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For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife

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Online General Membership Zoom Programs

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Saturday
June 10, 2023

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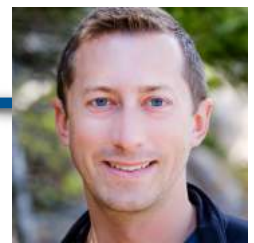
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Online Zoom Programs

Thursday, February 23, 2023
7:00—8:30 p.m.

Speaker: Morgan Tingley, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA
Topic: After the Fire: How Birds Cope with a Changing World



Fire is a critical and natural part of California's ecosystems, but the nature of fire here is rapidly shifting due to climate change. From a biological perspective, fire is a regular disturbance that affects the distribution and abundance of species and has shaped evolution for millions of years. Nevertheless, we are entering an unprecedented period where the dominant nature of fire is rapidly changing, disrupting both human and animal lives. In this lecture, Professor Morgan Tingley will discuss the myriad ways that fire has shaped the ecology of animals—particularly birds—in California and how the shifting nature of fire here is impacting our biodiversity. By learning how species are currently responding to a rapidly changing world, we are offered a glimpse into what our increasingly flammable future will hold.



Morgan Tingley joined the faculty at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2020, after previously serving as an Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut and as a David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellow at Princeton University. He holds a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to this, he received a B.A. from Harvard University and an M.Sc. from Oxford University. He is a recipient of the "Wings across the Americas" conservation award from the U.S. Forest Service and the Young Professional Award from the Cooper Ornithological Society. His more than 80 research papers have been covered widely by the popular press, including features

by *The New York Times*, *LA Times*, *Audubon Magazine*, and *Washington Post*.

Thursday, March 23, 2023
7:00—8:30 p.m.

Topic: Detection Dog Teams and Avian Conservation

The Rogue Detection Teams is a conservation detection dog program based in Washington State, USA, with operations around the world. The detection dog team methodology is a growing tool utilized by a diverse array of wildlife managers. While dog teams are more commonly utilized to assist mammal research, detection dogs also sniff for marine wildlife, viruses in plants, invasive species, butterfly larvae, bumblebee nests, amphibian & reptiles, and even avian wildlife. We are excited to share with you how these special dogs, adopted from shelters, are lending a sniff for birds, finding everything from pellets from endangered owls & other raptors, storm petrel burrows, identifying safe flight corridors for eagles, to mortality events at wind facilities.



Heath Smith, Instructor, Rogue Detection Teams: It is a commonly used idiom, "who rescued whom" when discussing dogs and their people, but it is most true when looking at the relationship between Heath and his first canine partner, Gator. The team was paired when Heath first started conducting detection dog work in 2001 and though Heath was a self-proclaimed cat person, Gator managed to steal his heart and pull Heath down a path of no return. Heath has trod in the world of conservation detection dogs ever since, walking side-by-side with many incredible rescue pups across innumerable landscapes. The more Heath learned from these sage animals, the more he wanted to share his wisdom with others.

Jennifer Hartman, Field Scientist, Rogue Detection Teams: Jennifer began her career in the detection dog field in 2009 when she met Max, a spicy, quirky Australian blue heeler mix. Max introduced Jennifer to the amazing talents of working alongside detection dogs but more importantly, he showed her the life-altering relationships that those who work alongside our canine counterparts for wildlife conservation initiatives form. Alongside Max, Scooby, Filson, and her other canine colleagues, Jennifer has worked on projects spanning a diversity of environments and species, from hot African savannas searching for big cats to steamy jungles in Southeast Asia unearthing data on pangolin, and throughout the United States and Canada.

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

2022 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The end of the year is a time of joy and celebration for many people across many cultures. In the United States, most people celebrate Christmas or Hanukkah, but birders also have the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Started by the Audubon Society in 1900, it is one of the world's longest running community science projects. With over 2,500 count areas spread across the Americas and the North Pacific, CBC data is influential in tracking the rise and fall of bird populations and species diversity on both local and international levels. Analyses of National Audubon's 123 years of CBC data can be found [here](#). San Fernando Valley Audubon has been contributing to the CBC since 1957, and we were eager to continue for our 66th CBC. On December 17, 2022, 78 counters covered 89 locations, totaling 135 species and 18,189 individuals. For reference, last year's totals were 136 species and 17,860 individuals, and our 20 year average is 129 species and 15,833 individuals.

The rules of National Audubon allow us to note species seen during count week, the three days before and after count day. Thanks to our counters and eBird reports made by others who did not participate in the count, we added six additional species during count week, bringing our total for the week to 142 species. These six species include:

- **Osprey**, which was located at the Sepulveda Basin every day of count week, only being missed on count day. This fish-eating bird of prey always winters at the Sepulveda Basin, with this year and 2020 marking the only times since 2001 that it has not been seen on count day (although it was seen in count week both years).
- **Williamson's Sapsucker**, which was located at Veteran's Memorial Park. This species is generally found in mountain pine forests, but occasionally descends into our count circle during periods of harsh weather in the Angeles National Forest. Every time it has been recorded on our CBC, it has been seen at Veteran's Memorial Park, probably because it is adjacent to the Sapsucker's usual range.
- **Red-crowned Parrot**, which was reported at the Sepulveda Basin. This introduced species is abundant in the San Gabriel Valley as well as Glendale and Burbank, with some extending further into the San Fernando Valley. This is the first time it has been reported in any capacity since 2019.
- **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, which was also reported at the Sepulveda Basin. A common species here in summer, it normally winters in southeast Arizona and coastal Mexico, but it has started wintering further north due to climate change. It was reported on count day last year.
- **Canyon Wren**, which was found at Serrania Park. A common species around cliff faces and other areas of bare rock, this is the first time it hasn't been seen on count day since 2000.
- **Wilson's Warbler**, a third count week report from Sepulveda Basin. Primarily found here in migration as it moves from coastal mountains to Mexico, some have started to stick around over winter, likely an effect of climate change.

On count day this year we found many species that haven't been seen in a very long time. These highlights included:

- Three **Common Mergansers**, found by Otto Mayer at the hillside overlook of the Encino Reservoir. While this fish-eating Duck has been recorded on our CBC 28 times, this is the first time it has been recorded since 2011, and the highest count since 1993.
- One **Horned Grebe**, also found by Otto Mayer at the hillside overlook of the Encino Reservoir. Closely related and very similar to the Eared Grebe, the Horned Grebe is generally more common in saltwater areas, while the Eared prefers freshwater. Despite this, the Horned Grebe has been recorded on our CBC 21 times, although not since 2015.
- One **Pacific Loon**, again found by Otto Mayer at the hillside overlook of the Encino Reservoir. As there are very few deep water lakes in the San Fernando Valley, loons are incredibly rare here. This is the second Pacific Loon ever recorded on our CBC, the first since 1983, and the first Loon of any species to be found since 2014.
- One **Townsend's Solitaire**, found by Nurit Katz at Corbin Canyon. This alpine thrush is often found in the San Gabriel Mountains, but only rarely descends to our altitude. This is the third time it has been recorded on our CBC, having previously been seen in 1969 and 1994.
- Fourteen **Mountain Bluebirds**, two found by Rebecca Marschall at Sheldon-Arleta Park, four found by Richard Armerding at Holleigh Bernson Park, two found by Rob Brown at the Hansen Dam Golf Course, and six at the Sepulveda Basin, three by Kris Ohlenkamp & three more reported on eBird. This beautiful songbird is generally found in alpine and subalpine meadows, but will occasionally descend to lower altitudes. Of its 14 CBC records, this is the 4th highest total, and the first time we have seen them in double digits since 1984.
- One **Brewer's Sparrow**, found by Brad Rumble at Stonehurst Park. This mountain-dwelling sparrow is often found in the Angeles National Forest, but is rarely seen in the San Fernando Valley. This is the second count day record, having previously been seen in 2020 (it was also seen in count week in 2014).
- Two female **American Redstarts**, found by Pat Bates at Reseda Park. This spectacular Warbler, widespread in Canada & the eastern United States, is quite rare in California. This is the second count day record, having previously been seen in 1993. A pair of young males were also seen at the Sepulveda Basin in count week last year.

Other uncommon bird sightings include:

- 119 **Greater White-fronted Geese**, 100 seen at the Sepulveda Basin and 19 more at Hansen Dam. This species is occasionally found on our CBC, but always in small numbers. This is the first time more than a dozen have ever been seen.
- One **Mute Swan** at Lake Balboa. A pair have been resident at Lake Balboa since at least 2010, but they disappeared in March 2021, and only reappeared in October 2022.
- One **Wood Duck**, seen at Hansen Dam. This species has been seen on count day 39 times, but not since 2019.
- Nine **Blue-winged Teals**, seven seen at Hansen Dam and two seen at the Encino Reservoir. This is the 15th count day record, but only the second one in the last 25 years.
- Five **Northern Pintails**, seen at Hansen Dam. While this is the 44th time it has been found on count day, it is somehow the highest count of only five records made since 2000. *(continued)*

- Four **Canvasbacks**, also seen at Hansen Dam. While this marks the 52nd count day record, it is the only one made since 2013 (although it was seen in count week in 2016).
- One **Barn Owl**, found by O'Melveny Park at night. While it is often found in the San Fernando Valley, it is chronically underreported because it is nocturnal. This is the first count day sighting since 2019.
- One **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, seen at Veteran's Park. The only sapsucker found on the east coast, it will occasionally stray west. This is the first time one has been seen on count day since 2015, although it was also seen in count week in 2018.
- Three **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, seen at the Chatsworth Reservoir. This nomadic woodpecker often winters in open clearings near oak and pine trees, and will occasionally wander into our count circle. This is the second consecutive year they have been found at the Chatsworth Reservoir, and the 10th time it has been found on our CBC.
- One **Hairy Woodpecker**, seen at Hansen Dam. Generally found in high mountains, it occasionally descends to lower altitudes, and has been found on our CBC 16 times now. This is the 3rd time in a row it has been found at Hansen Dam.
- One **Northern Flicker Intergrade**, seen at Roger Jessup Park. As many of you know, the Northern Flicker has two distinctive forms, the western Red-shafted (62 of which were seen on this count) and the eastern Yellow-shafted. While they look very different, they are considered the same species because they often hybridize on the Great Plains and for the second time ever, one of these hybrids showed up on our CBC.
- Three **Mountain Chickadees**, seen at Veteran's Park. Another alpine species that sometimes winters in lower altitudes, this species has been seen on just over half of our CBC's, usually at the base of the San Gabriel Mountains.
- One **Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, seen at the Sepulveda Basin. A common species here in summer, it normally migrates to Central America in the winter. However, climate change has caused it to start wintering further north, and many now spend the whole year along the L.A. River. It has been recorded on our CBC 30 times, and almost continuously since 1993.
- Two **Barn Swallows**, also seen at the Sepulveda Basin. Another summer bird that is not migrating due to climate change, this swallow has only been recorded nine times, all since 2000.
- Three **Dark-eyed Juncos (Slate-colored)**, one each seen at Veteran's Park, the Sepulveda VA Hospital, and Aliso Canyon. This subspecies is generally found in eastern North America, but some do winter in the west. This is the 26th time it has been recorded on our CBC, and the highest count since 2011.
- One **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)**, seen at the Sepulveda Basin. While the western Audubon's Yellow-rumped Warbler is our most common bird, the eastern Myrtle Yellow-rumped Warbler only strays here in small numbers. This is the 26th time it has been recorded on our CBC, and the first time in two years.
- One **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, seen at Encino Park. This species is generally found here in migration, but some stick around all winter. This is the 24th time it has been recorded on our CBC, but the first time since 2019.

Unfortunately, several common species were noticeably absent this year.

- **Cinnamon Teal**. This more common relative of the Blue-winged Teal has been seen on count day 36 times, but only once since 2011.
- **Virginia Rail**. This relative of the American Coot is often present in dense, reedy marshes, but because it rarely strays out in the open, it is usually just located by call. It has been seen (or heard) on count day 17 times, most recently in 2020.
- **Sora**. Another reclusive rail, this species has been recorded 29 times, including last year.
- **Black-necked Stilt**. This large shorebird is generally common along the L.A. River, and has been seen on our CBC 13 times, but not for the last two years.
- **Greater Yellowlegs**. This sandpiper often feeds alongside Black-necked Stilts, and the two are often missed in the same years. However it has been seen 43 times, as it moved into our CBC circle before the Black-necked Stilt.
- **Western Sandpiper**. This little sandpiper has been seen on our CBC 41 times, but only thrice in the last decade.
- **Herring Gull**. While it is the most widespread gull in the world, it is only seen occasionally in the San Fernando Valley. It has been recorded on our CBC 13 times, but only once in the last five years.
- **Gray Flycatcher**. While *Empidonax* Flycatchers are generally found here in summer and migration, the gray will overwinter, and has been recorded on our CBC 12 times. However, very few wintered in L.A. this year.
- **Plumbeous Vireo**. This little insectivore has been recorded on count day ten times, and in count week almost every year since the protocol was first implemented in 2013. This is only the second time it has been missed since 2015.
- **Brown-headed Cowbird**. Originally native to the Great Plains, this common brood parasite is one of a few species that is considered invasive on the same continent where it is native. They are often found around many of our larger nature areas, but none were seen this year. This is the 5th time that it has been missed on count day (it was found in count week in 2015).

Also missing are:

- **Spotted Dove**, seen on 43 previous counts, but not since 2002. As the only established population remaining in North America is isolated on Santa Catalina Island, they aren't likely to return to the San Fernando Valley. Predation from Cooper's Hawks and competition from Eurasian Collared-Doves are likely responsible for their disappearance. However, they were an invasive species to begin with, having been introduced from southeastern China in the early 1900s.
- **Horned Lark**, seen 29 times, including 570 individuals in 1970, but they have been going downhill ever since, and aside from a freak sighting at Hansen Dam in 2020, they haven't been seen since 1997. Because these birds only live in open grassland and desert, thousands winter in the Antelope Valley, but the San Fernando Valley no longer contains any significant amount of suitable habitat.

Other birds of note:

- **Loggerhead Shrike** numbers are stable, albeit at a very low number, as only three were seen this year. A record high of 70 birds were seen in 2000, but they have only shown up in single digits since then. This species requires open grassland to hunt, severely limiting where it (*continued*)

can be found on our count. This year's sightings were more spread out than usual, with Sheldon-Arleta Park, Pierce College, and Hansen Dam all reporting one each. While it has been reported at Sheldon-Arleta every year since it was first covered, and this marks the second consecutive record at Pierce College, it is only seen intermittently at Hansen Dam. Interestingly, no shrikes were reported at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, which is usually their most reliable spot.

- **Vermilion Flycatcher** numbers continue to increase. Five were seen on count day, with two more seen in count week. This largely tropical species was first recorded on our CBC in 1973, and has been seen almost continuously since 2017. Many birds are now resident and breeding throughout L.A. County, with large concentrations in the San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys. Their increasing population is likely an effect of climate change, with L.A. now being warm enough to sustain them. This year's sightings included two males and a young female at the Sepulveda Basin, an adult male at Valley Plaza Park, and a young female at the Sepulveda VA Hospital on count day. The additional count week sightings were of an adult female at the Sepulveda Basin and an adult male at Hansen Dam.

While many species have declined, some have soared to exceptional numbers. This year's winner for the highest count was **Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's) with 1902** individuals, their 4th highest total ever. Honorable mention goes to **American Coot (1819), Canada Goose (1176), House Finch (1292), White-crowned Sparrow (1011), Mourning Dove (802), Rock Pigeon (702), Lesser Goldfinch (643), Bushtit (593), and American Wigeon (576)**.

Record highs were achieved by Greater White-fronted Goose, Vermilion Flycatcher, Lesser Goldfinch, Chipping Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and American Redstart. Second-highest totals were achieved by Muscovy Duck & Eurasian Collared-Dove, and third-highest totals went to Egyptian Goose, Merlin, Hutton's Vireo, Common Raven, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, & Orange-crowned Warbler.

Unfortunately, Wood Duck, Horned Grebe, Greater Roadrunner, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Rock Wren, and Brewer's Blackbird fell to record lows.

We didn't lose any of the 34 species that have been recorded on all 66 counts. These include Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

We managed to find one species that has never been recorded on our CBC before, bringing the total number of species recorded across all our CBCs to 257 species, plus one count week only, four probable escapees, 18 other taxa, and five questionable reports.

- Two **Indian Peafowl** (commonly known as Peacock), found at Stonehurst Park. Native (and nearly endemic) to India & Sri Lanka, this beautiful bird has been semi-domesticated and introduced to do dozens of countries around the world. Large breeding populations exist in Altadena, Arcadia, and San Pedro, but not in the San Fernando Valley, suggesting that these birds are escaped captives rather than feral birds.

The Sepulveda Basin, where Kris Ohlenkamp counted 78 species and 3389 individual birds, won the award for most species and the award for most individuals. Second place in both categories went to Hansen Dam, where Eric Shaphran singlehandedly counted 75 species and 1657 individuals. In keeping with CBC tradition, the Department of Water and Power granted us access to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, where Art Langton and Sage Bylin counted 52 species and 1548 individuals. Other spectacular lists came from the hillside overlook of the Encino Reservoir, where Otto Mayer counted 57 species and 691 individuals, Reseda Park, where Pat Bates counted 36 species and 1020 individuals, and the East Valley, where Rebecca Marschall counted 55 species and 958 individuals across 11 different parks (the most locations done by a single person).

Eleven locations reported a total of 34 unique species, reminding us of the importance of counting every location.

Unique bird species	Location	Sector Leader
Mute Swan	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Least Sandpiper	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Wilson's Snipe	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Green Heron	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Belted Kingfisher	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Barn Swallow	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Wood Duck	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran
Northern Pintail	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran
Canvasback	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran
Redhead	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran

Ferruginous Hawk	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran
Hairy Woodpecker	Hansen Dam	Eric Shaphran
Common Merganser	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Otto Mayer
Horned Grebe	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Otto Mayer
Western Grebe	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Otto Mayer
Pacific Loon	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Otto Mayer
Purple Finch	Encino Reservoir (overlook)	Otto Mayer
Greater Roadrunner	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Lewis's Woodpecker	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Rock Wren	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Phainopepla	Chatsworth Reservoir	Sage Bylin and Art Langton
Brewer's Blackbird	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
American Redstart	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
Black-throated Gray Warbler	Reseda Park	Pat Bates
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Veteran's Park	Scott Logan
Mountain Chickadee	Veteran's Park	Scott Logan
Indian Peafowl	Stonehurst Park	Brad Rumble
Brewer's Sparrow	Stonehurst Park	Brad Rumble
Northern Flicker (Intergrade)	Roger Jessup Park	Brad Rumble
Barn Owl	Northern Owling Route	Luisa Bergeron
Townsend's Solitaire	Corbin Canyon	Nurit Katz
Lawrence's Goldfinch	Devil's Canyon Trail	Alexander deBarros

Thank you to all 2022 CBC participants

Chelsea Abrahamian
via eBird (W)
Richard Armerding (L)
Dick Avery
Pat Avery
Gee Gee Barden (F)
Nathan Barkley via eBird (W)
Dick Barth (L)
Pat Bates (L)
Lynn Bebenroth
Natalie Beckman-Smith (L)
Peter Bedrossian via eBird
Elizabeth Bergeron (O)
Luisa Bergeron (L) (O)
Carla Bollinger
Rob Brown (L)
Sage Bylin (L)
Teri Carnesciali
Alexander deBarros (C) (L)
Mary Ellen Dittmore
Taylor Driggs (L)

Care Felix (L)
Trina Gasaway
Roz Gibson
Marianne Gunn (O)
Eve Haberfield
Diana Hilberman
Nurit Katz (L)
Art Langton (L)
Steve Langton (F)
Rose Leibowitz (L)
Bill Lepler via eBird (W)
Emily LeVine
Rebecca LeVine (L)
John Lobel
Scott Logan (L)
JiaLian Mackey
Brian Mainolfi
Rebecca Marschall (L)
Judy Matsuoka (L)
Otto Mayer (L)
Alice McGee (F)

Heather Medvitz (L)
Maritza Mendez via eBird (W)
Monte Neate-Clegg via eBird (W)
Dick Norton (L)
Kris Ohlenkamp (L)
Carolyn Oppenheimer (L) (F)
Mark Osokow
Paula Orlovich (L)
Molly Peña
Laura Pogoler
Chris Ramos (L)
Gil Ramos (L)
Robert Reed via eBird (F)
Holley Replogle-Wong via
eBird (W)
Jim Royer via eBird (W)
Brad Rumble (L)
Terry Saucier (L)
Eric Shaphran (L) (O)
Robin Share (L)
Laura Schare (W)

Jackson Smith via eBird (W)
Suzanne Stinson
Donna Timlin
Daniel Tinoco (L)
Kevin Tran
Pat Turner
Larry Walker
Carolyn Wilcox
Charlie Wilken (L)

18 others participated but did not
release their names



Golden-crowned Sparrow, 2022 CBC, R. LeVine
Marvin Braude Gateway Park

(C): CBC Compiler
(L): led a field team on count day
(F): counted birds at their feeder or yard
(O): participated in an owling trip on count day
(W): reported species on eBird during count week that weren't seen on count day
- via eBird: did not join an official CBC team, but reported species on eBird that were included in CBC data

2022 CBC Summary

119	Greater White-fronted Goose	16	Snowy Egret	103	Western Bluebird
47	<i>Domestic Goose Sp.</i>	3	Green Heron	14	Mountain Bluebird
1176	Canada Goose	21	Black-crowned Night-Heron	1	Townsend's Solitaire
25	Egyptian Goose	66	Turkey Vulture	24	Hermit Thrush
1	Mute Swan	cw	Osprey	131	American Robin
18	Muscovy Duck	3	Northern Harrier	36	California Thrasher
1	Wood Duck	3	Sharp-shinned Hawk	88	Northern Mockingbird
9	Blue-winged Teal	17	Cooper's Hawk	450	European Starling
76	Northern Shoveler	4	Red-shouldered Hawk	148	American Pipit
13	Gadwall	87	Red-tailed Hawk	154	Cedar Waxwing
576	American Wigeon	1	Ferruginous Hawk	2	Phainopepla
383	Mallard	1	Barn Owl	1292	House Finch
50	<i>Domestic Mallard</i>	5	Great Horned Owl	4	Purple Finch
5	Northern Pintail	2	Belted Kingfisher	643	Lesser Goldfinch
27	Green-winged Teal	cw	Williamson's Sapsucker	3	Lawrence's Goldfinch
4	Canvasback	1	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	55	American Goldfinch
2	Redhead	6	Red-naped Sapsucker	2	<i>Goldfinch Sp.</i>
60	Ring-necked Duck	3	Lewis's Woodpecker	176	Chipping Sparrow
39	Lesser Scaup	78	Acorn Woodpecker	1	Brewer's Sparrow
21	Bufflehead	3	Downy Woodpecker	479	Lark Sparrow
29	Hooded Merganser	31	Nuttall's Woodpecker	4	Fox Sparrow
3	Common Merganser	1	Hairy Woodpecker	283	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
131	Ruddy Duck	63	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	3	<i>Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)</i>
2	Indian Peafowl	1	<i>Northern Flicker (Intergrade)</i>	1011	White-crowned Sparrow
41	California Quail	14	American Kestrel	22	Golden-crowned Sparrow
22	Pied-billed Grebe	6	Merlin	5	Vesper Sparrow
1	Horned Grebe	3	Peregrine Falcon	265	Savannah Sparrow
20	Eared Grebe	17	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	94	Song Sparrow
7	Western Grebe	cw	Red-crowned Parrot	10	Lincoln's Sparrow
702	Rock Pigeon	180	Black Phoebe	198	California Towhee
21	Band-tailed Pigeon	48	Say's Phoebe	11	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
77	Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	Vermilion Flycatcher	52	Spotted Towhee
802	Mourning Dove	cw	Ash-throated Flycatcher	1	<i>Sparrow Sp.</i>
1	Greater Roadrunner	50	Cassin's Kingbird	267	Western Meadowlark
105	White-throated Swift	3	Loggerhead Shrike	24	Red-winged Blackbird
181	Anna's Hummingbird	5	Hutton's Vireo	10	Brewer's Blackbird
76	Allen's Hummingbird	150	California Scrub-Jay	29	Great-tailed Grackle
57	<i>Hummingbird species</i>	438	American Crow	13	Orange-crowned Warbler
1819	American Coot	364	Common Raven	18	Common Yellowthroat
52	Killdeer	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	2	American Redstart
8	Least Sandpiper	2	Barn Swallow	1902	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
2	Wilson's Snipe	3	Mountain Chickadee	1	<i>Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)</i>
3	Spotted Sandpiper	25	Oak Titmouse	1	Black-throated Gray Warbler
18	Ring-billed Gull	593	Bushtit	7	Townsend's Warbler
134	Western Gull	21	White-breasted Nuthatch	cw	Willson's Warbler
70	California Gull	1	Rock Wren	232	House Sparrow
80	<i>Gull species</i>	cw	Canyon Wren		
1	Pacific Loon	4	House Wren	135	Total Species (Count Day)
138	Double-crested Cormorant	31	Bewick's Wren	144	Total Species + other taxa
50	American White Pelican	18	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	141	Total Species + count week
12	Great Blue Heron	168	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	150	Species + other taxa + count week
5	Great Egret	27	Wrentit	18189	Individuals (species + other taxa)

By Alexander deBarros, San Fernando Valley CBC Compiler



Calendar of Events

Please remember to check our website for the latest information on our bird outings. We continue to follow CDC guidelines.

February 2023

To reach an event leader you may call our forwarding message service at [\(747\) 237-3720](tel:7472373720)

Sunday, February 5. 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: TBA

Thursday, February 9. 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 2nd Thursday of each month at O’Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3rd 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 or Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org.



Saturday, February 11. FREE Guided 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 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. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday’s of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org. Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, February 12. 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. (747) 237-3720.

Sunday, February 19. 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. katheryn.barton@sfvaudubon.org.

Tuesday, February 21. 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 c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Thursday, February 23. General Membership Program. 7:00–8:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Morgan Tingley, Associate Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and the Institute of the Environment and Sustainability at UCLA. **Topic: After the Fire: How Birds Cope with a Changing World.** See page one for more information. [Click here](#) to sign up and we will send you the link. If you have signed up for a previous Zoom event, no need—you are already on our list!



Saturday, February 25. Hansen Dam Birding 8:00 a.m. 10965 Dronfield Avenue, Pacoima. Hansen Dam Birding is moving back to the Dronfield lot — near the Ranger Station! The lot is available again, and there is no street parking near the other location in the event the gate is locked. Directions: Take the Foothill/Osborne exit from the 210 Freeway, go right (east) on Foothill, to Osborne (1st light), go left, then left again at Dronfield. Meet in the lower parking lot (down the hill from the Ranger Station). If the lower level or the gate is locked, park either on the upper level or street and meet at the Ranger Station. Accessibility is excellent for this site, which is entirely on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, treasurer@sfvaudubon.org.

Sunday, February 26. Young Birders Group. 9–11:00 a.m. This walk is recommended for young beginning birders. We will have binoculars to share, but if you have your own, don’t forget to bring them! If you’re planning on coming, please send us a quick e-mail at youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org so we have an idea of how many folks to expect. Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions for walk locations, or anything else. Please check our website for updates. E-mail Luisa and/or Rebecca at YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org for more information and we will add you to our e-mail list.

March 2023

Sunday, March 5. 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. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings to our meeting place on the other side of the buildings. Leader: Pat Bates, treasurer@sfvaudubon.org.



Thursday, March 9. 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 2nd Thursday of each month at O’Melveny Park—at the picnic tables near the bathrooms. (Rain cancels and moves it to the 3rd 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 or Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, March 11. FREE Guided 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. Park in the lot and walk past the low, rock-faced buildings. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org. Heavy rain cancels.

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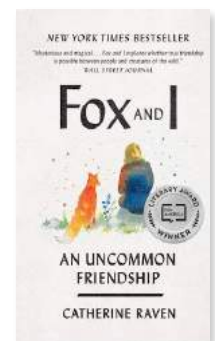


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Book report: by Marianne Davis

FOX AND I: AN UNCOMMON FRIENDSHIP, by Catherine Raven

When I got this book from the Library, the cover reviewer (Yann Martel, the *Life Of Pi* author) said "If Thoreau had read *The Little Prince*, he would have written *Fox And I*." Nailed it! So I won't go on much about this, except to say that it is indeed a very pleasant read. Raven does a lot of nature-based mulling, and her ramblings are actually pretty soothing, so I recommend it as a bedtime read for stressed-out adults. She talks about the process of becoming friends with this one fox, and their adventures over time. She wrote it during a time of floundering a bit with her career, which has gone from Park Ranger to University Faculty to writer. Clearly the writing suits her, and her point of view is relevant for these days, when we are struggling with how to adapt to our world, not MAKE it adapt to us. She sees herself as just one of the creatures on the planet, and does so through the scientific lens. 🐦



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. 🐦

WINTER VISITORS TO THE SEPULVEDA BASIN

American White Pelicans

By Pat Bates, San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

While the Sepulveda Basin is a winter home to many species of migratory birds, the largest of these by far is the American White Pelican. Traveling in squadrons and weighing up to 30 pounds with 9 foot wingspans, they are among our largest boreal flying birds. Their breeding grounds extend as far north as central Canada. From mid-autumn to mid-spring these magnificent birds may be seen in the Los Angeles River and the man-made lakes in the Sepulveda Basin, as well as soaring and circling over one of the busiest freeway interchanges (405-101) in the United States. They often form circular groups to herd and capture fish.



Occasionally a tagged pelican is encountered, and if the tag is readable, it is easy to obtain information on where the bird was banded. Such a pelican was recently sighted at the Los Angeles River in the Sepulveda Basin with the tags visible on the bird's back. It is important to note the tag and lettering color as well as the code. For example, this tag was black with yellow characters. The bird also has a ring on its right leg, but that was too far away to read. Tagged or ringed birds may be reported at www.reportband.gov by reporting the tag data plus information on location, whether the bird was alive, etc. This is a U.S. Geological Survey and Canadian Wildlife Service program in cooperation with many agencies, organizations and individuals. Data from the program is used for purposes including monitoring bird population and migration patterns, restoring endangered species, and many other environmental studies. Note that smaller birds are typically just banded on a leg. Even then, it may be possible to get a photo which shows the information.

When a bird is reported, within a few days a certificate is emailed back indicating when and where the bird was banded. In the case of our pelican number 8J2 in the LA River - it was tagged when too young to fly near Bancroft, Idaho on July 28, 2021. This is obviously its second trip south, a distance of about 680 miles as the crow (or in this case, pelican) flies.

It is wonderful to see the American White Pelicans arriving at the Sepulveda Basin to spend the winter. They travel over some very inhospitable territory to get here, and it is crucially important to protect them from hazards

in our urban environment. A major risk for the pelicans as well as other swimming and diving birds is fishing line and tackle, which cause thousands of bird deaths yearly. For this reason fishing is completely prohibited at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Lake, and receptacles for proper disposal of line are provided at Lake Balboa. Unfortunately we continually see cases of entangled birds and must rely on people being responsible with their fishing line and tackle as well as observing legal restrictions.

You can usually see American White Pelicans at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Lake from November through March - their arrival and departure dates are somewhat variable. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (sfvaudubon.org) leads trips to the wildlife area on the first Sunday of each month at 8 am, plus a family/beginners trip on the second Saturday at 9 am (October to March). Check www.sfvaudubon.org for directions and more details, and join us for a trip to this most amazing wildlife area!



Worth a Thousand Words: Where Was the Wren?

By David J. Barton

Like many birders, I enjoy photographing the birds I see. And that hobby has often led me down odd and surprising paths. And turned me into something of a nerd.

One thing I do with my photos is upload them to [iNaturalist](#), an online birding and natural history database, in support of the bird observations that I post there. Exposing your photos to the world can help ensure the accuracy of your identification of the bird. But I find that you do need to be ready to explain yourself. On iNaturalist, posted observations are subject to comments by other users, who can communicate with you by leaving online messages.

For example, just last month, I received a message from another iNaturalist user about one of my observations. It had a challenging tone, and was a little off-putting. It began, “Are you sure of the location?” The message was transmitted by “junior84,” and the message was referring to an observation that I had submitted to iNaturalist over six years ago.

Right away, I logged on to iNaturalist and looked at the observation that junior84 was referring to. The record included a photo of a bird perched on a low branch. I had snapped the photo on February 14, 2016, during a birding trip that Kathy and I had taken in Peru. When I entered the observation on iNaturalist (some weeks after we had returned), I had typed in “Casupe” as the location of the observation. Casupe is a locality in the Department of Cajamarca, Peru. I had identified the bird in the photo as a Fasciated Wren (*Campylorhynchus fasciatus*).

A digression: “Fasciated” does not refer to the bird’s political philosophy. (At least, not as far as anyone can tell.) In the zoological sense, “fasciated” refers to something marked by broad bands of color. The Latin root, *fascies*, referred to a bundle—specifically, a bundle of rods bound together by a band—which was carried around by Roman magistrates as a symbol of their authority. The bound rods were meant to communicate strength through unity. (The bundle had an axe blade at the top, which I suppose meant

“You better do as I say or I’ll give you such a chop.”) The fasces was used by the Third Reich as a government symbol, giving rise to the word “fascist.” Anyway, just looking at the photo of the Fasciated Wren (see inset), you can see the bird’s many bands or fasciations. So, unlike many birds, this one has a pretty accurate name.

But let me get back to the message from the iNaturalist user. Junior84 was not challenging my identification of the bird. In fact, several other expert birders and users of iNaturalist had already confirmed that the photo indeed showed a Fasciated Wren. Instead, junior84 was casting doubt on whether Casupe was the correct location. Reading the entire message, I saw that junior84 had explained the reason for his doubt: “Casupe is 100km east



of Pomac (where only *Tillandsia recurvata*, not *Racinaea multiflora* as in your photo!!!) is found.”

Tillandsia recurvata? *Racinaea multiflora*? Scientific names to be sure, but of what species? Junior84’s message sent me scurrying to Wikipedia once again. There, I learned that *Tillandsia recurvata* is small ballmoss, an epiphyte (a plant that grows on a tree branch, such as a bromeliad). It is indigenous to the warmer regions of the Americas, where it ranges from the southern United States to northern Argentina and Chile. I also learned that *Racinaea multiflora* (apparently lacking a common name) is an epiphyte native to Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Examining the photo, I saw that the wren was lightly perched on a branch to the left of what was (*continued*)

clearly some sort of epiphyte. I was stunned. Obviously, someone out there was sufficiently knowledgeable in tropical botany not only to identify the vegetation on which the wren was perched but also to know where the vegetation could and could not be found! And able to do so from a casual photo that was never intended to be good enough to identify anything other than the bird itself. I checked junior84's biography on iNaturalist to see whom I was dealing with. Junior84 is a "Peruvian biology student and amateur botanist interested in plant taxonomy and systematics, currently studying the flora of northern Peru and southern Ecuador."

Well, I am no botanist, and junior84's background was good enough for me. So I took the question seriously, and did some investigating. First, I wondered whether the bird in the photo could be identified as a subspecies and, if so, whether that subspecies was found only in Casupe or only in Pomac, which might help to confirm the location. After all, many species of birds have subspecies that are identified only with a fairly permanent, geographically isolated population. I did some research on the Fasciated Wren and found out that, sure enough, scientific authorities have recognized two subspecies: the nominate subspecies *Campylorhynchus fasciatus fasciatus* and *Campylorhynchus fasciatus pallescens*, which is paler with less distinct markings on the underside.

But that wasn't going to help. *C. f. fasciatus*, the so-called "nominate" subspecies, is found in coastal Peru from the Department of Piura south to the Department of Lima and also inland Peru from the Departments of Cajamarca and Amazonas south to the Department of Huánuco. This area includes both Casupe and Pomac. *C. f. pallescens* is found only from southwestern and southern Ecuador into the Departments of Tumbes and Piura, areas that Kathy and I did not visit. So it seems that the bird in the photo could only have been the nominate subspecies, and could have been seen in either Casupe or Pomac.

So I examined the metadata embedded in the digital image of the wren. At first, I hoped that my camera's GPS had recorded the longitude and latitude at which the photo was taken. That would have definitely confirmed whether Casupe was the correct location. This hope was soon dashed: the camera's GPS recording function had been turned off at the time of the photo. But the metadata did show that the shutter had been released at about 6:18 a.m.

So where were we that morning? Off the top of my head, I couldn't recall. After all, it was a whirlwind trip over six years ago, involving birding visits to multiple locations. So I turned to ebird.org, where I record my sightings. There

were three eBird checklists for February 14, 2016: one for Casupe, one for Reservorio de Tinajones (Tinajones Reservoir), and one for Santuario Historico Bosque de Pomac (Pomac Woods Historic Sanctuary). Fasciated Wren had been ticked both at Casupe and at Bosque de Pomac.

Memories flooded back. That Valentine's Day, Kathy and I had awakened at Chaparri Ecolodge, about 75 kilometers from Chiclayo in the Lambayeque region. We saw some birds at the lodge before breakfast, but then birded by van for several hours until we reached Casupe in the Cajamarca region. Afterwards, we pressed on, driving to the Tinajones Reservoir and Pomac Forest Historic Sanctuary back in the Lambayeque region.

Hmm. Mucho traveling. It began to look as if junior84 might just be onto something. After reviewing the eBird checklist for Casupe, I realized what had happened. Because most of the morning had been spent on the road from Chaparri to Casupe, stopping from time to time as and when we saw an interesting bird, I had simply aggregated all the sightings along the highway into the Casupe location, together with a personal note on the checklist that this had been the case. Entering observations into iNaturalist at my computer at home weeks after the return, I had entered "Casupe" because that was the location name on the eBird checklist, without remembering that the Casupe checklist actually included a small number of birds seen elsewhere earlier in the day. But the 6:18 a.m. timestamp on the digital image of the photo, as well as its number, left no doubt that it had been taken before we left the ecolodge. The Fasciated Wren in the photo had been observed in Chaparri (in Lambayeque), and not in Casupe (in Cajamarca). The Fasciated Wren at Bosque de Pomac had not been photographed.

Damn. Outed by an epiphyte! Chagrined, I corrected the iNaturalist entry and thanked junior84 for the input.

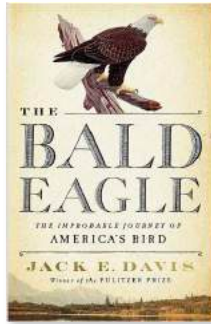
The experience reminded me of some valuable lessons. Like the important difference between "fasciated" and "fascist." Like remembering to turn on your camera's GPS. And that where you see a bird, and in what kind of vegetation, can be as significant as what the bird looks like. I realized, too, that if citizen science projects are to be useful, we birders need to be as careful as we can be about the accuracy of the data we collect. And more than just birders are needed. The strength of iNaturalist and similar databases lies in their reliance not only on people who can tell one *Empidonax* flycatcher from another but also on people who can tell one epiphyte from another. In this web-connected world, there are more opportunities than ever for a global community of naturalists to cooperate in "getting it right." 🐦

The Bald Eagle: The Improbable Journey of America's Bird

Liveright Publishing, 2022. In LAPL's collection.

By Jack E. Davis (Pulitzer Prize winner)

Davis is an astonishingly productive historian, and this tome tackles the subject with the same scholarly approach (388 pages, oof!). By the end of it you will know everything about eagles in American history, how we almost lost them, and their roaring return (and continuing battle to survive in populous areas).



The design process for the eagle on the Great Seal of the USA was long and tedious, and while eagles have a place in other countries' heraldry, none had used the bald eagle before. Its appearance on a coin took even longer, and in 1932 a coin with Washington on one side and the bald eagle on the other was produced, continuing in circulation ever since (they are no longer in production, as special commemoratives have taken its place).

Today we regard eagles as magnificent symbols of patriotism, but they've not always had a good reputation. Even Audubon regarded them as ill-humored thieves, stealing from "hard-working" ospreys. He much admired turkeys instead for their flavor, behavior and sounds, even keeping one as a pet. Eagles were despised for being "lousy, thieving, lazy, dishonest, immoral and craven" ...and not sitting still to be shot. Audubon was a man of his times. To create his famous *The Birds of America* volumes, he needed to kill and retrieve an average of five birds...times 497 species in his book...it boggles the mind. Why so many? Because a bird might be damaged when you brought it down. Carnage was necessary for Audubon's art.

For many years in the 1800s, local mythology was that you couldn't leave your child alone because an eagle would swoop down the carry off your kid to the nest (nonsense). Even Thomas Nuttall, who has many birds named for him, believed this, and wrote it into his 1832 *A Manual of the Ornithology of the United States and of Canada - The Land Birds*. This thinking continued in the countryside, with farmers blaming eagles for taking lambs from their sheep flocks, and the killing became intense. Later Pilot Ben Torrey specialized in taking hunters up in his plane, specifically to shoot eagles, and did so until 1938 when he nosedived his plane into the ground.

Eagles have been used to name sporting teams, military units, logos for businesses, on official government seals, on NWF and NRA emblems, beer and oil cans. Even the NYC Chrysler Building is decorated with them. We love to decorate with the image, but we're not great at conserving them. Finally, after the Civil War, preserving wildlife and specifically birds, became fashionable. Florence Merriam Bailey published a field guide in 1889, *Birds Through an Opera Glass*, that captured the social

class of birdwatchers, and birding took off. Then came "Millinery Murder" on birds for hats, and bird defenders got society to pivot to cameras. Even FDR admitted that he felt shooting birds was senseless and butchery. Field glasses and cameras became more popular than gunpowder and shot. Politics took over, and the suffragist Rosalie Edge took on the cause with the sleepy Audubon Society, who didn't care about eagles. She created such a ruckus that the plight of the eagle became a popular cause and resulted in legislation to stop the slaughter.

Fast forward to 1945, and Rachel Carson started to notice (with others) that eagle numbers were crashing. Golf courses and country clubs near her were spraying with DDT, and dead orioles and robins were strewn everywhere. The "wonder insecticide" was eradicating ALL lifeforms, not just bugs. Kids on sprayed farms were getting sick by 1945, cows failed, chickens dropped dead, and honeybees died. Birds were falling out of trees, fish were floating belly up, small animals lay seizing on the ground. *Silent Spring's* publication in 1962 finally spurred USFW to study bald eagles, and they found devastating nest failures. Only Alaska seemed immune, as they didn't spray.

Earth Day resulted in massive demonstrations and pushed Richard Nixon to sign off on the new Environmental Protection Agency. Finally, Ruckelshaus was appointed administrator, and he put an end to the use of DDT. Never thought that the Nixon administration would save the day. Interestingly, Andy Warhol was another eagle supporter with his portrait of a bald eagle, printing 150 of them and donating them to conservation groups to raise funds. The American Eagle Foundation (founded in the 1980s) was formed, and traveled all over the country with Challenger, a glove-trained eagle that was rehabbed, retiring in only 2019. Oddly enough, AEF moved to Dollywood in 1990, since Dolly Parton offered them a million-dollar facility. She had grown up in Tennessee seeing eagles fly free, and she did it to restore some of the natural landscape of her past. Eagle cams have continued to make real celebrities of eagles, with millions tuning in to watch nesting and fledging eaglets.

One last odd entry is USFW's National Eagle Repository, established during Clinton's administration, where the remains of eagles are sent. It exists for Native peoples for their tribal beliefs and practices. Eagle feathers are an important part of many tribes' religious practices, and the Bald Eagle Protection Act immediately created a problem for the tribes. This was the Federal answer and has expanded to eagle aviaries in seven Native nations to rehab eagles.

At the end Davis describes at length the development of the Avian Veteran Alliance, where rehabilitating raptors helps veterans struggling with PTSD and other challenges. More than 2,000 veterans have worked with raptors by 2020, and international programs have started up.

The final chapter deals with eagles' resilience, and how they are better at adapting to climate change than many other bird species.

-By Marianne Davis



New Quarantine Room at California Wildlife Center

California Wildlife Center (CWC) is grateful to the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for your continued support of our work and our mission to take responsibility for the protection of native wildlife through rehabilitation, education, and conservation. Thanks to your contribution, CWC was able to purchase a greatly needed quarantine room which will be heavily used during the rehabilitation process of patients in 2023 and beyond.

As you are aware, this winter we have started to see a devastating outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) make its way to Southern California. HPAI is a new strain of avian influenza that is threatening the wild birds of North America. This strain is different from previous avian influenza outbreaks, as it is more contagious and threatens mammals. The virus has been present in other parts of the world for years, but it first reached the east coast of North America in the winter of 2021. The first positive case in California occurred in Sacramento on July 15, 2022. Birds that contract the disease commonly develop neurologic symptoms: abnormal twisting of the head and neck, chaotic seizure-like movements, paralysis, and tremors. Although most infected birds do not survive this disease, there are some that can carry and spread it without showing any symptoms at all.



Outside of Quarantine Room



Inside of Quarantine Room

It was unavoidable that HPAI would make its way to Southern California, as wild birds migrated south for the winter. We prepared for the arrival of patients to our facility who would potentially be carry the virus by developing new protocols including changing how we accept animals, how patients are housed in cohorts to contain disease, and the requirement of increased PPE to protect other patients and pets at home.

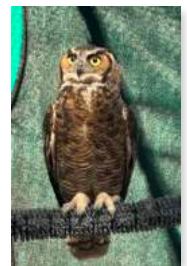
To minimize the risk of transmission of the virus we created additional quarantine areas at our facility where patients are being held. We are grateful to the San Fernando Audubon Society for funding the purchase of a new building, which has become a critical step in protecting existing patients from HPAI.

Once new patients have passed the initial 24-hour observation period, they are moved into the quarantine room for an additional week before being transferred to other areas at CWC. The vast majority of HPAI cases become apparent within five days, and so this initial week of quarantine is vital to reduce the potential spread of the virus throughout CWC. Although we cannot prevent HPAI from infecting wildlife, it is our number one priority to protect our patients from the virus while at our facility.

Here are just a few of the patients who have been housed within the new quarantine room:

Great Horned Owl 22-3421

This adult female Great Horned Owl was admitted to CWC after being found sitting by the side of a freeway in Los Angeles. She was lethargic, suffering from right eye trauma, and had blood in her mouth. Given the location of where she was found, we highly suspect that the patient was hit by a car. Luckily, she only presented with mild neurological issues, and did not have any major trauma or broken bones. The patient was prescribed antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and pain medication. She was also on a forced nutrition schedule since she refused to eat on her own. After a week of quarantine, her neurological symptoms were improving, and she was moved into a small outdoor enclosure. Once the patient was in a more natural environment she immediately started to self-feed, which meant we no longer needed to handle the owl multiple times a day in order to supply nutrition. The owl was recently transferred to a large outdoor aviary where staff is carefully monitoring her condition and assessing for improvements. We hope that this patient will soon be fully recovered and ready to be released back into the wild.



Western Bluebird 22-3463



Window strikes are unfortunately a common reason why birds are admitted to CWC. This was the case for a Western Bluebird who recently came through our doors. The patient was found near a window at a house in Malibu, and the rescuer was able to promptly bring the bird to CWC. Upon examination, technicians noticed that the bluebird consistently fell to the left and had a broken right clavicle. The patient also had difficulty keeping their left foot in a natural position. Technicians applied a shoe and are hopeful that the bird will once again regain normal use of the foot. The bluebird was prescribed anti-inflammatories and pain medication, and quickly started to show signs of improvement. The patient was recently moved out of quarantine and is currently in the ICU, where hospital staff is carefully monitoring their progress.

Red-tailed Hawk 22-3467

In the first week of November a juvenile female Red-tailed Hawk was admitted to CWC after being found cold, lethargic, and unable to stand after a rainstorm. Upon examination technicians noticed that the patient had multiple small wounds along her legs/feet and was experiencing general weakness. Hospital staff quickly stabilized the hawk in a specific quarantine incubator and performed wound care on the patient. She was prescribed antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, and pain medication. After the 24-hour observation period was over she was moved into the quarantine room, where she quickly started to show improvement. Within a day the hawk was able to stand, and the wounds on her legs/feet were healing. After a week in quarantine the patient was moved into a large outdoor aviary where hospital staff are currently monitoring her progress. The hawk is continuing to improve, and the patient is scheduled to have her first potential release evaluation in a few days.



Your generous donations have helped make it possible to give so many animals a second chance at life. We would once again like to thank the members of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society for your continued support.

Jenn Guess, Development Manager California Wildlife Center P.O. Box 2022
Malibu CA 90265 (310)458-9453 www.cawildlife.org

BIRDS of the WESTERN GRASSLAND- By Arthur Langton

How many do you know?

Contributors: Chris Tosdevin, Steve Miller, Stephen Langton, John Bauer



Answers back page



SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

NEW Chapter Phone Number

To reach a board member or event leader you may now call our forwarding message service at **(747) 237-3720**

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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 3rd 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.

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.

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For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our Website: 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
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Birds of the Western Grassland (Answers)

1. Greater Roadrunner	3. Horned Lark	5. Vesper Sparrow	7. Ferruginous Hawk	9. Savannah Sparrow	11. Grasshopper Sparrow.	13. Western Meadowlark
2. Loggerhead Shrike	4. Say's Phoebe	6. Blue Grosbeak (male)	8. Red-tailed Hawk.	10. Lark Sparrow	12. American Pipit	14. Burrowing Owl

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers who are interested in participating on our board of directors or committees for the coming SFVAS year, July 1, 2023—June 30, 2024. Most board members start their service as chairs of a committee or as elected board members at large. Serving on a committee can also be a great way to become more involved with and contribute to SFVAS.

Newcomers to the board are important! We are volunteers, so you don't have to have prior experience. It is a wonderful opportunity to expand your knowledge and expertise while helping SFVAS work to fulfill our mission: to preserve and enhance the natural habitat within our territory, to increase the public's awareness and appreciation of bird life and the natural environment, and to create a social environment that encourages individual development and participation. Please contact Alexander deBarros if you are interested in serving in any capacity at alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com.