

# Phainopepla



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## Birdathon by Rose Leibowitz



"The months of April and May are wonderful for bird-watching. The higher rainfall this year will help our area have a beautiful verdant spring. The warmer weather encourages us all to get out and enjoy the birdsong and the activity as nests are built and eggs are laid. It is a perfect time, during the Spring Migration, to enjoy our annual Birdathon.

The Birdathon is our annual 'sponsored birding competition.' This is an opportunity to thank and honor Audubon leaders who have shown you where and when to find birds, and to contribute to our chapter. The Chapter has many expenses. In addition to the cost of renting the hall for the monthly meetings, publishing this newsletter, and insurance for our walks, we have advocacy and outreach activities that make a difference in lives but need funding.

We have been responsible for the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program for many years. This program brings thousands of Los Angeles school children to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Preserve and introduces them to the wonders of nature. Walks are led by naturalists and the children have the opportunity to use our binoculars and microscopes. This equipment has to be maintained and replaced from time to time.

You will soon be receiving your Birdathon letter and pledge forms through the mail. You can help

by coming to our open walks that are BIRDATHON EVENTS and build species counts or by making and sending in your pledge. Please help us to maintain our present level of activities by contributing. We appreciate all donations both large and small. See the Calendar section for directions and additional information or contact Rose Leibowitz at (818) 990-5405. ♪

### BIRDATHON EVENTS

Art Langton, Chatsworth Nature Preserve, April 13

Caroline Oppenheimer, O'Melveny Park, April 15

Jim Moore, Butterbredt Springs, Galileo Hills, Piute Ponds, April 24

Dick Barth, Morongo Basin, April 26

Kris Ohlenkamp, Sepulveda Basin, May 4

Nancy Herron Knode, Descanso Gardens, May 11





# The Nominations Committee Report

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present you with the list of candidates for office on the Board of Directors of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for the 2008–2009 program year.

President	(To be Determined)	Continuing officers not requiring election are:	
1st Vice President	Seth Shteir	Treasurer	Jim Moore
2nd Vice President	Chris Van Beveren	3rd Year Director	John Dietz
Recording Secretary	Donna Timlin	3rd Year Director	Mark Osokow
Corresponding Secretary	Margie Maseda	2nd Year Director	Sara Huang
1st Year Director	Heather Medvitz	2nd Year Director	Dave Weeshoff
1st Year Director	Mike Van Norman		

The candidate slate will be announced at the General Membership Meeting on April 24, with an opportunity to entertain nominations from the floor. The election will be held at the May 22 meeting and installation will take place at the June 26 meeting.

The committee would like to thank all those members who have served the chapter in some capacity. We invite those of you with an interest in becoming more active in chapter activities to let us know.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Nominations Committee (Dave Weeshoff, Kris Ohlenkamp, Jim Hardesty, Chair) ♣



## Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

We visited the Ventura County Game Preserve on February 16 and enjoyed perfect weather conditions for birding. Most of the expected species were seen, some in impressive numbers. There were more than two hundred White-faced Ibis and about two thousand White-throated Swifts. Marbled Godwit and Long-billed Dowitcher were the most abundant shorebirds. Other shorebirds of interest were Wilson’s Snipe, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, Long-billed Curlew and Least Sandpiper. The waterfowl numbers were dominated by Ruddy Duck and Northern Shoveler, but also getting our attention were Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Bufflehead and a few Lesser Scaup.

An active Peregrine Falcon entertained us for most of the morning, showing off its speed and spectacular dives. White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier also were much appreciated. We estimated about forty Red-tailed Hawks on the property, and found one well-hidden Great Horned Owl.

Sora, Marsh Wren, Lincoln’s Sparrow, American Pipit and Western Meadowlark were tallied, and we saw a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Jim Hardesty heard a Virginia Rail. We had a long distance look at a Belted Kingfisher. Tree, Barn and Cliff Swallows were present. There were opportunities for comparison of “Audubon’s” and “Myrtle” Yellow-rumped Warblers. Savannah Sparrows were everywhere and there were many Red-winged Blackbirds. Somehow we missed Yellow-headed and Tricolored Blackbirds, which had been seen earlier in the week and have been seen on most of our visits over the years. ♣

## Program Notes — April 2008

### The Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia: Mammals, and a Bit of Natural History

#### Sherry Schmidt to speak at April 24 meeting

Sherry Schmidt is an instructor in the biology department at Mount San Antonio College, where she has taught for 23 years. Her presentation will include photographs taken during a three week trip to the Antarctic Peninsula, South Georgia, and the Falkland Islands. The presentation will include information on how the Southern Ocean that encircles Antarctica is unique from all the world’s other oceans and why it supports such incredible numbers of pelagic birds, penguins, whales, and other marine mammals. The talk will include some information on the threats to animals that inhabit the Antarctic region including the impact of long line fisheries on albatross populations. Sherry’s primary interests are in the natural history of desert and mountain ecosystems, and in conservation biology. She also loves photography and travel. Her recent trips include the Galapagos, Madagascar, Antarctica, and Peru. ♣



## A Mid-Winter Visit to Chatsworth Nature Preserve by Art Langton

Cool overcast skies greeted Chapter members at the beginning of February's visit to Chatsworth Nature Preserve. By mid-morning the clouds cleared away providing a clear, bright day for birding. January rains provided sufficient moisture to turn the landscape green, bring out some early wildflowers, and resurrect and refill the seasonal marshes much to the benefit of yellowlegs and a variety of dabbling puddle ducks: wigeon, mallards, gadwalls, cinnamon and green-winged teals, and shovelers.

Of interest was a merlin with a future meal in its talons and over 100 Canada geese one of which was obviously smaller than the rest and with a broad white strip circling the base of its neck. Western bluebirds along with some Lawrence's goldfinches added color which along with four species of woodpeckers brought the day's count up to 56, all of which were dutifully entered in the weekends Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

The herpers found several western toads, western skinks, side-blotch lizards, and a dormant Southern Pacific rattlesnake to fill out the morning's observations. ♪

## Antelope Valley Committee Report by Linda Edwards

The Woodland Visitor's Center came alive on March 4 as 17 regulars and 17 additional guests gathered to learn about the elements of creating a wildlife habitat in our yards. Alan Pollack's visual presentation was both absorbing and inspiring as he carefully laid out his own tried and true practices for attaining a friendly environment for ourselves and for the animal life in our immediate surroundings. Thank you Alan. In addition to the presentation, the business of the evening included the following items:

Bird Outings—Explore the Prime Desert Woodland on Saturday, April 5 with Vern Benhart. Meet at 35th St. W. and K-8 in Lancaster at 8 a.m.

—Spend the morning with Jim Moore on May 10 in the Galileo Hills. Meet at 7a.m at the Lancaster Park-n-Ride located in front of the Community Center at 10th St. W. and K-8.

We were also informed about a survey of the Tricolored Blackbird that is being coordinated by California Audubon on April 25–27. Anyone interested should contact Rodd Kelsey at (530) 795-0660 or rkelsey@audubon.org.

In an organizational vein, Bob and Bonnie Weatherman have agreed to become Co-chairpersons of our Committee. Thanks to Jim Dodson for getting us off to a good start!

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 3. Details will be provided at a later date. ♪

Alan Pollack, Audubon-at-Home Chair, 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 reached at alpat62@aol.com or (818) 340-2347 or at [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org).



## 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 Chris Van Beveren, Membership Chair, with any questions. ♪

Denneen Acker  
Sally Adomaitis  
Karen Anderson  
Byron Baba  
Mick Barakan  
Eva BarqueroLacayo  
Jacqueline Bartz  
Lauren Batiste  
Diane Bell  
Florence Berg  
Randall Biddle  
Marshall Brauer  
Shirley Carmack  
Taryn Chaifetz  
Mr/Mrs Jim Charlston  
Robert Clawson

Albert Coburn  
Rita Cohen  
Ethel Crown  
Jerry Damschrode  
Davidson Foundation  
for Music  
Cherly Dellapiane  
Barbara Farrar  
Steven Felder  
Julie Fernandez  
Gail Fisher  
Philip Floresca  
Harry Frazier  
Marie Gaworecki  
Rose Giangrosso  
Nancy Gilchrist

Forrest Godde  
Ronald Goldstein  
Alice Grayson  
Judith Grodeland  
Lisa Guerrero  
Losi Havich  
Roberta Hoffman  
Barbara Hupp  
Hilmar Karlsson  
Veronika Kessling  
Eugenie Khajadourian  
Georgia Kingsley  
Mrs Albert Kline  
Melvin Kuznets  
Jeff Larson  
Dan Lintemoot

A. Liper  
Henry Lipson  
Margaret Locke  
Peter Marshall  
Robert McClelland  
Barbara Meyer  
Oscar Nunez  
James Ottina  
Paula Paocharoen  
Gaynor Peet  
Pene Perlich  
Charlotte Pineda  
Mr/Mrs Sanford Pinkus  
Judith Prime  
Kathryn Raley  
Steven Randall

Robert Regester  
Dominador Rivera  
Russell Rockney  
Virginia Stevenson  
Connie Straub  
Kathleen Sullivan  
Michelle Thomas  
John Thomson  
Hilda Tomberlin  
Alan Ullman  
Raul Urias  
Donna Webb  
Mark Wernet  
Donald White  
Susan White  
Nancy Wilkinson



# Calendar of Events

**Saturday, April 5. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Haskell Creek Cleanup. 8:30 a.m.–Noon.** Join us for a spring cleanup of Haskell Creek to help restore its beauty. For additional information, see the article on page 5. Directions: Take Woodley Avenue (which is 1/2 mile west of the I-405 Freeway) north from Burbank Boulevard. Go 1/2 mile north to the signs for the Wildlife Reserve and Japanese Gardens. Turn east (right). Where the road forks, bear right. Continue east 1/2 mile to the end of the road. Sign in at the amphitheater, just beyond the large rock monuments and rock-faced buildings. Rain date: April 12.

**Saturday, April 5. 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. Once at kiosk, advise Lake Staff that you are there for the bird walk. Proceed to the Boating Instruction Safety Center (BISC) by turning right at the stop sign and follow the road to a white building down by the lagoon. Leader: Roger McClure. For information contact Tina Nuss of LA Co Parks at (818) 322-6997. Parking fee will be waived for those notifying Muriel Kotin at (310) 457-5796, before April 4, that you plan to attend.

**Sunday, April 6. 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. For more information contact him at (818) 225-8348 or e-mail: Kris.Ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

**Saturday, April 12. 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, jnhardesty@roadrunner.com.

**Saturday, April 12. Placerita Canyon Nature Center Docents' Bird Walk. 9:00 a.m.** Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Placerita Canyon. Turn right at the end of the off ramp and continue about 1.5 miles to the park entrance. Turn right and park at the Nature Center. Leader: Bob Fischer. For more information, call the Nature Center at (661) 259-7721.

**Sunday, April 13. Chatsworth Nature Preserve. 7:00 a.m.** A BIRDATHON EVENT. Chapter members will again join the Southwest Herpetologist Society on a tour inside the Preserve. Meet at the Plummer/Valley Circle gate approximately .9 miles west of the intersection of Plummer and Topanga Canyon Blvd., past three

“STOP” signs and opposite 9439 Valley Circle. Participants must register with Art Langton at least one week in advance in order to be admitted. Call Art Langton at (818) 887-0973 and leave your name and phone number. As the gate will be locked behind us, be prepared to stay until noon. Bring drink, and snacks. Facilities are limited and primitive. RAIN CANCELS. Leaders: Art Langton, Stuart Wells.

**Sunday, April 13. 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 Karen at (818) 790-1687 or lv2bird@aol.com.

**Tuesday, April 15. Weekday Wanderers Bird Walk at the O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills. 8:30 a.m.** A BIRDATHON EVENT. Directions: To reach the park, go north on Balboa Blvd. from the 118 Fwy. Turn left on Sesnon Ave. The park is on the right in about 1/4 mile. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer with any questions (before 7:30 p.m., please) at (818) 885-7493 or e-mail to carolopp@sbcglobal.net.

**Saturday, April 19. 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) 255-3606.

**Sunday, April 20. 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 \$8 per car. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796. aKotin@earthlink.net.

**Thursday, April 24. General Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m.** Everyone welcome. 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. Come early for social hour. Our speaker, Sherry Schmidt, will talk about the mammals of the Antarctic Peninsula and South Georgia. See “Program Notes”, page 2, for more information.

**Thursday, April 24. Butterbredt Springs, Galileo Hills and Piute Ponds. A BIRDATHON EVENT. Meet at 5:30 a.m.** at the McDonalds on Crown Valley Road in Acton, or 6:00 a.m. at the park-n-ride lot on the east side of Avenue S in Palmdale. We will then stop in Palmdale for a brief search for LeConte's Thrasher, then to Butterbredt Springs and onward to Galileo Hills, Piute Ponds and finish at Apollo Park in Lancaster where we have seen Lesser Nighthawks the previous two years. Leader: Jim Moore. Approximate species: 120. Please advise Jim by e-mail, JimMoore@socal.rr.com if you plan to join him.





Le Conte's Thrasher

**Saturday, April 26. Monthly Field Trip to Morongo Valley. 8:00 a.m.** A BIRDATHON EVENT. This desert oasis offers great birding in the spring. Warblers, flycatchers, hummingbirds and orioles are among the birds expected. At least one pair of Vermilion Flycatchers has been seen every April in memory. Directions: Allow 2.5 hours to drive from the San Fernando Valley. Take Interstate 10 east to Route 62, which is past the Palm Springs turnoff. Go north to the tiny town of Morongo Valley and turn right on East Drive to the Big Morongo Preserve. Bring lunch and drinks. In the afternoon we will drive to Joshua Tree National Park to look

for wildflowers, Scott's Orioles, Pinyon Jays, Brewer's and Black-throated Sparrows. Leader: Richard Barth, (310) 276-0342.

**Sunday, April 27. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** See April 13 for details.

**Sunday, May 4. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m.** A BIRDATHON EVENT. See April 6 for details.

**Future Field Trips: (Details later)**

**May 10. Walker Ranch/Placerita Canyon (second Saturday)**

**June 14. Rancho Sierra Vista Preserve (second Saturday)**

## SEPULVEDA BASIN WILDLIFE RESERVE CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO REMOVE TRASH FROM HASKELL CREEK SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2008 8:30 A.M.—NOON

Haskell Creek, where it runs through the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area to the Los Angeles River, hosts many riparian trees and shrubs, such as cottonwoods, willows and cattails. Songbirds forage and nest in the trees and shrubs, while egrets and herons fish in this heart of the Wildlife Area. Unfortunately it is draped with trash, especially plastic bags and Styrofoam. We need help to restore the creek's beauty.

**Equipment and Clothing:** Please wear rugged clothing, including water shoes or rubber boots, and sunscreen. You will get muddy and maybe wet. If you have them please bring gardening gloves and long-handled tools to help reach items.

**More Information:** The event is appropriate for adults and older students. Students can earn community service hours. It is not appropriate for young children but OK for older elementary school students if they are closely supervised. If it rains more than a light drizzle, event will be postponed to Saturday April 12th. Questions: 310/457-5796 or 818/831-6061. For Directions see the Calendar Section on page 4.

Sponsored by San Fernando Valley Audubon; [www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org) ♡

## SFVAS Legislator Environmental Voting Records — Submitted by Jim Hardesty

Have you contacted one of your state legislators regarding an environmental issue you feel strongly about? Do you know how they voted? Well, here's a bit of information along those lines.

Each year the California League of Conservation Voters scores the California legislators according to how they voted on conservation-related legislation. In the 2007 legislative session, the Senate entertained 24 bills, voted on 22 of them, passed 20; the governor signed ten and vetoed six. The Assembly entertained 24 bills, voted on 20, and passed 19.

In the charts below, a score of 100 indicates support for all bills; 0 indicates support for no bills. A dash (-) denotes the legislator did not serve in 2006. Here is a list of the legislators whose districts lie wholly or partially within the region served by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. More information is available at [www.ecovote.org](http://www.ecovote.org). ♡

District	Party	Name	Home	Scores 2007/2006
17	R	George Runner	Lancaster	0/4
20	D	Alex Padilla	Van Nuys	100/-
21	D	Jack Scott	Pasadena	100/100
23	D	Sheila Kuehl	Los Angeles	100/100
26	D	Mark Ridley-Thomas	Los Angeles	100/89

District	Party	Name	Home	Scores 2007/2006
36	R	Sharon Runner	Lancaster	0/4
37	R	Audra Strickland	Camarillo	0/4
38	R	Cameron Smyth	Santa Clarita	5/-
39	D	Felipe Fuentes	Sylmar	95/-
40	D	Lloyd Levine	Van Nuys	100/100
41	D	Julia Brownley	Santa Monica	100/-
42	D	Mike Feuer	Los Angeles	100/-
43	D	Paul Krekorian	Burbank	100/-

Sources: <http://www.ecovote.org/> ;  
[http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators\\_and\\_districts/legislators/your\\_legislator.html](http://www.legislature.ca.gov/legislators_and_districts/legislators/your_legislator.html)



Twite

## BIRDING IN ENGLAND by Jim Moore

I traveled to England in mid January to attend the wedding of an old friend who lives in County Kent, southwest of London. My plans were to take advantage of the trip to do some birding, so I took my binos, scope and tripod with me.

The wedding was terrific. The reception included an overnight stay at Leeds Castle. It was built around the 16th century, and is preserved in its original state, with a filled moat, several lakes and park-like grounds. Birding there yielded several common birds, including several hundred tufted ducks and a pair of great-crested grebes. This was enough motivation for me to rent a car and bird elsewhere in England.

Bird distribution in England is much like that in southern California. Waterfowl and waders that summer in Scandinavia and the Arctic migrate to spend the winter in the marshes and estuaries of southern England. Passerines that summer in England migrate to southern Europe and Africa, leaving only the residents, such as the robin and several species of tits. With this in mind, I did some internet research and decided to bird some hot spots in East Anglia, northeast of London.

Although bird distribution is similar, the weather certainly isn't. I knew British birders were some of the world's most hardy. Three out of the four days were spent walking for miles in driving rainstorms, with strong winds blowing the rain in horizontal sheets. And, I wasn't the only idiot. I encountered several local birders who told me this was routine.

The prominent birding organization in England is the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB). They are like our Audubon, The Nature Conservancy and the ABA rolled in to one. They have acquired several properties in the United Kingdom, with the goal of preserving them for the welfare of birds, but with facilities that make them birder friendly. They've done a good job. I visited four RSPB sites. All had several well constructed blinds, constructed like a small house with several fold up glass windows to allow birding while staying dry. Each had a visitor center, with guide maps, a shop and of course, the ever present tea room.

Birding was great. I got a lot of help from the local birders and saw several species I hadn't expected. These included three swan species, Mute, Tundra and Whooper, often as many as 100 at a site, four goose species, Pink-Footed, Greylag, Canada and Brent (Brant), and several ducks, some common in California and others seldom or never seen here, including Shelduck, Eurasian Wigeon (thousands), Pochard, Tufted Duck and mergansers including Smew and Goosander.

Equally satisfying were the waders, including several unfamiliar species including Eurasian Oystercatcher, Water Rail, Pied Avocet, Ringed Plover, Ruff, Eurasian Woodcock, Black-Tailed and Bar-Tailed Godwits, Eurasian Curlew and Spotted and Common Redshanks, both with vivid red legs. Most common, and always seen in large flocks, many times with over 1000 birds were European Golden Plover and Northern Lapwing. Even gulls were great, with sightings of several Great and Lesser Black-Backed Gulls, Caspian (yellow-legged) Gull and Black-Legged Kittiwake.

Raptors and passerines didn't disappoint. Birds seen included Marsh Harrier, and some less common species, including Redwing, Stonechat, Eurasian Siskin and Twite.

Everywhere I went, birders and many in the general public were all agog over the sighting of a rare species seen only four times before in the several decades of recorded birding in the British Isles. There were several full page articles with photos in the London newspapers and whenever I met a birder I was asked if I had seen it yet. Many traveled for several miles just to get a glimpse of the bird scratching in the gravel under the feeder of a private residence. So you ask, what was this bird? A White-Crowned Sparrow. I didn't seek it out myself.

Do I recommend birding in England? Yes, it's great, but bring money. Gasoline (petrol) is \$7.20 a gallon. ♪

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### IN MEMORIAM

Long time members of the Chapter will be saddened to learn of the recent passing of Charlotte Livingston. Charlotte and husband Stan were frequent attendees at the Chapter's monthly membership meetings as well as the annual conservation dinner and field trips. Stan served on the board of directors, finance committee, and was a past field trip chairman. Charlotte will be remembered for the several impromptu group dinners she arranged as part of and a highlight of the annual Morro Bay weekend. Sympathy and condolences are extended to her family, many friends, and all who benefited from her friendly personality, encouragement, and wisdom. A memorial service will be held on June 8, at noon, at 17840 Tribune Street, Granada Hills. All Audubon members are welcome. —Submitted by Art Langton ♪



**JOIN THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON**

To get started with your membership,  
use the following form and mail to:

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

Make all checks payable to SFV Audubon.

**SFVAS Membership**

Regular 1-yr chapter membership....\$20      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional First-Class Postage.....\$5      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions to SFVAS.....      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total.....      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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, 818-347-3205. 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 newspaper should include the source and date. Copy for the PHAINOPEPLA should be in the hands of the editor by the 7th 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 52529, Boulder, CO 80322. Be sure to write "C12" 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 Chris Van Beveren at (818) 998-3122 or e-mail her at [becktravel@yahoo.com](mailto:becktravel@yahoo.com)

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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Conservation:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
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Descanso Bird Walks:	Nancy Herron Knode	unpublished
Descanso Bird Walks:	Karen Johnson	790-1687
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*All Phones are area code 818 unless otherwise noted.*  
For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

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

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## Phainopepla

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**Phainopepla** April 2008



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#### **Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival April 30–May 6**

Spring is in the air in Kern River Valley, CA! Audubon's Kern River Preserve in Weldon is hosting the festival from April 30–May 6 to celebrate the biodiversity of the Kern River Valley and Southern Sierra Nevada, home to over 200 nesting species of birds, over 100 species of mammals, over 130 species of butterflies, and over 200 species of plants. Field trips, presentations, workshops, and dinners are planned.

For more information, go to  
<http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>.

#### **Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day at Starr Ranch Sanctuary!**

This FREE event will be held Saturday, May 10,  
7:00am–2:00pm (drop in)

Relax and enjoy a family picnic, see birds up close in bird banding demonstrations, participate in hawk research simulations, observe the birds of Starr Ranch on guided walks, try out & purchase new optics, watch a wildlife movie, receive a free Bird Day poster and more! RSVP by e-mail (preferred!) to [jweir@audubon.org](mailto:jweir@audubon.org) or call Justin at (949) 858-3537. Please provide group size and contact info in your RSVP. You must RSVP to get directions to Starr Ranch (internet directions do not work!) Space is limited