



# Phainopepla

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## General Membership Meetings: — Zoom Presentations —

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### Birdathon is Coming!

**BIRDATHON IS OUR ANNUAL FUNDRAISER THAT SUPPORTS OUR SEPULVEDA BASIN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM (SBEEP). CHECK OUT THE NEXT ISSUE ON HOW TO GET INVOLVED IN ONE OR MORE SPRING BIRDING EVENTS!**

**Thursday, February 24, 2022**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: David Newsom**

**Topic: Bringing Birds Home**

**J**oin us for a conversation about the powerful impact native plants can have in inviting birds back into our lives while simultaneously reversing the impacts of many crises facing our planet. Beginning with his own journey into creating native habitat at his Los Angeles home, David will look at the way indigenous plant habitat amplifies bird food sources, encourages nesting, and provides sanctuary where traditional landscapes fail. With loss of habitat driving the catastrophic decline of birds world-wide, re-thinking our own backyards—40 million acres in the US alone—is our next great step toward protecting resident and migratory birds (and other wildlife) needlessly struggling to survive. In doing so, we will also see that we can make urban and suburban spaces more efficient, resource-wise, and regenerative. Regardless of who we are, or where we live, native plants can play a vital role in making our yards more wild, more equitable, and more just for the whole community of people, animals, and plants.

David Newsom is a father of two wild ones; a husband and a 30 year veteran of film and TV. He founded the Wild Yards Project in 2018, after watching his own sterile urban yard spring to life, courtesy of native plants, a lot of love and the guidance of great teachers. David draws on his past as a storyteller and photographer to spread awareness of the native habitat movement far and wide. The Wild Yards Project combines social media, education, community gardens, and consultation to help retrofit biodiverse habitat into urban and suburban spaces. David created the Wild Yards Project because his plants insisted.



**Thursday, March 24, 2022**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Timothy Beatley**

**Topic: Green Urbanism**

**D**r. Beatley is an internationally recognized sustainable city researcher and author. His 2010 book *Biophilic Cities: Integrating Nature Into Urban Design and Planning* advocates for cities to integrate biophilic elements into their designs. He will be speaking about green urbanism and the planning processes to create a sustainable city.



Dr. Beatley received a PhD in City and Regional Planning from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1986. He is currently the Teresa Heinz Professor of Sustainable Communities in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning at the University of Virginia School of Architecture.

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THESE ZOOM MEETINGS. [CLICK HERE](#), ENTER YOUR INFORMATION AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A LINK PRIOR TO THE EVENTS. IF YOU HAVE SIGNED UP FOR A PREVIOUS ZOOM EVENT, NO NEED—YOU ARE ALREADY ON OUR LIST!

## 2021 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

Another CBC has come and gone. This was our second CBC conducted in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and while the availability of vaccines allowed many count teams to work in groups (which they were unable to do last year), the appearance of the new Omicron variant a few weeks before the count meant that we still had to take steps to remain safe. While the pandemic presented a hurdle, this year's count was helped by the constant and intense rainstorms in the preceding months, which not only drove in many bird species that hadn't been seen in years, but also filled all the creeks and lakes in the San Fernando Valley, opening up habitat for many waterbirds. This was also the first time since 2015 that no fires broke out in or near our CBC circle. This spectacular setup yielded very intriguing results. On December 18, 2021, 74 counters covered 85 locations, totaling 136 species and 17,860 individuals. For reference, last year's totals were 140 species and 16,661 individuals, and our 20 year average is 129 species and 15,721 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 140 species.

The primary objective of the Christmas Bird Count is to assess the health of the local bird population by comparing the total number of individuals and the total number of species seen in a count circle with previous year's counts. This is National Audubon's 122<sup>nd</sup> count and much to our credit, our 65<sup>th</sup> successive CBC, which started in 1957.

This year we found many species that haven't been seen in a very long time. These highlights included

• **17 Cackling Geese**, 14 found by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam and three found by Brad Rumble at the Hansen Spreading Grounds. After it was split from the similar Canada Goose in 2005, it was seen every year until 2013, but it has only been seen intermittently since then. This is the first time it has been seen since 2018, and the third-highest total we've ever gotten.

• **1 Cinnamon Teal**, found by Pat Bates at Reseda Park. Found on 35 previous counts, it hasn't been seen on count day since 2011, although it was found in count week in 2018.

• **10 Herring Gulls**, found by Kris Ohlenkamp at the Sepulveda Basin. While it is one of the most widespread gulls in the world, it hasn't been seen on count day since 2016.

• **1 Ferruginous Hawk**, found by Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz at Pierce College. This large hawk is common in open grassland and desert areas, and is regularly seen in the Antelope Valley. However, because this sort of habitat is few and far between in the San Fernando Valley, this hawk hasn't been seen on count day since 2008.

• **1 Burrowing Owl**, also found by Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz at Pierce College. This small diurnal owl acts more like a ground squirrel than an owl, living in communal burrows in open fields. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> time it has been found on count day, and only the 2<sup>nd</sup> time since 1983 (it was most recently seen in 2015).

• **5 Lewis's Woodpeckers**, three found by Art Langton and Mark Osokow at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, one found by Otto Mayer at Moonshine Canyon, and one found by Natalie Beckman-Smith at Browns Canyon Rd. This species breeds in coniferous woodlands, but becomes fairly nomadic in winter. This is the first time it has wandered into our count circle since 2013, and the 9<sup>th</sup> time it has ever been seen on count day.

• **1 Ash-throated Flycatcher**, found by Pat Bates at Reseda Park. A common bird here in summer, it normally winters in southwestern Arizona, the Pacific coast of Mexico, Guatemala, & El Salvador, and coastal northeastern Mexico. A few miss the memo about migration each year, and this is the first time it has been seen on count day since 2013.

• **2 Marsh Wrens**, one found by Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz at Pierce College, and the other found by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam. Generally found in undisturbed areas with dense reeds, it is only seen every few years, and always in low numbers (the record high is 16 birds, from 1993). This is the first time it has been found at more than one location since 2003.

• **1 Mountain Bluebird**, found by Rebecca Marschall at Sheldon-Arleta Park. These beautiful songbirds generally winter in open fields at the bases of mountains. This is the first time it has been seen since 2011, and the 13<sup>th</sup> time it has ever been seen.

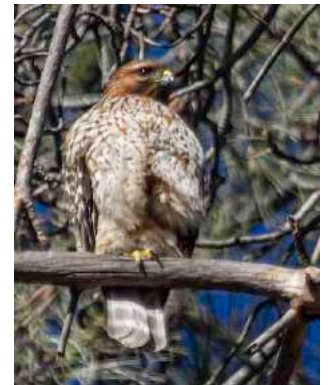
• **1 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)**, found by Brad Rumble at Stonehurst Rec Center. The most widespread subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco, the Slate-colored primarily winters east of the Rocky Mountains, but a few show up in California each year. It has been seen almost annually on our CBC since 1994, but this is the first sighting since 2018.

• **1 Hooded Oriole**, found by Rebecca Marschall at the Sepulveda Rec Center. While it is common here in summer, it generally winters in coastal Mexico. First recorded in 1976, it has now been seen six times on our CBC, with half the records being made in the last 10 years (the most recent being from 2017).

• **1 Black-and-white Warbler**, found by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam. This distinctive Warbler (which acts more like a Nuthatch than a Warbler) is common east of the Rocky Mountains, but only occasionally strays into California. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time it has been recorded on our CBC, and the first time it has been seen since 1993.

• **2 American Redstarts**, found in count week by Rebecca Marschall at the Sepulveda Basin. Another eastern Warbler that occasionally pops up in California, the American Redstart has only been seen on count day once, in 1993. This is the first time it has been seen since, and the first time it has been recorded in count week.

• **1 Northern Cardinal**, found in count week by Jeffrey Fenwick at Lake Balboa. A handful of Cardinals were introduced in the Sepulveda Basin in 2004 (although some may have come from the larger population introduced at the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area in 1964), and they are spotted on the CBC every once in a while. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time it has been seen in count week, and the first time it has been seen since 2013.



*Red-shouldered Hawk, Photo by Pat Bates*

Other uncommon bird sightings include:

•**21 Eared Grebes**, 17 seen at the Encino Reservoir, three at the Sepulveda Basin, and one at the Tujunga Spreading Grounds. This species is usually seen in very low numbers, but it has been recorded on all but 11 counts.

•**3 Sora**, two at Hansen Dam and one at the Sepulveda Basin. Closely related to the American Coot, the Sora is a reclusive bird, preferring to stay hidden in dense reeds. This is the 29<sup>th</sup> time it has been recorded on our CBC, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row it has been found at Hansen Dam, and the first time it has been found at Sepulveda since 2015.

•**1 Hairy Woodpecker**, seen at Hansen Dam. This species is usually found in high mountains, but has descended into our CBC circle 15 times now. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row it has been found at Hansen Dam.

•**1 Prairie Merlin**, seen at Valley Plaza Park. This subspecies (*Falco columbarius richardsonii*) is normally found in the Great Plains, with some wintering around the Rocky Mountains and Great Basin. One or two show up in southern California each year, but this is the first time it has been recorded on our CBC. By contrast, our usual subspecies, the Taiga Merlin (*F.c. columbarius*) has been recorded on 43 of our 65 CBCs, and has only been missed twice in the last 35 years. Three Taiga Merlins were seen this year.



Merlin (Prairie), 2021 CBC. Photo by Richard Barth

•**2 Pacific-slope Flycatchers**, one found at Hansen Dam and the other at Sepulveda Basin. Common here in summer, it usually winters on the western coast of Mexico, although climate change has resulted in fewer birds migrating south for winter. First recorded in count week in 2016, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time it has been seen on count day. Interestingly, all previous records have been at Hansen Dam.

•**1 Plumbeous Vireo**, found at CSUN. Another was found during count week at a small park in Valley Glen, but it didn't stick around for count day. This species winters here in small numbers, and has now been recorded on count day 10 times. It has also been recorded in count week nearly every year since the protocol was introduced in 2013.

•**3 Mountain Chickadees**, found at Hansen Dam. Another mountain species that occasionally descends to lower altitudes in winter, this species has been recorded on our count 35 times, including last year.

•**1 Red-breasted Nuthatch**, found at the Encino Reservoir. Generally found in mountain pine forests, this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive time it has been recorded on our CBC, and 14<sup>th</sup> time we have ever gotten it. The strong winter storms we got in the weeks leading up to count day likely forced the Hairy Woodpecker, Mountain Chickadees, and the Red-breasted Nuthatch into our count circle this year, as their usual range got buried under thick snow.

•**16 Scaly-breasted Munias**, eight seen at the Woodley Golf Course, and eight more at the home of Pat Bates, in Reseda. Introduced to L.A. from India in 1977, this species is now common in the San Gabriel Valley, Palos Verdes, Orange County, and along the more natural stretches of the L.A. River, including around the Sepulveda Basin, where it first appeared in 1996. It first showed up on our CBC in 2019, making this the 2<sup>nd</sup> time it has ever been recorded on the count.

•**1 Wilson's Warbler**, found by Alexander deBarros in a random tree in Reseda, near the intersection of Victory Blvd and Amigo Ave. Another summer migrant that forgot to migrate this year, the Wilson's Warbler has now been recorded on our CBC 13 times, with all but one of the records coming after 1990.

Unfortunately, many of our waterbirds have declined or disappeared. None of the following five species have been seen for some time now.

•**Blue-winged Teal**, seen on 14 previous counts, but only once (2016) since 1996.

•**Canvasback**, seen on 51 previous counts, but it hasn't been seen on count day since 2013, although it was found in count week in 2016.

•**Clark's Grebe**, confirmed on eight previous counts, but since it wasn't split from Western Grebe until 1985, it has certainly been present for more counts. However, it hasn't been seen since 2018.

•**Western Sandpiper**, seen on 41 previous counts, but only three times in the last 10 years.

Also missing are:

•**Spotted Dove**, seen on 43 previous counts, but not since 2002. As the only established population remaining in North America is isolated on Santa Catalina Island, they aren't likely to return to the San Fernando Valley. Predation from Cooper's Hawks and competition from Eurasian Collared-Doves are likely responsible for their disappearance. However, they were an invasive species to begin with, having been introduced from southeastern China in the early 1900s.

•**Horned Lark**, seen 29 times, including 570 individuals in 1970, but they've been going downhill ever since, and aside from a freak sighting at Hansen Dam last year, they haven't been seen since 1997. Because these birds only live in open grassland and desert, thousands winter in the Antelope Valley, but the San Fernando Valley no longer contains any significant amount of suitable habitat.

This year unfortunately, we missed quite a few species that have been seen regularly for years

•**Snow Goose**, seen on 38 previous counts, including the last two years.

•**Ross's Goose**, seen on 20 previous counts, and almost continuously from 2001 to 2018. Most of these sightings were of two birds that were resident at Lake Balboa, but they disappeared early in 2019, and none were seen on that year's CBC. One was seen on the L.A. River last year, but this bird did not return for this year.

•**Greater White-fronted Goose**, seen on 27 previous counts, including the last four years (although it was only seen in count week last year).

•**Mute Swan**, seen on 12 previous counts, and continuously from 2010 to 2020 (three were also seen in 1990). Most, if not all, of these sightings were of two birds resident at Lake Balboa, but they haven't been seen since March of this year.

•**Wood Duck**, seen on 38 previous counts, but not since 2019.

- **Eurasian Wigeon**, seen on 17 previous counts, but also not since 2019. Interestingly, all of the recent records have been from around Hansen Dam, and one was seen in the same general vicinity the week before the count, but this sighting was made outside our count circle.
- **Redhead**, seen on 26 previous counts, including the last five years.
- **Greater Roadrunner**, seen on 48 previous counts, including the last three years. Roadrunners are always seen in small numbers, and they are easily missed.
- **Virginia Rail**, seen on 17 previous counts, including the last two years. This relative of both the American Coot and the Sora is highly reclusive, preferring to remain hidden in dense reeds, and is only ever found when it chooses to vocalize, or when a very lucky observer happens to be in the exact right spot to see one.
- **Black-necked Stilt**, seen on 13 previous counts, mostly since 2006. It was recorded on the last three counts, but it seems to do better when the water level at Sepulveda is lower, so the winter storms that likely brought in most of the other rare species may have cost us this one.
- **Greater Yellowlegs**, seen on 43 previous counts, with this being the 3<sup>rd</sup> time it has been missed in the last 40 years. Most of the recent sightings have been in close association with Black-necked Stilts, and the two are usually missed in the same years.
- **Northern Harrier**, seen on 57 previous counts, including the last three years. While it has only been missed eight times, five of those have been in the last 15 years. Harriers prefer hunting in open fields, which are few and far between in the San Fernando Valley. As a result, it is seen almost exclusively at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, Hansen Dam, and the Sepulveda Basin.
- **Barn Owl**, seen on 18 previous counts. It was recorded on count day in 2018 and 2019, but only in count week last year.
- **Red-crowned Parrot**, seen on nine previous counts, but not since 2019. While the flocks of *Amazona* Parrots have extended into our count circle in the past, it seems they are becoming more concentrated around Pasadena, Glendale, and Burbank, and no longer reach Valley Glen or Veteran's Park with any regularity.
- **Gray Flycatcher**, seen on 12 previous counts, including a record high last year. This species generally winters here in small numbers, but it was almost absent from L.A. County this year.
- **House Wren**, seen on all but 16 counts. While Rebecca Marschall and Michael Drucker each found one in count week, this is the first time it hasn't been seen on count day since 1980.
- **Purple Finch**, seen on 47 previous counts, including last year. They have been seen less frequently and in lower numbers over the last 20 years.
- **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)**, seen on 25 previous counts, including the last four, with last year's total being a record high.
- **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, seen on 23 previous counts, but not since 2019, when it got a record high.



California Thrashers, 2021 CBC. Photo by Brett LeVine

Loggerhead Shrike numbers remain low. Four were seen this year, about the same as the last few years. A record high of 70 birds were seen in 2000, but they have only shown up in single digits since then. This species requires open grassland to hunt, severely limiting where it can be seen on our count. This year's sightings were more spread out than usual, with the Chatsworth Reservoir, Sheldon-Arleta Park, Sepulveda Basin, and Pierce College all reporting one each (one was also seen at Eden Memorial Park during count week, but this location was closed on count day). While it is almost always reported at Chatsworth and Sheldon-Arleta, this is the first count day record from Pierce College since 2014, and the first one from Sepulveda since 1997 (although it was seen at the adjacent Bull Creek in 2015).

Vermilion Flycatcher numbers appear to be stable. Two were seen on count day, and one more was seen in count week. This largely tropical species was first recorded on our CBC in 1973, and has been seen almost continuously since 2017. Many birds are now resident and breeding throughout L.A. County, with large concentrations in the San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys. Their increasing population is likely an effect of climate change, with L.A. now being warm enough to sustain them. This year's sightings were of one of the usual birds at the Sepulveda Basin, and a new bird at Valley Plaza Park. The one seen in count week was a known bird at Eden Memorial Park.

While many species have declined, some have soared to exceptional numbers. This year's winner for the highest count was Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) with 2126 individuals, their second-highest total ever (the record is 2312 individuals, from 1993). Honorable mention goes to Canada Goose (1420), American Crow (1030), American Coot (811), Rock Pigeon (979), House Finch (971), White-crowned Sparrow (915), Bushtit (564), Mourning Dove (558), and Western Meadowlark (503).

Record highs were achieved by Egyptian Goose, Allen's Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, Red-naped Sapsucker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Common Raven, Canyon Wren, and Scaly-breasted Munia. Second-highest totals were achieved by Eurasian Collared-Dove, American White Pelican, Red-tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Orange-crowned Warbler, & Yellow-rumped Warbler, and third-highest totals went to Cackling Goose, Yellow-chevroned Parakeet, Nanday Parakeet, Black Phoebe, Chipping Sparrow, & Townsend's Warbler.



Northern Mockingbird, 2021 CBC.  
Photo by Alexander deBarros

Unfortunately, Muscovy Duck, Ring-billed Gull, Green Heron, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow fell to record lows.

We didn't lose any of the 34 species that have been recorded on all 65 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 two species that have never been recorded on our CBC before, bringing the total number of species recorded across all our CBCs to 257 species, plus one count week only, three probable escapees, 18 other taxa, and five questionable reports.

•**1 Solitary Sandpiper**, found by Brian Bielfelt at Hansen Dam. Physically similar to the Spotted Sandpiper but more closely related to the Greater Yellowlegs, this species shows up in small numbers during fall migration, but rarely ever overwinters.

•**7 Pin-tailed Whydah**, found by Dick Barth at Van Nuys--Sherman Oaks Park. Native to Sub-Saharan Africa, it was introduced to Orange County in 1992, and has since spread throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the L.A. Basin, with some reaching as far as San Bernardino and San Diego. They spread into the eastern San Fernando Valley in 2018, and they were recorded in count week in 2019, but this is the first count day record.

Hansen Dam won the award for most species, and Sepulveda Basin won the award for most individuals. At Hansen Dam, Brian Bielfelt counted 81 species and 1968 individuals, while at Sepulveda, Kris Ohlenkamp reported 78 species and 2640 individuals. The Department of Water & Power granted us access to count at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, where Art Langton and Mark Osokow counted 52 species and 1340 individuals. Other spectacular lists came from the hillside overlook of the Encino Reservoir where Samuel Bressler counted 50 species and 632 individuals, Pierce College where Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz counted 47 species and 493 individuals, and the L.A. River & Tujunga Wash where Alexander deBarros biked 19 miles and counted 43 species and 1500 individuals.

16 locations reported a total of 28 unique species, reminding us of the importance of counting every location.

Unique Birds Seen	Location	Sector leader
Cinnamon Teal	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
Western Grebe	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Samuel Bressler
Solitary Sandpiper	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Herring Gull	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Green Heron	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Osprey	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Ferruginous Hawk	Pierce College	Dan Cooper
Burrowing Owl	Pierce College	Dan Cooper
Red-naped Sapsucker	Hansen Dam Golf Course	Pat Avery and Dick Avery
Downy Woodpecker	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Hairy Woodpecker	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Prairie Merlin	Valley Plaza Park	Dick Barth
Nanday Parakeet	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Samuel Bressler
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
Plumbeous Vireo	Cal State Northridge	Natalie Beckman-Smith
Mountain Chickadee	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	O'Melveny Park	Muriel Kotin and Paula Orlovich
Tree Swallow	Stoney Point Park	Natalie Beckman-Smith
Barn Swallow	Sepulveda Basin	eBird report on count day
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Samuel Bressler
Mountain Bluebird	Sheldon-Arleta Park	Rebecca Marschall
Phainopepla	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Art Langton and Mark Osokow
Pin-tailed Whydah	Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Park	Dick Barth
Pine Siskin	Dearborn Park	Rebecca Marschall
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	Stonehurst Park	Brad Rumble
Vesper Sparrow	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Art Langton and Mark Osokow
Hooded Oriole	Sepulveda Rec Center	Rebecca Marschall
Black-and-white Warbler	Hansen Dam	Brian Bielfelt
Wilson's Warbler	A random yard in Reseda, near the L.A. River	Alexander deBarros

## 2021 CBC Summary

69	<i>Domestic Goose species</i>	4	Sharp-shinned Hawk	76	Western Bluebird
17	Cackling Goose	15	Cooper's Hawk	1	Mountain Bluebird
1420	Canada Goose	10	Red-shouldered Hawk	30	Hermit Thrush
29	Egyptian Goose	107	Red-tailed Hawk	12	American Robin
2	Muscovy Duck	1	Ferruginous Hawk	39	California Thrasher
1	Cinnamon Teal	9	Great Horned Owl	89	Northern Mockingbird
78	Northern Shoveler	1	Burrowing Owl	364	European Starling
25	Gadwall	6	Belted Kingfisher	144	American Pipit
346	American Wigeon	9	Red-breasted Sapsucker	128	Cedar Waxwing
339	Mallard	2	Red-naped Sapsucker	3	Phainopepla
20	<i>Domestic Mallard</i>	5	Lewis's Woodpecker	971	House Finch
18	Green-winged Teal	54	Acorn Woodpecker	2	Pine Siskin
36	Ring-necked Duck	2	Downy Woodpecker	233	Lesser Goldfinch
17	Lesser Scaup	30	Nuttall's Woodpecker	61	American Goldfinch
20	Bufflehead	1	Hairy Woodpecker	135	Chipping Sparrow
			Northern Flicker		
32	Hooded Merganser	46	(red-shafted)	340	Lark Sparrow
307	Ruddy Duck	12	American Kestrel	6	Fox Sparrow
134	California Quail	4	Merlin	360	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
37	Pied-billed Grebe	6	Peregrine Falcon	1	<i>Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)</i>
21	Eared Grebe	1	<i>Falcon species</i>	915	White-crowned Sparrow
8	Western Grebe	31	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	40	Golden-crowned Sparrow
979	Rock Pigeon	5	Nanday Parakeet	8	Vesper Sparrow
19	Band-tailed Pigeon	222	Black Phoebe	206	Savannah Sparrow
77	Eurasian Collared-Dove	55	Say's Phoebe	79	Song Sparrow
558	Mourning Dove	2	Vermilion Flycatcher	23	Lincoln's Sparrow
44	White-throated Swift	1	Ash-throated Flycatcher	213	California Towhee
220	Anna's Hummingbird	84	Cassin's Kingbird	15	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
125	Allen's Hummingbird	4	Loggerhead Shrike	51	Spotted Towhee
17	<i>Hummingbird species</i>	4	Hutton's Vireo	503	Western Meadowlark
3	Sora	1	Plumbeous Vireo	1	Hooded Oriole
811	American Coot	172	California Scrub-Jay	76	Red-winged Blackbird
88	Killdeer	1030	American Crow	94	Brown-headed Cowbird
47	Least Sandpiper	433	Common Raven	86	Brewer's Blackbird
3	Wilson's Snipe	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	65	Great-tailed Grackle
9	Spotted Sandpiper	2	Tree Swallow	1	Black-and-white Warbler
1	Solitary Sandpiper	cw	Violet-green Swallow	16	Orange-crowned Warbler
9	Ring-billed Gull	1	Barn Swallow	32	Common Yellowthroat
53	Western Gull	3	Mountain Chickadee	cw	American Redstart
					Yellow-rumped Warbler
111	California Gull	37	Oak Titmouse	2126	(Audubon's)
11	Herring Gull	564	Bushtit	11	Townsend's Warbler
20	<i>Gull species</i>	1	Red-breasted Nuthatch	1	Wilson's Warbler
145	Double-crested Cormorant	19	White-breasted Nuthatch	cw	Northern Cardinal
175	American White Pelican	2	Rock Wren	331	House Sparrow
14	Great Blue Heron	8	Canyon Wren	16	Scaly-breasted Munia
15	Great Egret	cw	House Wren	7	Pin-tailed Whydah

15	Snowy Egret	2	Marsh Wren	136	<b>Total Species (Count Day)</b>
1	Green Heron	41	Bewick's Wren	142	<b>Total Species + other taxa</b>
31	Black-crowned Night-Heron	25	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	140	<b>Total Species + count week</b>
96	Turkey Vulture	148	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	146	<b>Species + other taxa + count week</b>
1	Osprey	50	Wrentit	17860	<b>Individuals (species + other taxa)</b>

Thank you to all 2021 Christmas Bird Count participants

Aimée Adams	Jolene Herz (L)	Rennie Mcintosh
Omar Alui via eBird	Jim Houghton (L)	Heather Medvitz (L)
Dick Avery (L)	Judy Howell	Richard Medvitz (L)
Pat Avery (L)	David Hurst via eBird	Graham Montgomery
Gee Gee Barden (F)	Roshni Katrak-Adefowora	Dick Norton (L)
Dick Barth (L)	Nurit Katz (L)	Kris Ohlenkamp (L)
Pat Bates (L) (F)	Claudia Kotchka	Carolyn Oppenheimer (L)
Natalie Beckman-Smith (L)	Allan Kotin	Paula Orlovich (L)
Brian Bielfelt (L)	Muriel Kotin (L)	Mark Osokow (L)
Samuel Bressler (L)	Art Langton (L)	John Rothman (F)
Rob Brown (L)	Rose Leibowitz (L)	Judy Rothman (F)
Nicole Cloutier	Bill Lepler via eBird	Brad Rumble (L)
Dan Cooper (L)	Brett LeVine	Eric Shaphran (L)
Ari Cuellar	Emily LeVine	Robin Share (L)
Alexander deBarros (C) (L)	Rebecca LeVine (L)	Jackson Smith via eBird (W)
Taylor Driggs (L)	John Lobel	Ryan Spiro
Michael Drucker via eBird (W)	Scott Logan (L)	Donna Timlin
Jeffrey Fenwick via eBird (W)	Rebecca Marschall (L) (W)	Daniel Tinoco (L)
Trina Gassaway	Rhys Marsh via eBird	Maddy Uetrecht
Roz Gibson	Otto Mayer (L)	Amy Worell
Wendi Gladstone	Anne Mcintosh	19 others participated, but didn't 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 team, but reported species on eBird on count day or in count week

by Alexander deBarros, San Fernando Valley CBC Compiler



CBC 2021, Marvin Braude Mulholland Gateway Park

Alexander deBarros gave a follow-up interview, January 4, 2022, on KCRW. Click link to give a listen on *Why more bird species are appearing in LA*. <https://www.kcrw.com/news/shows/greater-la/animals-nonprofits/christmas-bird-count>

*Audubon-at-Home* by Alan Pollack

E-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have with regard to creating a wildlife-friendly garden that can be used for publication. Alan offers FREE consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife friendly. He also gives a FREE, PowerPoint slide show/lecture to community groups, high school, and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be contacted at (818) 340-2347 or at [alan.pollack@sfaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfaudubon.org).

## Calendar of Events

**WE HAVE RESUMED BIRD OUTINGS, BUT PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION. WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES.**

## February 2022



**Sunday, February 6. Sepulveda Basin 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Thursday, February 10. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park.**

If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature, join us from 10:00–11:30 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at O'Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.) What to bring: a cushion or a comfortable chair, a beverage/snack, binoculars, a journal, and something to write/draw with. This event is limited to 10 people. To reserve a spot, contact Diana Keeney at [diana.keeney@sfaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfaudubon.org) or Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org).



**Saturday, February 12. FREE Guided Tour of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. 9:00–10:30 a.m.**

This tour is perfect for families with school-age children, beginning or first time birders, and people who want to learn more about the Wildlife Reserve. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank Blvd. or south from Victory Blvd., go .5 miles and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday's of the month, October–March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (213) 500-4143. Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, February 13. Franklin Canyon Park. 8:00 a.m.** 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the Ventura Freeway (101) or Ventura Blvd. to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. Leader: Paula Orlovich. See website [sfaudubon.org](http://sfaudubon.org) under Events to reserve a spot.

**Tuesday, February 15. Weekday Wander 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).

**February 18–21 The 25th 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://birdcount.org> or [eBird.org](http://eBird.org).

**Sunday, February 20. Malibu Creek State Park.**

**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.



**Thursday, February 24. General Membership Meeting. 7:00–8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: David Newman.** Join us for a conversation about the powerful impact native plants can have on inviting birds back into our lives while simultaneously reversing the impacts of many crises facing our planet.

See page 1 for more information. [Click here](#) to sign up and we will send you the link. If you've signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you're already on our list!

**Saturday, February 26. Hansen Dam. 11640 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, 8:00 a.m.** We will travel along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way. Directions: From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Osborne, go right on Foothill, then left (about 0.15 mile) into the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields parking lot. Meet in the dirt lot on the east side of the parking lot. Leader: Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962, [batesbird@gmail.com](mailto:batesbird@gmail.com).



**Saturday, February 26. Young Birders**

**Group. O'Melveny Park. 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.** Join us for a fun and interactive bird outing! All ages are welcome but this event will be geared towards K-12 students. The locations vary monthly. Feel free to bring a notebook and pencil to participate in extra activities. As this is an outdoor activity face masks are not required, but strongly encouraged to keep our younger and high-risk attendees safe. 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. We have a limited supply of binoculars so please bring your own if possible. Interested in joining us? Just show up, or e-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at [YoungBirders@sfaudubon.org](mailto:YoungBirders@sfaudubon.org) for more information.

## March 2022

**Sunday, March 6. Sepulveda Basin. 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

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If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature, join us from 10:00–11:30 a.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at O'Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday.) What to bring: a cushion or a comfortable chair, a beverage/snack, binoculars, a journal, and something to write/draw with. This event is limited to 10 people. To reserve a spot, contact Diana Keeney at [diana.keeney@sfaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfaudubon.org) or Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org).

**Saturday, March 12. Season Finale! Guided Tour of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. 9:00–10:30 a.m.**

This tour is perfect for families with school-age children, beginning or first time birders, and people who want to learn more about the Wildlife Reserve. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank Blvd. or south from Victory Blvd., go .5 miles and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday's of the month, October–March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (213) 500-4143. Heavy rain cancels.

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**Monday, March 21. SFVAS ZOOM Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, March 24. General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:30 p.m.**  
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Timothy Beatley.** Join us as we learn about green urbanism and the planning processes to create a sustainable city. See page 1 for more information. [Click here](#) to sign up and we will send you the link. If you've signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you're already on our list!

**Saturday, March 26. Hansen Dam. 11640 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, 8:00 a.m.** We will travel along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way. Directions: From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Osborne, go right on Foothill, then left (about 0.15 mile) into the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields parking lot. Meet in the dirt lot on the east side of the parking lot. Leader: Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962, [batesbird@gmail.com](mailto:batesbird@gmail.com).

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### Book Report: *BIRD THERAPY*, by Joe Harkness



I was excited to read this book, since I consider birding therapeutic myself, and wanted to find out how Harkness practiced the art. Harkness is located in the UK, so all the birds you read about won't be local. Also, the first part of the book is all about his depression and other mental health problems, so you have to hang in there. For me, that is tough going, as I know enough about it and didn't need one more description of the experience. But if you can slog through that, you're good.

His descriptions of taking students on birding adventures are inspiring and makes me want to haul my own kids back out there. Nothing better than seeing something through fresh, enthusiastic eyes. He's a great advocate of picking out your "patch," and getting to know it throughout the seasons, as everything changes over time. He speaks eloquently about a sense of place about one's patch, which usually starts with its desirable traits. But then it moves on to a spiritual one, "emotions and feelings, a sense of belonging... and being part of it." That nails pretty much how I feel about the Basin, and I suspect is what one experiences in our Bird Sit outings. Particularly now in winter, getting outside and walking your patch is great for overall wellbeing. Since I hope to get back to London someday, I've earmarked his bird IDs and hope to visit a good "patch." —Submitted by Marianne Davis

### THE NOMINATIONS ARE IN!

The Nominating Committee (Co-chairs Carolyn Oppenheimer and Muriel Kotin, Jolene Herz, Diana Keeney, and Rebecca Marschall) has selected a slate of candidates for the coming SFVAS year, July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023.

The positions needing to be filled and the committee's nominees are listed below.

- President: **Kathy Barton**
- 1st VP: **Rebecca LeVine**
- 2nd VP: **Paula Orlovich**
- Corresponding Secretary: **Teri Carnesciali**
- 1st Year Board at Large: **Pat Turner and Charlie Wilkin**

These officers will be continuing in their current position.

- Recording Secretary: Barb Heidemann
- Treasurer: Pat Bates
- 3rd Year Board: Wendy Barsh and Jolene Herz
- 2nd Year Board: Luisa Bergeron and Rebecca Marschall

Ballots and instructions for voting will be in the April-May issue of this newsletter, downloadable via our website, and distributed at SFVAS events. Information about the candidates will also be in that issue. It is extremely important that chapter members submit a ballot so that the officers can be certified in their positions. The election results will be announced at our membership meeting in May.

Many board members start their service as members of a committee. Serving on a committee can be a great way to become more involved with and contribute to SFVAS. Please contact any committee chair if you are interested in helping in any capacity. Their contact information is in this newsletter and available on our website.

### Young Birders Group Is Back!

We are excited to announce the relaunch of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's Young Birders Group and its monthly bird walks! As before, these events will take place monthly on the last Saturday of every month, and will rotate among locations in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. The Young Birders Group member who attends the most walks in 2022 will get to pick the location for our December 2022 walk!

Our next event is Saturday, February 26, at O'Melveny Park. No sign-ups or advance reservation is required; given the current COVID-19 numbers in Los Angeles, we recommend that participants wear masks to keep us all as safe as possible. We will meet in the amphitheater area near the bathrooms, and will make our way into the reserve as a group. As always, our walks are all-ages, but are geared to K-12 students (and their families).

If you have any questions, comments, or just want to say hi, you can reach both of us at [youngbirders@sfaudubon.org](mailto:youngbirders@sfaudubon.org)!

Best wishes, and hope to see you soon!  
Luisa Bergeron & Rebecca Marschall  
SFVAS Young Birders Group  
San Fernando Valley Audubon Board of Directors  
[youngbirders@sfaudubon.org](mailto:youngbirders@sfaudubon.org)



December 6, 2021

California Wildlife Center (CWC) is grateful to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for your continued support of our work and our mission to take responsibility for the protection of native wildlife through rehabilitation, education, and conservation. Thanks in part to your contribution, CWC was able to care for 3,898 patients in the last 12 months.

We admitted 168 different species of animals this past year. Our most common avian patients were:

Mourning Doves  
House Finches  
Mallards  
American Crows  
Allen's Hummingbirds  
Cooper's Hawks  
Northern Mockingbirds

Some of the unusual patients we admitted this past year were:

Rufous Hummingbird  
Black-chinned Hummingbird  
Red-necked Phalarope  
Red-breasted Sapsucker  
Long-eared Owl  
Common Yellowthroat  
Black-throated Gray Warbler  
Cackling Geese



### Common Yellowthroat 21-3318

One of the more sensitive patients that we worked with was Common Yellowthroat 21-3318. This adult female Yellowthroat came in on 9/21/2021. The patient showed signs of head trauma and had a laceration on her right thigh. The finder knew she had hit a window, but it was unclear what caused her cut.

Common Yellowthroats are very sensitive and can quickly pass away if they experience too much stress. The staff had to be very careful when handling this patient and take breaks during treatments in order to not over stress her. She refused to eat so the staff provided nutrition every 2 hours to keep her body weight up. Common Yellowthroat have a fast metabolism and can quickly die from lack of calories. After about 4 days, she was able to eat on her own.

During her time in the ICU, she was administered pain medication, anti-inflammatories, and antibiotics. Dr. Guthrum Purdin closed the wound on her leg, and she healed quickly. On 10/7/2021 the Yellowthroat was stable enough to move into an

outdoor enclosure to gain strength and become acclimated to the weather. On 10/17/2021 she was released back to her original location in Simi Valley to have a second chance at thriving in the wild.



*Photo color adjusted to better show contamination*

### Northern Mockingbird 21-3457

Another delicate case this past year was Northern Mockingbird 21-3157. This Mockingbird was admitted to CWC on 9/2/2021, doused in cooking oil and missing its tail feathers. There was also a significant amount of glue contamination on the patient's wings and legs. The Mockingbird had been caught in a glue trap originally intended to catch mice.

Unfortunately, we admit about five to fifteen patients a year that have been stuck in glue traps. The best thing to do when this happens is to keep the animal connected to the glue trap and place them in a warm, quiet, dark location until they can be transported to a rehabilitation facility.

Most of the glue trap patients we see have sustained injuries from being traumatically removed from the trap, been doused in oil, and sometimes washed. Removing an animal from a glue trap is a very delicate process which requires a lot of stabilization. Although this Mockingbird was hypothermic due to their feather contamination, luckily the only trauma they suffered was the tail feathers being pulled out.

After two days of stabilization with heat support the Mockingbird was ready for their first wash. Although we are usually able to remove glue and oil contamination in one wash, it sometimes takes two or three separate washes if the contamination is extensive. We use a special liquid to break down the glue and then use soapy water to wash the glue and oil away. The warm water temperature is consistently monitored since birds can experience hypothermia very easily. The washing process is extremely stressful on birds and the patient's stress level must be monitored at all times.

This Mockingbird made it through their first wash but unfortunately had to have a second wash after three more days of stabilization. After the second wash and additional stabilization the patient was almost ready for an aviary. This Mockingbird first needed to be treated for intestinal parasites they had most likely picked up from a bird feeder that had not been regularly cleaned. As you're undoubtedly aware, bird feeders can be an infection point for many birds if the feeders are not regularly disinfected.

The Mockingbird was eventually moved to an aviary to grow out their feathers, regain flight stamina, and acclimate to the weather. On 9/30/2021 the Northern Mockingbird was released back to their original location in Sylmar.

This Northern Mockingbird and Common Yellowthroat are two of the thousands of animals we were able to release back into the wild in 2021. Your generous donation helped make it possible to give so many animals a second chance at life. We would once again like to thank the members of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for your continued support.

Warmest regards,

Jennifer Brent, Executive Director, California Wildlife Center [www.cawildlife.org](http://www.cawildlife.org)

# 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:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Treasurer:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Recording Secretary:	Barbara Heidemann	unpublished

### AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Natalie Beckman-Smith	(818) 926-7825
Wendy Barsh	(818) 398-2104
Jolene Herz	(818) 636-3764
Luisa Bergeron	(661) 755-7223
Rebecca Marschall	(818) 219-2649

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Conservation:	OPEN	
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Programs:	Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Annual Awards	Paul Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Birdathon:	Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Christmas Bird Count:	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Community Outreach:	OPEN	
Education Classroom:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Field Trips:	OPEN	
Hansen Dam Birding:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Hospitality:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Malibu Creek Birding:	Dave Barton	(310) 990-6896
	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Membership:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
O'Melveny Bird Wander:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Publicity:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Sepulveda Basin Birding:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(818) 521-8799
Social Media:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207

**TO BECOME A MEMBER AND/OR RENEW  
ONLINE GO TO  
<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/>.  
It's fast, secure, 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> ) ..... <b>FREE</b> for a limited time for new members	\$ _____
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10	\$ _____
Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

New Member  Renewal  School

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (PLEASE INCLUDE):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

If you want to join or renew by check, please be sure to include your e-mail address if you want to receive an acknowledgment. We can no longer thank you by regular mail. If you do not have an e-mail address, please know how much we appreciate your involvement with, and support of, 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).

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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 Like

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

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## Phainopepla

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

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### President's New Year Message

Audubon family, as we begin a new year I wanted to reach out to all of you to share some thoughts and to reflect on our chapter's accomplishments from the previous year.

Last year, to say the least was a challenge. Our chapter met every challenge with tenacity and through the board's ability to pivot and adjust we continued to adhere to our mission statement in every decision so that the chapter's wellbeing would be addressed. Our goals of staying engaged with our community through walks and virtual meetings were met. Reinstating bird and nature walks in a safe manner were accomplished. Thanks to our partnership with the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains our educational outreach to students in LAUSD was supported virtually. Presently, we are reinstating field trips for LAUSD students that are funded by our chapter. We supported, through our target donations California Wildlife Center, Transition Habitat Conservancy, Mono Lake Defense Trust, and the Southern Sierra Research Station. In partnering with these organizations we have demonstrated our commitment to conservation, research and the preservation of bird habitat. The difficult task of finding an appropriate grantee for the Tucker Sanctuary took a great deal of research and time however the board is pleased that Environmental Nature Center was that choice. The board continues to work hard and is committed to accomplishing many more exciting initiatives which we will share as they come to fruition.

Thank you for your continued support of our chapter. Although we are a small group we continue to make a difference.

Happy New Year!  
Paula Orlovich  
President SFVAS



California Towhee, photo by Brett LeVine, 12/18/21