



# 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. 75 No. 4

August / September 2024

## Online General Membership 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 Membership Meeting in August.**

**See you in September!**

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To reach an event leader or board member call our Chapter Phone Number  
[\(747\) 237-3720](tel:(747)237-3720)  
Number is a Message Forwarding Service

## September Zoom Program: Raptor Quest

**Speaker: Scott Harris**

**Thursday, September 26, 2024, 7:00—8:30 p.m.**

The San Fernando Valley Audubon will have its first presentation of the year on Thursday, September 26. Scott Harris, the presenter, spent 17 months chasing 53 Raptors across 34 states—his version of a Raptor Big Year. His book, *Raptor Quest: Chasing America's Raptors*, is the story of his year-long adventure tracking down every species of raptor in the Lower 48 states. Today, we'll learn about his adventures, misadventures, successes, and failures.

From minus 36 degree days, to days over 100 degrees, to getting to the bird just in time, to the frustrations of missing one by minutes. The presentation is about birds—of course—but it is also about the people he met, the things he learned, and why he is already working on his next adventure.



Scott first started birding in March of 2020, a hobby he never imagined himself participating in, but now can't imagine living without. That was also the year he and his wife Randi retired to South Carolina from California.

While in California, Scott had a syndicated newspaper column and two weekly radio shows. He and his son Justin also hosted a Los Angeles Dodgers weekly live radio show. Scott sat on dozens of boards over the years, including Boys and Girls Club, United Way, Pepperdine University, Moorpark College, and California State University, Northridge.

He and his wife are both happy that their children and their grandson are also in South Carolina.

## ANNUAL MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT —Katheryn Barton

Summer is a slow season for San Fernando Valley birders, so it makes for a good time to take a moment to reflect on the past year's high points and accomplishments.

First, thank you to everyone involved in planning and carrying out this year's Awards Luncheon, honoring Kris Ohlenkamp and the California Wildlife Center. It was a very spiffy affair, held at the Braemar Country Club, with a delectable catered buffet lunch, and featured the usual gift basket raffles. To all who could make it, it was great to see you there, and for the rest of you, I hope to see you next year!

After some technical glitches, we managed to carry off our first-ever hybrid annual meeting in May. Directors and Officers were elected, and we featured a presentation by Will McLean Greeley, via Zoom, who talked about his biography of his ancestor, Sen. George P. McLean, the driving force behind the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. We hope to have more in-person and hybrid meetings during the coming year.

Another accomplishment of the past year was the creation and adoption of the chapter's first long-range strategic plan. We are already making headway on our goals.

We continue to offer our popular bird outings throughout the Valley and beyond. Unpredictable weather has required patience and flexibility from our leaders and participants alike.

Our Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program has returned to in-person programs, and we again were able to sponsor environmental education for thousands of LAUSD schoolchildren at the Basin.

We continue with our productive partnership with Friends of the LA River and the California Native Plant Society to enhance the Wildlife Reserve and recover from the devastating fire of 2020.

A new partnership was started with Santa Monica College-Malibu Campus, where we offered community presentations on beginning birdwatching, native plants for wildlife, and the life cycle of swallows.

We have continued to support other like-minded environmental organizations and individuals through our grant program, including funding for a vaccine trial to protect California Condors from the bird flu.

Our chapter played a big part in the shaping of the Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan, which is a master plan to reshape the Basin as the Central Park of the Valley. Many of you participated in the community engagement activities, and we thank you for that. Many of your priorities are reflected in the final plan. Check it out at <https://engineering.lacity.gov/sepulveda-basin-vision-plan-final-plan-available>.

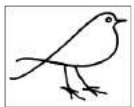
Our new initiative, Go Native SFV, is off to a great start, as readers of the *Phainopepla* know. Several projects have been completed, and more are in the works, creating wildlife-friendly habitat in our communities.

We are in the process of a complete redesign of our website and hope to have it up and running later this Fall. Keep checking in, and feel free to share your feedback with us.

I could go on and mention our annual Christmas Bird Count (our 67th!), our outreach program, First Saturday Beginner and Family Bird Walks, Bluebird Nest Box Program, and more, but then I might never stop! Suffice to say, we can look back on the last year with pride and satisfaction and look forward to the next with anticipation and excitement!

See you in the Fall! 🐦

### Bird Sit Bulletin By Teri Carnesciali



A Bird Sit is a quiet activity but there's plenty of action with the birds—woodpeckers drilling holes to feed on insects or excavate nest holes, crows mobbing raptors mid-air, and hawks hunting rodents for example. Bird Sit participants capture what they observe in whatever way they prefer in the moment—perhaps by a written description, a poem, a quick sketch or a painting.

Here's a page from participant Patty Ryan's nature journal.

Our monthly Bird Sit with Nature Journaling will resume in September. Come join the fun! See the Calendar of Events for details.

To reserve your spot, contact Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org). Beginning birders are always welcome and no artistic talent is needed. Bring your binoculars or a camera, a notebook or journal and something to write or draw with. We meet in the picnic area near the restrooms in O'Melveny Park in Granada Hills on the 2nd Thursday of every month except July and August. Rain cancels the bird sit and it moves to the 3rd Thursday. 🐦



## Calendar of Events

To reach an event leader you may call our message forwarding service at (747) 237-3720

### AUGUST 2024

**Sunday, August 4. 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: Alexander deBarros, [Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org).



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: Alexander deBarros, [Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org).

**Sunday, August 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. [kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org).

**CANCELLED**

No General Membership Meeting in August  
Have a great summer!

**Saturday, August 24. Hansen Dam Birding 8:00—11:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima, CA. Dronfield Ave. intersects Osborne St. approximately ½ mile south of Foothill Blvd. Turn into the park on Dronfield, and meet near the ranger station. Accessibility is good for this site which is mostly on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org).

### SEPTEMBER 2024

**Sunday, September 1. 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: Alexander deBarros, [Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:Alexander.deBarros@sfvaudubon.org).

**Thursday, September 12. A Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, O'Melveny Park. 10:00—11:45 a.m.** If you would like to mindfully connect with birds and all of nature, join us 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 Teri Carnesciali at [teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org). Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

**Sunday, September 15. 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: Katheryn Barton and David Barton. [kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org).

**Tuesday, September 17. 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](mailto:c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org).

**Thursday, September 26. General Membership Meeting. 5:00—7:00 p.m. Zoom Program: Raptor Quest: Chasing America's Raptors Speaker: Scott Harris.** See page 1 for more info. If you are not already on our distribution list, [Click Here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to all events.

**Saturday, September 28. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:15—11:00 a.m.** 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima, CA. Dronfield Ave. intersects Osborne St. approximately ½ mile south of Foothill Blvd. Turn into the park on Dronfield, and meet near the ranger station. Accessibility is good for this site which is mostly on a packed dirt road. Leader: Pat Bates, [pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org](mailto:pat.bates@sfvaudubon.org).

**Sunday, September 30. Young Birders Group. 9:00—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 plan to join us, please send us a quick e-mail at [youngbirders@sfvaudubon.org](mailto: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](mailto:YoungBirders@sfvaudubon.org) for more information and we will add you to our e-mail list.

## Malibu Creek Bird Walk Report

This year, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society's June bird walk at Malibu Creek State Park fell on Father's Day—June 16. Notwithstanding this special day for families, the event was well attended, with about 15 participants. Led by David and Kathy Barton, the four-hour, three-mile walk yielded up an aggregate of 51 avian species. With clear skies, temperatures soon rose into the high seventies.

Spring still seemed to prevail at the park, with migrants such as Yellow Warbler, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black-headed Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting still present and singing. Participants were also delighted with views of a Yellow-breasted Chat, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Costa's Hummingbird—avian species not necessarily observed during every month's walk at this venue. And regulars as California Quail, Great Blue Heron, Red-shouldered Hawk, and Nuttall's Woodpecker provided terrific photographic opportunities.

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 main trailhead parking lot (the lot closest to the rest rooms). Those who would like to join the walk are encouraged to e-mail Katheryn Barton at [katheryn.barton@gmail.com](mailto:katheryn.barton@gmail.com). 🐦



## BIRD COLLECTION IN ACTION

Throughout the first half of 2024 the mounted bird collection was in frequent use enhancing the Chapter's educational and outreach programs. Starting in January, the birds played an important role in the training of new docent/naturalists for the Santa Susana Mountain Park Association (SSMPA). Led by Art Langton, the trainees organized local birds on display into families prior to their more challenging task of using one of the common and familiar field guides to determine common name identification. Occasional discrepancies in naming resulted in discussions and demonstrations on the finer points of discrimination between similar species.



Continuing from last year were the once per month Wednesday visits by third-graders from West Valley elementary schools to Santa Susana State Historic Park. Sponsored by a grant from the California State Parks Foundation and staffed by volunteers from the Herp Connection, the SSMPA, the Foundation for the Preservation of Santa Susana State Historic Park, and in collaboration and cooperation with San Fernando Valley Audubon, students visit stations along their nearly two hour walk and learn about Native Americans, stagecoach travel, native plants, and birds. At the bird station students answer basic questions on bird groups and identification uses for feathers and bills, and are exposed to demonstrations on flight and the cohesive attraction of water molecules. They also encounter pronunciation challenges when learning the names of new birds, all part of learning and reading. Taking part in this year's program were Fulbright Elementary, Chatsworth Park Elementary, Hart Street Elementary, Germain Street Elementary, Canoga Park Elementary, Superior Street School,

and Sierra Canyon School. Each school usually comes with three to four classes of 25 or more third graders.

Birds were the principal attraction at both Wild Animal Day at the Los Angeles Zoo as well as an Earth Day celebration at Chatsworth Nature Preserve, the latter sponsored by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Herp Connection, and SSMPA. Both happened in April and were well attended by the general public with each attracting hundreds if not thousands of individuals. Many thanks to Charlie Wilken, Alexander deBarros, and Molly for contributing to the displays and for engaging people in conversations regarding the birds, environmental conservation, and Audubon.

May 11th saw a select grouping of forest and chaparral birds on display at the Placerita Canyon County Park Nature Center open house sponsored annually by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. The day featured displays from a variety of environmental organizations and first responders and attracted several hundred visitors.



June 9th was the concluding meeting of the season for the Santa Clarita Valley Rose Society. The featured speaker was Art Langton with a display of local birds which might be found in a backyard. A half-hour question and answer session followed the conclusion of the formal presentation with several attendees asking for assistance in identifying bird photographs on their phones. When asked for the connection between birds and roses, the program chairman replied, "None, I just wanted something different this time." And different she got.—*Art Langton* 🐦



## SFVAS Visits California Condor Recovery Program at Bitter Creek NWR



In late May several SFVAS members were privileged to enjoy a tour of the California Condor Recovery Program facilities at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) located in the foothills of the Southwest San Joaquin Valley in Kern County. We were guided by Mel, Stacey, and Martin from Friends of California Condor Wild and Free (FCCWF).



FCCWF is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization whose purpose is promoting the recovery of the California Condor and the preservation of associated ecosystems through education, outreach, research and the support of cooperative stewardship. They work in collaboration with the California Condor Recovery Program at sites within Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex which manages the Southern California population of California condors. This Complex includes [Bitter Creek NWR](#), [Hopper Mountain NWR](#), [Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes NWR](#) and [Blue Ridge NWR](#). FCCWF conducts regular tours at Hopper Mountain and Bitter Creek sites, which are normally not accessible to the public. They also coordinate volunteer workdays for those who wish to assist in upkeep and maintenance of these important conservation facilities.

When European settlement began in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the condor population occupied a territory along the Pacific Coast from British Columbia to the Baja Peninsula. But, degradation of their habitat and

depredations of hunters and egg gatherers combined with poisoning both from baits set out to kill coyotes and from lead fragments in carcasses eaten in the field, decimated the population in the wild by the late 1930s.

In 1967, the condor was placed on the Federal Endangered Species List and a captive-breeding program was begun in 1983 by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Despite these efforts, by 1983 the total population declined to 22 individuals and the controversial decision was made to capture the last remaining wild birds to best maintain survival and genetic diversity in the breeding population. The last wild condor was captured in 1987.

Captive breeding was successful to the extent that as of 12/31/23 there were 561 birds in total, with 90 of those in the Southern California flock. The population in the wild continues to grow both from animals released from the breeding program and from offspring of breeding pairs formed in the wild. Still, the California Condor is one of the rarest birds on earth and, despite restrictions in the use of lead ammunition, lead poisoning remains the most serious ongoing threat to survival of the species.

In addition, we now have Avian Influenza as a serious threat. So far, the Southern California population has not been affected but, more than 20 individuals from the South East population along the Arizona-Utah border have died and several more have been captured so that they may be treated for the disease. Because condors are highly social, it is feared that the disease might easily infect other condor flocks, particularly among individuals weakened by other factors such as lead poisoning.

There has been a crash effort to develop, test, and deploy a vaccine to combat Avian Influenza and **SFVAS** contributed \$5,000 to FCCWF to be forwarded in support of this program. A vaccine developed for commercial poultry but not yet released, was approved for emergency use in condors and initial tests in Black Vultures has proven that vaccine to be effective in raising antibodies to the virus and without serious side effects. Initial testing and deployment of the vaccine in California Condors is now underway.



The land housing the Bitter Creek NWR is centered on the former Hudson Ranch, purchased for the Condor Recovery program in 1985. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century farm equipment remains on the site including a windmill hosting a Red-tailed Hawk nest.





The former Hudson Ranch barn, located next to Bitter Creek NWR headquarters, comes equipped, naturally enough, with several breeding pairs of barn owls.



In addition to getting great views of California Condors, we were privileged to get a closeup encounter with a small Tule Elk herd and other wildlife.



The heart of operations at each Condor Recovery Program site is the flight pen. These pens hold condors being processed or treated.

Field technicians working with supervising biologists lure condors to the site using bait, typically carcasses of still-born calves. Each captured bird is assessed for general health and for any evidence of injury or poisoning. They are also updated on any planned vaccinations while batteries in radio-trackers are refreshed. Assuming all is well, the birds are then quickly released.

On the day we visited, the bait seemed to be especially enticing. Here you see three birds already landed on the flight pen roof and two more just putting down their landing gear.



The genealogy for every single bird in the population is known through breeding records and genetic testing.

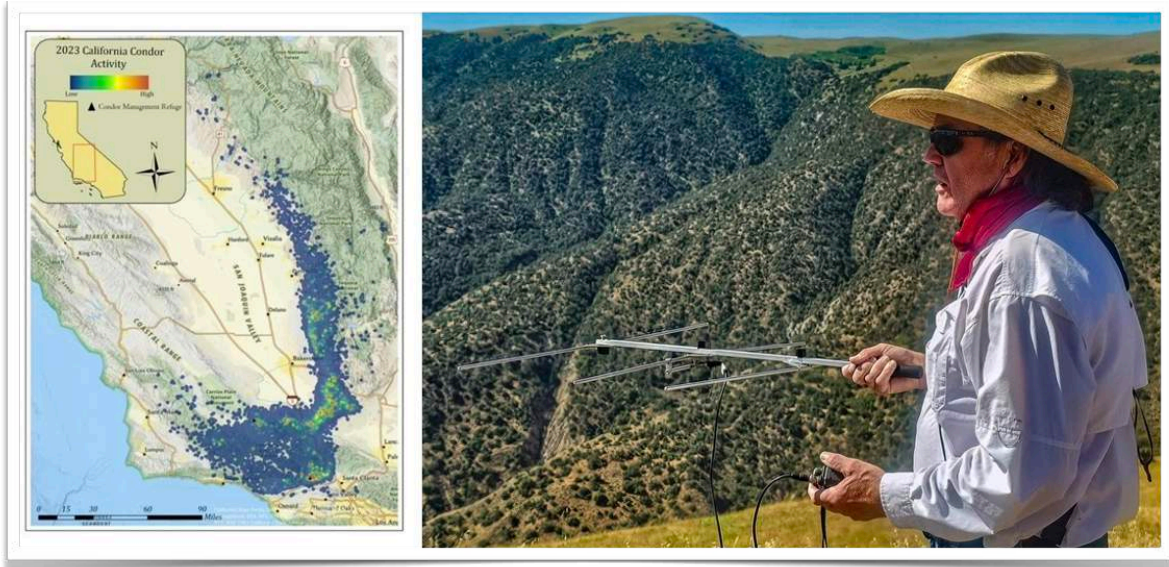
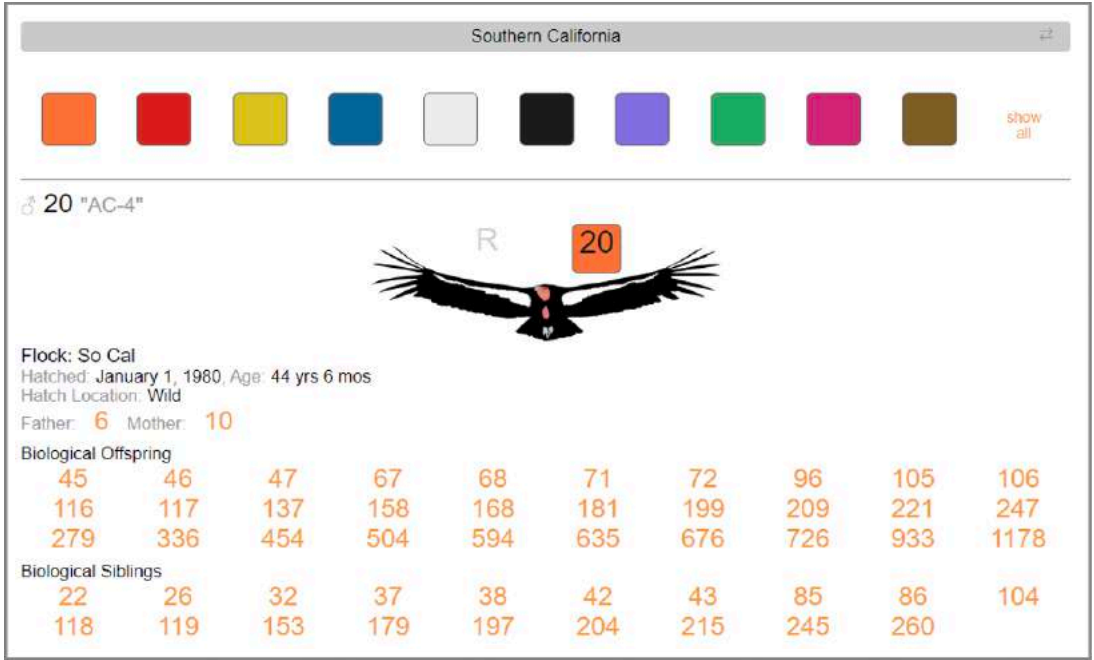
All birds receive colored wing tags with a number that can be read from the ground. The color and number identify the individual bird. Relevant information for every condor can be looked up on [www.condorspotter.com](http://www.condorspotter.com). For birds nesting in the wild, GPS transponders, nest cameras and visits from technician-climbers help in identifying the parents and assessing the health of pre-fledge chicks.



Number 7 (Condor 807) does a flyover but it looks like the wing tag may need to be replaced at the next checkup. Number 20 landed on the ground outside the flight pen. He is one of the earliest males captured from the wild but is still fathering chicks decades later.



Genealogical data for Condor 20 of the Southern California flock from [www.condorspotter.com](http://www.condorspotter.com)



GPS transponders allow the Condor Recovery Program to track activity of the California breeding population over a wide range along the western Sierra, south to Simi and west to San Luis Obispo. Here, Mel Bergman locates direction of distant birds during our visit.

FCCWF is offering to guide additional tours specifically for SFVAS members this coming fall and/or spring of 2025. If you are interested in participation, please contact Joanne Millius ([Joanne.Millius@yahoo.com](mailto:Joanne.Millius@yahoo.com)) who was responsible for coordinating our fantastic May tour with the enthusiastic team at FCCWF.

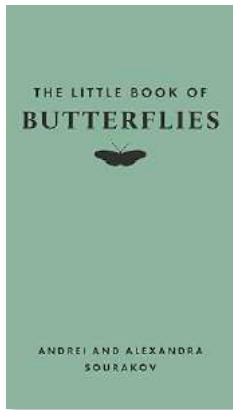
Text: Joanne Millius, Marianne and Richard Davis, and Mel Bergman

Pictures: Richard Davis

Condor Distribution Graph: Arianna Punzalan, Supervisory Wildlife Biologist: California Condor Recovery Program 🐾

## Book Reports

Looking for some summer reading?



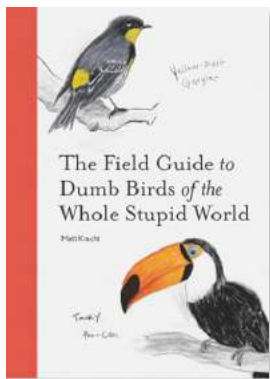
Butterflies and moths, either in the form of a caterpillar or an adult flyer, provide much of the food for many bird species. They are also important pollinators of many plants, and some of them have existed and co-evolved with their plant hosts for millennia. I just finished reading a book called *The Little Book of Butterflies* by Andrei and Alexandra Sourakov from Princeton University Press. It is

an almost pocket-sized book that is packed with information on the butterfly members of the Order Lepidoptera. The book has chapters on butterfly diversity, habitats, life histories including the four stages of development, and how color patterns assist in survival. It also talks about how throughout history humans have used them in myth and folklore. Lepidopterology (the study of butterflies and moths) has been around since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, used both by amateurs and experts.

If you're interested in learning more about butterflies, plants, and the natural world, I highly recommend reading this book as an introduction. —*Joanne Millius*



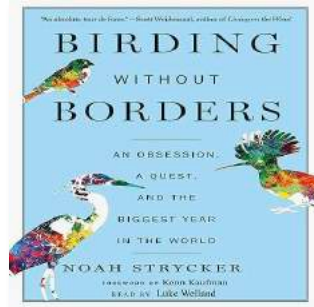
### Matt Kracht, *THE FIELD GUIDE TO DUMB BIRDS OF THE WHOLE STUPID WORLD*



This book is just as silly as it sounds. I was pretty surprised to find that LAPL had it in their collection, and had to borrow it. It's supposed to be funny, but Matt Kracht is as grumpy as he sounds, and given that this was published in 2021, as I read through it I

wondered if it was the product of his pent-up irritation with the pandemic. It's the kind of book you might occasionally peruse, but it becomes tiresome after a couple of sections. Each bird is nicely illustrated, given a ridiculous name, and then he writes a little bit about their behavior and his own personal gripe against the bird. Chronicle Books in San Francisco published it, so they must have an optimistic business plan. I can't see this one selling too much. But it's fun to borrow a copy from the Library for a quick perusal (just don't spend your money on it). —*Marianne Davis*

### Noah, Strycker, *BIRDING WITHOUT BORDERS: An Obsession, a Quest, and the Biggest Year in the World.*



This is a great adventure story, and we had the good fortune to listen to it on Audiobooks, narrated and produced by Luke Welland, 2015. Strycker decided to do an international Big Year, striving to exceed seeing 5,000 bird species in a

year of traveling. He went to 41 countries, saw more than half the bird species in the world at the time (there are lots more now), and seems to be one of those folks who survives fine on little sleep and not much creature comfort. His journey was breathtaking, full of stunning birding as well as remarkable goodwill from the birding community across the globe, who were mostly happy to help him achieve the goal. His descriptions of the birds are totally entertaining, as are his anecdotes about cultural adventures. This was a great book to take on a road trip, it made a long journey go quickly. —*Marianne Davis* 🐦



**SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

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- Bird Sit w/Nature Journaling: Teri Carnesciali  
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- Web Coordinator: Jolene Herz
- Website/Technical: Heather Mims
- Young Birders Group: Luisa Bergeron  
Rebecca Marschall

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\_\_\_\_\_

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



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## Phainopepla

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### Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan Unveiling



Councilmember, Imelda Padilla invited us to the press conference regarding the official unveiling of the final Sepulveda Basin Vision Plan. A \$2.5 Million Dollar "check" was presented to help kick start the state's investment in the project. Attending was State Senator Henry Stern, LA Deputy Mayor Randall Winston, and representatives from the Bureau of Engineering and City partners and organizations that were involved in the planning process.

*Photos by Pat Bates*



Senator Henry Stern and Kathryn Barton, SFVAS President