



## Tribute to Arthur “Art” Langton

(November 8, 1939 - February 21, 2025)

As a 9 year’s old boy scout he was required to earn a bird-study merit badge, identifying 40 species of birds. He completed this requirement which was a kick-off to his lifetime commitment-dedication to nature and science.

He earned his Bachelor’s degree, 1966, at UCLA in geography and earned his teaching credentials. He also began joining his mother, Irene Langton, on Audubon Society volunteer field trip studies. Art’s teaching experience began at John A. Sutter Middle School and he was chairman of the science department. Along with Roger Keen, both Sutter Middle School science teachers, they conducted lectures/workshops at Griffith Observatory Planetarium.

He was for many years a member, as well as a President and board member of the San Fernando Valley Audubon Society (SFVAS), devoting years of volunteering as a nature leader, and bird counter in greater Los Angeles and beyond. Both Helen Treend and Art, school teachers, during the 1990s, provided school children’s educational nature visits and adult trips inside of the Chatsworth Reservoir-Chatsworth Nature Preserve. He was a co-leader, along with Mark Osokow, on behalf of the Simi Hills Wildlife Observatory (SHWO) in the 2024 Mid-Winter and Spring Bird Surveys. He began his leadership/participation in the annual international Christmas Bird Count for the Audubon Society for decades, starting in 1958. He worked on the “Canada Goose Project” organized by Dr. Rose Marie White. He can be considered the godfather of CNP bird studies. He also participated in countless other bird scientific field studies inside and outside of the CNP.

After retiring from his educational career, he led outdoor environmental education programs at the Sepulveda Basin for SFVAS, the Resources Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains and the CNP. Art’s collection of birds prepared by expert taxidermists, a popular display mounted on the SFVAS’s exhibit table at the annual DWP’s Earth Day Open House, was used at other events including training purpose for the SSMPA’s new docent naturalists, 2024; ongoing visits during the year from West Valley’s third graders student visits to the SSPSHP\*, sponsored by a grant from the California State Parks Foundation, volunteers staffed and in collaboration by the Foundation for the Preservation of Santa Susana State Historic Park, Santa Susana Mountains Park Association, Herp Connection, and SFVAS bird station, and participation in other wildlife events through the years.

### **\*Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park**

As a former President of the SFV Audubon Society, in 1998, he received an award as the “City of Los Angeles Unsung Environmental Heroes Award”. He considered the Chatsworth Nature Preserve his second home. He wasn’t just tall of stature; Art Langton was a tall leader amongst nature conservationist.



Chatsworth Nature Preserve Bird Count, 2015



Art Langton – Moss Landing Beach 2014