



# Phainopepla

**CORRECTION: DATE OF CBC ON PAPER COPY  
(IN CALENDAR OF EVENTS) WAS INCORRECT.  
CBC IS DECEMBER 22.**

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**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society  
*For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife*

Vol. 69 N

December 2018 / January 2019

## 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 Awards Luncheon

Franklin Canyon Park  
Saturday, March 2, 2019

Join us as we honor members of our birding community. Ticket prices and details will be posted on our Website and in the next *Phainopepla*. Any questions contact:  
[paulaorlovich@yahoo.com](mailto:paulaorlovich@yahoo.com)

## Monthly Programs



## BIRDS & BEER

### Christmas Bird Count Wrap-up

Members and guests are welcome—counters and non-counters alike—no owlets were injured making this flyer!

**Saturday, December 22, 2018, 4:30 to about 8:00 p.m.**

**Where: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana**

**Phone: (818) 697-5525** (see directions on Website)

A really informal gathering to swap Christmas Bird Count data, celebrate the holiday season and the coming start of 2019! The hour is early so all ages are welcome (but no beer for the kiddies). We plan on providing pizza and salad (around 5pm), beer (not green) (\$5 donation appreciated), soft drinks, paper plates and plastic utensils. Also will provide projector for anyone wanting to show off photos—bring them on a flash drive.

**Please RSVP online at <https://tinyurl.com/yaj5a852> or by email to [pat@batesbird.com](mailto:pat@batesbird.com) (so we know how much stuff to get)**

## General Membership Meeting

**Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

**Where: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana**

**Topic: The Intersection of Technology and Interesting Birds of the World**

**Speaker: Dave Weeshoff**

Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, will present a visual summary of the numerous technologies, historical and current, employed by ornithologists, paleontologists and climate scientists to study the history, behavior and destiny of wild birds throughout the world. Examples include satellite tracking, genomic DNA studies, ultra high-speed photography, and sophisticated real-time data analysis.

Dave Weeshoff, is a frequent public and classroom speaker regarding environmental issues including wild bird protections, climate change, ocean plastic pollution, urban runoff and oil spills on behalf of Audubon, Heal the Bay, 5-Gyres, the Climate Reality Project, and International Bird Rescue.

He has traveled extensively to such destinations as the high Arctic, Antarctic, Galapagos, Midway Atoll, Alaska, and New Zealand to further his knowledge and record in photos the state of our oceans, wildlife, and their habitats.



## 2018 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

### Saturday, December 22, 2018

### *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 119th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

The initial San Fernando Valley CBC was held in 1957 making this our 61st successive CBC. Over the years there have been some interesting changes in bird populations in the count circle as the valley has transitioned into a more developed area.

Last year we counted 136 species and 15,198 individuals, about average since 2000. The average is 128 species and 15,935 individuals.

To get a more comprehensive indication of the health of bird population in the valley, we need more counters. Extensive birding experience is not a prerequisite, only a willingness to come out and count—wind, rain, or shine. Those unable to join one of the count groups may assist by noting species and numbers of birds at backyard feeders, local parks, and neighborhoods, provided such counts take place within a 7.5 mile radius circle from the count center at the intersection of Balboa and Nordhoff. Please report all such counts along with the time spent observing to Jim Moore by e-mail, [jimmoore@socal.rr.com](mailto:jimmoore@socal.rr.com) no later than January 8, 2019.

Count participation is **FREE** and open to all. Traditional count sectors with experienced leaders are listed below. Contact Jim Moore, if you wish to participate in any of these sector counts.

#### **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](mailto:jhmedvitz@yahoo.com) or (818) 667-6658.

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

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

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

Meet in the parking lot off Victory Blvd, at the east end of Reseda Park. Leader: Pat Bates, [Batesbird@gmail.com](mailto:Batesbird@gmail.com)

#### **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](mailto:wrentit@att.net)

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

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

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

Meet at McDonalds on the corner of Roscoe and Topanga. Leader: David and Kathy Barton, [kebarton@pacbell.net](mailto:kebarton@pacbell.net)

# Calendar of Events

## December

**Saturday, December 1. 8:00 a.m. Glendale Community Services and Parks Bird Walk—Glendale Narrows Riverwalk.** Every year, the City of Glendale's Trails and Open Space program hosts a bird walk at Glendale Narrows Riverwalk Park, along the L.A. River. It is a short walk, only two-thirds of a mile, and very good for beginners. The river's Glendale Narrows area is one of just 3 stretches of the river that is not completely encased in concrete. The natural bottom and massive willow trees attract an array of birds. Black-necked Stilts number in the hundreds. Many species of ducks, herons, and sandpipers are common there, as are warblers, blackbirds, and Scaly-breasted Munias. These make for very good photos, so bring cameras.

Because this is a City of Glendale event, **attendees are required to RSVP at (818) 548-3795.** The walk is limited to 50 participants, so reserve a spot now, but only if you are actually going to attend. Please don't take up a spot that could be used by someone else. Extra binoculars are available, but limited. Meet at the Glendale Narrows Riverwalk, 300 Paula Ave. 91201 at 8:00 a.m. If you need directions, e-mail alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com (include a start location so that accurate directions can be given). The leader is Alexander deBarros, who has led the walk for the last two years, and also leads the SFVAS Young Birders walk.

**Sunday, December 2. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00—11:00 a.m.** Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org) or (805) 727-5007.

**Saturday, December 8. Nature Walk. 9:00—11:00 a.m.** Join us on San Fernando Valley Audubon's renowned birds-and-nature walks for families and beginners. Stroll through the lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve with a guide, enjoying its trails and wildlife lake. Many kinds of birds are found here, along with lizards, cottontail rabbits, butterflies, fish and more. Learn about the plants and birds and see them up close. Learn why this is a special place. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. A cap or hat with a brim is suggested. Binoculars are available for loan. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank or south from Victory Blvd., go ½ mile and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at amphitheater. GPS coordinates to parking: 34.179942,-118.472595. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Diana Keeney, (818) 998-3216. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Heavy rain cancels. Please see page eight for more information, or visit our website, [www.sfaudubon.org](http://www.sfaudubon.org).

**Saturday, December 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, December 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 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.

**No Monthly Field Trip in December—Join us for the Christmas Bird Count! See page two for locations and meeting times.**

**Saturday, December 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, December 16. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Due to the fires, please see the online calendar to confirm if walk has resumed.** 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 18. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m.** Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or [carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org).

**Saturday, December 22. Christmas Bird Count / Birds and Beer.**

**CORRECTION: DATE ON PAPER COPY WAS INCORRECT.**



Come out and count birds for the 119th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. All are welcome. No experience necessary—just a willingness to count rain or shine. 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 22. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00—10:00 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@sfaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfaudubon.org).

**NO SFVAS General Membership Meeting in December.**

*Happy Holidays!*

**NO Young Birders Group Bird Walk in December—Join us for the Christmas Bird Count on December 22.**

**Saturday, December 29. Santa Clarita Christmas Bird Count.** People are assigned to teams of 2—4 people as we spread across the valley. Each team starts on/at their own time/location. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. at El Pato Mexican Restaurant, 22950 Lyons Ave., Newhall, for a mid-day wrap-up and to determine if and where to focus afternoon efforts. Contact Brian Biefelt at [speedyperegrine@yahoo.com](mailto:speedyperegrine@yahoo.com) to figure out what territory works best for you to bird.

## January

### Sunday, January 6. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m.

Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org) or (805) 727-5007.

**Saturday, January 12. Nature Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m.** Join us on San Fernando Valley Audubon's renowned birds-and-nature walks for families and beginners. Stroll through the lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve with a guide, enjoying its trails and wildlife lake. Many kinds of birds are found here, along with lizards, cottontail rabbits, butterflies, fish and more. Learn about the plants and birds and see them up close. Learn why this is a special place. Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. A cap or hat with a brim is suggested. Binoculars are available for loan. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank or south from Victory Blvd., go ½ mile and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at amphitheater. GPS coordinates to parking: 34.179942,-118.472595. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Diana Keeney, (818) 998-3216. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Heavy rain cancels. Please see page eight for more information, or visit our website, [www.sfaudubon.org](http://www.sfaudubon.org).

### Saturday, January 12. Placerita Canyon 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. Leader: Roger McClure. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

**Sunday, January 13. 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.

### Tuesday, January 15 Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00–11:00 a.m.

Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or [carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org).

### Saturday, January 19. 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 19. 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 20. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.

**Due to the fires, please see the online calendar to confirm if walk has resumed.** 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 21. 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 24. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

**Topic: The Intersection of Technology and Interesting Birds of the World. Speaker: Dave Weeshoff.** 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 26. SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 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@sfaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfaudubon.org).

### Saturday, January 26. 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](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

Future Field Trips (details later):

February 16. Ventura County Game Preserve

March 16-17. Morro Bay Weekend

## Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

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

## This Year's Programing has Taken Flight! *by Paula Orlovich*

We are happy to report that the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP) at Wildlife Lake is off to another wonderful year. Our program services at least 2,000 4th through 6th-grade students in Los Angeles Unified Schools. This year Kelly Kazmirchuk, Education Coordinator at the Resource Conservation District has been very



involved in revising our school visits so that they meet the Next Generation Science Standards that the state of California adopted. The students are engaged in DOING science. On site students observe wildlife and are thinking about what they encounter. The students are being asked to make claims, provide evidence and explain their reasoning. We want the students to wonder, notice and think about what their observations remind them of. Our intent is to provide an opportunity to connect with nature and through their appreciation of it build a feeling of stewardship for our very few and fragile wildlife refuges. Thank you to all our committed environmental educators who bring so much to our students in Los Angeles. 🐦

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## Report on September and October Monthly Field Trips *by Richard Barth*

On September 15 we visited Orange County's Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. I was joined by birders from Pasadena, Orange County and Long Beach along with two participants from SFVAS. The warbler action at Huntington Central was very slow....only Wilson's, Yellow, Orange-crowned and Common Yellowthroat being found. Our flycatchers were Pacific-slope, Ash-throated, Black Phoebe and Western Wood-Pewee. Green-winged Teal, White-faced Ibis, Pied-billed Grebe, Egyptian Goose, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Killdeer and five species of herons were in the wetlands and pond area. Among the other species noted at the park were Western Tanager, Scaly-breasted Munia, Western Bluebird (abundant), American Robin, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers and Song Sparrow. Bolsa Chica produced two highlight target birds: Reddish Egret and Ridgway's Rail. Shorebirds present were Red Knot (uncommon and often missed), Willet, Ruddy Turnstone, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Black-bellied Plover and Short-billed Dowitcher. We saw Brown Pelican, Forster's Tern, Osprey, Ruddy Duck, Savannah Sparrow (the common nevadensis only), Snowy Egret, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron and the usual gulls.

October 20 marked our trip to El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Beautiful weather and terrific habitat throughout, but the number of birds on hand was down. The woodpeckers present: Nuttall's, Downy, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. Our raptors were Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered. Warblers seen were Common Yellowthroat, Townsend's, Orange-crowned, Yellow and Yellow-rumped; plus one of our participants later sent me photos of a bird taken when he had wandered away from the group....it was a Nashville Warbler. Our day list also included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, American Pipit, Western Meadowlark, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Scaly-breasted Munia, Red-winged Blackbird, Song Sparrow, Great Egret, Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe, Spotted Sandpiper and American White Pelican. Believe it or not, we saw only two duck species---Ruddy and Mallard. We tallied Cassin's Kingbird but missed Tropical Kingbird this year. 🐦

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## Nominating Committee *by Muriel Kotin*

The Nominating Committee (Diana Keeney, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Muriel Kotin) is looking for volunteers who are interested in participating on our board of directors or committees for the coming SFVAS year, July 1, 2019—June 30, 2020. Most board members start their service as chairs of a committee or as elected board members at large. Serving on a committee can also be a great way to become more involved with and contribute to SFVAS.

***Newcomers to the board are important!*** We are volunteers, so you don't have to have prior experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge and expertise while helping SFVAS work to fulfill our mission: to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory, to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of bird life and the natural environment, and to create a social environment that encourages individual development and participation. Please contact any committee member if you are interested in serving in any capacity. Please phone me at: (310) 457-5796 or e-mail at [akotin@earthlink.net](mailto:akotin@earthlink.net). 🐦

## Conservation Corner

### Even More Hope for Climate Change

In early November I attended the bi-Annual Audubon California Assembly, held in Long Beach. It was three informative days of briefings, speeches, tours and networking with leaders of the various California chapters and National Audubon representatives. It was a great investment of time, effort (and gas money).

For me, as Conservation Chair, two presentations stand out as most interesting regarding the convergence of three of my favorite topics – Climate Change, Technology, and Birds.

#### Presentation One - Bird Genoscape Project

We know from the National Audubon's 2014 Report – "314 Bird Species on the Brink" that Climate Change is an existential threat to many bird species, and that birds will change their territories as a result of temperature and precipitation variables, among other factors. But while the report was very persuasive, more detail would be needed regarding current ranges, migration routes, species adaptability and vulnerabilities.

Every fall, countless songbirds migrate from their breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. The animals head south to spend the winter in Mexico and Central America. But exactly where many of them go, and how they get there, has been something of a mystery. Now, a team has shown that analyzing DNA in feathers, along with the information of where the feathers were obtained, can provide new details about bird migrations and ranges.

Researchers have also shown that the ratio of various isotopes in feathers can provide a rough guide to where a bird has been feeding, because the feather ratios mirror those of food sources. Analysis of bird genes has also offered clues, for example confirming that some birds have geographically distinct breeding populations.

Genomic analysis techniques, using feather samples, will allow conservationists to identify species and subspecies most adaptable (and least vulnerable) to the effects of climate change throughout their summer, migration, and winter ranges and determine the best conservation strategies to save the maximum number of birds as their habitats change.

#### Presentation Two - IdentiFlight

Audubon and other conservation organizations are convinced of the importance of renewable energy

solutions to addressing climate change, but also acknowledge the dangers of birds flying into the whirling blades of wind turbines. The first and foremost solution is careful placement of turbines to avoid bird migration routes, especially those of raptors.

But beyond that is a newly developed system to detect larger birds flying toward the blades. The IdentiFlight system employs image-sensor arrays for bird detection, high-magnification stereoscopic sensors for position, trajectory, and species identification, and artificial intelligence for real-time image processing.

IdentiFlight software processes the images to determine 3D position, velocity, trajectory, and species of interest in less than five seconds. By detecting a bird as far as one kilometer away and classifying it as an eagle (or not) in real time, the system allows wind farm operators visual and quantitative data needed to avoid eagle collisions, including stopping the turbines before the bird gets near, when necessary.

Each of these emerging solutions give me hope that science and technology can mitigate some of the impacts of Global Climate Change on birds, but still, we must reduce our reliance on fossil fuels to slow and eventually stop the dramatic increase of greenhouse gasses in the earth's atmosphere if we truly care about all life on our planet.

For more information about the technologies above see : <https://www.birdgenoscape.org/> and <https://www.identiflight.com/>

Dave Weeshoff – Conservation Chair  
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PHOTO BY MIKE PETERS

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

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

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, 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).

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# Phainopepla

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

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### Photo of the Month

#### American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

#### Noelle Jorge

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve  
Nikon D500 with 200-500mm F5.6 lens

We are excited to feature a photo this month by Noelle Jorge, whose work we have been following online for some time. Check out Birding California on Facebook, and her site, Noelle Jorge Photography for more of her work. She writes "I've been an avid photographer of birds ever since I got a DSLR camera. I think it's fun to discover the many facets of these winged beauties through the images I create. I've been sharing these images through Facebook, 500px, Flickr. When I'm at the field photographing birds, I'm always excited to see our feathered friends and to know more about them."

Do you have an interesting photo of a bird taken in/near the San Fernando Valley? Please submit your photos to [Kathy.Barton@sfaudubon.org](mailto:Kathy.Barton@sfaudubon.org). Or you can post to our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/sfaudubon](http://www.facebook.com/sfaudubon). Please include location, date, camera and lens info, a short

account of how the photo was taken, and a profile of the photographer.

**BIRDFEST** We were saddened that the BirdFest was one of the first casualties of the terrible Woolsey Fire. Gillette Ranch miraculously survived but Malibu Creek State Park on the other side of the road is burned up. In view of the scale of the damage to National Park property, and the logistics of rescheduling we will be unable to hold BirdFest 2018. Our apologies to those who were planning on participating. Our thoughts and deep sympathy go to all who were effected by this event, especially our members who were evacuated. We also want to recognize our wonderful fire service who so valiantly fought, and are still fighting the blaze. —  
*Rose Leibowitz*