



# Phainopepla

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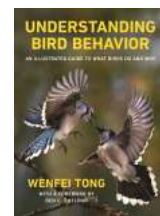
February / March 2024

## February Zoom Program: Bird Love

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 5:00—6:30 p.m.



Dr. Wenfei Tong will talk about how birds exhibit a wide array of behaviors—from sabotaging budding romances to outsourcing childcare duties. Why do they behave as they do? Bringing to light the remarkable actions of birds through examples from species around the world, including some of her own research in Kenya and Zambia, Wenfei will present vignettes about the private lives of birds in an evolutionary context, and illustrated with her art and photographs. She will also discuss stories from her books *Bird Love* and *Understanding Bird Behavior* that highlight the work of community scientists and other female or minority biologists.



Dr. Wenfei Tong is a biologist with a passion for understanding and conserving the natural world. She enjoys sharing her love of birds and biology through her paintings, photography, teaching, and writing. Her books, *Bird Love*, and *Understanding Bird Behavior*, use scientific discoveries to show how much human and birds share, including some of literature's most basic themes. Her ultimate aim is to inspire as many people as possible to care for and thus protect nature.

Wenfei grew up in Singapore, where she started birding at twelve years old. She first got hooked on field biology as an undergraduate at Princeton and Oxford, and has a PhD in evolutionary biology from Harvard. She has guided natural history tours in Tanzania, the Galapagos, and Montana, where she is active in the conservation community and takes visitors birding on horseback. She now works at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in Ithaca, N.Y.

## March Zoom Program: Great Gray Owls in a Changing Environment

Thursday, March 28, 2024, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

Our speaker, **Rodney Siegel, PhD**, is Executive Director for the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP). He will be speaking about Ecology and Conservation of California's Great Gray Owls in a Changing Environment.



Great Gray Owls are among the world's larger owls, and California is the southernmost extension of their Holarctic distribution. Rodney will be discussing what habitat features are most important to California's enigmatic Great Gray Owls, and what does climate change mean for the longer-term stability of the species? He will provide an introduction to California's Great Gray Owl and then discuss a decade of research conducted by IBP and their colleagues to better understand the California population's habitat needs and the relative risks posed by changing wildfire patterns and anthropogenic climate change.



Rodney will focus in particular on ongoing research in Yosemite National Park that was generously funded in part by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.

Rodney joined IBP in 1968 as a research scientist, after completing his B.A. at Yale and his PhD at U.C. Davis. He was appointed Executive Director in 2008. His research interests include effects of fire and forest management on birds, conservation of meadow birds, and conservation of owls. He also studies the effects of climate change on forest birds. He is particularly interested in research that has practical applications for management and conservation. Rodney has published nearly 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored multiple conservation strategies for California birds.

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## 2023 Annual Christmas Bird Count

The end of the year is a time of joy and celebration for many people across many cultures. In the United States, most people celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, but birders also have the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Started by the Audubon Society in 1900, it is one of the world's longest running community science projects. With over 2,500 count areas spread across the Americas and the North Pacific, CBC data is influential in tracking the rise and fall of bird populations and species diversity on both local and international levels. Analyses of National Audubon's 124 years of CBC data can be found [here](#). San Fernando Valley Audubon has been contributing to the CBC since 1957, and we were eager to continue for our 67<sup>th</sup> CBC. On December 16, 2023, 58 counters covered 87 locations, totaling 129 species and 14,733 individuals. For reference, last year's totals were 135 species and 18,189 individuals, and our 20 year average is 131 species and 15,985 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 seven additional species during count week, bringing our total for the week to 136 species. These seven species include:

- **Redhead**, which was located at the Sepulveda Basin. This diving duck is generally found in areas with deeper water than what is found in the San Fernando Valley, so it is only intermittently seen in our count circle. When they are seen here, they're usually around Hansen Dam, where it was reported on count day last year.
- **Sora**, which was also located at the Sepulveda Basin. This close relative of the American Coot is often present in areas with dense reeds, but it rarely ventures out into the open. Because of this, it is easily missed.
- **Williamson's Sapsucker**, which was located at Veteran's Memorial Park. This species is generally found in mountain pine forests, but occasionally descends from the Angeles National Forest into our count circle. Every time it has been recorded on our CBC, it has been seen at Veteran's Memorial Park, probably because it is adjacent to the Sapsucker's usual range. This is the second year in a row it has been reported in count week.
- **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, which was also located at Veteran's Memorial Park. This species is primarily found on the east coast, but it occasionally strays west in the winter. It has been reported on our count a lot more in recent years, with all but two reports coming from the last 10 years (although our historical data on this species is rather limited, as it was not recognized as a separate species from the local Red-naped Sapsucker until 1990). It was seen on count day last year.
- **Red-breasted Sapsucker**, which was located at the San Fernando Rec Center. Generally our most common Sapsucker, it was all but absent from our count circle this year, with this being the fourth time since 1983 that it was not seen on count day. Six were seen across three locations last year.
- **Prairie Falcon**, which was located at Hansen Dam. Generally found in the Antelope Valley, this desert and grassland species occasionally spends time in our local mountains. It has been seen on count day 21 times, most recently in 2014. Since then, it has been found thrice in count week.
- **Plumbeous Vireo**, which was located at Parthenia Park and Veteran's Memorial Park. This little insectivore has been recorded on count day ten times, and in count week almost every year since the protocol was first implemented in 2013.

On count day this year we found many species that haven't been seen in a very long time. These highlights included:

- Two **Blue-winged Teal**, found at Hansen Dam by Pat Bates. This dabbling duck is fairly common in the Glendale Narrows, but rarely strays into our CBC circle. This is the 16th count day record, but only the third since 2000.
- One **White-faced Ibis**, found at Bull Creek by Rose Leibowitz. Another species that prefers the Glendale Narrows, this wading bird has only been seen on count day four times, most recently in 2017.
- One **Western Screech-Owl**, found at Caballero Canyon by Alexander deBarros. This small owl is often present in mountain oak canyons, but because it is nocturnal and rather difficult to find, it is rarely reported. This is the first time it has been found on our CBC since 2015.
- One **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, found at Pierce College by Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz. This species is very common here in summer, but usually winters on the west coast of Mexico. In recent years, some individuals have been staying here year-round, probably because of climate change. It has reported on our CBC 11 times, including count day two years ago and count week last year.
- One **Western Kingbird**, found at the Chatsworth Reservoir by Sage Bylin and Art Langton. Another summer flycatcher, this species generally winters on the southern coast of Mexico and Central America. This is the second time it has ever been recorded on our count, having previously been seen in 1989.
- Twenty-nine **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, found by 11 teams across 17 different parks. Generally found in mountain pine forests throughout the US and Canada (albeit about 400 miles south of the Arctic Ocean), a massive number of these birds appeared in California this year. Red-breasted Nuthatches are facultative migrants; during winter, some stay on the breeding grounds while others migrate to 30°N, up to 1,800 miles away from their breeding grounds. This year's influx was likely caused by the immense wildfires in Western Canada, Washington, Oregon, and Northern California destroying over 2,700,000 acres of forest, and forcing the Nuthatches that would normally winter there to migrate here in search of refuge. Of the 15 times Red-breasted Nuthatch has been recorded on our CBC, this was by far our highest total, with the previous record being 11 individuals in 1963. In fact, we saw more Red-breasted Nuthatches on this CBC than on our last 40 CBCs combined (and that's not factoring in the 12 others seen in count week)!
- One **White-throated Sparrow**, found at Veteran's Memorial Park by Joey Di Liberto. This species is primarily found east of the Rocky Mountains, but a few winter in California. This is the 13th time it has been recorded on count day.
- One **Palm Warbler**, also found at Veteran's Memorial Park by Joey Di Liberto. Another eastern bird that occasionally strays west, the Palm Warbler is very rare in our CBC circle, having only been recorded on count day four times. This is our first record since 2001.
- One **Western Tanager**, found at Limekiln Canyon by Richard Armerding. Primarily a summer bird that winters in Mexico and Central America, a handful have started wintering in coastal Southern California, with particular concentrations in San Diego, the San Gabriel Valley, and the south slope of the Santa Monica Mountains. Despite being fairly regular on adjacent CBCs, it has only strayed into the San Fernando Valley on count day seven times, most recently in 2004 (although it was seen in count week in 2016). (*CBC Continued next page*)

Other unusual bird sightings include:

- Six **Northern Pintail**, two at Hansen Dam, three at the Sepulveda Basin, and one at the Chatsworth Reservoir. This is the 45th time it has been seen on count day, but is somehow the highest of only six records since 2000. Five were seen last year, making this the first time since 1999 that we've gotten them on count day two years in a row.
- Two **Western Grebe**, one at the Encino Reservoir and one at the Sepulveda Basin. This is the 40th\* count day record, but in recent years, most or all of the sightings have been at the Encino Reservoir. In fact, this is the first time since 2018 that it has been seen anywhere other than the Encino Reservoir. (\*Clark's Grebe was considered a subspecies of Western Grebe until 1985, so some of the Western Grebe records made before then may actually be of Clark's Grebes).
- One **Northern Flicker (Intergrade)** at the Sepulveda Recreation Center. As many of you know, the Northern Flicker has two distinctive forms, the western Red-shafted (45 of which were seen this year) and the eastern Yellow-shafted. While they look very different, they are considered the same species because they often hybridize on the Great Plains (a hybrid between subspecies is known as an intergrade). This is the 3rd time and the 2nd year in a row an Intergrade Flicker has shown up on our CBC.
- One **Black Merlin** at the Chatsworth Reservoir. This subspecies of Merlin (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*) is normally found in the Pacific Northwest, from Southern Alaska to Monterey Bay, but occasionally wanders further south in winter. This is the first time this subspecies has been recorded on our CBC. By contrast, the Taiga Merlin (*F. c. columbarius*), which is the common subspecies here, has been recorded on our CBC 45 times, with four being seen this year.
- One **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** at the Sepulveda Basin, two **Tree Swallow** at Deervale—Stone Canyon Park, and two **Violet-green Swallow** at the Chatsworth Reservoir. Swallows are common throughout Los Angeles in the summer, but are quite rare here in winter. Most migrate to Mexico and Central America in the winter, but a handful stick around all year, usually along the local waterways. Swallows have been wintering here more in recent years, likely due to climate change. This is the 31st time Northern Rough-winged Swallow has been seen on count day, the 22nd time for Tree Swallow, and the 18th time for Violet-green Swallow.
- One **Mountain Chickadee** at Veteran's Memorial Park. Generally found in high mountain pine forests, some of these tiny birds move to lower elevations in winter. Because it is right next to the Angeles National Forest, Veteran's Park is a very popular winter hideout for this species. This is the 37th time it has been seen on count day, and the 4th year in a row it has been found at Veteran's Park.
- One **Mountain Bluebird** at the Sepulveda Basin. Generally found in alpine meadows, some wander to lower elevations in the winter. This is the 15th time it has been seen on count day. There was a massive influx last year, with 14 birds seen, our highest count in 38 years.
- Three **Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)** at Veteran's Memorial Park. This subspecies (*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*) is most common on the east coast, but some also winter in the west coast. In L.A., it is usually found in grassy parks near mountains, and Veteran's Memorial Park is one of their most reliable spots. It has been seen on count day 27 times, with at least one seen at Veteran's Memorial park the last three years. By contrast, the Oregon subspecies group (*J. h. thurberi / shufeldti / oregonus / simillimus*; all four subspecies winter here and are indistinguishable in the field), which is the common one here, has been seen on every CBC, with 230 being seen this year.
- Ten **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)** found across eight parks. Breeding in the Taiga Forest, this subspecies (*Setophaga coronata coronata*) mainly winters in the eastern U.S., Mexico, Central America, and along the Pacific coast from Washington to Monterey, but some winter throughout the Southwestern States, and Southern California. It has shown up on our CBC 27 times, with this year's total being a record high. By contrast, the Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler (*S. c. auduboni*), the common subspecies here, has been recorded on every CBC, with 1,888 (their 5th highest total ever) being seen this year.
- One **Black-throated Gray Warbler** at Hansen Dam. Primarily found here during migration, the Black-throated Gray Warbler is actually found in L.A. year-round, with some breeding in the high mountains and a few wintering in the lowlands. It has been recorded on count day 25 times. One other individual was also seen in count week.

Unfortunately, several common species were noticeably absent this year.

- **Cackling Goose**, seen on almost every count since it was split from Canada Goose in 2005, but only once in the last five years.
- **Mute Swan**, seen annually from 2010-2020, and again last year. All of these sightings were of the resident family at Lake Balboa, but the last individual hasn't been seen there since the end of May.
- **Wood Duck**, seen on 39 counts, but only twice since 2015. One was seen last year.
- **Greater Roadrunner**, seen on 49 counts, including last year. The Roadrunner is a rather cryptic species, being found by call more often than not. It is also fairly local, rarely being seen away from the Chatsworth Reservoir.
- **Virginia Rail**, seen on 17 counts. This marsh bird, closely related to the American Coot, rarely comes out in the open, and can easily go unnoticed when it's not calling.
- **Northern Harrier**, seen on 58 counts, but only intermittently since 2013. Three were seen last year, but none the year before.
- **Fox Sparrow**, seen on 52 counts. This miss is actually quite surprising, as it's only the second time we've missed it since 2005 (it was last missed in 2019, when 1/5 of our count circle burned in the Saddleridge Fire). However, it does line up with a larger drop in numbers of almost all Sparrow species this year.

The main point of the CBC is to track bird population trends. Several notable trends that are being tracked by SFVAS are:

- **Vermilion Flycatcher**: The Vermilion Flycatcher population continues to increase, with a record high of 13 seen on count day. 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 an effect of climate change, with L.A. now being warm enough to sustain them. (CBC Continued next page)

Vermilion Flycatcher Sightings	Adult	Immature
<b>Male</b>	- 3 Valley Plaza Park - 1 Hansen Dam - 1 Carey Ranch Park - 1 Sepulveda VA Hospital	- 1 Sepulveda Basin - 1 Hansen Dam
<b>Female</b>	- 2 Sepulveda Basin - 1 Valley Plaza Park	- 1 Sepulveda Basin - 1 Sepulveda VA Hospital



CBC 2023. Hansen Dam. Vermilion Flycatcher. Photo by Pat Bates

- **Loggerhead Shrike:** Formerly abundant in the San Fernando Valley, the Loggerhead Shrike population declined significantly from the mid 90s to the 2000s. Since then, it has stabilized at about four individuals, which are usually seen at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, Pierce College, and Sheldon —Arleta Park, as they all have the open grassy fields that the Shrike prefers. However, only one was seen this year, at Pierce College.
- **Blackbirds:** The previous three counts were particularly bad for Blackbirds. Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer’s Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, and Great-tailed Grackle all showed notable declines, with Brewer’s Blackbird and Great-tailed Grackle hitting record lows, Red-winged Blackbird getting its second-lowest count ever, and Brown-headed Cowbird being missed completely last year (before that, it was last missed in 1961). Luckily, whatever blight had hit the Blackbirds appears to have passed, with all four species showing good numbers this year. As for why they declined to begin with, it may have been lack of rain. This year was a lot rainier than the last few, which would benefit species that spend much of their time near water.
- **Sparrows:** Of the 22 species that have ever been recorded on our CBC, 13 have been seen frequently enough to pick up on population trends. They are Chipping, Lark, Fox, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Vesper, Savannah, Song, Lincoln’s, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, California and Spotted Towhees, and Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon). In recent years, the populations of all these species have been increasing or holding steady (Chipping and Lark Sparrows both hit record highs last year). But this year, many species had a significant drop in numbers. **Lark, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Savannah, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows all dropped by at least 50% compared to last year. As mentioned above, Fox Sparrow was missed entirely.** Chipping, Song, and Lincoln’s Sparrows, as well as Dark-eyed Junco and Spotted Towhee declined slightly, but within what would be expected in year-to-year variation. On the other side of that coin, Vesper Sparrow and California Towhee increased slightly, again within normal parameters. However, the species that dropped by over 50% are concerning, especially since their ranges and preferred habitats suggest each decline had a different cause. The Rufous-crowned Sparrow is a known fire-follower, and their numbers tripled after the 2019 Saddle Ridge Fire, so this decline is probably their population returning to normal as the area regrows. White-crowned, Golden-crowned, and Savannah may have been affected by the fires in British Columbia and other parts of Canada, but Lark Sparrows and most of our Fox Sparrows don’t live anywhere near major burn areas. Fortunately, trends like these are likely going to be noticed on many other CBCs, enough for National Audubon to get an idea of where to direct action over the coming years, and help these populations recover.



CBC 2023: Great-tailed Grackle, Hansen Dam. Photo by Pat Bates

The winner for highest count this year was Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon’s), with 1888 individuals. The rest of the top 10 are American Coot (1575), Canada Goose (869), House Finch (671), Mourning Dove (602), Mallard (559), Bushtit (542), Rock Pigeon (500), Western Meadowlark (450), and White-crowned Sparrow (440).

Record highs were achieved by Allen’s Hummingbird, Turkey Vulture, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Nanday Parakeet, Black Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Third-highest totals by Domestic Mallard and House Wren, and second-highest totals were not achieved by any species.

Despite declines in many species, only Spotted Sandpiper, Peregrine Falcon, Loggerhead Shrike, and Mountain Chickadee hit record lows. And it’s rare for us to see more than ten of any of these species anyway.

We didn’t lose any of the 34 species that have been recorded on all 66 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 one species and one subspecies that had never been recorded on our CBC before, bringing the total number of species recorded across all our CBCs to 258 species, plus one count week only, four probable escapees, 19 other taxa, and five questionable reports.

- One **Neotropical Cormorant**, seen by Alexander deBarros at the Sepulveda Basin. A smaller relative of the Double-crested Cormorant, this tropical species is expanding into Southern California due to climate change. It first arrived at Sepulveda in 2020, bred there in 2022 and 2023, and has now finally been seen on the CBC. It is also resident at nine other parks throughout L.A. County, particularly along the San Gabriel River.
- One **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle x Audubon’s Intergrade)**, seen by Zee Zetino and Sol Ruiz at Dearborn Park. While our two subspecies of Yellow-rumped Warbler look fairly different, they are considered the same species because they often hybridize in British Columbia. While Intergrades winter throughout the range of Audubon’s, they are difficult to tell apart, especially in their winter plumage.

The Sepulveda Basin, where Alexander deBarros counted 81 species and 3005 individual birds, won the award for most species and the award for most individuals. Second place in species went to Hansen Dam, where Pat Bates and Brad Rumble counted 70 species and 805 (CBC Continued next page)

individuals. Second place in individual birds went to the Chatsworth Reservoir (which we were granted access to by the Department of Water and Power), where Art Langton and Sage Bylin counted 64 species and 1462 individuals. Other spectacular lists came from Veteran’s Park, where Joey Di Liberto counted 49 species and 233 individuals, the Encino Reservoir where Otto Mayer counted 45 species and 566 individuals, and the L.A. River, Tujunga Wash, & L.A. Valley College, where Eric Shaphran biked 18 miles, and counted 40 species and 815 individuals.

Thirteen locations reported a total of 30 unique species, reminding us of the importance of counting every location.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Sector Leader</b>
Muscovy Duck	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Least Sandpiper	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Neotropic Cormorant	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Osprey	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Peregrine Falcon	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Mountain Bluebird	Sepulveda Basin	Alexander deBarros
Mountain Chickadee	Veteran’s Memorial Park	Joey Di Liberto
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	Veteran’s Memorial Park	Joey Di Liberto
White-throated Sparrow	Veteran’s Memorial Park	Joey Di Liberto
Palm Warbler	Veteran’s Memorial Park	Joey Di Liberto
Blue-winged Teal	Hansen Dam	Pat Bates
Spotted Sandpiper	Hansen Dam	Pat Bates
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Hansen Dam	Pat Bates
Hairy Woodpecker	Hansen Dam	Brad Rumble
White-throated Swift	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Western Kingbird	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Violet-green Swallow	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Lesser Scaup	Encino Reservoir	Otto Mayer
Nanday Parakeet	Encino Reservoir	Otto Mayer
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Pierce College	Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz
Loggerhead Shrike	Pierce College	Dan Cooper and Nurit Katz
Ring-billed Gull	Reseda Park	David Barton and Kathy Barton
Tree Swallow	Deervale—Stone Canyon Park	David Barton and Kathy Barton
Northern Flicker (Intergrade)	Sepulveda Recreation Center	Zee Zetino and Sol Ruiz
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Intergrade)	Dearborn Park	Zee Zetino and Sol Ruiz
Phainopepla	Caballero Canyon	Rebecca LeVine
Western Screech-Owl	Southern Owling Route: Caballero	Alexander deBarros
White-faced Ibis	Bull Creek	Rose Leibowitz
Western Tanager	Limekiln Canyon	Richard Armerding

## 2023 CBC Summary

18	Domestic Goose	110	Turkey Vulture	21	House Wren
869	Canada Goose	1	Osprey	41	Bewick's Wren
18	Egyptian Goose	4	Sharp-shinned Hawk	410	European Starling
8	Muscovy Duck	12	Cooper's Hawk	16	California Thrasher
2	Blue-winged Teal	1	<i>Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk</i>	91	Northern Mockingbird
8	Cinnamon Teal	6	Red-shouldered Hawk	70	Western Bluebird
48	Northern Shoveler	78	Red-tailed Hawk	1	Mountain Bluebird
21	Gadwall	1	Western Screech-Owl	15	Hermit Thrush
235	American Wigeon	9	Great Horned Owl	14	American Robin
559	Mallard	3	Belted Kingfisher	159	Cedar Waxwing
102	<i>Domestic Mallard</i>	cw	Williamson's Sapsucker	1	Phainopepla
6	Northern Pintail	cw	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	293	House Sparrow
46	Green-winged Teal	cw	Red-breasted Sapsucker	82	American Pipit
cw	Redhead	49	Acorn Woodpecker	671	House Finch
26	Ring-necked Duck	2	Downy Woodpecker	7	Purple Finch
2	Lesser Scaup	50	Nuttall's Woodpecker	338	Lesser Goldfinch
30	Bufflehead	1	Hairy Woodpecker	20	American Goldfinch
22	Hooded Merganser	45	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	135	Chipping Sparrow
63	Ruddy Duck	1	<i>Northern Flicker (Intergrade)</i>	162	Lark Sparrow
40	California Quail	31	American Kestrel	230	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
50	Pied-billed Grebe	5	Merlin	3	<i>Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)</i>
48	Eared Grebe	1	Peregrine Falcon	440	White-crowned Sparrow
2	Western Grebe	cw	Prairie Falcon	1	White-throated Sparrow
500	Rock Pigeon	12	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	10	Golden-crowned Sparrow
10	Band-tailed Pigeon	20	Nanday Parakeet	10	Vesper Sparrow
59	Eurasian Collared-Dove	293	Black Phoebe	82	Savannah Sparrow
602	Mourning Dove	43	Say's Phoebe	62	Song Sparrow
40	White-throated Swift	13	Vermilion Flycatcher	8	Lincoln Sparrow
140	Anna's Hummingbird	1	Ash-throated Flycatcher	213	California Towhee
136	Allen's Hummingbird	77	Cassin's Kingbird	5	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
22	<i>Hummingbird species</i>	1	Western Kingbird	38	Spotted Towhee
cw	Sora	2	Hutton's Vireo	450	Western Meadowlark
1575	American Coot	cw	Plumbeous Vireo	187	Red-winged Blackbird
154	Killdeer	1	Loggerhead Shrike	13	Brown-headed Cowbird
5	Wilson's Snipe	146	California Scrub-Jay	140	Brewer's Blackbird
1	Spotted Sandpiper	405	American Crow	40	Great-tailed Grackle
3	Least Sandpiper	319	Common Raven	6	Orange-crowned Warbler
10	Ring-billed Gull	1	Mountain Chickadee	27	Common Yellowthroat
108	Western Gull	35	Oak Titmouse	1	Palm Warbler

40	California Gull	2	Tree Swallow	1888	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
12	Gull species	2	Violet-green Swallow	10	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
1	Neotropic Cormorant	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Intergrade)
86	Double-crested Cormorant	542	Bushtit	1	Black-throated Gray Warbler
8	American White Pelican	39	Wrentit	4	Townsend's Warbler
32	Black-crowned Night Heron	61	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	Western Tanager
14	Snowy Egret	20	White-breasted Nuthatch		
6	Green Heron	29	Red-breasted Nuthatch	<b>129</b>	<b>Total Species (count day)</b>
15	Great Egret	9	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<b>137</b>	<b>Total Species + other taxa</b>
12	Great Blue Heron	13	Rock Wren	<b>136</b>	<b>Total Species + count week</b>
1	White-faced Ibis	3	Canyon Wren	<b>14733</b>	<b>Individuals (count day)</b>

### Thank you to all 2023 CBC participants

Richard Armerding (L)	Alexander deBarros (C) (L) (O) (W)	Muriel Kotin (L)	Zubin Raj
Pat Avery (L)	Joey Di Liberto (L)	Art Langton (L)	Seth Riley (L)
Dick Avery	Alex Dopp (L)	Rose Leibowitz (L)	Oscar Rodriguez
Gee Gee Barden (F)	Laurene Earwood	Bill Lepler	Sol Ruiz (L) (O)
Nathan Barkley via eBird (W)	Carol Felix (L)	Brett LeVine	Brad Rumble (L) (O)
Dick Barth (L)	Trina Gassaway	Rebecca LeVine (L)	Terry Saucier (L)
Dave Barton (L)	Roz Gibson	Christian Lopez via eBird	Eric Shaphran (L)
Kathy Barton (L)	Wendi Gladstone	Otto Mayer (L)	Robin Share
Pat Bates (L)	Eve Haberfield (L)	Joanne Millius	Mary Lou Sharp
Natalie Beckman-Smith (L)	Barbara Heideman (L)	Greg Nemes via eBird (W)	Daniel Tinoco (L)
Carla Bollinger	Carole Hill	Dick Norton (L)	Pat Turner
Catherine Bourne	Diana Hilberman (L)	Carolyn Oppenheimer (L)	Alana Vista via eBird
Candice Byers via eBird (W)	Judy Howell	Paula Orlovich (L)	Susan White via eBird
Sage Bylin (L)	Austin Johnson via eBird (W)	Mark Osokow	Carolyn Wilcox
Teri Carnesciali	Nurit Katz (L)	Teresa Palos via eBird (W)	Amy Worrell
Nicole Cloutier	Dave Kommel via eBird (W)	Molly Peña (O)	Zee Zetino (L) (O)
Dan Cooper (L)		Laura Pogoler	

- (C): CBC Compiler  
 (L): led a field team on count day  
 (F): counted birds at their feeder or yard  
 (O): participated in an owling trip 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 CBC team, but reported species on eBird that were included in CBC data  
 — Alexander deBarros, CBC Compiler 🐦



CBC 2023. O'Melveny Park. We had discovered owl evidence on the ground and were searching (unsuccessfully) for an owl. From left to right, it's Teri Carnesciali, Mary Lou Sharp, Paula Orlovich, and Jolene Herz. Photo by Patricia Turner

### Nominating Committee

The 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, 2024—June 30, 2025. 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.

Please contact Alexander deBarros if you are interested in serving in any capacity at [AlexanderdeBarros@yahoo.com](mailto:AlexanderdeBarros@yahoo.com).

## Calendar of Events

To reach an event leader you may call our forwarding message service at [\(747\) 237-3720](tel:7472373720)

### FEBRUARY 2024

**Sunday, February 4. 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. 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 deBarros, [Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org).



**Thursday, February 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 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 Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org). Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

**Saturday, February 10. Family Basin Tour: 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: 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. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour meets on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, [muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org). Heavy rain cancels.

**Friday, February 16—Monday February, 19. Great Backyard Bird Count.** Spend time in your favorite places watching birds—then tell us about them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit them to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use eBird or Merlin, your submissions over the 4-days count towards GBBC. Submit your sightings to <http://birdcount.org> or [eBird.org](http://eBird.org).

**Sunday, February 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: Katheryn Barton and David Barton, [kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org).



**Tuesday, February 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).

**Thursday, February 22. General Membership Meeting: Zoom Program: 5:00—6:30 p.m. SPEAKER: Dr. Wenfei Tong** will offer insights into understanding bird behavior. See page 1 for more info. If you are not already on our distribution list, [Click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to all events.

**Saturday, February 24. Hansen Dam Birding 8:00—11:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima, CA. Dronfield Ave. intersects Osborne St. approximately ½ mile south of Foothill Blvd. Turn into the park on Dronfield, and meet near the ranger station. Accessibility is good for this site which is mostly on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org).

**Sunday, February 25. Young Birders Group. 9:00—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. 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 will add you to our e-mail list.

### MARCH 2024

**Sunday, March 3. 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. 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 deBarros, [Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, March 9. FREE Guided Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Tour. 9:00—10:30 a.m.** LAST WALK OF THE SEASON. 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. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, [muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org). Heavy rain cancels.

**Thursday, March 14. 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 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 Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org). Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

**Sunday, March 17. 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: Katheryn Barton and David Barton, [kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org).

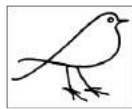


**Tuesday, March 19. Weekday Wander at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m.** Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at [c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, March 23. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:00—11:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima, CA. Dronfield Ave. intersects Osborne St. approximately 1/2 mile south of Foothill Blvd. Turn into the park on Dronfield, and meet near the ranger station. Accessibility is good for this site which is mostly on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org).

**Monday, March 25. Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Zoom.**

### Bird Sit Bulletin By Mary Lou Sharp



Like a bird walk, the goal of a bird sit is to spend a little time in nature observing birds, plants and wildlife. But unlike at a bird walk, bird sitters find a comfortable spot to sit and notice what's nearby, sketch in a nature journal and write notes on whatever most catches our attention. There is no right or wrong way to do a nature journal: you might be drawn to a flycatching Black Phoebe, colorful fallen leaves, rocks on the hillside, Acorn Woodpeckers' antics or a Cooper's Hawk soaring overhead. Some people sketch every detail while others use broad strokes or stick figures.

Beginning birders are welcome and no artistic experience is needed. Join us at the picnic tables near the bathrooms in beautiful O'Melveny Park, LA's 2nd largest public park. Bring binoculars or a camera, a notebook or journal, and something to write/draw with. Bring a cushion or portable chair if you'd like. Rain cancels the bird sit and it moves it to the 3rd Thursday.

For information on dates and times, please see the Calendar of Events. 🐦

**Thursday, March 28. General Membership Meeting: Zoom Program: 7:00—8:30 p.m. SPEAKER: Rodney Siegel, PhD,** will discuss **Great Gray Owls in a Changing Environment.** See page 1 for more info. If you are not already on our distribution list, [Click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to all events.

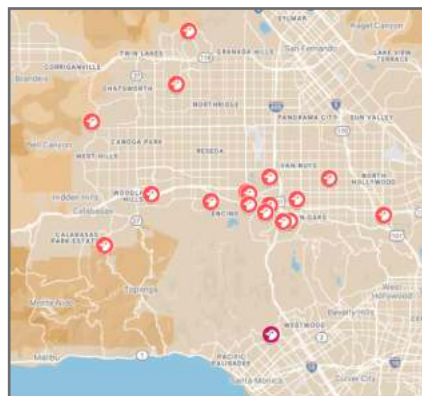
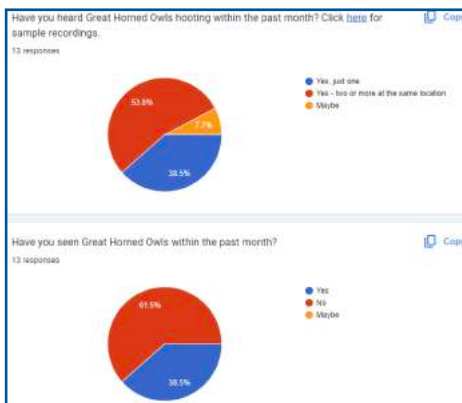
**Sunday, March 31. Young Birders Group. 9:00—11:00 a.m.** This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don't forget to bring them! If you're planning on coming, please send us a quick e-mail at [youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org) 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. 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 will add you to our e-mail list. 🐦



## Who's Hooting Where? By Pat Bates 1/3/2024

Beginning in late fall, our wonderful Great Horned Owls begin having conversations about setting up housekeeping! These owls are not nest builders—they often steal nests from other large birds, or simply find a good location in a tree, building, or any number of other possibilities. The hooting continues through the nesting cycle, from site selection to mating, incubating, and feeding the young. Most of us are thrilled to hear the hooting!

Please participate in our citizen science project to see where they are being heard in our area. Record any observations in the "Who's Hooting Where" questionnaire <https://forms.gle/T67JZFrzNPPrHVjtt8>. We identify the location to the nearest cross street to protect the owls' privacy! The QR code below will also take you to the questionnaire. Preliminary findings are below—let's find more owls! The full results will be in the April/May 2024 *Phainopepla*, by which time our fierce feathered friends will be hard at work every night capturing rodents to feed their growing families.



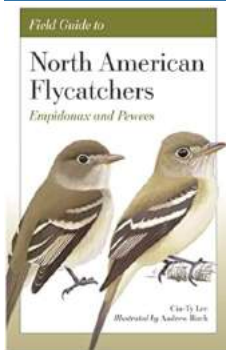
for questionnaire



Or visit our website



## BOOK REVIEW



Lee, Cin-Ty, with illustrations by Andrew Birch  
**Field Guide to North American Flycatchers Empidonax and Pewees**  
 Princeton University Press  
 Princeton and Oxford  
 2023

All practitioners of the art of field identification, sooner or later, realize some birds are easily differentiated and identified while others are not. At or near the top of the latter list for many are the Empidonax flycatchers, or empids for short, a genus in the family Tyrannidae, the tyrant flycatchers. Once thought nearly impossible to separate into species in the field, early field guides devoted little space or effort toward them and the problems they presented.

Peterson's *Field Guide to Western Birds*, 1941, page 108, provides only one illustration of a generic empid, a small grayish illustration labeled Western Flycatcher. Others are described briefly stating only the variations of each species to this single illustration. Incidentally according to a recent ABA posting, the name Western Flycatcher has now returned as a proper and accepted common name following the lumping of Pacific-slope and Cordilleran Flycatchers.

In the intervening years and with much more study, observations, and undoubted frustration, several authors attempted to list and classify field marks and observable characteristics which might lead to at least a better informed attempt at identification. Steve Sosensky listed and grouped tips in the August/September, 2002, issue of *Phainopepla* for all the empids commonly found in Southern California, a most helpful advance over what had been available before. In the March 2009 issue of *Birding*, Forrest Rowland introduced the idea of morphological metrics (ratios) into the identification equation. Kenn Kaufman has written extensively on empid identification with an emphasis on its pitfalls and challenges. In his 2011 edition of *Field Guide to Advanced Birding* he devotes forty pages, nine percent of the book, to sorting through differences and similarities between species. He once stated that given an assortment of museum skin studies he could only correctly identify 70% of the total. Of course museum specimens neither sing nor move. If habitat was considered is unknown so let's be kind to both him and ourselves when faced with similar challenges.

The above tome is the latest and most comprehensive attempt to demystify empids. The author along with artist Andrew Birch along with contributions by a whole host of experienced and well known field ornithologists, too numerous to be acknowledged here, starts off by both stating the obvious as well as the not so obvious. Separating birds that resemble each other as closely as empids do, is tough. Further, in empids there can be more variation within a species than between species. Also subjective judgments on color and other measurements can vary by observer (observer bias?) Color varies by lighting, molt, maturity of the bird. What may be tan to one may be gray to another as are subtle hints and shades of green, yellow, orange. Long to one observer maybe medium to another while medium may be interpreted as short by another, and so things go.

Nevertheless the author has gone through a listing of defining characteristics assigning which species might be found in each category: forehead angle, bill length, mandible color, tail length, tail width, primary projection, wing-bar contrast, under belly contrast, eye-ring shape, overall coloration, habitat preferences. All this is quite a litany of things to keep in mind and remember while watching a fidgety bird, but this is a start even if some are forgotten or omitted during the excitement of the chase. Sections also describe habitat preferences and molt cycles. A most valuable section includes maps showing migration routes and dates for spring a fall migration as well as showing monthly bar graphs showing frequency of occurrence at specific geographic locations.

Other pluses to consider include the convenience of handling. This field guide is light and compact enough to easily to take into the field or to be simply left at home as a reference work. Multiple drawings of each species have been provided giving some idea and guidance to the variation within species.

As the title suggests, a section on pewee identification is included as peewees and empids can be and are occasionally confused. An imperfect rule of thumb goes like this: if the bird is small and gray with no eye-ring and muted wing-bars, think pewee; with eye-ring and contrasting wing-bars, think empid. The genus *Contopus* includes pewees as well as the Olive-sided Flycatcher. Helpful and in depth descriptive content is provided for both.

While maybe not the last word in empid and pewee identification, this book nevertheless is a valuable and indispensable addition to ornithological literature and deserves a place in every birders library as it will undoubtedly contributed to the joy of birding. Only one minor omission common to this as well as other field guides is that none explains why the Olive-sided Flycatcher has the name that it has. Olives are either green or black, and this flycatcher is neither under most circumstances. Admittedly some common bird names seemingly make no sense whatsoever. This isn't the case for the Olive-sided Flycatcher for if by chance the angle of light between the viewer, the bird, and the sun is just right, the scapulars refract a bright metallic olive green. Few have ever seen this so it's never a useful or reliable field mark, but is striking and unforgettable when seen. Upon seeing the next Olive-sided Flycatcher perched on a bare snag, take a second or third look and maybe you'll be lucky to see this too. —Art Langton 🐦

**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**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President: Katheryn Barton  
 1st Vice President: Rebecca LeVine  
 2nd Vice President: Paula Orlovich  
 Treasurer: Patricia Bates  
 Corresponding Secretary: Teri Carnesciali  
 Recording Secretary: Barbara Heidemann

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 Luisa Bergeron  
 Jolene Herz  
 Rebecca Marschall  
 Patricia Turner  
 Charlie Wilken

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 Bird Boxes: Carolyn Oppenheimer  
 Christmas Bird Count: Alexander deBarros  
 Classroom Education (SMC): Katheryn Barton  
 Programs: Joanne Millius  
 Publicity: Marianne Davis  
 Sales & Service: OPEN  
 Youth Activities: Muriel Kotin

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS/PROGRAMS**

Annual Awards: Paul Orlovich  
 Birdability/Signage: Richard Davis  
 Bird Sit w/Nature Journaling: Teri Carnesciali  
 Conservation Investments: Richard Davis  
 Conservation/Sustainability: Co-Chair: Patricia Bates  
 Co-Chair: Joanne Millius

Editor *Phainopepla*: Rebecca LeVine  
 Field Trips: Alexander deBarros  
 Finance: Joanne Millius  
 Franklin Canyon Birding: Paula Orlovich  
 GO Native SFV: Patricia Bates  
 Hansen Dam Birding: Patricia Bates  
 Hospitality: Teri Carnesciali  
 Malibu Creek Birding: Dave & Katheryn Barton  
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 O'Melveny Wander: Carolyn Oppenheimer  
 Outreach: Charlie Wilken  
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 Sepulveda Basin Steering: Muriel Kotin  
 Sepulveda Basin Birding: Alexander deBarros  
 Social Media: Jolene Herz  
 Strategic Planning: Marianne Davis  
 Web Coordinator: Jolene Herz  
 Website/Technical: Heather Mims  
 Young Birders Group: Luisa Bergeron  
 Rebecca Marschall

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

<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/>  
It is 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 *Phainopepla*)  
 .....**FREE** for new members \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Student 1-yr Chapter Membership.....\$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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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 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  
PO Box 7769  
Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

### Inside This Issue

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### California Wildlife Center: Wildlife Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

California Wildlife Center (CWC) is responsible for the protection of native wildlife through rehabilitation, education, and conservation. A huge part of CWC's successful rehabilitation and release of several thousand patients each year is the hard work and dedication that our incredible volunteer base so generously donates to us. Without volunteers, we would not be able to continue operating as one of the most advanced wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Southern California.

California Wildlife Center will soon be in the process of recruiting new volunteers for the upcoming 2024 season. Volunteers take part in the integral administrative tasks and animal care that make CWC run but can also have a chance to participate in the hands-on work of rescuing, feeding, and releasing many of our patients. More information on the opportunities available can be found on our website [cawildlife.org](http://cawildlife.org). Thank you, San Fernando Valley Audubon, for the amazing work you're all doing to help protect native California bird species and educate the public about successfully coexisting with wildlife!

