

# Phainopepla



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## Monthly Program

### General Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 26, 2012,

7:00 p.m.

**Topic: "Pelagic Birding off Southern California: What You See When You Go to Sea"**

**Speaker: David Pereksta**

The waters offshore of southern California are one of the last birding frontiers in the state. An exciting mix of local breeders, arctic nesting migrants, and austral migrants that are rarely if ever seen from land can be found at sea if you know when, where, and how to look for them. A limited number of trips, unpredictable weather, and challenging viewing conditions make pelagic birding trips an adventurous way to explore this frontier. Birders wishing to see these special birds must find some of the few scheduled trips each year, get a reservation before they sell out, and hope that the weather and birds cooperate. David Pereksta will show us what experiences southern California pelagic birding trips offer. David has spent over 100 days at sea off southern California and will describe the species that occur



off our coast, where local pelagic trips go and how they operate, and how to best schedule a trip to see the birds (and marine mammals) you are looking for. Bring your soda crackers, Dramamine, and binoculars for this program that is richly illustrated with the best of the thousands of photos of birds and marine mammals David has taken at sea.

David is an Avian Biologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, where he studies and analyzes the effects of offshore oil and gas, and renewable energy development on birds off the Pacific coast. Throughout his career with various Federal and State agencies, he has studied several imperiled bird species including Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, Least Terns, Ospreys, Northern Goshawks, Brown Pelicans, Spotted Owls, and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. An avid birder for over 30 years, he has birded throughout North America and the American tropics, including leading trips to Belize, Costa Rica, and Peru. He is also a regular pelagic trip leader for Los Angeles Audubon, Buena Vista Audubon, and Shearwater Journeys. He has seen over 1,500 species in his travels in the Americas; photographing nearly 1,000 species along the way.

**Friday, March 2, 2012**

**SFVAS Annual Awards Banquet**

**Send in your reservation form found on the back page TODAY!**

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's General Membership Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of the month (except July and August), at 7:00 p.m. We meet at the Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd. Encino. See Calendar of Events, page 4, for directions.

# DILEMMAS OF A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT COMPILER

*by Art Langton, compiler*  
**When is a Good Bird a Good Bird?**

To start with, let's concede that every bird is a good bird each adding to the enjoyment of the day's birding and count list; even such common and non-native species as Rock Doves, House Sparrows, and European Starlings have their adherents. Miss them and you could be in the birding equivalent of dire straits.

In each and every package of materials sent to our Christmas Bird Count (CBC) leaders are a couple of copies of a sheet entitled CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form. Most years some get filled out and used while most do not. Some years none may be used. The question is when should they be used and attached to the list of findings for Christmas Bird Count day?

Over the years National Audubon Society (NAS) has provided several answers. One simple directive from long ago, "Anytime you see a good bird." The "good" comes from NAS; the definition was left up to the observer or count compiler. Later more specific directions were forwarded in which the following three criteria were offered: a bird which is out of season for the area, out of range, and/or difficult to identify. All the foregoing depends upon the observer's experience in the area or count circle and whether they are on the steep or gentle portion of the learning curve representing field identification skill. None of the above corresponds with the exact wording on the aforementioned Form. Consistency with the CBC is not a trait NAS is well known for but has improved over the years.

Out of season birds almost always require supporting evidence and should be considered carefully especially now that arrival and departure dates and the timing of molt changes for most species are well understood and documented. Be careful when identifying Western Kingbirds between October and March, all wintering empid flycatchers, Black-chinned or Calliope Hummingbirds, and all grosbeaks.

Examples of out of range birds would include the Pine Warbler and Broad-tailed Hawk from the 2010 count. They are not supposed to be here and, therefore, require documentation. Then there are the newly arrived non-natives which are also out of range like the 2010 Mute Swan and Nanday Parakeets. They are here and, like others before them, becoming a common part of the local avifauna and not in need of further documentation.

Then there is the problem of some recent and not so recent splits. The Plain Titmouse was a count regular for years before becoming the Oak Titmouse. Is the Oak Titmouse a new species for the area or simply a new name for a well-known and common bird? The same applies for the Solitary vireo complex, now split three ways, or the Clark's Grebe, the nearly identical partner to

the long recognized Western Grebe. Let common sense rule, or leave the decision up to the compiler is a good procedure to follow.

Skill at correct identification varies with individual birders and the experience with the bird in question and other circumstances; lighting, molt, feather wear. Identification challenges include the differentiation of juvenile and hybrid gulls, sorting through Spizella sparrows, Rufous vs. Allen's Hummingbirds, various flycatchers and kingbirds, winter plumage warblers, Sharp-shinned vs. Cooper's Hawks, female blackbirds, or any of the others listed in the table of contents of Kenn Kauffmann's Advanced Birding (either edition). Even the most experienced and knowledgeable identification experts have their troubles. On a field trip following a workshop on gull identification, the presenter Jon Dunn was overheard to comment, in mild frustration, "That bird's DNA is so mixed up it doesn't deserve a name."

So if you're sure of your identification and your bird fits one of the aforementioned categories and you have verified and confirmed the distinguishing characteristics, field marks, and behavior which differentiate your bird from similar or more common species, go ahead and use the CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form. It is straightforward and pretty easy to use. Just be sure to use the back side of the sheet to describe the bird. Sometimes the most important part of the report has been omitted, an oversight to be sure, something no one in our Chapter has ever been guilty of. Add a photo if possible. A bad photo is better than none at all. If doubts still linger, take the easy way out and simply list the bird as something species: blackbird species, gull species, hummingbird species, sandpiper species, kingbird species accipiter species, etc. Everyone, even the most expert, has done this when stuck on a seemingly insolvable identification problem. The compiler will understand. Some IDs are just tough or were never meant to be.

Suppose you decide to skip the Form and all the work it entails and not provide supporting documentation of your good bird? Here's what happens. Your identification comes under the scrutiny, tender mercies, and discernment of the count compiler. The *Phainopepla* lists birds reported to the compiler, but not necessarily forwarded to NAS. Most year both lists are the same as CBC participants and leaders have become more expert in their identification skills and less hesitant in documenting unusual sightings. Rarely is an observation deleted for lack of convincing and substantiating details, but it has happened.

From the circle compiler the count results including any documentation or good or unusual sightings are forwarded to NAS and pass under the critical eye of the regional compiler. Out of range, out of season, or difficult to ID species which the circle compiler may have let slip through minus the Form and documentation are either dropped from the list by the regional editor or have the "dread" (an NAS term, not the author's) ND, meaning no details, or PD, meaning poor details, or MD, meaning marginal details, or UD, meaning unconvincing details placed after your good bird indicating someone somewhere has serious doubts regarding the authenticity or validity of the sighting and (*continued next page*)

(continued from previous page) is questioning the prowess of your observational and identificational skills by placing one of the above black marks against your good bird. The skill, competence, and conscientiousness of the circle compiler has also been called into question.

At times the circle compiler and the regional compiler may have differing points of view on which good birds require documentation. Valley bird counts wind their way to regional compilers which include the entire state, and extensive area with lots of counts. Presently there are two compilers, but this wasn't always the case. Back during the second reign of Kris Ohlenkamp as president, each and every undocumented swallow on that year's count was tagged with the dreaded ND. To me, the circle compiler, certain swallows can be expected during warm, dry, summer-like Decembers. One year in the early 60s the San Fernando Valley count recorded the nation's highest count of swallows, not quite the same as swallows but both feed on flying insects. As a beginning birder at least a couple of swallows had become life birds during Christmas counts at Hansen Dam. Guy McCaskie, the previous regional compiler, had never commented on our wintering swallows, and he was, to say the very least, outspoken and strict on which good birds he would let a count include without adequate and sufficient documentation.

As the competency of the count had been challenged, I sought justification for my annoyance. I started checking every California count which included swallows. Some counts had indeed boldfaced them as good, unseasonal birds with adequate documentation. Nevertheless I felt if I persisted long enough I would eventually find what I was looking for, a count with swallows with no boldfacing as unusual and without the dreaded ND. My search didn't take very long. Moss Landing CA listed swallows the same year without either boldfacing, documentation, or the dreaded ND just like the San Fernando Valley had done.

At the time, and even today, NAS strives for consistency and increasing the scientific usefulness and value of the CBC. I

related the above episode in a somewhat sarcastic letter to Geoff LeBaron, now director of the CBC for NAS, and was then in charge of the CBC pointing out the inconsistencies of assigning the dreaded ND. Why our swallows and not theirs? A copy of the letter was also sent to the regional compiler. A reply was never received from either directly. However in the subsequent CBC edition of American Birds, Geoff LeBaron, in a short paragraph in his opening introduction to that year's count results did mention the problem of defining a good bird or when the use of the CBC Rare Bird Documentation Form was desirable or at least highly recommended. Simply stated, a good bird is a species recorded three or fewer years out of ten or on less than 30% of the counts in a decade. Those species occurring more than 30% of the time may still be good but no write-up or use of the Form for that species is necessary and creative writing class is dismissed.

How do you know if your good bird is in the 30% plus or minus category? You could ask the compiler, check old back copies of *Phainopepla* (the Christmas bird count issue), or go online to the CBC website and look at past San Fernando Valley counts. The latter always has four figures for each species reported: the number of individual birds of that species reported that year, the high count total for that species and when that high count was reported, and the number of years for which there is a report for this bird. Be advised, the when refers to the number of the count not the year. Count numbers and years can be off by one. For example, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society participated in the 111<sup>th</sup> CBC in December 2010. The number of years the species was seen is really the number to pay attention to. For a count with a 50 year history, the math should be fairly simple. Of course, the percentages could be skewed depending on the number of decades or which time period is chosen, but let that problem be left for another day or for the next compiler to figure out.

When in doubt, use the Form and document. A good bird is usually only as good as its documentation.

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## ***Phainopepla* Photo of the Month** by Bob Thille



Our photo of the month was submitted by SFVAS member Bob Thille. He spotted this Wood Duck at the National Fish Hatchery in Spearfish, South Dakota in October 2011. Bob, who has birded on and off for about 15 years, spotted this male and his mate in a hatchery pond holding rainbow trout of up to six lbs. He and his wife were in the Black Hills on their way home after a two-month wander through the Upper Midwest. Bob used a Lumix FZ100 to zoom in and fill the frame.

Please submit your photos to [Lynn.Maddox@sfaudubon.org](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfaudubon.org). Only one picture per photographer per month please! Ideally, the picture will be taken within our area and the information will include the location and the date it was taken, what camera and lens was used, a short account of how the picture was taken, and profile of the photographer. Good shooting! Thanks, Lynn.

# Calendar of Events

## **Sunday, January 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

Directions: Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sfvaudubon.org) or (747) 444-9683.

## **Saturday, January 7. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m.**

Directions: Exit the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101) at Las Virgenes Canyon Road and proceed north to the trailhead parking area at the end of the road. Please bring plenty of water and wear proper shoes. No toilets are available on site. Leader: Jim Hardesty (818) 346-6712, [Jim.Hardesty@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Jim.Hardesty@sfvaudubon.org).

## **Saturday, January 7. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m.**

Directions: Take closest freeway to I-5 North and exit at Parker Road. Turn right and proceed to stop sign (Castaic Road), proceed to next stop sign (Lake Hughes Road), proceed to next stop sign (Castaic Lake Drive) and turn right. Entrance to the park is on the right. Parking is in Lot 4, so make a right turn after the kiosk, then an immediate left turn into the lot, parking to the left. Leader: Roger McClure. For information, contact the staff.

## **Sunday, January 8. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

Meet at the first wide place after entering the gardens. Admission is FREE for early birders. Located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Cañada. Leader: Karen Johnson or Nancy Herron Knode. For more information, contact Dottie Ecker, (818) 790-0659.

## **Saturday, January 14. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 9:00–11:00 a.m.**

Come on out for a fun bird walk at Sepulveda Basin! These popular walks, designed for beginning birders and school-age children, have resumed for the current cool season. 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. Meet across the road from the parking lot at the low buildings. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 or Linda Jones, (818) 831-6061. Reservations are not needed except for large groups. **Rain cancels.** Please visit our website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).

## **Saturday, January 14. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. NOTE: New start time.**

Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end

of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Various leaders. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

## **Sunday, January 15. Malibu Creek State Park Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leader(s): Muriel Kotin, [muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org), (310) 457-5796, and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

## **Tuesday, January 17. O'Melveny Weekday Walk at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00 a.m.**

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

## **Saturday, January 21. Monthly Field Trip: Upper Newport Bay and San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at 8:00 a.m.**

Bring lunch and drinks. Allow about 1.5 hours driving time from the San Fernando Valley. Directions: Take the 405 Fwy. south into Orange County; exit Jamboree Road in the city of Irvine. Turn right (south) on Jamboree Road and proceed about 4 miles to San Joaquin Hills Road, turn right and drive down to the bay. Park on San Joaquin Hills Road just before the dead end. In the afternoon we will bird the nearby San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. Leader: Richard Barth (310) 276-0342.

## **Saturday, January 21. Santa Monica Mts. Conservancy Bird Walk at Towsley Canyon. 8:00–10:00 a.m.**

Directions: Go north on I-5 through Santa Clarita, exit Calgrove and turn west (left) under the freeway and then left again on the Old Road. Watch for the sign, "Ed Davis Park at Towsley Canyon." Turn right and park in the back lot. Meet at the kiosk. Leader: Roger McClure. For further information, call (661) 252-6187.

## **Sunday, January 22. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**

See January 8 for details.

## **Monday, January 23. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills.

## **Thursday, January 26. General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. Located between Moorpark and Ventura Blvd., on the west side of Balboa, just south of the Presbyterian Church. **David Pereksta** to speak on the subject: "Pelagic Birding off Southern California: What You See When You Go to Sea." For more information see Monthly Program, page one.

## February

**Saturday, February 4. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m.** See January 7 for details.

**Saturday, February 4. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m.** See January 7 for details.

**Sunday, February 5. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.**  
See January 1 for details.

**Future Field Trips: (Details later)**  
**February 18. Ventura County Game Preserve**  
**March 17–18. Morro Bay Weekend**

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## Monthly Field Trip Report *by Richard Barth*

On November 19 we visited Ventura Harbor and Water Treatment Ponds, with later stops at Ormond Beach and Arnold Road in Oxnard. We enjoyed beautiful weather and a nice selection of birds.

No real rarities were encountered but we tallied all five of the expected grebe species, the three cormorants, four species of herons, ten species of ducks and thirteen species of shorebirds. Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal got the nod as the most popular in the duck contingent. Of note on the shorebird list were Black Turnstone, Surf-bird, Black Oystercatcher, Wilson's Snipe, Dunlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Whimbrel and Spotted Sandpiper. Other special finds on the day were Loggerhead Shrike, White-faced Ibis, Sora, Common Gallinule (formerly Common Moorhen), Mew Gull and Belted Kingfisher. Three warbler species made an appearance--Black-throated Gray, Yellow-rumped and Common Yellowthroat. Also of interest were Brown Pelican (many), Northern Harrier, Western Meadowlark, Savannah Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Hermit Thrush, Eurasian Collared-Dove and Say's Phoebe.

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## Audubon-at-Home Mailbox *by Alan Pollack*

Please e-mail Alan Pollack, our Audubon-at-Home Chair, with any questions you have with regard to creating a wildlife-friendly garden that can be used for publication. Alan offers **FREE** consultation/landscape design to help you make your yard wildlife friendly. He also gives a **FREE**, PowerPoint slide show/lecture to community groups, high school, and college classes on attracting wildlife to your garden and sustainable gardening practices. He can be contacted at (818) 340-2347 or at [alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org).

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## Common Gallinule *by Linda Jones*

For the past 15 or 20 years we have been calling a certain chicken-like water bird "Common Moorhen." If memory serves, that change was at least partly due to the Brits. They would come birding in the States, see what we called Common Gallinule and indignantly remark "Why that's nothing but a Moorhen." The naming moguls decided to split the difference, add "Common" and call the bird "Common Moorhen." Some of us felt that an exciting, exotic-sounding name had been tossed out in favor of ordinary barnyard livestock. Now the name for the American populations has been restored to Common Gallinule. Some of us like that a lot.

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## Membership

SFVAS is pleased to welcome the following new members. We hope you will get involved with our many field trips and activities. Please contact Rose Leibowitz, Membership Chair, with any questions at [rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org).

### National:

Peter Barash  
Marshall Baskin  
Mary Betlach  
Madge Blasgen  
Evelyn Silva  
Vincent Davis

Meg Doten  
Laurie & Steve Finkelstern  
Shirley Foust  
Mona Gibbs  
Sally Hamilton  
Sandi Hathcock  
Berhglund Johnason

Oganes Kehoyan  
Lauren Lee  
Maya Long  
Tony & Mo Madormo  
Michael Marasco  
Shelley McCune  
James Meadus

Dorothy Mecham  
Maria Murguia  
Anthony Piva  
Al Resnick  
Eric Siegel  
Deirdre Wolfe  
Elsa Wyskocil

## DUCKS AND GEESE IN PAYSON *by Mathew Tekulsky*

I had been bird-watching “under the Tonto Rim” in central Arizona for a few days in late November when I stumbled upon Green Valley Park, right in the middle of downtown Payson. And what a spectacle I beheld! For the park was really a series of three lakes, the largest of which featured a flock of Canada Geese—about 50-60 calmly paddling along in the water, and another 20-30 on the grassy bluffs overlooking the lake.

I quickly retrieved my camera and started taking a few shots of the geese. They took little notice of me and allowed me to approach within 20 feet before they started getting nervous. One of the geese even took a bath right in front of me, on the edge of the lake. But the geese were wary enough that I could never run over and catch them before they either retreated into the water or flew off.

I enjoyed looking at the distinctive, white cheek patch of this goose, and its long, black neck and bill. What an amazing creature! Meanwhile, along the grassy bluffs, I saw a group of ducks and American Coots—some sitting, some sleeping, some foraging. I recognized the Mallard, along with its domestic cousin, the Pekin Duck—but what was this boldly patterned duck with the blue bill?

Indeed, the first thing I noticed was that light-blue bill that ended in a black tip; then the long, vertical patch of pale yellow on the top of the head; and finally, the shiny, green horizontal strip from the eye to the back of the head. The rest of its brownish body and white underparts looked fairly ordinary—but what a profile! I fell in love with the American Wigeon at first sight.

At the far end of the lake, a family of five mostly-white Greylag Geese took to the water on my approach, and I watched them sail out to safety. A pair

of European Starlings foraged along the water’s edge, much as they would on a city street.

Before leaving, I noticed a pair of yellow street signs along Country Club Road, between one of the smaller lakes (Lake #2) and the larger lake (Lake #3). The top sign depicted the profile of a mother duck, and at her feet, in descending order of size, were the profiles of two baby ducks. Underneath this sign (actually, attached to it), the second sign read, “15 M.P.H.”

Boy, I thought, these people in Payson really take their duck protection seriously. And as I picked the goose poop out of my sneaker soles, I considered this a small price to pay in return for such a close encounter of the “waterfowl” kind.

Note: The Canada Goose has eleven subspecies, which vary greatly in terms of size and coloration. In general, eastern subspecies are paler than western subspecies, and the subspecies that breed in coastal Alaska and Arctic Canada are smaller than their southern brethren. The common Canada Goose has an average body length of 45 inches, and weighs about ten pounds. Meanwhile, the Cackling Canada Goose has a body length of 25 inches and weighs only about 3 ½ pounds—about the size of a Mallard.

The Dusky Canada Goose of southwestern Alaska and central British Columbia has a darker brown instead of gray breast, while the endangered Aleutian Canada Goose has a

paler breast and is known for its white neck ring. The Lesser Canada Goose and Richardson’s Canada Goose breed in north-central Canada (the Lesser extending into Alaska), with the Lesser being a medium-sized goose and the Richardson’s being on the smaller side.

Of course, Canada geese generally migrate in the spring and fall, usually in their famous V-shaped formations, but sometimes in a straight line—and they all honk.



Photo by: Patience F. Tekulsky



Photo: Canada Goose by Mathew Tekulsky

# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Michael Van Norman	(661) 263-2958
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
Treasurer:	Ann Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Recording Sec'y:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430
Corresponding Sec'y:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216

## DIRECTORS

Pam Folgert	(818) 348-9904
Donna Timlin	(818) 341-9354
Aurelio Albaisa	(818) 716-8096
Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
Mark Osokow	unpublished
Mathew Tekulsky	(310) 962-5653

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Antelope Valley Co-Chairs:	Linda Edwards & Vern Benhart	(661) 948-8524 www.avaudubon.com
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
AV Communications:	Linda Edwards	(661) 948-8524
Birdathon:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
Christmas Bird Count:	Art Langton	(818) 887-0973
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	(818) 780-5816
Conservation:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Coordinating Council Rep:	Mike Van Norman	(661) 263-2958
Descanso Bird Station:	Dottie Ecker	(818) 790-0659
Descanso Bird Walks:	Nancy Herron Knode	unpublished
Descanso Bird Walks:	Karen Johnson	(818) 790-1687
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	(818) 618-1652
Education-Sepulveda Basin:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Finance:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
Hospitality:	Carol Johnson	(818) 981-8457
Malibu Creek Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Membership:	Rose Leibowitz	(818) 990-5405
Phainopepla Editor:	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Programs:	Heather Medvitz	(818) 222-4430
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Scholarship:	Linda Jones	(818) 831-6061
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(747) 444-9683
Web Coordinator:	Mike Van Norman	(661) 263-2958
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

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

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



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Become a member of the  
**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
Mail the form below, and include a check made payable to SFV Audubon Society:

SFV Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 7769  
Van Nuys, CA 91409  
*Attn: Membership*

## SFVAS MEMBERSHIP

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$20	\$ _____
Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10	\$ _____
Optional First –Class Postage.....\$5	\$ _____
Tax Deductable Contribution to SFVAS	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

New Member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about SFVAS?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Save a tree! I DO NOT** wish to receive a hardcopy of the *Phainopepla*; I'll get my news online.

The *PHAINOPEPLA*, published ten 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, the science and ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the *PHAINOPEPLA*.

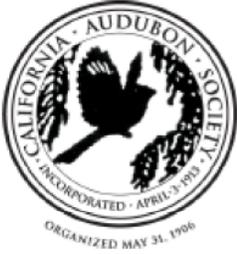
Material from other newsletters or newspapers should include the source and date. Copy for the *PHAINOPEPLA* should be in the hands of the editor by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

An introductory membership to the National Audubon Society is \$20 and should be sent separately to:

National Audubon Society  
Membership Data Center  
P.O. Box 422250  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Be sure to write "C1ZC120Z" on the form to assure assignment to our chapter. For renewals, use the form in the National Audubon magazine, "Audubon."

If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405 or e-mail her at [rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:rose.leibowitz@sfvaudubon.org).

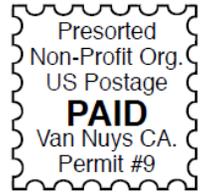


# Phainopepla

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

## Dated Material

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



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**Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**Perfect for New Birders**  
**15th annual count takes place Feb. 17—20, 2012**  
Visit [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org) for more information

## ***San Fernando Valley Audubon Society Awards Banquet***

Friday, March 2, 2012 · 6:00 p.m. No Host Bar · 7:00 p.m. Dinner  
Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check (\$50.00/person, \$35.00/student) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Names \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to: San Fernando Valley Audubon Society.**  
Mail to: Jeanne Polak-Recht, 11002 Garden Grove Avenue, Northridge, CA 91326

The buffet-style dinner will also include selections for vegetarians. The cost is \$50.00 (\$35.00 for college students) including tax and tip. Reservations must be made in advance. Please list names of all guests in your party and mail in this form by February 24, 2012. THERE IS NO RESERVED SEATING. Reduced parking fee at Airtel or street parking is FREE. You will not receive a confirmation of your reservation. Reservations will be held at the door. For further information call Jeanne Polak-Recht, Chairperson, at (818) 360-1438.