



Phainopepla

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

Vol. 70 No. 6

December 2019 / January 2020

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 5–6, for directions.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 7, 2020
Annual Awards Luncheon

Monthly Programs



BIRDS & BEER

Christmas Bird Count Wrap-up

Members and guests are welcome—counters and non-counters alike.

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 4:30 to about 8:00 p.m.

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

Phone: (818) 697-5525 (see directions on Website)

A really informal gathering to swap Christmas Bird Count data, celebrate the holiday season and the coming start of 2020! The hour is early so all ages are welcome (but no beer for the kiddies). We plan on providing pizza and salad (around 5pm), beer (\$5 donation appreciated), soft drinks, paper plates and utensils. We will also provide projector for anyone wanting to show off photos—bring them on a flash drive.

Please RSVP by email to pat@batesbird.com (so we know how much stuff to get)

General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Dave Weeshoff

Topic: National Audubon Society's 2019 Climate Report

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

Our presenter at the January 23, 2020 general meeting will be Dave Weeshoff, SFVAS Conservation Chair. He will present National Audubon Society's 2019 Climate Report, "Survival by Degrees, 389 Bird Species on the Brink." He will review the details of the Report including the consequences of Global Climate Change and other impactful threats on California and local Los Angeles County species as well as an overall North America perspective. He will also review what we can do as individuals, and as a



Chapter, to make a difference.

Dave graduated from Utah State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Experimental Psychology in 1968. Immediately after graduation he joined the IBM Corporation, and retired from IBM in 2004. Post-retirement he became a volunteer and docent with International Bird Rescue. He was on the Board of Directors for five years and Chairman for three of those years. While working with sick, orphaned, oiled, and injured aquatic birds, it became apparent that the water quality in the local area was affecting the health of the animals. In response to this, Dave joined the Speaker's Bureau of Heal the Bay.

Dave joined San Fernando Valley Audubon Society in 2006, was President and Chair of the Classroom Education Program of the chapter. He is a frequent guest speaker to adult and children's groups on avian and environmental issues. Dave travels frequently in search of interesting aquatic birds and mammals, including trips to the Antarctic, Iceland, Greenland, Arctic Canada, Galapagos, New Zealand, Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), Chilean Patagonia, Easter Island, Madagascar, and Midway Atoll, as well as various USA destinations.



2019 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Birders Needed!

Once again the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will join chapters across the country and in North and South America, Hawaii, and the Caribbean to take part in the National Audubon Society's 120th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC).

The initial San Fernando Valley CBC was held in 1957 making this our 63rd successive CBC. Over the years there have been some interesting changes in bird populations in the count circle as the valley has transitioned into a more developed area.

Last year we counted 128 species and 12,000 individuals, somewhat lower than our average since 2000, continuing a downward trend.

In order to get the most comprehensive indication of the health of our bird population in the valley, we need as many counters as possible. Extensive birding experience is not a prerequisite, only a willingness to come out and count—wind, rain, or shine. Those unable to join one of the count groups may assist by noting species and numbers of birds at backyard feeders, local parks, and neighborhoods provided such counts take place within a 7.5 mile radius circle from the count center at the intersection of Balboa Blvd. and Nordhoff Street. Please report all such counts, along with the time spent observing, by e-mail to Alexander deBarros, alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com, no later than January 6, 2020.

Count participation is free and open to all. Open count sectors are listed below.

Hansen Dam, El Cariso Park, & Pacoima Wash.

Meeting time: 7:00 AM

Meet at the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields, off Foothill Blvd. Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Brian Biefelt, speedyperegrine@yahoo.com

Hansen Dam Golf Course & nearby parks. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

From the intersection of Osborne and Glenoaks, go southeast on Glenoaks to Montague and bear left. Proceed to the end of the road and park in the parking lot. Look for counters with binoculars. Bring lunch and drinks, and be prepared to walk. Leader: Lynda Fennemen, clf@netscape.com

Corbin Canyon & Deervale Park. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

From the intersection of Ventura Blvd and Winnetka Ave, go south on Winnetka, turn left onto Wells Dr, right onto Corbin Ave, and follow Corbin till it ends. Look for people with binoculars. Leader: Jim Moore, jimmoore@socal.rr.com

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve & Lake Balboa. Meeting time: 7:30 AM

Meet in the parking lot at the end of the entrance road, east of Woodley Avenue, north of Burbank Blvd. and south of the Tillman Water Treatment Plant. Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp, kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net

Bull Creek & Balboa Sports Center. Meeting time: 7:00 AM

Enter the park at the entrance road on the east side of Balboa Blvd, south of Victory Blvd. Make the first possible left into the dirt overflow parking lot. Leader: Alexander deBarros, alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com

L.A. River (Sepulveda to Fulton) & Tujunga Wash. Meeting time 11:30 AM

Meet at S. Valleyheart Dr and Sepulveda Blvd. This sector will be counted by bike. If you are interested in participating, please contact the leader and bring a bicycle. Eat before. Leader: Alexander deBarros, alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com. Note, the leader may be late depending on how long the count at Bull Creek takes.

Valley Plaza Park & other nearby parks.

Meeting time: 8:00 AM

From Victory and Laurel Canyon, go north on Laurel Canyon, turn left at Hamlin St, and meet in the parking lot at the end of the road. Leader: Dick Barth, busyday@ca.rr.com

Reseda Park, Encino Park & Los Encinos State Historic Park. Meeting time 8:00 AM

Meet in the parking off Victory Blvd, at the east end of Reseda Park. Leader: Pat Bates, batesbird@gmail.com

Chatsworth Reservoir. Meeting time 8:00 AM

This sector is tentative (pending approval by DWP), and space is limited to 8 people. Check with the leader before showing up. Meet at the gate on Valley Circle Blvd. just west of the junction of Plummer and Valley Circle Blvd. Leader: Art Langton, wrentit@att.net

Small parks in the central and eastern valley.

Meeting time 7:30 AM

From Balboa and Nordhoff, go west on Nordhoff, make the first possible left onto Amestoy Ave, and the first right onto Dearborn St. Look for people with binoculars. Leader: Rebecca Marschall, rfenning@mac.com

Old Mission Trail & CSUN. Meeting time 7:30 AM

Exit the 118 at Porter Ranch Dr, go south on Porter Ranch, and meet in the parking lot on the right. Leader: Barbara Heidemann, barbara.heidemann@sfaudubon.org

Mormon Canyon Loop Trail. Meeting time 8:00 AM

Meet on Sesnon, 200ft. west of Tampa. Leader: TBA. Contact Alexander deBarros, or check sfaudubon.org for latest count information.

O'Melveny & Bee Canyon Parks and nearby golf courses. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

This sector is tentative, pending approval from the L.A. Parks Department. From the intersection of Balboa and Rinaldi, go north to Balboa and Sesnon. Turn left (west) on Sesnon and continue 1/2 mile. Park is on the right. Meet in the parking lot. Leader: Muriel Kotin, mkotin@adkotin.com

Limekiln, Moonshine, and Aliso Canyons & adjacent parks. Meeting time: 8:00 AM

This sector is tentative, pending approval from the L.A. Parks Department. Meet on the south side of Chatsworth Street, a half block west of Tampa. Park on the north side of the street. Leader: TBA. Contact Alexander deBarros, or check sfaudubon.org for latest count information.

(CBC Continued)

NOTE: O'Melveny Park and Limekiln, Moonshine, & Aliso Canyons all burned in the Saddleridge Fire, and may be subject to mudslides. If rain is forecasted for December 14, or if mudslides occur in the week preceding the CBC, the counts at these locations will be canceled. Any of this information may change between now and count day. Contact Alexander deBarros, or check sfvaudubon.org for latest information.



In addition to the CBC, we will be conducting a pre-count, where we will scout extremely small, underbirded parks for rarities. While the chances of finding anything are slim, if there is an American Redstart, or a Hammond's Flycatcher, or anything else that we don't usually see around here, we certainly don't want to miss it. If you are interested in participating in the pre-count, please e-mail alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com before December 9. The pre-count will take place from December 11 to 13. Like with the CBC, extensive experience is not necessary, only a willingness to go birding. 🐦

Image of SFVAS CBC Circle

Conservation Corner—Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair

As an ardent bird lover like you, I was excited to learn of Audubon's newest study, **Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink**, which illustrates in extraordinary detail the future of North American birds under a changing climate. Using the same climate models as 80 countries, plus 140 million bird records—including observational data from bird lovers nationwide—the report reveals the effects a warming climate will have on more than 600 bird species through the end of the century. The report includes a first-of-its-kind zip code based climate tool: **Audubon's Birds and Climate Visualizer**, which shows how climate change will impact local birds and our community—and ways you can help.

Audubon's science shows that the majority of North American bird species—even familiar, beloved birds like the Wood Thrush and American Robin—are at risk of extinction from climate change.

An important takeaway from Audubon's new climate report is that if we take aggressive action now, we can help 76% of vulnerable species have a better chance of survival.

One of the most important things you can do to fight climate change is also one of the simplest: Talk about it. Research shows that discussing global warming with family and friends reinforces that the crisis is real and the science unequivocal. And yet, nearly two-thirds of Americans say they rarely or never have those conversations. For help in clarifying your personal message, the Audubon website has a "Guide to Climate Action" section outlining where to begin and how to amplify your efforts to make lasting change in the world.

As another example of what you can do, right now, Congress is considering a bill - The Better Energy Storage Technology (BEST) Act of 2019 - that would help jumpstart the development of important technology to keep our electric grid resilient and reliable as we phase out fossil fuels and make way for clean, renewable energy sources. You can help by asking your members of Congress to cosponsor the BEST Act to invest in a cleaner tomorrow.

Please, go to www.Audubon.org for the Audubon report and to learn what more you can do. Climate Change is an existential threat to all life on our planet - no exaggeration - and each of us can do our part to minimize the impacts and the consequences.

And, as usual, please call me at (818) 618-1652 or email Dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org with questions, comments, or to enlist in our conservation activities on behalf of our feathered friends. 🐦

Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

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. 🐦

CALLING ALL BIRD NERDS!!



Want to be a Bird Nerd? We'd love to welcome you into our Bird Nerd Club at our Annual Potluck this June. Here's what you need to do to qualify and receive your reward: Record any of your bird sightings in the State of California from July 2019 until June 15, 2020. Be a citizen scientist and enter them on ebird.org. Submit your totals to Teri Carnesciali at tericarn@gmail.com by June 15. *Will you be among the Bird Nerds in our flock?*

The award categories will be:

- N:** Nighthawk 50-99 species
- E:** Eagle 100-149 species
- R:** Roadrunner 150-199 species
- D:** Dunlin 200+ species



*For Nature Education and
the Conservation of Wildlife*

Calendar of Events

DECEMBER

Sunday, December 1. 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: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (818) 521-8799.

Saturday, December 7. Grainger Bird Walk. 8:30 a.m. This unique walk is possible due to our chapter funding the purchase of private land for public use with our partner Mountains Restoration Trust. All photos for the signage was provided by our member Dave Barton. Please meet at 2020 Stunt Road. The parking is on the street so carpooling may be best. The trail limits 15 participants. Please RSVP Paulaorlovich@yahoo.com.

Sunday, December 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, December 14. Christmas Bird Count / Birds and Beer. Come out and count birds for the 120th Annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. All are welcome. No experience necessary—just a willingness to count rain or shine. See page two for meeting times and locations, then join us at 4:30 p.m. for **BIRDS**



AND BEER as we meet to compile count data and kick of the holiday season. Pizza and beer will be provided. Location: San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18312 Oxnard Street, Tarzana.

Saturday, December 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.

Saturday, December 14. Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway Trail Beautification. 8:00—11:00 a.m. Join the Audubon Center at Debs Park, MRCA, and the Studio City community to revitalize the habitat along the Greenway. Scheduled monthly on the 2nd Saturday. Please contact Mika Perron at mperron@audubon.org to RSVP and for more information. Directions: Meet at the trail entrance on Valleyheart Drive off of Whitsett Avenue.

Sunday, December 15. 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. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

Tuesday, December 17. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m. NOTE: If O'Melveny remains closed due to the Saddleridge Fire the walk will take place across the street at Bee Canyon Park. Meeting place stays the same. 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.

No Monthly Field Trip in December due to Christmas Bird Count

No General Membership Meeting. *Happy Holidays!*

Saturday, December 28. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00—10:00 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.

NO Young Birders Group Bird Walk—Join us for the Christmas Bird Count on December 14.

JANUARY

Saturday, January 4. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. Please Note that effective January 2020 the Placerita walks will now be on the first Saturday of the month.

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, January 5. 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: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org or (818) 521-8799.

Saturday, January 11. Zev Yaroslavsky L.A. River Greenway Trail

Beautification. 8:00—11:00 a.m. Join the Audubon Center at Debs Park, MRCA, and the Studio City community to revitalize the habitat along the Greenway. Scheduled monthly on the 2nd Saturday. Please contact Mika Perron at mperron@audubon.org to RSVP and for more

information. Directions: Meet at the trail entrance on Valleyheart Drive off of Whitsett Avenue.

Sunday, January 12. 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, January 18. Monthly Field Trip: Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and drinks. Allow about 1.5 hours driving time from the San Fernando Valley. Directions: Take the 405 Fwy. South into Orange County; exit Jamboree Road in the city of Irvine. Turn right (south) on Jamboree Road and proceed about four miles to San Joaquin Hills Road, turn right and drive down to the bay. Park on San Joaquin Hills Road just before the dead end. In the afternoon we will bird the nearby San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

Sunday, January 19. 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. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

Tuesday, January 21. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00–11:00 a.m. NOTE: If O'Melveny remains closed due to the Saddleridge Fire the walk will take place across the street at Bee Canyon Park. Meeting place stays the same. 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@sfaudubon.org.



Thursday, January 23. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Speaker: Dave Weeshoff. TOPIC: "Survival by Degrees, 389

Bird Species on the Brink." 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, January 25. SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 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@sfaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 25. 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 Emma. For more information on meeting location please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at roselbirds@gmail.com, or call (818) 990-5405.



Monday, January 27. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana.

Future Field Trips (details later):
February 15. Ventura County Game Preserve
March 21–22. Morro Bay Weekend 🐦

September and October Field Trip Reports *by Richard Barth*

We visited Huntington Beach Central Park and Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve on September 21. The park yielded no rarities but kept us busy with exotic finch species....Pin-tailed Whydah (including one breeding male with it's spectacular long tail), Orange-cheeked Waxbill, Swinhoe's White-eye and Scaly-breasted Munia. We also managed to see six of the expected west-coast warblers: Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, Yellow, Wilson's, Orange-crowned and Common Yellowthroat. Other birds of interest: Western Tanager, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, White-crowned Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-faced Ibis, Green Heron, Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, House Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, Hutton's Vireo (heard) and Red-winged Blackbird. Bolsa Chica produced target species Reddish Egret (two adults flew past us and landed in open view) and California's endangered Belding's Savannah Sparrow (several seen popping in and out of the pickleweed). Honorable mention at the reserve were Ruddy Turnstone, Long-billed Curlew, Willet, Marbled Godwit, Greater Yellowlegs, Black-bellied Plover, Forster's Tern, Eared Grebe and both pelican species.

October 19 marked the field trip to El Dorado Park in Long Beach. Five birders from Long Beach joined me. While no real rarities made our list, we found some birds of interest. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Hermit Warbler probably created the most discussion while Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, Wilson's Warbler, American Pipit, Western Meadowlark, Hutton's Vireo, Chipping Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, and White-throated Swift got in on the action. Downy Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker and Northern Flicker were accounted for. Species in good supply: Song Sparrow, Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Cassin's Kingbird, Common Yellowthroat and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. 🐦

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
1 st Vice President:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
2 nd Vice President:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Treasurer:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Corresponding Secretary:	Barbara Heidemann	unpublished
Recording Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516

DIRECTORS

Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Benny Jacobs-Schwarz	(818) 939-9913
Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Rob Brown	(818) 616-3071
Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Bird Observatory:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Conservation:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Membership:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
BirdFest	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 579-4976
Birdathon:	Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Christmas Bird Count:	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Community Outreach:	OPEN	
Conservation Banquet:	OPEN	
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
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:	Dave Barton	(310) 990-6896
	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
O'Melveny Bird Walk:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
OneWaterLA Group Rep.:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Programs:	Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Publicity:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 579-4976
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(818) 521-8799
Social Media:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
SSFL Special Representative:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Young Birders Group:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 579-4976

TO BECOME A MEMBER AND/OR RENEW
ONLINE GO TO
<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/>
It's fast, secure, and saves time and paper!

Or mail this form and include a check made payable to:
 SFV Audubon Society
 Attn: Membership
 P.O. Box 7769
 Van Nuys, CA 91409

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$25	\$ _____
1-yr Online Chapter Membership (No paper copy of <i>Phainopepla</i>).....\$20	\$ _____
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10	\$ _____
Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

New Member Renewal School

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

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, 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.

PHAINOPEPLA is copyrighted ©2019 by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. All rights reserved. All photographs used in the *PHAINOPEPLA* are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.

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

www.SFVAudubon.org

Follow us on:

 Instagram @sfvaudubon

 #sfvaudubon



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

Phainopepla

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

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- Christmas Bird Count...2
- Conservation Corner...3
- Audubon-at-Home...3
- Bird Nerds...4
- Calendar of Events...5-6
- Monthly Field Trip Reports...6
- Chapter Information...7

Honoring Chief Park Ranger Albert Torres

We could call this, 'the burning season.' Every year beginning in October we all hold our collective breaths as the heat bakes our neighborhoods throughout the region and the winds shift carrying the ominous possibility of destruction. This year is no different than last as all of California suffers fire's destructive path. We have lost homes, wildlife, electricity, and loved ones. With the crisis of climate change upon our state and our city and our neighborhoods we can only pull together as we always do. Neighbors helping neighbors, reaching out in whatever capacity we can to help.

On October 28, 2019, I attended the funeral of Chief Ranger Albert Torres who served 45 years as a Park Ranger. He refused to retire from the job he loved and died serving the parks the day of the Saddleridge Fire. The service was somber as our city leaders; fellow rangers, officers, family and friends honored Albert for his service. He was a man who dedicated his life to our parks and his family and was remembered by all who met him as a kind person.

When the fire broke out in the Sepulveda Basin Pat Bates and I encountered fire fighters from the Station 88 and here we saw a group of dedicated personnel who were able to contain the fire and expressed a concern for the wildlife as well as the homeless who were also caught up in the emergency situation. It was an honor to thank them for their service and dedication.

In the memory of Chief Ranger Torres and in honor of our fire fighters please demonstrate kindness; please demonstrate your appreciation for those who are on the line. Ranger Torres saw problems and sought equitable solutions. He is the standard bearer. Let him continue to be our inspiration as stewards of nature.

—Paula Orlovich, President SFVAS

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers who are interested in participating on our board of directors or committees for the coming SFVAS year, July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021. Most board members start their service as chairs of a committee or as elected board members at large. Serving on a committee can also be a great way to become more involved with and contribute to SFVAS.

Newcomers to the board are important! We are volunteers, so you don't have to have prior experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge and expertise while helping SFVAS work to fulfill our mission: to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory, to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of bird life and the natural environment, and to create a social environment that encourages individual development and participation. Please contact Paula Orlovich if you are interested in serving in any capacity at: (818) 481-5605 or e-mail at paulaorlovich@yahoo.com.