



Phainopepla

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General Membership Programs

We hope you will join us for our informative programs.

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

Become a member
Go to [SFVAudubon.org](https://www.sfvaudubon.org)



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

Number is a Message Forwarding Service

2025 Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 20, 2025

Birders Needed! All are welcome
See pages 2—3 for locations and times

January

Zoom Program

Title: What An Owl Knows

Speaker: Jennifer Ackerman

Thursday, January 29, 2026, 7:00 p.m. (Note: 5th Thursday)

Prolific writer on birds and nature, Jennifer Ackerman's presentation will focus on her most recent book, *What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds*. This book was an instant *New York Times* bestseller and has been described in reviews as "eloquent and engaging," "a fascinating read," and "a masterful survey."

The presentation will explore what we have learned in the past decade or two about owls. Jennifer will explain how owls communicate, how they court, mate, raise their young, and how they relate to one another and to us. We will learn about people who have devoted their lives to studying them, as well as people who work one-on-one with owls to heal them if they're injured or train them to be animal ambassadors.



Photo by Sofia Runarsdotter

Jennifer Ackerman has been writing about science, nature, and health for more than three decades. Her essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Scientific American*, *Natural History*, and many other publications. For seven years, she was a staff writer and researcher for the Book Division of the National Geographic Society. She was educated at Yale University, where she studied literature, graduating cum laude in 1980, with a B.A. in English. [CLICK HERE](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.

Conservation

There are many things happening with regard to the Zone 0 initiative and the Sepulveda Wildlife Reserve. Head to our website for the latest updates.

Nominating Committee - Bill Lepler, Charlie Wilken, Alexander deBarros, & Richard Davis, chair

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers who are interested in participating on our board of directors or committees for the upcoming SFVAS year, July 1, 2026—June 30, 2027. Most board members start their service as chairs of a committee or as elected board members-at-large.

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 Richard Davis if you are interested in serving in any capacity at davisr@UCLA.edu.

Christmas Bird Count 2025 *by Alexander deBarros*

I think we can all agree, 2025 has been a very newsworthy year. And it's time to deliver another bit of news, hopefully one that everybody will find good—it's almost time for the Christmas Bird Count! The Christmas Bird Count (CBC), which is the National Audubon Society's annual bird census, will be on Saturday, December 20, and as always, the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society will be joining other Audubon chapters and Bird Alliances across the western hemisphere to help gather critical data on bird populations for National Audubon's 126th CBC. The San Fernando Valley has been providing CBC data continuously since 1957, so this will be our 69th year participating. Over the years, we have tracked some interesting changes in bird populations within our count circle as The Valley has transitioned from an agricultural area into a more residential one.

On last year's count, we totaled 143 species and 19,142 individual birds, our third highest species count ever, and our highest individual count since 2009. Over the last 20 years, we've averaged 132 species and 16,280 individuals; see the February-March 2025 *Phainopepla* for more details.

To properly understand the bird populations in the San Fernando Valley, we need to cover as many parks as possible. CBC participation is free and open to all, and extensive birding experience is not a prerequisite. All you need is a willingness to come out and count, wind, rain, or shine. Thirteen locations that are putting together teams are listed below. If you are unable to join an existing CBC team, you may count on your own at your backyard bird feeders, local parks, and anywhere else in your neighborhood, as long as you are within our survey area, which is a 7.5 mile radius from Balboa and Nordhoff (an interactive map of the CBC circle is available [here](#)).

Please report all bird species, the individual numbers of each species, and the time you spent birding to Alexander deBarros by email, alexanderdebarros@yahoo.com no later than January 3, 2026. You may also post your sightings on [eBird](#), but please email the checklist to ensure it gets counted.

SFV neighborhoods/cities entirely within the CBC circle:

Arleta, Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Encino, Granada Hills, Lake Balboa, Mission Hills, North Hills, Northridge, Pacoima, Panorama City, Porter Ranch, San Fernando, Van Nuys, Valley Glen, Winnetka

SFV neighborhoods/cities partially within the CBC circle:

Lake View Terrace, North Hollywood, Shadow Hills, Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, Tarzana, Valley Village, West Hills, Woodland Hills

Neighborhoods/cities not listed are entirely outside the CBC circle.

Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve and Lake Balboa

Meeting Time: 7:30 am

Meeting Point: Parking lot nearest the Tillman Reclamation Plant

Directions: Exit 405 FWY at Burbank Blvd. and head west (turn left if you're on the northbound side, turn right if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Woodley Ave, and take the second right into the wildlife reserve. Meet in the first parking lot on the right. (34.179677, -118.479737)

Other stops: none

Terrain: flat

Approximate distance: 7.2 miles

Leader: Kris Ohlenkamp, kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net

O'Melveny Park and Bee Canyon Park

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: O'Melveny Park parking lot

Directions: Exit 118 FWY at Balboa Blvd and head north (turn left if you're on the eastbound side, turn right if you're on the westbound side). Turn left onto Session Blvd and take the second right into the park. (34.307617, -118.511292)

Other stops: None

Terrain: Mostly flat, some light hills

Approximate distance: 3.8 miles

Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720

Bull Creek

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Bull Creek parking lot

Directions: Exit 101 FWY at Balboa Blvd and head north (turn right if you're on the northbound side of the freeway, turn left if you're on the southbound side). Take the second possible right into Anthony C.

Beilenson Park/Lake Balboa. Meet in the first dirt parking lot on the left. (34.1814216, -118.4983283)

Other stops: none

Terrain: mostly flat

Approximate distance: 4.2 miles

Leader: Rose Leibowitz, roselbirds@gmail.com

Old Mission Trail and nearby parks

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Limekiln Canyon at Tunney Ave

Directions: Exit 118 FWY at Tampa Ave and head south (turn left if you're on the westbound side, turn right if you're on the eastbound side). Turn right onto Tunney Ave (the second light), and park on the side of the road. (34.258808, -118.557684)

Other stops: Mason Park, Zelzah Park

Terrain: mostly flat, some light hills

Approximate distance: 5 miles

Leader: Diana Hilberman, diana.hilberman@gmail.com

Veteran's Memorial Park & El Cariso Park

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Veteran's Memorial Park western parking lot

Directions: Exit the 210 FWY at Hubbard St and head east (turn right if you're on the westbound side, turn left if you're on the eastbound side). Turn left onto Eldridge Ave, then right onto Sayre St. Follow Sayre into Veteran's Memorial Park, where it ends. Turn left and meet in the parking lot where that road ends. (34.326364, -118.419471)

Other stops: El Cariso Park

Terrain: mostly flat, some slopes

Approximate distance: 5 miles

Leader: Joey Di Liberto, jfdiliberto@gmail.com

Reseda and Encino Parks

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Reseda Park

Directions: Exit 101 fwy at Reseda Blvd and head north (turn right if you're on the northbound side, turn left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Victory Blvd, travel about 700 ft, and turn left into the parking lot by the tennis courts. 34.1868749, -118.5329935

Other stops: Encino Park, Los Encinos State Historic Park, Holy Spirit Retreat Center

Terrain: completely flat

Approximate distance: 2.5 miles

Leader: Pat Bates, batesbird@gmail.com

Hansen Dam Golf Course & nearby parks

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Hubert Humphrey Memorial Park

Directions: Exit 118 FWY at Glenoaks Blvd and head east (turn left once if you're on the eastbound side, turn left twice if you're on the westbound side); this places you on Paxton St. Turn right onto Dronefield Ave, the left onto Filmore St. Park in the parking lot on the right side of the road. (34.281768, -118.407290)

Other stops: Roger Jessup Park, Hansen Dam Golf Course, Stonehurst Rec Center, Sun Valley Park

Terrain: Flat

Approximate distance: 3.5 miles

Leader: Robin Share, robindshare@gmail.com

Aliso Canyon and Wilbur-Tampa Park

Meeting Time: 7:30 am

Meeting Point: Wilbur-Tampa Park

Directions: Exit the 118 FWY at Tampa Ave and head north (turn right if you're on the westbound side, turn left if you're on the eastbound side). Turn right onto Wilbur Ave, and park on the street. (34.288315, -118.556146)

Other stops: none

Terrain: light to moderate hills

Approximate distance: 7 miles

Leader: Charlie Wilken, cswilken@gmail.com

Wilson Canyon and Stetson Ranch Park

Meeting Time: 8:00 am

Meeting Point: Wilson Canyon Park

Directions: Exit 210 FWY at Roxford St, and head north (turn right if you're on the westbound side, turn left if you're on the eastbound side). Stay on Roxford as it turns right and becomes Olive View Dr. After passing the hospital, turn left into Wilson Canyon Park, then turn left to reach the main parking lot. (34.329932, -118.444875)

Other stops: Stetson Ranch Park

Terrain: light to moderate hills

Approximate distance: 4 miles

Leaders: Valeree Catangay, valereecatangay@gmail.com & Rujin Yu, yurujinemp@gmail.com

East Valley Small Parks

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Meeting Point: Dearborn Park

Directions: Exit 405 FWY at Nordhoff St and head west (turn right if you're on the southbound side, turn left if you're on the northbound

side). Turn right onto Amestoy Ave. and immediately turn left onto Dearborn St. Park on the street. (34.237221, -118.508417)

Other stops: Valley Sod Farms, Sepulveda Rec. Center, Panorama Park, Branford Park, Branford Settling Pond, Sheldon-Arleta Park, Fernangeles Rec. Center

Terrain: completely flat, except for very light hills at Sheldon-Arleta Park

Approximate distance: 7 miles total

Leader: Oscar Rodriguez, rodthebirder@gmail.com

Devil's Canyon

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Meeting Point: Canoga Ave at 118 FWY

Directions: Exit the 118 FWY at De Soto Ave and head south (turn right if you're on the eastbound side, turn left if you're on the westbound side). Turn right on Chatsworth St, then right again on Canoga Ave. Park on the street, just after you cross under the freeway.

(34.275852, -118.595369)

Other stops: Porter Valley Country Club

Terrain: light to moderate hills

Approximate distance: 5.5 miles

Leader: Carolyn Wilcox, cwilcox@yahoo.com

San Fernando Mission and nearby parks

Meeting Time: 7:00 am

Meeting Point: Carey Ranch Park

Directions: Exit 5 FWY at San Fernando Mission Blvd and head east (turn right if you're on the northbound side, turn left if you're on the southbound side). Take the first left onto Laurel Canyon Blvd, then turn right onto Crestknoll Dr. Take the first possible left into Carey Ranch Park and meet in the parking lot. (34.289057, -118.459727)

Other stops: Brand Park, San Fernando Mission, Pacoima Wash Natural Park, Sylmar Rec. Center

Terrain: completely flat

Approximate distance: 3 miles

Leader: Brenton Cooper, bcoop@outlook.com

Upper L.A. River

Bicycle route

Meeting Time: 8:00 am


Meeting Point: L.A. River at Owensmouth Ave and Bassett St.

Directions: Exit 101 FWY at Topanga Canyon Blvd and head north (turn right if you're on the northbound side, turn right then left if you're on the southbound side). Turn right onto Victory Blvd, go one block, then turn left onto Owensmouth Ave. Turn right onto Bassett St and park on the street. (34.195593, -118.601129)

Other stops: none

Terrain: flat

Approximate distance: 8.4 miles

Leader: Danielle Awad, awad.danielle.e@gmail.com 

Birds & Beer. Saturday, December 20. 4:30-7 pm. Join us for appetizers (no host bar) at Best Ball Bar/Woodley Lakes Golf Course, 6331 Woodley Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406, to share our CBC numbers and kick off the Holiday Season. Watch your e-mails to register for this event on Eventbrite.

Calendar of Events

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

DECEMBER 2025

Sunday, December 7. Sepulveda Basin. 8:00—11:00 a.m. Directions:



Exit the San Diego Freeway (I-405) on Burbank Blvd. Go west about one-half mile to Woodley Avenue and turn right (north). Travel about one-half mile to the second possible right turn (at sign for the Water Reclamation Plant and Japanese Garden). Turn right and go

east about one-half mile to Wildlife Area parking at the end of the road. 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, December 11. 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.

Saturday, December 13. Beginner Bird Walk. Second Saturdays. 9:00 a.m. to approx. 11:00 a.m. at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. We welcome beginning birdwatchers, families and groups. This is a great opportunity to learn about birds, how to identify them and learn about their behaviors and needs. You will also learn about the outstanding and currently challenged wildlife reserve. Each walk will vary with the interests of the participants and what is happening that morning. Binoculars are available to borrow. Please do not bring any pets. Wear sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and a cap or hat with a brim. Water and Sunscreen suggested. 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 small amphitheater which is on the on the south side of the rock-faced buildings. GPS coordinates of parking lot: 34.179942,-118.472595. For more information, call Muriel Kotin at (213) 500-4143 or San Fernando Valley Audubon at (747) 237-3720. Heavy rain cancels. Please let us know in advance if you are bringing a group of people so we can provide enough leaders. If you have a large youth or special interest group and a second Saturday doesn't work for you, we can try to arrange a walk at a different time.

Tuesday, December 16. Weekday Wander at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720.

Saturday, December 20. 126th Annual Christmas Bird Count. Come out and count birds. All are welcome. No experience necessary—just a willingness to count rain or shine. See pages 2—3 for meeting times and locations.

Saturday, December 20. 4:30—7:00 p.m. Birds & Beer. Join us for appetizers (no host bar) at Best Ball Bar/Woodley Lakes Golf Course, 6331 Woodley Ave, Van Nuys, CA 91406, to share our CBC numbers and kick off

**Reminder: RAIN CANCELS birding events.
Groups of six or more, please contact the leader.**

the Holiday Season. Watch your e-mails to register for this event on Eventbrite.

Sunday, December 21. Malibu Creek State Park. 8:00 a.m. Meet at the second (lower) day-use parking lot. Entrance to the park is on the west side of Las Virgenes Road, just south of Mulholland Hwy. Entrance fee is \$12 per car. Leaders: Kathryn Barton and David Barton. kathy.barton@sfvaudubon.org.



**NO General Membership Meeting in December
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

Saturday, December 27. Hansen Dam Birding 8:00—11:00 a.m. 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima. 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.

Saturday, December 27. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Habitat Restoration. 8:00—11:00 a.m. SFVAS is continuing to work with our partners, the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) on the ongoing Habitat Restoration efforts in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (SBWR). This group gathers every Fourth Saturday morning to work and weed. If you would like to get involved and get your hands dirty, this is for you! SFVAS offers an Audubon guided walk after the work. (Volunteer Walk Leaders always needed.) What is this all about? Please check the [FoLAR](http://FoLAR.org) website for latest details and sign up before attending this event.

Sunday, December 28. Eagle Eyes Young Birders Club. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Join us and become part of a fun, supportive community where your passion for nature and birds can soar. We will have binoculars to loan and journals available for children who sign up. We will meet at a different location each month. Check out our website for more information and to secure your spot.

JANUARY 2026

Sunday, January 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.

Thursday, January 8. 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.



Saturday, January 10 Beginner Bird Walk. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve 9:00 a.m. to approx. 11:00 a.m. We welcome beginning birdwatchers, families and groups. This is a great opportunity to learn about birds, how to identify them and learn about their behaviors and needs. You will also learn about the outstanding and currently challenged wildlife reserve. Each walk will vary with the interests of the participants and what is happening that morning. Binoculars are available to borrow. Please do not bring any pets. Wear sturdy shoes, layered clothing, and a cap or hat with a brim. Water and Sunscreen suggested. 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 small amphitheater which is on the on the south side of the rock-faced buildings. GPS coordinates of parking lot: 34.179942,-118.472595. For more information, call Muriel Kotin at (213) 500-4143 or San Fernando Valley Audubon at (747) 237-3720. Heavy rain cancels. Please let us know in advance if you are bringing a group of people so we can provide enough leaders. If you have a large youth or special interest group and a second Saturday doesn't work for you, we can try to arrange a walk at a different time.

Sunday, January 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: Katheryn Barton and David Barton. kathy.barton@sfsaudubon.org.

Tuesday, January 20. Weekday Wander at O'Melveny Park, Granada Hills. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Directions: Take the 118/Ronald

Reagan Freeway and exit at Balboa Blvd. Turn north, driving two miles to Sesnon, turn left going west 0.6 miles, turn right at park entrance. Meet in the parking lot. RAIN CANCELS. Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720.

Saturday, January 24. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:15—11:00 a.m. 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima. 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@sfsaudubon.org.



Saturday, January 24. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve Habitat Restoration. 8:00—11:00 a.m. SFVAS is continuing to work with our partners, the Friends of the Los Angeles River (FoLAR) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) on the ongoing Habitat Restoration efforts in the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve (SBWR). This group gathers every Fourth Saturday morning to work and weed. SFVAS offers an Audubon guided walk after the work. (Volunteer Walk Leaders always needed.) NOTE: Start time may be subject to change. Please check the [FoLAR](#) website for latest details and sign up before attending this event.

Sunday, January 25. Eagle Eyes Young Birders Club. 9:00—11:00 a.m. Join us and become part of a fun, supportive community where your passion for nature and birds can soar. We will have binoculars to loan and journals available for children who sign up. We will meet at a different location each month. Check out our website for more information leave a message at our chapter number, (747) 237-3720. Leader: Paula Orlovich.

Thursday, January 29. Zoom General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:30 p.m. (NOTE: 5th Thursday) Title: **What An Owl Knows.** Speaker: **Jennifer Ackerman.** See page 1 for more information. To join the Zoom [click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to event.

Book Report

THE BOOK OF FLACO: The World's Most Famous Bird, by David Gessner

I'm not sure that Flaco was the most famous bird, but after reading this book I'm impressed with how much NYC focused on this wild bird who escaped the Zoo and captivated the city for 12 months. This book is different, in that Gessner didn't follow Flaco around during his short freedom but documented his impact on New Yorkers from local sources. Flaco was a magnificent bird, a Eurasian Eagle Owl, large and impressive in appearance. Gessner includes many good photos from photographers in the mid-section of the book. Someone cut open his cage in the Zoo and he spent the next 12 months "free," spending most of his time in Central Park, but thrilling adjacent apartment dwellers by spending time on their stoops, windowsills, and water towers.



When he first escaped, the local zoological society tried to recapture him. A vocal crowd regarded this as violating his rights to be free, and the Society took a lot of abuse for a while. Amazingly they backed down and left him to roam Central Park, where he was relentlessly tracked by birders and podcasters who became well known for posting his whereabouts (also controversial). When Flaco was captive, his food was provided but once flying free he became an adept hunter and took pigeons and rats. The amount of emotional baggage attached to this bird by locals is amazing, and anthropomorphism was in full force (and weird, to my thinking).

After 12 months, a witness saw Flaco simply fall off a building and land flat adjacent to an apartment. The post-mortem exam found that he was weakened by a virus (carried by pigeons) and had a load of rat poison in his system. Anyone that has been to NYC knows they have a big rat problem, and the use of poisons is common. But what a shame that this huge, beautiful bird had to die from doing what came naturally to him.

—Borrowed from LAPL, Marianne Davis



Solomon Kaplan, the eighth grade son of friends, made a cheese plate that he decorated with a bird he sculpted from apple pieces. Aptly, the bird was positioned to eat pumpkin seeds. Solomon didn't claim originality, having seen one made by a professional caterer the previous evening. — Submitted by Muriel Kotin

Eagle Eyes Young Birders Meet Up

The next Young Birders meet up is scheduled for Sunday, January 25 at Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Lake. The 9:00am meet up features the opportunity to bring your friends and family to explore the natural wonders of the Wildlife Reserve. During our visit we will encounter many species of birds as they fly, feed, and forage. Occasionally, dramatic interactions occur such as a Great Blue Heron stealthily hunting a fish or pocket gopher and tossing it down right before our eyes!! We will connect with the sights and sounds of the reserve and enjoy the native plants around the lake and next to the creek. Getting a good view of the birds we encounter will be no problem as binoculars will be provided for the morning. Please see our website for more information, leave a message at our chapter number, (747) 237-3720, and I will return your call.—Paula Orlovich



The 10th Annual P22 Day was held in October with all of the who's who of the LA county environmental community. SFV Audubon had a double size display area to exhibit 40 of our collection of taxidermy birds. The organizers (Friends of Griffith Park) of the event really liked the display and came over and talked to our outreach member, Alexander deBarros. They found out that he could perform many bird calls and invited him on stage to perform them. He did Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Northern Pygmy Owl, Spotted Owl, Common Poorwill, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk calls. It was quite the crowd pleaser!

After Alexander's performance on stage we had a slough of visitors to our display area coming to comment on his vocalizations. One musician even wanted him to share some of his sounds for his music.

Cougar "P22" inspired the environmental movement in LA to Rally to build a wildlife crossing in the Santa Monica mountains that crosses 101 near Liberty Canyon Road. It will be fully completed and opened in 2026.—Submission and photos by Charlie Wilken



LA Public Library Birding Backpacks

Marianne Davis, Publicity Chair, assembled and spearheaded this initiative, and along with SFVAS donated a dozen Birding Backpacks to be made available for check out at local public libraries. Each one contains a bird book, checklist, binoculars, and map of where to look for birds in the San Fernando Valley. This is a great activity for young and old alike.

Check it out!



Photo by Pat Turner



Photos courtesy of LAPL



First Evening Bird Walk in the Sepulveda Basin

November 19, just before sunset, Pat Bates, led a group of birders into the Wildlife Reserve. Highlights included a Merlin eating dinner, a flock of egrets coming in to roost, and a Great Horned Owl in flight. We then went to the Best Ball Bar at Woodley Golf Course for drinks and social time. It was deemed a success, and we look forward to scheduling additional evening walks in the future. *Join us!*



Alexander deBarros and Pat Turner showing off their owl shirts

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

Chapter Phone Number. To reach a board member or event leader you may call our forwarding message service at (747) 237-3720

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Charlie Wilken/Outreach

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Birdathon: Richard Davis
Bird Boxes: Open
Bird Sit w/Nature Journaling: Teri Carnesciali
Mary Lou Sharp
Alexander deBarros
Christmas Bird Count: Alexander deBarros
Classroom Education (SMC): Kathryn Barton
Conservation Investments: Richard Davis
Conservation/Sustainability: Co-Chair: Patricia Bates
Co-Chair: Joanne Millius

Eagle Eyes Young Birder Club: Paula Orlovich
Editor *Phainopepla*: Rebecca LeVine
Field Trips: Alexander deBarros
Finance: Joanne Millius
GO Native SFV: Patricia Bates
Hansen Dam Birding: Patricia Bates
Hospitality: Teri Carnesciali
Malibu Creek Birding: Kathryn & Dave Barton
Membership: Bill Lepler
O'Melveny Wander: Paula Orlovich
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Programs: Joanne Millius
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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*.

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Bird Sit Bulletin by Mary Lou Sharp

Paula Orlovich stopped at nearby Bee Canyon following the September O'Melveny Park Bird Sit, and there she observed a resting coyote. She sketched the coyote in her nature journal. She also wrote a short poem about the moving experience, and later added it to her journal.

In reflecting on nature journaling and the bird sit experience, Paula observed "The value of having this time set aside affords me the opportunity to observe natural occurrences as they happen. Recording my observations centers my mind during the creative process. There is also the possibility of connecting to like-minded people which is very enjoyable."

We hope you'll join us. No prior birding or journaling experience is necessary. You can find further information in the Calendar of Events. Contact Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfaudubon.org, to reserve your spot.

