



# Phainopepla

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**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. 73 No. 4

August / September 2022

## Online General Membership Zoom Programs

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

Reminder: No General Program in August. See you in September!

*Have a great summer*

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## Online Zoom Program

**Thursday, September 22, 2022**

**7:00—8:30 p.m.**

**Speaker: Dr. Nicole Michel**

**Topic: Priority Birds and Audubon's Conservation Efforts**

**D**r. Nicole Michel, Director of Quantitative Science at National Audubon, will present to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Chapter on Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 p.m. She will be speaking about the priority birds of Audubon and what is happening to prioritize their conservation. She joined National Audubon Society's Conservation Science Division in December of 2015.

Dr. Michel has over 20 years' experience researching bird populations. She worked as a Biologist for The Institute for Bird Populations for six years and was responsible for analyzing data and modeling bird-habitat relationships. Nicole has published over 30 scientific papers and book chapters. She is an Elective Member of the American Ornithological Society, where she serves on the Conservation and Publication Futures Committee.

In 2012, Nicole received her Ph.D in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at Tulane University, New Orleans. She also completed two postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Saskatchewan where she examined drivers of population declines in aerial insectivorous birds.

[Click here](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.



## Calendar of Events

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

### August 2022

**Sunday, August 7. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:**



Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road (“Wildlife Way”) and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road’s end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Sunday, August 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.



**Sunday, August 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 and David Barton at (818) 425–0962.

No General Membership Program in August.

Have a great summer!

**Saturday, August 27. Hansen Dam. 11640 Foothill Blvd., Sylmar, 8:15 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).

### September 2022

**Sunday, September 4. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00–11:00 a.m. Directions to Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve During Detour on Access Road:**

Take Burbank Boulevard to Woodley Avenue. Turn north. Travel around 0.4 miles on Woodley to the first possible right turn, a park road. The park road will end at a parking lot. Turn left and drive through the parking lot. Turn right onto the park access road (“Wildlife Way”) and drive around 0.4 miles to the paved parking lot on the left at road’s end. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp. Contact him at [kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net).

**Thursday, September 8. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O’Melveny Park. 10:00–11:30 a.m.**

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



**Sunday, September 11. 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, September 18. 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 and David Barton at (818) 425–0962.

**Monday, September 19. SFVAS ZOOM Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, September 20. 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) 425–0962, or [carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:carolyn.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Thursday, September 22. General Membership Program. 7:00–8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Dr. Nicole Michel. Topic: Priority Birds and Audubon’s Conservation Efforts.** See page one for more information. [Click here](#) to sign up and we will send you the link. If you’ve signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you’re already on our list!

**Saturday, September 24. 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).



**Sunday, September 25. Young Birders Group. Note: Now meeting on the LAST Sunday of the month.** Location TBD. Please check our website for updates. Interested in joining us? E-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at [YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org) for more information and we can add you to our e-mail list.

## SFVAS Annual Awards Luncheon 2022 by Marianne Davis

Our first in-person Awards Luncheon, since our COVID hiatus, happened on a perfect weather day, with a respectable turnout at Franklin Canyon Park, at the Sooky Goldman Nature Center. Muriel Kotin led the Bird Outing beforehand, and Pat Bates kept us diverted with her birdy slide show during the whole event. Steve McCroskey once again kept us mellow with his relaxing music, and Harvest Moon provided a delicious spread for us all.



Paula Orlovich - Photo by WuDi Davis

Paula Orlovich, our President for the last four years, reminded us of what we had managed to get through during this time of COVID. We pivoted to ZOOM meetings, SBEEP also pivoted along with LAUSD, and we saw the Tucker Sanctuary through a long journey to its new mission as an educational center. It's been a challenging time for all of us, and Paula guided us through it all. Kathy Barton and Teri Carnesciali presented Paula with a beautiful print of a male hooded oriole (by Pat Bates) and a book on journaling, one of Paula's new interests in our new birdsit activity.

A new award, Community Champion, was awarded to 5<sup>th</sup> District Council member Paul Koretz, and to Andy Shrader, the Director for Environmental Affairs, Water Policy & Sustainability for the Koretz Office. Paul Koretz is finishing his third and final term representing his large District but did so much more than representing his constituents. He called for LA to move beyond coal power, helped ban plastic bags, helped get the San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant closed, and stood up the Climate Emergency Mobilization Office. Andy Shrader is continuing to work on banning Styrofoam food containers, banning oil drilling in Los Angeles, and is the Campaign Director of Cool LA, the City's Cool City Challenge climate moonshot. They both gave moving speeches about how Audubon touched their lives, and how conservation needs to continue, no matter what.



Marianne Davis, Andy Shrader  
Photo by WuDi Davis

Paula introduced the Service Award winner, Rose Leibowitz, and read praise for Rose from Alexander deBarros, our long-time Young Birders leader. Rose has been active for years with SFVAS. She started the Young Birders Group, co-created and co-ran BirdFest, ran Birdathon, and was President for four years. Everybody knows Rose and admires her hard work and dedication to our Chapter.

Pat Bates was honored as our Conservation Award winner. Pat has been working with SFVAS for years as Treasurer and also the Bird Outing Leader for Hansen Dam. Pat has labored tirelessly for the benefit of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, advocating for conservation and for a humane solution to the homeless situation (frequently occurs at the Basin). She is dedicated to these causes and shows no sign of letting up, in addition to all her work as President of Encino Neighborhood Council.

The finale was the Auction of Carolyn Oppenheimer's splendid bird-themed baskets. The Auction raises funds for SFVAS, and the recipients were delighted with the contents.



Photo by WuDi Davis

Joanne Millius donated beautiful California Native plants as center pieces, and many fortunate attendees were able to take them home.

We were pleased to host all Scholarship students: Mars Waters, Ari Cuellar, and Rennie McIntosh. Natalie Beckman-White (on our Board), and Elliot Bloom from 2021 also attended. We were thrilled to hear of their academic achievements and look forward to PhD credentials after their names in the future! 🐦



Rose Leibowitz, Andy Shrader, Paul Koretz, Pat Bates, & Paula Orlovich  
Photo by WuDi Davis



Photo by Richard Davis

## Continued Utilization of Mounted Bird Collection *by Art Langton*

In addition to the Chapter's native bird display's presence at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve Open House, as described in the last issue of *Phainopepla*, bird displays were also requested and exhibited at the Placerita Canyon County Park Open House, May 14 while a select group of three bird species were loaned out to Pasadena Audubon for use by Washington Elementary STEM Magnet of Pasadena during and throughout the month of May.

Open House at Placerita attracted several hundred attendees celebrating the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions and enjoying exhibits and displays provided by several environmental and County first responder organizations. The Chapter's presentation included a display of common oak woodland and chaparral birds advantageously situated between and adjacent to the ever-popular local rock club's display of polished stones and the Herp Connection showing of live snakes and lizards. This high traffic area supplied many attentive observers, many with questions regarding bird walks, identification, and conservation as well as Audubon membership. Event organizers put together a scavenger-hunt type activity for all the young, future conservationists and first responders with several birds included as required search objects. A Western Tanager and Scrub Jay were in frequent demand and highly sought after.

Washington Elementary Magnet School in Pasadena, with the cooperation, support, and sponsorship of the Pasadena Audubon Society, has created a STEM educational program featuring the creation, maintenance, and observation of several local native plant mini-habitats on the school campus. This permits students to study a variety of local native plant biomes as well as the birds, insects, and lizard attracted to them on an ongoing daily or weekly basis without the necessity or expense of off campus transportation. Since the Eaton Canyon Museum no longer loans out study specimens of birds, several of the Chapter's collection were provided to make up for this loss and to continue to allow students the opportunity for the close-up inspection and study of bird features and their adaptations while remaining in the classroom, an example of collaboration between organizations with similar goals at its best. Thanks to Pasadena Audubon for the prompt and timely pickup and return of the involved displays. 🐦



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## Spring Birding at Malibu Creek *by Kathy Barton*

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's monthly bird walk at Malibu Creek State Park that took place June 19 managed to delight its seventeen participants. Led by David and Kathy Barton, the three-hour walk, about three miles in length, yielded an aggregate of at least 48 avian species. Not only that, our walkers were treated to warm weather, clear skies and fresh banana bread under shade of the park's magnificent oaks! Special thanks to Chris and Ruth Tosdevin for providing the banana bread!

Spring breeding was very much under way at Malibu Creek. We enjoyed watching Ash-throated Flycatchers carrying food to their nestlings and heard vigorous singing by House Wrens, Spotted Towhees and Yellow and Orange-crowned Warblers. Migrant specialties, including a dozen lovely Lazuli Buntings and a handful of Blue Grosbeaks, dazzled us with their spectacular plumage. Participants were excited in particular to detect the song of a Yellow-breasted Chat.

While Malibu Creek remains mostly dry, the lack of water did not prevent us from obtaining good views of Killdeer, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, and Green Heron. And very conspicuous during our stroll were such oak woodland residents as Acorn Woodpecker, California Quail, Red-shouldered Hawk, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, and four species of swallow.

The Society's bird walks at Malibu Creek State Park are held on the third Sunday of every month. We meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot closest to the restrooms. If you would like to join us, bring a hat, water, your bins (we have a few loaners if you don't), and most importantly, your enthusiasm. We'll provide the birds! 🐦

## Pollinator Garden Showcased at Fire Station 83's Open House by Paula Orlovich



Nithya Raman, Pat Bates, & Fire Chief Zipperman

Photo by Paula Orlovich

When Pat Bates has a vision she gets busy making that vision a reality. Pat's vision was a fusion of a need to spruce up L.A. City Fire Station 83's curbside appeal and our commitment as a chapter to promoting the use of native plants that benefit our pollinators. With her usual perseverance Pat received the backing of the fire station along with financial backing, first from the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society and later from the Encino Neighborhood Council. The SFV Audubon Finance Committee ultimately selected the landscaper that brought the project together.

On June 26, the community gathered much to the delight of the surrounding neighbors to view the end result, enjoy hot dogs and the sight of enthralled children as they scampered aboard the fire trucks and met their heroes. Pat spoke about the need to support our local stations, Fire Chief Zipperman also spoke in appreciation of the garden as well as our City Council Representative Nithya Raman.

Our chapter hopes to expand this successful project in our area as we see this as a way of demonstrating our commitment to our local conservation opportunities.

Pat received the recognition she deserved at the event however I noted that her expression revealed that she was satisfied that she had met her goals and it was as she envisioned. 🐾

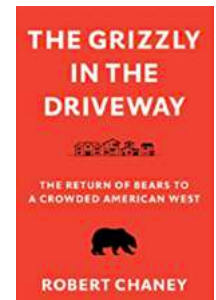


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## Book Report: *THE GRIZZLY IN THE DRIVEWAY: The Return of Bears to a Crowded American West*

by Robert Chaney (from LAPL)

We don't have grizzlies in California, so we don't think about them much. The only one you will see is the one on our state flag, as they went extinct here in about 1920. But they are about as controversial across the country as wolves and coyotes, and it's not apt to settle down anytime soon. Chaney tells some fascinating stories about how close grizzlies came to coming off the Endangered Species List, and how social media has saved the day for some of them. Some bears are so famous on social media that when something untoward goes down, like attacking someone, people all over the world start emailing and writing letters to save the bear. It's become quite the phenomenon, and US Fish and Wildlife is struggling with how to manage. Chaney calls these bears *Ursus horribilis* Facebookii.



Something else is happening out there, as bears adapt to humans in their lives. Sows have found that they and their cubs live longer if they chose to live by the roadside, if they didn't get into it with humans. Apparently male boars are less apt to attack the family (infanticide triggers a sow's reproductive cycle) with humans and traffic around. But, once the acclimatized cubs grow up, they frequently get in trouble and are caught and wake up 100+ miles off, in another bear's territory. They don't usually survive the experience. Social media also has been used to track bears, creating "bear jams" in the parks and giving the rangers quite the headache trying to manage the traffic.

What becomes apparent throughout the chapters of this book is how fractured preservation of endangered species has become. Each state has its own take on it, USFW is pushed either way by lobbyists and ranchers/farmers in their own territory, and national efforts have been anemic at best. Grizzlies and brown bears both commute for love, searching wide swaths of territories for mates. This is where they get in trouble, as they wander through populated areas. Reserves have various boundaries, and of course the bears don't observe the line. If they take food from a home or won't move off when a human tries to scare them off, rangers are required to remove/destroy them.

BUT one of the most successful efforts explored is how Native Americans regard grizzlies (and other bears) as religious icons, and have successfully fought State/local eradication efforts in court. Which is why Senate Bill 2372, which is being considered now, is pure genius. It puts funding in the hands of tribal agencies (who have enormous landholdings) to work on endangered species, along with USFW, and provides funding for cooperative work between regional agencies. All of these problems are on display in Chaney's work, and with passage of SB 2372, there is hope. Read the book and write your Senators. 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) 425-0962 or at [alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:alan.pollack@sfvaudubon.org). 🐦



**Bird Sit Bulletin**

Journaling about birds is an activity that can take place in all sorts of locales: the beach, a backyard, or a favorite park.

**Beach Poem**

My little hamlet by the sea  
I am her and she is me -  
Looking westward to the sun  
sandy white  
and pelicans-  
No other pillow could lay so well  
nor free a mind  
or sadness quell ~  
So perhaps it's love  
and meant to be  
my little hamlet  
by the sea

--Jacob Barrett



--Veronica Petrik

**Reflection:** “For me, the Bird Sit is an invitation to sit in nature and be present with my surroundings. I enjoy meeting up with more experienced birders and getting to learn from them, and find out what interests them about birds and nature. The Bird Sit is a great opportunity to relax outside and pay attention to the little sweeties flying around me!” --Larkin Novak

For details on how to join Diana and Teri for the September Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, please check the Calendar of Events.

**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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SBEEP: Paula Orlovich  
Scholarships and Grants: Marianne Davis  
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Social Media: Jolene Herz  
Web Coordinator: Jolene Herz  
Youth Activities: Muriel Kotin

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS/PROGRAMS**

Annual Awards: Paul Orlovich  
Bird Sit with Journaling: Diana Keeney  
Finance: OPEN  
Franklin Canyon: Paula Orlovich  
Hansen Dam Birding: Pat Bates  
Malibu Creek Birding: Dave Barton  
Kathy Barton  
O'Melveny Bird Wander: Carolyn Oppenheimer  
Sepulveda Basin Birding: Kris Ohlenkamp  
Young Birders Group: Luisa Bergeron  
Rebecca Marschall

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

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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 non-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society, and is dedicated to "Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife."

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) 425-0962 or e-mail her at [Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Lynn.Maddox@sfvaudubon.org).

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## Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society  
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## **Toluca Lake Elementary School Awards our Chapter** *by Paula Orlovich*

Our chapter is very committed to providing environmental education to students. Muriel Kotin, as Chairperson of Youth Activities, schedules and leads walks at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. She and her team of dedicated volunteers lead walks for a variety of groups including Girl Scouts, Mommy and Me parenting groups, and college classes. As chair of the Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Programs I work with our partners the Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains. Each school year we give grants to teachers so that their students can participate in a field trip at the Wildlife Reserve. During the course of the school year we are able to provide trips for about 2,000 students in grades 4-6.



This year, I was contacted by Dennis Hagen-Smith, a teacher at Toluca Lake Elementary School, to inform us that we were being recognized for our work in providing educational opportunities for their students. It was my pleasure to attend the graduation of their 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Mr. Smith's class and to accept that recognition. A plaque is going to be displayed in their hallway recognizing our work. I enjoyed participating in the graduation and I gave a short speech on the chapter's behalf. It is very fulfilling to be a part of a chapter that provides students with a high level environmental program and being recognized for that work is unexpected and appreciated. 🐦