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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.



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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS

February

Hybrid Program

Title: TBA

Speaker: TBA

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 6:30 p.m. (for in person social time) **7:00-8:00 p.m.** (Zoom presentation)

Location: Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino

At the time we are going to press our February 26 meeting will have a To-Be-Announced Speaker. We have reserved the auditorium at the Encino Community Center for that date and will let all our members know who the speaker is via our Website and flyers sent to members' emails.

The meeting will occur both in person and on Zoom at 7:00 p.m.. The auditorium will be open for members attending in person at 6:30 with snacks and drinks provided by the Chapter. Zoom participants may log on at 6:45 p.m.

Please check our website later this month and beginning of February to learn who the speaker will be for our February meeting. [CLICK HERE](#), to signup and receive a link prior to all events.

March

Hybrid Program

Title: Western Monarch

Speaker: Sara Cuadra-Vargas

Thursday, March 26, 2026, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino

The meeting will be held in-person and on Zoom and the presentation starts at 7:00 p.m. Doors open to the auditorium at 6:30 p.m., snacks and drinks will be provided. Zoom participants may log on at 6:45 p.m. to hear the presentation and Chapter news.



The western monarch is an iconic species known for its incredible annual migration to and from overwintering groves along the coast in California and Baja California. Once clustering in millions, the population has declined more than 95% percent due to stressors such as habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change. Join us as we discuss how vulnerable monarch habitat is being conserved by land managers across the state and what actions members of the public can take to help recover the western monarch population.

Sara Cuadra-Vargas (she/her) is a conservation biologist based in Southern California who provides guidance to federal, state, and local land managers to preserve and enhance monarch overwintering sites along the California coast. She also coordinates the Western Monarch Count community science program, engaging dozens of volunteers in Los Angeles and Orange counties to track western monarchs and their habitat.



Christmas Bird Count Recap 2025 by Alexander deBarros



2025 was quite the year, but we made it through the year, and another Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Started by the Audubon Society in 1900, it is the world's longest running community science project. With nearly 2,700 count areas spread across the Americas and the North Pacific, CBC data is influential in tracking the rise and fall of bird populations and species diversity on both local and international levels. San Fernando Valley Audubon has been contributing to the CBC since 1957, and we were eager to continue for our 69th CBC. On December 20, 2025, 58 counters covered 86 locations, totaling 133 species and 18,716 individuals. For reference, last year's totals were 143 species and 19,142 individuals, and our 20 year average is 132 species and 16,280 individuals. After years of chaos involving fires, droughts, and a pandemic, I'm glad to have a CBC that is rather normal.

The rules of National Audubon allow us to note species seen during count week, the three days before and after count day, which helps get a sense of what birds are in the area, although we can't include them in official species or individual totals. Thanks to our counters and eBird reports made by others who did not participate in the count, we added ten additional species during count week, bringing our total for the week to 143 species. These ten species include:

- **Snow Goose**, found by Pasadena CBC Compiler Jon Fisher at the Woodley Lakes Golf Course. Snow Geese usually winter in large flocks in open grassland areas, but a few strays winter in Los Angeles, usually with Canada Goose flocks.
- **Wood Duck**, also found by Jon Fisher at the Sepulveda Basin. Once regular in the area, Wood Ducks have declined over the last decade, with only three of their 40 count day records happening since 2015. They have also disappeared from local haunts like Franklin Canyon.
- **Spotted Sandpiper**, found by Brad Rumble at the Hansen Spreading Grounds. Ironically one of our most common Sandpipers, this is only the 6th time it has been missed on count day.
- **American Herring Gull**, found by Sam Fellows and Daniel Tinoco at Reseda Park. While it's one of the most common gulls elsewhere in the country, American Herring Gulls are only seen in small numbers in Los Angeles.
- **Glaucous-winged Gull**, also found by Sam Fellows and Daniel Tinoco at Reseda Park. Common in the North Pacific, a few winter in L.A., usually with large flocks of Western Gulls. Where they overlap with other species, Glaucous-wings readily hybridize, and this individual presented a bit of an identification challenge, as Sam and Daniel both initially identified it as different hybrids, before a review of the photos suggested a pure bird.
- **Prairie Falcon**, found by Brad Rumble at Hansen Dam. Common in the desert, Prairie Falcons have largely disappeared from the San Fernando Valley. It was seen regularly in the 1980s and '90s, but has only been seen on count day thrice since 2001, almost always at Hansen Dam.
- **Cassin's Vireo**, found by Alexander deBarros at the San Fernando Rec Center. The Pacific Coast representative of the Solitary Vireo Complex, the Cassin's Vireo is a common summer bird in the San Gabriel Mountains, it normally winters in Central Mexico. This bird, and the eight previous count day records, were probably late migrants, as they're usually gone by the following day.
- **Plumbeous Vireo**, found by Daniel Tinoco at Reseda Park. The Interior West representative of the Solitary Vireo Complex, most Plumbeous Vireos winter in Western Mexico and Arizona, but a few also winter in coastal Southern California. While it has been only seen on count day 10 times, it has been found in count week almost every year since the protocol was first implemented in 2013.

* Note: The Eastern species, the Blue-headed Vireo, has only been seen in L.A. County in December once, on the 2013 Palos Verdes CBC. The Cassin's, Plumbeous, and Blue-headed Vireos are very similar to one another, and were considered the same species from 1950 to 1997.

- **Scaly-breasted Mania**, found by Gordon Barnard and Riley Kimbrough at the Sepulveda Basin. Introduced from India in 1977, Munias have become common in the San Gabriel Valley, Palos Verdes, Orange County, and along the more natural stretches of the L.A. River, including the Sepulveda Basin. However, it is usually missed on CBCs, having only been seen on count day in 2019 and 2021.
- **Dark-eyed Junco (*cismontanus*)**, found by Alexander deBarros at Ritchie Valens Park. This uncommon subspecies breeds in British Columbia and winters across the US west of the Ohio River. Interestingly, this subspecies seems to have arisen from hybridization between Oregon and Slate-colored Dark-eyed Junco subspecies.
- **Tricolored Blackbird**, found by Emily Banno at Lake Balboa. Very similar to the Red-winged Blackbird, large flocks are found in open grasslands and agricultural fields in the Central and Antelope Valleys, but have largely disappeared from the San Fernando Valley, with only two count day records and three count week records in the last 15 years.

On count day this year we found several species that were rather unusual. These highlights included:

- **1 American Avocet**, found by Lynn Bebenroth and Rob Brown at the Hansen Spreading Grounds. Fairly common here during migration, Avocets usually winter in estuaries and coastal marshlands. This is only their 3rd CBC record, having previously been seen in 1957 and 1994.
- **3 Solitary Sandpipers**, two found by Brad Rumble at Hansen Dam, one found by Lynn Bebenroth and Rob Brown at the Hansen Spreading Grounds. Normally wintering in Central and South America, and just showing up here as a passage migrant, this is the third year ever and second year in a row one has stuck around for the winter. This is also the first time that more than one has been seen.
- **1 White-tailed Kite**, found by Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton at the Chatsworth Reservoir. Common in open grasslands, Kites frequently seen here when the San Fernando Valley was agricultural, and stuck around at open spaces like the Chatsworth Reservoir, Sepulveda Basin, and Hansen Dam for a while once The Valley became suburban. They have been seen on count day 40 times, but this is their first record since 2013.
- **1 Western Screech-Owl**, found by Robin Share while owling at Caballero Canyon. Small, nocturnal, and cryptic, Screech-Owls are easily missed, and have only been seen on count day 20 times, mostly in the 2000s and early 2010s. Since starting comprehensive owling routes in 2020, Screech-Owls have been found twice at Caballero Canyon. (continued next page)



Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
Patricia Bates
Encino Park
CBC 2025

- **1 Eastern Phoebe**, found by Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton at the Chatsworth Reservoir. The eastern equivalent to the Black Phoebe, a few stray west every year, and individuals often return to the same wintering grounds. This is the 5th CBC record, and the first one in 20 years! Previous records include one at the Chatsworth Reservoir in 1977, and one bird that wintered at the Sepulveda Basin from 2003 to 2005. Since 2021, the Malibu CBC has had one wintering at Lake Lindero in Agoura Hills, and that bird was seen again this year.
- **4 Mountain Bluebird**, three found by Kris Ohlenkamp at the Sepulveda Basin, and one found by Oscar Rodriguez at the Valley Sod Farms. Common in deserts and open grasslands, a few have been wintering in the San Fernando Valley in recent years. Including last year's count week sighting, this is the 5th consecutive CBC record, which is impressive for a species that's only been seen on count day 16 times.

Other noteworthy bird sightings include:

- **1 Cackling Goose**, found at the El Cariso Golf Course. This smaller relative of the Canada Goose was found on every count from 2005 (when it was split from the Canada Goose) to 2013, but only intermittently since then.
- **2 Western Sandpiper**, found at the Sepulveda Basin. Once common in the area, Western Sandpipers have declined significantly. Of their 42 count day records, only 11 have been in the last 25 years. They are still common along the coast.
- **4 Neotropic Cormorant**, three found at Los Encinos State Historic Park, and one found at the Sepulveda Basin. A tropical species spreading north with climate change, Neotropic Cormorants first arrived in L.A. in 2016, and have gradually been spreading throughout the county. They first arrived at the Sepulveda Basin in 2020 and began breeding there in 2022. They were first spotted on our CBC the year after, and have been seen every year since then.
- **1 White-faced Ibis**, found at the Chatsworth Reservoir. Ibises winter here in small numbers, but usually outside our CBC circle. This is only their 6th count day record, and the 3rd one in a row.
- **1 American Barn Owl**, found at the Pacoima Wash Debris Basin. Common in flat, open areas, Barn Owls are difficult to find since they are nocturnal and surprisingly cryptic in their daytime roosts. While this is only their 21st count day record, they have been seen consistently since 2018, having only been missed twice since then.
* Note: in 2024, the Barn Owl was split from one species found worldwide into three species, one in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, one in Southern & Southeastern Asia and Australia, and one in the Americas.
- **2 Tree Swallow, 1 Northern Rough-winged Swallow**, and 25 unidentified Swallows. Swallows are abundant here in the summer, but they normally winter in Central and South America. But with climate change, many species have been wintering further north, and at least one species has been seen annually since 1993, with Rough-winged, Tree, and Barn being the most consistent.
- **2 Marsh Wren**, one found at the Sepulveda Basin, the other found at the Chatsworth Reservoir. This species prefers undisturbed areas near water, which are few and far between in the Valley. However, a few have been reestablishing themselves in The Valley in recent years, mainly at Sepulveda, Hansen Dam, and the Encino Reservoir. This is the 41st count day record, but only the 9th in the last 25 years.
- **2 Pin-tailed Whydah**, found at Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Park. This African species was introduced in Orange County in 1992, and has since spread throughout the San Gabriel Valley and the L.A. Basin. They first arrived in the San Fernando Valley in 2018, and have now been seen twice on count day, both times at Van Nuys-Sherman Oaks Park, although they are also occasionally seen at the Sepulveda Basin, with other scattered records at Hansen Dam and at parks along the L.A. River.
- **1 Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)**, found by Joey Di Liberto at Ritchie Valens Park. The most widespread subspecies of Dark-eyed Junco, the Slate-colored is primarily found east of the Rocky Mountains, but a few show up in California each year. It has only been missed eight times since 1994, although we rarely find more than three.

A few regular finds that we missed this year include:

- **Canvasback**, found on 53 previous CBCs, including two of the last five, despite being uncommon in the area. When they are found, it's usually found around Hansen Dam, but they decided to take this year off.
- **Redhead**, found on 28 previous CBCs, including eight of the last ten. Redheads are generally uncommon in the area, but a few tend to hang around Hansen Dam.
- **Greater Roadrunner**, found on 49 previous CBCs, including five of the last ten, but not for the last three years. It is normally located in open grassland areas, so almost all of our sightings are from the Chatsworth Nature Preserve.
- **Wilson's Snipe**, found on 54 previous CBC's, including seven of the last ten. Snipes are incredibly cryptic and easy to miss amongst the dense riverside vegetation they like to hide in, but it is still unusual to not find any.
- **Red-naped Sapsucker**, found on 31 previous CBC's*, but not since 2021. This miss is surprising, because eBird data still shows them in the area, usually just after the CBC, although there have also been fewer records from the San Fernando Valley compared to the rest of Los Angeles. Sapsuckers are the least vocal of our woodpeckers, so they are easier to miss than other species. Interestingly, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, which replace Red-naped Sapsuckers east of the Rocky Mountains, have been found on the last three CBC's.
* Until 1990, Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were considered the same species, and the 18 CBC records made before then could apply to either species.
- **Mountain Chickadee**, found on 38 previous CBCs, including the last five. Chickadees are normally found at higher elevations, and just barely extend into our count area. Considering they're only found 55% of the time, we are actually due for a miss.
- **Purple Finch**, found on 50 previous CBCs, including four of the last five. Purple Finches are generally found in more natural places than House Finches, and in lower numbers.

The main point of the CBC is to track bird population trends. Several notable trends that are being tracked by SFVAS are:

- **Vermilion Flycatcher**: The Vermilion Flycatcher population may finally be stabilizing, with 12 seen on count day, plus three more in count week. For reference, 14 were found last year, all on count day. This largely tropical species was first recorded on our CBC in 1973, and has been seen continuously since 2019. Many birds are now resident and breeding throughout L.A. County, particularly around golf courses, cemeteries, and grassy parks near water. For a long time, they were primarily found in the San Gabriel and Antelope Valleys, but they have (continued next page)

since filled out the L.A. Basin and the San Fernando Valley, with the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley populations decreasing. Their increasing population is an effect of climate change, with L.A. now being warm enough to sustain them. This year, Vermilion Flycatchers were found at the Sepulveda Basin, Hjelte Sports Center, Bull Creek, Sepulveda Sports Complex, Pierce College, Sepulveda VA Hospital, Northridge Rec. Center, Valley Plaza Park, Hansen Dam Golf Course, Brand Park, and Las Palmas Park.

- **Loggerhead Shrike:** Formerly abundant in the San Fernando Valley, the Loggerhead Shrike population declined significantly from the mid '90s to the 2000s. Since then, it has stabilized at about four individuals, which are usually seen at the Chatsworth Nature Preserve, Pierce College, and Sheldon-Arleta Park, as they all have the open grassy fields that the Shrike prefers. While it was missed at Pierce College this year, it was found at its other usual haunts, as well as the Sepulveda Basin and the Pacoima Wash Debris Basin.



Ring-necked Duck
Patricia Bates
Los Encinos State Historic Park
CBC 2025

• **Shorebirds:** Once common and diverse in the 1960s, Shorebirds as a whole are now quite rare in the San Fernando Valley, with many species reaching record lows or disappearing outright in the early 2000s and only barely coming back since then. Most of our shorebirds breed on the Arctic Tundra, so they are particularly susceptible to climate change. Add in the loss of seasonal wetlands to agriculture, and unfortunately their declines make sense. National Audubon and Audubon California are working with farmers to turn their fields into temporary wetlands during migration season, but climate change is still a major threat. This year we got a few Least and Western Sandpipers, and only found Spotted Sandpiper in count week, but got our first Greater Yellowlegs in five years, and found two vagrants. Killdeer (our only nonmigratory shorebird) appear to be stabilizing, after a significant drop from 2011 to 2016 and a rebound from 2017 to 2024.

• **Hummingbirds:** As you all know, we have two species of Hummingbirds that are common here in winter: Anna's and Allen's. Anna's Hummingbirds have always existed in Los Angeles, and are one of our most stable species, having averaged 150 birds since 1985. Allen's Hummingbirds famously jumped from the Channel Islands to Palos Verdes in the 1960s, and have been expanding their range in Southern California ever since. Allen's were first recorded on our CBC in 1992, and their population has been increasing ever since. Since I became CBC Compiler in 2019, they've broken their record high five times. With 215 Anna's and 211 Allen's found this year, I expect next year to be the first time that Allen's will outnumber Anna's. Another species that winters in the area is the Costa's Hummingbird, which is more common in the San Gabriel Mountains. Costa's were regular on our CBC from 1969 to 1995, but practically disappeared from the San Fernando Valley after that.

- **Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The harbinger of winter in Southern California, Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers shot up significantly in 2020 and have remained high ever since, with six of the ten highest totals ever being the last six CBCs. This year, they were spotted at all but five locations, with the largest numbers coming from hillside areas with lots of Laurel Sumac bushes. If you feel like you're seeing more Yellow-rumps, it's not just you, they're actually getting more common, as are many of our other Warblers. The Orange-crowned Warbler has gotten much more common since 2006, even breaking their record high this year, and Black-throated Gray, Townsend's, and Wilson's Warblers have been seen much more consistently since 2008.

The winner for highest count this year was the Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), with 2470 individuals counted, their second highest total ever. The rest of the top ten are American Coot (1445), American Crow (1090), House Finch (1082), Rock Pigeon (899), White-crowned Sparrow (842), Bushtit (813), Canada Goose (676), American Wigeon (588), and European Starling (554).

Record highs were achieved by Allen's Hummingbird, Solitary Sandpiper, Neotropic Cormorant, Osprey, White-breasted Nuthatch, Canyon Wren, and Orange-crowned Warbler. Second-highest totals were achieved by Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Hutton's Vireo, Common Raven, Bushtit, and Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's), and third-highest totals by Belted Kingfisher, Vermilion Flycatcher, Cassin's Kingbird, Wrentit, Bewick's Wren, Song Sparrow, and California Towhee.

Record lows were met by White-throated Swift, Ring-billed Gull, Green Heron, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Downy Woodpecker, and Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Species that are "hit-or-miss" don't qualify for this statistic, nor do regular species that are missed on count day but found in count week.

We didn't lose any of the 33 species that have been recorded on all 69 counts. These include Canada Goose, American Wigeon, Mallard, Pied-billed Grebe, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Anna's Hummingbird, Northern Flicker, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, California Scrub-Jay, American Crow, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Spotted Towhee, California Towhee, Lark Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Western Meadowlark, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

We managed to find two species that have never been recorded on our CBC before, bringing the total number of species recorded across all our CBCs to 261 species, plus one count week only, four probable escapees, 20 other taxa, and five questionable reports.

- **1 Common Poorwill**, found by Alexander deBarros at Browns Canyon Road. Commonly found during summer, these nocturnal birds are very hard to find during winter because they'll spend weeks in torpor, which is basically a short-term hibernation. Even in winter, some birds are usually found on the south slope of the San Gabriel Mountains, but sightings in other local mountain ranges are rare.
- **2 Red-whiskered Bulbul**, found by David Norris at the Encino Reservoir. Native to India, Southern China, and Southeast Asia, it was introduced to Pasadena in the 1980s (an earlier introduction in the 1970s left no descendants), and has since spread throughout the San Gabriel, Crescenta, and Elysian Valleys, Glendale, and the Hollywood Hills, with scattered reports in Burbank, Studio City, and Orange County. It will likely expand into Sherman Oaks and Reseda in the next few years, and become a common backyard bird for anyone who has the ornamental fruit trees it relies on for food.

Sepulveda Basin won the awards for most species most individuals, with Kris Ohlenkamp counting 76 species and 2645 individuals. Second place for species went to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve (which we were granted access to by the Department of Water and Power), (continued next page)

where Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton counted 61 species and 843 individuals. Second place for individuals went to Hansen Dam, where despite having another engagement, Brad Rumble counted 54 species and 1338 individuals. Third place on both counts went to the Encino Reservoir, where LADWP employee David Norris counted 55 species and 962 individuals. Other spectacular lists came from Reseda Park where Pat Bates counted 26 species and 855 individuals, the L.A. River from Sepulveda to Fulton, Valley College, & Tujunga Wash where Jordan Ellison biked 12 miles and counted 35 species and 755 individuals, the L.A. River from Owensmouth to Aliso Creek where Danielle Awad biked eight miles and counted 29 species and 529 individuals, Cal State Northridge where Natalie Beckman-Smith counted 37 species and 618 individuals, and Wilson Canyon where Rujin Yu counted 40 species and 502 individuals.

In 2020, we began conducting organized and comprehensive owling surveys as part of our CBC. Some owling had been done before that, but nothing on the scale we're doing now. Owling surveys have proved essential for locating American Barn Owls and Western Screech-Owls, as neither has been seen during the day on our CBC since 2012. Owling has also proved wonderful for finding Great Horned Owls, with 14 of the 17 found this year being found at night. While owling is important, it is a difficult job. Some owling teams go out as early as 4 am, others stay out till midnight, and drive for hours listening for owls, which are usually few and far between.

Species	Location	Sector Leader
Greater Yellowlegs	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton
White-faced Ibis	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton
White-tailed Kite	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton
Eastern Phoebe	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton
Pine Siskin	Chatsworth Nature Preserve	Alexander deBarros and Scott Templeton
Common Poorwill	Browns Canyon Road	Alexander deBarros
Green-winged Teal	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Western Sandpiper	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Green Heron	Sepulveda Basin	Kris Ohlenkamp
Lesser Scaup	Encino Reservoir	David Norris
Peregrine Falcon	Encino Reservoir	David Norris
Red-whiskered Bulbul	Encino Reservoir	David Norris
Cackling Goose	El Cariso Golf Course	Joey Di Liberto
Cinnamon Teal	El Cariso Golf Course	Joey Di Liberto
Tree Swallow	El Cariso Golf Course	Joey Di Liberto
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Veteran's Park	Joey Di Liberto
American Barn Owl	Pacoima Wash Debris Basin	Joey Di Liberto
Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)	Ritchie Valens Park	Joey Di Liberto
American Avocet	Hansen Spreading Grounds	Lynn Bebenroth
Least Sandpiper	Hansen Spreading Grounds	Lynn Bebenroth
Downy Woodpecker	CSUN	Natalie Beckman-Smith
Black-throated Gray Warbler	CSUN	Natalie Beckman-Smith
White-throated Swift	Stoney Point Park	Eric Shaphran
Western Screech-Owl	Caballero Canyon	Robin Share
Hairy Woodpecker	Hansen Dam	Brad Rumble
Nanday Parakeet	Serrania Park	Dick Norton
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Hansen Dam Golf Course	Robin Share
Pin-tailed Whydah	Van Nuys Sherman Oaks Park	David and Kathy Barton
Lawrence's Goldfinch	Devil's Canyon	Carolyn Wilcox
Wilson's Warbler	Hjelte Sports Center	Daniel Tinoco

18 locations reported a total of 30 unique species, reminding us of the importance of counting every location.
2025 CBC Summary

cw	Snow Goose	7	Great Blue Heron	2	Marsh Wren
37	<i>Domestic Goose</i> sp.	18	American White Pelican	77	Bewick's Wren
1	Cackling Goose	81	Turkey Vulture	554	European Starling
676	Canada Goose	5	Osprey	44	California Thrasher
5	Egyptian Goose	1	White-tailed Kite	95	Northern Mockingbird
12	Muscovy Duck	1	Sharp-shinned Hawk	61	Western Bluebird
cw	Wood Duck	15	Cooper's Hawk	4	Mountain Bluebird
2	Cinnamon Teal	3	Northern Harrier	30	Hermit Thrush
78	Northern Shoveler	12	Red-shouldered Hawk	20	American Robin
7	Gadwall	94	Red-tailed Hawk	131	Cedar Waxwing
588	American Wigeon	1	American Barn Owl	2	Phainopepla
445	Mallard	1	Western Screech-Owl	cw	Scaly-breasted Munia
28	<i>Mallard (Domestic Type)</i>	17	Great Horned Owl	2	Pin-tailed Whydah
4	Green-winged Teal	8	Belted Kingfisher	299	House Sparrow
60	Ring-necked Duck	8	Red-breasted Sapsucker	199	American Pipit
35	Lesser Scaup	cw	<i>Sapsucker</i> sp.	1082	House Finch
31	Bufflehead	115	Acorn Woodpecker	1	Pine Siskin
14	Hooded Merganser	1	Downy Woodpecker	376	Lesser Goldfinch
93	Ruddy Duck	39	Nuttall's Woodpecker	7	Lawrence's Goldfinch
17	California Quail	1	Hairy Woodpecker	81	American Goldfinch
899	Rock Pigeon	61	Northern Flicker (Red-shafted)	105	Chipping Sparrow
10	Band-tailed Pigeon	19	American Kestrel	228	Lark Sparrow
72	Eurasian Collared-Dove	2	Merlin	497	Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)
472	Mourning Dove	3	Peregrine Falcon	1	Dark-eyed Junco (Slate-colored)
1	Common Poorwill	cw	Prairie Falcon	cw	Dark-eyed Junco (<i>cismontanus</i>)
1	White-throated Swift	15	Yellow-chevroned Parakeet	842	White-crowned Sparrow
215	Anna's Hummingbird	4	Nanday Parakeet	9	Golden-crowned Sparrow
211	Allen's Hummingbird	329	Black Phoebe	6	Vesper Sparrow
10	<i>Hummingbird</i> sp.	1	Eastern Phoebe	91	Savannah Sparrow
1445	American Coot	54	Say's Phoebe	140	Song Sparrow
1	American Avocet	12	Vermilion Flycatcher	7	Lincoln's Sparrow
98	Killdeer	97	Cassin's Kingbird	246	California Towhee
cw	Spotted Sandpiper	6	Hutton's Vireo	7	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
3	Solitary Sandpiper	cw	Cassin's Vireo	76	Spotted Towhee
1	Greater Yellowlegs	cw	Plumbeous Vireo	1	Sparrow sp.
2	Least Sandpiper	4	Loggerhead Shrike	495	Western Meadowlark
2	Western Sandpiper	186	California Scrub-Jay	58	Red-winged Blackbird

7	Ring-billed Gull	1090	American Crow	cw	Tricolored Blackbird
185	Western Gull	452	Common Raven	74	Brown-headed Cowbird
cw	American Herring Gull	65	Oak Titmouse	107	Brewer's Blackbird
55	California Gull	2	Tree Swallow	42	Great-tailed Grackle
cw	Glaucous-winged Gull	1	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	23	Orange-crowned Warbler
3	<i>Gull sp.</i>	25	Swallow sp.	33	Common Yellowthroat
45	Pied-billed Grebe	2	Red-whiskered Bulbul	2470	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)
9	Western Grebe	813	Bushtit	5	Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle)
83	Double-crested Cormorant	97	Wrentit	2	Black-throated Gray Warbler
4	Neotropic Cormorant	167	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	5	Townsend's Warbler
1	White-faced Ibis	47	White-breasted Nuthatch	16	<i>Passerine sp.</i>
16	Black-crowned Night Heron	12	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	133	total species (count day)
28	Snowy Egret	3	Rock Wren	143	species + count week
1	Green Heron	9	Canyon Wren	142	Species + other taxa
22	Great Egret	11	Northern House Wren	18716	Individuals (count day)



Golden-crowned Sparrow
Brett LeVine
Caballero Canyon, CBC 2025



Lark Sparrow
David Barton
Valley Plaza Park, CBC 2025



Northern Harrier
Scott Templeton
Chatsworth Nature Preserve, CBC 2025

Thank you to all 2025 CBC participants

Danielle Awad (L)
Emily Banno via eBird (W)
Gordon Barnard via eBird (W)
David Barton (L)
Kathy Barton (L)
Pat Bates (L)
Lynn Bebenroth (L)
Natalie Beckman-Smith (L)
Aria Bizares (L)
Princess Bizares
Robert Brown
Brenton Cooper (L)
Dan Cooper (L)
Ari Cuellar
Alexander deBarros (C)(L)(O)(W)
Joey Di Liberto (L) (O)
Jordan Ellison (L) (O)
Sam Fellows via eBird (W)

Jon Fisher via eBird (W)
Bob Frymire (F)
Nancy Frymire (F)
Wendi Gladstone
Oscar Gargiulo via eBird
Eve Haberfield (L)
Diana Hilberman (L)
Joe Hilberman
Dave Johnson
Nurit Katz (L) (F)
Riley Kimbrough via eBird (W)
Vincent Lamos
Rose Leibowitz (L)
Brett LeVine
Emily LeVine
Rebecca LeVine (L) (F) (O)
John Luker
Jaida Menteer

Justine Morgan (O)
Steve Morris via eBird (F)
Garret Nichol
Richard Norton (L)
Liz Nuno
Kris Ohlenkamp (L)
Paula Orlovich (L)
Molly Peña (O)
Oscar Rodriguez (L)
Vanessa Roworth
Brad Rumble (L) (W)
Dolores Ruzicka
Aviva Saadatfar via eBird
Terry Saucier (L)
Eric Shaphran (L)
Robin Share (L)
Mary Lou Sharp
Gale Smith

Daniel Tinoco (L) (F) (W)
Susan White
Carolyn Wilcox (L)
Charlie Wilken (L)
Alice Yang
Rujin Yu (L)
Three others participated, but didn't
release their names



Vermilion Flycatcher
Brenton Cooper
Brand Park, CBC 2025

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

Calendar of Events

To reach an event leader call our message forwarding service at

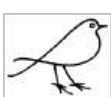
FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday, February 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.

Thursday, February 12. 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.

Friday, February 13—Monday 16. Great Backyard Bird Count. Spend time in your favorite places watching birds—then tell us about them! In as little as 15 minutes notice the birds around you. Identify them, count them, and submit your counts to help scientists better understand and protect birds around the world. If you already use [eBird](#) or [Merlin](#), your submissions over the four days count toward GBBC. www.birdcount.org



Saturday, February 14. 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 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, February 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

Reminder: RAIN CANCELS birding events.
Groups of six or more, please contact the leader.
[\(747\) 237-3720](tel:(747)237-3720)

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, February 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. Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720.

Sunday, February 22. 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, February 26. Hybrid General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:00 p.m. SPEAKER TBA. See page 1 for more information. To join the Zoom [click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to event.

Saturday, February 28. 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, February 28. 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](#) website for latest details and sign up before attending this event.

MARCH 2026

Sunday, March 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.

Thursday, March 12. 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, March 14. 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 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, March 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@sfaudubon.org.



Tuesday, March 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. Leader: Paula Orlovich, (747) 237-3720.

Sunday, March 22. 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.

Monday, March 23. Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 26. Hybrid General Membership Meeting. 7:00—8:00 p.m. Title: **The Monarch Butterfly.** Speaker: **Sara Cuadra-Vargas.** Location: Encino Community Center, 4935 Balboa Blvd., Encino. See page 1 for more information. To join the Zoom [click here](#), to sign up and receive a link prior to event.

Saturday, March 28. 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, March 29. Hansen Dam Birding. 8:15—11:00 a.m. NOTE: Moved to Sunday, this walk only. 10965 Dronfield Ave., Pacoima. Dronfield Ave. intersects Osborne St. approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ 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@sfaudubon.org.



Zone Zero—The Saga Continues

by Pat Bates, Conservation Chair

Just Google "Zone Zero" and you will be awarded with a plethora of articles and information regarding proposed Zone Zero regulations, with opinions ranging from favoring strict state-wide rules to area adapted rules relying on local authorities. The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) Zone Zero Committee meetings continue, with the next meeting scheduled for March 2026. Defensible Space regulations being formulated by the committee will require all property owners in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) to maintain defensible space around buildings. Here is an [interactive link](#) to the map which you can use to determine if your property is in the affected zone. You may find the current proposed regulations and a summary [here](#). This latest draft includes different options for treatment of vegetation in Zone Zero—four options for vegetation and two for trees. All indications are the BOF is leaning towards the most restrictive vegetation rules for the entire state.

Very briefly, the most stringent guidelines apply to the space within five feet of a structure, and prohibit landscaping materials that are likely to be ignited by embers (an "ember resistant zone"). There is universal agreement that there should be no leaf litter, dead plants, firewood or combustible mulch in Zone Zero and beyond. The evidence against having wood fences or gates within this zone is compelling. Other home hardening measures are supported. However, the insurance industry and mostly northern California based consultants to the BOF continue to insist on one-size fits all rules for the entire state with respect to vegetation. This is in the face of peer-reviewed studies finding no effect or even a possible benefit of maintained and hydrated vegetation. The Zone 1 requirements which extend 30' beyond the structure also threaten our trees and other vegetation. The consequence of enforcement of the stringent rules will severely degrade tree canopy and habitat in our densely-built urban areas—some areas may be left with no vegetation, no shade, no birds, collapsing embankments—the list goes on.

Our local elected officials strongly support area-specific defensible space rules and requirements. To quote from the Los Angeles City Community Forest Advisory Committee and Fire Department report of September 8, 2025: "Based on the research and data presented in this report, the proposed removal of essentially all vegetation in Zone 0 will not necessarily reduce fire risk, it may in fact exacerbate it. Additionally, the cost of such drastic measures as proposed by the strict Zone 0 requirements will be enormous to the City and its residents, both financially and environmentally." There is a window for our local City and County to adopt defensible space regulations tailored to our area. Be ready to urge support from our city and county electeds.

Resources for obtaining updated information and commenting on Zone Zero are found on our SFV Audubon Website at <https://sfaudubon.org/resource-materials/>

Conservation Updates by Pat Bates, Conservation Chair

Following are selected conservation updates related to our SFV Audubon region - in no particular order:

City of Los Angeles Park Needs Assessment (PNA): The PNA was released in December 2025, here is a [link](#) to the report and related information. The bottom line is we need more parks with special emphasis on open space, much better maintenance and massive amounts of funding. The City has been strangling its parks with a budget-balancing "General Fund Reimbursement" for 15 years, amounting to well over a billion dollars to date. This needs to be fixed, in this resident's opinion. We recommend you take a look at the PNA.

Park Rangers: The City of Los Angeles Park Ranger division is understaffed, partially for the budgetary reasons referred to above. Compounding that problem is the fact that the Rangers are unarmed, and often have to deal with violent and armed individuals as part of their job. As a result, the Rangers tend to quickly leave for positions with other law enforcement agencies including LAPD. Enforcement is a chronic issue, especially with our wildlife at risk. We hope progress can be made in this area.

Sepulveda Basin Encampments, Fires and Vegetation Management: Our SFV Audubon volunteers have been actively working with the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, Mayor's Office, City Council, Recreation and Parks and other departments to advise on issues related to vegetation management and mitigation of fire hazards by LAFD in the Sepulveda Basin. This includes funding and participation in nesting bird surveys. We are still hopeful permission will be obtained to use grazing goats to clear a 35 acre parcel with the goal of converting the vegetation back to wildlife-friendly native plants rather than highly flammable invasive weeds and grasses. SFV Audubon will fund this project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has reviewed their vegetation management plans for the dam management area and will be proceeding as soon as it dries out a bit. In addition, they have removed virtually all invasive plants, encampments and encampment debris from the Los Angeles River west of Balboa Blvd. That area is now safe to walk in and is loaded with great birds, including Vermilion Flycatchers. SFV Audubon continues to work with partner organizations California Native Plant society and Friends of the Los Angeles River on restoration projects.

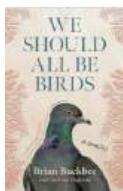
Hansen Dam: The Hansen Dam area is currently flooded with about 20' of water being held—the USACE has a great [site](#) that shows dam activity (same is available for Sepulveda and all the other dams). We had a very surprising sighting at the soggy December 27, 2025, SFVAS Hansen Dam Bird Walk—a Bald Eagle being chased by ravens and other raptors. The biologists from the USACE were very interested in the finding and note that the range of the Bald Eagles is expanding.

LA28: Stay tuned for upcoming information regarding the LA28 Sepulveda Basin Venues. The [LA28 website](#) shows the venues for the Sepulveda Basin events more or less in the north area—near lake Balboa and the Woodley Lakes Golf Course. We expect environmental reports will be prepared and will inform our members with updates.

Eagles, Oh My! There have been Bald Eagles seen recently at Hansen Dam, the Sepulveda Basin and Westlake Village!! 

Book Report

WE SHOULD ALL BE BIRDS, by Brian Buckbee and Carol Ann Fitzgerald



We had briefly investigated keeping pigeons, and so when I came across this book offering on Audiobooks I had to read it. Brian Buckbee had a full life in Missoula, Montana...a campus teaching job, a serious girlfriend, and was an accomplished athlete, traveling the world whenever possible. And then, his girlfriend left him (we don't know why), and he decided to travel to get away from his grief and see if he could recover.

What started as a great adventure in Asia suddenly became a health crisis; he was mysteriously ill, with no diagnosis, and barely managed to get himself home. This illness was devastating, causing him crippling headaches, pain and fatigue. It continued for three years; he lost his English teaching job, most of his friends, and his world grew very small in the confines of his house.

Brian's world was defined by his illness, and he spends most of the beginning of the book talking about his symptoms and suffering. Since I got the book as light reading, this was tough stuff. (I can relate since I went through a year of Epstein Barr illness and couldn't work). He went through the usual exhausting round of tests, recommendations and medical regimens as physicians tried to figure out what was wrong with him (inevitably they also sent him to a psychiatrist). Ultimately, they just don't really know what he's got, and have given it the long Latin name of "myalgic encephalomyelitis/Chronic Fatigue Syndrome," which is medical for we don't-know-what-this-is-so we'll-describe-it-in-the-name. They don't know what caused it, there's no clear diagnosis, and no cure.

One day he came across a pigeon with a deformed foot and decided to try and rehab it. Little did he know that this bird would become his whole world. He named the bird Two-Step, who went on to find a mate, raise a family in Brian's house, and become his best friend. Brian went on to rehab many other birds in his home, remodeling his space to accommodate the bird's needs. Watching the bird's behaviors, taking them out for flights, defending them against cats, all became Brian's central reason for going on, and finally writing this book. I listened to this on Audiobooks, and it's read by Brian himself.

I hope to keep pigeons myself someday. —Marianne Davis

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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1 st Vice President:	Rebecca LeVine
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Treasurer:	Paula Orlovich
Corresponding Secretary:	Barbara Heidemann
Recording Secretary:	Pat Bates

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Marianne Davis/Publicity
Muriel Kotin/Youth Activities
Richard Davis/Birdathon
Pat Turner/Sales & Service
Alexander deBarros/Christmas Bird Count
Charlie Wilken/Outreach

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Annual Awards:	Paul Orlovich
Birdability/Signage:	Richard Davis
Birdathon	Richard Davis
Bird Boxes	Open
Bird Sit w/Nature Journaling:	Teri Carnesciali
Christmas Bird Count	Mary Lou Sharp
Classroom Education (SMC):	Alexander deBarros
Conservation Investments:	Katheryn Barton
Conservation/Sustainability:	Richard Davis
Eagle Eyes Young Birder Club:	Co-Chair: Patricia Bates
Editor <i>Phainopepla</i> :	Co-Chair: Joanne Millius
Field Trips:	Paula Orlovich
Finance:	Rebecca LeVine
GO Native SFV:	Alexander deBarros
Hansen Dam Birding:	Joanne Millius
Hospitality:	Patricia Bates
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Sepulveda Basin Birding:	Alexander deBarros
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Strategic Planning:	Marianne Davis
Web Coordinator:	Jolene Herz
Website/Technical:	Heather Mims
Youth Activities	Muriel Kotin

For Chapter leaders' e-mail addresses, see our Website:
www.SFVAudubon.org

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To become a member and/or renew online go to
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Van Nuys, CA 91409

New Member _____ Renewal _____

Regular 1-yr Chapter Membership.....\$25 \$ _____

Student (K-PhD) 1-yr Chapter Membership...\$10 \$ _____

School _____

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Tax Deductible Contribution to SFVAS \$ _____

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E-mail (PLEASE INCLUDE)

How did you learn about SFVAS?

If you want to join or renew by check, please be sure to include your e-mail address if you want to receive an acknowledgment. We can no longer thank you by regular mail. If you do not have an e-mail address, please know how much we appreciate your involvement with, and support of, SFVAS.

The **PHAINOPEPLA**, published six times a year, is the newsletter of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 7769, Van Nuys, CA 91409. San Fernando Valley Audubon Society is a non-profit chapter of the National Audubon Society, and is dedicated to "Nature Education and the Conservation of Wildlife."

Articles, letters, drawings, and photographs concerning conservation, ecology, birding, chapter activities, and articles of interest to the membership are welcome for publication in the **PHAINOPEPLA**.

Material from other newsletters or newspapers should include the source and date. Copy for the **PHAINOPEPLA** should be in the hands of the editor by the 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 Bill Lepler at (747) 237-3720 or e-mail him at membership@sfvaudubon.org.

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Phainopepla

San Fernando Valley Audubon Society
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Bird Sit Bulletin by Teri Carnesciali

One beautiful sunny morning last spring at our monthly Bird Sit with Nature Journaling, we were treated to a lovely breeze, a cloudless sky, and lots of animal activity. Western fence lizards did pushups, Acorn Woodpeckers drummed on tree trunks, butterflies alighted on the new growth, and a raven whooshed by. These and many others were refreshing to watch. Check out the observations that Rachel Wise and Mary Lou Sharp recorded in their nature journals to get a taste of what our experience was like that spring morning. There's plenty to see and hear in the winter too. Come see! No prior birding or journaling experience is necessary. You can find more information in the Events Calendar. Contact Teri Carnesciali at teri.carnesciali@sfvaudubon.org, to reserve your spot.



Journal Entry by Rachel Wise



Journal Entry by Mary Lou Sharp