

Phainopepla



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PROGRAM NOTES

**Dave Weeshoff, to Speak at Thursday May 28, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting**



Birds, Beasts and Bergs—a Southern Ocean Experience

Dave Weeshoff, SFVAS Board Member, will present photos and quips of his recent travels to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands. Included will be penguins, albatrosses, petrels, whales, cute seal pups, sea lions, and other rascally creatures, as well as amazing icebergs and landscapes of phenomenal beauty. Come help him identify some of the mystery birds in his photos. ♪



Birdathon by Rose Leibowitz **It is Birdathon Season Again!**

Our annual Birdathon got off to an excellent start with the April 5 bird walk at Sepulveda Basin which was shared by a large crowd of birders. Also completed during this month were walks and days led by Carolyn Oppenheimer, Jim Moore, Dick Barth, Jim Hardesty, and Alan and Muriel Kotin. Join one of the remaining walks in May led by Art Langton (Chatsworth Reservoir) and Nancy Herron-Knode (Descanso Gardens) both of which will be on May 10. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this event. If you did not receive a pledge form, please e-mail me at Rosemary.Leibowitz@sfvaudubon.net and I will be happy to send you a form. ♪



Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

The following candidates have agreed, pending election, to serve on the board of San Fernando Valley Audubon for the year 2009–2010:

President, Jim Moore
First Vice President, Dave Weeshoff
Second Vice President, Margie Maseda
Recording Secretary, Donna Timlin
Corresponding Secretary, Chris Van Beveren
Three-year Directors, Bettina Bennewitz and Diana Keeney
One-year Director, Mathew Tekulsky (filling a vacancy)

Continuing their present terms will be:

Treasurer, Mark Osokow (second year of two-year term)
Two-year Directors, Heather Medvitz and Michael Van Norman
One-year Director, Sara Huang

Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor at the April meeting (April 23, 2009) provided such nomination receives the approval of the nominee and is supported by a written petition signed by five SFVAS members.

Election of officers and board members will take place at the May General Membership Meeting (May 28, 2009).

Heather Medvitz, Kris Ohlenkamp, and Chair Muriel Kotin served on the Nominating Committee. The committee thanks all who have served on the board of directors and those who have agreed to serve in the coming year. ♣

Early Spring Venture into Chatsworth Preserve by Art Langton

Chapter members along with those of the Southwestern Herpetologist Society contributed to a total of 59 birds sighted during a combined morning tour of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve on Sunday, May 29. The number is quite remarkable when considering that no herons, egrets, “puddle” ducks, or shorebirds, or waders of any kind were included, due in part, to the absence of the usual seasonal wetlands caused by the warm March weather and corresponding lack of significant rainfall since February.

Offsetting these losses were representatives of all the common swallow species, seven sparrow species, remaining winter visitors, and newly arrived spring migrants particularly several Bullock’s Orioles and Western Kingbirds. Highlights included good views of two Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Lawrence’s Goldfinch, and a Prairie Falcon contributed by the herpers. The herpers also reported finding two red racers and a ring-necked snake. Appropriately, the final bird sighting of the morning was a male Phainopepla. ♣

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.

New National Members:	Lorraine Gollub Heldman	Jeanne Newgaard	Darren Windgrad
Louis Balicki	Leclair Hoar	Earl Peterson	Cyndi Yates
Siobhan Barnett	Jan Kopf	Julia Podvin	Robin Wheeler
Chi Hong Chong	Arda Krochian	Suzanne Reyes	
Mostaque Chowdhury	Barbara Laing	Donna Ryan	
Delores Conrad	Joan Langa	M. Swick	
Dianna Cox	Barbara Lee	M. Thomas	
Preston Garrett	Cheryl Lewis	Raul Urias	
Emma Gagnon	Lorraine Miranda	Susan Wiley	



Audubon at Home

by Alan Pollack

Audubon-at-home Mailbox

In this now and then column, Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, will answer your questions about gardening for wildlife and sustainable gardening practices.

Reader Irene asks...

I am a member of Audubon Society and have read your interesting contributions to the newsletter. We are interested in making our yard friendly to wildlife though I don't seem to see much here—just poor coyotes who have been displaced by man. Is it too late to plant native plants at this time? I should have contacted you earlier; however, I hope it is not too late to plant some species. —Irene Lane

Answer: One can plant natives at just about any time of the year but I would avoid times of extreme cold/frost or extreme heat. Natives need to be watered regularly for the first year or two until they get established and then they make do on what Mother Nature (hopefully) provides. A good sign that the plant is well established is when it doubles in size. The best time to plant if you want to conserve water is just before or during our rainy season—late fall or winter. The rainy season is also the growth season for most natives which typically go dormant in the dry, summer season.
—Alan ♡

Do You Have a Question About How to Create a Wildlife-Friendly Garden?

Alan Pollack would love to hear from you. Please e-mail him with any questions you have regarding creating a wildlife friendly garden that can be used for publication.

Alan also 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 or (818) 340-2347 or at www.sfvaudubon.org. ♡

I found a baby bird out of its nest and hopping around our backyard. What should I do?



Photo: R. LeVine

In most cases, the bird may have already fledged from the nest, and its parents are nearby watching. The best thing to do, if the bird looks fully formed (has all its feathers) is to leave it alone and watch it to see if the adult birds are around. You will either see or hear the adults chattering. Keep your pets indoors to keep the fledgling safe.

If the bird has no feathers, it may have fallen or have been thrown from the nest. If this is the case, you'll want to return it to the nest, if possible. However, you should note that sometimes it is knocked out of the nest on purpose by a parent or a sibling as part of genetic weeding, or by a predator species that is larger than the nestling.

If you cannot locate a nest, or if the adult bird doesn't return, place the bird in a box with a cover (and air holes). The darkness will calm the bird. For injured adult birds, a perching branch in the box may be helpful. Immediately find a licensed wildlife rehabilitator who can assess the state of the bird, care for it, and release it back to the wild if possible. —NAS See Page 6 for more information. ♡



Calendar of Events

Saturday, May 2. Tejon Ranch Breeding Bird Count. The Tejon Ranch Conservancy has organized a summer bird count and has invited SFVAS to bird one of the five sections that make up the entire 240,000 acre property now managed by the Conservancy. This is an excellent opportunity to get a first hand look at this beautiful property and help count birds. Details on time and meeting location will be announced on our website, www.sfvaudubon.org and our e-mail listserve. If interested in participating, contact Jim Moore at jimmoores@socal.rr.com or (661) 298-1130.

Saturday, May 2. 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@att.net.

Saturday, May 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. 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 of LA Co Parks at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, May 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: Kris Ohlenkamp. For more information contact him at (661) 229-6986 or kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, May 9. Monthly Field Trip to Walker Ranch/Placerita Canyon (second Saturday). 8:00 a.m. Meet at the Walker Ranch entrance. We will look for Costa's Hummingbird, Lazuli Bunting, flycatchers, warblers, orioles and much more. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon Road. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and proceed for about two miles. Notice but do not stop at the signed entrance to Placerita Canyon Park. Continue for about 1.5 miles to the dirt parking area for Walker Ranch. After birding Walker Ranch, we will picnic in Placerita Canyon Park and bird there in the afternoon. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342. (Adventure Pass is NOT needed for Walker Ranch parking.)

Saturday, May 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, May 10. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. A BIRDATHON EVENT. 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.

Sunday, May 10, 7:00 a.m. Chatsworth Nature Preserve. A BIRDATHON EVENT! Chapter members will once again join members of the Southwest Herpetologist Society on a tour inside the Preserve. We will divide according to interest, Herps or birds. Meet at the Plummer/Valley Circle gate on the north side of the Preserve approximately .9 miles west of the intersection of Topanga Canyon Blvd. and Plummer, past three (3) "STOP" signs and opposite 9439 Valley Circle. Phone Art Langton at (818) 887-0973 and leave your name and number to be admitted. As the gate will be locked behind us, please be prepared to stay until noon or possibly a little later. Bring drinks and snacks. Facilities are limited and primitive. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Art Langton and Stewart Wells.

Saturday, May 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, May 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 \$10 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796, aKotin@earthlink.net and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Monday, May 18. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills. NOTE: THIRD MONDAY OF THE MONTH.



Tuesday, May 19. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 8:30 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 .6 mile, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at, (818) 885-7493, with any questions (before 7 p.m., please) or CarolOpp@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, May 24. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See May 10 for details.

Thursday, May 28. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 7:00 p.m. Everyone welcome. 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. Our speaker, Dave Weeshoff, will show us photos of his recent trip to Antarctica. See "Program Notes", page 1, for more information.

Saturday, June 6. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00-11:00 a.m. See May 2 for details.

Saturday, June 6. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00-10:00 a.m. See May 2 for details.

Sunday, June 7. Sepulveda Basin. See May 3 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

June 13. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (second Saturday)

July 18. Mt. Pinos

Aug 15. Chilao ♪



Monthly Field Trip Report

by Richard Barth

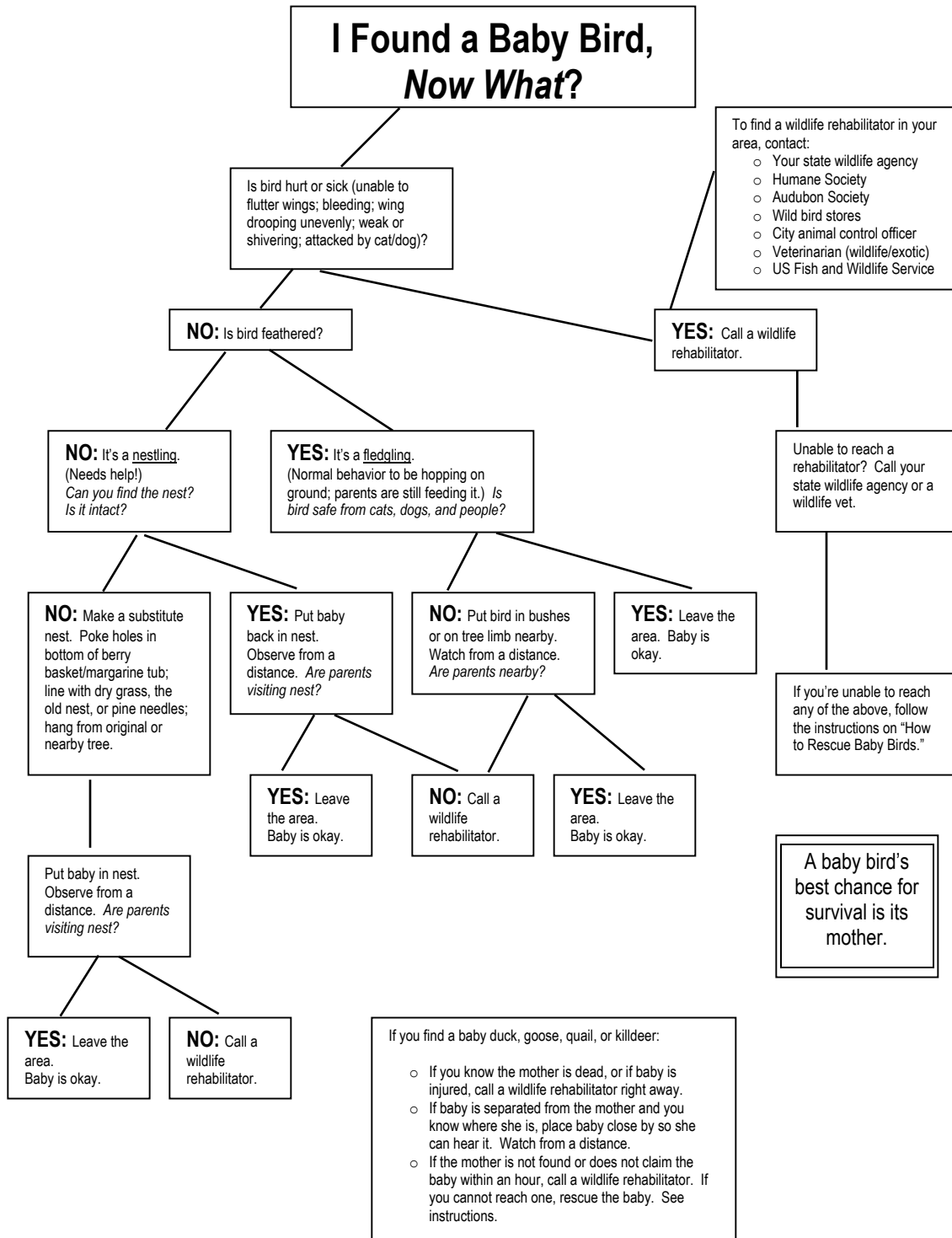
Our Morro Bay Weekend this year was March 21-22, with some of us arriving early to tally a three-day list. Windy conditions made things a bit difficult on Sunday, but our species count for the long weekend was a respectable 108.

Readily seen were target species Pigeon Guillemot (off Montana de Oro State Park), Peregrine Falcon and Canyon Wren (at Morro Rock) and Chestnut-backed Chickadee (in several locations). After our Montana de Oro visit on Sunday, Jim Moore spotted a Brown Creeper at the Morro Bay State Park Campground.

Our trip produced Common and Red-throated Loons, four species of herons and five species of grebes. Large flocks of Brant were reliably present. The duck contingent featured some crowd-pleasers like Northern Pintail, the three teal, Red-breasted Merganser, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead and both scaup. Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants are

special attractions here. We managed fifteen species of shorebirds including Dunlin, Black Oystercatcher, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpiper, Semipalmated Plover, American Avocet, Marbled Godwit and Long-billed Curlew.

Eurasian Collared-Dove is now well-established on the central coast and we also tallied Bantailed Pigeon. Wilson's, Townsend's, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-rumped (both Audubon's and Myrtle) were the only warblers found. Sparrow highlights were Golden-crowned, Lark, Savannah and Fox. Other finds of interest were Merlin, Glaucous-winged Gull, Caspian Tern, Rufous Hummingbird, Hooded Oriole, Steller's Jay, Purple Finch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Wrentit (heard), Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Belted Kingfisher, California Thrasher (heard), California Quail and Western Meadowlark. ♪



From Healers of the Wild: People Who Care
For Injured and Orphaned Wildlife
By Shannon K. Jacobs
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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 \$ _____
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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 Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405 or e-mail her at rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org.

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For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org

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Phainopepla

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to see this issue in full color!
www.sfvaudubon.org

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Sharon Ford & Dave Weeshoff—Earth Day Celebration
Chatsworth Nature Preserve, April 5, 2009

