



Phainopepla

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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife

Vol. 75 No. 2

April / May 2024

Online General Membership Programs

We hope you will join us for our informative Zoom Programs.

[CLICK HERE](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.

—SAVE The Date—

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON
WILL BE HELD
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024
BRAEMAR COUNTRY CLUB
TARZANA

Honoring Kris Ohlenkamp and
The California Wildlife Center
GO TO SFVAUDUBON.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Birdathon is ON!

TIME TO COUNT BIRDS AND RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT SBEEP. JOIN ONE OR MORE OF THE BIRDATHON EVENTS LISTED IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS, AND/OR DONATE TO SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE TEAM LEADER(S).

DONATE ONLINE AT
WWW.SFVAUDUBON.ORG
Thank you for your support!

IMPORTANT

VOTE! ALL MEMBERS: PLEASE FILL OUT AND SUBMIT THE BALLOT ON PAGE 4. EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

Become a **NEW member**
Your first year is **FREE!**
Go to SFVAudubon.org



To reach an event leader or board member call our Chapter Phone Number
(747) 237-3720
Number is a Message Forwarding Service

April Zoom Program: The Great Sandhill Crane Migration—Conservation Success in the Midwest



Speaker: Matt Fong

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:00—8:30 p.m.

The Crane Trust works to preserve and maintain habitat for both the most numerous and the rarest of 15 crane species worldwide: Sandhill Cranes and Whooping Cranes. In March, Sandhill Cranes roost around the Platte River in Nebraska. As well, some of only 545 Whooping Cranes rely on the river to protect their migration route.

The Crane Trust works to research and preserve the complex ecological balance of the Platte ecosystem. The understanding of the history, diversity, and sustainability of these fragile systems are shared through photography, time-lapse videos, and other means (including presentations like ours) to inform people all over the United States.

Matt Fong has lived near the Platte River his entire life. His work focuses on connecting with the donors and supporters of the Crane Trust. He received his bachelor's degree from Hastings College and an MBA from the University of Nebraska. He and his wife live in Hastings with their daughter and English Bulldog.

May In-Person/Zoom Program: Birdman of the Senate: Senator George P. McLean and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Speaker via Zoom: Will McLean Greeley, Author

Where: Tarzana Community & Cultural Center, 19130 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana

Thursday, May 23, 2024, 5:00—7:00 p.m.

Join us for wine & appetizers for our first in-person meeting in four years!

If you cannot make it, join us on Zoom from the comfort of your home.

The author will provide a 30-40 minute overview of his new biography of Senator George P. McLean, titled *A Connecticut Yankee Goes to Washington: Senator George P. McLean, Birdman of the Senate*. This is the story of how Connecticut's George P. McLean helped establish lasting legal protections for birds, overseeing passage of the 1918 Migratory Bird Treaty Act, landmark environmental protection legislation that is still in effect today. Greeley, McLean's great-great nephew, puts McLean's victory for birds in the context of his distinguished forty-five-year career marked by many acts of reform during a time of widespread corruption and political instability. David Allen Sibley, author and illustrator of *The Sibley Guide to Birds*, writes of the book: "On one level this is a fascinating, and thoroughly researched, glimpse into the workings of US politics in the early twentieth century. On another level it's an inspiring story of one man's determination and steadfast commitment to securing legal protections for birds. I am glad to know more about George McLean." *A Connecticut Yankee Goes to Washington* was published by the Rochester Institute of Technology Press in March 2023.

Author Bio:

Will McLean Greeley grew up in West Michigan with a passion for American history, politics, and birds. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan and then a master's degree from Michigan in archives administration. After retiring from a thirty-five year career in government and corporate market research, he embarked upon a three-year research and writing journey to learn about his great-great-uncle George P. McLean and his legacy. Married and the father of two sons (and two grandchildren), Greeley lives in Midland, Michigan. *A Connecticut Yankee Goes to Washington* is his first book.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ON OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST, [CLICK HERE](#), TO SIGN UP AND RECEIVE A LINK PRIOR TO ALL EVENTS.





LOOK!: up in the SKY! it's...it's...it's Birdathon 2024 !!

By Richard Davis—Email: Birdathon@sfvaudubon.org

Actually, the picture shows one of our dedicated Birdathon team leaders, Luisa, along with one of her “Young Birders Group” at the final Birdathon event for 2023.

We need YOU to support our conservation and education programs. Please join Birdathon 2024.

It is our tradition to hold “Birdathon,” our major annual fundraising event for the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS) during the months of April and May. Once again, we will have a dedicated team of leaders who will ask for our pledges of support based on the number of bird species they can spot during a single day’s outing at popular birding destinations throughout Southern California. You can simply pledge donations to any of the team leaders, and for most of these outings, you can join as a team member. As a team member you help, not only by making pledges but also by joining the event to increase the numbers of birds spotted. And that’s in addition to a great outdoor experience with friends and experienced birders. If you have questions or concerns you may email us (birdathon@sfvaudubon.org) or the Team Leader to clarify any details.

SCHEDULE OF BIRDATHON 2024 EVENTS

Date	Leader(s)	Location /Time	Species Estimate	Contact	Directions
April 7	Kris Ohlenkamp	Apollo 11 Model Aircraft Field - 8am Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve	60	kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net	Directions
April 13	Alexander deBarros	5 Stops Across Santa Monica Mountains - 5am	40	alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com	Email Contact
April 16	Carolyn Oppenheimer	O'Melveny Park – 9am	30	c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org	Directions
April 21	Katheryn & David Barton	Malibu Creek State Park – 8am	35-40	Katheryn.barton@gmail.com	Directions
April 28	Luisa Bergeron & Rebecca Marschall	O'Melveny Park – 9am YOUNG BIRDERS EVENT	20	youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org	Directions
May 5	Charlie Wilken	Aliso Canyon Park – 9am	30	cswilken@gmail.com	Directions
May 12	Paula Orlovich & Jolene Herz	Serrania Park, Woodland Hills – 8am	30	54warbler@gmail.com	Directions
May 25	Pat Bates	Hansen Dam – 8:15am	40	batesbird@gmail.com	Directions
TBD	Art Langton	Highway 33: From the ocean to the mountains	80		
TBD	Allan & Muriel Kotin	Malibu and nearby	50		
May 11	John & Andrew Willis Lori Willis Memorial Fund	Palos Verdes Peninsula	30		

If an outing shows no email address, the leader has chosen to do their event independently. Make no mistake, these team leaders have worked tirelessly over decades to support SFVAS in its environmental conservation and education efforts. They richly deserve your support.

On April 28, we are planning a special **YOUNG BIRDERS EVENT** at O'Melveny Park. In addition to spotting as many bird species as we can, we plan to sneak a peek inside some of our Bluebird nesting boxes with a cell phone on a custom selfie stick. Plus, we will bring along some of our nests from previous years so everyone can see (and feel) the astonishingly different nest styles that are programmed into the DNA of each species. Have you got a young birder that could bring you to the event?

All our leaders have shown long-term support for Audubon and for our conservation and education goals. Please show your support for them by pledging generously. SFVAS members and supporters will receive an introductory email containing links to the Birdathon section of our website where you will be able to make your pledges.

And feel free to lead your own Birdathon outing and solicit support from your friends. (Email me at birdathon@sfvaudubon.org). I'll make a pledge to your event!

Come join us in these events, support our worthy causes, and have fun on some great days outdoors.

Traditionally, Birdathon has been the major support for our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP), carried out in partnership with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) to provide teacher training and field trips to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for sixty classes, nearly 2000 children from the Los Angeles Unified School District, largely from Title 1 schools that most need our help. In recent years, the pandemic shut down almost all such field trips. However, now that the pandemic has eased, the students have returned and, once again, we need your help to support these important field trips and learning opportunities. [Learn More about SBEEP](#)



By late March, any updates to details of these Birdathon events including team leaders and the location, date and time of their treks will be distributed to members and supporters by email and on our website.

LOOK for it !!

If you are ready, you can make your pledge or donate NOW:

Click [HERE](#) or Scan the QR code



WHICH BIRD ARE YOU MOST LIKELY TO SPOT DURING OUR BIRDATHON 2024?



Join one of our events to find out if you are correct!



—Save the Date—

For our Annual Awards Luncheon, “Remembering the Past, Celebrating the Future”



Saturday, June 8, 2024

Noon

Braemar Country Club

Tarzana



You are invited to attend our Annual Awards Luncheon to honor
Kris Ohlenkamp, our **2024 Service Award Recipient**, and
California Wildlife Center, our **2024 Conservation Award Recipient**

More information will be in the next Phainopepla.

Tickets and Sponsorships can be purchased on our website. SFVAudubon.org.

Meet the Candidates *by Joanne Millius*

Most of the names you will find on our ballot (next page) should be familiar to you. These are the people who have volunteered their services to the chapter for many years and have offered to continue their service for the 2024–2025 year.

We are happy to introduce you to two new individuals that will be joining the SFVAS board as 1st year Board Members-at-Large.

Katheryn Barton joined the Board in 2016 as a Board Member-at-Large. She has served as President for the past two years and is on the ballot for another two years as President. She has also been the co-leader with her spouse, David, of the monthly birding trips at Malibu Canyon State Park. With Kathy at the helm for the past two years, our chapter has been in good hands, and she would like to continue leading our chapter for the next two.

Rebecca LeVine is on the ballot to serve as 1st Vice-President for the second term of two years. She has been the editor of the *Phainopepla* Newsletter since 2006 and been a member for over twenty years. As the *Phainopepla* editor she has accumulated a vast storehouse of knowledge of our history and how this relates to us reaching our goals for the future.

Paula Orlovich is on the ballot for her second two-year term as 2nd Vice President. She had previously served as President of the chapter for four years and oversaw the reversion of the Tucker Bird Sanctuary as well as taking us through the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic. She has also served as our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Chair for the past ten years and continues to do so.

Bill Lepler is on the ballot as a 1st year Board Member-at-Large and has been participating in our chapter’s sponsored bird walk at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for over ten years. He is looking to apply his interests in birding education and ecology as a Board member, as well as bringing some Marketing skills to his role after retiring from a career at City of Hope.

Oscar “Rod” Rodriguez is on the ballot as a 1st year Board Member-at-Large and has been participating in our chapter’s sponsored bird walks at all the scheduled walks including at Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam (which is his favorite walk). He is looking forward to helping the SFV Audubon chapter achieve its goals and sharing his knowledge with community members.



San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
Incorporated as California Audubon Society 1913

Website: <http://www.sfvaudubon.org/>
E-mail: info@sfvaudubon.org
Address: P.O. Box 7769
Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

For nature education and the conservation of wildlife

PROXY: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED AND SIGNED PROXY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

The Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (whose formal legal name is the California Audubon Society), recommends a vote "FOR" the Election of Directors and Officers. We know that many members cannot attend the May meeting when the voting will take place, so we have attached a proxy form below.

The following candidates have been nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors. No other candidates have been nominated, so none of the seats is contested.

Candidate	Office
Katheryn Barton	President
Rebecca LeVine	1 st Vice President
Paula Orlovich	2 nd Vice President
Bill Lepler	Director-at-Large
Oscar "Rod" Rodriguez	Director-at-Large

Officers are elected for two-year terms, with a limit of four continuous years in one office. The term of a director-at-large is three years.

INSTRUCTIONS

The election of Officers and Directors will take place at the Annual Meeting on May 23, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., at the Tarzana Community & Cultural Center, 19130 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana. If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, you may complete the Proxy below to submit your vote. Please indicate your vote for each candidate in the space provided, write your name and sign the Proxy in the place indicated, and return the Proxy as soon as possible. You may return your completed Proxy to the Society by mailing it to: San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769, or by scanning or photographing your completed and signed Proxy and sending it by e-mail to sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com. Your Proxy must be received by the Society prior to the meeting in order to be counted. Once your Proxy is received by the Society it cannot be revoked.

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the election of each candidate. Check "Yes" if you approve, or "No" if you do not approve. Alternatively, you may indicate that you withhold your vote rather than approving or disapproving a candidate. Only votes approving a candidate will be counted in the election.

Withholding your vote means that you abstain from voting – you would still be participating in the election, but no vote would be recorded on your behalf for or against the candidate.

If you have any questions, please e-mail the Society at sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

The undersigned, a member of California Audubon Society, a California nonprofit public benefit Corporation also known as the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (the "Society"), hereby revokes any previous proxies and appoints the Secretary of the Society, with full power of substitution, as the undersigned's proxy to attend the annual meeting of members on May 23, 2024, and to vote, execute consents, and otherwise represent the undersigned in his/her/their capacity as member in connection with the election at such meeting of the following candidates for office of the Society, in the same manner and with the same effect as if the undersigned were personally present at such meeting:

Candidate	Office	Yes	No	Withhold
Katheryn Barton	President	_____	_____	_____
Rebecca LeVine	1 st Vice President	_____	_____	_____
Paula Orlovich	2 nd Vice President	_____	_____	_____
Bill Lepler	Director-at-Large	_____	_____	_____
Oscar "Rod" Rodriguez	Director-at-Large	_____	_____	_____

Signature Name (please print) Date

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

Calendar of Events

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

APRIL 2024

Sunday, April 7. BIRDATHON EVENT. Apollo 11 Model Aircraft Field and Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. 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. Turn left toward the Model Aircraft

Field. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net

Thursday, April 11. 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 3rd 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@sfaudubon.org. Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

Saturday, April 13. BIRDATHON EVENT. Five Stops Across the Santa Monica Mountains. 5:00 a.m. Leader: Alexander deBarros. E-mail him for information, Alexander.deBarros@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, April 13. Special added Second Saturday Bird and Nature Walk at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve 9:00—10:30/11:00 a.m. We have extended the season for these walks into April this year in view of rain cancellations earlier in the season and the very green condition of the habitat. We will have leaders for families with children, adults, and a scout troop. This is your last opportunity to participate in one of these walks until October. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank Blvd. or south from Victory Blvd., go .5 miles and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at 9:00 am sharp near the picnic tables behind the rock-faced buildings. Wear sturdy shoes and clothes. We will be happy to lend you binoculars for the walk. Note: the toilets may not yet be repaired and the condition of any portable toilets is unreliable. Leader: Muriel Kotin. muriel.kotin@sfaudubon.org. Heavy rain cancels.

Tuesday, April 16. BIRDATHON EVENT. 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@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, April 20. FoLAR Earth Day Restore & Renew. 8:00am—12:00pm. Join volunteers at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for a morning of habitat restoration, where we will remove invasive plants, learn about their impact on the environment, and plant native species. Then, we will finish the morning with a nature walk to enjoy the restored area and spot some local wildlife! Register at folar.org.

Sunday, April 21. BIRDATHON EVENT. 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@sfaudubon.org.

Thursday, April 25. General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:30p.m.
Zoom Program: The Great Sandhill Crane Migration—Conservation



Photo: Richard Davis
Crane Trust, 3/2022

Success in the Midwest. SPEAKER: Matt Fong. 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, April 27. 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@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, April 27. Chatsworth Nature Preserve Earth Day Open House. 10:00—2:00 p.m. This is the one day a year when the public is allowed in without the need of a special permit. Several environmental groups will have booths set up including SFVAS. Guided tours of the ecology pond will be provided. Recent heavy rains have filled the ephemeral ponds and brought forth a variety of wildflowers. See flyer, page 6, for more information.

Sunday, April 28. BIRDATHON EVENT. O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. Young Birders Group. 9:00—11:00 a.m. This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will count species for our Birdathon Event, peek into our Bluebird boxes, and check out a variety of nests. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don't forget to bring them! If you plan to join us, please send us a quick e-mail at youngbirders@sfaudubon.org. 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. Please check our website for updates. E-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at YoungBirders@sfaudubon.org for more information and we will add you to our e-mail list.

MAY 2024

Sunday, May 5. 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@sfaudubon.org.

Sunday, May 5. BIRDATHON EVENT. Aliso Canyon Park. 11518 N Hesperia Ave, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Exit 118 Fwy. at Reseda Blvd., Go N. On Reseda, turn right on Rinaldi Ave., then left on N. Hesperia Ave. Leader: Charlie Wilken. cswilken@gmail.com.

Thursday, May 9. 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 3rd 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@sfaudubon.org. Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

Sunday, May 12. BIRDATHON EVENT. Serrania Park. 20726 Wells Drive, Woodland Hills. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Take 101 N to DeSoto

Ave., turn south onto DeSoto, continue straight onto Serrania Ave., approx. .6 miles to Wells Drive. Turn right into parking lot. Leaders: Paula Orlovich 54warbler@gmail.com, and Jolene Herz.

Sunday, May 19. 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: Kathryn Barton and David Barton. kathy.barton@sfaudubon.org.

Monday, May 20. Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Zoom.

Tuesday, May 21. 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@sfaudubon.org.

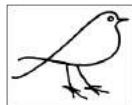
Thursday, May 23. General Membership Meeting. 5:00—7:00 p.m. In-Person/Zoom Program: Birdman of the Senate: Senator George P. McLean and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **Speaker via Zoom:** Will McLean Greeley. **Where:** Tarzana Community & Cultural Center, 19130 Ventura Blvd., Tarzana. **Join us for wine & appetizers for our**

first in-person meeting in four years! We will also be holding our election for Officers and Directors for 2024-2025, 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, May 25. BIRDATHON EVENT. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:15—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@sfaudubon.org.

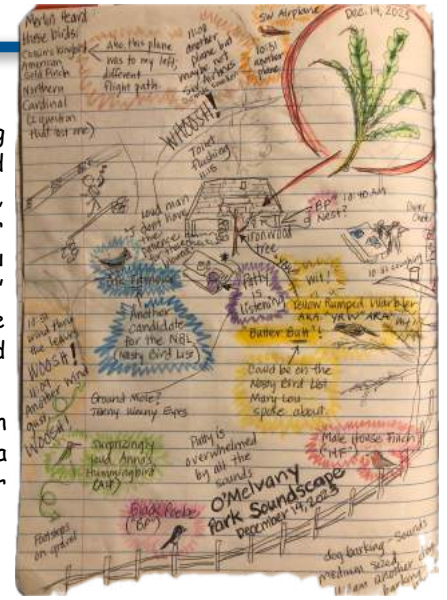
Sunday, May 26. Young Birders Group. 9:00—11:00 a.m. This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don't forget to bring them! If you plan to join us, please send us a quick e-mail at youngbirders@sfaudubon.org so we have an idea of 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@sfaudubon.org for more information and we will add you to our e-mail list.

Bird Sit Bulletin By Mary Lou Sharp



In our monthly bird sit we spend time in beautiful O'Melveny Park observing and journaling whatever catches our fancy. But Patty Ryan tried "sound journaling" for the first time in December and reported "If you enjoy music, radio, audio books and even the sound of silence then you might consider trying 'sound journaling.' Birding has made me more attuned to sounds in nature, but you really find out just how much when you sit quietly and try to take it all in. I say "try" because I could not record fast enough all the sounds bombarding me in this "quiet" little park. Maybe our minds have learned to block out irrelevant sounds because even on bird walks I don't recall hearing so many sounds. It was an amazing experience!"

Join us on the second Tuesday of the month at the picnic tables near the bathrooms in O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills. No artistic expertise is needed. Bring binoculars or a camera, a notebook or journal, and something to write or 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. To reserve a spot, contact Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org.



Chatsworth Nature Preserve
EARTH DAY
OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate Earth Day at the only Nature Preserve in the City of Los Angeles

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Opening Ceremony with Native American Blessing
 Guided Nature Hikes • Storytelling • Live Animal Exhibitions
 Environmental & Community Resource Fair • Food Trucks

Bring hats, refillable water bottles, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes.
 No dogs, drones, smoking, bikes or scooters.

Location & Parking: bit.ly/2naHvT
 Entry gate on Valley Circle Blvd, west of Plummer St.
 Street parking available with limited on-site parking.
ladwp.com/CNPeartday

Sign Language Interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language Interpreters, five or more business days notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-0076, TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800-432-7397).

Earth Day

Habitat Restore & Renew

April 20 **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve**

Habitat Restoration | Guided Nature Walk | + More

Join hundreds of volunteers, **Saturday, April 20, 8:00am-12:00pm**, at the **Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve** for a morning of habitat restoration, where we will remove invasive plants, learn about their impact on the environment, and plant native species. Then, we'll finish the morning with a nature walk to enjoy the restored area and spot some local wildlife! Register at folar.org.

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

AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

- Natalie Beckman-Smith
- Luisa Bergeron
- Jolene Herz
- Rebecca Marschall
- Patricia Turner
- Charlie Wilken

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Birdathon: Richard Davis
- 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
Mary Lou Sharp
- 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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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*.

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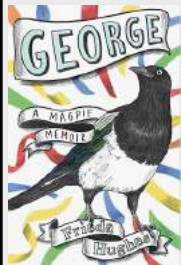


Phainopepla

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Inside This Issue

Birdathon...2
Awards Banquet...3
Meet the Candidates...3
Proxy for Election...4
Calendar of Events...5-6
Bird Sit Bulletin...6
Chapter Information...7



BOOK REPORT: *GEORGE, A MAGPIE MEMOIR*, by Frieda Hughes

This is not the first book I've read about magpies...Europeans have them as common birds, and Eurasian Magpies are all over the environment. They are handsome black and white birds, and have a BIG personality. Frieda Hughes, an artist, poet, and published columnist, has written about her adventure with raising George in her home, along with her two dogs.

Hughes is the daughter of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes, so she has big writing shoes to fill. She does an entertaining job of it. She clearly found emotional fulfillment with this bird (while her sod of a husband worked his way out of her life) and documents every step of his development as a hatchling (their nest had been attacked, a sib killed), and finally his reluctant departure. George personifies magpie-brain, as he loves all things bright and shiny, and especially anything colored red. It was also wonderful to read how he worked out what physical reality was, using his beak to explore paint cracks and anything else that caught his magpie fancy.

Hughes was unbelievably patient with this bird, dealing with his pooping all over and creating chaos in her house. Her everyday attire included a heavy work shirt that protected her from bird poop cascading down her back as the bird perched on her shoulder. Raising wild birds requires considerable grit, and she has far more of it than this reader would ever consider. The book hurtles onward towards the inevitable, when George takes off and does not return, and Hughes turns to rescue owls as companions (the husband is gone at this point). At the end she has 13 owls, plus an assortment of other animals. Available from LAPL. —by Marianne Davis