

# Phainopepla



Published by the  
**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**  
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



MARCH 2008

VOLUME 59 NO.3

## 2008 SFVAS Conservation Award Recipient, Jim Hardesty



“Coo-o-o, coo, coo.” “Bob-white...bob-white.” “Poor Sam Peabody, Peabody, Peabody.” These are a few of the calls recorded in the memory of a city boy spending summers on a farm in Western Illinois; the Mourning Dove, Northern Bobwhite Quail, and the White-throated Sparrow. It was a small working farm and a great place for a boy.

Grandpa not only taught me how to do the myriad chores on the farm; he also had a great appreciation for the close relationships between the plants cultivated and harvested and the animals husbanded on the farm and the wild things that lived in the hedgerows, the woods, the ponds and the streams. I thought of that some years ago on a visit to that area where I found that much of the wild habitat on and near the farm, and in the broader area, was gone or had been drastically reduced. Where were the hedgerows? What happened to the streams? Who plowed up the few remaining parcels of native grassland? Grandpa would have wept.

On a camping outing to Chilao Campground in 1960, shortly after moving to Southern California, I began to pursue an interest in birding after discovering a great variety of animals, birds, plants and habitats that did not exist in the Midwest of my youth. Learning about birds led to learning more about habitats, plants, and ecosystems and the

delicate balance of things in the natural world. Joining the National Audubon Society in 1967 helped to inform me on natural philosophy, wildlife and conservation issues, as did the writings of Aldo Leopold, Henry David Thoreau, Rachel Carson, Edwin Way Teale, Joseph Wood Krutch, Les Line and Ted Williams.

In the course of my life, I have had the opportunity to visit many national, state and regional parks, preserves, and refuges, each place leading me to learn more about the issues facing wild places and the tensions between natural places and the ever-growing human population.

Learning who the birds were, where I was likely to find them, and observing both their normal and bizarre (to me) behaviors and just enjoying their presence in our world was the engine that propelled my quest. I was aided and inspired by two former colleagues who also each served as a President of SFVAS, Barbara Hopper and Sol Karlin, along with colleagues and birding buddies Ted Kinchloe and Pat Enkema.

After retiring from teaching mathematics at LA Pierce College in 1995, I chose to devote more time and energy to improve my birding skills and involvement and to help to advance the conservation and education efforts of the SFVAS. Thus began a more personal connection to Audubon and all the wonderful Auduboners I have been privileged to meet and work with. This connection has led to leading or co-leading walks, serving on the Board in various capacities, (board member, vice president, president, membership chair, conservation committee, moderating

*continued on back page*



## Birdathon, 2008

As spring is coming, so is the annual Birdathon! This is our 'sponsored birding' in which people pledge a sum of money for every bird spotted on a designated walk. If you would like to volunteer to lead a walk, or have your own birding event with sponsorship from friends and relatives, please let Rose Leibowitz know at (818) 990-5405. The list of designated walks, leaders and more information will be published in the *Phainopepla*. The money raised annually in the Birdathon underwrites most of our running expenses and many of the education sessions we sponsor. In addition to being for a good cause, it is fun! ♪

## Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

Our January 19 visit to Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary attracted a large turnout of birders, and perfect weather made the trip especially enjoyable.

Highlight birds for the trip were Ross's Goose, Eurasian Wigeon and the coveted California Gnatcatcher. Dunlin and Long-billed Curlew were notable and we were surprised to see huge numbers of Semipalmated Plovers. Northern Harrier, White-tailed Kite and Osprey are always exciting to see at these large wetlands areas. We counted approximately 60 Black Skimmers loafing on the bay mudflats. White-throated Swift made our list and the swallow contingent consisted of Tree, Barn and Rough-winged. Other selected species of interest were Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Northern Pintail, Lesser Scaup, Clark's Grebe, Horned Grebe, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Loggerhead Shrike, Belted Kingfisher, American Pipit, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Marsh Wren, Belding's Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. We completely struck out on rails this year. ♪



Come join the "Celebration of Wildness" on the extreme coast of northern California. Experience an in-depth extended weekend, MARCH 28-30, 2008, in the home of the Redwood National and State Parks and the Smith River National Recreation Area. Choose amongst the 60+ workshops/fieldtrips led by experienced, qualified guides. Enjoy outstanding birding, geology, Native American Heritage and more. Register online at [www.aleutiangoosefestival.org](http://www.aleutiangoosefestival.org) or (707) 465-0888. Keynote speaker for this year's celebration is Humboldt State University's Professor Stephen Sillett, the leading researcher in the study of the towering redwoods canopy. Featured recently in Richard

Preston's best-selling book, *The Wild Trees*, Professor Sillett will share his passion for the fog shrouded tops of the world's tallest trees. ♪

### DAVID SIBLEY TO SPEAK AT SEA & SAGE DINNER

Sea & Sage Audubon is pleased to announce that David Sibley, renowned ornithologist, author, and gifted bird artist, will be the guest speaker at their Annual Dinner on March 21 at the Irvine Hilton. He will speak on "The Evolution of a Birding Field Guide." The evening's program will also include the presentation of their chapter's Fern Zimmerman Conservation Award and Letters of Commendation, a celebration to commemorate their 50th Anniversary, and a silent auction. On the following morning, Sibley will conduct a workshop to help birders improve their birding skills. Full information on these events and how to sign up for them can be found on the Sea & Sage website at: [www.seaandsageaudubon.org](http://www.seaandsageaudubon.org). We hope you will be able to attend. Nancy Kenyon Sea & Sage Audubon Annual Dinner committee [nancykenyon@cox.net](mailto:nancykenyon@cox.net) ♪

### Seeking Co-chair for Festivals

Pam Huffman is looking for a volunteer to train as co-chair of the festival committee. After training, the co-chair will be able to take charge of SFVAS information tables at occasional festivals and other special events. Please contact Pam Huffman or Muriel Kotin to get involved in this enjoyable activity.



## Audubon at Home — Why create a garden for wildlife? By Alan Pollack

In my youth, I considered myself lucky to live in an “advanced” civilization—in contrast to the “primitive” tribes in Africa or pre-colonial America. Now that I am much older and, I think, wiser, I have a different perspective on things. Our consumerist society has provided us with much comfort, ease and entertainment, but if one thinks long-term, it appears to be eroding our ability to sustain life on planet Earth. It was the tradition of Native Americans, when making decisions about tribal life, to ask, what will be the effect seven generations from now? Nowadays, little thought is given to the effect of our decisions on the next generation, much less the next seven.

As our civilization “advances,” we continue to destroy much of the biodiversity upon which all life on Earth depends. Vast tracts of land are cleared of native flora and fauna to make way for yet more housing tracts, shopping malls, industrial parks, grazing fields and agriculture. Until recently, little thought was given to the effect of eliminating so much natural habitat on our future. Development is especially rapid in areas like California, which has a Mediterranean climate. There are only five small areas on Earth that share our climate and all have the potential of supporting a vast diversity of plant and animal life. Sadly, for every acre being preserved in these areas, eight acres are being lost.

In the lower 48 states, although new growth forests have increased in the last century, 95 percent of old-

growth forests have been destroyed. This is approximately California’s loss as well. The Great Plains states at one time comprised one of the largest grassland areas in the world, providing habitat for a large variety of birds and other wildlife. Here in California, our Central Valley once supported large swaths of grassland. Ninety-nine percent of these grasslands are now gone and the birds that depended on them are now the most threatened species in the country. Wetland losses, which were occurring at the rate of 300,000 acres per year in the 1970’s and 1980’s have been reduced to 70,000–90,000 acres per year. California has already lost 91 percent of its wetlands.

This is all very depressing to contemplate, but the good news is that there is growing awareness of how important preservation and restoration of natural habitat is. The Audubon Society and many other groups are working hard to preserve our environment—our biodiversity. By creating a garden that is compatible with our climate and supports our native wildlife, each of us can contribute to this noble effort and to the future health of our planet. ♡

**Alan offers free consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife friendly. He also gives a free, Power Point slide show/lecture to community groups, high school and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be reached at [alpat62@aol.com](mailto:alpat62@aol.com) or (818) 340-2347 or at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).**

**American Coots at Bridgeport** – originally published in the Signal Environmentally Speaking column on Jan. 17, 2008 Last week you might remember that more than a dozen people from Santa Clarita rallied for the American Coots (birds) at Bridgeport. When my mother told me that the Bridgeport Homeowners had killed American Coots a few years ago and planned to do it again this year, it made me sad.

Many years ago my Mom started taking me and my younger brothers on hikes in the river and creeks and mountains of Santa Clarita. We spent many days as little kids trying to walk through mud, sand, and water. It was then that I started to learn about all the interesting animals and birds that live here. I remember pointing out ponds and saying to my mother “Look Mom there’s the wetlands.” I guess it was obvious because there were ducks, frogs and a lot of songbirds singing everywhere. Those ponds and wetlands were up above the river in something my Mom calls upland habitat and wetlands. But today they are gone. They were once where Tesoro is, once where East Creek and West Creek are today, once where Bridgeport is today and once where Riverpark by VON’s is being built today. After Bridgeport was built my mom, brother and I once collected toads and frogs that were trying to cross the street between the river and the lakes. Many were already smashed. We relocated them down the river. Still many of the singing frogs could be heard over traffic. Then someone told my mom that people didn’t like being woken up at night. Then they told us that someone had killed them. Now we don’t hear the frogs anymore.

One time after spending a lot of time trying to walk through the river and hills, we were driving along an open space area that we had walked in before. Suddenly, I heard my Mom say to herself almost crying, “By the time you kids grow up there won’t

be any wildlife or frogs croaking,” she knew that the dirt trucks meant that animals were being killed and that the animals that escaped would not have any place to live or call home. I remember saying to my Mom, “Well Mom at least we will know that you tried to save them.”

I know my mother works on all of this environmental stuff and I am glad she does. So, when my mom told me that Bridgeport wanted to kill the coots we went down to the lakes to look at them. They are so cute and have such strange feet. I couldn’t believe someone would want to kill them. I thought I should do something to try and help them. I guess I figured I could since my Mom always does. I contacted a lot of my friends and my mom supported my efforts, of course! My friends were sad to hear that they wanted to kill the birds and I explained that maybe we could do something about it. Within a few days we had a small rally for the birds organized. The morning of the rally my brothers, friends and I made about fifteen posters and went on to the lakes that sit along the Santa Clara River in the Bridgeport development. Many people honked their horns in support of the birds, people pulled over to ask what was going on. I hope that our rally for these poor birds helps save their lives.

It seems cruel to kill their habitat and then replace it with manmade stuff and kill the animals that like the lakes. I hope that people who care do something about it. And I hope that Bridgeport will leave the American Coots alone and all the other birds and wildlife. I hope my friends and their parents care enough to help save open space and wildlife. ♡

*Tiana Savaikie  
7th grade student of Arroyo Seco Junior High  
Obvious daughter of an environmental activist*



# Calendar of Events



**Sunday, March 2. 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. For more information contact him at (818) 225-8348 or e-mail: Kris.Ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

**Tuesday, March 4. Antelope Valley Audubon Meeting. 6:30 p.m.** The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street, Lancaster. Contact Jim Dodson at (661) 942-3662.

**Friday, March 7. Awards Banquet. 6:00 p.m. Cocktails, 7:00 p.m. Dinner.** Featured Speaker: Stephen Shunk. Conservation Award Recipient: Jim Hardesty. Location: Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys. Chairperson: Jeanne Polak-Recht, (818) 360-1438.

**Saturday, March 8. 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, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, are held during the cool season when the large wintering birds such as pelicans and geese are abundant. This March 8 walk will be the last one until October. 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. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. For more information, contact Muriel Kotin at (310) 457-5796, e-mail aKotin@earthlink.net, or Linda Jones at (818) 831-6061, e-mail Ljonesbird@aol.com.

**Saturday, March 8. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 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. No toilets are available on site. Leader: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712, jnhardesty@roadrunner.com.

**Saturday, March 8. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' 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, March 9. 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.

**Tuesday, March 11. Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk at the Tujunga Wash by Orcas Park. 8:30 a.m.** Directions: From the east bound 210 Freeway, exit at Osborne Street and turn left onto Foothill Blvd. Turn right at Orcas Avenue and continue past the equestrian center to the parking lot on the left. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer with any questions (before 7:30 p.m., please) at (818) 885-7493 or e-mail to carolopp@sbcglobal.net.

**Saturday, Sunday, March 15–16. Monthly Field Trip: Morro Bay Weekend!** The first day, Saturday, March 15, we will meet in the parking lot on the near (inland) side of Morro rock at 8:00 a.m. The second day, Sunday, March 16, we will meet at the Montana de Oro State Park Headquarters/Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. Our species tally is usually very high on this trip. Pigeon Guillemot and Chestnut-backed Chickadee are expected. Directions from the San Fernando Valley: Take the 101 Freeway to San Luis Obispo and then follow Route 1 north to the town of Morro Bay. Allow at least 4 hours driving time from the Valley. Bring lunch and drinks. Be prepared for possible inclement weather, and remember that the central coast can be quite chilly in the mornings. Make camping or motel reservations as soon as possible. Leader is Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, March 15. Hansen Dam Clean-Up. 9:00–1:00. Nature Tour. 11:00 a.m.** Hansen Dam Park, 11770 Foothill Blvd., Lakeview Terrace. Sponsored by LA Dept. of Recreation and Parks.

**Saturday, March 15. 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, March 16. 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.

**Sunday, March 23. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See March 9 for details.

**Monday, March 24. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills.

**Tuesday, March 25. Hansen Dam Natural History Walk. 8:30–11:30 a.m.** The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and SFVAS team up for a natural history walk in the Hansen Dam area hoping to find flowering “fire followers” in the past year’s burn area and, of course, birds. BRING BINOCULARS AND A HAND LENS. It is also a good idea to bring water and munchies. Directions: Take Osborne exit from Golden State Fwy. (I-5). Go northeast past intersection with Glenoaks. Turn right at Dronefield to enter the park.

Proceed downhill to the large parking lot. Alternate directions: Exit at Osborne from the Foothill Fwy. (I-210). At the off ramp, turn onto Foothill towards the northwest. After a short distance, turn left onto Osborne (traffic signal) and then left at Dronefield. Proceed to the lower parking lot. Leader: Mark Osokow, e-mail mark.osokow@sivaudubon.org. Rain postpones to Saturday, May 10.

**Thursday, March 27. NO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.** See you April 24!

**Sunday, April 6. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See March 2 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

**April 26.** Morongo Valley (fourth Saturday)

**May 10.** Placerita Canyon (second Saturday)

**June 14.** Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (second Saturday)

---

## **ANNA’S HUMMINGBIRD CHIRPS WITH TAIL** –Submitted by Linda Jones

Researchers Chris Clarke and Teresa Feo of UC Berkeley have shown through photography and lab experiments with feathers that the loud chirping sound made by the Anna’s Hummingbird during display flights is made by spreading its tail. It had been disputed whether this sound was made vocally or mechanically. Clarke and Feo made multi-exposure photos of an Anna’s in the display dive which showed the J-shaped trajectory typical of the species. As the bird is pulling out of the steep, 50 MPH dive, its tail can be seen to spread, and then to retract to its normal flight position a bit later. To view the photo, see a video and hear the sound, explore the following link: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7216230.stm> ♣



## **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 Chris Van Beveren, Membership Chair, with any spelling errors. ♣

Aurelio Albaisa  
Betsy Allen  
Henry Andrews  
Ralph Anglea  
David Balian  
M.E. Behrnsgary  
Jean Buesing  
Beverly Calloway  
Zachary Charles  
Catherine Crespo  
Eva Deal  
Tom and Betty  
Densmore

The Eggerstroms  
Gael Faller  
Phil Fox  
Mr. & Mrs. A. Gmuer  
Joseph &  
Donna Goldstein  
Sally Gray  
Susannah Gross  
Sheila Hermel  
Michele Johnson  
Tristan Joy  
Marjorie Kahanowitch  
Joan Kay

Beatrice Kess  
Karin Klein  
Jeanne Kolasz  
Robert Krutosik  
Juanita Langsford  
Rita Lankes  
Mary Ledbetter  
Rebecca Lefler  
Jerri Levi  
Martin Lipin  
Ilse Loy  
Michael Marr  
Kenneth Mars

The Marsdens  
June Matthews  
Martha McCormick  
Anthony Mendenhall  
Dana Montague  
Patricia Murphy  
Brett Neveu  
Herb Niebergall  
N. Ogints  
Mary Paquette  
Jerrold Parrish  
Mr. & Mrs. John  
Ridgeway

Joyce Rose  
Virginia Scamihorn  
Lewis Silverman  
Susan Stodghill  
Guy Veloz  
Patricia Volger  
Benjamin Waldrop  
Audrey Wilson  
Marguerite Wymore



## 50 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: A RETROSPECTIVE

By Art Langton, compiler

Past president Kris Ohlenkamp was recently rummaging through the remnants of the Chapter's library when he came across old issues of *American Birds*, including issues containing the original and early Chapter bird counts in the San Fernando Valley. The first bird count, in what is now the Chapter's present area on December 28, 1957, with Helen Pratt as compiler. Helen left the money which the Chapter used to build the bird observation porch in her honor in Descanso Gardens. She had also consulted with Roger Tory Peterson when he was writing the first edition of his *A Field Guide to Western Birds*. This first count had fifteen participants in four parties: Chatsworth Reservoir, Hansen Dam, Olive View Hospital, and probably Reseda Park and the west valley. Sepulveda Basin was posted farmland and could only be birded from the periphery for many years.

The count was centered, as now, at the intersection of Nordhoff and Balboa so as to include both Chatsworth Reservoir and Hansen Dam at extreme opposite sides of the circle. The participation fee was \$1/head with the Chapter picking up the tab. Prior to 1957, several of the members are listed as part of the Los Angeles count, but changes were coming. In the late 1950's, the California Audubon Society, once a state-wide organization, became a chapter of the National Audubon Society with the San Fernando Valley as its territory. One of the activities for maintaining chapter status, both then and now, was participation in NAS's annual Christmas bird count.

This first count recorded 88 species and 6762 individual birds. Compare these numbers to the 2007 count with 37 participants divided into eleven parties and finding 121 species and over 15,000 individual birds. Part of the difference can be explained by several factors. The Chapter was much smaller then, maybe 250 members. Most of the counters lived outside the count area. Several of the counters were learning the birds as they counted. Some leaders went into the field with field guide in hand. Notable findings included 15 Horned Larks, two Spotted Doves, 27 Loggerhead Shrikes, 835 robins. Mysteriously, no coots are listed.

The 1958 count featured future president Clara Weedmark as compiler, a position she would retain through 1961. Twenty-five observers were divided into five parties and recorded 101 species and 9256 birds on a rainy, dull, foggy day. Notable sightings included a Red-breasted Merganser (strangely), 58 Horned Larks, two Short-eared Owls, 22 Spotted Doves, a Varied Thrush, and finally, American Coots. Shorebirds included American Avocets and Marbled Godwits.

The next year, 1959, included several future presidents named Hopper and Langton. Counters were still seeing Red-breasted Mergansers, but pintails were plentiful as were coots, Whimbrel, Long-billed Dowitchers. A Dunlin and Sanderling were seen as was a Common Tern, 14 shrikes, a Sage Sparrow, and 19 Horned Larks as part of a 96 species, 7303 bird count by only 14 participants. A Winter Wren was seen and considered unusual but the Brown Creeper at Hansen was not.

Thirty-one observers came out for the 1960 count and found 91 species but only 4712 individual birds. The Red-breasted Mergansers of past counts had become the more likely Common Merganser. Other sightings included a Common Moorhen, 65 Acorn Woodpeckers, only ten shrikes, a Varied Thrush, an unsubstantiated Western Wood-Pewee, and numerous Horned Larks, robins, pintails, and pipits.

The following year, 1961, thirty observers, still in five parties, found 7273 species representing 89 species. Two future presidents participated for the first time, Chuck Bernstein and Al Ryan. After being president, Al Ryan would start the Audubon Student Naturalists which gave guided tours of and worked for the preservation of Big Tujunga Wash. Chuck went on to gain approval for and oversaw the construction of the Descanso Garden bird observation station. Counters recorded a Saw-whet Owl and Whistling Swan as well as 1116 robins, 538 Canada Geese, a suspiciously high 236 Mountain Bluebirds, four Steller's Jays and numerous pintails and Horned Larks. Common Mergansers reached a high count of 50; coots totaled only 186.

The 1962 bird count was held on December 30 and involved 27 observers in only four parties and found only 88 species but surpassed the 10,000 individual birds counted for the first time. Art Langton, Jr. took over the compiling duties. Shrikes were still common (20), 51 Lawrence's Goldfinches were seen along with four Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Chatsworth Reservoir. A lone European Starling was mentioned as a count week bird for the first time.

Within the last fifty years species have disappeared from the Valley count or are almost gone: Horned Larks, shrikes, Burrowing and Short-eared Owls, Spotted Doves, pintails, and the occasional Varied Thrush. Others are becoming fewer and fewer and bear watching in the future. Other species have arrived and are frequently recorded on recent counts that are missing from the earliest ones: European Starling, Allen's Hummingbird, Great-tailed Grackle, various parrots, and Hooded Mergansers have replaced Common Mergansers. What bird counts will look like 50 years hence is anyone's guess but fun to speculate about as each count is a unique experience different from all the past and future counts. ♣



**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      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional First-Class Postage.....\$5      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to SFVAS.....      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total.....      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about SFVAS? \_\_\_\_\_

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 non-profit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

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 newspaper should include the source and date. Copy for the PHAINOPEPLA should be in the hands of the editor by the 7th 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 Chris Van Beveren at (818) 998-3122 or e-mail her at [becktravel@yahoo.com](mailto:becktravel@yahoo.com)

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

President:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
1st Vice President:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
2nd Vice President:	Chris Van Beveren	998-3122
Treasurer:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
Recording Sec'y:	Joyce MacKinnon	901-9234
Corresponding Sec'y	Margie Maseda	880-2002

**DIRECTORS**

Jon Fisher	(213) 820-2448
Sharon Ford	780-5816
John Dietz	222-8180
Mark Osokow	unpublished
Sara Huang	947-2877
Dave Weeshoff	618-1652

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Antelope Valley Chair:	Jim Dodson	(661) 942-3662
AV Newsletter:	Linda Edwards	(661) 948-3524
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	340-2347
Birdathon:	Rose Leibowitz	990-5405
Christmas Bird Count:	Art Langton	887-0973
Conservation:	Kris Ohlenkamp	225-8348
Conservation:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
Coordinating Council Rep:	Jim Hardesty	346-6712
Descanso Bird Station:	Dottie Ecker	790-0659
Descanso Bird Walks:	Nancy Herron Knode	unpublished
Descanso Bird Walks:	Karen Johnson	790-1687
Education Classroom:	Pat Jacobs	222-2456
Education-Sep. Basin:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	885-7493
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Finance:	Allan Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Hospitality:	Carol Johnson	981-8457
Layout & Design:	AM Mail Plus	787-6415

Library & Festivals:	Pam Huffman	342-2025
Malibu Crk. Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Membership	Chris Van Beveren	998-3122
Phainopepla Editor:	Rebecca LeVine	776-0881
Programs:	Jeanne Polak-Recht	831-2438
Publicity:	Margie Maseda	880-2002
Sales & Services:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	885-7493
Santa Clarita Chair:	Teresa Savaikie	(661) 263-9624
Scholarship:	Linda Jones	831-6061
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	225-8348
Web Coordinator:	Jim Hardesty	346-6712
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

*All Phones are area code 818 unless otherwise noted.*

For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

**[www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)**

**CHAPTER PHONE (818) 347-3205**

PHAINOPEPLA is copyright©2008 by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. All rights reserved. All photographs used in the PHAINOPEPLA are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.





## Phainopepla

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

Phainopepla March 2008



Sponsored by L.A. City Dept. of Recreation and Parks

# HELP US BEAUTIFY HANSEN DAM PARK

## JOIN US

### March 15, 2008

**Clean up : 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**Nature Tour : 11:00 a.m.**

Bring your own gloves

at Hansen Dam Park  
11770 Foothill Blvd.  
Lakeview Terrace Ca. 91342

We will meet in the parking lot

Drownfield Ave. X  
Osborne St.

### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Conservation Award Recipient—pg. 1
- Birdathon, Monthly Fieldtrip Report—pg. 2
- Calendar of Events—pgs. 4-5 ♣ Plea for coots—pg. 3
- Audubon At Home—pg. 5 ♣ New Members—pg. 5
- CBC Retrospective—pg. 6 ♣ SFVAS Chapter Info.—pg. 7

*continued from page 1*

the SFVAS Yahoo! Group listserv, coordinating the SFV Audubon website, designing chapter publications) attending public agency hearings, lobbying legislators and agency officials, representing SFVAS on the Tujunga Watershed Project and at the So Cal Audubon Coordinating Council meetings, etc.

Please accept my appreciation for this award. My contribution has been modest, although I have enjoyed being involved. I urge each of you to take on a cause that suits you and, thus, make a difference!

**Think globally—Act locally ♣**