



Phainopepla

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San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of National Audubon Society
For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife

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April / May 2018

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. See Calendar of Events, pages 7–9, for directions.

BIRDATHON IS ON!

Time to count birds and raise money to support our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP)

See Calendar Section for dates and locations of BIRDATHON EVENTS.

DONATE online at SFVAudubon.org
It's FAST, SECURE, & EASY!

Monthly Programs

Where: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana.

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Speaker: Gillian Martin

Topic: How About Preventing Harm to Birds During Tree Care?

Gillian is the Director of the Cavity Conservation Initiative, a 501(c)3 organization in Southern California whose mission is to protect habitat for cavity-nesting birds. She is also the cofounder and leader of the Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife Project, a state-wide partnership between wildlife advocates and the tree care industry to reduce impact to wildlife during tree care. She is a naturalist, bird activist, and public speaker. Her articles have been published in several professional journals and newsletters.

Gillian will give us information on good practices in tree trimming and suggestions on how to work in your yard with trimmers. Also check out these two booklets, on our website, published by LA Audubon. We will be glad to welcome landscapers, homeowners, and everyone who calls us concerned about nestlings to this important meeting!

<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Bird-Friendly-Tree-Trimming-Guide-LA.pdf>

<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Bird-Friendly-Tree-Trimming-Guide-Spanish.pdf>



Thursday, May 24, 2018

Speaker: Lu Plauzoles

Topic: Snowy Plover Project

Lu Plauzoles, a 20-plus-year member of Santa Monica Bay Audubon, will introduce the Michael Love-produced 45-minute film "**The Western Snowy Plover: Natural History and Recovery.**" The movie introduces you to the Snowy Plovers of the University of California Coal Oil Point Reserve in Goleta—the most successful breeding colony of plovers on the Pacific Coast.

The film includes an excellent introduction to the natural history of the Snowy Plovers by Dr. Cris Sandoval of UCSB and her staff. After the screening, Lu will give a short report and answer questions about the Snowy Plovers on our Los Angeles Beaches.

Lu heard Mary Prismon's pleas for these birds, and was trapped into the Snowy Plover Project in 2001 by Chuck Almdale's L.A. County Survey, and has not yet escaped its clutches. A graduate of UCLA, Lu holds two degrees unrelated to the plovers. However, he has logged extensive hours of observation, monitoring, and reporting of the "little guys," the smallest avian species on our beaches. He has also attended and participated in seven of the range-wide Snowy Plover meetings for the West Coast populations.



Six Snowy Plovers surround beach wrack, their favorite source of invertebrate prey. (C. Almdale 12/23/12)

BIRDATHON 2018 — Starting in April! *By Pat Avery*


Join our annual SFVAS Birdathon fundraiser! April and May events are scheduled for Birdathon leaders to improve on their last year's count and compete to see who views the most species. We are all winners when SFVAS has the funding to support its mission. Everyone can participate by pledging sponsorship to one or more of the team leaders listed on our website or on the enclosed Pledge/Contribution envelope. There are three ways to contribute: pledging per species seen by a team, a donation to a specific team, or by contributing to the overall Birdathon.

Join one or more of our events! Your participation will help build that team's species count. Look for event details in the Calendar. The following teams welcome your participation:

- Big Sit at Sepulveda Basin on April 8 (Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery)
- Malibu Creek State Park on April 15 (Art Langton)
- O'Melveny Park on April 17 (Carolyn Oppenheimer)
- Antelope Valley Big Day on April 19 (Jim Moore)
- Morongo Valley Field Trip on April 21 (Dick Barth)
- Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Birding Day April 24 (Mark Osokow)
- Hansen Dam April 28 (Pat Bates)
- Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve May 6 (Kris Ohlenkamp)

Funds raised through Birdathon enable SFVAS to host thousands of school children in the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP), support the San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory, contribute to habitat conservation efforts, and continue the SFVAS mission to increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife and the natural environment.

Donate online at www.sfvaudubon.org or by sending in the enclosed envelope. Please contribute to the Birdathon as generously as you can! **Thank you for your support!**

For information about this appeal, call (626) 840-8226	
- THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT - FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY -	
INFORMATION CARD NO. R5720	
Issued Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 4, Philanthropy	
CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY aka SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409 Person in charge of appeal: Pat Avery Telephone number: (626) 840-8226	
Activity:	"Bird-a-thon" Pledge Drive through May 31, 2018
Solicitation Dates:	April 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018
Purpose:	Net proceeds to support operations and environmental education for Los Angeles schools and the general public.
Previous:	2017 activity collected a total of \$ 10,076 of which \$ 289 (2.9%) was applied to expenses and \$ 9,787 was used for charitable purposes
DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION RESTRICTED TO THE HOURS OF 8 A.M. - 8 P.M. This Information Card must be displayed or presented to all prospective donors, and it should not be absent in any manner.	
Don't forget to register with the Los Angeles Police Commission Charitable Solicitation Division, Commission Investigation Division Telephone: (213) 886-1359 E-mail Address: csdinfo@lapdonline.org Web Site: www.lapdonline.org	
Date Signed: 4/18/18  D. J. O'CONNELL Commanding Officer Commission Investigation Division	

January and February Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*

We traveled to Orange County on January 20, visiting Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. The weather was cool and breezy. We observed fifteen species of waterfowl; the favorites being Northern Pintail, Redhead, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup and Red-breasted Merganser. Our shorebird list was not up to expectations due to high tide prevailing during our birding time at UNB, but for the day we did manage a few special finds like Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Curlew, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Willet and Spotted Sandpiper. The most discussed raptors were Osprey and Peregrine. We scored Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Horned Grebe, Sora (heard only), Belted Kingfisher, White-faced Ibis and Caspian Tern. Notable passerine species seen included Vermilion Flycatcher (at least three had been reported at SJWS this winter), Phainopepla, Say's Phoebe, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Hermit Thrush.

On February 17 we birded the Ventura County Game Preserve near Oxnard. A nice turnout of participants enjoyed perfect weather. We found twelve shorebird species with Lesser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Wilson's Snipe, Greater Yellowlegs, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet and Long-billed Dowitcher creating the most interest. Favorites from our waterfowl sightings were Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail and Northern Shoveler. We were successful in tallying a special target species here, American Bittern. Raptors were not in good supply this visit, but topping our list were Northern Harrier and Peregrine. Other species of note observed were White-faced Ibis, Loggerhead Shrike, Belted Kingfisher, American Pipit, Tree Swallow, Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow and Western Meadowlark. Checking through the scattered blackbird flocks, we saw only Brewer's, Red-winged and Brown-headed Cowbird...no Yellow-headed or Tricolored this year.

Audubon-at-Home *by Alan Pollack*

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.

BOARD NOMINATIONS SLATE *by Nominations Committee: Becky Arntzen, Felipe Lepe, and Muriel Kotin*

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of candidates to serve on the Board of Directors of SFVAS for our 2018–2019 year which begins on July 1. Officers and directors who will continue their current term are indicated with <c> after their name. Those to be elected currently are indicated by *.

Officers (2-year terms):

- President: Paula Orlovich *
- 1st VP: Teri Carnesciali *
- 2nd VP: Becky Arntzen *
- Corresponding Secretary: Lynn Maddox <c>
- Recording Secretary: Kathy Barton <c>
- Treasurer Jim Houghton <c>

Board Members at Large:

- 3rd Year Board: Felipe Lepe <c> and Diana Keeney *
 - 2nd Year Board: Barbara Heidemann <c> and Joanne Millius <c>
 - 1st Year Board: Bonnie Flamer * and Benny Jacobs-Schwartz *
- * Names followed by an asterisk (*) will be elected this May.

Officers are elected for two year terms, with a limit of four continuous years in one office. The term of a first-year board member at large is three years, second-year is two years, and third-year is one year. The election will be held at the meeting on Thursday, May 24 and installation will take place at the June 28 potluck.

We know many members cannot attend the May meeting when the voting will take place so we have attached the proxy form on the following page. If you wish to vote on the slate, please send an email to sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com.

We thank all SFVAS members who have served the chapter in any capacity. We invite those of you with an interest in becoming more active in chapter activities or joining a committee to let the officers or nominating committee know.

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

The undersigned, a member of the California Audubon Society, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation also known as San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (the "Society"), hereby revokes any previous proxies and appoints the Secretary of the Society, with full power of substitution, as the undersigned's proxy to attend the annual meeting of members on May 24, 2018 and to vote, execute consents, and otherwise represent the undersigned in his/her capacity as member in connection with the election at such meeting of the following candidates for office of the Society, in the same manner and with the same effect as if the undersigned were personally present at such meeting:

<u>Candidates</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Withhold</u>
Paula Orlovich	President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Terri Carnesciali	First Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Becky Arntzen	Second Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Diana Keeney	Board Member (3rd Year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bonnie Flamer	Board Member (1 st Year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Benny Jacobs-Schwartz	Board Member (1 st Year)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ALL PROXIES MUST BE SIGNED. PLEASE SIGN EXACTLY AS YOUR NAME APPEARS ON THE MEMBERSHIP RECORDS OF THE SOCIETY.

 Name:
 Date: _____, 2018

Calendar of Events

April

Sunday, April 1. 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, April 7. Chatsworth Nature Preserve EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE! 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Highlights include: Guided Nature Hikes, Community Booths, and Live Animal Exhibits. Directions: Head west on Plummer Street from Topanga Canyon Blvd. Parking is available along the shoulder of Valley Circle Blvd. Bring hat, sunscreen, and walking shoes. See page 6 for more info.

Saturday, April 7. 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, April 8. A BIRDATHON EVENT. The “BIG SIT.” 8:30–10:30 a.m. Probable species: 30. Join Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. We will bird at the amphitheater before heading down to the first lookout benches by the lake. Bring a chair or cushion, hat, binoculars and snack. 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 right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant/Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leaders: Heather Medvitz and Pat Avery. For information call (626) 840-8226.

Sunday, April 8. 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.

Saturday, April 14. Clean-Up of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. 8:30—Noon. JOIN US! Volunteers needed for our annual clean-up of Haskell Creek and the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area. Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. The Wildlife Area is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way toward the archery range for about a half mile to the last parking area. Meet at the amphitheater. Questions? (310) 457-5796 (Muriel) or (818) 998-3216 (Diana). See page three for more information on clothing and supplies.

Saturday, April 14. 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, April 15. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00—11:45 a.m. Probable Species: 45-50. 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: Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Tuesday, April 17. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:30 a.m. Probable Species: 30. 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.

Wednesday, April 19. A BIRDATHON EVENT: High Desert Big Day: Lancaster Sewage Treatment Plant, Piute Ponds, Galileo Hills, and Apollo Park. Probable species: 120. Meet at 5:30 a.m. at the McDonalds on Crown Valley Road in Acton, or 6:00 a.m. at the park-n-ride lot on the east side of Avenue S in Palmdale. This is a full day event, usually ending after dark. Leader: Jim Moore. Please advise Jim by e-mail, moorebirder@gmail.com if you plan to join him.

Saturday, April 21. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Monthly Field Trip: Morongo Valley. 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 65–70. This desert oasis offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Directions: Allow 2.5 hours to drive from the San Fernando Valley. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve. Bring lunch and drinks. In the afternoon we will drive to Joshua Tree National Park to look for wildflowers, Scott's Orioles, Pinyon Jays, Brewer's and Black-throated Sparrows. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Saturday, April 21. 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.

Tuesday, April 23. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day. 7:00 a.m. Probable species 65. Prospective participants must contact the leader to confirm date and to discuss access requirements to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory. Space will be limited. We will bird the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, Sage Ranch, Chatsworth Oaks Park (including the overlook at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve's Ecology Pond), Chatsworth Trails Reserve, Lower and Middle Browns Canyon, and Lower Mormon Canyon. After dinner we will end the event by owling and poorwilling in Browns Canyon. Leader: Mark Osokow, e-mail Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org.

Thursday, April 26. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Gillian Martin. Topic: How About Preventing Harm to Birds During Tree Care? Join us for information on good tree trimming practices. For more information, see Monthly Programs, page

one. **Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525. Directions:** Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. ALL are welcome!

Saturday, April 28. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m. Probable species: 30. 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@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, April 28. 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 Canon 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.

May

Saturday, May 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, May 6. A BIRDATHON EVENT: Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00–11:30 a.m. Probable species: 60-65. **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@sfvadubon.org or (805) 727-5007.

Saturday, May 12. Bird LA Day: Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00-11:00 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: Art Langton

Saturday, May 12. Bird LA Day: Children and Family Guided Bird Walk @ Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve 9:00–11:00 a.m. Loaner binoculars available. At end of walk, birds seen checklist review, and

snacks. **Directions: SAME AS ABOVE.** Look for people with binoculars. Leader: Paula Orlovich.

Saturday, May 12. Bird LA Day: Placerita Canyon 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. Leader: Roger McClure. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

Saturday, May 12. Monthly Field Trip: Los Angeles River at Willow Street in Long Beach. 8:00 a.m. This trip substitutes for our usual May trip to Walker Ranch which is still closed due to the effects of fire damage in 2016 including mudslide instability in the canyon. **Directions to L.A. River Willow St:** From the 405 Fwy South take the 710 Fwy South to Willow St East. When on Willow St you will immediately pass over the L.A. River and turn left at Golden Ave (the first stop light). Go only a short distance on Golden Avenue and turn left onto 26th Way which dead-ends into DeForest Avenue along the river. Park on DeForest Avenue and walk up the walkway to the river bicycle path where we will meet. A scope is recommended but not imperative. We will study shorebirds, waterfowl (etc.) in the riverbed plus land birds along the river. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Sunday, May 13. Wildwood Canyon Bird Walk, Burbank. 9:00–11:00 a.m. See April 8 for directions. Leader: Mike Mc Horney, (818) 845-0166.

Tuesday, May 15. 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@sfvadubon.org.

Saturday, May 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, May 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.

Monday, May 21. 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, May 24. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Lu Plauzoles. Topic: The Snowy Plover Project. For more information, see Monthly Programs, page one. **Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana, CA. (818) 697-5525. Directions:** Located between White Oak and Reseda Blvd. In order to park, it is recommended to go on Etiwanda Avenue and turn into the parking area up the alley behind the center. ALL are welcome!

Saturday, May 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, May 26. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Sepulveda Basin. 9:00 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(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):
June 9. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve
July 21. Mt. Pinos 🐦

***Phainopepla* Photo of the Month** by Lauren F.

Hooded Merganser (*Lophodytes cucullatus*)

Franklin Canyon

Canon PowerShot Sx50 with built-in 50x zoom lens

This month's featured picture is by Lauren F., who is an 8th grader attending Medea Creek Middle School. She took this lovely picture of a Hooded Merganser during January's Young Birders Group Bird Walk to Franklin Canyon. Our Young Birders meet on the last Saturday of each month at a rotating schedule of sites. They visit Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, O'Melveny Park and Franklin Canyon Park. Check our websites Calendar of Events for information on the next walk. Our featured photographer, Lauren, says that she loves photographing birds near her home in Woodland Hills, and also enjoys setting up bird feeders in her backyard. Keep up the excellent work, Lauren! We will no doubt be seeing more of your pictures in the Phainopepla in the coming years!

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. 🐦



SFVAS Schedules Spring Creek Clean-Up at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Saturday, April 14, 2018. 8:30—Noon Help Protect Local Wildlife!

Haskell Creek, where it runs through lovely Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods and willows. Songbirds forage and nest in the trees, while egrets and herons fish in this heart of the Wildlife Area. Sadly it is infested with trash, especially plastic bags, foam cups and food containers. Please help clean up the mess, restoring our creek!

Equipment and Clothing: You will get muddy and maybe wet. Please wear rugged clothing and shoes or rubber boots. If you have them, bring work gloves and long-handled tools to reach trash.

Directions: The Wildlife Reserve is on the east side of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way about a half mile, going half a traffic circle around a tree, to the last parking area.

Meet: At amphitheater behind the rock-faced buildings.

More Information: The event is appropriate for **adults and older students**. Students can get **certificates** and earn **community service hours**. Rain cancels.

Questions: 310.457-5796 (Muriel) or 818.998-3216 (Diana)

Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE EARTH DAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, April 7, 2018 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Celebrate Earth Day at the only nature preserve in the City of Los Angeles!

Event Highlights:

- Opening Ceremony: Wishoyo/Chumash Indian Tribal Blessing
- Guided Nature Hikes
- Live Animal Exhibits
- Bird Observation Station
- Environmental & Community Resource Fair

Location & Parking:
 Entry gate on Valley Circle Blvd, west of Plummer St. Street parking available with limited on-site parking.
 Map available at bit.ly/2naHjvT

Please Note:
 No bikes allowed on hiking path. No pets please. Hats, reusable water bottles, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes are encouraged.

Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-4208. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
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David Barton	(818) 981-1418
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Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
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Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

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Hansen Dam Walks:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
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Young Birders Group:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405

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

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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, 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 Lynn Maddox at (818) 845-4688 or e-mail her at Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org.

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Phainopepla

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The Annual Conservation Awards Luncheon was held on March 3, 2018, at Franklin Canyon Park. Kudos to Paula Orlovich, and Becky Arntzen and the rest of the banquet committee for a wonderful event! The rain held off allowing Muriel Kotin and Dick Barth to lead bird walks for early arrivals. Lunch was served while we enjoyed music from Steve McCroskey and a slideshow from Pat Bates.

LAUSD school teachers, Dennis Haggren-Smith, Robert Ishii, and Marnie Treves were the Conservation Award winners for their many years dedicated to educating their students about the environment, research, science, art, and writing. They each gave moving speeches inspiring the audience about future generations.

Dick Barth was honored to receive the Outstanding Service Award for leading SFVAS monthly field trips for 20 years.

The afternoon concluded with a silent auction of the bird feeder centerpieces provided by Wild Wings Backyard Nature Store, and the once-again amazing basket raffle by Carolyn Oppenheimer. Proceeds from this event help support the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP).--*editor*



Photos L-R: Dick Barth, Marnie Treves, Muriel Kotin & Dennis Haggren-Smith, and Robert Ishii

Photo by Pat Bates

Are you familiar with acorn woodpeckers? Did you know these birds were labeled "communists" almost 100 years ago? Here's an interesting set of papers, and a video, that explain the genetics and evolution underlying these birds' unique social system.

Long-Term Field Studies Explain Why These American Woodpeckers Are Communists

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscientist/2017/10/18/long-term-field-studies-explain-why-these-american-woodpeckers-are-communists/>
or, tiny: <https://tinyurl.com/y9knm8ys> -Submitted by Linda Jones

