



# Phainopepla

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

Vol. 71 No. 2

April / May 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 3-4, for directions.

## BIRDATHON IS ON!

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

See Calendar of Events for dates and locations of BIRDATHON EVENTS.

DONATE online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org)

It's FAST, SECURE, & EASY!

## COVID-19 Updated March 25, 2020

Due to the recent pandemic, we have **CANCELLED** our April and May General Membership Meetings and ALL April and May bird walks. Please check our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) for up-to-date information.

## Annual Conservation Awards Luncheon was Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 virus advancing in our community and around the world the decision was made to postpone the annual luncheon to a later date. While this decision was a difficult one, it was made with the abundance of caution for our members. Please stay tuned to our website and the next issue of the *Phainopepla* for more information on when we can safely gather to honor our Conservation Award recipient, Patricia Bates, and our SFVAS Chapter Service awardee, Rosemary Leibowitz. *We will happily refund your ticket cost if you email [birdathon@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:birdathon@sfvaudubon.org). If you do not request a refund, we will consider your purchase a donation to help us pursue our mission of conservation and education.*

Thank you to our Banquet Committee: Kathy Barton, Teri Carnesciali, Marianne Davis, Richard Davis, Rebecca LeVine, Joanne Millius, Carolyn Oppenheimer, and Paula Orlovich for your efforts. **To all our members and their families: please stay safe and healthy.**

## BirdFest 2020

BirdFest will be back on **November 14, 2020**. It will be a collaboration between three local Audubon Chapters (San Fernando Valley, Santa Monica, and Conejo Valley), the National Park Service, and the Western National Parks Association. *Save the date* and come to our very own love fest for birds!

## 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](http://ebird.org). Submit your totals to Teri Carnesciali at [tericarn@gmail.com](mailto: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

## Birdathon 2020 by Richard Davis

**Please Note:** Our Birdathon Walks are listed below but due to Covid-19, all have been **cancelled**. Leaders have the option to restructure their walks accordingly but they will not be open to the public. Please consider making a donation by visiting our website, [sfvaudubon.org](http://sfvaudubon.org). Thank you!

April and May mark the advent of Birdathon, our major annual fundraising event for the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS). This spring, we have a dedicated team of leaders who will ask for our pledges of support based on the number of bird species they can spot during their one to two day quest or during a bird walk with team helpers. Team members who join these walks can help, not only by making pledges but also by joining the event to increase the numbers of birds spotted. And, that is in addition to a great outdoor experience with friends and experienced birders.



**Birdathon supports the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP).** Each year the SFVAS partners with the Resource Conservation District of Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM) to provide teacher training and field trips to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve for sixty classes, benefiting nearly 2000 children from the Los Angeles Unified School District.



Many of these kids are from low income and highly urbanized areas of our county, often experiencing their first adventure in a natural environment during these field trips. Your support for Birdathon provides the monies for trained naturalists who lead these field trips and for binoculars, microscopes, and other equipment for their use during that day. As we raise more money, we can afford to provide support for additional classes to have this wonderful experience. Your contributions also support our routine expenses such as rent for our meeting room and insurance for our SFVAS-led bird walks.

Why not join one or more of our Birdathon events? Look for event details in the calendar. The following teams welcome your participation:

- **April 15, High Desert Big Day (Jim Moore) Probable Species: 120**
- **April 19, Balboa Park (Alexander deBarros) Probable Species: 35**
- **April 21, O'Melveny Park, (Carolyn Oppenheimer) Probable Species: 30**
- **April 25, Hansen Dam, (Pat Bates) Probable Species: 30**
- **April 25, Morongo Valley, (Richard Barth) Probable Species: 55-60**
- **TBA, Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day, (Mark Osokow) Probable Species: 65**
- **May 3, Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve, (Kris Ohlenkamp) Probable Species: 60**
- **May 9, Bird LA Day Family Event Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (Paula Orlovich, Richard & Marianne Davis) Probable Species: 30**
- **May 17, Malibu Creek State Park, (Kathy Barton & David Barton) Probable Species: 45-50**

For information about this appeal, call (818) 986-1432

THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY.

**INFORMATION CARD NO. SW0083**  
Issued Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Article 4, § 17.02(b)(2)

**CALIFORNIA AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**AKA SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409  
Person in charge of appeal: Richard Davis  
Telephone number: (818) 986-1432

Activity: "Birdathon" Pledge Drive through May 31, 2020  
Solicitation Dates: April 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Purpose: Net proceeds to support environmental education for Los Angeles schools and free programs for the public.

Previous: 2019 activity collected a total of \$10,346, of which \$372 (3.6%) was applied to expenses and \$9,974 was used for charitable purposes.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITATION RESTRICTED TO THE HOURS OF 8 A.M. - 5 P.M.  
This information card must be displayed or presented to all prospective donors, and should not be altered in any manner.

Customer requests can be: Los Angeles Public Commission  
Charitable Services Section, Commission Investigation Division  
Telephone: (213) 986-1900  
E-mail address: [publicinfo@lafd.ca.gov](mailto:publicinfo@lafd.ca.gov)  
Web site: [www.lafd.ca.gov](http://www.lafd.ca.gov)

Date Issued: 5/1/2020  
*Richard Davis*  
Commissioning Officer  
Commission Investigation Division

You may also donate to the following quests:

- **Allan & Muriel Kotin, 24 Hours of Birding Madness: LA & Orange Counties Probable Species: 100**
- **Lori Willis Memorial Fund (John and Andrew Willis) Probable Species: 60-70**
- **Art Langton, Highway 33: Quest from the Ocean to the Mountains Probable Species: 75**



**DONATE** online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org) or by sending in the enclosed envelope. Further details of these Birdathon events will be distributed by e-mail and on our website. Please contribute as generously as you can.

*Thank you for your support!*

### Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Birdathon Event: Probable Species 65

No actual date has been set yet. Contact Mark Osokow, at [Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org), if you are considering participating to receive notice when the actual date is determined. Regardless of the date, the protocol will follow those of previous years. We will meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (restricted access), where we will bird until some time between 11:00 and noon. This will be followed by a visit to Sage Ranch Park (Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy) next door, where we can break for lunch, Chatsworth Oaks Park (L. A. Dept. of Recreation and Parks) including scoping of Chatsworth Nature Preserve (LADWP), Chatsworth Trails Reserve (Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy) including Lower Browns Canyon, Michael Antonovich Park at Joughin Ranch (Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy in Browns Canyon), and lower Mormon Canyon (easement just off Browns Canyon). This will take us to dusk. We will then break for dinner at a local restaurant following which we will return to Browns Canyon for early evening owling finishing by around 8:30-9:00 p.m. Participants can join or leave at any point, except for SSFL, which requires a commitment for the full time.

## Calendar of Events

### April

**Saturday, April 4. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00—11:00 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 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@sfsaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfsaudubon.org) or (818) 521-8799.



**Wednesday, April 15. A BIRDATHON EVENT. High Desert Big Day. Lancaster Sewage Treatment Plant, Piute Ponds, Galileo Hills, and Apollo Park. Probable Species: 100.** 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](mailto:moorebirder@gmail.com) if you plan to join him.

**Sunday, April 19. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Bird Walk at Balboa Park/Anthony C. Beilenson Park in Balboa Park 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 30.** Meet at the boat dock (on the east side of the lake). Entrance to the park is on the east side of Balboa Blvd. about 0.4 miles South of Victory Blvd. Follow the road around the lake to the dock near Wheel Fun Swan Boat Rentals about 0.8 miles. Leader: Alexander deBarros e-mail [alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com](mailto:alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com) or call (818)-919-3425.

**Sunday, April 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, April 21. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 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@sfsaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfsaudubon.org).

**Thursday, April 23. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Has been canceled.**

**Saturday, April 25. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Monthly Field Trip: Morongo Valley. 8:00 a.m. Probable species: 60.** 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 25. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Hansen Dam Bird Walk. 8:00—10:00 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@sfsaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfsaudubon.org).



**Saturday, April 25. 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 Emma. For more information, please e-mail Rose Leibowitz at [roselbirds@gmail.com](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 990-5405.

### May

**Saturday, May 2. 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, May 3. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00—11:00 a.m. Probable Species: 60.** 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@sfsaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfsaudubon.org) or (818) 521-8799.

**Saturday, May 9. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Bird LA Day Family Event Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve. Probable Species: 30.** 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. Leaders: Paula Orlovich (818) 481-5605, [paula.orlovich@sfsaudubon.org](mailto:paula.orlovich@sfsaudubon.org), Richard (310) 529-8865, & Marianne Davis (310) 529-8871.

**Saturday, May 16. 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](mailto:mperron@audubon.org) to RSVP and for more information. Directions: Meet at the trail entrance on Valleyheart Drive off of Whitsett Avenue.

**Saturday, May 16. Monthly Field Trip: Los Angeles River (Willow St) and DeForest Park. 8:00 a.m.** Directions: From the 208 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 and turn left onto 26th Way which dead-ends in DeForest Avenue along the river. Park on DeForest Ave and walk up the ramp 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. Afterwards we will drive to DeForest Park in N. Long Beach to look for spring migrant land birds. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Sunday, May 17. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 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. Leaders: Kathy Barton (818) 929-2516 and David Barton (310) 990-6896.

**Monday, May 18. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** San Fernando Valley Arts & Cultural Center, 18323 Oxnard St., Tarzana.

**Tuesday, May 19. Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvadubon.org).



**Saturday, May 23. 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

## January / February Field Trip Reports by Richard Barth

On January 18 we visited Orange County's Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Our little group enjoyed excellent weather and a very productive morning of birding. Six heron species were seen including Reddish Egret and an exceptionally rare Tricolored Heron which had recently been reported at the bay. Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew, Whimbrel, Willet and Greater Yellowlegs were among the twelve shorebird species tallied. Our waterfowl list of thirteen species featured favorites Northern Pintail, Redhead, Bufflehead, Lesser Scaup, Blue-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal and Green-winged Teal. The raptors making an appearance were Osprey, Northern Harrier, American Kestrel and Red-tailed Hawk. We did very well with Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. Marsh Wren was heard and Tree Swallows were in the air at San Joaquin. Also of interest on our list: White-faced Ibis, Brown Pelican, American White Pelican, Clark's Grebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Savannah Sparrow and Spotted Towhee.

The Ventura County Game Preserve was our destination on February 15. It was a beautiful day but not as birdy as we would have liked in the part of the preserve we covered. Our most interesting sighting was of a large flock of American Pipits flushed up from a field as a Merlin came in and grabbed one of the birds (we watched the Merlin having his meal on the ground not far from us). Our waterfowl totals were down this visit, as were our shorebird totals. Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal and Northern Shoveler topped the waterfowl list while the shorebird favorites were Greater Yellowlegs and Black-necked Stilt. We did reasonably well with passerines in addition to American Pipit—including Loggerhead Shrike, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Meadowlark, Marsh Wren, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird and a Vermilion Flycatcher (immature female) putting on a show for us. There were possibly two Vermilions as we had sightings of two virtually identical birds about 100 yards apart. Other notable species on hand were Northern Harrier, Sora (heard), White-faced Ibis, American Kestrel, American White Pelican and Eared Grebe.

## 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@sfvadubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvadubon.org).

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 alternate directions to the lower parking lot. Rain cancels. Leader: Pat Bates (310) 425-0962, [pat.bates@sfvadubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvadubon.org).

**Thursday, May 28. SFVAS General Membership Meeting. Has been cancelled.**

**Saturday, May 30. Young Birders Group Bird Walk: Franklin Canyon Park. 9:30 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](mailto:roselbirds@gmail.com), or call (818) 579-4976.



**Future Field Trips (details later):  
June 13. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve  
July 18. Mt. Pinos**

## Scholarship

SFVAS is offering a scholarship for a young bird enthusiast for attendance at the **Hog Island Audubon Camp**. This is open to students between the ages of 14–17.

The National Audubon Society organizes multiple camp experiences each year at Hog Island Audubon Camp. Located in Central Maine, Hog Island spans 330 acres of conifer forest, surrounded by the Muscongus Bay. The Audubon Society has set up a series of rustic cabins, which serve as a camp and a research station. Many birders and ornithologists visit Hog Island each year for a wonderful experience. Click <https://hogisland.audubon.org> to see their many marvelous programs. Applicants can specify which program they'd like to attend, with the understanding that not every program will have openings. Lodging at the camp is included but travel to the camp is not. Total funding is \$1500. Applicants must provide evidence of ability to secure travel funding for the camp session.

Applicants must submit evidence of current work (within last 12 months) on a project to promote conservation, ornithology, or climate change prevention and education. This should be accompanied by a brief **personal** essay describing the importance of birds, their habitat and the threats they face. Applicants must have resided within the catchment area of SFVAS\* within the last 12 months. (Membership in SFVAS's Young Birders Group for six months qualifies.)

**Minors:** before applying, make sure your parents are on board and understand that SFVAS does NOT assume legal responsibility for minors during the Hog Island camp session or during travel to and from the camp. They will be required to sign a release/waiver if you are awarded a scholarship. Parents accompanying Hog Island campers will be responsible for all financial aspects of their attendance.

Successful applicants will be asked to write up their experience in a brief article for our newsletter, the *Phainopepla*, and make a presentation at one of our general meetings.

The neatness and clarity of applications will, of course, be a factor in our consideration.

Please apply to SFVAS as soon as possible. Apply by email to Marianne Davis at [m54davis@gmail.com](mailto:m54davis@gmail.com) and Alexander deBarros

at [Alexanderderbarros@yahoo.com](mailto:Alexanderderbarros@yahoo.com). Any questions about the Hog Island Camp should be directed to Alexander.

**The submission deadline is April 30, 2020. Applicants will be notified no later than May 10, 2020.**

We look forward to hearing from you.

\*SFVAS service area includes Acton, Agua Dulce, Arleta, Bell Canyon, Burbank, Calabasas, Canoga Park, Castaic, Chatsworth, Crescenta Highlands, Encino, Forest Park, Glendale, Granada Hills, Hidden Hills, Lake Balboa, Lake View Terrace, North Hills, North Hollywood, Northridge, Pacoima, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, Reseda, Santa Clarita, San Fernando, Stevenson Ranch, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sunland, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Tarzana, Toluca Lake, Tujunga, Valley Glen, Van Nuys, Valley Village, Val Verde, Warner Center, West Hills, Winnetka, & Woodland Hills. Applicants from other areas will be considered if they have been attending SFVAS Young Birders walks for at least six months before the application deadline.



### Young Birders Recap

by Alexander deBarros

Our February walk at O'Melveny went very well, with the group totaling 30 species. Highlights included a few White-breasted Nuthatches, Hutton's Vireos, two Red-breasted

Sapsuckers, and a Dark-eyed Junco that appeared to be of the "Pink-sided" subspecies. Pink-sided Juncos breed in Montana and Wyoming, and usually winter in the southern Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. A few stray to California every year, but most of them end up in the desert.

Overall, the birds are doing quite well, all things considered. Most of them are more concentrated in the unburned parkland areas. Golden-crowned Sparrows, which generally prefer denser chaparral, were seen out in the open, as there were very few hiding places left. Wrentit numbers were way down, but fortunately they were not completely eliminated by the fire. Fox Sparrows were completely absent.

The complete list is available here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S63783478>

The park itself is doing quite well. While the hillsides are noticeably lacking in shrubs, the limited amount of rain we have received has caused the extensive growth of grass on the hillsides. Some of the Laurel Sumacs have already started resprouting, showing the resilience of California native plants.

## Plastic Grass in Your Easter Basket Is a Hazard to Birds *By Carolyn Oppenheimer*

It is nearly Easter so envision gleeful children tearing into their baskets full of candy and toys. The goodies are imbedded in layers of cheap shredded plastic meant to simulate grass. The grass flies everywhere as the children grab the goodies. Public parks and backyards are often strewn with thousands of small shreds of plastic after Easter celebrations that are difficult to clean up. This is a problem not just because it is unsightly but also because it can kill birds. Easter occurs during nesting season and birds are attracted to the shiny pieces of plastic to incorporate into their nests. The problem is that the chicks can get tangled in the plastic and are unable to escape from it because they cannot break it with their beaks.

I am part of a group that monitor bluebird nest boxes in a local park and I have seen what can happen to a chick that gets tangled in Easter grass. One particular chick must have had a habit of twisting his leg around the nest materials. He was found in the box with the plastic grass so tightly wrapped around his leg that it was cutting off circulation to the lower part of his leg causing a large swelling. If the nest had been made entirely of natural grasses the bird could have pecked it off. We cut off the plastic with a cuticle scissor and hoped his leg would heal. When we came back to recheck the box in a week all of the other chicks in the nest had fledged and were gone but this little guy was still in the box all alone. I checked and he had done it again. He was trapped in the box by another piece of plastic grass wrapped around his leg. We cut it off again and this time removed the whole nest. He seemed otherwise healthy, well feathered and ready to fly. A week later we checked and he had fledged into the world. This bird surely would have died had he was not been in a monitored nest. We were happy to know that we were able to help him but the best solution would be not to use plastic grass in your Easter basket. Shredded paper is available or you can use crumpled up colorful napkins or even fresh herbs like rosemary or lavender. Be creative, the kids won't care, they are only after the candy! 🐣



# San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society  
Incorporated as California Audubon Society 1913

Website: <http://www.sfvaudubon.org/>  
Email: [info@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:info@sfvaudubon.org)  
Address: P.O. Box 7769  
Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

*For nature education and the conservation of wildlife*

## MEMBER BALLOT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED BALLOT NO LATER THAN MAY 28, 2020

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (whose formal legal name is the California Audubon Society), is asking you, as a member of San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, to vote in the annual election of individuals to serve as Officers and on the Board of Directors. Please complete the enclosed ballot, write your name and sign in the places indicated, and return the ballot by mail or email as described in the Instructions below, by May 28, 2020. The Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for May 28, 2020, has been indefinitely postponed by necessity because of the National Emergency arising from the global pandemic known as COVID19 caused by the novel Coronavirus. You will be notified in the *Phainopepla* if or when the meeting is rescheduled.

The following candidates have been nominated by the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors, and ratified by the Board. No other candidates have been nominated, so none of the seats is contested.

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Office</b>
Paula Orlovich	President
Teri Carnesciali	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Marianne Davis	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Wendy Barsh	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board
Marylou Hanna	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board

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. All other officers will be completing a second year of their two year terms.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Voting for the Board will be by written ballot. The ballot is included, following these instructions. Please indicate your vote for each candidate in the space provided, write your name and sign the ballot in the places indicated, and return the ballot by May 28, 2020. You may return the

completed ballot to the Society by mailing it to the following address: San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769, or by photographing your completed and signed ballot and sending it by email to [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com). The ballot must be received by the Society by the deadline in order to be counted. Once your ballot is received by the Society it cannot be revoked.

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the election of each candidate. Check "Yes" if you approve, or "No" if you do not approve. Alternatively, you may indicate that you withhold your vote rather than approving or disapproving a candidate. Only votes approving a candidate will be counted in the election.

Withholding your vote means that you abstain from voting – you would still be participating in the election, but no vote would be recorded on your behalf for or against the candidate.

In order to achieve a quorum, 35 members must cast ballot votes. If a quorum is achieved, the candidate receiving the highest number of affirmative votes for each seat will be elected.

If you have any questions, please email the Society at [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

## MEMBER BALLOT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The undersigned member of San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (whose formal legal name is the California Audubon Society), hereby casts their ballot for each candidate in the election of the Society's officers and director for the next term as indicated below:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Withhold</b>
Paula Orlovich	President	___	___	___
Teri Carnesciali	1 <sup>st</sup> VP	___	___	___
Marianne Davis	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	___	___	___
Wendy Barsh	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board	___	___	___
Marylou Hanna	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board	___	___	___

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member's name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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-Schwartz	(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:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
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

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

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

Follow us on:



Instagram @sfvaudubon



#sfvaudubon



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

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 *Phainopepla*).....\$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?  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you want to join or renew by check, please be sure to include your email address if you want to receive an acknowledgment. We can no longer thank you by regular mail. If you do not have an email address, please know how much we appreciate your involvement with, and support of, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://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](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).

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## Phainopepla

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

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### *Conservation Corner* by Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair

In our February/March, 2020 edition of the Phainopepla I alluded to "...some things each of us can do to assist our wild avian friends in their struggle to survive." Here are some suggestions:

- Educate ourselves on the issues. Climate Change is not just continuing, but accelerating, and must be addressed immediately and aggressively. We are at a "Tipping Point" where every additional molecule of CO<sub>2</sub> or methane extracted from ancient fossil reserves (coal, natural gas, oil) and emitted into the atmosphere will contribute to the warming of the climate until it is returned (sequestered) to the deep soil or deep ocean – taking many millennia through a process known as the "Carbon Cycle" (Google it). Another way to look at it is that every day we continue to add billions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere, the average temperature of the earth will be raised for thousands of years, and, as yet, we have no demonstrable way to change that equation. Call or email me for additional information and references.
- Join a group or coalition. There are many rational, productive and welcoming local organizations to engage with. We are most successful when we work as a group, and are encouraged when we feel overwhelmed or cynical. Please contact me for suggestions.
- Advocate with elected officials (and those running for office), for local, state, national and international solutions to the world-wide Climate Emergency (and the need for additional avian protections internationally). This is much easier than you might think. I've met with many, and found them and/or their Staffs to be friendly and attentive to the opinions and information from their constituents. They want your vote. While California is at the forefront of climate actions, we need to see a dramatic change in perspective on the national level. Again, please contact me for suggestions.
- Reduce your "Carbon Footprint." There are many ways each of us can do so, including reducing our miles driven, flights taken, meat eaten, plastic used, etc.
- Reduce the amount of pollutants introduced into the environment (including CO<sub>2</sub>). Install solar panels on your home, add insulation, use less water, turn off lights, don't use your gas fireplace, etc.
- Plant native plants and trees. They use less water, capture CO<sub>2</sub>, and attract wild birds as well.
- Use less plastic of all kinds – recycling is NOT the solution. Plastic is made from fossil fuels (oil and natural gas). Again, there are many options and action we can take to do so.
- Spread the word to friends, family, co-workers, strangers, other Birders. A recent survey shows that 70% of Americans believe that Climate Change is real and 60% believe it is human-caused, and the trend is upward, so the topic is on many minds.

As usual, please call me at (818) 618-1652 or e-mail [Dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org](mailto:Dave.weeshoff@SFVAudubon.org) with questions, comments, criticism, or to enlist in our conservation activities on behalf of our feathered friends. 🐦