

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Incorporated as California Audubon Society 1913

P.O. Box 7769 Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769



For the conservation of wildlife, natural resources, and nature education.

March, 2011

Dear San Fernando Valley Audubon Member or Friend,

The months of April and May are wonderful for bird-watching. The higher rainfall this winter will bring a beautiful verdant spring to our area. The warmer weather encourages us all to get out and enjoy the birdsong and the activity as nests are built and eggs are laid. It is a perfect time, during spring migration, to enjoy our annual Birdathon.

Birdathon is SFV Audubon's annual sponsored birding "competition." It is an opportunity for members and friends to thank and honor Audubon leaders who have shown you where and when to find birds, and an opportunity to contribute to our chapter. Membership dues are not sufficient to cover all our expenses and our Birdathon is very important to fill the gap and allow us to continue our many activities.

In addition to offering free monthly meetings and many bird walks, SFVAS is active in advocacy to protect and preserve areas where nature thrives. Our informative newsletter *Phainopepla*, website www.SFVAudubon.org and Facebook page keep us informed about local issues and about our many activities.

We also sponsor the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program, "SBEEP", which brings thousands of Los Angeles school children to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and gives them the opportunity to experience the wonders of nature first hand. During walks led by trained naturalists, children have the opportunity to use binoculars and microscopes, to view birds and the tiny water dwellers that feed the food chain.

How does our Birdathon work and how can you support it? On the day they pick for their Birdathon, the participants listed on the enclosed pledge form will record how many species they see on their monthly public bird walk or in "Big Day," a 24-hour period devoted to finding as many birds as possible.

You will find a pledge form enclosed with this letter. Please choose a birder or team to support, complete the pledge form to let us know how much money you will donate for every species observed, and mail the form to us in the envelope provided. The estimated number of species on the form will give you some idea of how much money you are able to pledge per species. After the Birdathon, we will contact you with the exact number of birds spotted by the person(s) you are sponsoring and how much money you have pledged. Or, if you wish, skip the math and mail in a flat contribution now! Either way we greatly appreciate your support, so we can continue passing our love of nature on to the next generation.

Yours truly,

Dave Weeshoff, President