

# Phainopepla



Published by the  
**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



August/September 2008 Volume 59 No. 7

## AUDUBON AT HOME

### SELECTING NATIVES FOR YOUR WILDLIFE GARDEN by Alan Pollack

A good way to start the selection process is to know what plant community you reside in and obtain a list of plants that make up that community. (You can do that by going to [laspilitas.com](http://laspilitas.com), search for plant communities by zip code, entering your zip code, and click on plant list.) One needn't restrict one's choices to just that one community, as some plants from other communities might also do well. For example, though most of Los Angeles is Coastal Sage Scrub, plants from Chaparral, Oak Woodland, and Desert habitats can do well here.

Know what kind of soil is in your garden. Much of the San Fernando Valley has clay soil, but there may be pockets of sandy soil or loam, or a combination of any of the above. An easy test: grab a fist full of moistened soil and make a ball. If you can't make a ball at all, there is a lot of sand. If you make a ball and poke your finger into it and it crumbles readily, the soil is loamy. If the ball stays intact with the hole you poked, it's mostly clay. Knowing the soil type tells you something about the drainage, with sand being the fastest, clay the slowest, and loam in the middle. One can also dig a hole, fill it with water and see how long it takes for the water to absorb. Sand will not retain water at all and some clay will retain water for hours. Absorption within thirty minutes is considered good drainage.

Observe the amount of sunlight each part of your garden receives: plants needing "full sun" require sun all or most of the day; plants needing "shade" require little or no sun; and those needing "half-shade" require sun for about half a day.

If you are adding a plant to an area that is already planted, consider its neighbors. What plants are growing nearby? Are the needs of the new plant the same as its neighbors'? For example, an established oak tree does

not like much water, so one wouldn't put thirsty shrubs or perennials under an oak. Then, there are some trees, like the walnut, that are allelopathic: the roots secrete a substance that inhibits the growth of many plants in the root zone, while some other plants are able to survive.

Help is available. Native plant nurseries have Websites: (I've already mentioned) [laspilitas.com](http://laspilitas.com); [matilijanursery.com](http://matilijanursery.com); [Theodorepayne.org](http://Theodorepayne.org)... to name a few. [Lacnps.org](http://Lacnps.org) is the Los Angeles California Native Plant Society's Website. There are many books on the subject, but make sure the focus is on Southern California, and not New England or the Pacific Northwest. And finally, there are the people who staff the native plant nurseries who can give advice.

Since it is always unpredictable if a given species of plant is going to do well in a particular location in your particular garden, it is monetarily wise to plant only two or three at first to see how it does.

Stay tuned for planting, care and maintenance of your native, wildlife garden. ♣

Alan Pollack, Audubon-at-Home Chair, 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 reached at [alpat62@aol.com](mailto:alpat62@aol.com) or (818) 340-2347 or at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).

**Reminder: General Meeting.**  
**Thursday, September 25. 7:00 p.m.**



## SFVAS AND DESERT RESTORATION

Submitted by Linda Jones, Scholarship Chair



Photo by Jill Heaton

\*Turtle Tracks, Newsletter of The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc. Summer 2003 23:2

The Scholarship Committee chose to support the Student Conservation Association this year. One of the students thus supported, Sarah Jane Archer, has written us a note, which follows. The project she worked on involved restoring areas damaged by off-highway vehicles in the Rand Mountains, which are located in the Mojave Desert near California City. In an article\* appearing in a newsletter of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Ranger Ed Patrovsky of Bureau of Land Management praised the work of Sarah Jane’s group. “This crew, sponsored by the BLM and the Student Conservation Association, is composed of college-age volunteers. I have been impressed with their enthusiasm and work output.”

Dear SFVAS,

Many thanks for supporting the Student Conservation Association. My experience with the Desert Restoration Corps has taught me a lot about the environment and myself. I have really enjoyed working in the Rand Mountains. The desert is really an amazing place! I was surprised by the beauty and the abundance of wildlife; we saw about 15 tortoises this year.

I am very proud of the restoration work we have done on the illegal routes. We had a very positive group dynamic on my crew and we got a lot of work done. I learned a lot about desert ecology, outdoor ethics, and even cooking!

I am excited to go back home to Illinois and share all that I have gained from this internship. Thanks again for your generosity; it has meant a lot to me.

Sincerely yours,  
(signed) Sarah Jane Archer

I am happy to share another note from a Student Conservation Association intern sponsored by SFVAS. Lava Beds National Monument is in far northeastern California between Mt. Shasta and Klamath Falls, Oregon. Submitted by Linda Jones, Scholarship Chair

To my SCA sponsor:

Hello!

Many thanks are due for your sponsorship of my first SCA internship. In my sixteen weeks here at Lava Beds National Monument, I’ve had experiences I’ll never forget and have developed skills crucial to attaining a future position within the National Park Service.

As an Interpretation Division intern, I’ve helped protect our park’s sometimes fragile resources, assisted thousands of visitors, and led local elementary school students through an interactive living history event. Additionally, I’ve explored miles of caves, hiked each of our Monument’s trails and have spent time getting to know a part of our country I had never visited.

None of this would have happened without your support.

In closing, I’d like simply to reiterate my gratitude—thank you!! In just a few days I’ll be moving on to participate in my second SCA internship, this time in Washington state—one more opportunity that might not’ve presented itself without your sponsorship.

Sincerely,  
(signed) Patrick Hall



## Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

We visited Placerita Canyon (Walker Ranch and Placerita Canyon Park) on May 10. A nice turnout of birders enjoyed a mild spring day.

Among the target birds on this trip was a Spotted Owl that was currently being seen along the Waterfall Trail in the Walker Ranch area. An advance party of Jim Hardesty, Alan Dunn and others headed up the trail and quickly located not one, but two, adult Spotted Owls....plus a downy young bird sitting at the opening of a nest cavity nearby!

Of note elsewhere on the walk were Lazuli Bunting, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Steller's Jay, Phainopepla, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Swainson's Thrush and Black-headed Grosbeak, as well as White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Tanager, Warbling Vireo and Black-chinned Hummingbird. The warbler species on hand were Townsend's, Yellow, Wilson's and Yellow-rumped. Acorn Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird are "can't miss" birds here, and House Wrens were everywhere. Other select species tallied on the day were Hooded Oriole, Bullock's Oriole, Spotted Towhee, California Thrasher, California Quail, Western Kingbird, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Goldfinch and Violet-green Swallow.

On June 14 we birded the beautiful Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve in southeastern Ventura County.

For the second consecutive year we struck out on Grasshopper Sparrow, a species declining in southern California but known to nest in the preserve. Among the neat birds expected and obligingly on hand for us were Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Thrasher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock's Oriole and Hooded Oriole. Probably the highlight of the day was a point-blank look at a Greater Roadrunner "reclining" on a bare tree branch at almost eye level. Phainopepla, California Quail, Wrentit, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Oak Titmouse and Say's Phoebe were good sightings. We saw Red-tailed, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks plus American Kestrel but missed White-tailed Kite this year. Other species of interest were Turkey Vulture, Cassin's Kingbird, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, Song Sparrow, Lesser Goldfinch, Brown-headed Cowbird and Red-winged Blackbird. The swallows present were Cliff, Rough-winged, Barn and Tree. ♪

---

## Program Notes—Roy Poucher to Speak at Thursday, September 25 Meeting

Topic will be: Birds and Mammals of Kenya.

*Kenya: Birds & Wildlife in the Gem of East Africa* by Roy Poucher

Come along on a photographic safari to Kenya with Roy Poucher and Bird Odysseys, getting up close and personal with its flashy birds, charismatic large mammals, and breathtaking landscapes. Your visual tour will transport you via stunning photography to the vast grasslands of the Serengeti and other wild locales. View life's dramas lived out by colorful and comical-looking birds and by the big game of hippos, rhinos, zebras, elephants, giraffes and lions. Grasp the mind-boggling millions of Lesser Flamingoes blanketing Lake Nakuru in pink.

Enjoy the antics of the gangly Secretary Bird and of the largest flying bird in the world, the Kori Bustard, as it displays for females. Fish Eagles capture their dinner before your eyes and weavers construct their nests. Warthogs, cape buffalos, elephants and hippos gently tend to their young close to your safari van. Visit beautiful and bird-rich Lakes Baringo and Naivasha in the Great Rift Valley, the verdant and biologically diverse Kakamega Forest, and famous Treetops Lodge, built above big game watering holes in Aberdare National Park.

Roy Poucher is an international tour leader and, with his company Bird Odysseys, has led trips to Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, Kenya and, most recently, Cambodia and Thailand. He has led trips for Sea & Sage Audubon for 16 years including to SE Arizona, Texas, North Dakota, the Great Lakes, and the East Coast. Bird Odysseys trips to India and Australia are in the works. ♪

**For Your Information:** Check out the new Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve  
Website [www.SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org](http://www.SepulvedaBasinWildlife.org).

**Also:** Learn more about the year-round Citizen Science project, Celebrate Urban Birds (it's free) and sign up at [www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org](http://www.CelebrateUrbanBirds.org). Sponsored by The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



# Calendar of Events

## **Saturday, August 2. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.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. Once at kiosk, advise Lake Staff that you are there for the bird walk. Proceed to the Boating Instruction Safety Center (BISC) by turning right at the stop sign and follow the road to a white building down by the lagoon. For information contact Tina Nuss of LA Co Parks at (818) 322-6997. Free parking for birders available only in the Department of Water Facilities just outside the park.

## **Sunday, August 3. 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: Jim Hardesty. For more information contact him at (818) 346-6712 or e-mail: jnhardesty@roadrunner.com.

## **Saturday, August 9. 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, August 10. 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, August 16. Monthly Field Trip to Chilao. 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, Pygmy Nuthatch 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. For those wishing to carpool, plan to meet at 6:30 AM in La Cañada near where the I-210 Fwy. and Angeles Crest Highway (SR-2) intersect in La Cañada. Exit the I-210 at Angeles Crest Highway heading north. About one block up is a frontage road on the right, where we will park and carpool. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

## **Saturday, August 16. 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, August 17. 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: Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Note: NO August Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk.

## **Sunday, August 24. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

See August 8 for details.

NO General Membership Meeting in August.

Have a great summer. See you September 25!

## **September**

### **Tuesday, September 2. Antelope Valley Committee Meeting.**

**6:30 p.m.** The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street, Lancaster. Contact Bob or Bonnie Weatherman (661) 269-2051.

### **Saturday, September 6. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m.**

See August 2 for directions and information or contact Tina Nuss of LA Co Parks at (818) 322-6997. Free parking for birders available only in the Department of Water Facilities just outside the park.

### **Sunday, September 7. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

See August 3 for details.

### **Saturday, September 13. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m.**

See August 9 for details.

### **Sunday, September 14. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

See August 10 for details.

### **Tuesday, September 16. Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk at Caballero Canyon. 8:30 a.m.**

Directions: From the Ventura Fwy. (101) exit at Reseda Blvd. and go south for approximately 2.5 miles. Park by the trailhead on the east side of the street just north of the entrance to the Braemar Country Club. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at, (818) 885-7493, with any questions (before 7 p.m., please).



**Saturday, September 20. 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 20. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00-10:00 a.m.** See August 16 for details.

**Sunday, September 21. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See August 17 for details.

**Monday, September 22. 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 25. 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. Come early for social hour. Welcome back. Hope you had a great summer! Our speaker will be Roy Poucher who will speak on the topic of Birds and Mammals of Kenya. See "Program Notes" on page 3.

**Sunday, September 28. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See August 10 for details.

**Saturday, October 4. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00-10:00 a.m.** See August 2 for details.

**Sunday, October 5. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See August 3 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)  
October 18. El Dorado Park (Long Beach)  
November 15. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds ♪



## 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 questions. ♪

Cathy Arnold  
Robbie Balonick  
Pamela Benyas  
Marjorie Bernath  
Ramona Boren  
Eileen Brennan  
Gloria Burke  
R. R. Burton  
Ruby Cartwright  
Christine Coey  
Jean Constable  
Gail Corrington  
Rita Cowan  
Robert Einem  
Jerome Eisenberg  
Lionel Friedberg  
James Giffard

Winnifred Glimn  
Sherry Goldsmith  
Sara Gomberg  
Winifred Griffin  
Judy Heiser  
Adeline Hopkins  
Harlene Horowitz  
Janice Jones  
Lillian Judd  
Ilene Karpman  
Elaine Karsh  
Jason Keene  
Julie Kelly  
Lee Keller  
Davey Keo  
Irmgard Lacko  
Wayne La Com

Angela Lilja  
Dan Lintemoot  
Donna Lynn  
Mr. and Mrs. Keith McCormic  
Gloria McKimmey  
Clayton Meyer  
Nancy Meyer  
R. Murakami  
Shunji Muso  
Gay Naiditch  
Pamela Nissen  
Judy Pfau  
Joyce Phetteplace  
Jacob Phillips  
Rachael Pilmer  
Paula Raissner

Judith Robinson  
Jon Rochester  
S. Russell  
Virginia Schwarz  
Shirley Sniderman  
Maria Sorich  
Andy Steingold  
Lynn Stevens  
Monica Stevenson  
Brandy Taylor  
Katharine Tierney  
Cleda Tiffany  
May Tsang  
Ava Venturelli  
Wilma Wilson



### BIRDS IN THE NEWS: OSTRICH EGGS

A Kyoto University professor has found a way to create huge quantities of protective avian influenza (bird flu) antibodies using nature's largest egg, that of the ostrich. Bird flu may be a new and frightening disease to us, but our feathered friends themselves have been dealing with it for untold millennia. Over time, they've built up natural antibodies to the influenza virus, which they store in their eggs to protect the developing chicks. The new antibody production technique shows promise in other areas as well, according to Prof. Tsukamoto. For example, ostriches (which can live up to 40 years) can be induced to create antibodies against human influenza

viruses. As well, the huge size of an individual ostrich egg means that as many as 20,000 people can be treated with test drugs created with antibodies sourced from a single egg! Submitted by Linda Jones. Source: <http://scienceblogs.com/grrlscientist/2008/07/> ♪



## Birdathon 2008 by Rose Leibowitz

Our pledge drive is over for 2008. I would like to thank all participants. Firstly thank you to all the team leaders who led the walks and promptly let me know the bird count and secondly thank you to all the members who gave so generously. We are still receiving a few pledges but together we raised over \$8,500. Thank you to all.

Abel, Bonnie Alkon, Ellen Almond, Paul Avery, Richard and Pat Balbus, Marcia Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Barth, Richard Baxter, John R. Bennet, Dave and Jill Bennewitz, Bettina Bernhardt, Roy and Diane Bernhart, Vern and Linda Bernstein, Kenneth and Kathy Bosworth, Teresa and Edwin Bovill-Lea, Anna Marie Boyd, Helen and Emmett Brannin, Dick and Maryke Brewer, Robert Butler, Paul Carpenter, Peter and Tracy Conner, Fox Cooley, Paul R. Dappen, Mark Davison, Jon Dedeyne, L.A. Dittemore, Mary Ellen Docter, Richard and Shirley Doyle, Dr. Richard & Theo Draws, Debbie Duffy, Michael Dvorak, Merle Ecker, Dottie Englund, Claire Erickson, Ms. Nikki	Ferguson, Fred and Doris Gerke, Susan Gilliland, Frank and Susan Golub, Michael and Judith Haney, Ray and Gail Hansen, Patricia Hardesty, Jim Hartman, Steve & Leslie Haugland, Susan (Susi) Heckman, William and Bern- hild Heirs, Pat Herron Knode, Nancy Hershman, Fleurette and Jerry Hopkins, Lynne Horowitz, Susy Horton, Martha Howell, Judy Huffman, Pam and Bob Iker, Anna Jacobs, Pat and Jake Jenne, Gerald and Karen Johnson, Ms. Carol L. Jones, Linda Kahan, Stan and Harriet Kanno, Ms. Brenda Kitz, Jo Klemic, Priscilla (Pixie) Knight, Celia F. Kolasz, Jeanne Kotin, Allan and Muriel Kusner, Kathy Lanrain, Mrs. Jeanne G. Langton, Arthur	Leibowitz, Rosemary Leps, Virve & Ants Leseman, Frederick Levine, Ms. Margaret LeVine, Rebecca Levy, Kay Lockwood, Mrs. Tama Maddox, Lynn Mason, Halli Mc Bride, Diana Mc Neil, Marvin Mc Tigue, John and Nancy McClain, Ken and Doris McClure, Roger and Judy McLaughlin, Joanne Mehegan, Roberta Molinari, Marilyn Moore, Alvy Moore, Jim Morgan, Karen and Joseph Ogg, Lorraine Onderwyzer, Sonya & Rudolph Oppenheimer, Carolyn Oschin, Francine Osokow, Mark Palmer, Judith Pearce, Joan Pinhey, Margaret Piorek, Hank and Karen Priceman, Lorraine Quinn, James and Cecilia Reich, Cynthia Rheinfurth, Kurt Roberts, G.B.	Ross, Janice and Stuart Rothman, Judith Roy, Karen Ryder, Marilyn Schewe, Patricia Schlom, Sherrie and Leslie Schreiber, Guillermo & Celina Schumann, Joyce F. Shen, Ms. Freda F. Shimandle, Jerilyn Shipin, Lee Ann Shteir, Seth Sigman, Mel Smith, Christine C. Stauss, Ed and Jane Stevens, Ken and Sharon Sullivan, Kathleen Syed, Linda Taylor, Meredith and Robert Tekulsky, Matthew Timlin, Donna Toll, Fran Van Beveren, Chris and Jim Veden, C.F. (Charles) Volin, Judy Wallander, Allen and Sue Weeshoff, Dave Weinberg, Ms. Lillian Weiss, Ruth White, Sally Wilhelm, Nicholas Willis, Jack and Janet Willis, John Zemlicka, Ms. Paulette
---	---	--	---

### Birding Programs in Yosemite National Park

You can register for the following events or for more information contact Pete or Corrie at (209) 379-2321, or visit [www.yosemite.org/seminars](http://www.yosemite.org/seminars). Submitted by Margie Maseda

#### **Birding Tuolumne Meadows Saturday, August 30, 7:30 a.m.**

Even as summer winds down, it's worth paying attention to the birds in the high meadows and forests of the Tuolumne region. Nutcrackers are storing mast for the winter, gulls drift over from Mono Lake, raptors head south, and songbirds are adjusting to migratory and winter habitats. We'll look for bluebirds, crossbills, solitaires, migrating warblers and east side vagrants getting busy with the season.

#### **Woodpeckers: The Quest for Eleven Saturday, December 6, 7:30 a.m.**

The Sierra is gifted with a remarkable diversity of forest types, all with tremendous trees. This makes it superb habitat for a diversity of woodpecker species—as many as you can find anywhere in North America. Our day will be a quest to see how many of this interesting and important “keystone taxon” we can observe. ♪



**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 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 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:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
1st Vice President:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
2nd Vice President:	Chris Van Beveren	998-3122
Treasurer:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Recording Sec'y:	Donna Timlin	341-9354
Corresponding Sec'y:	Margie Maseda	880-2002

**DIRECTORS**

John Dietz	222-8180
Sara Huang	947-2877
Dave Weeshoff	618-1652
Heather Medvitz	222-4430
Michael Van Norman	(661) 263-2958

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Antelope Valley Chair:	Bob and Bonnie Weatherman	(661) 269-2051
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
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	780-5816
Conservation:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(661) 299-6986
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:	Dave Weeshoff	618-1652
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
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
Scholarship:	Linda Jones	831-6061
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(661) 299-6986
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

### Dated Material

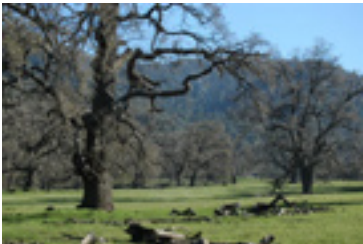
Please visit our website  
to see this issue in full color!  
[www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org)

**Phainopepla** August/September 2008



### INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

**Desert Restoration—pg. 2** ♣ **Monthly Fieldtrip Reports; Program Notes; Birds in the News—pg. 3**  
**Calendar of Events—pgs. 4–5** ♣ **New Members—pg. 5** ♣ **Birdathon; Yosemite Birding Events—pg. 6**  
**SFVAS Chapter Info.—pg. 7**



### Preserving a California Treasure: Audubon California helps craft historic conservation pact

Up to 240,000 contiguous acres of spectacular and ecologically significant California wildlands will be protected under a precedent-setting agreement brokered by Audubon California and five other environmental groups with the Tejon Ranch Company. The agreement will protect approximately 90 percent of Tejon's rich natural habitat from development and open new opportunities for Californians to enjoy this tremendous landscape firsthand.

"If you look at a map of California, you can see just how big a victory this is for Californians," said Graham Chisholm, conservation director for Audubon California. "The protected area is immense—375 square miles—and the only place in North America where four distinct ecoregions meet on one property."

Tejon Ranch encompasses more of California's natural beauty and diversity than any undeveloped area of the state. Located at the junction of the Mojave Desert and the Sierra Nevada, central and coastal mountains, the enormous parcel is home to precious native grasslands, oak woodlands, Joshua tree woodlands and conifer forests. It is home to the endangered California

Condor and more than two dozen state and federally listed plant and animal species.

Audubon California and its partners in the environmental community have secured a hard fought victory for California's environment through intense negotiations. Ultimately, these negotiations presented a unique opportunity to settle the ranch's future and avoid decades of piecemeal legal wrangling with little likelihood of gaining the extensive habitat protection and funding for long-term restoration and management that this represents.

In exchange for major conservation concessions, Audubon California and its partners will agree not to oppose three development projects on 10 percent of the Tejon Ranch. These developments will still be subject to public review and applicable federal and state environmental protection laws.

Although Audubon chapters are not party to the agreement, Chisholm sees an important role for chapters in the future of the protected lands in helping survey bird populations on the previously inaccessible property, partnering in restoration and education projects, and in other conservation plans for the land. Prior to the announcement of the agreement, he led five local chapters—Kern, Kerncrest, Los Angeles, Pasadena and San Fernando Valley—on a tour of the ranch to engage them in the conservation project. ♣

More about this landmark victory—including background stories, maps and photos—is available on [www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org).  
photo of Tejon Ranch by Kristi Patterson