

# Phainopepla

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## **Monthly Program**

SFVAS General Membership Meeting Thursday, September 26, 2013 7:00 p.m. Encino Community Center

# North American Mammals Photography of Dave Collins



Back by popular demand is our own Dave Collins, Professional Photographer. Dave will treat us to some of his exciting photographs of North American Wildlife including stories and shots of his time in Yellowstone National Park. Dave Collins was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. During his childhood, Dave developed a strong fascination for nature and wildlife. His love of photography began during his teenage years. For many years photography remained a hobby that he practiced intensively during his free time. In 2005, Dave made a life-changing trip to Yellowstone National Park where he was able to photograph the infamous

August / September 2013



wolves. Using his first 'real' camera, he was able to capture some amazing photographs! It was during this trip that he became as passionate about photography as he was about nature.

Dave currently leads photo expeditions throughout the Western United States and enjoys sharing his passion for wildlife photography with others. Dave's photographs may be viewed on the Web at *davecollinsimages.com*. Last year Dave taught a photography class for our chapter in which participants attended a get-to-know-your-camera session and then had follow-up experiences putting their new knowledge to work in the field. —*Photos: Red Fox and Coyote* 

SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (*except July, August, and November*). ALL ARE WELCOME to join us at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments and view our sales table; program begins at 7:30 p.m. We meet at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd. Encino. See Calendar of Events, pages 4–5, for directions.



#### **Birdathon Donors**

Many thanks to the enthusiastic Birdathon 2013 event leaders and participants, and especially to the generous donors listed below, who allowed us to raise \$11,290.50. Keeping expenses to a minimal \$72.00, we are able to utilize \$11,218.50 for our ongoing

conservation and education programs and operating expenses.

Thank you to:

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# **Important** Membership: Renewal Changes—Rose Leibowitz, Membership Chair. Photo: Hermit Thrush by Rose Leibowitz

As you may or may not know, we have two types of membership of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. Some of you get local membership through your National Audubon subscription and some join locally. Many of the most active members do both! While we welcome all members (and non-members since our activities are free!), if you feel an involvement in our chapter, we encourage you to join locally.

Since I have been e-mailing members to let them know when the *Phainopepla* is online, I have noticed a change in our local membership. Nearly half the local

members now pay the lower price and have opted not to receive the paper by 'snail mail.' Similarly, those who want a hard copy have been migrating to our first class membership to be sure of receiving it by the beginning of the month, (Bulk mail has been very slow in the last few months).

Our Board has voted to go with this flow. Starting **September 2013**, all membership subscriptions and renewals will be \$20.00 for *membership only* (no paper copy) and \$25.00 for membership with First Class postal delivery of the *Phainopepla*. If you have any questions please contact us at <a href="mailto:SFVAudubonSociety@gmail.com">SFVAudubonSociety@gmail.com</a>.

#### Phainopepla Club Welcomes 18 Members!



Eighteen members of SFVAS responded to the Phainopepla Club birding challenge by birding in LA County for 12 months and recording their sightings on eBird. Pins and certificates of achievement were presented to the following members at the Potluck in June.

**Swallow Level** (50–99 species):

Lynn Maddox (55) Paula Orlovich (56)

Teri Carnesciali (82)

Finch Level (100–149 species):

Diana Keeney (110)

Rose Leibowitz (120)

Ruth Gravance (122)

Pat Bates (129)

Vern Benhart (136)

Vireo Level (150–199 species):

Heather Medvitz (150)

Georgia Doyle (155)

Ron Gotcher (168)

Avocet Level (200–249 species):

Art Langton (211)

Jared Knickmeyer (215)

Lynda Elkin (239)

Phainopepla Level (250 species):

Jim Hardesty (250)

Jim Moore (285)

Kris Ohlenkamp (311)

Scott Logan (329)

This birding challenge is being repeated for the twelve months from July 2013 to June 2014. Join eBird (<a href="www.eBird.org">www.eBird.org</a>), log in your LA County sightings, and send in your species count report next June. The Phainopepla Club wants you! —Submitted by Diana Keeney

#### **Calendar of Events**

**August** 

Saturday, August 3. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at

Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, August 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at <a href="mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org">kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org</a> or (747) 444-9683.

Saturday, August 10. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 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. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Saturday, August 17. Monthly Field Trip to Chilao and Buckhorn. 7:30 a.m. Birding the San Gabriel Mountains along the Angeles Crest. Meet at the Chilao Visitor Center at 7:30 a.m. We will look for Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Mountain Chickadee and many other montane species. Bring lunch and water. Directions: Take the 210 Fwy. east to Angeles Crest Highway (Hwy 2). Go north for about 45 minutes, look for the Chilao Campground signs and take the second entrance road to the Visitor Center. Your vehicle must exhibit a National Forest Adventure Pass or Golden Age Pass. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, August 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) 252-6187.

Sunday, August 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 \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton.

Tuesday, August 20. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN AUGUST. Enjoy your summer and see you September 26!

## September

Sunday, September 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See August 4 for details.

**Tuesday, September 3. Antelope Valley Audubon Quarterly Bird Meeting. 6:30 p.m.** The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street, Lancaster. Contact Linda Edwards or Vern Benhart, (661) 948-3524, for more information.

Saturday, September 7. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–12:00 a.m. See August 3 for details.

Saturday, September 14. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See August 10 for details.

Sunday, September 15. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See August 18 for more details.

Tuesday, September 17. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m. See August 20 for details.

Saturday, September 21. Monthly Field Trip to Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve (in Huntington Beach). 7:30 a.m. Meet at the Slater Avenue parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Directions from the San Fernando Valley: Take the San Diego Freeway (405) south and exit at Golden West. Go south approximately three miles on Golden West to Slater. Turn left on Slater to the parking lot on the right. Bring lunch. We will picnic at the park and afterwards caravan to Bolsa Chica. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, September 21. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See August 17 for details.

Monday, September 23. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills.

Thursday, September 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 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. Speaker: Dave Collins. Topic: North American Mammals. For more information see Monthly Program, page one.

Future Field Trips (details later):
October 19. El Dorado Park (Long Beach)
November 16. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment
Ponds

# Phainopepla Photo of the Month by Jim Fermo



Our photo for this issue is from Jim Fermo, a National Audubon member. Here's what he has to say about this very atmospheric shot: "Last summer on one of my visits to the Sepulveda Basin I came across this Snowy Egret perhaps cooling down from the heat. The Egret seemed to be in tune with me being there and it began to stretch its wings almost as though it was yawning."

The picture was taken with a Nikon D7000 with a 18 to 300 mm Lens ISO 800. The picture was converted to B & W in Corel Paint Shop Pro X5. Thanks, Jim, and thanks,

also, for saving us postage money by receiving your newsletter online!

Please submit your photos to <a href="Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org">Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org</a>. Only one picture per photographer per month please! Ideally, the picture will be taken within our area and the information will include the location and the date it was taken, what camera and lens was used, a short account of how the picture was taken, and profile of the photographer. Good shooting! Thanks, Lynn.

#### **Workshop: An Introduction to Bird Sounds**

Sylvia Gallagher will be offering an Introductory Bird Sounds Workshop on Saturday, October 5 for SFVAS. Sylvia is a well-known for her expertise in teaching birding identification by sight and sound. Her workshop will introduce the practice of using sonograms to better understand and analyze bird calls and songs. Her classes have produced many outstanding birders in the southern California area. Sylvia lives in Huntington Beach so we are fortunate to have her come to the valley for a day. We have about ten or twelve people signed up so far and have room for more. The class will be offered in a San Fernando Valley Location and will likely run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Lunch will be included and the price will run \$20.00 per person. If you are interested in taking this workshop or want more information, save the date, and contact Heather Medvitz at heather.medvitz@sfvaudubon.org. This date will not conflict with the Beginning Birder's Class dates.

#### **Beginners' Birding Class**

There are still two spots available in the beginners' class in October. It will run for four sessions that include two walks and two 'classroom' reviews. There will also be chances to participate in our regular walks and meeting at that time. The first class will be on October 17. There will be a fee of \$25.00. For more information, please contact Rose Leibowitz at SFVAudubonSociety@gmail.com.

# Monthly Field Trip Reports by Richard Barth

On May 11 we birded the Walker Ranch section of Placerita Canyon, then nearby Whitney Canyon. Our turn-out was good on a warm spring day. Notable sightings on the walk included White-tailed Kite, Cassin's Vireo, Lazuli Bunting, Steller's Jay, Phainopepla, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, California Thrasher, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wrentit, Swainson's Thrush and Bullock's Oriole. Our warblers were Hermit, Yellow, Townsend's and Wilson's. Also of interest were Western Bluebird, California Quail, House Wren, Northern Flicker, Oak Titmouse, Dark-eyed Junco, Song Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow and Spotted Towhee. Brown-headed Cowbirds were seen. At Walker Ranch we encountered an unusual number of species gathered in a mixed flock hawking insects in the air, some uncharacteristically. It was exciting to observe an adult Red-shouldered Hawk bringing prey to its nest for a downy youngster.

June 8 marked our visit to Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve in Ventura County. Some areas here were blackened by the recent "Springs" fire, but quite a bit of quality bird habitat remained. Species of interest on hand were Blue Grosbeak (found early and often), Greater Roadrunner, White-tailed Kite, Wrentit, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Hooded Oriole, and White-breasted Nuthatch. Both Cassin's and Western Kingbirds were seen. California Quail, House Wren, Say's Phoebe, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cliff Swallow, Western Bluebird and Spotted Towhee made our list. The two ponds on the preserve were dry and grown over. Our raptors in addition to the kite were Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel and Turkey Vulture. Black-hooded (Nanday) Parakeet is now established here. Kerry Morris and I continued birding after the walk and picked up Black-headed Grosbeak, California Thrasher, and Bullock's Oriole. Target birds missed on the day were Grasshopper Sparrow and Lazuli Bunting.

# Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

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

We now have **467** people who get notified by e-mail when the *Phainopepla* comes out, **118** of them have opted to only receive it online and save us the paper and postage. **260** people are following us on Facebook. If you wish to be notified when the *Phainopepla* is online, please e-mail us at <a href="mailto:styoudubonsociety@gmail.com">styoudubonsociety@gmail.com</a>.

– Artwork by Westland School's 2013 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class.





SAVE THE DATE! Friday, November 8, 2013, our Annual Conservation Awards Banquet will be held in the Monterey Room, at the Encino Golf Course. This year's Conservation Award Recipient will be Louis Sahagun.

Any questions, call Ann Ohlenkamp, Conservation Banquet Chair, (747) 444-9683.



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

#### **EXCUTIVE OFFICERS**

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#### **DIRECTORS**

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(310) 962-5653
(818) 995-0022
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(818) 341-4034

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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Antelope Valley Co-Chairs:	Linda Edwards	(661) 948-3524
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Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
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Birdathon:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Christmas Bird Count:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
College Conservation:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
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Education-Sepulveda Basin:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Finance:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
Hospitality:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Malibu Creek Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
	Art Langton	(818) 887-9073
Membership:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Phainopepla Editor:	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Programs:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430
Publicity:	OPEN	, ,
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Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Sep. Basin Steering Comm.	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Web Coordinator:	Ann Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our Website:

### www.SFVAudubon.org









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

#### SFVAS MEMBERSHIP

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership\$25	\$
1-yr Chapter Membership (No paper copy of <i>Phainopepla</i> )\$20	\$
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The PHAINOPEPLA, published six times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a non-profit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

of the *Phainopepla*; I'll get my news online.

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, the science 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  $3^{rd}$  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 422250 Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Be sure to write "C1ZC120Z" 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 Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405 or e-mail her at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org.



#### **Phainopepla**

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

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**Membership** SFVAS is pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will get involved with our many field trips and activities. Please contact Rose Leibowitz, Membership Chair, with any questions at <a href="mailto:rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org">rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org</a>. — Photo: Anna's Hummingbird nest, R. LeVine

#### **National:**

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