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For Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife

Vol. 75 No. 5

October / November 2024

Online General Membership Programs

We hope you will join us for our informative Zoom Programs.

[CLICK HERE](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to all events.

SAVE THE DATE

Join us for the

Christmas Bird Count

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2024

See next issue for locations and times

—Reminder—

No General Membership Meeting in November.

Become a **NEW** member

Your first year is **FREE!**

Go to SFVAudubon.org



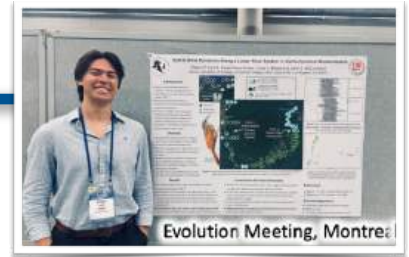
To reach an event leader or board member call our Chapter Phone Number
(747) 237-3720

Number is a Message Forwarding Service

October Zoom Program: Moore Lab Student Reports

Speakers: Amelia Barnard and Mason Lynch

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 7:00—8:30 p.m.



San Fernando Valley Audubon's Thursday, October 24 presentation will have two students from the Moore Lab at Occidental College speaking on birds of Mexico and Venezuela. The title of Amelia Barnard's presentation is: **Why Didn't the Hummingbird Cross the Isthmus?** She will talk about divergence in the Bee Hummingbirds of Mexico. Mason Lynch's presentation is titled: **The Geography of Reproductive Selection in the Woodcreepers of Venezuela.**

Moore Lab student expenses have been in part supported by San Fernando Valley Audubon for a couple of years now. Their studies are important for gathering information about bird species throughout Mexico and parts of Central and Latin America.

Bee Hummingbirds are the smallest bird in the world and can spend all day in flight. Their eggs are the size of a coffee bean. Woodcreepers are solitary birds of the forest and exist in the Neotropics of Central and South America.

Moore Lab is located at Occidental College, a liberal arts college in Northeastern Los Angeles. It houses a museum with 65,000 specimens from Mexico, Central America, and Latin America. The lab and museum use cutting edge DNA technology to conduct research on how modern bird diversity arose on the landscape, the ecological and evolutionary processes driving the origin of new species, and how to protect birds on a changing planet.

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ON OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST, [CLICK HERE](#), TO SIGN UP AND RECEIVE A LINK PRIOR TO ALL EVENTS.

The 2024 Christmas Bird Count, the nation's longest-running community science bird project, will be on Saturday, December 14. We will need people to lead count teams, people to join count teams, and people to count birds at their houses. If you are interested in leading a count team, please contact Alexander deBarros at alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com no later than November 1, 2024.

Calendar of Events

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

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday, October 6. 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.

Thursday, October 10. 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 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 Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org. Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

Tuesday, October 15. 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.

Saturday, October 19. Beginner Bird and Nature Walk. Sepulveda Basin. (NOTE: Third Saturday) 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, continuing to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month (except October), October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org. Heavy rain cancels.

Sunday, October 20. 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.



Thursday, October 24. General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:30 p.m. Zoom Program: Speakers: Amelia Barnard and Mason Lynch. 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, October 26. 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.

Reminder as we head into the winter season, that RAIN CANCELS birding events.

Sunday, October 27. 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 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.

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday, November 3. 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.

Saturday, November 9. Beginner Bird and Nature Walk. Sepulveda Basin. 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, continuing to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. This tour will meet on 2nd Saturday's of the month, October—March. Leader: Muriel Kotin. muriel.kotin@sfvaudubon.org. Heavy rain cancels.

Thursday, November 14. 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 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 Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org. Co-leader: Mary Lou Sharp.

Sunday, November 17. Malibu Creek State Park. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leaders: Katheryn Barton and David Barton. kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org.

Tuesday, November 19. Weekday Wander at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Contact Carolyn Oppenheimer at c.oppenheimer@sfvaudubon.org.

Saturday, November 23. 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.

Sunday, November 24. 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 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.

No General Membership Meeting in November. Happy Thanksgiving!



FREE Beginner Bird and Nature Walks at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

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

Second* Saturdays, 9:00 A.M. October 2024 – March 2025**
***** Except Third Saturday in October (Oct. 19)**

Tours of this special place will begin at 9:00 A.M. and last 1.5 – 2 hours, depending on the group's wishes.

These Walks are for:

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

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

Directions: Driving on Woodley Ave. north from Burbank or south from Victory Blvd., go ½ mile and turn east at the sign for the Japanese Garden. Continue straight (don't turn into the garden) and drive past the Cricket Fields and around the tree in the middle of the road, continuing to the parking lot at the end of the road. Meet at the amphitheater. GPS coordinates of parking lot: 34.179942,-118.472595.



Equipment and Clothing: Wear sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and a cap or hat with a brim. Water and Sunscreen suggested. Binoculars are available to borrow. Please leave your **pets** at home.

More Information: Muriel Kotin at 213.500-4143 or San Fernando Valley Audubon at 747.237-3720. Website www.sfvaudubon.org or scan the QR Code:



Heavy rain cancels. Bring plenty of curiosity.



The Youth Activities Committee Invites New Volunteers

Question: What is a satisfying way to make a difference while having fun?

Answer: Share your knowledge of birds and nature with people, young and old, who are anxious to learn.

Youth Activities Committee leaders enjoy introducing people to the joys of birding and the natural environment. The relaxed walks they lead are flexible, responding to what is happening around them, as well as the interests of the leaders and participants. Subject matter can range from simple bird identification to discussion of plants in the Reserve that sustain wildlife.

Volunteers lead three types of walks.

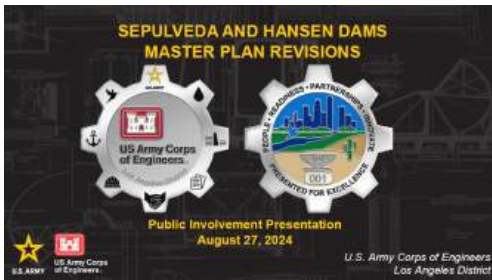
1. In the fall through winter, leaders take people on SFVAS's second Saturday Beginner Bird and Nature Walks. These start at 9:00am at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve amphitheater and last 1.5 to 2 hours.
2. Throughout the year, leaders take habitat restoration volunteers on hour-long tours to introduce them to the Wildlife Reserve and show them what their work is helping to sustain. These very popular tours are usually on fourth Saturday mornings from 10am to 11am. Subject matter is whatever presents itself and you are comfortable discussing--everything from birds to the greater environmental picture, including water, post-fire recovery, or the history of the Reserve. There's never a shortage of things to talk about.
3. On request, leaders take organized groups on tours. These include docent groups, clubs, and school classes that do not qualify for our more elaborate Sepulveda Basin Environmental Education Program. These requested tours are usually on weekdays. Subject matter occasionally is requested by the group organizers, but most often leaders are free to focus on birds and whatever presents itself.

All walks currently take place at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. Additional locations might be added in the future, depending on the interests and preferences of new leaders. Other types of walks might also be developed.

Our current team is stretched thin. We would love to have you join us. You already have much of the needed knowledge if you have gone on several bird walks. You will want to observe at least one walk or be an assistant before leading. You can continue to observe/assist until you feel ready to take a group as the leader.

Please get in touch with Muriel Kotin if you want to join the team or have questions. Her cell phone is 213.500-4143. Or email Muriel.Kotin@sfvaudubon.org. 🐦

NEW MASTER PLANS ARE ON THE WAY! —by Pat Bates



The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is revising the Master Plans (MP) for both the Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam. The Corps made a preliminary presentation to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee at its August 27, 2024 meeting. The MP is a 25-year comprehensive land use and management guide aimed at balanced management of resources and public recreation. It follows Federal laws to manage project land and water resources for environmental stewardship and provides broad and adaptive land classifications and resource management objectives. Development of a MP requires and encourages public and stakeholder involvement.

The last MP revisions were completed in 2011, at the [Sepulveda Basin](#) and [Hansen Dam](#), and are easily found on the Corps' website. The current revisions are being done because the 2011 MPs are out of date and no longer compliant with existing laws and regulations. Further, there have been substantial changes in environmental, cultural, social, and recreational conditions, and land classifications need to be reexamined accordingly.

Currently the Corps is beginning the scoping phase which will gather public and agency input on the project. They anticipate by October formal notification of the process will commence, and a website with forms will be available for input, initiating a 30 day period for submitting comments. The projects will then enter the draft phase, which may be a year or more. The final phase will be the formal release of draft MPs and Draft Environmental Assessments, commencing a final 30 day comment period.

SFV Audubon plans to play a significant role in development of MPs for both the Sepulveda Basin and Hansen Dam. This will include reviewing the current MPs and land classifications and considering modifications based on our knowledge of on the ground conditions. We will also comment on Corps recommendations for best practices, especially in view of the fact that many excellent proposals from the 2011 MPs were never implemented. As soon as the scoping periods are officially open an announcement and link will be on the SFVAS Website, so stay tuned. The U.S. Army wants your input! 🐦

Global Big Day



October is right around the corner, and that means it's time to mark your calendars for [October Big Day—12 Oct 24!](#)

Like Global Big Day, October Big Day is an opportunity to unite around our shared love of birds. [Last October](#), nearly 36,332 people from 191 countries submitted 83,735 checklists with eBird, demonstrating the power of birds to bring people together. Each year more and more participants join in this global celebration, how many people will contribute this year? Wherever you are on October 12, take a few minutes to join in this global celebration.

Participate from anywhere—even from home! By taking part in October Big Day you're also celebrating [Global Bird Weekend](#) and [World Migratory Bird Day](#). Be a part of the global team and help set a new record for October birding.

How to participate

Get an eBird account: eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's contributions into a single massive October Big Day list—while at the same time gathering data to help scientists better understand birds. [Sign up here](#). It's 100% free from start to finish.

Watch birds on 12 Oct: It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. October Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.

Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your observations [via our website](#) or download the [free eBird Mobile app](#) to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists no later than 15 Oct to be included in the results announcement.

Watch the results roll in: During the day, follow along with bird reports from more than 180 countries in real-time on our [October Big Day page](#).

[READ MORE](#)

THE SEPULVEDA BASIN'S ON FIRE! WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

A few facts:

- As of the afternoon of September 5, 2024, on a day when temperatures reached 111°, there had already been 32 fires in the Sepulveda Basin, just in the past month, and many before that.
- Well over 100 acres have burned this summer.
- Four years ago, 90% of the Wildlife Reserve on the east side of Woodley Avenue was incinerated, sadly resulting in the death of one individual who was likely trapped by the dense smoke.
- On June 24 this year 11 Los Angeles City Fire Department (LAFD) firefighters were injured by an explosion in a Basin rubbish fire near the Hjelte playing fields.
- Approximately 25% of the area of the Basin has been impacted by fires, all or nearly all of which are from illegal activity, and nearly all of which are directly tied to encampments.



SFVAS, in a June 2024 press release, made a strong case for a zero tolerance policy for encampments and increased enforcement in all areas of the Sepulveda Basin and other high fire-severity areas. While we all support providing housing and services, the current situation is an immediate public safety hazard to park users and staff, nearby residents, and first responders alike. It warrants an immediate response. Related news articles and links are on our website, www.sfvaudubon.org. We have met with Los Angeles City Council District 6 Council Member (CM) Imelda Padilla and her staff and are encouraged that, after years and years of chaos in the Basin, constructive steps are being taken to address the fires and illegal activity.

On August 28, 2024 the Los Angeles City Council approved CM Padilla's motion requesting a report within 30 days from the Los Angeles City Fire Department, with input from various other City departments, on the June 24 fire incident and how the provisions of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) are being enforced in the Basin to ensure fire risk mitigation, along with any recommendations to improve existing procedures to address encampments at the Basin. The report should also include fire risk mitigation *(continued next page)*

recommendations for all other existing factors that lead to fires in the Basin. The LAFD, with the assistance of the LAPD, Bureau of Engineering, RAP, and Bureau of Sanitation, and in consultation with Council District 6 and the Office of the Mayor, is directed to report to

Council on potential public safety, fire risk, hazardous waste and flooding mitigation solutions both in and around the Basin.

Deputy Rosie Avetisyan from CM Padilla's office reported to the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee (SBWASC) that a working group comprised of LAFD, LAPD, Recreation and Parks, Sanitation, the Mayor's office and other City departments is already convening to address the situation.

Going forward we anticipate that the

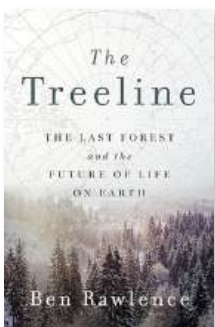
SBWASC including its SFVAS representatives will be involved in this process. In addition, as there are over 100 acres of bare burned land in the Basin, the SBWASC is researching possible actions which might decrease future fire severity and increase the amount of native vegetation. —by Pat Bates



Book Report

THE TREELINE: The Last Forest and the Future of Life on Earth (2022)

Ben Rawlence (got it from LAPL)



Rawlence runs a college that is dedicated to adapting to climate change (Black Mountains College, UK), so his point of view is no surprise. His premise is that the tree line has always been on the move, trees that seem primordial to us were not so at all not so long ago, and that shifting climate changes everything. He uses examples of forest change in Finland, Russia, Alaska, and Canada. As he says, a forest is not a static thing, it is an evolving tapestry of relationships with everything around it. What we see is how it changes how humans are impacted by it: Sami people in Finland and Russians can't run reindeer forever, as the forest the reindeer rely on is disappearing. Ice is disappearing where native peoples depend on hunting and fishing, and the animals are on the move. They see new varieties of birds and animals all the time, as the weather invites species to "shop around North." As for the trees, the permafrost is already melting, and trees that don't like to get their feet wet are being replaced by willows and others that do. We are well past the tipping point now, and our options are to mitigate where we can, and otherwise adapt. As they say, adapt or die.

I'm not moving North, nor will I move my kids. For us, life in Los Angeles is so supportive we must choose the adaptation model, and pressure our elected officials to get busy (MORE canopy, heat reduction measures, etc.)

But if I had grandchildren, I would seriously consider buying property in Alaska....—by Marianne Davis

HEY!!! That's not a Bluebird!

The Bluebird Nesting Box program at SFVAS was started about a decade ago by Carolyn Oppenheimer and, with the help of many other chapter members and volunteers, the program has expanded to include 40 to 50 nesting boxes maintained at Sepulveda Basin, the Balboa Golf Course, and O'Melveny Park.

The main idea is to provide replacements for natural nesting cavities for obligate cavity nesters. Birds build nests in many places, on tree limbs, on the ground or somewhere tucked in among rocks on a cliffside or, in the case of swallows, for instance, they use mud to construct an appropriate container on some vertical surface (cliffs or the eaves of your house) that provides shelter out of reach of predators and, hopefully, well protected from the elements.



By contrast, some birds such as the Western Bluebird depend entirely on nesting locations created by other means. Typically, a bluebird will use a cavity produced and abandoned by a woodpecker who generates a new cavity for itself each nesting season. The problem arises when land is cleared of old trees riddled with woodpecker holes, either for repurposing of the land by developers or simply by people who regard broken old trees as undesirable landscape features or perhaps even a fire hazard. In any case, obligate cavity nesters, birds whose breeding is entirely dependent on the availability of pre-existing holes in old trees, face a major threat to survival when those natural cavities are substantially eliminated by fire or other human activities.

Those of us participating in the Bluebird Nesting Box program take pleasure in the thought that we are helping alleviate that problem by providing artificial replacement cavities. It is great to get outdoors a few times a month to monitor activity at each nesting box. It's amazing to see how adapted these birds are to locating and using a box with an appropriately sized hole even when it is hung in an obscure and well-camouflaged location. (I'm a little embarrassed at my difficulty sometimes in locating a box in a tree that I selected, for which I have GPS coordinates and pictures of where the box is among the branches!)

It's also a pleasure seeing these beautiful Bluebird pairs building and guarding the nest, getting to see the brightly colored eggs and watching the newly emerged chicks as they develop and fledge.

But sometimes things take a different turn. If you've read our previous articles, you already know that other bird species find our nesting boxes attractive. Depending on box locations and other factors we don't understand, we sometimes find a large influx of Wrens or Nuthatches claiming some of the boxes and implementing their own distinct, and presumably genetically-determined nest designs; the Wrens completely stuffing the boxes with thick sticks while the Nuthatches layer a soft velvet blanket over a base of large bark chips. And, while I miss the simple beauty of the Bluebirds, it is hard to begrudge any bird in desperate need of a cavity to complete its drive for survival. *(Continued next page)*

Other invaders have been a little more difficult to accommodate. Recently, a set of deer mice took over one of our boxes at O'Melveny Park. And, while these are cute and colorful beasts, they aren't obligate cavity-nesters and they do compete with birds that really *need* pre-constructed housing to raise their young. Deer mice also present a problem for those of us who maintain the nesting cavities. Normally, birds build their nests, lay their eggs, hatch and feed their chicks, and assist the fledges until they can be fully independent. And then, *they leave*. This gives us the opportunity to clean out the boxes and carry out any necessary repairs in preparation for the next breeding season. Mice, on the other hand, seem to just carry on litter after litter. And, with young pups around all the time, there never seems to be a humane moment to issue an eviction notice. Finally, if and when they leave, we need to be mindful of the fact that Deer Mice are known carriers of the Hantavirus as we complete our cleanup.



Another problem beast: Bees! At first, I naively thought that it was just a swarm that landed on the outside of one nesting box. There was clearly not enough room inside the box for them to build a functional hive. This was just an interim resting place, and, in the next few days, they would move on to a more realistic hive location. Wrong!

Their solution? Build an inside-out hive with honeycomb (and bees) on the outside and wooden walls on the inside. Being that this was a public area, for our safety and that of park-goers, it was time to enlist the help of a bee removal specialist.



The happy ending? After removing the hive and taking it to a location where the bees could be encouraged to move on, the box was scraped clean and returned to us for use this season where it successfully hosted a family of nesting Bluebirds.

Even with such surprises, helping birds who need a home seems worthwhile. In addition to the pleasures of being outdoors and

in close contact with wildlife, it is nice to be able to help alleviate some of the pressures decimating bird populations, worldwide. It is also a great engagement opportunity. We are always being stopped by people asking what we are doing and who are quite eager to learn about environmental challenges faced by our birds. And it is a great segway into topics such as the genetics of behavioral differences and feather color and molting and.... 🐝

Text and Photos:
Richard Davis





Bird Sit Bulletin by Teri Carnesciali

While a participant is observing the birds at our monthly bird sit, sometimes he or she may consider these prompts:

- I notice...
- I wonder...
- It reminds me of ...

These are suggested by Jack Laws in his book “The Laws Guide to Nature Drawing and Journaling.” They help us to be attentive to the birds—their colors, their shapes and sizes, their songs and flight patterns as well as how they interact with other birds and the environment.

We hope you will join us at O’Melveny Park and let the beautiful birds there spark your curiosity. You can find the details in the events calendar.

Carla Alvarado, a member of our chapter and a regular participant at the bird sit, shared with us an entry she made in her Nature journal about a year ago when we resumed meeting after our summer break.



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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- Bird Boxes: Carolyn Oppenheimer
- Christmas Bird Count: Alexander deBarros
- Classroom Education (SMC): Katheryn Barton
- Programs: Joanne Millius
- Publicity: Marianne Davis
- Sales & Service: OPEN
- Youth Activities: Muriel Kotin

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- Bird Sit w/Nature Journaling: Teri Carnesciali
Mary Lou Sharp
- Conservation Investments: Richard Davis
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- GO Native SFV: Patricia Bates
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- Scholarships and Grants: Marianne/Richard Davis
- Sepulveda Basin Steering: Muriel Kotin
- Sepulveda Basin Birding: Alexander deBarros
- Social Media: Jolene Herz
- Strategic Planning: Marianne Davis
- Web Coordinator: Jolene Herz
- Website/Technical: Heather Mims
- Young Birders Group: Luisa Bergeron
Rebecca Marschall

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

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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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Phainopepla

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Project Phoenix



As wildfires increase in severity, much effort is going into studying the effect of wildfires on human health. Project Phoenix is a community science project covering California, Oregon, and Washington aimed at determining the impact of wildfire smoke on birds. The project runs through “Fire Season” — August 1 to November 30, but participants can join any time. You can register to participate at <https://www.project-phoenix-investigating-bird-responses-to-smoke.org/>

To participate, volunteers select a site for observing birds and describe some of its features. The site can be just about anyplace, whether outdoors or through a window. Then the site is observed for a ten minute period each week during the fire season and the results are reported to the project using eBird with the hashtag #ProjectPhoenix in the comments. The Project Phoenix website has instructions and even a video explaining how the counts are done. The free eBird mobile app can be downloaded from the app Store and Google play. For more information on eBird see <https://ebird.org/about/ebird-mobile/> —by Pat Bates