



# Phainopepla

Published by the  
**San Fernando Valley Audubon Society**  
A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization  
A Chapter of National Audubon Society

*For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife*

Vol. 72 No. 5

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## FALL INTO BIRDING PICNIC

*You are invited* to join other birders at a “bring your own” picnic, **Sunday, October 3**, at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (approximately 11:15 a.m.) following Kris Ohlenkamp’s 8:00 a.m. birding event. Pack your own chair and cooler with your lunch to leave in your car for this casual post-birding get-together. If you cannot make it to the birding event just show up for the picnic and hear about the birds you missed! We will have an area with the chapter banner visible for you to find the picnic spot. If you do not see us look for a flyer posted on the Education Storage Room door (right of bathrooms) with directions to the site. For safety, please maintain social distancing by placing your chair at least 6’ from other attendees. We look forward to meeting new and experienced birders alike. See Calendar of Events, page 4, for directions.



### Online General Membership Meetings

Please join us for our online presentations from the comfort of your home!

Become a **NEW member**

Your first year is **FREE!**

Go to

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

SAVE THE DATE!

AUDUBON  
CHRISTMAS BIRD  
COUNT



Saturday, December 18,  
2021

More info in the next issue on how you can help count birds and join us for BIRDS & BEER as we tally up the results!

### General Membership Meeting: — Zoom Presentation —

**Thursday, October 28, 2021**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**Guest Speaker: Kat High**

**N**ative Americans have greatly valued the birds on our continent for centuries. Come hear storyteller, Kat High, teach us about the place and importance of birds in Native American cultures through traditional stories and a modern-day PowerPoint presentation.

Kat High is a Native Californian of Hupa descent. She served as the Director and Program Coordinator for the Haramokngna American Indian Cultural Center for over 15 years. Kat is a member of the California Indian Storytelling Association and has done storytelling at libraries, schools, the Dorothy Ramon Learning Center, and other locations in Southern California.

Kat has been trained by traditional elders in land management traditions and is a teacher on adapting those principles to the modern world, a participant in the KCET “Tending the Wild” documentary and is part of the “California Continued” exhibit at the Autry National Center.

She is the founder of Kidiwische Connections, offering workshops on modern adaptations of Native relationships to Earth. Her modest home “gathering garden” was included in the recently published *Under Western Skies*, by Jennifer Jewell and Caitlin Atkinson.

We hope you will join us for the Zoom meeting. [Click here](#), enter your information and you will receive a link prior to the event. If you’ve signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you’re already on our list!



## Newest Board Members

In June the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society welcomed three newly-elected Board members. We are delighted to introduce them to you. Please welcome Luisa Bergeron, Jolene Herz, and Rebecca Marschall.



*Luisa Bergeron:* I am a professional ornithologist and graduate from UC Santa Barbara where I received a B.S. in Zoology in 2015. Since then I have worked on various bird conservation projects, most notably I was an intern with USFWS on the California Condor Conservation Program, and am currently working on a project to trap and remove Brown-headed Cowbirds from the environment in order to protect threatened populations of the Least Bell's Vireo. I am an enthusiastic naturalist and like to spend my free time hiking, birding, and camping at National Parks. As a board member I am hoping to be a positive representation for under-represented minorities and spread awareness and love of the outdoors to underprivileged youths.

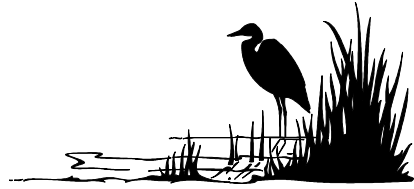
*Jolene Herz:* Hello, my name is Jolene Herz and I'm thrilled to be a new Board member of the SFVAS. I've lived in the San Fernando Valley my entire life. During the pandemic, I discovered a true passion for birdwatching. I began to watch the birds in my backyard and decided to put up feeders and pay closer attention to identifying them. I also wanted to connect with other people that were into birdwatching, so I reached out to the San Fernando Valley Audubon and have attended their walks in Franklin and O'Melveny Canyons. On those walks, I dedicated myself to learn as much as I could about the birds I was seeing, as well as participating in organized bird walks. I also volunteer with Overdue which is a local trash clean up group working to make the communities of Woodland Hills, Canoga Park, and West Hills a cleaner, greener space. I also work in the music industry by working with a team who books live events at the Forum in Inglewood. My husband and I live in Woodland Hills with our two rescue dogs.



*Rebecca Marschall:* I grew up in Encino, and though I remember using a Golden Guide to identify Hooded Orioles in my childhood backyard, I didn't become a birder until 2013. In many ways, I feel like birding is my version of a meditation practice, and even if it's only in my backyard, I try to bird for at least five minutes every day. I love community science projects, and lead a sector for the SFV CBC in the east Valley, as well as routes on several other CBC counts and shorebird surveys. I use eBird religiously (I am almost at 1000 consecutive days of listing!), and a 5-mile-radius birder who loves birding suburban parks and cemeteries, just because you never know what you might find in an unexpected place. I currently serve on the board of Los Angeles Birders, a relatively new nonprofit group focused on field ornithology skills and community science, and I've been active in community science through the Natural History Museum of LA County and iNaturalist since 2011. Before I began birding, my main nature interest was native plants, and though my yard is not quite ready for the Theodore Payne garden tour, I'm always looking for more ways to transform my yard into a more biodiverse and drought-tolerant space. Professionally, I have been the Manuscripts & Archives Librarian at UCLA's Clark Library in West Adams since

2008, where I work with handwritten items dating from 1600-1950, manage our heirloom seed library, and create urban nature-related public programming. I found a vagrant Red-flanked Bluetail at the Clark in 2019, which provided an amazing opportunity to meet so many birders from across the LA-area and beyond (including, I'm sure, many of you!), and also helped to convince my library colleagues that the idea of urban nature-related programs was more than just an eccentric idea of mine. I live in Valley Village with my husband and two young sons, who are not quite birders yet, but who love exploring the outdoors.

## Free Guided Tours of Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve



A year after the devastating fire of September 2020 in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, San Fernando Valley Audubon invites you to guided tours of the reserve on Second Saturdays. The walks will include the many birds, other wildlife, habitat, and fire recovery. The emphasis of each tour will vary with participants' interests.

**Second Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. October 2021 - March 2022.**

Tours of this special place will begin at 9:00 A.M. and last an hour and a half or two hours, depending on the group's wishes.

### **These Walks are for**

- People who want to visit the Wildlife Reserve
- Families with school-age children
- Beginning birdwatchers, including first timers

**Time and Meeting Place:** The Wildlife Area entrance and amphitheater are in the southeast part of Woodley Park. Meet at the **amphitheater at 9:00 A.M.** on the south side of the rock-faced buildings, away from the music of the exercise dance group.

**Directions:** Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank or south from Victory Blvd., go  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at amphitheater. GPS coordinates to parking lot: 34.179942,-118.472595.

**Equipment and Clothing:** Wear sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and a cap or hat with a brim. Bring binoculars if you have them.

**More Information:** Muriel Kotin at 213.500-4143 or visit San Fernando Valley Audubon's website [www.sfvaudubon.org](http://www.sfvaudubon.org). **Heavy rain cancels.**

## Calendar of Events

**WE HAVE RESUMED BIRD OUTINGS, BUT PLEASE REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION. WE CONTINUE TO FOLLOW CDC GUIDELINES.**

## October

**Sunday, October 3. Sepulveda Basin Walk & Fall Picnic. 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](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net). **Immediately following, all are invited to join us for a “Bring Your Own Picnic” get-together where you can relax, picnic, and meet other birders. See page 1 for more details.**

**Saturday, October 9. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Tour. 9:00–**

**10:30 a.m.** This tour is perfect for families with school-age children, beginning or first time birders, and people who want to learn more about the Wildlife Reserve. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank Blvd. or south from Victory Blvd., go .5 miles and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (213) 500-4143. Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, October 10. 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](http://sfvaudubon.org) under Events to reserve a spot.

**Sunday, October 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, October 19. 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Saturday, October 23. 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](mailto:batesbird@gmail.com).

**Thursday, October 28. SFVAS Zoom General Membership Meeting.**

**7:00–8:30 p.m.** Guest Speaker: Kat High. Join us as we listen to Native American storyteller, Kat High, share the importance of birds in Native American culture. 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!

## November

**Sunday, November 7. 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](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Saturday, November 13. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Tour. 9:00**

**—10:30 a.m.** This tour is perfect for families with school-age children, beginning or first time birders, and people who want to learn more about the Wildlife Reserve. Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank Blvd. or south from Victory Blvd., go .5 miles and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, on to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin, (213) 500-4143. Heavy rain cancels.

**Sunday, November 14. 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](http://sfvaudubon.org) under Events to reserve a spot.

**Tuesday, November 16. 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](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Sunday, November 21. 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.

**Monday, November 22. SFVAS ZOOM Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.****No General Membership Meeting in November. Happy Thanksgiving!****Saturday, November 27. 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](mailto:batesbird@gmail.com).



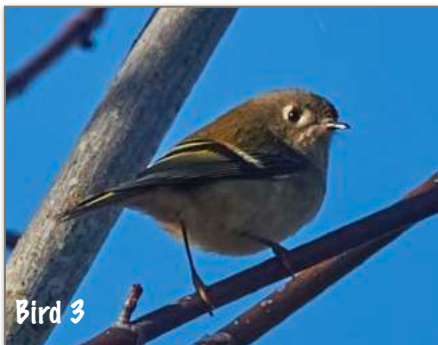
**SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, December 18. Christmas Bird Count.**

Virtual Birds for Virtual Birding

**BIRDS of the WESTERN CONIFEROUS FORESTS**

Photos courtesy of Alan Gilbert, Stephen Miller, Don Shoemaker, Stephen Langton, Ed Stonick

Taxidermy by Igor Caragodin—Submitted by Arthur Langton





—Answers on Back Page—

# SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Treasurer:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Corresponding Secretary:	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Recording Secretary:	Barbara Heidemann	unpublished

## AT-LARGE DIRECTORS

Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Natalie Beckman-Smith	(818) 926-7825
Wendy Barsh	(818) 398-2104
Jolene Herz	(818) 636-3764
Luisa Bergeron	(661) 755-7223
Rebecca Marschall	(818) 219-2649

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Bird Boxes:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Conservation:	OPEN	
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Rebecca LeVine	(818) 776-0881
Finance:	OPEN	
Programs:	Joanne Millius	(818) 335-5331
Web Coordinator:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207
Youth Activities:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Annual Awards	Paul Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Audubon-at-Home:	Alan Pollack	(818) 340-2347
Birdathon:	Richard Davis	(310) 529-8865
Christmas Bird Count:	Alexander deBarros	(818) 919-3425
Community Outreach:	OPEN	
Education Classroom:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Education-SBEEP:	Paula Orlovich	(818) 481-5605
Field Trips:	OPEN	
Hansen Dam Birding:	Pat Bates	(818) 425-0962
Hospitality:	Teri Carnesciali	(818) 892-5029
Malibu Creek Birding:	Dave Barton	(310) 990-6896
	Kathy Barton	(818) 929-2516
Membership:	Lynn Maddox	(818) 845-4688
O'Melveny Bird Wander:	Carolyn Oppenheimer	(818) 885-7493
Publicity:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sales & Service:	Diana Keeney	(818) 998-3216
Scholarships and Grants:	Marianne Davis	(310) 529-8871
Sepulveda Basin Steering:	Muriel Kotin	(310) 457-5796
Sepulveda Basin Birding:	Kris Ohlenkamp	(818) 521-8799
Social Media:	Jim Houghton	(818) 388-7207

**TO BECOME A MEMBER AND/OR RENEW  
ONLINE GO TO**  
<https://www.sfvaudubon.org/membership/>  
**It's fast, secure, saves time, and paper!**

Or mail this form and include a check made payable to:

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

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$25      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

1-yr Online Chapter Membership (No paper copy of *Phainopepla*)  
.....**FREE** for a limited time for new members      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Student 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (PLEASE INCLUDE):  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

If you want to join or renew by check, please be sure to include your e-mail address if you want to receive an acknowledgment. We can no longer thank you by regular mail. If you do not have an e-mail address, please know how much we appreciate your involvement with, and support of, SFVAS.

The *PHAINOPEPLA*, published six times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society, a non-profit conservation/education organization, and is dedicated to "the conservation of wildlife and natural resources."

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the *PHAINOPEPLA*.

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


**Membership to National Audubon is separate and can be initiated on the website [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org).**


If you have any questions about membership, renewals, change of address or any other membership concerns, please contact Lynn Maddox at (818) 845-4688 or e-mail her at [Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).


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For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our website:  
[www.SFVAudubon.org](http://www.SFVAudubon.org)

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**Found an injured animal? Call Wildlife Rescue Center at (818) 222-2658**



## Phainopepla

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

### Inside This Issue

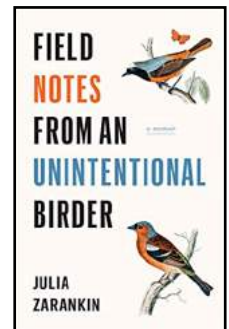
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### Book Report:

*FIELD NOTES FROM AN UNINTENTIONAL BIRDER*, by Julia Zarankin

Available from Los Angeles Public Library

Zarankin, who emigrated from Russia and now lives in Toronto, found that birds and birding mirrored many of the problems and processes she herself went through on her life's journey. Her own restlessness seemed to be a need to migrate, and her own ambitions seemed best when expressed in bird speak: She wants "hair as perfectly coifed as a Cedar Waxwing, a Northern Flicker's intrepid sense of style, a Ross's Goose's superlative confidence, the singing voice of a Wood Thrush, the glare of a kingfisher...a Black-and-white Warbler's awesome classic elegance, and the Red-winged Blackbird's ability to make a first impression." She learned to live like birders: you show up, you pay attention to the world around you, you listen, you hope, imagine, and wait. Each one of her life chapters is described in terms of a birding experience and lesson learned. A very pleasant read, and broken into neat chapters that are just about right as a bedtime relaxation. —Submitted by Marianne Davis 🐦



### Audubon-at-Home by Alan Pollack

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

#### Answers for Virtual Birding

- |                           |                            |                                       |                           |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Golden-crowned Kinglet | 6. Mountain Chickadee      | 12. Red-shafted or Northern Flicker   | 18. Pygmy Nuthatch        |
| 2. Dark-eyed Junco        | 7. Western Tanager         | 13. Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warbler | 19. Steller's Jay         |
| 3. Ruby-crowned Kinglet   | 8. White-headed Woodpecker | 14. Fox Sparrow                       | 20. Hermit Thrush         |
| 4. Golden-crowned Sparrow | 9. Western Bluebird        | 15. Brown Creeper                     | 21. Black-headed Grosbeak |
| 5. Hairy Woodpecker       | 10. White-crowned Sparrow  | 16. MacGillivray's Warbler            | 22. American Robin        |
|                           | 11. Mountain Bluebird      | 17. Hermit Warbler                    |                           |