



# Phainopepla

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*For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife*

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April / May 2021

## *General Membership Meetings: – Zoom Presentations –*

### **General Membership Meetings**

For the foreseeable future, our in-person General Membership Meetings have been placed on hold. Please join us for our online presentations from the comfort of your home!

We look forward to the day we can gather safely together and share our love of birds.

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It's FAST, SECURE, & EASY!

**Thursday, April 22, 2021**  
**7:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Dr. John McCormack**

**Title: We'll Always Have Parrots: The Past, Present, and Future of Amazona Parrots in Los Angeles**

**D**r. John McCormack will speak on the history of Los Angeles' Amazona parrots (Red-crowned and Lilac-crowned Parrots) and what DNA from museum specimens can tell us about their origins, adaptation to city life, hybridization, and future as distinct species. Dr. McCormack is Director and Curator of the Bird and Mammal Collection at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology and an Assistant Professor of Biology at Occidental College. The Moore Lab holds the largest collection of Mexican birds in the world and over 65,000 specimens in total, which researchers from around the world study to understand the basic units of biodiversity and how it got here. Dr. McCormack has pioneered the use of new DNA sequencing technologies to collect DNA from museum specimens. He received his undergraduate degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona and his PhD from UCLA. After postdoctoral research at the University of Michigan and Louisiana State University, he arrived at Occidental College as Moore Lab Director in 2011. He recently oversaw the completion of a major remodel to the Moore Lab's facilities and collection space under program umbrella of the Anderson Center for Environmental Science. Please [click here](#) to register.



**Thursday, May 27, 2021**  
**7:00—8:00 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Alan Breslauer**

**Subject: Everything There Is To Know About Catio**

**A**lan Breslauer, aka Catio Guy on social media, launched Custom Catio

in 2017 to serve cat guardians throughout Los Angeles, Orange County, and the surrounding areas. Catio Guy has worked with cat world luminaries Jackson Galaxy and Kitten Lady, rescues including CatCafe Lounge and Lange Foundation, and hundreds of feline families. An industry innovator, he relishes the opportunity to share his knowledge and expertise so that more fur-balls can experience the joy of the outdoors safely.

Cats kill billions of birds and small animals annually. The outdoors are also perilous for cats. But relegating cats to the indoors can lead to unhappy felines with behavioral issues. Catio—cat patios or enclosures—are the most humane way to allow feline family members to experience the outdoors safely. This presentation will cover nearly everything there is to know about catio—including best practices, tips, and types of recommended materials. There will also be time for questions at the end. Please [click here](#) to register.



# Now Landing: Birdathon 2021

By Richard Davis – E-mail: Birdathon@sfvaudubon.org



April and May mark the advent of Birdathon, our major annual fundraising event for the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS). Once again, 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 outing. The schedule of SFVAS Birdathon outings is shown in the table including the names of the team leaders and the time and location of their event.

Date	Leader	Location - Time	Species Estimate	Contact
4-Apr	Kris Ohlenkamp	Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve - 8am	60	kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net
8-Apr	Kathy and Dave Barton	Malibu Creek State Park	35-40	
11-Apr	Paula Orlovich	Franklin Canyon - 8am	30	<a href="mailto:54warbler@gmail.com">54warbler@gmail.com</a>
16-Apr	Dick Barth	Long Beach	55-60	
20-Apr	Carolyn Oppenheimer	O'Melveny Park - 9am, Limit of 10 by reservation	35	<a href="mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org">c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org</a>
24-Apr	Pat Bates	Hansen Dam - 8:15am	40	batesbird@gmail.com
TBD Late April	Art Langton	Highway 33: From the Ocean to the Mountains	80	
TBD 4/29/2021 or 5/7/2021	Mark Osokow	7 am at Santa Susana Field Laboratory (if access is allowed under COVID restrictions), Sage Ranch, Chatsworth Oaks Park (including Chatsworth Nature Preserve overlooks), Chatsworth Trails Reserve, Lower Browns Canyon Wash, Lower Mormon Canyon, Michael Antonovich Open Space at Joughin Ranch, Upper Browns Canyon, and, after dark, owling in Browns Canyon.	50-60	<a href="mailto:mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.org">mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.org</a>
TBD	Allan and Muriel Kotin	Malibu and Nearby	40	
TBD	Joey Curti	Cold Creek Preserve	40	
TBD Early May	John and Andrew Willis Lori Willis Memorial Fund	San Pedro/Rancho Palos Verdes	30	

Like everything else in our lives, the pandemic has strongly impacted Birdathon but, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. For some of the outings, we show the e-mail address for the Team leader. In these cases, the leaders are open to including a limited number of attendees in their outing, of course, with everyone observing standard COVID-19 precautions.

Team members who join these outings can help, not only by making pledges but also by joining the event to increase the numbers of birds spotted. And, that's in addition to a great outdoor experience with friends and experienced birders. Be sure to e-mail the Team Leader to reserve your spot and to receive full details about where to meet.

If an outing shows no e-mail address, the Leader has chosen to do their outing alone or will be accompanied only by members of their personal COVID pod.

All our leaders have shown long-term support for Audubon and for our conservation and education goals. Please show your support for them by pledging generously.

SFVAS members will soon receive an e-mail containing links to the Birdathon section of our website where you will be able to make your pledges. Alternatively, you may print out copies of the pledge-form for distribution to friends who may be excited about supporting our missions. And feel free to lead your own Birdathon outing and solicit support from your friends. (E-mail me too and I will make a pledge!: [birdathon@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:birdathon@sfvaudubon.org))



Come join us in these events, support our worthy causes and, have fun on some great days outdoors.

Traditionally, Birdathon has been the major support for our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program (SBEEP, carried out in partnership 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, nearly 2000 children from the Los Angeles Unified School District. This year, the pandemic has shut down almost all such field trips. However, we have diverted much of this resource to supporting online materials to reach this same population until we can meet again, in person.



Photos by Richard Davis. Male Bufflehead (above)  
Green Heron (left)



For information about this appeal, call (818) 995-1432  
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**INFORMATION CARD NO. V7754**  
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: **Richard Davis**  
Telephone number: **(818) 995-1432**

**Activity:** "Bird-a-thon" Pledge Drive through May 31, 2021  
**Solicitation Dates:** April 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021  
**Purpose:** Net proceeds to support environmental education for Los Angeles schools and free programs for the public.  
**Previous Activity:** 2020 activity collected a total of \$8,454 of which \$362 (4.3%) was applied to expenses and \$8,092 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 should not be altered in any manner.*

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E-mail Address: [pccharity@lapd.org](mailto:pccharity@lapd.org)  
Web Site: [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org)

Date issued: 2/18/21  
For   
**ERNEST O. CALDERA**  
Commanding Officer  
Commission Investigation Division

**QUIZ:**

- 1) When did SFVAS start holding the Birdathon?  
(Hint: Our youngest Team Leader wasn't born, yet.)
- 2) How did we choose April/May for Birdathon?  
(Some of the first events were in the fall/winter.)
- 3) What are record numbers of species spotted during Birdathon?
- 4) What are some unusual species spotted during our Birdathon?
- 5) How long have our current Leaders been leading Birdathon outings?





## Looking for Answers??



These questions, and more, will be addressed in the next *Phainopepla* where we will show our results from this year's event. **In the meantime,**

**Donate Generously to Birdathon 2021** (online at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org))

Or mail your donation to SFVAS, PO BOX 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

**Further details of these Birdathon events will be distributed by e-mail and on our website.**

*Thank you for your support!*

### Blind Birding

As we begin to venture out on bird outings now, don't be surprised if we have more folks who join us who have obvious disabilities. SFV Audubon is doing a concerted outreach effort to be inclusive, and we are reaching to organizations that serve folks with disabilities to come enjoy birding. Here are some thoughts for birding with a blind birder:

(1) Leave their service dog alone. Do not pet it, interact with it, or in any way interfere with the dog doing its job. Keep away from it and be mindful of standing in its path, or cutting it off as it leads its human on the path. The dog needs a clear path and you will interrupt it by focussing only on the human as you engage in discussion.

(2) As with anyone that has a physical difference, whether they want to talk about it or not is THEIR decision, and not yours to ask. Please don't ask them how they went blind, when they went blind, whether they ever could see, etc. It is invasive and not polite. If someone has red hair that is different from yours, would you ask them if it's natural? (not a good idea!). Don't interrogate someone about their disability, they will talk about it eventually, IF THEY FEEL LIKE IT.

(3) Do think about what the blind birder might like to know about, like what bird calls are in the area, and what bird is it that's calling. Don't bother describing the color, it may not be meaningful. It's a hearing experience for them, not visual, and they will perceive it differently from you. If there's a bench they could settle on and rest, that's a good thing to point out. Ditto upcoming restrooms, or changes in the pavements. Their service dog will negotiate them over changes in pavement, but a little advance warning is welcome. Pull sticks and big rocks out of their way if you have the time, but their dog will mostly just go around it.

(4) Of course, don't pull on them or touch them without permission. Unless you are old friends, again it's an invasion of their space and dignity. Many blind people are fiercely independent, highly trained

about how to navigate, and resist mightily being characterized as weak or needing help from anyone.

Let's welcome everyone to birding and help them become advocates for birds.

### National Audubon Society Announces Addition to the Senior Leadership Team January 22, 2021

NEW YORK - The National Audubon Society ("Audubon") today announced the appointment of two key senior hires to join the organization's leadership team following broad national searches. Dr. Elizabeth Gray will join Audubon as President and Chief Conservation Officer, reporting to CEO David Yarnold. Dr. Gray will be the first woman to hold the title of President in the organization's 115-year history. Jamaal Nelson has been appointed Chief Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Officer, and will also report to David Yarnold. These appointments will become effective March 8 and March 1, respectively. Audubon has also announced the promotion of David Ringer to Chief Network and Communications Officer.

Trained as an ornithologist, Dr. Gray has spent more than three decades as a dedicated conservationist, spending considerable time in the field nationally and abroad. She joins Audubon from The Nature Conservancy where she most recently held the role of Global Managing Director for Climate.

Mr. Nelson is a widely recognized leader in issues of diversity and inclusion and has a track record in helping some of the most important and visible organizations in the country transform their cultures in support of social justice. Mr. Nelson previously served as Partner and Advisor with The Management Center, a nonprofit management consulting and leadership development organization that supports social justice leaders in building and running more effective organizations.

For more information go to: [Audubon Senior Leadership Team](#)

The BIRDATHON EVENTS listed below welcome additional member participation. Please contact the individual leader to reserve a spot. These events are LIMITED and require compliance with current COVID restrictions.

## Calendar of Events

### April—May 2021

**Sunday, April 4. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Sepulveda Basin. 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Sunday, April 11. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Franklin Canyon Park. 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 30.** 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the Ventura Freeway (101) or Ventura Boulevard to Coldwater Canyon Boulevard. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. Leader: Paula Orlovich. Contact her at [54warbler@gmail.com](mailto:54warbler@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

**Tuesday, April 20. A BIRDATHON EVENT. O'Melveny Park Weekday Wander 9:00–11:00 a.m. PLEASE NOTE:** This event will be by reservation only, and limited to 10 participants. Masks and social distancing are required. Please e-mail Carolyn Oppenheimer at [c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org) to reserve a space. Come birding! 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.

**Saturday, April 24. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Hansen Dam. 8:15 a.m. Probable Species: 35.** We will travel along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way. 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. Contact Leader Pat Bates, to make a reservation, at (818) 425-0962, [batesbird@gmail.com](mailto:batesbird@gmail.com).

**Thursday, April 22. Zoom General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:00 p.m.** Join us online to learn from Dr. John McCormack about *We'll Always Have Parrots: The Past, Present, and Future of Amazona Parrots in Los Angeles*. If you are interested in joining our Zoom, please [click here](#) and enter your information. We will send you a link to the meeting. See page one for more details. See you there.

**Thursday, April 29 OR Friday, May 7. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Simi Hills/Santa Susana Mountains Big Day. 7:00a.m. Probable species 50–60.** We will meet at the Santa Susana Field Lab (if access is allowed due to COVID restrictions). Please contact the team leader to confirm date and to discuss access to the SSFL. Space will be limited. We will also bird Sage Ranch, Chatsworth Oaks Park (including Chatsworth Nature Preserve overlooks), Chatsworth Trails Reserve, Lower Browns Canyon Wash, Lower Mormon Canyon, Michael Antonovich Open Space at Joughin Ranch, Upper Browns Canyon, and after dark owling in Browns Canyon. The trip will end one hour after sunset. Leader: Mark Osokow. e-mail [Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Mark.Osokow@sfvaudubon.org).

**Monday, May 24. Zoom Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 27. Zoom General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:00 p.m.** Join us online as we learn *Everything There Is To Know About Catios with Alan Breslauer*. If you are interested in joining our Zoom, [click here](#) and enter your information. We will send you a link to the meeting. See page one for more details. 🐦

## SFVAS Assists in the Critical Care of Injured Birds at The Ojai Raptor Center *By Richard Davis*



At the January meeting, the SFVAS board of directors voted to donate \$14,000 to help Ojai Raptor Center purchase a new digital X-ray machine. Rapid assessment of injuries in birds is critical in initial diagnosis and effective treatment. Injured birds are very hard to diagnose without an X-ray machine because they can't speak and are genetically programmed to hide pain.

Previously, X-rays were obtained at external facilities but, arranging these X-rays and transporting animals off-site inevitably results in delays that subject the animal to extended pain and reduced interval for effective treatment. An in-house machine solves these problems, enables better tracking of treatment response, and facilitates forwarding of X-ray images to the veterinarian when she is off-site or on vacation.



The SFVAS donation covers roughly one third of the cost of the new X-ray machine.

The Ojai Raptor Center has, as its core missions, rehabilitation of sick, injured or orphaned wild birds, particularly raptors. Also, education programs to promote awareness of conservation measures that will improve survival and reduce injuries to these birds. The center has been in operation for years and currently treats about 1200 patients annually. It is physically located in Ojai, California but receives patients from the larger surrounding communities including the San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles area.

Pictures of the new installation and its first use in patient were provided by Kim Stroud, Executive Director of Ojai Raptor Center. 🐦

## Conservation Corner by Dave Weeshoff, Conservation Chair

### Our Conservation Goals

At the most recent San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Board of Directors meeting I shared the Goals of the Conservation Committee as enumerated below:

- Expand, protect, enhance, and mitigate avian habitats and populations
- Conduct avian-related educational programs
- Communicate to our Members and Communities avian related issues through publications, electronic media, outreach events, etc.
- Support and partner with other Audubon entities and environmental NGOs where our interests overlap
- Participate in policy-making advocacy for avian-related issues: add our voice
- Support Chapter growth through encouraging public participation
- Allocate sufficient financial resources to attain the Goals listed above consistent with our fiduciary responsibilities

This is a broad mission, focused on the following priorities:

- Local San Fernando Valley avian habitats
- Then regional, California, Western States, USA, and International habitats deemed relevant to our Mission
- Endangered, threatened, endemic, anthropogenically impacted, or Western Flyway migratory species
- Where SFVAS resources can truly make a difference on behalf of wild birds

Lately, the Conservation Committee is actively focused on the major rehabilitation of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve as a result of the fall fires, the L.A. County Los Angeles River Master Plan, the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board MS4 Stormwater Permit, California Condors vs. wind turbines in the Antelope Valley, planning a summer Haskell Creek Cleanup, and assisting the Board in their allocation of financial resources through grants, large and small, to various worthy conservation partners near and far. And the list could go on and on if we only had the time and support of enough energetic folks.

So, please, if you are just interested, or are already highly motivated, I ask that you e-mail or call and tell me you are willing to assist in following, reporting and/or acting on how avian-related conservation and educational issues are being addressed locally, regionally or nationally. Then you and our Conservation Committee can determine ways to more effectively communicate the Chapter's Goals and Priorities and apply our resources to achieve our Mission day-by-day. We need your help!

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. 🐦

## 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](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org). 🐦



**Immature Bald Eagle** photographed on Sunday, March 07, 2021, at Lake Balboa in Van Nuys, by **Alexander Viduetsky**. "It was the first time that I've seen this species there. According to eBird, the last recorded observation of a Bald Eagle at that location was on January 14, 2014."



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## SAN FERNANDO VALLEY BIRD OBSERVATORY EXPANDING! by Mark Osokow

Since 2011, San Fernando Valley Audubon has sponsored a program of bird monitoring in and around the valley and surrounding foothills in order to acquire scientifically defensible data on bird populations. The San Fernando Valley Bird Observatory was created in order to carry out that program. Under my chairmanship, as a federally permitted bird bander, the program utilizes bird banding and systematic avian census protocols to gather data at various locations. The principal focus of activity has been at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, located in the Simi Hills west of Chatsworth, where bird banding and censusing has taken place bi-weekly, except for extended interruptions caused by the Woolsey Fire of November, 2018, and the current COVID-19 pandemic. The primary purpose of these studies is to obtain information that can be used to advance conservation of the 2850 acre site as an open space refuge for wildlife, especially birds. To date, 154 species of birds have been identified on the site, and more than 1500 have been captured, processed, and released representing 58 species plus three additional taxa. In addition, the Observatory has pursued field studies at various locations in the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains to determine the effects of the Woolsey Fire on bird populations.



*Natalie adjusts mist net*

However, one of the goals of the Observatory has always been to obtain data pertaining to bird populations in the developed areas of the San Fernando Valley not protected in parks or other areas. One way to achieve this is by utilizing residential backyards for bird banding and other monitoring activities. Therefore, I am pleased to inform our members and supporters that the Observatory has established its first backyard bird banding program at the home of Natalie Beckman-Smith in the busy mid-valley area (see photos). Following an initial feasibility study, Natalie and I established a mist netting location in the yard and captured and banded our first bird in mid-January. We captured additional birds later in the month and again in mid-February. In addition to other birds captured, the second effort produced a surprise catch—a Lincoln's Sparrow. While this species is found in low numbers as a fall/winter/spring visitor at such locations as Sepulveda Basin and Chatsworth Oaks Park, it is not often reported from heavily developed areas of the valley! That is exactly the kind of information we are trying to acquire in order to ascertain the true wildlife value of the valley and imagine appropriate conservation programs targeting birds in this densely urbanized area.



*Natalie stretches to adjust net*

It is hoped that additional backyard banding locations can be established in the valley over time. If you are interested in acquiring additional information about this program, about other activities of the Observatory, or have suggestions or comments, please feel free to contact me at my e-mail address: [Mark.Osokow@sfaudubon.org](mailto:Mark.Osokow@sfaudubon.org). 🐦

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## CHATSWORTH NATURE PRESERVE COALITION by Mark Osokow

In 2012, members of various local conservation organizations and independent activists came together to form a coalition devoted to the protection of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. Located in the northwest corner of the City of Los Angeles, the preserve encompasses 1325 acres of land and water, owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), formerly comprising Chatsworth Reservoir, which was permanently removed from service in the aftermath of the destructive 1971 Sylmar Earthquake. Besides its precious open space, the last remaining in the increasingly densely populated area of the northwestern San Fernando Valley, the property is home to abundant wildlife, especially birds, and, incidentally, shelters some important historical and archeological features. (See [savechatsworthpreserve.org](http://savechatsworthpreserve.org) for lists of birds and other wildlife, photos, as well as historical and other information.) As a result of community members working with the local councilman, the Los Angeles City Council had passed an ordinance in 1994 to protect the open space, its wildlife and cultural resources – declaring it to be a “nature reserve,” and changing its name to “Chatsworth Nature Preserve/Reservoir.” Since that time DWP has operated the facilities as a nature reserve with very limited public access during an annual open house or with special permission for scientific and educational purposes.

The initial impetus for founding the Coalition was the threat of Republic Services (which had acquired the local interests of Browning Ferris Industries (BFI)) taking over a large area of the western portion of the reserve for use as a potentially destructive and deceptively identified so-called “mitigation” site to avoid responsibility for adverse impacts resulting from their expansion of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill in Sylmar. Aside from the elimination of much raptor foraging area and other adverse environmental impacts, the project would have led to the removal and fencing off of more than 140 acres from the preserve, an end to all public access (including for a portion of San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count) to that area, and opening the door to the eventual acquisition of additional acreage by the Los Angeles Department of

*Continued next page*

*CNP Coalition continued from page 7* Recreation and Parks for conversion of the area to sporting fields. The Coalition, which initially included San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Santa Susana Mountain Park Association, independent local activists, and governmental agency representatives succeeded to first delay then, ultimately, to apparently block the project entirely. As a result of Coalition action, although far from ideal, the reserve remains in much the same condition as when the “mitigation” project was first proposed.

An exception to this is an Ecology Pond, formerly comprising 30 acres, which has been divided into two sections and denied make-up water from the DWP system. DWP had provided make up water since 1974 as part of a commitment to the (then) California Department of Fish and Game to support migratory waterfowl, which used the pond throughout the migration and wintering seasons in respectable numbers and often bred there as well. Our efforts to maintain or improve the status quo were unsuccessful in that case, but work on this issue continues. We stand little chance of having the re-configuration of the pond undone, but may yet have opportunities to obtain make-up water and initiate activities to control invasive plant species, such as tamarisk. These plants consume large amounts of water and outcompete native plants, which provide better forage and cover for wildlife.

Some additional successes were achieved by the Coalition in convincing DWP to allow access to the property for the annual Christmas Bird Count after they had completely cut off access for one year. The Coalition also managed to convince DWP to allow for a Spring Bird Survey in advance of the Annual Open House, typically held in April, in which the Coalition plays an organizing role. Not to be underestimated, are the concessions made by the developer of the Andora Estates project, north of CNP, under pressure from Coalition partners, in order to minimize additional adverse impacts on the preserve. This is only a partial list of successes, and there is much work yet to be done. In the hope that such work can be facilitated, positive relationships have been established between the Coalition and the offices of local elected officials.

This is a long-term effort to promote conservation of the largest remaining open space in the San Fernando Valley. I have been proud to serve as the SFVAS delegate to the Coalition – approved by the Board years ago – and hope to continue in that role, provided there is SFVAS support for the Coalition. For additional information, please see [savechatsworthpreserve.org](http://savechatsworthpreserve.org), review the Wikipedia posting on the Coalition, or contact me at [mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:mark.osokow@sfvaudubon.org). 🐦

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## Feeder Freakout? No...

*Your* feathered friends have come to depend on the seed you put out. It compensates for the loss of natural food sources that birds are experiencing almost everywhere.

There has been some buzz around, advising people in Southern California to take down their feeders in order to protect local birds from salmonella bacteria brought into the area by Pine Siskins. It's true that these nomadic finches have been blamed for an outbreak in the Pacific Northwest. However, there is no evidence that infected birds have come as far down as SoCal. Which isn't to say it could never happen, but taking down all feeders is not necessary now, and what few Pine Siskins have come to our area will be gone by mid-to-late Spring. If this situation changes, SFVAS will sound the alert, but we do not anticipate this being necessary.



Salmonella bacteria are transmitted only by contact with feces. This can be more of an issue if you have a platform feeder than if you favor a hanging-tube feeder, but that's always the case: platform feeders do require more frequent cleaning and sanitizing. The Nyjer-seed feeders most favored by goldfinches do not offer birds much contact with one another's poop, yet occasional sanitizing is still a good practice.



Bird baths offer plenty of opportunity for birds to come in contact with one another's droppings. Thus, frequent emptying and refilling, with the occasional scrub-out, is recommended for the protection of your bathing and drinking visitors.

Birds benefit greatly from being offered food and water; bird-lovers enjoy their seasonal comings and goings with the occasional exotic migrant as icing on the cake. As long as you're mindful of a routine degree of cleanliness, taking down your feeders in Southern California is likely to do more harm than good. 🐦





# San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

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

Website: <http://www.sfvaudubon.org/>  
E-mail: [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 27, 2021

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 e-mail as described in the instructions below, by May 27, 2021. The Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for May 27, 2021, has been indefinitely postponed by necessity because of the National Emergency arising from the global pandemic known as COVID-19 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 to the Board of Directors, and ratified by the Board. No other candidates have been nominated, so none of the seats is contested.

Candidate	Office
Pat Bates	Treasurer
Barbara Heidemann	Recording Secretary
Katheryn Barton	Corresponding Secretary
Luisa Bergeron	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board
Rebecca Marschall	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 (below), 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 27, 2021. 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 e-mail 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 e-mail the Society at [sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sfvaudubonsociety@gmail.com).

### MEMBER BALLOT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (2021-2022)

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:

Candidate	Office	Yes	No	Withhold
Pat Bates	Treasurer	___	___	___
Barbara Heidemann	Recording Secretary	___	___	___
Katheryn Barton	Corresponding Secretary	___	___	___
Luisa Bergeron	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board	___	___	___
Rebecca Marschall	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.

# Virtual Birds for Virtual Birding *Submitted by Arthur Langton* **BEACH BIRDS**

Tan or use sunscreen while enjoying birds, the sea breeze, or shooting the curl. In current times, an imagination helps.

Photos courtesy of Don Shoemaker, Arthur Langton, and Stephen Langton  
Taxidermy by Igor Caragodin

Match the bird to its name.

- A) Ring-billed Gull
- B) Western Grebe
- C) Common Tern
- D) Red-necked Phalarope
- E) California Gull
- F) Heermann's Gull
- G) Wimbrel
- H) Black-bellied Plover
- I) Brown Pelican
- J) Bonaparte's Gull
- K) Western Gull
- L) Sanderling
- M) Western Sandpiper
- N) Ruddy Turnstone
- O) Black Skimmer



Bird 1



Bird 5



Bird 9



Bird 10



Bird 6



Bird 11



Bird 2



Bird 7



Bird 12



Bird 3



Bird 4



Bird 8



Bird 13

—Answers on back page—



# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 399-1994
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

## AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Benny Jacobs-Schwartz	(818) 939-9913
Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Natalie Beckman-Smith	(818) 926-7825
Wendy Barsh	(818) 398-2104
Marylou Hanna	(310) 463-4882

## 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
Programs:	Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
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) 399-1994
Field Trips:	OPEN	
Hansen Dam Rep:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Hansen Dam Birding:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Hospitality:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Malibu Creek Birding:	Dave Barton	(310) 990-6896
	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Membership:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
O'Melveny Bird Wander:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
OneWaterLA Group Rep.:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Publicity:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Sepulveda Basin Birding:	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:	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425

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

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

Follow us on:



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, 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*)  
.....**FREE** for a limited time for new members \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 e-mail address if you want to receive an acknowledgment. We can no longer thank you by regular mail. If you do not have an e-mail 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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### Answers Beach Birds Quiz:

1:J, 2:F, 3:O, 4:A, 5:K, 6:I, 7:M, 8:L, 9:D, 10:C, 11:N & H, 12:B, 13:G

### Haskell Creek Clean-Up

SFVAS and Friends of the LA River (FoLAR) and the RCD are planning a cleanup of Haskell Creek in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve on Saturday, June 19 from 8:00 AM to Noon. Please check our website on **April 22** for more information and how to sign up for this important effort.

### Diversity & Inclusion Statement / Shared Narrative

San Fernando Valley Audubon is proud to declare our commitment to fostering an open and welcoming environment for all. Our goal is to allow everyone to feel like they belong in nature, through our shared goal of a more equitable outdoors, including advocacy for the environment, stewardship of our local landscapes, and educational opportunities surrounding birds and ecology. We are intent on facilitating a safe space where deepened relationships between the community and nature can flourish. We firmly believe that an equitable outdoor experience can be cultivated through community collaboration.

We own the responsibility to evolve the dynamics of our birding environment to be one that people feel comfortable and eager to join by:

- Reflecting the diversity of the community in our board, staff, volunteers, and members.
- Ensuring our internal culture, organizational practices, and programs are welcoming and advance our diversity goals.
- Empowering people to make positive changes in their community and environment.
- Creating a community of birders, both present and prospective, who feel valued by their presence and empowered by birding and the consequential joys it brings.

We invite anyone who is curious about birding or eager to spend time in Los Angeles's natural outdoors to join us!