

Phainopepla



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PROGRAM NOTES

Thursday, June 24, 2010. Annual Potluck and Members' Slideshow. 6:30 p.m.

Meet 6:30–7:00 p.m. for setup and social time, followed by dinner, installation of officers for 2010–2011, and program.

Culinary delights and photo adventures by SFVAS members for SFVAS members! Plan to join in the potluck by bringing one of the following: a main dish, salad, rolls, or dessert to serve 6–8 people. Bring your own plate, cup and eating utensils. Beverages will be provided.

The evening's program will feature presentations from our own talented photographer members sharing their best photos. All are invited to participate. Limit the number of images to 20 or less. Presenters must narrate. Possibilities are birds, nature, vacations, field trips, or backyard natural wonders.

Don't miss this always-enjoyable annual get-together of friends, food and photos as our activity year draws to a close. See Calendar Section for directions.

For more information, call Jeanne Polak-Recht, (818) 831-2438. ♪

**NO General Membership Meetings in July and August.
Have a great summer.
See you September 23!**



Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

April 24 marked this year’s visit to Morongo Valley and Joshua Tree National Park. The trip once again doubled as a SFVAS Birdathon. We managed 66 species for the day.

Big Morongo Valley Preserve and nearby Covington Park hosted our morning birding. One of the first birds we saw as we began our walk was a rare White-throated Sparrow, which we later learned had wintered at the preserve. Our good luck continued as we found five of our spring Morongo Valley target species: Brown-crested Flycatcher, Summer Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chat, Lawrence’s Goldfinch and Vermilion Flycatcher. We were directed to a Long-eared Owl nest and saw a fledgling perched in an adjacent tree. Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Costa’s Hummingbird, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Gambel’s Quail and Verdin are always good finds here. In addition to the chat, Nashville was notable from our list of nine

warblers. Other selected species of interest in the area were Western Bluebird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin’s Kingbird, Oak Titmouse, Phainopepla, Cassin’s Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Bullock’s Oriole and Hooded Oriole. We somehow did not find Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting or any of the empidonax flycatchers this visit.

After lunch we drove up to Black Rock Campground in Joshua Tree National Park. Here we were treated to a rare White-winged Dove plus target birds Scott’s Oriole, Pinyon Jay, Greater Roadrunner and Cactus Wren. A tip lead us to a Great Horned Owl nest with nestlings in a Joshua Tree (the “desert form” GHOW is known for its pale plumage). A Western Kingbird made an appearance. We had only a brief look at a probable Brewer’s Sparrow and did not count it on our list. We missed Black-throated Sparrow.✂

HAWAIIAN BIRDS: AN ON-LINE ACHIEVEMENT (Submitted by Linda Jones)

Wave of the future? A free on-line guide to the birds of Hawaii



Robert L. (Bob) Pyle spent over half a century accumulating data to document the occurrence and distribution of birds in Hawaii. Upon developing macular degeneration, he lost clear vision in the early 2000s, at which time he recruited his family to help him complete what was planned to be a scientific monograph on the subject. His son Peter assisted Bob with the text and layout while his daughter Ellen, son Richard, and wife Leilani helped in gathering information and in other technical matters. The B.P. Bishop Museum sponsored the completion of the project.

When Bob passed away in July 2007, Peter took over the project. In March, the decision was made that a website instead of a published monograph would be in the spirit of Bob’s desire to have informa-

tion free and easily accessible to all. Peter completed Version 1 of the website entitled “Birds of the Hawaiian Islands.” This version will remain unchanged (apart from the correction of typographical errors and such) until an updated Version 2 is completed sometime in 2011-2013. An annotated checklist of the birds of Hawaii, based on information in Version 1, will also be created later this year, and will soon be available from the B.P. Bishop Museum Press along with a DVD of the website.

This on-line publication represents a major contribution to the knowledge of the birds of Hawaii. It could also serve as a model for future such publications. You can access Version 1 of “Birds of the Hawaiian Islands: Occurrence, History, Distribution, and Status” by Robert L. Pyle and Peter Pyle here: <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/birds/rlp-monograph/Default.htm>

For comments, errors, typos, bad links, updated information, and any other suggestions, contact Peter Pyle: ppyle@bishopmuseum.org.

Source: Birding Community E-bulletin - May 2010

To learn more about this E-bulletin or to get on the monthly mailing list, contact paul.baicich@verizon.net

Photo: Nene, by Mike Borlan ✂



Think Before You Drink: Coffee Choice Helps Birds

Ithaca, NY—A simple lifestyle choice can have a positive impact on bird conservation around the world. Scientists have established that the traditional method of growing coffee—beneath the canopy of a forest, rather than chopping down the trees for sun-grown coffees—provides vital habitat for birds.

“It’s a simple formula: keep the trees, keep the birds,” says Dr. Kenneth Rosenberg, director of Conservation Science at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. “When trees are retained, this has tremendous value to birds, especially migratory birds that winter in Central and South America and breed in North America during the summer.” Research has shown that traditional shade-grown coffee plantations in Mexico can support more than 100 bird species, compared with 6–12 species in sun-grown monocultures.



Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Support of the shade-grown coffee movement has led to a new partnership between the Cornell Lab and Birds & Beans®, a Massachusetts-based retailer that specializes in shade-grown coffee products certified “Bird Friendly®” by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. This certification means that Birds & Beans coffee is 100%-organic and shade-grown.

“We started this project to make it easier for bird and nature lovers to do the right thing and enjoy great-tasting coffee at the same time,” says Bill Wilson, co-founder of Birds & Beans. “By partnering with the Cornell Lab, we’re sure we can all make a big difference for tanagers, thrushes, orioles, warblers, and other beautiful songbirds.”

People who buy Birds & Beans Bird Friendly coffee also help protect birds a second way: A portion of all online sales and sales of the coffee from some Wild Birds Unlimited stores goes to the Cornell Lab to help support its ongoing bird research, education, and conservation programs.

“Simply drinking the right coffee is an easy way for people to make a real difference for birds,” says Rosenberg. “We’re happy to support Birds & Beans in this effort and help bird and nature lovers make the right choice.”

Contact: Pat Leonard, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, (607) 254-2137, pel27@cornell.edu

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab’s web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd, Ithaca NY 14850
Call toll-free (800) 843-BIRD (2473)



Calendar of Events



June

Tuesday, June 1. Antelope Valley Audubon Bird 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 at (661) 269-2051. www.avaudubon.com.

Saturday, June 5. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. Last one until October. 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, jim.hardesty@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, June 5. 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.

Sunday, June 6. 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) 986-7785 or kris.ohlenkamp@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, June 12. Monthly Field Trip to Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve. (Second Saturday) 7:30 a.m. We expect to see Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, orioles, flycatchers, raptors, possibly Grasshopper Sparrow. Directions: Take the Ventura Freeway (101) to the Lynn Road exit in Thousand Oaks. Go south on Lynn Road and proceed 5.3 miles to Via Goleta. Turn left at Via Goleta to the preserve entrance. The main gate officially opens at 8:00 a.m. but a ranger usually opens it much earlier. We will meet at the gate at 7:30, ready to drive down to the parking lot and get an early start. We will bird until about 11:30. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, June 12. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Doves' 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, June 13. 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: Olga Clark or Nancy Herron Knode. For more information, contact Dottie Ecker, (818) 790-0659.

Tuesday, June 15. O'Melveny 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, with any questions (before 7 p.m.) or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, June 19. 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, June 20. 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, muriel.kotin@sfaudubon.org and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Thursday, June 24. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Annual Potluck and Members' Slideshow. 6:30 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.

The evening's program will include the installation of new officers for the 2010-2011 year. It will also feature presentations from our own talented photographer members sharing their best slides, DVD's etc. All are invited to participate. Limit the number of images to 20 or less. Presenters must narrate. Possibilities are birds, nature, vacations, field trips, or backyard natural wonders.

Don't miss this always-enjoyable annual get-together of friends, food and photos as our activity year draws to a close. For more information see "Program Notes", page 1, or call Jeanne Polak-Recht, (818) 831-2438.



Sunday, June 27. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See June 13 for details.

July

Saturday, July 3. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See June 5 for details.

Sunday, July 4. Sepulveda Basin. See June 6 for details.

Saturday, July 10. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m. See June 12 for details.

Sunday, July 11. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See June 13 for details.

Saturday, July 17. Monthly Field Trip to Mt. Pinos 7:30 a.m. Please note the new, earlier meeting time. Join us for summer montane species such as Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Dusky Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Hairy Woodpecker and Clark's Nutcracker. Meet in the parking lot at Iris Meadows. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen, insect repellent and lunch. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take I-5 north to the Frazier Park exit. Go west through Frazier Park and continue for about 20 miles up Mount Pinos Road to the end (and parking lot.) Your vehicle must exhibit a Na-

tional Forest "Adventure Pass" or Golden Age Passport in order for you to park and bird in this area. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, July 17. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See June 19 for details.

Sunday, July 18. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See June 20 for details.

Tuesday, July 20. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 8:30 a.m. See June 15 for details.

**NO General Membership Meetings in
July and August. Have a great summer.
See you September 23!**

Sunday, July 25. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See June 13 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)

August 21. Angeles Crest spots as available

September 18. Huntington Central Park/Bolsa Chica ♪



Who should you contact if you find injured or orphaned wildlife?

In Woodland Hills, Brenda at (818) 346-8247

In Burbank, James at (818) 571-9833

In Simi Valley, Anna at (805) 428-7105

In Malibu Canyon, California Wildlife Center at (310) 457-9453

-Submitted by Alan Pollack, Photo: R. LeVine



BIRDATHON Submitted by Rosemary Leibowitz

All our walks are now completed, thank you to all who participated! Several of the big days were during an unexpected late winter storm and some intrepid birders suffered cold, windy and wet weather. (Their bird counts were a little down which indicates that some birds had the sense to stay home!)

Art Langton and group found 51 species at Malibu Creek State Park. Art shared that a Cassin's Kingbird he saw as he left the park made his 51st. For his solo trip on Hwy 33, he saw 76 species.

Dick Barth's group in the Morongo Valley spotted 66 species.

Jim Moore and group did a long day in the Antelope Valley and desert areas, they saw 115 species and battled bad weather.

Jim Hardesty's group's day was hampered by strong winds but managed 105 species.

Carolyn Oppenheimer and group found 34 species at O'Melveny Park

Kris Ohlenkamp at Sepulveda basin led a group that saw 60 species.

Nancy Herron-Knode at Descanso Gardens found 44 species

Our other two groups' pledges are specifically for our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP) outreach.

Muriel and Allan Kotin did a 24 hour birding day all over L.A. County and saw 111 species.

John and Andrew Willis birded in the Long Beach area for a day, saw many species of warblers in El Dorado Regional Park and totaled 86 species.

Thank you to all birders, supporters, donators and pledgers! The "mean team" our average bird count was 75. I do not have a dollar total at the time of going to press but, once again, am overwhelmed by the generosity and good feeling I get from our membership. ♪

Audubon-at-Home Mailbox by Alan Pollack

Reader Robin writes:

I recently had to cut down a 30 year old fruitless mulberry tree in my back yard that attracted several species of birds. The bark on the tree turned black and then started peeling off, and I found several large splits in the trunk. No signs of life well into spring. Any suggestions what tree I might plant in its place so that I might have my birds back? I would prefer something that won't become huge and take over the entire yard. I don't want to plant a fruit tree, as I don't want the mess and am not a huge fan of squirrels or tree rats. I have sandy soil and get full sun.

Well, Robin, many trees attract birds because they provide shelter and nesting sites. In addition, many trees provide some form of food. You are somewhat limited because of your sandy soil, but there are some high desert trees that will do well here in the San Fernando Valley. I suggest you check out the following species: *Acacia greggii* (Catclaw acacia), *Cercidium floridum* (Palo Verde), *Cercis Occidentalis* (Western redbud), *Chilopsis linearis* (Desert Willow) and *Juniperus californica* (California juniper.) ♪

Please e-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have with regards 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@sfaudubon.org.



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 \$ _____
 Student 1-yr Chapter Membership....\$10 \$ _____
 Optional First-Class Postage.....\$5 \$ _____
 Contributions to SFVAS..... \$ _____
 Total..... \$ _____

New Member ____ Renewal ____ School ____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, ZIP _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____
 How did you learn about SFVAS? _____

Save a tree! I DO NOT want to receive a hardcopy of the *Phainopepla*; I'll get my news online

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President: Jim Moore (661) 298-1130
 1st Vice President: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652
 2nd Vice President: Margie Maseda (818) 378-1084
 Treasurer: Mark Osokow unpublished
 Recording Sec'y: Donna Timlin (818) 341-9354
 Corresponding Sec'y: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430

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 Brenda Pfaff (818) 989-5284
 Michael Van Norman (661) 263-2958
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 Descanso Bird Walks: Karen Johnson (818) 790-1687
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 Field Trips: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342
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The PHAINOPEPLA, published ten times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409, 818-347-3205. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a 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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Web Coordinator:	Jim Hardesty	(818) 346-6712
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org

CHAPTER PHONE (818) 347-3205

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Phainopepla

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

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www.sfvaudubon.org

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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 rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org

Local:

Kathy Landis
Tracy Rane
Diane Vernon
Barbara Willahan

National:

Jacqueline Abrams
Julie Amato
Theresa Baker
Dorothy Baum
Susan Bemis
Joyce Benson
Marie Bernardini
Constance Blacke
Jason Bogart
Karyl Brown

Winnette Butler
Gina Cagle
Elizabeth Carlisle

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Ken Canatsey
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Carol Drabble
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Phyllis Fernandez
Cliff Fletcher
Donald Gerwien
Gloria Glasser
Sorrell Glover

Ronald Goodman
Marvin Jack Gross
Annie Guenjian
Alice Hawkins
Marsha Harvey
Marjorie Hinds
Margaret & Sue Holliday
Marilyn Ingram
Juliet James
Felice Jehle
Dona Jorgensen
Joseph Lepera
Tracy Locke
Christine Lutz
Janine Majewski
Lee Melville

Oscar Mendoza
Tamara Miki
Phyllis Morrical
Sterling Mustion
Sally Nassiff
Douglas Nord
Barbara Poland
Sandra Quinn
Bernard Ragwen
Eva Rivera
Jayne Rosenthal
Jeffrey Sacks
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George Slotnick

Jeannette Stramat
Howard Steffens
Charles Swanson
Betty Topjian
Ruth Underwood
James Walters
Donald Webber
Phyllis Weisjohn
Craig Winter
Marc Wodin
David & Pamsea Wood
Carol Woodruff
Randi Young

Did You Know? To keep cool, ostriches urinate on their legs; it then evaporates like sweat.