



# Phainopepla

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

Vol. 70 No. 2

April / May 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.

## BIRDATHON IS ON!

Time to count birds and raise money to support our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP)

See Calendar of Events for dates and locations of BIRDATHON EVENTS.

DONATE online at <http://sfvaudubon.org/annual-birdathon-2019/>  
It's FAST, SECURE, & EASY!

## Monthly Programs

### General Membership Meetings

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

Thursday, April 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Chris Gardner**

**Topic: Tejon Ranch**

Chris Gardner from the Tejon Ranch Conservancy will be the presenter at the April 25 meeting. He has been an active docent at the Conservancy since 2013 and brings both an intellectual as well as an adventurous spirit to his work on the ranch. He is as comfortable talking about the intriguing history of the ranch as he is leading birding and driving tours on some of the Ranch's loneliest backroads.

Chris knows the plants and animals so well he frequently contributes to the Conservancy's newsletter. He is also an avid photographer, adept at capturing everything from burrowing owls to black bears. Chris lives in Pine Mountain Club with his wife Linda.



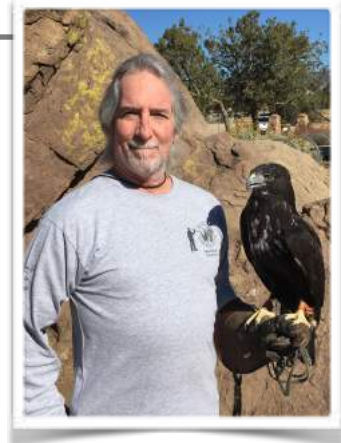
Thursday, May 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

**Speaker: Frank Hoffman**

**Topic: Falconry Today**

Frank Hoffman is a full-time employee of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and is the Recreation Services Supervisor working at the Placerita Canyon Natural Area in Newhall. In addition, Frank is also the current Treasurer and Field Meet Registration Co-Chair (formally the Membership Co-Chair too) for the *California Hawking Club*, the only state recognized Falconry Club in California. He has been practicing the Art of Falconry for most of his adult life and is a Master Falconer, maintaining a beautiful Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk that was wild trapped in the Antelope Valley 13 years ago, though she's not flying right now due to the annual molt that birds go through every year. He is also a California State Licensed Hunter, a requirement of all Falconers.

His presentation will feature some history of Falconry, modern falconry as it's practiced today, conservation efforts by falconers, the different birds employed by falconers, equipment used "furniture" in the practice, and common issues and problems that modern falconers face today.



## Birdathon 2019 - Starting in April! *by Becky Arntzen*

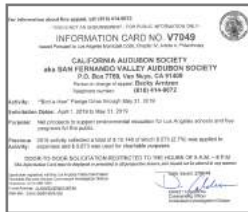
Please be a part of our annual SFVAS Birdathon fundraiser. April and May events are scheduled for Birdathon leaders to improve on last year's count and to compete to see who spots the most species. We all win when SFVAS has the funding to support its mission. Everyone can participate by pledging sponsorship to one or more of the team leaders listed on our website or on the enclosed Pledge/Contribution envelope. You can contribute in one of three ways: pledging per species seen by a team; a donation to a specific team; or by contributing to the overall Birdathon.

Why not join one of our Birdathon events? Your participation will help build that team's species count. And it's fun! Look for event details in the calendar. The following teams welcome your participation:

- **Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin, April 7 (Paula Orlovich and Art Langton)**
- **Antelope Valley/High Desert Big Day, April 17 (Jim Moore)**
- **Morongo Valley, April 20 (Richard Barth)**
- **Malibu Creek State Park, April 21 (Kathy Barton and David Barton)**
- **Hansen Dam, April 27 (Pat Bates)**
- **Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day, April 29 (Mark Osokow)**
- **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, May 5 (Kris Ohlenkamp)**
- **O'Melveny Park, May 21 (Carolyn Oppenheimer)**

You may also donate to the **Allan & Muriel Kotin LA & Orange Counties**

**Marathon.** Funds raised through the Birdathon enable SFVAS to host thousands of school children in the Sepulveda Dam Environmental Education Program (SBEEP), support the San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory, contribute to habitat conservation efforts, and continue the SFVAS mission to increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment. Donate online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) or by sending in the enclosed envelope. Please contribute as generously as you can. *Thank you for your support!*



**Chatsworth Nature Preserve**  
**Earth Day Open House**  
 Saturday, April 6, 2019 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day at the only nature preserve in the City of Los Angeles!

**Event Highlights:**

- Opening Ceremony, Native American Blessing
- Guided Nature Hikes
- Live Animal Exhibits
- Environmental & Community Resource Fair

**Location & Parking:**  
 Entry gate on Valley Circle Blvd, west of Plummer St. Street parking available with limited on-site parking. Map available at [bit.ly/2nzh1y7](http://bit.ly/2nzh1y7)

**Please Note:**  
 No bikes allowed on hiking path. No pets please. Hats, refillable water bottles, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes are encouraged.

Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-1076. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).

## SFVAS RUSTIC AWARDS LUNCHEON, MARCH 2, 2019 *By Marianne Davis, Publicity Chairperson; Photos by R. LeVine*



Larry W. Allen, Conservation Awardee

The weather was damp, but that didn't curtail anyone's attendance to this year's spectacular luncheon. We were 68 strong, and everyone managed to get safely up the hill to the Sooky Goldman Nature Center in Franklin Canyon! We were entertained by Pat Bates' photo show during social hour, which also gave everyone a chance to take in the beautiful Raffle Baskets provided by Carolyn Oppenheimer and Silent Auction items which were the native plant centerpieces as well as a special basket donated by Carolyn, Scott Logan, and Becky Arntzen. The Barton's contribution of wine provided a lovely option for the attendees. Paula Orlovich welcomed the guests, and we enjoyed the delicious lunch catered by Harvest Moon, while Steve McCroskey provided his musical talent to the event. Muriel Kotin gave the impressive list of conservation accomplishments for the last year.

Our Conservation Award winner was the brilliant Larry W. Allen, one of the principal authors of LA County Breeding Birds Atlas, a tome 20 years in the making and a touchstone for anyone working in local conservation. The SFVAS Chapter Service Award was given to Dave Weeshoff for his years of hard work on bird rescue and many other arenas that impact birds, plus years of energetic leadership in the Chapter. As usual, Dave proved to be an inspiring speaker ending with one of his famous puns. The awardees



Larry W. Allen, Councilman Blumenthal, & Dave Weeshoff



Paula Orlovich, SFVAS President

were also honored by State Senator Henry Stern, and Bob Hertzberg's office, with gorgeous certificates. Councilman Blumenthal also appeared to personally congratulate our awardees and spoke of his continuing support for conservation.

Everything came together because of the hard work of our dedicated Banquet Committee with Becky as the Chairperson.



Muriel Kotin

Becky Arntzen, Event Chair & Dave Weeshoff, Service Awardee



Carolyn Oppenheimer





# Calendar of Events

## APRIL

**Saturday, April 6. Chatsworth Nature Preserve EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE! 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.** Highlights include: Guided Nature Hikes, Community Booths, and Live Animal Exhibits. Directions: Head west on Plummer Street from Topanga Canyon Blvd. Parking is available along the shoulder of Valley Circle Blvd. Bring hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes. See page 2 for more info.

**Sunday, April 7. A BIRDATHON EVENT. The "BIG SIT." 8:30–10:30 a.m. Probable Species: 30.** We will bird at the amphitheater before heading down to the first lookout benches by the lake. Bring a chair or cushion, hat, binoculars and snack. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant/Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leaders: Paula Orlovich and Art Langton. For information call (818) 481-5605.

**Sunday, April 7. 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, April 13. Clean-Up of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. 8:30–Noon. JOIN US!** Volunteers needed for our annual clean-up of Haskell Creek and the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. The Wildlife Area is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way toward the archery range for about a half mile to the last parking area. Meet at the amphitheater. Questions? (310) 457-5796 (Muriel) or (818) 998-3216 (Diana). See page six for more information on clothing and supplies.

**Saturday, April 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, April 14. 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.

**Tuesday, April 16. 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).

**Wednesday, April 17. A BIRDATHON EVENT: High Desert Big Day: Lancaster Sewage Treatment Plant, Piute Ponds, Galileo Hills, and**

**Apollo Park. Probable Species: 120.** Meet at 5:30 a.m. at the McDonalds on Crown Valley Road in Acton, or 6:00 a.m. at the park-n-ride lot on the east side of Avenue S in Palmdale. This is a full day event, usually ending after dark. Leader: Jim Moore. Please advise Jim by e-mail, [moorebirder@gmail.com](mailto:moorebirder@gmail.com) if you plan to join him.

**Saturday, April 20. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Monthly Field Trip: Morongo Valley. 8:00 a.m. Probable species: 60–65.** This desert oasis offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Directions: Allow 2.5 hours to drive from the San Fernando Valley. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve. Bring lunch and drinks. In the afternoon we will drive to Joshua Tree National Park to look for wildflowers, Scott's Orioles, Pinyon Jays, Brewer's and Black-throated Sparrows. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, April 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, April 21. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 45–50.** Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

**Thursday, April 25. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Chris Gardner. Topic: Tejon Ranch.** 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, April 27. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Probable Species: 30.** 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, April 27. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: O'Melveny Park. 9:00 a.m.** 17300 Sesnon Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344. The Young Birders Group walks are for young birders who are serious about birding, know some birds, and are willing to learn. All are welcome to join! Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information, please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

**Monday, April 29. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day. 7:00 a.m. Probable species 65.** We will meet at the Santa Susana Field Lab at 7:00 a.m., probably at the upper parking lot. Access is limited to those who have attended the site & safety orientation which can be arranged a few days in advance. Please contact the team leader to confirm date and to discuss access to the SSFL. Space will be limited. We will bird SSFL until about 11-12:00p.m., then Sage Ranch, Chatsworth Oaks

(including overviews of the CNP ecology pond), Chatsworth Hills Open Space, and Browns Canyon. Bring lunch and water; wear sturdy shoes (hiking boots are recommended). We will have dinner at a local restaurant before owling Upper Browns Canyon. The trip will end one hour after sunset. If joining us for owling, be sure to bring a flashlight. Leader: Mark Osokow. e-mail [Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org).

## MAY

**Saturday, May 4. Bird LA Day. 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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (805) 727-5007.

**Saturday, May 4. Bird LA Day. Call of the Wild:** The San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center invites artists and photographers to explore their artistic relationship with flora and fauna in nature—anyone wanting to enter the juried exhibit please check the website [www.sfvacc.org](http://www.sfvacc.org) to enter. Artists' Reception will be May 4, from 5–7 pm. The Exhibit will be up from April 30–May 25 (Tuesday–Saturday 11–5 pm). The SFVACC will be hosting the amazing **2018 Audubon Photography Awards Show** during the **Call of the Wild** Exhibition. All exhibits at the SFVACC, are FREE and open to the public, and partially funded by grants from the Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. Location: 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525.

**Sunday, May 5. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Probable Species: 60–65.** 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](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (805) 727-5007.

**Saturday, May 11. Monthly Field Trip: Los Angeles River (Willow St) and DeForest Park. 8:00 a.m.** Directions: From the 405 Fwy South take the 710 Fwy South to Willow St East. When on Willow St you will immediately pass over the L.A. River and turn left at Golden Ave (the first stop light). Go only a short distance on Golden and turn left onto 26th Way which dead-ends into DeForest Avenue along the river. Park on DeForest Ave and walk up the ramp to the river bicycle path where we will meet. A scope is recommended but not imperative. We will study shorebirds, waterfowl (etc.) in the riverbed. Afterwards we will drive to DeForest Park in N. Long Beach to look for spring migrant land birds. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, May 11. 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, May 12. 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.

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

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, May 18. 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, May 19. 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. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

**Monday, May 20. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana.

**Tuesday, May 21. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Probable Species: 30.** Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or [carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

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**Saturday, May 25. 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](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

**Future Field Trips (details later):**

**June 8. Rancho Sierra Vista Reserve**

**July 20. Mt. Pinos**

## January and February Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*

We visited Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary on January 19. Our headliner at Upper Newport was a juvenile Reddish Egret, a surprise for us there. Other species of special interest at the bay were Black Skimmer, Osprey, White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier. At San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary our most notable tallies were Palm Warbler and Vermilion Flycatcher, both of which had been previously reported. Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher also made our list at the sanctuary. For the day our waterfowl species total was only ten this year with Northern Pintail and Green-winged Teal probably the most interesting. American Wigeon was by far the most abundant of the ducks (hundreds present). American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Marbled Godwit and Long-billed Curlew topped our list of shorebirds.

February 16 marked our trip to Ventura County Game Preserve near Oxnard. Beautiful clear weather greeted us, then some distracting winds developed in the late morning. We were disappointed to find only seven species of waterfowl, but we covered only about 1/4 of this vast property. Invigorating was the spring return of many Cliff and Tree Swallows. Our wintering shorebirds were Black-necked Stilt, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, Killdeer, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper and Least Sandpiper. White-faced Ibis flocks were impressive (well over 100 birds seen). Lots of Northern Harrier action entertained us and Red-tailed Hawk was the most abundant raptor present. We had good studies of American Pipit and Savannah Sparrow. Honorable mention species were Marsh Wren, Western Meadowlark, White-throated Swift, Common Yellowthroat, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Say's Phoebe, Red-winged Blackbird, Turkey Vulture, Pied-billed Grebe and Eared Grebe.

## Conservation Corner and Education

As both Conservation Chair and Chair of Classroom Education I'm driven by our Mission Statements -

- to promote the conservation of natural resources and to preserve and enhance wildlife habitats and biodiversity,
- to increase appreciation of bird life and the natural environment through education, presentations, guided bird walks and other activities, and
- to foster opportunities for a diverse population to come together for the protection and celebration of avian life

Therefore we feel responsible to support our Classroom Teachers in their goals as defined in the California Environmental Literacy Initiative (CAELI) to support and strengthen the role of environmental literacy in K-12 classroom instruction:

- The continuation and health of individual human lives and of human communities and societies depend on the health of the natural systems that provide essential goods and ecosystem services.
- The long-term functioning and health of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems are influenced by their relationships with human societies.
- Natural systems proceed through cycles that humans depend upon, benefit from and can alter.
- The exchange of matter between natural systems and human societies affects the long-term functioning of both.
- Decisions affecting resources and natural systems are based on a wide range of considerations and decision-making processes.

As can be seen, the CAELI topics and our Mission Statement overlap in many ways. SFVAS's frequent educational programs, including Birdwalks, Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP), classroom bird art programs, etc., attempt to communicate, in an engaging, age-appropriate way, the importance of environmental stewardship and its benefits to our lives and the lives of all our fellow species. We are proud to support the Initiative's goals and each of our Teachers.

As a footnote, please recall that our annual fundraising Birdathon will be soon, and your support of SBEEP and our other ongoing programs will be sincerely appreciated.

Please call me at (818) 618-1652 or e-mail at [Dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org) with questions, comments, or to enlist in our conservation activities on behalf of our feathered friends.

—By Dave Weeshoff

## Nominating Committee *by Muriel Kotin*

The Nominating Committee (Diana Keeney, Rose Leibowitz, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Muriel Kotin) is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors of SFVAS for our 2019–2020 year which begins on July 1. Officers and directors who will continue their current term are indicated with <c> after their name. Those to be elected this May are indicated by \*.

### Officers (2-year terms):

- President: Paula Orlovich <c>
- 1st VP: Teri Carnesciali <c>
- 2nd VP: Becky Arntzen <c>
- Corresponding Secretary: (Lynn Maddox Termed out) Barbara Heidemann\*
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Barton (second term)\*
- Treasurer: Jim Houghton (second term)\*

### Board Members at Large:

- [Termed out: Felipe Lepe and Diana Keeney]
- 3rd Year Board: Joanne Millius <c> and Sharon Ford\*
- 2nd Year Board: Bonnie Flamer <c> and Benny Jacobs-Schwartz <c>
- 1st Year Board: Richard Davis\* and Rob Brown\*

Officers are elected for two year terms, with a limit of four continuous years in one office. The term of a first-year board member at large is three years, second-year is two years, and third-year is one year. The election will be held at the meeting on Thursday, May 23 and installation will take place at the June 27 potluck.

We know many members cannot attend the May meeting when the voting will take place so we have attached the proxy form on the following page. If you wish to vote on the slate, please send an email to [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

We thank all SFVAS members who have served the chapter in any capacity. We invite those of you with an interest in becoming more active in chapter activities or joining a committee to let the officers or nominating committee know.





## Young Birders Group *By Alexander deBarros*

The group found 29 species on the February walk at Franklin Canyon. The complete list is included here.

<https://ebird.org/view/checklist/S53060348>

2 Muscovy Duck	1 Black Phoebe
12 Wood Duck	12 Common Raven
2 American Wigeon	1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow
18 Mallard	10 Bushtit
1 Mallard (Domestic type)	1 Bewick's Wren
2 Hooded Merganser	1 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
4 Pied-billed Grebe	3 Wrentit
2 Mourning Dove	7 Hermit Thrush
1 Allen's Hummingbird	1 Northern Mockingbird
15 American Coot	35 Cedar Waxwing
2 Double-crested Cormorant	1 Lesser Goldfinch
1 Green Heron	6 Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
2 Turkey Vulture	8 Song Sparrow
1 Red-shouldered Hawk	4 California Towhee
2 Red-tailed Hawk	14 Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)

In addition to this, Rose Leibowitz found Acorn Woodpeckers and California Scrub-jays before the rest of the group arrived, and I found a Fox Sparrow, some House Finches, and a California Thrasher after the walk ended. We were not able to find the Great Horned Owl because the area where it was last seen was flooded and inaccessible. *Join us at our next walk, April 27, at O'Melveny Park. See Calendar of Events for directions.*

## HELP PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Spring Creek Clean-Up

**Saturday, April 13, 2019 - 8:30-Noon**

Haskell Creek, where it runs through Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods and willows. Songbirds forage and nest in the trees, while egrets and herons fish in this heart of the Wildlife Area. Presently it is infested with trash. Please help clean up the mess, restoring our lovely creek!

**Equipment and Clothing:** You will get muddy and maybe wet. Please wear rugged clothing and shoes or rubber boots. If you have them, bring work gloves and long-handled tools to reach trash.

**Directions:** The Wildlife Reserve is east of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way about a half mile, going half way around a traffic circle, to the parking area at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater behind the rock-faced buildings.

**More Information:** The event is appropriate for adults and students who are accompanied by an adult. Students can get certificates and earn community service hours. Rain cancels.

**Educational Activities:** To support the clean-up, the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCD), on behalf of the LA River Master Plan, will offer hands-on activities to help the public learn more about Sepulveda Basin and the LA River.

**Questions:** 310.457-5796 (Muriel) or 818.998-3216 (Diana).

Sponsored by [San Fernando Valley Audubon www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org). In Partnership with [Friends of the Los Angeles River \(FoLAR\)](http://www.FoLAR.org). And in conjunction with [Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee](http://www.SepulvedaBasinWildlifeAreas.org).

**Volunteers are encouraged to pre-register at [folar.rallybound.org/haskellcreek](http://folar.rallybound.org/haskellcreek)**

## Photo of the Month

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.



Join the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of the Santa Monica Mountains in their efforts to keep the waterways safe for wildlife.

This event is made possible by our partnership with the L.A. River Master Plan effort.

The County of Los Angeles is updating its L.A. River Master Plan. It is a comprehensive approach covering all 51 miles of the River. The effort was launched to update the original 1996 master plan, synthesizing more recent ideas for portions of the River and bringing a comprehensive vision to the transformation of the L.A. River. To do this, LA County is partnering with community organizations throughout the region to incorporate your needs, concerns, hopes, and the vision for the entire Los Angeles River.

**Free Event!** **April 13, 2019** **Free Event!**  
**8:30am - 1:00pm**

**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve**  
 6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406

**Creek Clean-Up | 8:30am - 12:00pm**  
 Start the day helping the San Fernando Valley Audubon by cleaning up Haskell Creek, where it runs through the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve.  
*Older children welcome but must be accompanied by adult.*

**Community Event | 10:30am - 1:00pm**  
*Lots of hands-on experiences!*  
**—All ages welcome!—**  
 Join RCD Educators to learn more about the L.A. River and Sepulveda Basin.

- Take a guided hike to the dam
- Check out live plankton in microscopes
- Use binoculars to view the birds
- Test the water quality of the lake
- Visit booths to learn more about enjoying the L.A. River

Meet at the amphitheater. Stay right of the Japanese Garden and continue all the way to the end of Wildlife Way.

**Wear sturdy shoes! Please come ready to get muddy and possibly wet during clean-up!**

**RSVP or questions: [rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com](mailto:rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com)**

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Paula Orlovich (818) 481-5605  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Teri Carnesciali (818) 892-5029  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Becky Arntzen (818) 761-6692  
 Treasurer: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688  
 Recording Secretary: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516

### DIRECTORS

Felipe Lepe (818) 536-2069  
 Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Barbara Heidemann unpublished  
 Joanne Millius (818) 335-5331  
 Bonnie Flamer (818) 990-8877  
 Benny Jacobs-Schwarz (818) 939-9913

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes: Carolyn Oppenheimer (818) 885-7493  
 Bird Observatory: Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Community Outreach: Open  
 Conservation: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 Editor *Phainopepla*: 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  
 BirdFest: Rose Leibowitz (818) 579-4976  
 Birdathon: Becky Arntzen (818) 761-6692  
 Christmas Bird Count: Jim Moore (661) 298-1130  
 Conservation Banquet: Becky Arntzen (818) 761-6692  
 Paula Orlovich (818) 728-9838  
 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: Dave Barton (310) 990-6896  
 Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516  
 Membership: Lynn Maddox (818) 845-4688  
 O'Melveny Bird Walk: Carolyn Oppenheimer (818) 885-7493  
 OneWaterLA Group Rep.: Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Photo of the Month: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516  
 Programs: Joanne Millius (818) 335-5331  
 Publicity: Marianne Davis  
 Sales & Service: Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Scholarships and Grants: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Sepulveda Basin Steering: Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796  
 Sepulveda Bird Walks: Kris Ohlenkamp (805) 727-5007  
 Social Media: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 SSFL Special Representative: Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Web Coordinator: Jim Houghton (818) 784-4077  
 Young Birders Group: Rose Leibowitz (818) 579-4976

**TO BECOME A MEMBER AND/OR RENEW  
 ONLINE GO TO**

**<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/>  
 It's fast, secure, and saves time and paper!**

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

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

Follow us on:

 Instagram @sfvaudubon

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

# Phainopepla

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

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### APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

#### San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

The undersigned, a member of the California Audubon Society, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation also known as San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (the "Society"), hereby revokes any previous proxies and appoints the Secretary of the Society, with full power of substitution, as the undersigned's proxy to attend the annual meeting of members on May 23, 2019 and to vote, execute consents, and otherwise represent the undersigned in his/her capacity as member in connection with the election at such meeting of the following candidates for office of the Society, in the same manner and with the same effect as if the undersigned were personally present at such meeting:

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Withhold</u>
Barbara Heidemann	Corresponding Secretary	___	___	___
Kathy Barton	Recording Secretary	___	___	___
Jim Houghton	Treasurer	___	___	___
Sharon Ford	3rd Year Board at Large	___	___	___
Richard Davis	1st Year Board at Large	___	___	___
Rob Brown	1st Year Board at Large	___	___	___

ALL PROXIES MUST BE SIGNED. PLEASE SIGN EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THE MEMBERSHIP RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_, 2019