

Phainopepla



Published by the
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
A Chapter of the National Audubon Society



January 2009

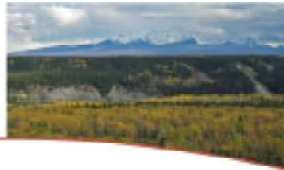
Volume 60 No. 1

PROGRAM NOTES

General Membership Meeting, Thursday, January 22, 2009, 7:00 p.m.



Audubon



Join us for a **Special Presentation on Alaskan Conservation Issues!**



Featuring: **Lauren Hierl**,
Alaska Policy Associate for the National Audubon Society

The spectacular public lands of Alaska, featuring incredibly diverse wildlife, face critical conservation threats from oil drilling to logging. Come learn what is being done to protect them and what you can do to help!

Date: **Thursday, January 22**

Time: **7:00 PM**

Location: **Encino Community Center,
4935 Balboa Blvd Encino, CA**

Lauren Hierl is the National Audubon Society's traveling ambassador for protecting Alaska's natural riches. She received her BA in Environmental Studies from Dartmouth College, and Master of Environmental Management and Master of Public Policy degrees from Duke University. She is excited to be working on the critical conservation threats facing our public lands in Alaska.

Saving Our Great Natural Heritage



Audubon at Home by Alan Pollack

California native plants for your wildlife garden: shrubs and sub-shrubs



Continuing a sampling of California natives for your wildlife garden: shrubs have woody stems and are less than 20 feet tall; sub-shrubs are herbaceous with a woody base and usually die back annually.

California lilac (aka Wild lilac), *Ceanothus*, is one of the most versatile native plant families we have. There are 60 species and 15 cultivars (so far) and most are endemic to California. There are prostrate ground covers, small shrubs, large shrubs, and small trees which can adapt to many habitats. Most are evergreen and require little to no water once established, while others are more tolerant of water. Large, mostly blue flower clusters emerge in the spring. The species attract butterflies, beneficial insects, seed and insect eating birds, and small mammals. It is also one of those species that have nitrogen-fixing bacteria in its root system...it creates its own food.

The Manzanitas, *Arctostaphylos*, is another, very large (90 species plus 140 cultivars) plant family. There are prostrate ground covers, small shrubs, large shrubs and small trees. They adapt to a wide range of habitats, but favor acid soils. All have very distinctive, smooth, red or purple bark, evergreen foliage, and fragrant blossoms in the late fall or winter resulting in edible berries in the spring.

The Sages, *Salvia*, consist of about 900 species worldwide...about two percent of them in California. Many of them have medicinal, food and ceremonial value to Native Americans. All attract hummingbirds, bees and seed eaters. Most are sun loving, drought tolerant and benefit by annual pruning. California sages come in many sizes and shapes, from prostrate creepers to six foot tall shrubs. Hummingbird sage (*S. spathacea*); White sage (*S. apiana*); Cleveland sage (*S. clevelandii*) are but a few that are adaptable to many habitats.

The Buckwheats, *Eriogonum*, is perhaps the largest genus of California flora. There are over 125 species, ranging from tiny annuals to eight foot tall shrubs in just about every plant community. They provide foliage and nectar for butterflies and beneficial insects, seeds for birds and shelter for many critters. Califor-

nia buckwheat (*E. fasciculatum*); Ashyleaf buckwheat (*E. cinereum*) and Saffron buckwheat (*E. crocatum*) are a few examples to be found in Coastal sage scrub.

Coffeeberry, *Rhamnus californica*, are small to large, evergreen shrubs that are very adaptable and therefore found in many plant communities. Their size and form vary from open and sprawling to dense and mounded, depending on which habitat they are in. They are useful because they can grow in full sun, filtered sun or shade. Small flowers in the spring are followed by edible (by wildlife only), red berries.

California sunflower, *Encelia californica*, is an evergreen sub-shrub common to Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) habitat. It grows 2–4 feet tall and 3–5 feet wide and is covered with daisy-like, yellow flowers in spring and fall which attract butterflies and beneficial insects. Bloom is enhanced by dead-heading and an annual hard pruning keeps it more compact. Often seen on hillsides, it is good for erosion control.

California fuchsias, *Zauschneria*, are semi-evergreen low growing sub-shrubs and herbaceous perennials found in many plant communities. There are about 50 cultivars, varying from less than one to over two feet in height. Spreading by underground rhizomes as well as from seedlings, they can be invasive, and for that reason, they are very useful for slope control. Most have very narrow, trumpet shaped flowers in late summer and early fall which attract bees and hummingbirds. They appreciate some summer water but are drought tolerant once established.

Chaparral clematis, aka pipestem clematis, *Clematis lasiantha*, is a woody, deciduous vine that climbs to 18 feet on a wall, fence or tree and is found in many communities. It has fluffy, white flowers in spring followed by silky-haired fruit balls.

Next stop: herbs. ♣

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.



Monthly Field Trip Report by Richard Barth

On November 15 we birded Ventura Harbor and Ventura Water Treatment Ponds, with stops on the way home at Ormond Beach and along Arnold Road on the Oxnard Plain. Very windy conditions hampered us a bit, but we did tally 74 species for the trip.

Notable from the harbor and treatment ponds part of the trip were Black Oystercatcher, Surfbird, Black Turnstone, American Avocet, Clark's Grebe, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Elegant and Forster's Terns, Pelagic Cormorant, Red-breasted Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Redhead, Blue-winged Teal and one "Aleutian" Cackling Goose.

Our later stops yielded Mew Gull, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Northern Harrier, Peregrine, a dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellowlegs, and two bonus highlights....a recently-reported Pacific Golden-Plover and an impressive flock of fifteen Cackling Geese (apparently all Aleutians).

We saw very few small passerines, probably because the strong wind was driving them to shelter. Marsh Wren, American Pipit and Western Meadowlark were three species of interest. ♪

JOIN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT Count for Fun, Count for the Future

February 13–16, 2009

New York, NY and Ithaca, NY--Bird and nature fans throughout North America are invited to join tens of thousands of everyday bird watchers for the 12th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 13–16, 2009. A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at www.birdcount.org.

Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at www.birdcount.org. Participants can also explore what birds others are finding in their backyards—whether in their own neighborhood or thousands of miles away. Additional online resources include tips to help identify birds, a photo gallery, and special materials for educators.

The data these "citizen scientists" collect helps researchers understand bird population trends, information that is critical for effective conservation. Their efforts enable everyone to see what would otherwise be impossible: a comprehensive picture of where birds are in late winter and how their numbers and distribution compare with previous years. In 2008, participants submitted more than 85,000 checklists.

"The GBBC has become a vital link in the arsenal of continent-wide bird-monitoring projects," said Cornell Lab of Ornithology director, John Fitzpatrick. "With more than a decade of data now in hand, the GBBC has documented the fine-grained details of late-winter bird distributions better than any project in history, including some truly striking changes just over the past decade."

Each year, in addition to entering their tallies, participants submit thousands of digital images for the GBBC photo contest. Many are featured in the popular online gallery. Participants in the 2009 count are also invited to upload their bird videos to YouTube; some will also be featured on the GBBC web site. Visit www.birdcount.org to learn more.

Businesses, schools, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in the GBBC can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at (800) 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call (607) 254-2473), or Audubon at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, ext 16.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited. ♪



Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 3. 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@att.net.

Saturday, January 3. 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 of LA Co Parks at (661) 257-4050.

Sunday, January 4. 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 (661) 229-6986 or kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net.

Saturday, January 10. Beginners and Family Bird Walk. 8:30–11:00 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. Leaders: Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796 and Linda Jones, (818) 831-6061. RAIN CANCELS.

Saturday, January 10. High Desert Bird Prowl. 8:00 a.m. Here is an opportunity to seek out wintering hawks, owls, Mountain Plovers, Mountain Bluebirds, longspurs, sparrows, etc. Directions: Take the 405 or 5 Freeway north to the 14 Freeway. Exit the 14 at Avenue S south of Palmdale and drive to the Park-n-Ride Lot just east of the off-ramp. We will meet at the west end of the lot and carpool for the morning. Bring snacks and beverages. Scopes and FRS ra-

dios will be helpful. We will return to the meeting spot about 1:00 p.m. No fee, no reservation.

Leaders: Jim Hardesty, (818) 346-6712, and Jim Moore, (661) 298-1130.

Saturday, January 10. 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, January 11. 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.

Saturday, January 17. 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 17. 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, January 18. 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(s): Muriel Kotin, (310) 457-5796, aKotin@earthlink.net and/or Art Langton, (818) 887-0973.

Tuesday, January 20. O'Melveny Weekday Walk (formerly Weekday Wanderer's) at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 8:30 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan



and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west .6 mile, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at, (818) 885-7493, with any questions (before 7 p.m., please) or CarolOpp@sbcglobal.net.

Thursday, January 22. 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. Come early for social hour. Join us for a Special Presentation on Alaskan Conservation Issues! Our speaker will be Lauren Hierl, Alaska Policy Associate for the National Audubon Society. See "Program Notes" on page one for more information.

Sunday, January 25. Descanso Gardens Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See January 11 for details.

Monday, January 26. SFVAS Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Balboa Mission Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd., at Balboa (southeast corner) in Granada Hills.

Sunday, February 1. Sepulveda Basin Bird Walk. 8:00 a.m. See January 4 for details.

Saturday, February 7. Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Bird Walk. 8:00–11:00 a.m. See January 3 for details.

Saturday, February 7. Castaic Lake Bird Walk. 8:00–10:00 a.m. See January 3 for details.

Future Field Trips: (Details later)
February 21. Private Game Preserve in Ventura County
March 21–22. Morro Bay Weekend ♪

Adult Bird Research Camp Spring 2009 Woodland Birds of Starr Ranch March 7–8

Submitted by Stephan Lorenz M.S., Biologist-Educator for Bird Programs Starr Ranch Sanctuary

Spend an early spring weekend at Audubon California's beautiful 4000-acre Starr Ranch Sanctuary in southeast Orange County. A variety of survey techniques will be used to compare bird species and diversity found in upland oak woodlands vs. riparian (streambank) woodlands. Participants will also learn about the importance of riparian woodlands for rare breeding birds and neotropical migrants.

Woodland Bird Monitoring: After an introduction to the identification of woodland birds by sound and sight, you will learn how to survey for birds using point counts, playback survey, and evening owl survey. Participants will visit many beautiful sites within oak and riparian woodlands throughout Starr Ranch.

Date and Times: Saturday, March 7, 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.

Cost: \$80 for day only, \$85/if tent camping (BYO lunch, dinner provided).

Woodland Bird Banding: After a short introduction to bird banding, participants will use mist nets to survey for woodland birds. Once data collection is complete, we will summarize and discuss our data.

Date and Times: Sunday, March 8, banding begins at 7:00 a.m.–noon

Cost: \$37.50

Reservations & Questions: Stephan Lorenz, (949) 858-0309, slorenz@mail.com



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.

A.L. Adams	Marshall Giller	Ernestine Opton
John Akers	Judy Givertz	Phyllis Owens
Michael Aucoin	Valerie Gold	Joanne Parker
Kathy Babilonia	Liliane Gooch	Susan Pearson
F.L. Baird	David Gordan	Cherie Penn
Theodora Ballor	William Greene	Helen Perlmutter
Virginia Bange	Elizabeth Gromer McMahon	Ervin Polan
Marianne Behms Gray	Doris Guerin	Sandra Quinn
Rosalyn Berg	Mary Hale	Craig Rabe
Annalisa Berns	Lucy Harding	John Radalj
Lian Blum	S. & M. Heitzinger	Teresa Radlinksa
Dana Blumfield	Carla Henry	Stephanie Reitzenstein
Dianne Buckley	Doris Herrera	Terri Richmond
Monika Bucknall	Joanne Hodges	Mary Roberts
Jean Buesing	Bettie Hull	Heather Ross
Narayan Champawat	James Irwin	Alicia Russ
Barbara Charles	Edward Jones	Judy Russell
Joanne Chernov	Rachel Kevin	Marie Sacco
Bruno Chiarutini	J. Klas	Irwin Salin
Dean Collette	Jack Knight	Vern Sanders
Matilde Cuellard	Sandra Lakim	George Savin
Jo D'Arcy	Bill Lambeth	Caroline Selden
Gregory Dato	Norma Larson	Adrian Sepulveda
Jerri Defrenn	S. & P. L'Her	Lavelle Sharp
Robert Denmark	Irene Lutz	Sybil Sheppard-Deville
Christine Devor	Jason Lynch	Lana Simmons
Anne Dios	Cynthia Mackintosh	Lynda Simpson
Chuck Douglas	Pat Malak	Christine Stark
Devon Draig	Randy Martin	Steve Steinberg
Jan Dunlap	R & J McCollum	Alex Tumipseed
Marilynne Dye	Sandra Mcintee	Lin Tyrell
Linda Dymon	Robert Mclaughlin	S. Vandiver
Louise Epps	Florence Miller	Liz Walker
The Nelson Family	Karen Mishkin	Cheryl Weisel
Tom Farr	Larry Munoz	Norman Whytock
Donna Fitzsimons Rust	D. Nash	Laurie Wilby
Kathy Gallagher	Beverlee Nelson	D & D Witucki
Sue Galvin	Adam Nisenholtz	



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 _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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 3rd 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 Jim Moore at (661) 298-1130 or e-mail him at jimmoore@socal.rr.com

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Jim Moore	(661) 298-1130
1st Vice President:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
2nd Vice President:	Chris Van Beveren	998-3122
Treasurer:	Mark Osokow	unpublished
Recording Sec'y:	Donna Timlin	341-9354
Corresponding Sec'y	Margie Maseda	880-2002

DIRECTORS

John Dietz	222-8180
Sara Huang	947-2877
Dave Weeshoff	618-1652
Heather Medvitz	222-4430
Michael Van Norman	(661) 263-2958

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Antelope Valley Chair:	Bob and Bonnie Weatherman	(661) 269-2051
AV Newsletter:	Linda Edwards	(661) 948-3524
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	340-2347
Birdathon:	Rose Leibowitz	990-5405
Christmas Bird Count:	Art Langton	887-0973
Community Outreach:	Sharon Ford	780-5816
Conservation:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(661) 299-6986
Conservation:	Seth Shteir	995-6429
Coordinating Council Rep:	Jim Hardesty	346-6712
Descanso Bird Station:	Dottie Ecker	790-0659
Descanso Bird Walks:	Nancy Herron Knode	unpublished
Descanso Bird Walks:	Karen Johnson	790-1687
Education Classroom:	Dave Weeshoff	618-1652
Education-Sep. Basin:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	885-7493
Field Trips:	Richard Barth	(310) 276-0342
Finance:	Allan Kotin	(310) 457-5796

Hospitality:	Carol Johnson	981-8457
Layout & Design:	AM Mail Plus	787-6415
Malibu Crk. Bird Walk:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Membership:	Rose Leibowitz	990-5405
Outreach Coordinator:	Sharon Ford	780-5816
Phainopepla Editor:	Rebecca LeVine	776-0881
Programs:	Jeanne Polak-Recht	831-2438
Publicity:	Margie Maseda	880-2002
Sales & Services:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	885-7493
Scholarship:	Linda Jones	831-6061
Sepulveda Bird Walks:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(661) 299-6986
Web Coordinator:	Jim Hardesty	346-6712
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

All Phones are area code 818 unless otherwise noted.

For Chapter leaders email addresses, see our web site:

www.SFVAudubon.org

CHAPTER PHONE (818) 347-3205

PHAINOPEPLA is copyright©2009 by the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society. All rights reserved. All photographs used in the PHAINOPEPLA are used by permission and are copyrighted material of the credited photographers.





Phainopepla

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

Please visit our website
to see this issue in full color!
www.sfvaudubon.org

Phainopepla January 2009



INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

Audubon at Home—pg. 2 ♪ Monthly Field Trip Report, Great Backyard Bird Count—pg. 3
Calendar of Events; Starr Ranch—pgs. 4–5 ♪ Membership—pg. 6 ♪ SFVAS Chapter Info.—pg. 7

Save the Date

San Fernando Valley Annual Awards Banquet

Friday, March 13, 2009

Airtel Plaza Hotel

7277 Valjean Avenue, Van Nuys

6:00 p.m. No host bar

7:00 p.m. Dinner

