

Phainopepla

February 2007

Web Edition

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Correction

The board meeting for February in the printed Edition Calendar was an error. The next board meeting is scheduled for March 26.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Awards Banquet

Friday, March 2, 2007 • 6:00 p.m. No host bar • 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Airtel Plaza Hotel 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check (\$50.00 / person) for \$ _____

Add'l Names _____

Add'l Names _____

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Mail to: Jeanne Polak-Recht, 11002 Garden Grove Avenue, Northridge, CA 91326*

Phainopepla



Published by the
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A chapter of the National Audubon Society

Volume 58 No.2

February 2007

President's Message by Kris Ohlenkamp

Man-**M**ankind, in the last 200 years, has achieved the ability, if we should so desire, to destroy the complex, interconnected communities of life that it has taken Mother Earth millions of years to develop. We have even demonstrated the reckless, greedy tendency to do just that—unintentionally. We are now disrupting ecosystems on a global scale and driving species to extinction at a faster rate than at any time since the extinction of the dinosaurs. And, all of that before we even realized our role in global warming and the depletion of the ozone layer or recognized the potential impacts of those human achievements.

It is now quite clear that changes need to be made; huge changes, on a grand scale. Changes to the very society and culture that have not only provided us with immediate access to all the bounty of Earth, but the leisure time to pursue intellectual stimulation, artistic expression, physical health, and sensual pleasures. Those changes need not be painful. Indeed, if they were painful, or even difficult, we as a culture would never make them. We have become too greedy, egotistical, and shortsighted. Scare tactics and guilt trips just do not provide the motivation for change. But, love does.

When two or more lives are lived as one, with a shared identity and deep compassion, there is love. That is the link that we must recognize and nurture between ourselves and the planet that gave us life. That is the con-

nection that we must make others recognize if we are going to change their habits and desires. That should be our environmental agenda.

The changes that our consumer-based urban-industrial society needs to make must be based on emotion rather than reason if we are to reestablish a sane relationship with the Earth. A sane relationship based on loving emotions, positive intentions, and fruitful imagination. Those are the forces and energies that must be employed to bring about change.

First, we must acknowledge that we are a part of a complex system of interconnected organisms that are dependent upon one another for our existence, our well-being, and our sanity. We evolved together—not separately. We belong to the same family.

Second, we must acknowledge the spiritual and psychological necessity of interacting within a diverse community of beings. The prime source of the collective psychosis that characterizes modern life is our ecological ignorance and separation. We need to reconnect.

Third, we need to emphasize soul enhancing rather than consumptive ways of enjoying our wealth. Fulfillment through personal growth, narcissistic pleasures, and artistic expression should be the goal rather than domination, wasteful extravagance, and wanton demonstrations of wealth. 🌱

2006 Christmas Bird Count Report *by Arthur Langton, compiler*

No matter how many bird counts one participates in, each year is a unique and special experience due to several unpredictable factors: the counters, bird populations, weather, viewing and lighting conditions. For the second year in a row rain was a factor. At least most of the precipitation held off until the early afternoon of December 17, but this didn't help those looking for montane species above O'Melveny Park in the fog and having to depend more on sound than sight for identification purposes.

Nevertheless 41 contributors found 124 species and nearly 18,600 birds during this year's count as compared with 134 species last year and over 17,000 individuals or 2004 when only 119 species were seen. Of course, 2004 was the year Chatsworth Nature reserve was unavailable to us.

Everyone's effort is of value and contributes to the overall success of the count. To emphasize their importance, twenty-two (or 18%) of the 124 species were seen by a single party, individual feeder watcher, or neighborhood counter.

Missing from this year's totals were any rails, sapsuckers, pin-tails, bitterns, swallows (except for Tree), and Barn Owls. Acorn Woodpeckers, completely missing from last year's count, returned with thirty sightings. In low numbers were thrashers, Lincoln's, Vesper, and Savannah Sparrows, House Wrens, pipits, Canvasbacks, Gadwalls, and Cinnamon Teal. Each and every pond with public access seems to have an abundance of coots. Other widely reported birds include California and Ring-billed Gulls, Rock Doves, Mourning Doves, Red-tailed Hawks, Turkey Vultures, Cooper's Hawks, flickers, Black Phoebes, crows, ravens, bushtits, kinglets, bluebirds, mockingbirds, scrub jays, starlings, Yellow-rumped Warblers, California Towhees, White-crowned Sparrows, juncos, meadowlarks, House Finches, House Sparrows, and goldfinches.

New to the Christmas Bird Count are four Long-eared Owls. Two had been observed intermittently since October on an estate south of Ventura Boulevard, in Encino. At first they were thought to be Screech Owls, their correct identification was confirmed by Stuart Wells and reported as sighted on count day. The second pair was a complete surprise when sighted in a willow thicket near the pond in Chatsworth Preserve. The only previous sighting here was on a field trip during the spring of 1994. These birds may be more common than realized as they are well camouflaged, spend the daytime in dense thickets or groves of trees, and are rarely seen flying.

Counters at Chatsworth Preserve accumulated 56 species during an abbreviated count that included the only Ferruginous Hawk, snipe, and Tricolored Blackbird of count day plus nine Vesper Sparrows, and 250 meadowlarks in addition to the two Long-eared Owls.

Doug Martin surveyed a medley of locations including El Cariso and Veteran's Parks, Kagel Canyon, and Pacoima Wash,

and listed 78 species. Notable finds included a Screech Owl, four Great Horned Owls, ten Acorn Woodpeckers, and the only Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinches, and Mountain Chickadees seen count day. Also recorded were 91 robins, two Merlins, and seven species of sparrows.

Counters at Hansen Dam and surrounding area sighted 75 species. A good collection of waterfowl included the single and only Canvasback and Osprey seen count day plus five species of herons and egrets, Western Grebes, 35 Chipping Sparrows, and an unexpected Glaucous-winged Gull. The latter is unusual away from the immediate coast and was part of a group that also included a Western x Glaucous-winged Gull hybrid.

The O'Melveny Park—Bee Canyon count included 25 Band-tailed Pigeons, three Screech Owls, five Great Horned Owls, 15 Acorn Woodpeckers, seven White-breasted Nuthatches, and the only Golden-crowned Sparrows seen count day despite the fog and rain.

Limekiln Canyon along with Porter Ranch pond yielded 33 species and found seven Hooded Mergansers along with a typical collection of oak woodland and chaparral species. Accessible this year, unlike last year, Wilson Canyon was slow with only 12 species counted. Perhaps more counters would have helped here.

The seven counters at Pierce College recorded over 30 species including 475 Canada Geese, kingbirds, phoebes, 500 starlings, and 70 Brewer's Blackbirds. Reseda park pond provided the sole pair of Wood Ducks for the day plus added to the Mallard, wigeon, coot, and gull totals.

Seventy species were recorded at Sepulveda Wildlife Area including 400 cormorants, many egrets and herons, five kites, a Merlin, 650 coots, Spotted and Least Sandpipers, the only Orange-crowned Warbler seen count day, a variety of sparrows and finches, and of course, grackles. Lake Balboa and the golf course produced 69 species adding the only Eurasian Wigeon, Lincoln's Sparrows, Cackling Geese, White Pelicans, and Wilson's Warbler seen count day plus additional grackles, blackbirds, and seven Hooded Mergansers from Los Encinos Park. George Banks reported the only roadrunner at the north end of Mason Avenue amid a new construction project. He has also seen a Burrowing Owl in the same area but not on count day.

The compiler again thanks all those who went out on a gloomy, threatening day to contribute to the count totals. A special thanks to those who added their neighborhood and feeder counts to the totals plus those who sent in their reports to the compiler clearly and promptly: Doug Martin, Jim Abernathy, Muriel and Allan Kotin, Ron Melin, Jim Hardesty, Kris Ohlenkamp, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Sonya Onderwyzer. As always, your time and effort is appreciated.

—Arthur Langton, compiler 🌿

see photos on last page

2006 Christmas Bird Count Participants

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Jim Abernathy | Bob Hawkins | Muriel Kotin | Dick Norton | Erica Stux-Shore |
| George Banks | Barbara Heideman | Arthur Langton | Kris Ohlenkamp | Chris Van Beveren |
| Richard Barth | Judy Howell | Tom Larsen | Sonya Onderwyzer | Karen Velas |
| Carla Breitner | Sara Huang | Rebecca LeVine | Carolyn Oppenheimer | Larry Walker |
| Dottie Ecker | Barbara Johnson | Joyce MacKinnon | Mark Osokow | Bobby Walsh |
| Claire Englund | Linda Jones | Doug Martin | Brenda Pfaff | Thea Wang |
| Jim Estes | Bruce Kautz | Ron Melin | Kathie Redel | Stuart Wells |
| James Hanley | Allan Kotin | Robert Munsey | Judy Rothman | Irwin Woldman |
| Jim Hardesty | | | | |

Program Notes

FRED HEATH TO SPEAK ON THE "BUTTERFLIES OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA" AT FEBRUARY 22 MEETING



Photo by Steve Agrella

Our speaker for February, Fred Heath, is a long time member of LA Audubon whose program presentation is entitled "Butterflies of Southern California." Fred Heath has been an avid birder since his early teens in New York City. Butterflies fascinated him thirty years later in Southern California. This in turn has led to an overall interest in the natural world. Fred has lectured, led field trips, and written many articles about birds and butterflies. He co-authored the "National Audubon Society Field Guide to California" and is the author of "An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies," with photographs by Herb Clarke. Fred serves on the board of the North American Butterfly Association. 🌿

Awards Banquet

Friday, March 2, 2007 • 6:00 p.m. No host bar • 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Airtel Plaza Hotel 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

FEATURED SPEAKER: LARRY ARBANAS

CONSERVATION AWARD RECIPIENT: FRAN PAVLEY (former Assemblywoman)

Larry Arbanas is a bird filmmaker. He will present a program entitled "California and Western Birds in Motion". Come see his fascinating footage of Burrowing Owls at Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, White-tailed Kites near Mt. Diablo, Clapper Rails at Arrowhead Marsh, Brown Pelicans flying at the Marin Headlands, Barn Owls foraging at Pt. Reyes, the Tufa towers, Sage Thrashers and Ospreys of Mono Lake, birds of Bishop, and "dancing" Western Grebes on Clear Lake among others.

The buffet-style dinner will include selections for vegetarians and non-vegetarians. The cost is \$50.00 including tax and tip. Reservations must be made in advance. Please list names of all guests in your party and mail in the form on the back page by February 23, 2007. THERE IS NO RESERVED SEATING. You will not receive a confirmation of your reservation. Reservations will be held at the door. For further information call Jeanne Polak-Recht, Chairperson, at (818) 360-1438.



Calendar of Events

Sunday, February 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about 1/2 mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about 1/2 mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about 1/2 mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. For more information contact him at (818) 225-8348 or e-mail: Kris.Ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

Tuesday, February 6. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 6:30p.m. The Visitor's Center of the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve at 43201 35th Street in Lancaster.

Saturday, February 10. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 8:30–11:00 a.m. Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! These popular walks are designed for beginning birders and school-age children. Directions: Same as for February 4, except walk across the road from the parking lot to the low buildings to meet. For more info, contact Muriel Kotin at (310) 457-5769 or aKotin@earthlink.net or Linda Jones at (818) 831-6061 or LJonesBird@aol.com.

Saturday, February 10. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101) at Las Virgenes Canyon Road and proceed north to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Please bring plenty of water and wear proper shoes. Co-sponsored by the *Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy* and *Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority*. Leader: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712, jnhardesty@adelphia.net.

Saturday, February 10. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docent's Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Leader: Bob Fischer. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, February 11. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the first wide place after entering the gardens. Admission is free for early birders. Located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada. Leader: Karen Johnson or Nancy Herron Knode. For more information, contact Karen at (818) 790-1687 or lv2bird@aol.com.

Saturday, February 17. Monthly Field Trip: Private Game Preserve, Oxnard. 8:00 a.m. An excellent spot to observe a wide variety of birds including waterfowl, wetland birds and raptors. IMPORTANT—We will be birding the preserve entirely on foot, as vehicles are not allowed out on the habitat roads. Covering the circuit will probably require 4+ hours. Also, no parking is allowed inside the preserve compound—our cars must be parked on the left (north) side of

the paved road outside the compound. Directions: From the 101 Freeway take the Las Posas Road exit south (left), then Hueneme Road west (right) to Casper Road. Turn south (left) and continue on Casper Road as it eventually turns left and leads to the preserve compound. Bring lunch and drinking water. Allow one hour and fifteen minutes driving time from the Valley. Leader is Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, February 17. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 255-3606.

Sunday, February 18. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$8 per car. Leader: Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796. AKotin@earthlink.net.

Thursday, February 22. General Membership Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura Blvd., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. Come early for social time. Our speaker will be Fred Heath, who will speak on the "Butterflies of Southern California." See "Program Notes" on page 3

Saturday, February 24. Antelope Valley Audubon Field Trip to Piute Ponds. 8:00 a.m. We'll take a trip through the ponds looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and desert scrub birds. The last trip had good looks at a LeConte's Thrasher. Something unusual always turns up. Meet at the intersection of Ave. C and Sierra Hwy. Trip leader: Jim Moore (661) 298-1130, or jimmoore@socal.rr.com.

Sunday, February 25. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. —See February 11 for details.

Tuesday, February 27. Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk at Wilson Canyon in Sylmar. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the 210 Freeway at Roxford. Turn north on Roxford and continue on as the road curves to the right and changes into Olive View Drive. Go 1.2 miles to the entrance road on the left at 14055 Olive View Drive. Continue to the parking area .7 miles up the road, bearing left where the road forks. Call Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 with questions (before 7:00 p.m. please) or email: CarolOpp@aol.com. Rain Cancels.

Friday, March 2. Awards Banquet. 6:00 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner. Featured Speaker: Larry Arbanas. Location: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys. Chairperson: Jeanne Polak-Recht, (818) 360-1438. Conservation Award Recipient: Former Assemblywoman,

Fran Pavley. See page 3 for more information and RSVP form on front page.

Sunday, March 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. —See February 4 for details.

Tuesday, March 6. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 6:30p.m. The Visitor's Center of the Prime Desert

Woodland Preserve at 43201 35th Street in Lancaster.

Future trips:

March 17–18. Morro Bay Weekend

April 28. Morongo Valley

May 12. Whitney Canyon and Placerita Canyon Park 🌿

Antelope Valley News Brief *Observed by Say's Phoebe*

The fledging Antelope Valley (AV) Audubon group held its second meeting on January 2 at the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in Lancaster. The number of attendees expanded from 14 to 23 and was once again graciously hosted by Kris Ohlenkamp and Jim Moore. Introductions validated bird-related events and activities as the primary interest of those in attendance. Kris explained that this orientation was also true within the Audubon Society at large, but emphasized that environmental and educational programs also have a significant place within the SFVAS Chapter.

Jim and Kris proceeded to announce the SFVAS Chapter's various scheduled outings, particularly those in the Antelope Valley. They also invited anyone interested to attend the Board Meetings, Awards Banquet and/or the annual fundraiser. Since AV is just in its initial stages, Kris recommended that, for now, it be characterized as a local committee.

Jim Dodson, a prominent environmental activist, was unanimously chosen to chair the committee. In considering bird outings and field trips to be sponsored by this new committee, Kris explained

the simple beginnings of his Sepulveda Basin Bird Walks, their gradual growth and their eventual impact. This idea of establishing a regular venue and time for at least one monthly outing was generally well received.

With that in mind, Jim Dodson reported that there are poor records of bird sightings at either of the state park units in the area, the California State Poppy Reserve or Saddleback Butte. Several members of the group expressed strong interest in taking this up as a long-term project. For the time being it was agreed that a monthly outing/field trip be held on the fourth Saturday of each month. The first such outing was held on January 27, led by Jim Dodson.

Jim Moore has volunteered to lead the February field trip on Saturday, February 24 (see Calendar for details). Finally, the group agreed to continue meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Thanks to Eileen McAllister and the City of Lancaster, this group will continue to meet in the Visitor's Center of the Prime Desert Woodland Preserve at 43201 35th St. in Lancaster. *Submitted by Linda Edwards who will be sending in these AV news briefs under the watchful gaze of "Say's Phoebe" one of my favored desert residents.* 🌿

Tenth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count to Combine Fun of Bird Watching With Conservation

This February, the tenth annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), sponsored by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, will give everyone a chance to discover the birds in their neighborhood and "Count for the Record." During February 16–19, 2007, people of all ages, from beginners to experts, are invited to join this event that spans all of the United States and Canada. Observers simply count the highest number of each species they see during an outing or a sitting, (as little as 15 minutes) and enter their tally on the Great Backyard Bird Count Website at www.birdsource.org/gbbc. People can also submit photos to an online gallery showcasing the dazzling array of winter birds found during the GBBC. Competitions add another element of fun, including a photo contest, rankings for most numerous birds, and the coveted "checklist champ" title for towns, states, and provinces with the highest participation. 🌿

Desert Birds Cooperate

A beautiful and clear, but chilly, Saturday morning in January found 14 folks eager to cruise northern Los Angeles County in search of some of the species that winter there. The Antelope Valley Bird Prowl was enjoyed by all.

The meeting location at the Avenue S Park and Ride lot yielded an Osprey flying over Lake Palmdale and the first of many Red-tailed Hawks seen that day. The sod farms off 50th Street East contained several hundred Horned Larks, a small fraction of the several thousand seen during the day! Unfortunately, no longspurs were found in any of the flocks.

We headed further north and east looking for some of our target species. We found Mountain Bluebirds in several locations, affording everyone a good look at male and female plumage differences. On 110th Street East, the caravan came to a quick stop when a light-colored hawk sailed in front of the leader's car. He jumped out, calling, "Ferruginous Hawk!" We all ran up the embankment

to find the bird calmly perched on a fence post about 150 feet away, affording fabulous looks with scopes and binoculars.

At this same location, while enjoying the hawk, about thirty Mountain Plover were discovered feeding in the grass below the many sheep. Then Jim cried out, "Check out that large raptor perched on the Watering Device. We have a Golden Eagle!" Many of these and other species were seen at other locations during the day, including Loggerhead Shrike, Killdeer, many sparrows and kestrels.

Shortly after 1 p.m., the party broke up, but a few ventured north and west to Gaskell Avenue near 110th Street West in southern Kern County, where we found a Burrowing Owl and a Greater Roadrunner. We looked for the two Barn Owls that had been seen the previous week by the Whittier Audubon outing and we found them, sadly. They were both dead and, it appeared, recently. We suspect they were shot, but couldn't tell for sure. It sure indicates the continuing need for conservation education programs! Thanks to all who made this a great outing! —*Contributed by Jim Hardesty*

2006 Christmas Bird Count Summary

Species and Numbers Reported

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|------------|
| Greater White-fronted Goose | 11 | Greater Yellowlegs | 4 | Western Bluebird | 53 |
| Snow Goose | 7 | Spotted Sandpiper | 1 | Hermit Thrush | 12 |
| Ross's Goose | 4 | Least Sandpiper | 4 | American Robin | 138 |
| Cackling Goose | 5 | sandpiper, species | 6 | Wrentit | 18 |
| Canada Goose | 1,325 | Wilson's Snipe | 2 | Northern Mockingbird | 37 |
| Wood Duck | 2 | Ring-billed Gull | 303 | California Thrasher | 6 |
| Gadwall | 16 | California Gull | 426 | European Starling | 1,499 |
| Eurasian Wigeon | 1 | Western Gull | 29 | American Pipit | 9 |
| American Wigeon | 796 | Glaucous-winged Gull | 1 | Cedar Waxwing | 80 |
| Mallard | 702 | Glaucous-winged x Western Gull | 1 | Orange-crowned Warbler | 1 |
| Cinnamon Teal | 3 | gull, species | 19 | Yellow-rumped | |
| Northern Shoveler | 63 | Rock Pigeon (Dove) | 749 | (Audubon's) Warbler | 633 |
| Green-winged Teal | 40 | Band-tailed Pigeon | 42 | Common Yellowthroat | 19 |
| Canvasback | 1 | Mourning Dove | 581 | Wilson's Warbler | 1 |
| Ring-necked Duck | 57 | Yellow-chevroned Parakeet | 17 | Spotted Towhee | 21 |
| Lesser Scaup | 15 | parrot, species | 7 | California Towhee | 73 |
| Bufflehead | 25 | Greater Roadrunner | 1 | Rufous-crowned Sparrow | 1 |
| Hooded Merganser | 23 | Western Screech Owl | 5 | Chipping Sparrow | 114 |
| Ruddy Duck | 52 | Great Horned Owl | 10 | Clay-colored Sparrow | 2 |
| California Quail | 18 | Long-eared Owl | 4 | Vesper Sparrow | 10 |
| Pied-billed Grebe | 146 | White-throated Swift | 68 | Lark Sparrow | 243 |
| Eared Grebe | 10 | Anna's Hummingbird | 44 | Savannah Sparrow | 56 |
| Western Grebe | 5 | Allen's Hummingbird | 24 | Fox Sparrow | 4 |
| American White Pelican | 41 | hummingbird, species | 8 | Song Sparrow | 21 |
| Double-crested Cormorant | 837 | Belted Kingfisher | 8 | Lincoln's Sparrow | 7 |
| Great Blue Heron | 31 | Acorn Woodpecker | 30 | White-crowned Sparrow | 446 |
| Great Egret | 55 | Nuttall's Woodpecker | 19 | Golden-crowned Sparrow | 2 |
| Snowy Egret | 58 | Downy Woodpecker | 4 | Dark-eyed (Oregon) Junco | 140 |
| Green Heron | 2 | Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker | 39 | Red-winged Blackbird | 795 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron | 26 | Black Phoebe | 128 | Tricolored Blackbird | 1 |
| Turkey Vulture | 25 | Say's Phoebe | 22 | Western Meadowlark | 362 |
| Osprey | 1 | Cassin's Kingbird | 19 | Brewer's Blackbird | 415 |
| White-tailed Kite | 11 | kingbird, species | 1 | Great-tailed Grackle | 149 |
| Northern Harrier | 3 | Loggerhead Shrike | 6 | Brown-headed Cowbird | 64 |
| Sharp-shinned Hawk | 3 | Western Scrub Jay | 46 | House Finch | 427 |
| Cooper's Hawk | 10 | American Crow | 467 | Lesser Goldfinch | 124 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | 11 | Common Raven | 108 | Lawrence's Goldfinch | 6 |
| Red-tailed Hawk | 55 | Tree Swallow | 12 | American Goldfinch | 178 |
| Ferruginous Hawk | 1 | Mountain Chickadee | 3 | goldfinch, species | 52 |
| American Kestrel | 33 | Oak Titmouse | 22 | House Sparrow | 205 |
| Merlin | 4 | Common Bushtit | 351 | | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 1 | White-breasted Nuthatch | 11 | TOTAL SPECIES SIGHTED | 124 |
| American Coot | 3,618 | Rock Wren | 3 | Hybrids | 1 |
| Killdeer | 189 | Bewick's Wren | 28 | | |
| Black-necked Stilt | 10 | House Wren | 1 | TOTAL BIRDS COUNTED — 18,593 | |
| | | Ruby-crowned Kinglet | 81 | | |
| | | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 52 | | |

JOIN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON

To get started with your membership, use the following form and mail to:

SFV Audubon Society
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7769
Van Nuys, CA 91409

Make all checks payable to SFV Audubon.

SFVAS Membership

Regular 1-yr chapter membership\$20 \$ _____
 First-Class Postage\$5 \$ _____
 Contributions to SFVAS \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

Name _____
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The PHAINOPEPLA, published ten times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P. O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409, 818-347-3205.

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a nonprofit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, the sciences and ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the PHAINOPEPLA.

Material from other newsletters or newspapers should include the source and date. Copy for the PHAINOPEPLA should be in the hands of the editor by the 3rd of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

An introductory membership to the National Audubon Society is \$20 and should be sent separately to: *National Audubon Society, Membership Data Center, P.O. Box 52529, Boulder, CO 80322.* Be sure to write "C12" on the form to assure assignment to our chapter. For renewals, use the form in the National Audubon magazine, *Audubon*.

If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Jim Van Beveren at (818) 998-4905 or e-mail him at jvanbeveren@vbandb.com.



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| President: | Kris Ohlenkamp | 225-8348 |
| 1st Vice President: | Donna Timlin | 341-9354 |
| 2nd Vice President: | Jim Van Beveren | 998-4905 |
| Treasurer: | Jim Moore | (661) 298-1130 |
| Recording Sec'y: | Joyce MacKinnon | 901-9234 |
| Corresponding Sec'y: | Sharon Ford | 780-5816 |

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| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Carol Johnson | 981-8457 |
| Mark Osokow | <i>unpublished</i> |
| Jon Fisher | (213) 820-2448 |
| Chris Van Beveren | 998-3122 |
| John Dietz | 222-8180 |

All phones are area code 818 unless otherwise noted.
 For chapter leaders email addresses, see our Web site:
www.SanFernandoValleyAudubon.org/sfvas

CHAPTER PHONE
(818) 347-3205

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Audubon At Home: | Alan Pollack | 340-2347 |
| Birdathon: | Donna Timlin | 341-9354 |
| Christmas Bird Count: | Art Langton | 887-0973 |
| Coord. Council. Rep.: | Jim Hardesty | 346-6712 |
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| Descanso Bird Station: | Dottie Ecker | 790-0659 |
| Descanso Bird Walks: | Karen Johnson | 790-1687 |
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*2006 Christmas
Bird Count*



Canada Geese and Christmas Bird Count 2006 participants at Pierce College, left to right, Brenda Pfaff, Joyce McKinnon, Muriel Kotin, Linda Jones, Judy Howell, Allan Kotin.

Photos by Rebecca LeVine.