



Phainopepla

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For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife

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April / May 2022

Online General Membership Zoom Meetings

We hope you will join us for our informative Zoom meetings. [Click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to all events.

Become a **NEW** member
Your first year is **FREE!**
Go to SFVAudubon.org

Birdathon is ON!

TIME TO COUNT BIRDS AND RAISE MONEY TO SUPPORT SBEEP. JOIN ONE OR MORE OF THE BIRDATHON EVENTS LISTED IN THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS, AND/OR DONATE TO SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE TEAM LEADER(S).

DONATE ONLINE AT WWW.SFVAUDUBON.ORG
Thank you for your support!

IMPORTANT

VOTE! ALL MEMBERS: PLEASE VOTE ONLINE, OR FILL OUT THE FORM ON PAGE 6, FOR THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS. WE NEED YOUR VOTES!

—Save the date—

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, JUNE 4
FRANKLIN CANYON
GO TO SFVAUDUBON.ORG
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Birds, Bagels, and Ballots Brunch at the Sepulveda Basin

Sunday, April 3, 2022
Birdwalk 8:00—11:00 a.m.
Brunch 10:30—11:45 a.m.



Please join us on Sunday, April 3, for a Birds, Bagels, and Ballots Brunch at the Sepulveda Basin. The brunch will start at 10:30 in the morning and include bagels, cream cheese, and coffee provided by the San Fernando Valley Audubon chapter. An optional bird outing will also be held at 8:00 a.m. at the Basin, led by Kris Ohlenkamp. We will also be providing ballots and pens to members of the SFV Audubon chapter at the brunch so you can vote in the annual election of Officers and the Board of Directors. Voting for Officers and members of the Board of Directors must be by written ballot. Because our Annual Meeting that is scheduled for May 26 will be on Zoom, we won't get the chance to hand out ballots to attendees and we need 50 members to cast ballots in order to achieve a quorum. *Please bring your own chair.*

Directions to Birdwalk and/or Brunch: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right. 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.

General Membership Meeting — Zoom Presentation

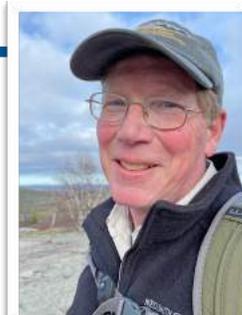
Thursday, May 26, 2022
7:00—8:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Scott Weidensaul

Topic: A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds

Even as scientists make astounding discoveries about the navigational and physiological feats that enable migratory birds to cross immense oceans or fly above the highest mountains, go weeks without sleep, or remain in unbroken flight for months at a stretch, humans have brought many migrants to the brink. Based on his newest book, *A World on the Wing*, author and researcher Scott Weidensaul takes you around the globe—with researchers in the lab probing the limits of what migrating birds can do, to the shores of the Yellow Sea in China, the remote mountains of northeastern India where tribal villages saved the greatest gathering of falcons on the planet, and the Mediterranean, where activists and police battle bird poachers—to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Living on the Wind* and his latest, the *New York Times* bestseller, *A World on the Wing*. Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for *Bird Watcher's Digest* and writes for a variety of other publications, including *Living Bird*. He is a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society and an active field researcher, studying saw-whet owl migration for more than two decades, as well as winter hummingbirds, bird migration in Alaska, and the winter movements of snowy owls through Project SNOWstorm, which he co-founded.



Now Announcing: Birdathon 2022 !!!

By Richard Davis – Email: Birdathon@sfvaudubon.org



Spring has Sprung and Audubon's Birthday (April 26) is approaching. That can only mean one thing: It's time for Birdathon, our major annual fund-raising 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	Directions
3-Apr	Kris Ohlenkamp	Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve-8am	60	kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net	Get Directions
10-Apr	Paula Orlovich	Franklin Canyon - 8am	30	54warbler@gmail.com	Get Directions
19-Apr	Carolyn Oppenheimer	O'Melveny Park - 9am	35	c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org	Get Directions
23-Apr	Pat Bates	Hansen Dam - 8:15am	40	batesbird@gmail.com	Get Directions
30-Apr	Luisa Bergeron & Rebecca Marschall	Orcutt Ranch - 9am	20	youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org	Get Directions
15-May	Kathy and Dave Barton	Malibu Creek State Park - 8am	35-40	katheryn.barton@gmail.com	Get Directions
TBD	Art Langton	Highway 33: From the Ocean to the Mountains	80		
TBD	Allan and Muriel Kotin	Malibu and Nearby	50		
TBD	John and Andrew Willis Lori Willis Memorial Fund	TBD	30		



Like everything else in our lives, the Covid-19 pandemic has strongly impacted Birdathon but, we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. For most of the outings, we show the email address for the Team leader and a link for directions to that event. In these cases, the leaders are open to including attendees in their outing, of course, with everyone observing whatever Covid-19 precautions are currently in effect at that time.

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. If you have questions or concerns you may email the Team Leader to clarify any

details. If an outing shows no email 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 email 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. (Email me too. I'll make a pledge to your event!: 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. Last year, the pandemic shut down almost all such field trips. However, we were able to divert much of this resource to supporting online materials to reach this same population until we could meet again, in person.

Now, we are pleased to announce that live, in-person, SBEEP field trips have resumed and, we are excited to continue building on this SFVAS tradition.

Make your Pledge or Donate Now by clicking [HERE](#) or scanning the QR code

Further details of these Birdathon events will be distributed by email and on our [website](#).



Come Support Our Kids

Please help us continue to grow the SBEEP Program
Donate Generously to Birdathon 2022

<https://d.docs.live.net/fafbsac40c5f1b64c/RCDD/Birdathon/Birdathon2022/sfvaudubon.org>

For information about this appeal, call (818) 995-1432
 - THIS IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT - FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION ONLY -
INFORMATION CARD NO. R6869
 Issued Pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code, Chapter IV, Article 4, Pflanzthru
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, 2022
Solicitation Dates: April 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022
Purpose: Net proceeds to support environmental education for Los Angeles schools and free programs for the public.
Previous: 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.

Contributor registered with the Los Angeles Police Commission
 Candidate Service Sector, Commission Investigator Division
 Telephone: (213) 986-1560
 E-mail Address: ladwp@ladwp.com
 Web Site: www.ladwp.com

Date Issued: 2/18/22
 DEMAN F. WYMA
 Commanding Officer
 Commission Investigator Division

HELP PROTECT LOCAL WILDLIFE! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE SPRING CREEK CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022 - 8:30-NOON

Haskell Creek, where it runs through Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods and willows. Songbird's forage and nest in the trees, while egrets and herons fish in this heart of the Wildlife Area. The needed winter rains brought a trash infestation. Please help clean up the mess, restoring our lovely creek!

Equipment and Clothing: You will get muddy and maybe wet. Please wear rugged clothing and shoes or rubber boots. If you have them, bring work gloves and long-handled tools to reach trash. We have trash bags and a limited supply of other equipment for you to use.

Directions: The Wildlife Reserve is east of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way about a half mile, going halfway around a traffic circle, to the parking area at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater behind the rock-faced buildings between 8:30 and 9:15AM.

More: The event is appropriate for **adults, college and high school students, and younger students who are accompanied by an adult.** Students can get **certificates** and earn **community service hours.** **Rain cancels.**

Tours: At 11:00AM, tours of the Wildlife Reserve will be offered to participants to give them a broader picture of the Wildlife Reserve.

Questions: 213.500-4143 (Muriel) or Paula (818.481-5605).

Sponsored by San Fernando Valley Audubon www.SFVAudubon.org
In conjunction with Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

Chatsworth Nature Preserve

Earth Day Open House
Saturday, April 23, 2022
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Celebrate Earth Day at the only Nature Preserve in the City of Los Angeles

Event Highlights include: Opening Ceremony with Native American Blessing, Guided Nature Hikes, Live Animal Exhibitions, & Community Resource Fair.

Location & Parking: Entry gate on Valley Circle Blvd, west of Plummer St. Street parking available with limited on-site parking. [Map](#)

Bring hats, refillable water bottles, sunscreen and comfortable walking shoes. No bikes, scooters, pets, drones, cigarettes of any kind.

ladwp.com

Sign Language interpreters, Assistive Listening Devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request at least 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. Due to difficulties in securing Sign Language interpreters, five or more business day notice is strongly recommended. To request accommodation, please call 213-367-1076. TDD: 800 HEAR DWP (800 432-7397).

SFVAS's SUSTAINABLE POLLINATOR PILOT PROJECT - LAFD STATION 83 by *Jim Houghton (1/28/22)*

The City of Los Angeles is the largest U.S. city to date certified as a biodiversity haven by the National Wildlife Federation - and it can get even better! The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS), already an environmental champion in our region, has launched and funded a biodiversity pilot project at Los Angeles Fire Department Station 83 in Encino. While most of the station frontage was landscaped with rock in 2021, a portion was left open for installation of a pollinator garden, with a vision of extending this type of environmental infill project throughout the City of Los Angeles to further the mission of the SFVAS.



Fire Station 83, NW corner

The immediate goals are to increase the amount of habitat for pollinators in the community; to provide an example for the community of how this can be done and how they can be involved; to provide environmental education opportunities for local school children; and to provide a pleasant space for residents to enjoy nature. Long term goals include expanding the program to a variety of

municipal facilities. There are 106 City of Los Angeles Fire Stations, and 160 LADWP distribution stations. While many of these facilities have installed drought-resistant landscaping, too often it is mostly rocks with a few non-native plants, which does nothing for habitat or biodiversity. Further, many of these facilities are in areas with special needs - including park-poor neighborhoods and high fire-severity locations. Proper design and installation of the native plant palette can be an enduring asset for any location.



The Station 83 area has irregularly shaped planting beds and four mature trees. Beginning in January 2022, the beds were cleared of weeds, reshaped, and planted with a variety of mostly native (or near-native) plants which attract a variety of pollinators.

The garden is being professionally designed and installed. Volunteers with the SFVAS will be watering the plants and pulling weeds as necessary. Besides needing little or no water when fully established, the garden must be low maintenance, as the local LAFD stations have to take care of their landscaping. The Los Angeles City Mayor's office and City Council are following the progress of this pilot program. We welcome their efforts to encourage this type of project throughout the City. 🐦

Calendar of Events

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION ON OUR BIRD OUTINGS. WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES.

April 2022

Sunday, April 3. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Probable Species: 60. Optional Bagel Brunch and Ballots. 10:30 a.m. Join us for bagels and coffee following

the bird walk and vote for the upcoming Board of Directors. See page 1 for more information. 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.



Saturday, April 9. Sepulveda Basin Clean-up 8:30a.m.—noon.

Haskell Creek, where it runs through Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods and willows. Volunteers needed to help clean up and restore our lovely creek!

Equipment and Clothing: You will get muddy and maybe wet. Please wear rugged clothing and shoes or rubber boots. If you have them, bring work gloves and long-handled tools to reach trash. We have trash bags and a limited supply of other equipment for you to use.

Directions: The Wildlife Reserve is east of Woodley Ave. about a half mile north of Burbank Blvd. Turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden (6100 Woodley Ave., Van Nuys, CA. 91406), stay to the right, and follow Wildlife Way about a half mile, going halfway around a traffic circle, to the parking area at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater behind the rock-faced buildings between 8:30 and 9:15AM.

More: The event is appropriate for adults, college, and high school students, and younger students who are accompanied by an adult. Students can get certificates and earn community service hours. Rain cancels.

Tours: At 11:00AM, tours of the Wildlife Reserve will be offered to participants to give them a broader picture of the Wildlife Reserve.

Questions: 213.500-4143 (Muriel) or Paula (818.481-5605).

Sunday, April 10. 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 Blvd. to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. Leader: Paula Orlovich. See website sfvaudubon.org under Events to reserve a spot.

Thursday, April 14. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park. 10:00—11:30 a.m. If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and

all of nature, join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at O'Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3rd Thursday.) What to bring: a cushion or a comfortable chair, a beverage/snack, binoculars, a journal, and something to write/draw with. This event is limited to 10 people. To reserve a spot, contact Diana Keeney at diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org or Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org.

Sunday, April 17. Malibu Creek State Park. 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 19. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Weekday Wander at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Probable Species:

35. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at (818) 885-7493 (before 7 p.m.), or carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, April 23. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Hansen Dam. 11640 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, 8:15 a.m. Probable Species: 40. We will travel along a dirt

road at the base of the dam—exploring promising sites along the way. Directions: From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Osborne, go right on Foothill, then left (about 0.15 mile) into the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields parking lot. Meet in the dirt lot on the east side of the parking lot. Leader: Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962, batesbird@gmail.com.



Saturday, April 30. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Young Birders Group. Orcutt Ranch, 23600 Roscoe Blvd., West Hills, 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. Probable Species: 20. Join us for a fun and interactive bird outing! All ages

are welcome but this event will be geared towards K-12 students. The locations vary monthly. As this is an outdoor activity face masks are not required, but strongly encouraged to keep our younger and high-risk attendees safe. Directions: Take Topanga Canyon Blvd., to Roscoe Blvd. Turn west on Roscoe and drive two miles. Meet in the parking lot. We have a limited supply of binoculars so please bring your own if possible. Interested in joining us? Just show up, or e-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org for more information.

May 2022

Sunday, May 1. Sepulveda Basin. 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@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday, May 8. Franklin Canyon Park. 8:00 a.m. 2600 Franklin Canyon Dr., Beverly Hills. Directions: From the San Fernando Valley, take the Ventura

Freeway (101) or Ventura Blvd. to Coldwater Canyon Blvd. Head south to the intersection of Coldwater Canyon and Mulholland Drive. Make a 90-degree right turn onto Franklin Canyon Drive. Leader: Paula Orlovich. See website sfvaudubon.org under Events to reserve a spot.

Thursday, May 12. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park. 10:00—11:30 a.m. If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature,

join us on the 2nd Thursday of each month at O'Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3rd Thursday.) What to bring: a cushion or a comfortable chair, a beverage/snack, binoculars, a journal, and something to write/draw with. This event is limited to 10 people.

To reserve a spot, contact Diana Keeney at diana.keeney@sfvaudubon.org or Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org.



Sunday, May 15. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Malibu Creek State Park. 8:00 a.m. Probable Species: 35-40. 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, May 17. FINAL of the Season. Weekday Wander 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@sfvaudubon.org.

Monday, May 23. SFVAS ZOOM Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 26. General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Scott Weidensaul, author of, *A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds*. Join us as Scott Weidensaul takes us around the globe to learn how people are fighting to understand and save the world's great bird migrations. See page 1 for more information. [Click here](#) to sign up and we will send you the link. If you've signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you're already on our list!

Saturday, May 28. Hansen Dam. 11640 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, 8:00 a.m. We will travel along a dirt road at the base of the dam—exploring

promising sites along the way. Directions: From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Osborne, go right on Foothill, then left (about 0.15 mile) into the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields parking lot. Meet in the dirt lot on the east side of the parking lot. Leader: Pat Bates, (818) 425-0962, batesbird@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 28. Young Birders Group. Hansen Dam. 9:00—11:00



a.m. Join us for a fun and interactive bird outing! All ages are welcome but this event will be geared towards K-12 students. The locations vary monthly. Feel free to bring a notebook and pencil to participate in extra activities. As this is an outdoor activity face masks are not required, but strongly encouraged to keep our younger and high-risk attendees safe. Directions: From the 210 Freeway eastbound, exit at Osborne, go right on Foothill, then left (about 0.15

mile) into the Hansen Dam Soccer Fields parking lot. Meet in the dirt lot on the east side of the parking lot. We have a limited supply of binoculars so please bring your own if possible. Interested in joining us? Just show up, or e-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org for more information.

Meet the Candidates by Carolyn Oppenheimer

Most of the names you will find on our ballot (next page) in this issue of the *Phainopepla* should be familiar to you. These are people who have volunteered their services to the chapter for many years and have offered to continue their service in new roles.

Kathy Barton joined the board of SFVAS in 2016 as a Board Member at Large. After that she served on the executive board as both recording and corresponding secretary. Most of you may know her as the wonderful co-leader with her spouse, David, of the monthly birding trip at Malibu Canyon State Park. We are so pleased that Kathy has agreed to take on the challenging position of SFVAS President. We feel that with her at the helm our chapter will be in good hands. Kathy says that she looks forward to filling the office of president of SFVAS. She admits, "It can't be any harder than identifying those darn empidonax flycatchers!"

Rebecca LeVine is on the ballot to serve as 1st Vice President. Rebecca has been the editor of the *Phainopepla* since 2006. Her service as our newsletter editor has kept her closely in touch with our chapter's involvements over those years. Consequently, she has accumulated a vast storehouse of knowledge of our history and how this relates to us reaching our goals for the future.

Most past Presidents of SFVAS are ready to fade into an advisory role but **Paula Orlovich** has shown so much dedication to our chapter she has agreed to serve as 2nd Vice President after her term as President ends this year. Over her four years as president she has faced many challenges. Among them those unexpected problems were the Covid 19 pandemic, the fire in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area and the reversion of the Tucker Bird Sanctuary to SFVAS. She has also served for eight years as our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Chair and is the leader of our birding trips in Franklin Canyon. Paula says, "It will be a pleasure to continue to work with such a great group of people."

Teri Carnesciali has agreed to take over the job of Corresponding Secretary. Teri has previously served as 1st Vice President. In that position she attended the meetings of the Southern California Chapter Council. This experience gives her a perspective of what is going on with the other Audubon chapters in our area. Knowledge like this helps us find solutions to problems we may share with our neighboring chapters.

We are happy to introduce you to two new individuals that will be joining SFVAS board as Board Members-at-Large.

Board Member-at-Large candidate, **Pat Turner**, has also recently come to appreciate the joy of birding and has joined in on most of our local birding outings. Pat is a UCLA professor of World Arts and Culture/Dance as well as professor of African American Studies. As a new birder she often photographs the birds she encounters to help her with identification after the bird has flown away. She credits SFVAS, its walk leaders and regulars, for inspiring her to hone her skills.

Charlie Wilken recently retired as a teacher at Van Nuys High School after 31 years. He taught science and industrial arts classes. He has developed a keen interest in promoting environmental education and he is actively working with LAUSD in expanding its programs in environmental studies. He and his wife have recently started devoting more time to birding and they have joined many of our local birding trips. Charlie loves to learn what birds are around by their sound. He is developing a website for outdoor education <https://www.outdooreducationla.org/>. He is a member of the LA climate reality project and is working to pass and promote a "Climate Literacy resolution" at LAUSD. 🐦

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. 🐦



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
 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 26, 2022

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 26, 2022. The Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for May 26, 2022, will be conducted via Zoom because we no longer meet in person due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Candidate	Office
Katheryn Barton	President
Rebecca LeVine	1 st Vice President
Paula Orlovich	2 nd Vice President
Teri Carnesciali	Corresponding Secretary
Pat Turner	1 st Year Board
Charlie Wilkin	1 st Year Board

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. 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.

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.

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.

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 26, 2022. You may return the completed ballot to the Society by mailing it to the following address: San

In order to achieve a quorum, 50 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.

MEMBER BALLOT: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS (2022–2023)

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
Katheryn Barton	President	___	___	___
Rebecca LeVine	1 st Vice President	___	___	___
Paula Orlovich	2 nd Vice President	___	___	___
Teri Carnesciali	Corresponding Secretary	___	___	___
Pat Turner	1 st Year Board	___	___	___
Charlie Wilkin	1 st 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.

Bird Collection at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology



Mural at the entrance to the bird collection at Moore Laboratory by Jane Kim

Jane Kim, famous for creating the “Wall of Birds” at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology also produced several stunning murals at the entry of the Moore Laboratory.

Recently, members of the SFVAS had the privilege to tour the bird collection at the Moore Laboratory of Zoology, Occidental College with the Moore Lab director, Dr. John McCormack, serving as guide.

The Moore Laboratory is named after Robert Thomas Moore (1882-1958) who, appearing as something like an Indiana Jones character, returned with excited press coverage to Southern California from an expedition to Ecuador where he had scaled two of the region’s largest volcanoes and had, in collaboration with local ornithologists, collected over 3000 bird specimens from the local avifauna. It is those birds, preserved as “skins,” that form the heart of the bird collection at modern-day Moore Laboratory. Today, the Moore Lab collection has expanded to nearly 63,000 birds.



Moore, unlike Indiana Jones, ostensibly was in the business of farming silver foxes in San Gabriel but, in reality, devoted most of his time to ornithology. As an affiliate of Caltech, Moore joined in an energetic effort with other local ornithologists to build a comprehensive bird collection that was initially kept at Moore’s home but in 1951 was transferred to Occidental College. (For more details, see <https://moorelab.oxy.edu/about/history>)

At first, the room housing the collection seems spare, mostly white cabinets and walls with only a few taxidermically mounted birds on display. However, the room containing the collection is more of a climate-controlled vault and almost all the specimens are found in a set of drawers that form a long center island and in cabinets that line the walls.

Opening those drawers, however, reveals an amazing array of birds with brilliant colors and a huge span of sizes and shapes. Altogether, in one tray, might contain representative pairs of a dozen species. And, although the internal organs as well as the eyes have been replaced with cotton, the overall structures and most external features; beaks, claws, legs and especially the feathers are there with all their colors, undiminished with time. For me, it was staggering to see, up close, so many birds that I would be thrilled, at some time in my life, to see briefly through a spotting scope.

Speaking of color, Dr. McCormack took us briefly through the biology of color in bird feathers. Many of the colors are based on colored pigments such as melanins. Melanins absorb light and, depending on the specific melanin and its concentration, we may see deep black to subtle grey or combinations of these with red and yellow melanins to form various colors from deep red brown to pale yellow. Another class of light-absorbing pigments found in bird feathers are the carotenoids that produce specific characteristic colors, typically bright reds oranges and yellows. Unlike melanins which are synthesized by cells in the skin, carotenoids that produce color in bird feathers come from plants algae and fungi in their diets although, in some cases birds have the capacity to modify a carotenoid-precursor that they have eaten into the specific carotenoid *(continued next page)*



Los Angeles Times 1929

Conqueror of Untrod Heights Home Again

Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Moore arrive at port from South America. Prof. Moore is the second man to climb 17,500-foot Sangay Volcano in Ecuador. Mrs. Moore went to the 17,000-foot level with him.



structure within the feathers themselves. Think of the rainbow of colors you sometime see reflected from oily puddles on pavement right after a rain. The oil is not pigmented but, depending on the thickness of layer and depending on the angle from which you see it, the thin layer selectively reflects different colors. Feathers are made from layers of keratin proteins. The thickness of the surface layer and the angle from which you see it determine the color of the light that is predominantly reflected to your eye. That brilliant sheen you see on a hummingbirds throat shifts in color as the bird moves. And, the blue in bluebird feathers does not come from pigment.

Two species that were especially exciting for me to see were the Harpy eagle and the Quetzal. I've seen documentaries about both these amazing birds but, it is hard to imagine their scale and coloration from the view on a TV screen. The huge Harpy eagle takes one full tray to itself. Female Harpy eagles have been recorded with



Head-on with hummers: Whenever else, in my lifetime, am I going to see several species of hummingbirds lined up at the perfect angle for viewing the amazing display of (structurally based) colors in their head and throat patches?

weights as high as 27 lbs., with males typically registering in the range of 22 lbs. That is as big or bigger than the Butterball turkeys we buy at Thanksgiving, but these eagles are fully functional, evolutionarily competent, birds. They have evolved in the wild to successfully rear ongoing generations of progeny, as opposed to animals selectively bred for size that can barely stand up and would likely drown or succumb to hypothermia if caught in a rainstorm.

See the amazing Harpy eagle talons, the largest of any living eagle, which it uses to snatch tree-dwelling mammals such as monkeys and sloths that are present in tropical lowland rainforests from Mexico to Brazil and Argentina. In fact, the bird is so strong that it can lift prey with weight equal to its own. Unfortunately, the Harpy eagle is succumbing to habitat-loss due to unrestrained logging throughout its territory and is almost extinct in Central America with the exception of some



The massive Harpy eagle takes up its own drawer.

areas of Panama. It is good to see that some more ecologically sound timber-harvesting strategies appear to be effective in supporting reproductive success of this animal.

The male Resplendent Quetzal, although much less massive than the Harpy eagle, can be significantly longer due to the extremely long tail feathers (up to 39 inches compared to the maximum length of 3 feet 6 inches overall, for the Harpy eagle). Presumably, the extravagant plumage displayed by this (continued next page)



Dr. McCormack shows us the Resplendent Quetzal from the Moore Lab Collection



Supreet Sahoo, Resplendent Quetzal in Costa Rica. Cropping by RDavis, CC BY-SA 4.0 from Wikipedia.



Imperial Woodpecker, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet The only birds in the Moore Lab collection that are extinct in the wild.

Birds, numbering perhaps in the billions, migrated in flocks that darkened the skies for hours and generated sounds likened to “a thousand threshing machines running under full headway, accompanied by as many steamboats groaning off steam, with an equal quota of R.R. trains passing through covered bridges.” In less than a century, the bird was gone, an extinction that shocked the nation, an impossibility because the numbers of birds had been so large.

bird is driven by sexual selection, a process hypothesized by Darwin where female choice of mating partners drives the evolution of characteristics in the male that, from a survival-fitness point of view, are maladaptive and yet lead to overall breeding success. In fact, the male Resplendent Quetzal is a very poor flyer and yet, he clearly wows the ladies.

Once again, the brilliant shimmering green coloration so characteristic for this bird is the result of physical structures in the feathers rather than pigmentation.

We are all aware of the rapid decline in bird populations over the last few decades. Any yet, among the thousands of birds present in the Moore lab collection, only three species are thought to be extinct in the wild. These are the Imperial Woodpecker, the Passenger Pigeon, and the Carolina Parakeet.

Most famous, of course, is the case of the Passenger Pigeon that once was the most abundant bird in the Americas.



Despite the huge number of Passenger Pigeons at their population-peak, surprisingly few specimens survive in collections. Dr. McCormack speculates this specimen was originally on an upright wall-mount, with this side facing out and fitted with a glass eye.



John Litzey Ridgway (1859–1947), Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

In fact, that rapid extinction sparked some of the earliest conservation movements in the country. *Audubon Magazine* has published a very interesting review of this bird, its amazing population, the combination of factors that so rapidly led to its demise and some thoughts about using modern technology to revive the species.

The Imperial Woodpecker is believed extinct due to the impact of deforestation, forest fragmentation, and hunting in its habitat of montane forests of Mexico. If alive, it would be the world’s largest woodpecker. It is sometimes



Picture of a mounted specimen of the Carolina Parakeet or Carolina Conure Huub Veldhuijzen van Zanten/Naturalis Biodiversity Center, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

called the Mexican Ivory-billed Woodpecker after the closely related Ivory-billed Woodpecker of Cuba and the Southern US, also thought to be extinct or nearly extinct from similar causes.

The Carolina Parakeet had a wide distribution in old-growth wetland forests as far north as New England, as far west as Colorado and south to the Gulf of Mexico. Many causes contributed to its demise; certainly deforestation, but also, use of its feathers in fashion decoration, and deliberate extermination as a means to control crop predation. It is even suggested that imported honeybees competed for their nesting cavities in swampland forests.

This bird collection is more than a relic of a bygone era.

The Moore Laboratory is taking advantage of its collection to make significant contributions to 21st century science and education. One example is the oBIRD 3D project. In this project, one of Dr. McCormack’s students, Josh Medina, developed a platform for creating 3D images for birds in the Moore Lab collection. This is achieved by using computers to merge several hundred high-resolution photographic images into a single 3-dimensional image that can be rotated and examined from any angle. It is as if you could hold that bird in your hand and turn it over to examine any feature of the bird, magnified to any level you like. (continued next page)



Image from Moore Lab website



You can try it out using this [LINK](#) to access a set of birds scanned by this process.

Scientifically, this is valuable because it shares the bird collection as a resource within the scientific community. Morphometric measurements carried out on the 3D image are comparable to the same measurements carried out on the physical

specimen. And not just physical structural measurements. The colors in the photographs have been carefully calibrated against color standards to ensure faithful reproduction.

In addition, oBird 3D project provides broad access to the collection for educational purposes without risk of damage to the specimens.

The bird collection also serves as a DNA library for molecular evolution and conservation studies. By analyzing DNA sequences from birds in the collection, it is possible to study how bird populations have dispersed



from the original point of collection and what evolutionary changes may have occurred in response to current environmental challenges in their habitats. This information helps researchers better understand current bird populations, how individual species are related to one another, and what forces shaped their evolution over millions of years.



and what forces shaped their evolution over millions of years.

Dr. McCormack sees that the scientific mission of Moore Laboratory is "to unite cutting-edge science with museum collections to more fully understand and protect the living museum of biodiversity that exists on Earth." But as an educational institution within Occidental College, the laboratory also serves to train the next generation of ornithologists in state-of-the-art technologies to best serve conservation of these animals.



The laboratory periodically hosts behind the scenes tours of the bird collection. You may track the scheduling of these tours or request one for your group [HERE](#).



We thoroughly enjoyed the visit, found the collection fascinating, and are looking forward to learning more about the research coming out of McCormack's group. In the past, Dr. McCormack has presented several lectures to our SFVAS chapter and we hope to hear more from him and his students at upcoming events. —By Richard Davis

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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.

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Phainopepla

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Book Reports by Marianne Davis

In preparation for our recent presentation by Peter Coates on Crows and Ravens....

Mind of the Raven, by Bernd Heinrich (available at LAPL), is all about his long term research and experiments with ravens. He had several birds over many years, kept them in an area, and eventually released them after he finished his research. Several things stood out for me: Ravens get bored. They like novel things, obsess on them, and hyper-focus on anything that tastes good. Presented with a milk carton or a plastic bottle, they make quick work of each object using their strong beaks. There are many reports of ravens who wreak havoc in urban environments, using their insatiable thirst for the new. This trait makes them one of the most hardy and adaptive birds, as they explore and shred pretty much everything to see if it tastes good, does something interesting, or could be a play object. In Juneau, an Easter egg hunt had to be called off, since ravens were making off with all the colored eggs and probably feasting on them somewhere else. Golf tournaments have the same problems, as ravens are attracted to light round objects. Their curiosity does decline with age, thank goodness, and they become more shy of new objects later. The other interesting discussion Heinrich delved into was how some Native American tribes call ravens “wolf-birds.” When wolves are present, ravens feel free to feed...there’s a lively discussion about who attracts whom, but nevertheless they are usually linked and found together.

Gifts of the Crow, by John Marzluff and Tony Angell, available on Audible. This lengthy story about how crows play, learn, and refine their actions. So many stories that are amazing, clearly these are vastly intelligent birds who make their way through our world with great success. As Marzluff said, “you hear a lot of strange stories about animals in our work. If it’s a about a crow, then it’s probably true.” Really great listening.

