



# Phainopepla

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*For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife*

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## Online General Membership Zoom Programs

We hope you will join us for our informative Zoom Programs. [Click here](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.

Reminder: No Program in December

Join us for the  
123rd Annual Audubon  
Christmas Bird Count

**Saturday  
December 17, 2022**

Bring your binoculars and join us for a fun and rewarding day of counting birds.

*It's for the birds!*

**Become a NEW member  
Your first year is FREE!  
Go to [SFVAudubon.org](http://SFVAudubon.org)**



To reach an event leader or board member call our Chapter Phone Number

**(747) 237-3720**

Number is a Forwarding Message Service

## 2022 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022

See pages 2—3 for locations and Times  
**Birders Needed!**

**You do not need to be an experienced birder, just a birder willing to come out, rain or shine, to count birds.**

## Online Zoom Program

**Thursday, January 26, 2023**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Jackie Kuang**

### Topic:

1. What is Forest Bathing and Forest Therapy?
2. Benefits of the practice of Forest Bathing and Forest Therapy
3. An Experiential Session - please bring an orange or a rock that nicely fits in your palm to this session
4. Group share and Q&A



**J**ackie is a trainer and business manager with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs. She's a certified forest therapy guide trained in 2017 at Sugarloaf Ridge State Park and has been guiding regularly in her communities ever since. She's one of the first guides to pioneer guiding walks remotely via Zoom when the pandemic made guiding in-person unsafe for many months in 2020. Born and raised in China, Jackie came to the United States in 1990 to pursue her PhD in American Literature. She has had a diverse background in various fields such as teaching, translating, marketing, and practicing as a Certified Public Accountant. One of her greatest joys in guiding and training guides is witnessing the transformative impact on participants' well-being on so many levels. She has co-led over ten guide trainings worldwide as of 2022 and created a professional development course called Guiding Business Success for trained guides. You can learn more about her at [www.JackieKuang.com](http://www.JackieKuang.com).

*[Click here](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.*



## 2022 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2022 Birders Needed!

By Alexander deBarros

2022 has been a long, and fun year, but it is finally coming to an end. Fortunately, December gives us a nice final “hurrah” with the holiday season, a time of decorative trees and candles, hot chocolate, and most importantly, bird counting! The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), the National Audubon Society's annual bird census, is right around the corner, and as always, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be joining other Audubon chapters across the western hemisphere to help gather critical data on bird populations for National Audubon's 123rd annual CBC. The San Fernando Valley has been providing CBC data continuously since 1957, so this will be our 66th year participating. Over the years, we have tracked some interesting changes in bird populations within our count circle as The Valley has transitioned from an agricultural area into a more residential one.

On last year's count, we totaled 136 species and 17,860 individuals, somewhat higher than our average of 129 species and 15,721 individuals over the last 20 years. (see February-March 2022 *Phainopepla* for more details)

In order to properly understand the bird populations in the San Fernando Valley, we need to cover as many parks as possible. CBC participation is free and open to all, and extensive birding experience is not a prerequisite, only a willingness to come out and count, wind, rain, or shine. Ten locations that are putting together teams are listed below. If you are unable to join an existing CBC team, you may count on your own at your backyard feeders, local parks, and anywhere else in your neighborhood, as long as you are within our survey area, which is a 7.5 mile radius of Balboa and Nordhoff (a map of the CBC circle is available here: [CBC Circle](#)). Please report all bird species, individual numbers of each species, and the time you spent birding to Alexander deBarros by e-mail, [alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com](mailto:alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com) no later than January 3, 2023. You may also post your sightings on eBird, but please e-mail the checklist to ensure it gets counted.

Open count sectors are listed below. Please be sure to pack lunch and water.

### O'Melveny and Bee Canyon Parks

#### Meeting time 8:00 AM

Exit the 118 Fwy at Balboa Blvd, and head north (turn right if you're on the westbound side, left if you're on the eastbound side). Turn left on Sesnon Blvd and continue 0.5 miles to the O'Melveny Park parking lot. (34.307645 N, 118.511220 W)

Other stops: none

Terrain: mostly flat, some light hills

Approximate distance: 3.50 miles

Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720

### Hansen Dam

#### Meeting time 7:30 AM

Exit the 210 fwy at Osborne St/Foothill Blvd, and head west (turn right if you're on the eastbound side, left if you're on the westbound side). Continue for 690 ft, then turn left into the parking lot. (34.272930 N, 118.383621 W)

Other stops: none

Terrain: mostly flat, some sections may be muddy

Approximate distance: 8.67 miles

Leader: Eric Shaphran, [emshaph@umich.edu](mailto:emshaph@umich.edu)

### Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and Lake Balboa

#### Meeting time 7:30 AM FOLLOW DETOUR

Exit the 405 fwy at Burbank Blvd, and head west (turn left if you're on the northbound side, right if you're on the southbound side). Turn right on Woodley Ave. Turn right at the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot.

Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn left onto the park access road (“Wildlife Way”) Continue for 600 ft, and turn left into the parking lot. (34.179670 N, 118.479616 W)

Other stops: none

Terrain: flat

Approximate distance: 6.50 miles

Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp, [kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net)

### Brand Park and San Fernando Mission

#### Meeting time 8:00 AM

Exit the 5 fwy or the 405 fwy at San Fernando Mission Blvd and head east (turn right if you're on the northbound side, left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Laurel Canyon Blvd, and right again onto Brand Blvd. Continue 0.5 miles to the Brand Park parking lot. (34.271976 N, 118.456883 W)

Other Stops: Carey Ranch Park

Terrain: flat at Brand and Carey Ranch Parks, San Fernando Mission done by car

Approximate distance: 1.5 miles walking, 3.6 miles driving

Leader: Heather Medvitz, [jhmedvitz@yahoo.com](mailto:jhmedvitz@yahoo.com)

### Hansen Dam Golf Course

#### Meeting time 8:00 AM

Exit the 5 fwy at Osborne St and head east (turn right if you're on the northbound side, left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Glenoaks Blvd, and take the 1st possible left towards the parking lot. Meet in parking lot. (34.258229 N, 118.390434 W)

Other stops: Pacoima Wash Natural Park, Sylmar Rec Center

Terrain: flat  
Approximate distance: Three miles  
Leader: Rob Brown, robrown8288@gmail.com

### **Bull Creek and Sepulveda Sports Complexes**

**Meeting time 8:00 AM**  
Exit the 101 fwy at Balboa Blvd and head north (turn right if you're on the northbound side, left if you're on the southbound side). Continue for 0.7 miles, then turn right into Anthony C. Beilenson Park. Take the first possible left into the parking lot. (34.181266 N, 118.498896 W)  
Other stops: none  
Terrain: flat  
Approximate distance: 4.6 miles  
Leader: Rose Leibowitz, roselbirds@gmail.com

### **L.A. River, Tujunga Wash, and Valley College**

**Meeting time 7:00 AM**  
Exit the 405 fwy at Burbank Blvd and head east (turn right if you're on the northbound side, left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Sepulveda Blvd, continue for 0.75 miles, then turn left onto Valleyheart Dr immediately after crossing the L.A. River. Meet at the start of the bike path. (34.161272 N, 118.465744 W)  
Other stops: none  
Terrain: flat  
Approximate distance: 16.7 miles  
Leader: Taylor Driggs, gtaylordriggs@gmail.com  
Note: This route is done using bicycles. You must bring a bike.

### **Reseda Park and small Encino area parks**

**Meeting time 8:00 AM**  
Exit the 101 fwy at Reseda Blvd and head north (turn right if you're on the northbound side, left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Victory Blvd, continue 800 ft, then turn left into the parking lot. (34.186859 N, 118.532932 W)  
Other stops: Encino Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, Holy Spirit Retreat Center  
Terrain: flat  
Approximate distance: 3.5 miles  
Leader: Pat Bates, batesbird@gmail.com

### **Chatsworth Hillside Parks**

**Meeting time 8:00 AM**  
Exit the 118 fwy at De Soto Ave and head south (turn left if you're on the westbound side, right if you're on the eastbound side). Turn right onto Chatsworth St, and right again onto Topanga Canyon Blvd. Continue for 0.33 miles, and meet on the east side of Topanga Canyon Blvd, at Stoney Point Park. (34.269635 N, 118.605976 W)  
Other stops: Chatsworth Park North, Chatsworth Park South, Oakwood Cemetery, Chatsworth Oaks Park, Chase Park  
Terrain: moderate hills at Stoney Point and Chatsworth Oaks, light hills at other parks, Oakwood Cemetery done by car  
Approximate distance: 6.5 miles walking, 1.8 miles driving  
Leader: Robin Share, robindshare@gmail.com

### **Limekiln, Moonshine, and Mormon Canyons**

**Meeting time 7:00 AM**  
Exit the 118 fwy at Porter Ranch Dr and head north (turn right if you're on the westbound side, left if you're on the eastbound side). Turn left onto Sesnon Blvd, then right onto Mason Ave. Meet at the end of Mason Ave. (34.301091 N, 118.579732 W)  
Other stops: none  
Terrain: moderate to strong hills  
Approximate distance: 7.5 miles  
Leader: Richard Armerding, rarmerding@gmail.com

### **Wilbur-Tampa Park and Aliso Canyon**

**Meeting time 8:00 AM**  
Exit the 118 fwy at Tampa Ave and head north (turn right if you're on the westbound side, left if you're on the eastbound side). Turn right onto Wilbur Ave. Meet on the north side of Wilbur Ave, just east of Tampa Ave. (34.288309 N, 118.556166 W)  
Other stops: none  
Terrain: moderate hills  
Approximate distance: seven miles  
Leader: Charlie Wilken, cswilken@gmail.com

### **Devil's Canyon Trail**

**Meeting time 7:30 AM**  
Exit the 118 fwy at De Soto Ave and head south (turn left if you're on the westbound side, right if you're on the eastbound side). Turn right at Chatsworth St, and right again at Canoga Ave. Meet on the east side of Canoga Ave, just past the 118. (34.275745 N, 118.595351 W)  
Other stops: none  
Terrain: light to moderate hills  
Approximate distance: 5.5 miles  
Leader: Alexander deBarros, alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com



*Spotted Towhee. CBC 2020. R. LeVine*

## Kris Ohlenkamp Retiring

Kris has been a long-time member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, almost as long as I've been a member. During his tenure, he has been one of the main cogs and drivers that has kept the Chapter functioning and moving forward. His accomplishments have been many and extend back many years; more years than I can remember with any degree of certainty or accuracy.

Kris served three terms as president. I succeeded him on two of those occasions. In addition to leading the monthly walks at Sepulveda, he also led the Sepulveda portion of the annual Christmas Bird Count for many, many years. Just how many would be a major project in historical research. He was the custodian of the Holms property from the time of its acquisition to its eventual sale.

Kris has always been an avid birder. Back when the Chapter offered rankings, awards, and recognitions for the most birds posted on eBird during the previous year, Kris's totals always exceeded mine. We did, however, share and collaborate in the sightings of several ornithological stragglers and strangers to the Southern California birding scene: the Crested Caracara at Hansen Dam, 1/30/07; the Cassin's Sparrow on Munz Ranch Road, 5/25/14; the Ancient Murrelet in the Marina del Rey channel, 12/28/14.

Thanks much for turning in all those CBC reports and chairing all those meetings, and may you continue to enjoy good birding in retirement.—Art Langton

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## Book report: by Marianne Davis

### *The Nature of Nature: Why We Need the Wild*, by Enric Sala



This book was a slow start but actually turned out to be a very good read on Audiobooks for a very long drive to Arizona. Sala, (who is from Latin America) explained how he became fascinated with corals and microorganisms in the ocean, following the usual academic path to a doctoral degree in oceanography. Where it really starts to take off is when he begins to list the myriad examples of how mankind meddles with one piece of nature, it results in a big unanticipated shift somewhere else, frequently with disastrous results. The one example that I remember well is when the Japanese started fishing out small whales in the Pacific Northwest, they figured that other whales would just expand into the territory. What the Japanese did not anticipate however, was that by fishing out that specific whale population, they created a big problem for the local orcas. The local orcas, starving, began hunting out all of the otter population, and that population shrank drastically, surviving only in shallow sheltered inlets. It created yet another problem in that otters eat sea urchins, which feed on seaweed forests. Because of that, a lot of seaweed forest that all of the local life depended upon started disappearing as well.

At the end of the book he gives us hope, by illustrating how by involving top leaders in their own natural treasures, one can increase their understanding of why it is critical to preserve what they have. As a National Geographic scientist he has had the opportunity to do so in several situations, and at least gives us a strategy for increasing comprehension of the problem.

To summarize, nature IS one humongous Jenga puzzle, and if you think you can pull just one piece out, you're wrong. Recent events bring to mind the snow crab population collapse, and the sorrowful interviews on the news media about fisherman having to declare bankruptcy. Indeed, as often quoted from John Muir, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." Now if we can just get the Japanese to lay off whale fishing... 🐻

## Calendar of Events

Please remember to check our website for the latest information on our bird outings. We continue to follow CDC guidelines.

### December 2022

To reach an event leader you may now call our Forwarding message service at [\(747\) 237-3720](tel:747-237-3720)

**Sunday, December 4. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00 a.m.** Join us as we honor Kris Ohlenkamp during his last official Sepulveda Basin walk before retiring. **Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:** Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Thursday, December 8. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park. 10:00—11:30 a.m.** If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature, join us 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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org) or Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org).



**Saturday, December 10. FREE Guided Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Tour. 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 to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:** Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. [muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org). Heavy rain cancels..

**Sunday, December 11. 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. (747) 237-3720.

**Saturday December 17. Christmas Bird Count.** Come out and count birds for the 123<sup>rd</sup> Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. All are welcome. No experience necessary—just a willingness to count rain or shine. See pages 2–3 for meeting times/locations. Join us later to compile the findings at Poquito Mas, 16545 Ventura Blvd., Encino. Time TBD.

**Sunday, December 18. 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 and David Barton. [katheryn.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:katheryn.barton@sfvaudubon.org).

**Sunday, December 18. Young Birders Group. Oro Vista Park in Sunland-Tujunga. 9–11:00 a.m.** 11101 Oro Vista Ave, Sunland-Tujunga, CA 91040. This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don't forget to bring them! If you're planning on coming, please send us a quick e-mail at [youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org) so we have an idea of how many folks to expect. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions for walk locations, or anything else. Please check our website for updates. E-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at [YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org) for more information and we can add you to our e-mail list.

**Tuesday, December 20. 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 [c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

No General Membership Meeting in December.

Happy Holidays!

**Saturday, December 24. Hansen Dam Birding 8:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Avenue, Pacoima. Hansen Dam Birding is moving back to the Dronfield lot — near the Ranger Station! The lot is available again, and there is no street parking near the other location in the event the gate is locked. Directions: Take the Foothill/Osborne exit from the 210 Freeway, go right (east) on Foothill, to Osborne (1st light), go left, then left again at Dronfield. Meet in the lower parking lot (down the hill from the Ranger Station). If the lower level or the gate is locked, park either on the upper level or street and meet at the Ranger Station. Accessibility is excellent for this site, which is entirely on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [treasurer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@sfvaudubon.org).

### January 2023

**Sunday, January 1. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00—11:00 a.m.** **Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:**



Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right

turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Leader: Alexander de Barros, [alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com](mailto:alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com).

**Sunday, January 8. 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. (747) 237-3720.

**Thursday, January 12. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park. 10:00—11:30 a.m.** If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature, join us 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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org) or Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, January 14. FREE Guided Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Tour. 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 to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:** Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. [muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org). Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, January 15. 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 and David Barton. [katheryn.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:katheryn.barton@sfvaudubon.org).



**Tuesday, January 17. 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 [c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Thursday, January 26. General Membership Program. 7:00—8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Jackie Kuang Topic: What is Forest Bathing and Forest Therapy?** Jackie is a trainer and business manager with the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy Guides and Programs. See page one 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, January 28. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Avenue, Pacoima. Hansen Dam Birding is moving back to the Dronfield lot — near the Ranger Station! The lot is available again, and there is no street parking near the other location in the event the gate is locked. Directions: Take the Foothill/Osborne exit from the 210 Freeway, go right (east) on Foothill, to Osborne (1st light), go left, then left again at Dronfield. Meet in the lower parking lot (down the hill from the Ranger Station). If the lower level or the gate is locked, park either on the upper level or street and meet at the Ranger Station. Accessibility is excellent for this site, which is entirely on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [treasurer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@sfvaudubon.org).



**Sunday, January 29. Young Birders Group. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. 9—11:00 a.m.** This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don't forget to bring them! If you're planning on coming, please send us a quick e-mail at [youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org) so we have an idea of how many folks to expect. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions for walk locations, or anything else. Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road: Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Please check our website for updates. E-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at [YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org) for more information and we can add you to our e-mail list. 🐦

## Book Recommendation

### *The Lost and Found Bookshop*, by Susan Wiggs



I chose this on Audible, because frankly I needed a little light reading. Having started out in life as a librarian, I'm a sucker for anything about book shops, so I chose this. OK, it's a bit of a romance story, but it's also about finding your groove, and I was astonished to find that it had a strong AUDUBON connection at the end. Perfect combination of simple entertainment. —Marianne Davis

## Spread Your Wings & Fly On Over To The Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway!

January 26 - 29, 2023  
Patrick Ranch Museum  
Chico, CA  
Registration begins in early  
December



**We look forward to seeing you!**

[www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org)  
[info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org)

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

### ENCINO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## LAFD STATION 83 POLLINATOR GARDEN PROJECT UPDATE

OCTOBER 25, 2022 —by Pat Bates

The 2,000 square foot native plant pollinator garden at the north end of Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) Station 83 in



Encino, funded by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and the Encino Neighborhood Council, was installed in early 2022. The project involved

clearing the area of weeds, mulching and preparing the soil. Los Angeles City Council District 4 generously donated funds for weed clearing and rock for the central area of the garden. Everyone involved thanks the LAFD for welcoming the use of their property for this project in urban biodiversity enhancement and sustainability.

The garden includes a wide variety of native plants - Epilobium, various Penstemons, sages, yarrow, bladderpod, toyon, sugarbush, narrow leaf milkweed, showy annuals, and more. A few plants succumbed to the very long hot summer (or dogs), and will be replaced this fall, in some cases with varieties that seem more suited to the particular area. The garden will also be expanded to the interior of the station's gated

area and will include a birdbath to supplement the current hanging water source.

As the garden developed over the summer we saw more and more birds, butterflies, bees, and lizards. The Epilobium is currently in full bloom and we are seeing Anna's and Allan's Hummingbirds as well as a variety of butterflies visiting the trumpet-shaped red flowers. Sunflowers are hosting bees and flocks of Dark-eyed Juncos and Lesser Goldfinches. Perhaps the high point of the past month has been the discovery of monarch butterfly caterpillars in the milkweed!

While the City of Los Angeles is recognized as a biodiversity hotspot, that biodiversity is threatened by our urban environment. Projects such as this one can be expanded city-wide to



include everything from lawns converted from turf to underutilized medians and public spaces. The pollinator gardens can easily be combined with existing or new shade tree installations, and will provide a lasting benefit. To learn more including how to volunteer please

contact Pat Bates, [treasurer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@sfvaudubon.org).

### Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

Email 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) 425-0962 or at [alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org). 🐛

## Worth a Thousand Words: A Spoonbill Picture

By David J. Barton

It was a warm, clear, and calm day in Alcochete last October. Kathy and I were strolling through this charming Portuguese town, gazing across the broad Tagus River at the Vasco da Gama Bridge, the second longest in Europe. As we walked along the pier leading to the lighthouse, we scanned both sides in hopes of seeing some birds we had come to this part of the world to see. We quickly turned up Little Egret, Common Redshank, Black-headed Gull, and Lesser Black-backed Gull, as well as the Ruddy Turnstones and Sanderlings familiar to us back home in Southern California, all fairly close to the pier.

Kathy then spotted, farther out in the river, a large stork like bird, long-legged and long-billed. A Eurasian Spoonbill! We watched it with interest through our binoculars. It was not a lifer, but we had observed them only a few times before, on birding trips to Platier d'Oye in northern France and Keoladeo National Park in Rajasthan, India. And a spoonbill—with its pinkish coloration and unusual, spatulate-tipped bill—is always a great bird to see. So, even though the bird was too far away for me to take a truly spectacular photo, I nevertheless lifted my camera and took a few shots as a memento. What the heck, right? It's only a digital image, and I can erase it if it's just too uninspiring.



What I did not know at the time, and learned only weeks later, was that the photos would be of great interest to conservationists struggling to save the spoonbill and would reveal more detailed and intimate information about this individual bird than I ever expected. And the photos would link me to a community of birders and naturalists not only in Portugal, but in Italy and the Netherlands.

I enjoy photographing birds, and I keep a list of the birds I have seen on eBird ([ebird.org](http://ebird.org)). In fact, I often attach my photos to my submitted eBird checklist, as a way of helping me recall what I have seen and where I have seen it. Some years ago, I started also using [iNaturalist.org](http://iNaturalist.org), where photos of all kinds of living organisms can be submitted for identification. So, it was routine for me, when Kathy and I returned home from our trip in mid-October, to upload the spoonbill shots to iNaturalist. As I did, I sadly noted that I had been correct—the bird was too far away for the shots to be winning me any photography awards. But I also noted something that I had missed in the field in my excitement to see the bird: colored bands around the leg.



Expert bird identifiers at iNaturalist, including a Portuguese ornithologist, naturalists from Portugal and Italy, and a PhD student at the University of Oldenburg, Germany who is studying animal navigation, all quickly confirmed that my bird was indeed a Eurasian Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*). Confirmations are always gratifying, but really, I never harbored any doubt about this fairly unmistakable bird. What was more noteworthy was a rare comment from Andreas Michalik, the German PhD student: "Did you report the colour-rings?" *Continued next page.*



The question stopped me short. I hadn't. In fairness, I had no idea to whom I should submit such a report. And to be honest, I was in Portugal only briefly. I was just passing through as a tourist and I assumed that, in my short time there, I would be unlikely to make any observations that had not already been noted a million times by local European birders. Somewhat shamefacedly, I posted that I had not reported the color-rings.

Andreas posted a prompt response: "I think it is very welcome. Send it to [werkgroeplepelaar@gmail.com](mailto:werkgroeplepelaar@gmail.com)."

It was several days before I checked on my postings to read this e-mail. By then, I had received a message from Giorgio Amassi, the Italian naturalist, letting me know that he had taken the liberty of sending my photos of the spoonbill with colored rings to the Spoonbill Working Group, a Dutch project whose website is [www.werkgroeplepelaar.org](http://www.werkgroeplepelaar.org). According to Giorgio, working group leader Carl Zuhorn of Sovon, Dutch Centre for Field Ornithology, was very grateful for the photos and asked Giorgio to send me the list of past observations of the bird I photographed that had been received so far by the working group.

Surprisingly to me, the observations reveal that the spoonbill that Kathy and I had been admiring was 19 years old, having been ringed as a pullus (a downy chick) back in 2003! It appears that the lifespan of birds of this species, on average, is not known, although there is a record of an individual that attained 30 years.



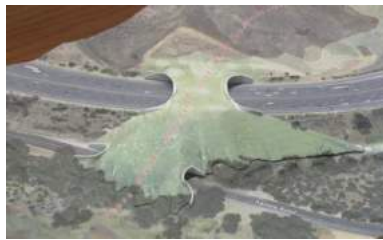
The observation sheet provided other information as well. We learned the name of the ringer and that the ringing location was Vlieland, in Bomenland, The Netherlands. Since 2003, the Spoonbill Working Group has collected over 130 observations of this individual, all of which were made in Portugal or the Netherlands except for four sightings in Spain and France. And virtually all the Portugal sightings were in Alcochete or the Tagus estuary, indicating the importance of this area as habitat for this species. My own sighting was the first reported sighting of the bird in six months, and the first sighting since the end of the most recent breeding season.

The experience reminded me that bird photos, if properly shared, can be more than personal souvenirs or artistic expressions. They can provide valuable information about the average age, migration patterns, feeding habits, and preferred habitats of the photographic subjects. And I was reminded that even brief, casual observations can have value to researchers. And that in this shrinking and ever more connected world, there are more opportunities than ever for the global community of bird watchers to cooperate more closely in their efforts to learn about and conserve avian wildlife. 🐦

## Annual P-22 Day

The SFVAudubon participated in the annual P-22 Day this year at Griffith Park. It was inspiring to see all the Los Angeles City, State and Environmental organizations come together on this day that is dedicated to the idea that Los Angeles can make more accommodations to the wildlife that is all around us here. This year was a very special year as everyone was celebrating the construction of a huge wildlife overpass in Agoura that would make a viable corridor for mountain lions and other wildlife able to traverse from the Santa Monica mountains up towards the Los Padres National Forest. Construction began on Earth day this year and will be completed sometime in 2023.

SFVAudubon member Art Langton brought 12 beautifully preserved and restored birds to display which attracted a lot of attention. We were then able to get many people to sign up for their first year's membership with SFVAudubon. We also had a place where children could draw feathers or birds. Many board members helped staff the table throughout a very beautiful day. This was one of our first post covid tabling events and it was good to be talking to real humans again.



Rendering of the Wildlife Corridor



—by Charlie Wilken, Outreach Chair

## Free Guided Tours of Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve



San Fernando Valley Audubon invites you to guided tours of the reserve on Second Saturdays. The walks will include the many birds, other wildlife, habitat, and recovery from the devastating fire of September 2020. The emphasis of each tour will vary with participants' interests.

### Second Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. October 2022 – March 2023.

Tours of this special place will begin at 9:00 A.M. and last an hour and a half or two hours, depending on the group's wishes.

#### These Walks are for

- People who want to visit the Wildlife Reserve
- Families with school-age children
- Beginning birdwatchers, including first timers

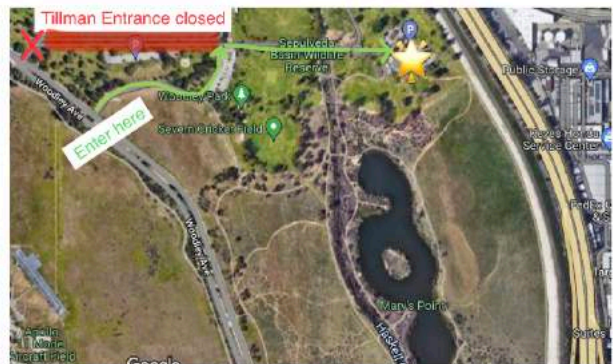
**Time and Meeting Place:** The Wildlife Area entrance and amphitheater are in the southeast part of Woodley Park. Meet at the small **amphitheater** on the south side of the rock-faced buildings at **9:00 A.M.**

**Directions\*\*\*:** Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank or south from Victory Blvd., go ½ mile and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at amphitheater. GPS coordinates of parking lot: 34.179942,-118.472595 \*\*\* UNTIL AT LEAST FEBRUARY 2023, A DETOUR IS INVOLVED. SEE BELOW FOR DETOUR DIRECTIONS.

**Equipment and Clothing:** Wear sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and a cap or hat with a brim. Binoculars are available to borrow. Please leave your pets home.

**More Information:** Muriel Kotin at 213.500-4143 or San Fernando Valley Audubon at 747.237-3720. Website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org). **Heavy rain cancels.**

**\*\*\*DETOUR:** DETOUR WILL BE NECESSARY AT LEAST UNTIL FEBRUARY 2023. SEE MAP AND DIRECTIONS BELOW.



Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road

Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road ("Wildlife Way") and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road's end.

Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings.

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

NEW Chapter Phone Number

To reach a board member or event leader you may now call our forwarding message service at **(747) 237-3720**

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**It's fast, secure, saves time, and paper!**

Or mail this form and include a check made payable to:  
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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 non-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society, and is dedicated to "Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife."

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) 425-0962 or e-mail her at [Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).

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For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our Website: [www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)

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



## Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society  
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### *Inside This Issue*

Christmas Bird Count...2—3  
Kris Ohlenkamp Retiring... 4  
Book Report...4  
Calendar of Events...5—6  
Pollinator Garden Update...7  
Audubon-at-Home...7  
A Spoonbill Picture...8—9  
P-22 Day Recap...10  
Sepulveda Basin Tour...10  
Chapter Information...11

### **Nominating Committee**

**T**he Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers who are interested in participating on our board of directors or committees for the coming SFVAS year, July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024. Most board members start their service as chairs of a committee or as elected board members at large. Serving on a committee can also be a great way to become more involved with and contribute to SFVAS.

***Newcomers to the board are important!*** We are volunteers, so you don't have to have prior experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge and expertise while helping SFVAS work to fulfill our mission: to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory, to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of bird life and the natural environment, and to create a social environment that encourages individual development and participation. Please contact Alexander deBarros if you are interested in serving in any capacity at [alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com](mailto:alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com).