

# Phainopepla



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A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



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## PROGRAM NOTES:

**John Luker to speak at Thursday, December 9,  
SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

**TOPIC: Rocketdyne: Clean up, Resources, Public Involvement**

Join us for a presentation and slide show, by John Luker, updating the public on current clean-up/resource management issues. The focus will be on the "Future Probable Beneficial Uses to the State of California." The evening will also include a discussion of public participation opportunities for the Audubon Society and the public as a whole, followed by a Q & A.

John Luker is a Documentary Cameraman/Photographer who has been working locally on Rocketdyne and public volunteer issues for over five years. Currently, he is Vice-President of the Santa Susana Mountain Parks Association (SSMPA) and Chairman of the Santa Susana Volunteers.

See Calendar Section for directions. †

**IMPORTANT! Please NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving/Christmas holidays our normal meeting schedule has been changed. We have scheduled a combined November/December General Membership Meeting for Thursday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.**



## Second Saturday Bird Walks for Families and Beginners, 9:00—11:00 a.m. (FREE)



**NOW thru March 2011**  
**Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve**

San Fernando Valley Audubon will lead **FREE, second Saturday of the month, bird walks for families and beginners, Now thru March 2011.** (Saturdays, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and Mar. 12.)

Stroll through the lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, enjoying its trails and lake. Many birds come here in winter. Learn about the birds and why they come here.

**These walks are designed for**

- People trying their first bird walk
- Beginning birdwatchers
- Families with school-age children



**Time and Meeting Place:** The Wildlife Area entrance and amphitheater are in the southeast part of Woodley Park. Meet at the amphitheater at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

**Directions:** Turn north from Burbank Blvd. onto Woodley Ave., which is one-half mile west of the San Diego Freeway (I-405). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn and turn east (right) at the sign for the Wildlife Reserve. Bear right at the fork in the road and go east one-half mile to the Wildlife Area parking. Walk south past the monumental rocks and restroom building to the amphitheater.

**Equipment and Clothing:** Wear sturdy shoes and layered clothing. A cap or hat with a brim is suggested. We have binoculars to loan or you can use your own.

**More Information:** Muriel Kotin at (310) 457-5796 or Linda Jones at (818) 831-6061. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Rain cancels. Please visit our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org). ♪



## Generous Donation Funds Educational Booklet for Students



Every year San Fernando Valley Audubon brings about 2,000 students from the Los Angeles Unified School District on educational field trips to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. These students view and learn about the many species of birds that utilize the reserve, and their habitats. After the field trip each child is given a booklet entitled "Birds of the Sepulveda Basin." The booklet features pictures of the common birds and includes facts about their natural history. Funding, in prior years, for this gift to the students has come from a special \$5,000 grant.

When Dave Weeshoff, our new chapter president, heard that supplies of the booklet were running low and that our previous grant was no longer available, he came up with a very generous offer. Dave administers a foundation in the name of his late wife, Lin Weeshoff, who was an elementary school teacher. He felt that a donation for the new printing of "Birds of the Sepulveda Basin" from her foundation would fit the spirit of her legacy.

"Lin was very passionate in her love of nature and the education of children, and felt that we owe it to our children to open their eyes to the natural world. I'm only too happy to support this important program of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society," Dave said. ♣

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## Monthly Field Trip Reports by Richard Barth

On September 18 we visited Huntington Central Park and the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, two outstanding birding spots in Orange County.

At Huntington Central we were treated to good looks at a vagrant Prairie Warbler (!) which had been recently discovered in the park. Another previously-reported rarity, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, was briefly seen by some. Willow Flycatcher and an early Ruby-crowned Kinglet were notable sightings. Other species of interest for our list included Great Horned Owl, Lesser Yellowlegs, Greater Yellowlegs, Green Heron, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, House Wren, Western Tanager, Yellow Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Wilson's Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler.



Reddish Egret is considered rare in L.A. and Orange Counties, but in recent years has become a regular post-breeding dispersant to Bolsa Chica (from Baja?)...four had been reported in the reserve this fall and we saw three of them on this visit. Also on hand were the usual good numbers of shorebirds, gulls and terns as well as the expected herons. Red Knot, Long-billed Curlew and Snowy Plover were among the sightings of note. Still thriving in the pickleweed habitat here is "Belding's" Savannah Sparrow. The most conspicuous raptor for us was Osprey. We saw one White-faced Ibis. ♣



# Calendar of Events

## NOVEMBER

**Saturday, November 6. 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, Jim.Hardesty@sfvaudubon.org.

**Saturday, November 6. 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, November 7. 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@sfvaudubon.org.

**Saturday, November 13. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m.** Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! Are the White Pelicans back yet? Come check it out. These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, are resuming for the current cool season. 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. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Linda Jones, (818) 831-6061. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. Rain cancels. Please visit our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, November 13. 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, November 14. 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 Dottie Ecker, (818) 790-0659.

**Tuesday, November 16. 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@sfvaudubon.org.

**Saturday, November 20. Monthly Field Trip: Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds. 8:00 a.m.** Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the 101 Freeway to the city of Ventura, exit Seaward Avenue, turn left over the freeway, then immediately left (south) on Harbor Blvd. to Spinnaker Drive and proceed to the end. Look for birders in the last parking lot on the left. Leader: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

**Saturday, November 20. 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, November 21. 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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org) and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

**Monday, November 22. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills.





**Due to the Thanksgiving holiday there will be NO General Membership Meeting in November. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9. Happy Thanksgiving!**

**Sunday, November 28. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See November 14 for details.

## **DECEMBER**

**Saturday, December 4. Upper Las Virgenes Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m.** See November 6 for details.

**Saturday, December 4. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m.** See November 6 for details.

**Sunday, December 5. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See November 7 for details.

**Tuesday, December 7. Antelope Valley Audubon Committee will hold its Quarterly Meeting and 3rd Annual Holiday Potluck. 6:00 p.m.** The Prime Desert Woodland Preserve in the Elyze Clifford Interpretive Center, at 43201 35th Street W., in Lancaster. Bring a food item to share and join in the festivities. Contact Bob or Bonnie Weatherman (661) 269-2051 for more information.

**Thursday, December 9. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura Blvd., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. Our speaker, John Luker, will give a presentation and slideshow titled, Rocketdyne: Clean up, Resources, Public Involvement. See Program Notes on page one.

**Future Field Trips: (Details later)**

**No Field Trip in December due to Christmas Count January 15. Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary**

**February 19. Private Game Preserve** ♣



## **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](mailto:rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org). ♣

### **National:**

Rachel Abastado  
Janai Ami  
Kathy Anderson  
Heather Andrews  
Jadeen Barbor  
Barbara Becker  
Debbie Beckett  
Daoloy Buaphanpong  
John Cappilla  
Charles & Martha Carrico  
Liam Cavanaugh  
Harley Chambers  
Marsi Kate Ciccarone  
Ann Cimmarrusti  
Karron Cook  
Wm Jack Copeland  
Dayna Costa  
Melanie D'Artois

Shelly Desvots  
Richard Dickman  
Tony & Gail Domit  
P.M. Donald  
Muriel Drucker  
Dorothy Duder  
Ario Fakheri  
Dariush Fakheri  
Helene Feingold  
Bonnie Flammer  
Lea Foxwell  
Steven Gambardella  
Heather Gordon  
Peter Green  
Dorothy Gumees  
Rachael Guth  
Jay Holmes  
Sylvia Ioka  
Constance Kaiser

Anne Kalsman  
Fred Kibler  
Margaret King  
Arlene Kokugh  
Toni Kultoljinda  
Veronica Leberthon  
Joseph Lisi  
Peter Mannier Charkalis  
Darrell Morse  
Ruth Nebron  
Neli Nikolova  
James Parell  
Julie Park  
Carol Paul  
Linda Ralph  
Joanne Ray  
Tony & Penny Rivas  
Sylvester Royal  
Alfred Shakespeare

Arlene Shapiro  
Kathleen Singer  
Derek Smith  
Pamela Smith  
Yvonne Spence  
Harriet Strauss  
Lauha Taal  
Marisa Thomas  
Louis Tocchet  
Robert Waugh  
Shirley Wehn  
Dave Welling  
Ruth White  
Lori Williams  
Joan Witte  
Anne Wolf  
Mary Wolf  
John Young



# Prop 21: A LEGACY FOR CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

Posted on SFVAS Website by jaybirder



Did you know that 52 Audubon California Important Bird Areas are at least partially owned by California State Parks, totaling 156,000 acres?

Audubon California, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwood League and California State Parks Foundation are sponsors of The State Parks & Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act ("State Parks Initiative") appearing on the November 2, 2010 statewide ballot as Proposition 21.

Prop 21 works like this-

Vehicles registered in California will get a free, year round day use admission to all California state parks in exchange for a new annual \$18 vehicle license fee, a considerable savings if you go to more than two State parks in a year.

The funding will provide a stable, reliable and adequate source of funding for the state park system, for wildlife conservation and for increased and equitable access to those resources for all Californians.

The parks budget will no longer be subject to cuts by the legislature or the Governor, the Trust Fund cannot be borrowed from or raided, and our state Parks can begin work on acquisitions and deferred maintenance once the funds become available.

The passage of this proposition is a conservation legacy that all of us Audubon members in California can leave to future generations! ♪

**Save our State Parks and help pass Proposition 21 in November!**



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## Thank You!

Many, many thanks to Olga Clarke for filling in as leader on the 4th Sunday Descanso Gardens bird walk during my absence. Everyone enjoyed the pleasure of her charm and expertise. Alan Dunn was always in attendance, also, to assist and answer questions.

It's great to be back; see you at Descanso!

- Karen Johnson ♪



**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: Dave Weeshoff 818) 618-1652  
 1st Vice President: Michael Van Norman 661) 263-2958  
 2nd Vice President: Rose Leibowitz (818) 990-5405  
 Treasurer: Ann Ohlenkamp (818) 986-7785  
 Recording Sec'y: Diana Keeney (818) 998-3216  
 Corresponding Sec'y: Heather Medvitz (818) 222-4430

**DIRECTORS**

Mark Osokow unpublished  
 Mathew Tekulsky (310) 962-5653  
 Donna Timlin (818) 341-9354  
 Aurelio Albaisa (818) 716-8096  
 Lynn Maddox (818)845-5688

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Antelope Valley Chair: Bob and Bonnie (661) 269-2051  
 Weatherman www.avaudubon.com  
 AV Communications: Linda Edwards (661) 948-3524  
 Audubon-at-Home: Alan Pollack (818) 340-2347  
 Birdathon: Rose Leibowitz (818) 990-5405  
 Christmas Bird Count: Art Langton (818) 887-0973  
 Community Outreach: Sharon Ford (818) 780-5816  
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 Coordinating Council Rep: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712  
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 Descanso Bird Walks: Nancy Herron Knode unpublished  
 Descanso Bird Walks: Karen Johnson (818) 790-1687  
 Education Classroom: Dave Weeshoff (818) 618-1652  
 Education-Sep. Basin: Carolyn Oppenheimer (818) 885-7493  
 Field Trips: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342  
 Finance: Jim Moore (661) 298-1130

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

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



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## Phainopepla

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Please visit our website  
to see this issue in full color!  
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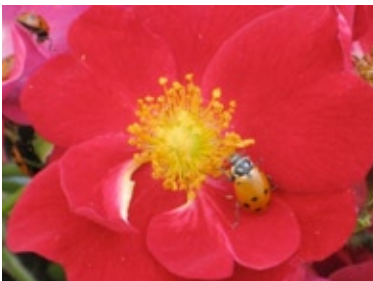
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### Audubon-at-Home Mailbox by Alan Pollack



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@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org). ♪