

Vol. 68 No. 4

August / September 2017

General Membership Meetings

San Fernando Valley Arts & **Cultural Center** 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana (818) 697-5525

SFVAS General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (except July, August, November, and December). **EVERYONE IS WELCOME to** join us at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments; program begins at 7:20 p.m. We meet at the San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center. See Calendar of Events, pages 4-5, for directions.

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual BirdFest of the Santa Monica Mountains November 4, 2017

Monthly Program

Thursday, September 28, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Jim Houghton

Where: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA, (818) 697-5525



We start the new year in our backyards and apartment balconies! Jim Houghton, our website coordinator and curator of its Backyard Bird Identification page, will present on the birds, the website and the blurry photos he receives along with requests for identification. Jim is a committed Backyard Birder with an impressive array of feeders and a monthly bill for seed that he does not share. In addition to managing the SFVAS website, Jim is a Board member and our incoming treasurer. He is an entertaining speaker and it will be a great evening of fun and learning. Bring friends who are not birders and let's see if we can get them hooked!

Birdathon 2017 By Pat Avery



Thank You to Our Birdathon Donors

Many thanks to the enthusiastic Birdathon 2017 event leaders and participants, and especially to the generous donors listed below who contributed a total of **\$10,291**. These funds will enable us to continue our ongoing conservation and education programs and help with operating expenses.

Arthur Langton

Thank you to:

Aurelio Albaisa Anita Frost Ellen Alkon Carol Furutani Patricia Avery Barbara Gaitley Celia Barnett Clare Given Steve and Leslie Hartman Richard Barth Fleurette Hershman Patricia Bates Garv Boehm Carole Hill Helen Boyd Jane Hines Paul Butler Lynn Hopkins Jonez Cain Martha Horton David Campbell Jim Houghton Tracy Carpenter Judith Howell Samantha Carpenter Anna Iker Paul Cooley **Edward Jenkins** Paul Costa Tylie Jones Saralyn Daly Linda Jones Jeffery Davidson Brenda Kanno Theo Dovle Diana Keeney Keith and Joan Evans Priscilla Klemic Sharon Ford Allan and Muriel Kotin

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Jack Perrodin

Carolyn Oppenheimer David Weeshoff Laura Owen Ruth Weiss

Joan Pearce John Willis and Andrew Willis



John and Carol Fox

COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2017 At the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve



Over 700,000 people worldwide participated in last year's Coastal Cleanup Day. Join Heal the Bay and San Fernando Valley Audubon Society on Saturday, September 16, when more than 10,000 volunteers from all over Southern California will do their part to clean up their local beaches, rivers, creeks, and parks.

Saturday, September 16, 2017 9:00 a.m. – Noon Be a part of this exciting event!

- We will meet at the Amphitheater come to the Japanese Gardens entrance off Woodley Avenue and follow the Heal the Bay signs.
- Supplies will be provided gloves, grabbers, bags, drinking water

Kathy Kusner

- Wear closed toe shoes (for safety); bring a hat and sunscreen
- Each attendee must download and bring a signed Heal the Bay consent form: http://www.healthebay.org/sites/default/files/aab_eng.pdf. Anyone under the age of 18 must have a parent/guardian sign the consent form. We will have copies at the site also.



For more information, please contact <u>dave.weeshoff@sfvaudubon.org</u> or (818) 618-1652

May and June Field Trip Reports by Richard Barth

On May 13 we birded the L.A. River at Willow Street in Long Beach and then DeForest Park in N. Long Beach. This trip substituted for our usual May trip to Walker Ranch in Placerita Canyon which was closed due to last summer's destructive fire and the resulting mud-flow damage over the winter. Birds of interest at Willow Street were several Caspian Terns, a White-faced Ibis, nesting Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets, a few Eared Grebes, two Spotted Sandpipers and a pair of lingering American Wigeons. DeForest Park produced passerine migrants including Hermit, Townsend's, Yellow, Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Bullock's Oriole and our best find of the day, a Gray Flycatcher.

June 10 marked our visit to Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve in southeastern Ventura County. Pleasant cool weather prevailed. The number of birds tallied on the walk was down this year but one of our favorite species, Blue Grosbeak, was readily observed throughout the preserve. We also found a female Lazuli Bunting with two apparent juveniles. Other species on hand included Hooded Oriole, Wrentit, California Quail, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, House Wren, Song Sparrow and Common Yellowthroat. Our swallows were Cliff, Rough-winged and Tree. We struck out on target birds Grasshopper Sparrow and Greater Roadrunner.

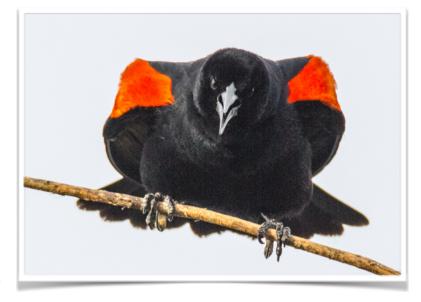
Phainopepla Photo of the Month

Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus) by Pat Bates

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, 3/1515 Canon EOS 7D, Exposure 1/1600 f/6.3 ISO 500

"Angry red-wing" was taken by our own former SVFAS Treasurer, Pat Bates. Of this beautiful and very dramatic shot, Pat writes, the bird "was at the Sepulveda Basin wildlife lake - angry because apparently he didn't want to be photographed - he actually flew into me a microsecond after getting the shot."

Do you have an interesting photo of a bird taken in/near the San Fernando Valley? Please submit your photos to Kathy.Barton@sfvaudubon.org. Or you can post to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sfvaudubon. Please include location, date, camera and lens info, a short account of how the photo was taken, and a profile of the photographer.



Audubon-at-Home

Please e-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have with regard 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.

Calendar of Events

August

Saturday, August 5. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.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. Turn right and park in the front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, August 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. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, August 12. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 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. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, August 13. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. Directions: From the I-5/Golden State Fwy. N: Take Exit 146A toward Olive Ave., merge onto E. Angeleno Ave. and turn left onto S. 1st Street, then take the first right onto E. Olive Ave.

From I-5/Golden State Fwy. S: Take EXIT 146A toward Verdugo Ave. Turn left onto S. Front Street, which will become E. Verdugo Ave. Turn left at the first light onto S. 1st Street then take the 3rd right onto E. Olive Ave.

Continue 1.3 miles on E. Olive through downtown Burbank and up the hill. Turn left onto N. Sunset Canyon Dr. Go 0.5 miles and turn right onto E. Harvard. Drive .4 miles skirting the golf course and meet at the entry kiosk area. Extra binoculars are available. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

NOTE: Tuesday Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills is on hiatus in August. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, August 19. Monthly Field Trip: Chilao and Buckhorn, 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 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. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, August 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 front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, August 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 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

NO SFVAS General Membership Meeting in August. See you September 28.

Saturday, August 26. SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. We will walk along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way and sometimes go in a different direction to the lake. Meet at the lower parking lot, Dronfield Entrance. Directions: Take Osborne exit from Golden State (5) Freeway. Go northeast about two miles passing Glenoaks Blvd. Turn right on Dronfield to enter the park. Turn right at the end of Dronfield and then take a quick left and proceed downhill to the large parking lot. Alternate directions: Exit Osborne from the eastbound Foothill Freeway (210). At the off ramp, turn right onto Foothill. After a short distance, turn left on Osborne and then left on Dronfield. Follow above directions to the lower parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962, pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, August 26. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: O'Melveny Park. 9:00 a.m. 17300 Sesnon Boulevard, Granada Hills, CA 91344. The Young Birders Group walks are for young birders who are serious about birding, know some birds, and are willing to learn. All are welcome to join! 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. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information, please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.

September

Saturday, September 2. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.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. Turn right and park in the front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, September 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. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, September 9. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 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. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Sunday, September 10. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. See Sunday, August 13 for directions. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Saturday, September 16. Monthly Field Trip: 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 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 front lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

Sunday, September 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 \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin (310) 457-5796 and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Tuesday, September 19. 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 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, September 23. SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. We will walk along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way and sometimes go in a different direction to the lake. Meet at the lower parking lot, Dronfield Entrance. Directions: Take Osborne exit from Golden State (5) Freeway. Go northeast about two miles passing Glenoaks Blvd. Turn right on Dronfield to enter the park. Turn right at the end of Dronfield and then take a quick left and proceed downhill to the large parking lot. Alternate directions: Exit Osborne from the eastbound Foothill Freeway (210). At the off ramp, turn right onto Foothill. After a short distance, turn left on Osborne and then left on Dronfield. Follow above directions to the lower parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Bates (818) 425-0962, pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org.

Monday, September 25. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana. It is located between White Oak & Reseda. It is recommended to approach on Etiwanda Ave. and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center.

Thursday, September 28. <u>SFVAS General Membership Meeting.</u> Speaker: Jim Houghton. Topic: Backyard Bird Identification. For more information, see Monthly Program, page one. <u>Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525.</u> Enjoy the gallery and shop our sales table. <u>Directions: Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd.</u> In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. Everyone is welcome!

Saturday, September 30. Young Birders Group Bird Walk. Franklin Canyon Park. 9:00 a.m. 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills. The Young Birders Group walks are for young birders who are serious about birding, know some birds, and are willing to learn. All are welcome to join! Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the Ventura Freeway (101) or Ventura Boulevard to Coldwater Canyon Boulevard. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. (This means crossing Mulholland) Road signs read "Road Closed 800 Feet" "Sunset to Sunrise"; this is the park entrance. Meet in the parking lot on the left. Allow some extra time, as Coldwater Canyon can be a slow road. Leader(s) Alexander and/or Olivia. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.

Future Field Trips (details later):

October 21. El Dorado Park in Long Beach November 18. Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds

Conservation Corner

by Dave Weeshoff

During my travels to Antarctica, the Arctic, Patagonia, Galapagos, and Alaska, my insight and appreciation for our natural world expanded to a passion for protecting the myriad of life forms on our amazing blue planet.

I've observed red algae growing on Antarctic ice, krill that eats that algae, penguins that thrive on krill, leopard seals and orcas that eat penguins. I've walked on the arctic tundra and the Greenland ice cap, and snorkeled amid coral, seals and penguins. I've sailed around ice in its many forms, including glaciers, bergs, fast ice and pack ice. I've seen whales, dolphins, turtles, marine iguanas, polar bears, walruses, narwhals, countless birds, and many other kindred species living in ancient, complex, and fragile food webs throughout the world's marine ecosystems.

In my travels I've had the opportunity to converse with, and learn from, numerous experts in archaeology, geology, marine biology, meteorology, history, space science, natural history, and many diverse cultures. All of them shared a deep and profound appreciation for the fantastic earth that is our home, our only home.

The sum of these experiences, and many more, has transformed me, and infused in me a reverence and awe, and a passion to protect and preserve the physical elements and all the life forms of our world. This has motivated me to engage in conversations with friends and acquaintances, school children, civic groups and NGOs in both casual and formal occasions.

The combination of my experiences, independent study and those conversations has made it clear that human-caused global warming leading to dramatic climate change is truly the existential threat to all life on our

planet, including the microscopic algae and huge blue whales – whether they be covered with feathers, fur, skin, scales, or just a cell membrane. This horrific threat must be scientifically addressed and resolved through unified, global cooperation of all individuals, cultures and nations for the sake of our descendants and, indeed, for all species.

Our Administration in Washington has chosen to ignore the facts and make decisions to take short-term actions which will have disastrous, very long-term, irrecoverable consequences for all life on our planet. Each of us is therefore, individually and collectively, morally obliged to renew and demonstrate our commitments to preserve all life by - in the simplest of terms - reducing our carbon footprint in any of the myriad ways we can. We can also tell our friends and family how concerned we are and share our passion for the birds and the future of planet earth.

Please call me (818) 618-1652 or email me <u>Dave.Weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org</u> with questions or comments.



Great-tailed Grackle, Sepulveda Basin, 4/17

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY **AUDUBON SOCIETY**

EXCUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
1st Vice President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
2 nd Vice President:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Treasurer:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Corresponding Secretary:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516

DIRECTORS

Teri Carnesciali (818) 892-5029 (818) 981-1418 David Barton Becky Arntzen (818) 761-6692 Felipe Lepe (818) 536-2060 Barbara Heideman unpublished Velda Ruddock unpublished

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Bird Observatory:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Conservation:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Editor Phainopepla:	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	Pat Avery	(626) 840-8226
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES		
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Birdathon:	Pat Avery	(626) 840-8226
Christmas Bird Count:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
Conservation Banquet:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
	Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 728-9838
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Hansen Dam Rep:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Hansen Dam Walks:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Hospitality:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Malibu Creek Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
	Art Langton	(818) 887-0973
Membership:	Becky Arntzen	(818) 761-6692
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Photo of the Month:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Programs:	OPEN	
Recycled Water Advisory Grp:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Jim Houghton	(818) 784-4077
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(805) 727-5007
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

Jackie Wollner

Jim Houghton

Rose Leibowitz

(818) 989-4543

(818) 784-4077

(818) 990-5405

unpublished

For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our website:

www.SFVAudubon.org

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Young Birders Group:



Instagram @sfvaudubon and



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Like us on Facebook



SSFL Public Participation Grp Mark Osokow

Found and injured animal? Call Wildlife Rescue Center at (818) 222-2658

Become a Member and Support the SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

You can become a member and/or renew online at www.sfvaudubon.org or mail this form and include a

check made payable to: SFV Audubon Society

> Attn: Membership P.O. Box 7769

Van Nuvs CA 91409

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Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership\$25	\$			
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(No paper copy of <i>Phainopepla</i>)\$20	\$			
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Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS	\$			
Total	\$			
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Phone				
E-mail (PLEASE INCLUDE):				
How did you learn about SFVAS?				

The PHAINOPEPLA, published six times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. 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 newspapers 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.

Membership to National Audubon is separate and can be initiated on the website www.Audubon.org.

If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Becky Arntzen at (818) 761-6692 or email her at Becky.Arntzen@sfvaudubon.org.

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Phainopepla

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

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Birdathon-pg. 2
Coastal Cleanup-pg. 2
Monthly Field Trip Reports-pg. 3
Photo of the Month-pg. 3
Audubon-at-Home-pg. 3
Calendar of Events-pgs. 4–5
Conservation Corner-pg. 6
Chapter Information-pg. 7

The Digital Age Is Upon Us!

The SFVAS membership and donations system is now fully integrated with credit-card processing and electronic record-keeping. Thus, a great deal of volunteer labor and some chapter expense can be eliminated.

Please, members and donors, even if this way of doing things seems alien and awkward at first, trust us—you can get used to it very quickly. You will be saving another bird-lover time that can be spent bird-loving instead of folding letters and licking stamps. Please go to http://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/ and choose "Option 2" when it's time to renew.

If, for whatever reason, you need to continue making membership, Birdathon and other payments by check, feel free to do so. But also, please include an email address as requested on the envelopes and forms provided in the Phainopepla. Your email address allows us to send your official thank-you and any/all reminders by email, thus saving the above mentioned time and (volunteer) effort. You can still pay by check.

Your help is very much appreciated. We treasure your membership and your support.

Jim Houghton -- Treasurer, SFVAS