



Phainopepla

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

Vol. 71 No. 1

February / March 2020

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 8–9, for directions.

You Are Invited

to the

Annual Conservation Awards Luncheon at

Franklin Canyon Park

Saturday, March 14, 2020

(please note date change)

1:00–3:00 p.m.

Join us as we honor Conservation Award Recipient: **Patricia Bates** and

Service Awardee: **Rosemary Leibowitz**

[Order Tickets Here](#)

Monthly Programs / General Membership Meetings

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

Thursday, February 27, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: **Bill Mandel**

Topic: **Bird Conservation at the L.A. Zoo**

Our February speaker is Bill Mandel, a docent to the Los Angeles Zoo for the last 26 years. He became interested in birds at age 10 and was especially interested in adaptations, behaviors, migration, and physics of avian flight. Bill graduated from Case Western Reserve University with a BA in History, and with two minors in English and Political Science. He worked as a paralegal for 33 years and retired in 2010.

Bill took the Los Angeles Zoo Docent Training Program and has given walking tours to Zoo members since. He gives college level primate tours to students and does VIP cart tours for big donors. He is on the Docent Training Committee, Conservation Committee, teaches Aves part of Docent Training, Student Volunteer Training Program, and North Hollywood High School Magnet Program. Bill also helps write fact sheets and the Docent Notebook, and leads the Zoo's quarterly early morning bird walks for members. He helps aviary keepers by doing food preparation each Thursday and has been a member of National Audubon since forever. Bill enjoys Audubon bird walks, especially in the Sepulveda Basin.



Thursday, March 26, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: **Benny Jacobs-Schwartz**

Topic: **Birds of The Tropics**

International bird guide, naturalist and wildlife photographer, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz will share his dazzling bird photos, captivating videos, and animated storytelling to bring a slice of the tropics to California.

Touching on topics of migration, speciation, and biodiversity, this media rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics. Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates a bird guiding business and lifestyle brand called *BIRDS by BIJS* (pronounced Bee-jus). Working seasonally as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide, Benny works in a variety of locations. Most recently bringing him to such exotic places like coastal Alaska, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ecuadorian cloud forest.

BIRDS by BIJS, initially began in response to many requests for urban birding outings. The business has now grown to encompass a nature inspired clothing line, bird photography and wildlife documentaries, and of course local and international bird watching tours.

Seasonally Benny or BIJS, is based in Los Angeles, where he leads public and private birding adventures to urban hotspots. He is also a passionate photographer, specializing in birds. He uses his impressive collection of content to leverage his prolific social media presence. Benny hopes his love of the natural world will inspire others to conserve the open spaces around them and look up more often from their phones!



CONSERVATION AWARDS LUNCHEON 2020

Mark Your Calendar! You are invited to our Annual Conservation Awards Luncheon, 1:00 p.m., on Saturday, March 14, at rustic Franklin Canyon Park. This year the **Conservation Award** recognizes **Patricia Bates** for her work representing the many issues that have and continue to affect our community including the impact of rodenticides, the large homeless encampments in the Sepulveda Basin, and the need for a dedicated Park Ranger station in the Sepulveda Basin.

Pat Bates is first and foremost a lover of birds, bees, butterflies and all living creatures, a New York farm-country native, a scientist by training, and a retired (after 30+ years) Certified Public Accountant. She was educated at SUNY Binghamton (BA) and the University of Arizona (MA, PhD). She currently sits on the Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center and is an elected board member of the Encino Neighborhood Council. She serves as treasurer of both organizations as well and Chairperson of the Encino Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee and member of its Parks/Environment committee.

Since retiring from her accounting practice, Pat has become an accomplished artist and photographer, concentrating primarily on birds. Her work has been exhibited throughout the Los Angeles area and beyond. Much of her photography is from our beloved Sepulveda Basin wildlife areas.



Our San Fernando Valley Audubon **Service Award** will be presented to **Rose Leibowitz**. Rose's earliest memories of birding center around family trips to the countryside which included picnics. Her father would vanish, binoculars in hand, and would return sometime later to a hungry family who were not allowed to start eating until he had come back! Sadly she has no memories of birding with him although many years later she did inherit a lot of British bird guides. The next contact with birding was when her son was in Cub Scouts and the troop came to the Sepulveda Basin for a walk led by Muriel Kotin and she thought that it would be a good thing to take up when she had the time. As one gets older the time becomes available and not only did she start birding she also started being involved with the Audubon chapter and joined the board. It proved a wonderful transition from a very busy job working in schools to an equally busy hobby with various responsibilities on the board. These ranged from running the Birdathon through setting up the Young Birders Group and Bird Fest to a four year term as President. She shares that it has all been very



rewarding both in gaining knowledge about birds and the environment and in terms of the relationships that she has developed with people she has met through the chapter. She is flattered and a little bemused to be receiving this award but very grateful.

The luncheon starts at 1:00 p.m. in the event room next to the Sooky Goldman Visitors Center. Harvest Moon Catering returns to Franklin Canyon with their signature sandwiches, salads, and desserts. There will be music performed by Steve McCroskey, and we will have the traditional basket raffle featuring the popular and inventive creations of Carolyn Oppenheimer. You will also have the opportunity to purchase this year's native plant centerpieces.

There will be two optional bird walks around Franklin Canyon Park before lunch. Experienced birders meet with Alexander deBarros at 11:00 a.m. and beginners join Muriel Kotin at 11:30 a.m. Meet up in the parking lot.

Signage will be posted to facilitate access to the venue. Handicapped parking is available as well as drop off areas for attendees as needed. Please contact Marianne Davis to reserve a handicapped parking space at m54wdavis@gmail.com For directions access our website at www.sfvaudubon.org.

The cost is \$35.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children under 15. We would greatly appreciate if you would reserve and pay for your tickets on our website www.sfvaudubon.org. However, if you cannot pay online, a check can be mailed to SFVAS, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. Please **RSVP by March 6**. Casual Attire.

2019 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) by Alexander deBarros, San Fernando Valley CBC Compiler



Another Christmas Bird Count has come and gone. This year's count was a very interesting one. With the Saddleridge and Sepulveda Fires, we sustained the second worst fire damage in the history of our count circle (after the 2008 Sesnon, Sayre, and Marek Fires). Some species showed noticeable declines as a direct result of the fires. However, we had an overall population increase in most species, partly because birds fleeing from the fire sought refuge in our count circle, but mostly because we covered more locations than ever before. On December 14, 2019, 90 locations were covered by 78 counters split into 25 teams, and they totaled 133 species and 18,914 individuals. For reference, last year's totals were 128 species and 12,210 individuals, and our 20 year average is 128 species and 15,487 individuals.

The rules of National Audubon allow us to note species seen during count week, the three days before and after count day. Thanks to our counters and eBird reports made by others who did not participate in the count, we added four additional species during count week, bringing our total for the week to 137 species.

The primary objective of the Christmas Bird Count is to assess the health of the bird population by comparing the total number of individuals of all species seen in a count circle with earlier counts, as well as comparing the total number of species seen with past years. This is National Audubon's 120th CBC, and as we have been participating since 1957, our 63rd.

We counted just about every park, golf course, and natural area in the circle, and found a myriad of interesting birds.

The highlights included:

- A pair of **Vermilion Flycatchers**, seen by Lynda Fennemen at the Hansen Dam Golf Course. This species is normally found in warmer, more tropical climates, but they have been occurring with increasing regularity in Los Angeles since 2010, and resident populations have established themselves in the San Gabriel Valley, Castaic Lake, and parts of western Los Angeles. Usually when they are recorded on our CBC, they are seen around the Sepulveda Basin, so a sighting by Hansen Dam is very interesting. This is the 9th time they have been recorded on our count.
- Two **Cassin's Vireos**, one seen by Alexander deBarros at Bull Creek and the other seen by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam. This species is uncommon but regular here in summer, but should be in central or western Mexico by now. This is the 8th time they have been recorded on our count, the first time since 2000, and the most we have ever recorded on count day.

Other uncommon bird sightings include:

- One **Eurasian Wigeon** at the Hansen Spreading Grounds. This vagrant is recorded here every few years, usually around Hansen Dam.
- One **Virginia Rail** at Hansen Dam. This reclusive bird winters here annually, but has not been recorded on count day since 2010.
- One **Sora** at Hansen Dam. Another regular recluse, this bird is only recorded every two or three years.
- One **Plumbeous Vireo** at Sun Valley Park. This close relative of the Cassin's Vireo winters here in small numbers. This is the 9th count day record, and the first since 2010 (although in that time, they have been recorded three times during count week).
- A total of six **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were seen across three locations. This species is common in the San Gabriel Mountains, but rarely descends to the San Fernando Valley. This is only the 12th time they have been recorded on our CBC, and the second-highest individual total for this species (the record is 11, seen in 1963).
- A group of **Tricolored Blackbirds** were seen by Kimball Garret at Lake Balboa during count week. This species is fairly common in open grasslands and agricultural fields, neither of which currently exist in the San Fernando Valley in any significant amount. One thousand were counted here in 1970, and they were annual from 1979 to 2007, but they have only been seen twice since then. They still occur in large numbers in the Antelope Valley.
- A **Prairie Falcon** was photographed by William Tyrer at Hansen Dam during count week. This desert specialist is reported occasionally on our CBC, and was annual from 1990 to 2001, but it's been missed almost every year since then. This is the second consecutive year it has been reported during count week. They are quite common in the Antelope Valley. *(Continued next page)*

Unfortunately, many of our water birds have declined or disappeared. None of the following six species were seen this year.

- **Blue-winged Teal**, seen on 14 previous counts, but only once since 1996.
- **Cinnamon Teal**, seen on 35 previous counts, but not since 2011. It was recorded in count week last year.
- **Northern Pintail**, seen on 42 previous counts, but only three times since 2000.
- **Canvasback**, seen on 51 previous counts, but not on count day since 2013. It was recorded in count week in 2016.
- **Common Merganser**, seen on 27 previous counts, but only five times since 1990.
- **Horned Grebe**, seen on 21 previous counts, only five times in the last 30 years.

Also missing are:

- **Spotted Dove**, seen on 43 previous counts, but not since 2002. Predation from Cooper's Hawks and competition from Eurasian Collared-Doves are responsible for their disappearance. As they were an invasive species, I guess that's good?
- **Horned Lark**, seen 28 times, including a record of 570 individuals in 1970, but they've been going downhill ever since, and haven't been seen since 1997. They still occur in the Antelope Valley in the thousands, but the San Fernando Valley no longer represents suitable habitat.
- **Mountain Chickadee**, seen 32 times, but only off and on the last few years. They are still very common in the San Gabriel mountains, but they aren't really coming to our altitude as much anymore.
- **Marsh Wren**, recorded 36 times, but only occasionally since the early 2000s.

This year we missed a few species that have been seen regularly for years.

- **Ross's Goose**, seen almost every year since 2001. Most of these records were two birds that were resident at Lake Balboa. Only one was seen after March 2018, and that one hasn't been seen since July of this year. These individuals may have succumbed to age or predators.
- **Cackling Goose**, seen annually from 2005 (when they were split from Canada Goose) to 2014, and every other year since.
- **Eared Grebe**, seen on 52 previous counts, but not on count day since 2016. They were recorded in count week last year.
- **Fox Sparrow**, seen on 49 previous counts, and every year since 2004. This miss is actually not surprising, as almost all the areas where it is usually seen burned in the Saddleridge Fire.
- **Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)**, seen on 24 previous counts, and almost annually since 1994. This was a bad year for Dark-eyed Juncos overall; this year's total was less than half of what it's been the last two years, so missing the subspecies that's uncommon here to begin with is not particularly surprising.

Significant declines were noticed among Lesser Scaup, Snowy Egret, Northern Flicker, Rock Wren, Wrentit, Hermit Thrush, American Pipit, Phainopepla, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon), Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Brewer's Blackbird. All the declines seem to be directly related to the Saddleridge and Sepulveda Fires, as all 14 of these species are most common in areas that burned.

Loggerhead Shrike numbers also remained low. Four were seen this count, about the same as the last few years. Seventy were counted in 2000, but they have been recorded in single digits since then. This species requires open grassland to hunt, so it is usually just reported at the Chatsworth Reservoir, occasionally in the Santa Susana Mountains and at Wilson Canyon. Interestingly, one was seen at Sheldon-Arleta Park, a small location in Sun Valley. This bird is probably a refugee from the Saddleridge Fire.

While many species have declined, some have soared to exceptional numbers. This year's winner for the highest count was American Crow with 2308 individuals, mostly counted at Hansen Dam, where they roost overnight in the thousands. Honorable mention goes to American Coot (1451), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1301), Canada Goose (1202), Mourning Dove (1044), Rock Pigeon (920), European Starling (884), White-crowned Sparrow (879), Bushtit (785), American Wigeon (565), and House Finch (531).

Record highs were achieved by Eurasian Collared-Dove, Allen's Hummingbird, Black-necked Stilt, Glaucous-winged Gull, Turkey Vulture, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Peregrine Falcon, Red-crowned Parrot, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Cassin's Vireo, American Crow, Common Raven, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Townsend's Warbler. Thirty-seven species had at least double their average individual count from the last two years.

Interestingly, Mourning Doves seem to have benefited from the fires. For example, Limekiln Canyon, which burned in the Saddleridge Fire, reported 108 doves, whereas five were seen there last year, and none the year before. *(Continued next page)*

We didn't lose any of the 34 species that have been recorded on all 63 counts. These include Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

We managed to find four species that have never been recorded on our CBC before, bringing the total number of species recorded across all our CBCs to 263.

- **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was found by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam. Heather Medvitz recorded another individual at the San Fernando Rec Center during count week, but we were unable to check this park on count day. This species was previously recorded in 2016 during count week, but this is the first count day record. Pacific-slope Flycatchers are common here during the summer, but they should be on the west coast of Mexico by now.
- **Scaly-breasted Munia** was found by Kris Ohlenkamp at the Sepulveda Basin. This tropical Asian species, introduced from India in 1977, is common in the San Gabriel Valley, Palos Verdes, Orange County, and along the more natural stretches of the L.A. River. They have been seen sporadically at Sepulveda since 1996, but never on count day until now.
- A female **Orchard Oriole** was found by Rebecca Marschall at the Valley Sod Farms, and the photos were confirmed by Kimball Garret, John Garret, and Justyn Stahl, as well as many people on iNaturalist. This species breeds east of the Rocky Mountains, and winters from southern Mexico to northern Colombia. Los Angeles County reports one or two each year.
- A pair of **Pin-tailed Whydah** were found by Dave and Kathy Barton at the David M. Gonzalez Rec Center during count week. This African species was introduced in Orange County in 1992, and has since spread throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the L.A. Basin. They started appearing in the San Fernando Valley last year, and will probably be recorded on count day in the near future.



Hansen Dam won the award for the most species and most individuals. Brian Bielfelt reported 81 species with 3336 individuals, including two unique species not seen in any other sector, and 1959 American Crows (84.8% of all the American Crows reported in our count circle). At the Sepulveda Basin, Kris Ohlenkamp (who has covered this area since 1982) counted 74 species with 2693 individuals, including five unique species (more than any other location). The Department of Water & Power once again granted us access to count at the Chatsworth Reservoir, where Art Langton and Mark Osokow counted 64 species with 1134 individuals, including two unique species.

Fourteen locations reported unique species, reminding us of the importance of counting every location.

Unique Birds Seen	Location	Sector leader
Snow Goose	Hansen Spreading Grounds	eBird report on count day
Mute Swan	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Wood Duck	Los Encinos State Historic Park	Pat Bates
Eurasian Wigeon	Hansen Spreading Grounds	eBird report on count day
Western Grebe	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Jim Moore
Virginia Rail	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Sora	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Wilson's Snipe	Sepulveda Basin	eBird report on count day
Spotted Sandpiper	Hansen Spreading Grounds	Heather Medvitz
Greater Yellowlegs	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Glaucous-winged Gull	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
Green Heron	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Barn Owl	Chatsworth Reservoir	Art Langton & Mark Osokow
Williamson's Sapsucker	Veteran's Park	Scott Logan
Red-crowned Parrot	Veteran's Park	Scott Logan
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Vermilion Flycatcher	Hansen Dam Golf Course	Lynda Fennemen

Plumbeous Vireo	Sun Valley Park	Yvonne Burch-Hartley
Rock Wren	Pacoima Wash at El Cariso	Brian Bielfelt
Phainopepla	Caballero Canyon	Rebecca LeVine
Scaly-breasted Munia	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Vesper Sparrow	Chatsworth Reservoir	Art Langton & Mark Osokow
Orchard Oriole	Valley Sod Farms	Rebecca Marschall
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	Hansen Dam Golf Course	Lynda Fennemmen
Wilson's Warbler	Encino Park	Pat Bates

Thank you to all 2019 CBC participants.

These are the people that were essential in conducting our 63rd Christmas Bird Count.

Richard Armerding (L)
 Pat Avery
 Nathan Barkley via eBird
 Dick Barth (L)
 Dave Barton (L) (F) (W)
 Kathy Barton (L) (F) (W)
 Pat Bates (L)
 Natalie Beckman-Smith via eBird (F)
 Brian Bielfelt (L)
 Carla Bollinger (F)
 Yvonne Burch-Hartley (L)
 Kim Butera
 Candice Byers
 Teri Carnesciali
 Nicole Cloutier
 Dan Cooper (L)
 Marianne Davis (F)
 Richard Davis (F)
 Alexander deBarros (C) (L)
 Mary Ellen Dittermore
 Debbie Drews
 Taylor Driggs
 Lynda Fennemmen (L)
 Kimball Garret (W)
 Roz Gibson
 Emma Hanna (L)

Marylou Hanna
 Barbara Heidemann (L)
 Jim Houghton (L) (F)
 Judy Howell
 Benny Jacobs-Schwartz (L)
 Eric Johnson
 Karen Klein
 Garrit Kokesh
 Alan Kotin
 Muriel Kotin (L)
 Art Langton (L)
 Abby Larson (F)
 Rebecca LeVine (L)
 John Lobel
 Scott Logan (L)
 Rebecca Marschall (L)
 Rhys Marsh (W)
 Judy Matsuoka (L)
 Heather Medvitz (L)
 Jim Moore (L)
 Justine Morgan
 Wendy Morgan
 Kris Ohlenkamp (L)
 Carolyn Oppenheimer
 Mark Osokow (L)
 Paula Orlovich

Teresa Palos
 Richard Rachman
 Judy Rothman (F)
 Brad Rumble via eBird
 Kathy Schoeppner
 Eric Shaphran
 Amanda Shipman
 Xavier Shipman
 Zander Shipman
 Kablan Snyder
 Donna Timlin
 Daniel Tinoco via eBird
 William Tyrer (W)
 Larry Walker
 Alonzo Wickers (L)
 Gary Woodlard

Others participated, but did not release their names

- (C): CBC Compiler, organized the entire count
- (L): Lead a team in the field on count day
- (F): Counted birds at their feeder or yard on count day
- (W): Reported species on eBird during count week that weren't seen on count day
- via eBird: did not join an official count team, but reported species on count day

BirdFest 2020

After a two year hiatus caused by the Woolsey Fire, BirdFest will be back on November 14, 2020. It will again be a collaboration between three local Audubon Chapters (San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, and Conejo Valley), the National Park Service, and the Western National Parks Association. Save the date and come to our very own love fest for birds.

The Great Backyard Bird Count
February 14-17, 2020

Bird watchers of all ages count birds to create
 a real-time snapshot of where birds are.

[Count birds anytime, anywhere, with eBird »](#)



2019 Christmas Bird Count Summary

1	Snow Goose	21	Great Egret	9	House Wren
2	Greater White-fronted Goose	13	Snowy Egret	61	Bewick's Wren
91	Domestic Goose species	4	Green Heron	884	European Starling
1202	Canada Goose	31	Black-crowned Night-Heron	31	California Thrasher
2	Mute Swan	77	Turkey Vulture	112	Northern Mockingbird
15	Egyptian Goose	3	Osprey	69	Western Bluebird
11	Muscovy Duck	2	Northern Harrier	9	Hermit Thrush
2	Wood Duck	4	Sharp-shinned Hawk	35	American Robin
57	Northern Shoveler	24	Cooper's Hawk	160	Cedar Waxwing
10	Gadwall	1	Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk	1	Phainopepla
1	Eurasian Wigeon	9	Red-shouldered Hawk	1	Scaly-breasted Munia
565	American Wigeon	91	Red-tailed Hawk	cw	Pin-tailed Whydah
481	Mallard	1	Barn Owl	244	House Sparrow
46	Domestic Mallard	6	Great Horned Owl	68	American Pipit
16	Green-winged Teal	6	Belted Kingfisher	531	House Finch
6	Redhead	1	Williamson's Sapsucker	365	Lesser Goldfinch
146	Ring-necked Duck	8	Red-breasted Sapsucker	80	American Goldfinch
5	Lesser Scaup	54	Acorn Woodpecker	50	Goldfinch species
35	Bufflehead	3	Downy Woodpecker	94	Chipping Sparrow
10	Hooded Merganser	50	Nuttall's Woodpecker	366	Lark Sparrow
64	Ruddy Duck	31	Northern Flicker (red-shafted)	160	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
178	California Quail	21	American Kestrel	879	White-crowned Sparrow
27	Pied-billed Grebe	6	Merlin	13	Golden-crowned Sparrow
6	Western Grebe	7	Peregrine Falcon	6	Vesper Sparrow
920	Rock Pigeon	cw	Prairie Falcon	72	Savannah Sparrow
35	Band-tailed Pigeon	30	Yellow-chevrons Parakeet	73	Song Sparrow
73	Eurasian Collared-Dove	46	Red-crowned Parrot	7	Lincoln's Sparrow
1044	Mourning Dove	cw	Nanday Parakeet	153	California Towhee
2	Greater Roadrunner	1	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	7	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
60	White-throated Swift	253	Black Phoebe	34	Spotted Towhee
158	Anna's Hummingbird	45	Say's Phoebe	193	Western Meadowlark
116	Allen's Hummingbird	2	Vermilion Flycatcher	1	Orchard Oriole
112	Hummingbird species	119	Cassin's Kingbird	105	Red-winged Blackbird
1	Virginia Rail	8	Hutton's Vireo	cw	Tricolored Blackbird
1	Sora	2	Cassin's Vireo	12	Brown-headed Cowbird
1451	American Coot	1	Plumbeous Vireo	111	Brewer's Blackbird
22	Black-necked Stilt	4	Loggerhead Shrike	50	Great-tailed Grackle
73	Killdeer	159	California Scrub-Jay	7	Orange-crowned Warbler
31	Least Sandpiper	2308	American Crow	27	Common Yellowthroat
3	Wilson's Snipe	420	Common Raven	1300	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
1	Spotted Sandpiper	34	Oak Titmouse	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1	Greater Yellowlegs	3	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	3	Black-throated Gray Warbler
141	Ring-billed Gull	785	Bushtit	28	Townsend's Warbler
52	Western Gull	25	Wrentit	1	Wilson's Warbler
64	California Gull	135	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	Passerine species
2	Glaucous-winged Gull	6	Red-breasted Nuthatch	133	Total Species (Count Day)
37	Gull species	15	White-breasted Nuthatch	141	Total Species + other taxa
111	Double-crested Cormorant	32	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	137	Total Species + Count Week
52	American White Pelican	1	Rock Wren	145	Species, other taxa, count week
17	Great Blue Heron	4	Canyon Wren	18914	Individuals (species + other taxa)

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 1. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Please note that effective January 2020 the Placerita walks will now be on the FIRST Saturday of the month.

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, February 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@sfvaudubon.org or (818) 521-8799.

Saturday, February 8. Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway Trail Beautification. 8:00—11:00 a.m. Join the Audubon Center at Debs Park, MRCA, and the Studio City community to revitalize the habitat along the Greenway. Scheduled monthly on the 2nd Saturday. Please contact Mika Perron at mperron@audubon.org to RSVP and for more information. Directions: Meet at the trail entrance on Valleyheart Drive off of Whitsett Avenue.

Sunday, February 9. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Directions: From the I-5/Golden State Fwy. N: Take Exit 146A toward Olive Ave., merge onto E. Angeleno Ave. and turn left onto S. 1st Street, then take the first right onto E. Olive Ave.

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1st Street then take the 3rd right onto E. Olive Ave.

Continue 1.3 miles on E. Olive through downtown Burbank and up the hill. Turn left onto N. Sunset Canyon Dr. Go 0.5 miles and turn right onto E. Harvard. Drive .4 miles skirting the golf course and meet at the entry kiosk area. Extra binoculars are available. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Friday, February 14—Monday February 17. Great Backyard Bird Count. Join in counting the birds you see for as little as 15 minutes, in your neighborhood or anywhere in the world! Submit your sightings to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> or eBird.

Saturday, February 15. Monthly Field Trip. Ventura County Game Preserve in Oxnard. Meeting Time 7:45 a.m. An excellent spot at which to observe a wide variety of birds including waterfowl, wetland birds and raptors. We will be birding the preserve entirely on foot. Covering the circuit will probably require 4+ hours. We will leave our cars on the left (north) side of the paved road outside the preserve compound. Directions: From the 101 Freeway take the Las Posas Road exit south (left), then Hueneme Road west (right) to Casper Road. Turn south (left) on Casper Road and continue to where the road eventually turns left through a large entrance gate and leads to the compound. We'll meet at the entrance gate at 7:45 a.m. and wait for the preserve manager to open up for us at approximately 8:00; we'll then drive to the compound. Allow one hour and fifteen minutes driving time from the Valley. Leader is Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

Sunday, February 16. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

Tuesday, February 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, February 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Thursday, February 27. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Bill Mandel. TOPIC: Bird Conservation at the L.A. Zoo. 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, February 29. 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 Emma. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 579-4976.

MARCH

Sunday, March 1. 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 or (818) 521-8799.

Saturday, March 7. 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, March 8. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Directions: From the I-5/Golden State Fwy. N: Take Exit 146A toward Olive Ave., merge onto E. Angeleno Ave. and turn left onto S. 1st Street, then take the first right onto E. Olive Ave.

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1st Street then take the 3rd right onto E. Olive Ave.

Continue 1.3 miles on E. Olive through downtown Burbank and up the hill. Turn left onto N. Sunset Canyon Dr. Go 0.5 miles and turn right onto E. Harvard. Drive .4 miles skirting the golf course and meet at the entry kiosk area. Extra binoculars are available. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Saturday, March 14. SFVAS Conservation Awards Luncheon. Franklin Canyon Park. 1:00–3:00 p.m. Join us as we honor our **Conservation Award Recipient: Patricia Bates** and our **Service Honoree: Rosemary Leibowitz**. Experienced birders are invited to join Alexander deBarros in the parking lot for a bird walk at 11:00 a.m. and beginners can join Muriel Kotin at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: In the event room next to the Sooky Goldman Nature Center at Franklin Canyon Park. 2600 Franklin Canyon, Beverly Hills, 90210. Order [TICKETS](#) here.

Saturday, March 14. Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway Trail Beautification. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Join the Audubon Center at Debs Park, MRCA, and the Studio City community to revitalize the habitat along the Greenway. Scheduled monthly on the 2nd Saturday. Please contact Mika Perron at mperron@audubon.org to RSVP and for more information. Directions: Meet at the trail entrance on Valleyheart Drive off of Whitsett Avenue.

Sunday, March 15. 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.

Tuesday, March 17. 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.

Saturday–Sunday, March 21–22. Monthly Field Trip: Morro Bay Weekend! The first day, **Saturday, March 21**, we will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the near (inland) side of Morro Rock. Park along the main road just

before it swings around the side of the Rock. The second day, **Sunday, March 22**, we will meet at the Montana de Oro State Park Headquarters/ Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. Our species tally is usually very high on this trip. Pigeon Guillemot and Chestnut-backed Chickadee are expected. Directions from the San Fernando Valley: Take the 101 Freeway to San Luis Obispo and then follow Route 1 north to the town of Morro Bay. Allow at least four hours driving time from the Valley. Bring lunch and drinks. Be prepared for possible inclement weather, and remember that the central coast can be quite chilly in the mornings. Make camping or motel reservations as soon as possible. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Monday, March 23. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana.

Thursday, March 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00



p.m. Speaker: Benny Jacobs-Schwartz. TOPIC: Birds of The Tropics. 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. *Photo: White-necked Jacobin by BJIS*

Saturday, March 28. 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.

Saturday, March 28. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Sepulveda Basin. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Emma. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 579-4976.

Future Field Trips (details later):

April 25. Morongo Valley

May 16. L.A. River (Willow Street) and DeForest Park

November Field Trip Report *by Richard Barth*

November 16 marked our trip to Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds. Absolutely beautiful weather made for a pleasant morning of birding. Some of our expected shorebirds were tallied at the harbor....Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Willet, Whimbrel, Black Oystercatcher, Black-bellied Plover and Sanderling (Wandering Tattler and Ruddy Turnstone were no-shows). Also at the harbor we had Brown Pelican, Brandt's Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Western Gull, Heermann's Gull and American Pipit, but disappointing was the absence of Red-breasted Merganser and the loons and terns. The ducks at the treatment ponds included Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy Duck, Bufflehead and Cinnamon Teal. We did well with herons: Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron and the bird of the day—an adult Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Our only raptor was a fly-over Northern Harrier. Pied-billed Grebe was an abundant species and our other grebes were Eared, Western and Clark's. Belted Kingfisher, Western Meadowlark and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher proved to be among our favorites for the day. We picked up Say's Phoebe, Great-tailed Grackle, Song Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrow.



CALLING ALL BIRD NERDS!!

Want to be a Bird Nerd? We'd love to welcome you into our Bird Nerd Club at our Annual Potluck this June. Here's what you need to do to qualify and receive your reward: Record any of your bird sightings in the State of California from July 2019 until June 15, 2020. Be a citizen scientist and enter them on ebird.org. Submit your totals to Teri Carnesciall at tericarn@gmail.com by June 15. Will you be among the Bird Nerds in our flock?

The award categories will be:

N: Nighthawk	50-99 species
E: Eagle	100-149 species
R: Roadrunner	150-199 species
D: Dunlin	200+ species



Young Birders Recap by Alexander deBarros

The November Young Birders walk went very well, with the group finding 43 species. Highlights included the expected Osprey and Pelicans, as well as a flock of parakeets. For most of the walk, a Kestrel was following us around, eating mantises as if they were chips. This more than made up for missing the Harrier. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S61873588>

The Glendale bird walk was almost cancelled due to the rain, but we eventually managed to go forward with it, and totaled 34 species (about 10 fewer than usual). Highlights included a Wilson's Snipe, a pair of Blue-winged Teals, and a Peregrine Falcon. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S62118771>

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.

Conservation Corner—Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair

As I finalize my presentation “Climate Change and Its Effects on Birds Worldwide” for the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, and the San Fernando Valley Audubon January General Meeting I am even more concerned with the plight of the 10,000+ bird species on our fragile planet.

My presentation starts with a review of the October 2019 report in Science Magazine that declares that each day there are about 3,000,000,000 – three BILLION – fewer North American birds than there were fifty years ago - an impact that very likely is proportionately replicated on the other continents. The causes of this decline are myriad; including introduced invasive species (plant and animal) of all kinds (e.g., outdoor cats), habitat destruction, pesticides, rodenticides, window strikes, and the list goes on. This report establishes a contemporary baseline for the future.

I then discuss the causes, and the effects, of Climate Change in sufficient detail to lead the audience to two dramatic conclusions:

- The structure, function, and resilience of all global ecosystems are changing rapidly, sometimes in unexpected ways, due to Anthropogenic Climate Change, and
- Environmental changes due to anthropogenic greenhouse emissions are occurring faster than animals (e.g., birds) can adapt.

I briefly describe Audubon's newest study, “Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink,” which illustrates in extraordinary detail the future of North American birds under a changing climate and includes a first-of-its-kind zip code-based climate tool: Audubon's Birds and Climate Visualizer.

And finally, I review some things each of can do to assist our wild avian friends in their struggle to survive.

Our greatest obstacles to addressing these issues are best presented in an opinion piece in the *Los Angeles Times* by Christopher Knittel, Oct. 28, 2019 which outlines “Five reasons climate change is the worst environmental problem the world has ever faced.” While I paraphrase below, please “Google” the original article:

- The pollutants that contribute are global – ones that do their damage no matter where they are released.
- Much of their damage is in the future, and we feel we can defer the remedies (we can't).
- The pollutants (and their severe consequences) can't be easily and directly linked to a single, specific “smoking gun.”
- Developing countries contribute a share of the pollution that drives it, and can't readily afford to reduce their emissions. Developed countries have to help – they have gotten us to this place.
- The pollutants (e.g., carbon dioxide) are tied directly to crucial aspects of people's lives, and we don't want to change our lifestyles.

Despite the overarching points made by Mr. Knittel, we all must aggressively address the causes of anthropogenic climate change, as individuals and as a species, now. We must organize and act decisively, now.

Please, go to www.Audubon.org for the Audubon report and to learn what you can do. And, as usual, please call me at (818) 618-1652 or email Dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org with questions, comments, criticism, or to enlist in our conservation activities on behalf of our feathered friends.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
1 st Vice President:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
2 nd Vice President:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Treasurer:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Corresponding Secretary:	Barbara Heidemann	unpublished
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516

DIRECTORS

Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Benny Jacobs-Schwartz	(818) 939-9913
Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Rob Brown	(818) 616-3071
Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Bird Observatory:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Conservation:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Membership:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
BirdFest	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 579-4976
Birdathon:	Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Christmas Bird Count:	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Community Outreach:	OPEN	
Conservation Banquet:	OPEN	
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
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
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
OneWaterLA Group Rep.:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Programs:	Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Publicity:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 579-4976
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(818) 521-8799
Social Media:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
SSFL Special Representative:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
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 <i>Phainopepla</i>).....\$20	\$ _____
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10	\$ _____
Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

New Member Renewal School

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail (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 3rd of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

Membership to National Audubon is separate and can be initiated on the website www.Audubon.org.


If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Lynn Maddox at (818) 845-4688 or e-mail her at Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org.

For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our website:
www.SFVAudubon.org

Follow us on:

 Instagram @sfvaudubon

 #sfvaudubon

 Like

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

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Conservation Awards...2
Christmas Bird Count...3-7
Calendar of Events...8-9
Monthly Field Trip Reports...9
Bird Nerds...10
Conservation Corner...10
Audubon-at-Home...10
Chapter Information...11

SFVAS "REPRESENTS" AT P-22 DAY FESTIVAL *by Kathy Barton*

Did you know that Los Angeles is one of only two "megacities" in the world (that's a city with more than 10 million people), where humans co-exist with wild big cats? Well, you would have if you went to the P-22 Day Festival, held October 19 in Griffith Park. The Festival, sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, celebrates urban wildlife of all kinds, but especially P-22, our city's celebrity cougar, who crossed two freeways to make his home in Griffith Park and captured L.A.'s heart and imagination. The Festival featured entertainment, vendors, and booths hosted by multiple organizations, including representatives of SFVAS, which support and advocate for our natural treasures. Following are some impressions of the event from Chapter leaders who were in attendance. From Dave Weeshoff: "We were constantly busy chatting with bird lovers, children, old friends, other conservation organization members, etc., with little to no down-time. Usually more than two conversations were going on simultaneously. I'd guess we chatted with well over 100 folks in the five hours of the event. There were sufficient bad bird jokes to go around." Mark Osokow remarked, "Very impressive. More booths manned by just about every environmental organization you could think of than I have ever seen at any similar festival. Lots of special events. The Virtual Wildlife demo was fantastic and a must-see for those unfamiliar with the technology. The best part may be that everything was FREE - even the parking!" Sharon Ford pronounced it "(a) wonderful festival for young and old, where everyone is on the same page. It is a great place to learn about our wildlife and habitat, native plants, local Native Americans, wildlife photography, and lots of hands-on things for children. It was a great event where I was able to connect with like-minded friends." Besides staffing the booth, educating visitors about the Chapter and all things birdy, Chapter representatives were able to wander around and check out the other booths and attractions. All in all, an educational and uplifting day!

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee (Alexander deBarros, *Chair*, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, 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, 2020—June 30, 2021. 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!** Please contact Alexander deBarros if you are interested in serving in any capacity at: (818) 919-3425 or e-mail at alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com.

BIRDATHON 2020 *Richard Davis, Chair*

Our annual Birdathon will take place in April and May of 2020. Birdathon is our primary fundraising event of the year. It includes activities that focus on spotting as many species of birds as possible and collecting donations from our generous donors. Funds raised by Birdathon enable SFVAS to host more than 2000 school children in the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP), allow us to contribute to efforts to conserve habitat and to continue our mission of increasing public awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment.

Birdathon activities include many of our regularly scheduled monthly bird walks in addition to several once-a-year events, known as "Big Days." Look for details in the April/May *Phainopepla*. Please join in one or more Birdathon events! All information, sponsor forms, and donation envelopes will be included in the April/May newsletter and on our Website at www.sfvaudubon.org.