

