

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 70 • NO. 4

APRIL 2018

General Meeting

Thursday, April 19, 2018

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

Rediscovering Peru

Vivek Tiwari

“Peru has been my first love—at least when it comes to neotropical birding! My first two trips to the neotropics were to Peru and though I have since traveled elsewhere in Central and South America in the intervening 20 years, I always yearned to get back to my first love. I was able to do this in 2015,

primarily motivated by the rediscoveries associated with three special species—the White-masked Antbird, described in 1937 and then lost to science until it was rediscovered in 2001 in western Amazonian Peru; the Scarlet-banded Barbet, discovered in 1996 but only recently rediscovered



Rufous-crested Coquette
Vivek Tiwari

at an ‘accessible’ site; and the Long-whiskered Owlet, the archetype of a ‘mythical’ species, known only from mist-netted specimens, until it was recently rediscovered at a site accessible by birders. Besides providing a chance to fulfill the dream of seeing these target birds in the field (along with other extreme endemics from the east Andean slope of N Peru), this would also be my first trip to Peru since I started photography.

“The second part of the trip was different but equally fulfilling, rediscovering, as a family,

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BIG DAY OF GIVING, MAY 3

Please Consider Donating to Sacramento Audubon

This is Sacramento Audubon’s 3rd year participating in Big Day of Giving (a fundraising effort for non-profit organizations in our region). Over 500 non-profits register for this annual event. Donations that non-profits receive from generous supporters help contribute to many important causes. Big Day of Giving is a 24 hour ‘giving challenge’ that enables non-profits to obtain needed funds to carry out their missions and programs. Last year Sacramento Audubon obtained over \$3,200 for this single-day-giving event thanks to many of you! Sacramento Audubon Society has many ongoing expenses. We continue to work hard to preserve and maintain the wonderful Bobelaine Sanctuary and always strive to educate our community about birds and their natural habitat.

If you would like to help our great organization, please put May 3rd on your calendar. You can donate ONLINE at www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubon from midnight to the following midnight! Gifts may be made ahead of time by using the “schedule your gift” feature which will become available starting April 18th. There is a minimum donation of \$15. Please tell your friends and family who care about birds and the environment, that Big Day of Giving is a great way to donate to Sacramento Audubon Society! You can read about our organization’s mission and programs at the online site above. Thanks so much!

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 28th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every trip is different! We’ll travel out under the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco’s “desert islands” and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Time permitting, we will go out to the continental shelf.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We’ll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Tufted Puffin, Cassin’s and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown and Blue-footed Booby, Northern Gannet, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. Join us and discover for yourself!



Pelagic Trip continued on page 7

Field Trip Findings

Bucks Creek/Serrano (3/13) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “In spite of the threatening storm with some rain along the way, 3 of us walked about half of the Bucks Creek trail, tallying 25 species in an hour. Mostly the usual suspects, but of note was a cooperative Hermit Thrush sitting very close for a long, close look and a pair of gorgeous Hooded Mergansers.”

Mather Lake (3/11) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Despite the time change, eight souls showed for a morning of birds. Spring was in the air with breeding indications by Tree Swallows, Mute Swans, Great Horned Owl, White-tailed Kite, Canada Geese, and House Wrens. A surprisingly large number of American Pipits and a Rock Wren were found at the base of the new spillway.”

Michigan Bar Area (3/10) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Ten of us visited Michigan Bar and Meiss roads on a calm but overcast day. We had good views of the regional landscape and distant snowy mountains from the high point on Michigan Bar Rd. The birding was a bit slow at times on this cool morning, but highlights included an immature Bald Eagle, a Prairie Falcon, Loggerhead Shrikes, singing Horned Larks, Violet-green Swallows, a Phainopepla, and singing Lark Sparrows.”

Lake Solano/Putah Creek (3/6) — Leaders Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci reported: “The morning began a little cool but in time the sun warmed all. Birding was great. Highlights were Purple Finch, Hooded Merganser, a juvenile White-throated Sparrow, Phainopeplas, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a Western Screech Owl. We tallied 73 species; everybody had a fun day! All smiles!”

Arrowhead Marsh and MLK Jr Shoreline (3/4) — Scott Hoppe, co-leader with Mark Martucci reported: “It was a beautiful day for 9 participants, with mostly sunny skies, and mostly comfortable temperatures, with not much wind. We spent most of the day at MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline, where highlights included at least 9 Ridgway’s Rails (a couple of them actually swimming at high tide), many Blue-winged Teal, 1 Cackling Goose, 11 Snow Geese (which are fairly rare in the Bay Area) and 13 species of shorebirds. After lunch we took a short trip a few miles south to San Leandro Marina where

a Harlequin Duck had been reported. We were not there long before it was spotted. It later passed in the channel right in front of us. We also added Surfbird and Black Turnstone here, before heading back to the Arrowhead Marsh area to finish out the day. One of the greatest pleasures of the day was having a fairly new birder, Ellen, on the trip. It was a lot of fun helping her add life list birds. She emailed me later to say that she got 28 lifers. We tallied over 80 species for the day.”

Bushy Lake (3/3) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Six people started out on a morning of perfect weather, clear and cold. The birding was slow at the start. As we proceeded towards Bushy Lake a pair of White-tailed Kites appeared to be courting. When we reached the edge of the lake a flock of birds consisting of White-crowned Sparrows, Golden-crowned Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Juncos, and Yellow-rumped Warblers were on the road feeding on seeds or pebbles. Towards the end of the lake we encountered many Wood Ducks in the lake amongst the trees. When we started back a Cooper’s Hawk flew into a tree. A good finish to the day. We had a total of 47 species.”

Bodega Bay (2/25) — Mark Martucci, co-leader with Scott Hoppe reported: “14 people saw 75 species of birds on a very cold and windy day. Highlights included Black Oystercatcher, Sanderling, Black and Ruddy Turnstone, Surfbird, Marbled Godwit, Surf Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser and Brant.”

Beginning Birding at William Pond Park (2/25) — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Darrell Mohr and Valerie Phillips, reported: “Beginners enjoyed great looks at two pairs of Red-shouldered Hawks courting, many Lark Sparrows, Western Bluebirds and Yellow-rumped Warblers, and yesterday’s Bushtit nest had added a couple of inches. Darrell spotted a coyote family sunning themselves on a slope, giving us great scope views. We totaled 42 species.”

William Pond Park (2/24) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Ten people, some experienced birders and some beginners, joined me on this cold morning. Red-shouldered Hawks were active and the Great Blue Heron rookery was full. Common Mergansers and Bufflehead

were fishing on the river. Betty Kniffen spotted the beginnings of a Bushtit nest and we ended the day with a flock of brilliantly blue Western Bluebirds.”

Lynch Canyon (2/19) — Leaders Maureen Geiger and Ken Poerner reported: “It was a stunning day at Lynch Canyon with brilliant green hills, vivid blue sky and white puffy clouds here and there. Nine of us began in very cold weather but warmed up quickly during the 3-mile hike while finding 45 species of birds including many raptors such as 2 Golden Eagles, 5 Red-tails including a very dark bird, a kite, two harriers and a kestrel. Other birds of note included a Violet-green Swallow with the Tree Swallows, the crowned sparrows and wonderful Western Bluebirds.”

Lake Solano (2/18) — Leader Lily Douglas reported: “Twelve birders joined me for the morning at Lake Solano. Despite breezy conditions, we ended up with 52 species, including very cooperative Phainopepla, Hutton’s Vireo, Brown Creeper, and Osprey. Less cooperative, but still enjoyable were Wood Duck, Hooded Merganser, and Sora. Some of us opted for an additional stop up Putah Creek, where we added 5 species, including Red-breasted Sapsucker, and a few ended the day with lunch and a pint at Berryessa Brewing. Great day!”

Sailor Bar (2/17) — Leader Ben Graber reported: “The trip went well. There were no families, but it was still a good group of people. The highlights were an adult Bald Eagle and several overhead flocks of Sandhill Cranes. We also saw a White-tailed Kite, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song, and Lincoln’s Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Common Goldeneyes, Great and Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue and Green Herons.”

Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads (2/15) — Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: “Last week’s warm weather had definitely thinned out the waterfowl ranks but we seven birders were very happy with the day’s species count which was close to 70. The Lincoln water treatment plant ponds still held Canvasback, Ring-necked Ducks, Green-winged Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shovelers, American Wigeon, Mallards, Lesser Scaup, and Bufflehead. The big surprise for us was a lone American Avocet swimming around like a duck!! Another treat was the presence of an Iceland Gull (Thayer’s) amongst

Findings continued on page 7

Field Trips



Rough-legged Hawk
Photo Illustration

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through April 11, contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 916-717-8808, cbarbaro@comcast.net. For trips from April 12 through May 11, contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com, 916-508-7192.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

NOTE: Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.

Sunday, April 1, 8am

Sacramento Bar

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and then take the first left onto Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$8 (holiday charge) entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Wednesday, April 4, 8:45am

Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid@earthlink.net

Meet at the main picnic area parking lot across from the golf course. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it to the end. We'll check out the river trails upstream and downstream looking for resident and migrating birds. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a good trip for beginners.

Saturday, April 7, 7am

Point Reyes National Seashore

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276
Johnyork157@yahoo.com

John plans to bird the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks, Lighthouse and Abbott's Lagoon if the weather is good. If it's too foggy at the coastal spots, he'll bird the onshore locations. Meet John at 7am at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave,

Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring fluids and dress for changeable weather. John is planning to stop for lunch in Inverness.

Sunday, April 8, 7am — noon

Pine Hill Preserve Birding

Leader: Chris Conard

Pre-registration is required through Pine Hill Preserve

Contact: Graciela Hinshaw
ghinshaw@blm.gov

www.pinehillpreserve.org

The preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on the specialized soils of the Pine Hill area. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Hwy 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit Kanaka Valley and the adjacent Salmon Falls area, which has a mix of oak woodland and chaparral. We'll look for California Thrashers, Sage Sparrows, migrating warblers, and, on a clear day, great views of the Sierra and the surrounding geography. Be prepared for three miles of moderate walking.

Monday, April 9, 8am

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills

Leader: Craig DeMartini
916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

We will be scouting the oak woodlands and floodplains of Folsom Lake for falcons, eagles and osprey as well as passerines, woodpeckers and water birds. Early nest builders should be active; last year a Bald Eagle nest was found. Meet at the Falcon Crest turnout parking lot, off Salmon Falls road. From Sacramento head east on Highway 50 towards Placerville. Take the El Dorado Hills Blvd, exit #30B, and go north

on El Dorado Hills Blvd for approximately 4 miles to Green Valley Road. Go straight across Green Valley Road where El Dorado Hills Blvd becomes Salmon Falls Road. Continue on Salmon Falls Road for 3 miles to a large dirt parking lot on the left with a large wooden sign that reads "Falcon Crest". Use caution when crossing oncoming traffic to enter the parking lot. This trip may last into early afternoon; you may want to bring snacks and water. There are no bathrooms.

Saturday, April 14

Birding By Ear

Improve your birding skills by learning to recognize the songs, calls and chips of our local birds. This trip on the American River Parkway is limited to 10 people to ensure quality listening time, and will be led by Mark Martucci and Paul Cordero, two experienced birders with good auditory skills. Registration is required; email Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net to sign up and learn the meeting time and place.

Sunday, April 15, 8am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-372-3318
biancowm@yahoo.com

Join Bill at this great birding area between Sacramento and Davis. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl as well as raptors. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, and take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A) on your left. FRS radios are helpful.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Sunday, April 15

**Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults
William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 916-502-2699.

Thursday, April 19, 7:30am

Dry Creek–West Roseville

Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463

ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

For this half-day trip we will meet at Dry Creek Community Park in west Roseville and then walk a couple of miles along a path that connects the park to Cook-Riolo Road. The path is bordered by Dry Creek and the Morgan Creek golf course. This is a nice riparian corridor where we can expect to find resident species and hopefully some migrant warblers. Other possibilities include Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, and Bullock's Orioles. Meet at Dry Creek Community Park (parking lot); take Highway 80 east to the Antelope exit, follow Antelope Road to Walerga, go north on Walerga and the park is at 9235 Walerga Road.

Saturday, April 21, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-876-0457

wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5; your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

Saturday, April 21, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Audubon birding leaders Sue Darst and Dan Williams and a Nature Center docent for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and

Bushtits will be active. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, April 22, 8am

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999

mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species and Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. This is a great trip for beginners.

Thursday, April 26, 8am

Teal Bend

Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-9009

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark to explore the rich habitat at Teal Bend Golf Course. He will explore a variety of habitats, including wooded and riparian areas, and expects to see a variety of spring migrants, among other birds. Meet at the Raley's Shopping Center on Arena Blvd at 8am. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.



Hairy Woodpecker
Rosemary Gilbert Bell

Saturday, April 28, 8am

Lodi Lake

Leaders: Cathie LaZier, 916-209-2699

empid@earthlink.net

Ann Burris, 916-947-7573

burris.nellieann@gmail.com

The nature trail at this wooded park borders the Mokelumne River in spots, so woodland and water birds are possible. Ann and Cathie will be looking for resident birds as well as spring migrants. The park is located at 1101 West Turner Road in Lodi. From I-5, take Exit #487; turn left onto West Turner Road; go 5.8 miles and

the park will be on your left. From Hwy 99, take Exit #267A and follow East Turner Road 1.6 miles and the park will be on your right. There is a \$5 per car parking charge.

Sunday, April 29, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri

916-761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.com

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wildflowers in bloom and hear the song of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Other possibilities are Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders, and an opportunity to see several good birds.

Tuesday, May 1, 8am

Sweetwater Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207

spskua2@comcast.net

Ann Burris, 916-947-7573

burris.nellieann@gmail.com

This trip is another chance to bird this favorite hotspot for Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. This will be a half day trip and is a good one for beginners.

Saturday, May 5, 7am

Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky

Auburn State Recreation Area

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is one of Scott's favorite birding spots. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end early to mid afternoon,

and plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. NOTE: there is a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

Sunday, May 6, 7am

Bodega Bay

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276

Johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Meet John at 7am at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring fluids and dress for changeable weather. John is planning to stop for lunch in Bodega Bay.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30am

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Leaders: Maureen Geiger

916-281-6652

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277

kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This walk in the Bobelaine Sanctuary on the Feather River will follow a different route from past, recent walks as we search for resident and migrating birds. The fairly level, approximately two-mile walk will lead to

the southern-most end of the Sanctuary through a dense riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores, willows and the oak woodlands.

Mosquitoes will be present, so repellent is a must. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd; go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Road, and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Or meet at Bobelaine at 8am. From Sacramento take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge, turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.



*Great-crested
Flycatcher*
Stephen D'Amato

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sunday, April 15, 2018

*Trips limited to 10 adult participants, and require a minimum of 3 participants: Registration required.

These outings are geared toward people who aren't yet entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. It is not necessary to be an Audubon member to participate. The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. This walk, covering about a mile and a half, will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. You can sign up for just one session, or for more than one.

Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

PROPOSITION 68 ON JUNE BALLOT

Proposition 68, is called the California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act and will be on the June 5 primary ballot. This bond will provide funding for many things including local parks, open spaces, habitat restoration, and the Salton Sea. The names of endorsing organizations are listed on the official proposition website: yes68ca.com/. California Audubon and other environmental organizations are among the supporters of this bill.

Our board will be discussing, at their upcoming meeting on March 27, whether SAS should also endorse the bill. This \$4 billion bond was approved by the legislature in 2017 and is now on the ballot to be approved by the voters. At www.cacities.org/2018ballotmeasures you can find a listing of what the bond would pay for. If you click on 'funding in three main areas' there is a specific breakdown of where the money is to be spent.

BOBELAINE IS OPEN AGAIN! HEAD ON OUT

After many months of levee repairs, heavy equipment, and road blockage the Bobelaine Bird Sanctuary is finally open. Thank you all for your patience. A particular thanks should go to all the volunteers from SAS who worked to restore Bobelaine. The Sacramento Audubon Society was an active partner to protect Sutter County from future floods and preserve the Sanctuary for years to come.

It has not been without a cost and you are encouraged to help fund the restoration if possible. To donate to Bobelaine please go to: www.sacramentoaudubon.org/payments.html

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

April 7, 8:30am-10:30am

Creek Week-Birds and Blooms Tour

The Fishhead Lake mitigation wetland is a nice example of wetlands created as mitigation for earlier wetland losses. The wetland has both a permanent and seasonal component as well as a surrounding upland buffer. Thousands of waterfowl winter at the wetland and many remain year-round to nest and raise young. Much of the area is planted to native wildflowers that bloom in early spring. California poppies, lupines, owl's clover, baby blue-eyes, and many others can be seen spreading about the uplands and wetland edges. Visitors will receive a packet of native flower seeds to start their own native garden. The meeting location is weather-dependent, so please contact Roger Jones at 916-875-9174 or jonesro@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

April 11, 6pm-8pm

Creek Week-Creatures of the Creek

Join Regional San Bufferlands biologists on a walking tour of Morrison and Laguna Creeks. Explore the restored habitats of the Bufferlands in search of the animals that call the local creeks home. Sightings of fish, turtles, herons, and beavers are all possible as we roam this unique area. The meeting location is weather-dependent, so please contact Chris Conard at 916-203-1610 or via email conardc@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event. No Pets, Please! For all Bufferlands events, we respectfully request that you please leave your dogs and other pets at home.

OUR THANKS TO SALLY WALTERS!

As you may notice, we now have a new Program Chair, Anthony Asay. Sacramento Audubon would like to thank our President, Sally Walters, for arranging so many great programs for the education and enjoyment of our members for so many years. No small feat, Sally kept the level of programs presented consistently high with remarkable speakers from many areas of the natural world. Thank you Sally and thank you also to Anthony for stepping up to take over this position.

General Meeting continued from page 1 Machu Picchu and the lowland rainforests of SE Peru. In the process we caught up with some of my old nemeses (Harpy!) and got reacquainted with some of the quintessential neotropical birds. In this talk I will share the successes and the misses, and the unique challenges of being the only photographer traveling with a group of some extreme birders (including 2 of the top world-listers).”

Vivek has loved to share his passion for birds since he started birding during college in India. Since then he's lived and birded in North America—5 years on the East coast during graduate school at Princeton University and the last 20 years as a Santa Clara County resident. A trip to the Peruvian Amazon while he was in graduate school was the realization of a childhood dream, and since then he has traveled extensively in Central and South America and draws upon this experience in comparing and contrasting the Old and New World avifaunas in his talks. A self-described ‘bird-er first’, Vivek took up bird photography as a way of enhancing the birding experience but finds himself increasingly drawn to bird photography as a rewarding and consuming pursuit in its own right. Vivek works at Intel Corporation and frequently travels to the Intel campus in Folsom, so the Sacramento area is almost a second home. In his spare time Vivek organizes and leads trips to India (www.Naturally-India.com) and is the Coordinator for the South Asian Natural History Network (nathistory-india@princeton.edu).

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

*Anthony Asay
Program Chair*

Birding and Nature Events

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST 2018, SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

From **April 13-15** the 15th annual Olympic Birdfest will take place in **Sequim, WA**. The festival offers a most spectacular setting where you can visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest. Pre and post-festival trips are also offered in this fascinating area. More information can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

GODWIT DAYS, ARCATA

The 23rd annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is being held **April 18-24** in Arcata. Godwit Days is a week long, spring migration bird festival celebrating California's North Coast. The northern coast of California offers towering redwoods, rocky ocean coasts, wild river valleys, expansive mudflats on Humboldt Bay, and the world-renowned Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where over 270 species of birds have been sighted. Held at the peak of spring migration, shorebirds abound and special opportunities are planned to see many other species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Snowy Plover and even whale watching. Further information can be found at www.godwitdays.org, including short videos about the festival and the Humboldt Bay Trail. You may also call 800-908-WING for answers to any questions and to register.

POINT REYES BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

Save the dates of **April 27-29** for the Bay Area's best birding and nature extravaganza! Grab your brood and flock to their annual spring festival celebrating the Year of the Bird, the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act, spring migration, and West Marin's unique biodiversity.

Point Reyes National Seashore provides the backdrop for the festival, where the Pacific Flyway, Pacific Ocean, and other influences provide an ideal location for birding and wildlife viewing. In fact, the area was named the #1 birding hotspot in 2017, where over 54% of all North American bird species have been recorded. Over the three day weekend attendees can choose from 50+ educational field outings and classroom-based events focused on birds, wildlife, plants, marine life and hiking, biking, kayaking, art and field photography, and led by some of the Bay Area's award-winning naturalists and birders. The festival is able to feature unique events open to a variety of ages and experience levels. Additionally, the festival features Friday and Saturday evening programs with keynote speakers for adults to meet, mingle, eat, drink and enjoy presentations by top biologists and naturalists!

For more information and to sign up for their email newsletter, visit pointreyesbirdingfestival.org. Tickets are already on sale, and all proceeds benefit the habitat conservation work of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

17TH ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 16-18**, so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining. The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua brings birders together to enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people. The Seventeenth Annual Chautauqua offers over 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists. Add live music and delicious food, and you've got yourself a fantastic long weekend in nature with friends! Registration begins on April 15 at 6:30am so you can tell there is a high demand for the many field trips. More information can be found at birdchautauqua.org and the many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

**DON'T MISS
WALK ON THE WILDSIDE**

May 19, 10am-4pm

Bring the family and join Regional San's Bufferlands staff for our annual Walk on the Wildside event, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This FREE family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, a live animal show by Wildthings, Inc, music by Cliff Compton and Mountaintop, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more! One of Sacramento Audubon's favorite events.

**SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2018-2019**

This new slate of officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2018-2019 will be voted on at the May General Meeting.

President	Sally Walters Schmoltdt
Vice President	Bill Bianco
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Larry Hickey
Directors	Grant Boice
	Rosalind Becker
	Elliot Chasin
	John Huls
	Jane VanKessel

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure presentation and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. We will be going out on the Outer Limits. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip presentation starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 25 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. Note: reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. The trip cost is \$105 per person. Sign up deadline is July 15.

Your space will be confirmed by email after your reservation form and check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided in early July. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 29, 2018 Registration deadline: July 15, 2018

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$105 per person

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to **Sacramento Audubon** to:
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693

Findings continued from page 2

the hundreds of California Gulls. When a Bald Eagle made his grand entrance from above, gulls and waterfowl alike were spooked into flight, providing us with an amazing cacophony of sound and serious aerial acrobatics to watch. Driving the "loop" around the plant also yielded us species such as Great Horned Owl, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Kite, White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows, Horned Larks, and Loggerhead Shrike.

The second part of the trip involved cruising some Placer county back roads, particularly S. Brewer. Two flooded fields were teeming with waterfowl and shorebirds including Northern Pintails, about 800 American Wigeons, stilts, dowitchers, White-faced Ibis, and over 500 White-fronted Geese. An unbelievable 84 Snowy Egrets were present in clusters among the other birds! No one seemed bothered by the presence of a Peregrine Falcon munching on a recent kill."

Merced County Wetlands and Refuges (2/11) – Leader Dan Brown reported: "We had great weather and great hosts in Dale and Rhoda Azavedo for a nice walk on their property near Los Banos. We saw 79 species birding the Azavedo's private duck club, San Luis NWR and Merced NWR. The highlights were 4 Virginia Rails, 3 Soras, an adult Bald Eagle, 4 Burrowing Owls and 5 Great Horned Owls. Other highlights were the Tule Elk and several Black-tailed Deer with antlers at San Luis NWR."

Cathie LaZier

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Lucy Boehm, Jon J Courtway, Taylor Florence, Larry Hickey, Fred Klass, Carol Livingston, Len and Rita Marowitz, Sandy Serpa, Rick Skehen and Rick Soehren made donations to the **General Fund**.

Bob and Cindy Austin, Joan L Clark, George Kinball, Malcolm Ettin, Timothy D Fitzer, Carey A Johnson, Noreen R Rademacher and Jane Van Kessel made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Donations to **Bobelaine** were made by Diana Benner and Pamela Herlihy.

A large donation was made in the memory of **June Persson** by her nieces Jewel Nielsen and Christine Monez. Also a Legacy gift was given by Arthur K and Mary V Hartwell.



Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community. Donations to the Bobelaine Sanctuary are encouraged to help defray the cost of continuing restoration after last winter's flooding.

Phainopepla
Photo Illustration

Seasonal Observations

February 1 to February 28

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

After the amazing finds of January, a more typical month was expected and came to pass, but not without some nice surprises, including several continuing birds from previous months. Both the **Curve-billed Thrasher** in Woodland and the **Worm-eating Warbler** at Reichmuth Park were reported through at least 2/17. A **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Lagoon Valley Regional Park on 2/24 and continued into March. Over a dozen **Ferruginous Hawks** were reported near Plainfield Elementary School, while the few reports of **Rough-legged Hawks** included singles at Conaway Ranch on 2/7, south of Payen Rd mid-month, and off of Latrobe Rd on 2/24.

Observations continued on page 9

OPEN CALL FOR A SAS WEBSITE MANAGER

Sacramento Audubon is looking for a website manager with website experience. This is a volunteer position. If you have any interest or questions please contact Sally Walters at president@sacramentoaudubon.org.

SUPPORT NATURE BOWL AT CAMP POLLOCK SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE APRIL 26 FINAL EVENT

Do you have experience as a judge in a youth based science-ecology competition? If so, join the Sac Audubon team for a Nature Bowl semi final event at Camp Pollock, April 26. Elementary school age youth (3rd-6th grade) will compete for a spot in the Nature Bowl final event on May 12 at Sacramento State University. These youth represent 17 teams from 9 local public and private schools who are working daily after school to prepare for the semi-final activities.

Show your support by volunteering for a morning, afternoon, or full day shift. Contact volunteer coordinator Cathie Lazier for more information-empid@earthlink.net.

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, April 21, 10:30am, Family Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael

This month Sue Darst and Dan Williams will join a Nature Center docent to lead the Walk. Look for more information on page 4. These events at Effie Yeaw are held the third Saturday of almost every month and no registration is needed. Just show up and enjoy! Their website address for other outdoor, family friendly, weekend events is sacnaturecenter.net/events/weekend-programs/.

Saturday, May 19, 10:30am, Family Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael

These events at Effie Yeaw are held the third Saturday of almost every month and no registration is needed. Just show up and enjoy! Their website address for other outdoor, family friendly, weekend events is sacnaturecenter.net/events/weekend-programs/.

LANDS PASS UPDATE – April 2018

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is still the only local area exempted from the Lands Pass requirement. Gray Lodge, Woodbridge Ecological Reserve and the Hope Valley Wildlife Area still require a Lands Pass.

To find more information about the areas covered and to find out how to buy a Lands Pass please visit these sites: www.wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/lands-pass and cdfnews.wordpress.com/2018/02/01/cdfw-postpones-lands-pass-implementation-on-specific-properties/ You may also contact the revenue branch via email at LRB@wildlife.ca.gov or by phone at 916-928-5805 or the CDFW Lands Program, Wildlife Branch at 916-445-3418.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Doug Buwalda
Michael Heacox
Jan Gollaher
Margaret E (no last name given)

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on April 24, at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

AT THE MAY GENERAL MEETING DON'T MISS IT

Thursday, May 17, 7pm

Sue Orloff, Dale Steele, John Sterling:
South Africa by Doctors Without Borders

Observations continued from page 8

Single **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were found at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) from 2/10 into March and along Poundstone Rd near Arbuckle on 2/18. Other notable YBWA shorebirds included a **Stilt Sandpiper** on 2/12, an early small flock of **Western Sandpipers** on 2/17, and a **Ruff** from 2/17 through the end of the month. A **Greater Roadrunner** was found along Yolo County Rd 57 in the Capay Valley on 2/3, and a **Long-eared Owl** was found roosting in Veteran's Memorial Park in Roseville on 2/5, continuing through at least 2/13. A male **Red-naped Sapsucker**, one of few Yolo County records, was found along Hwy 128 near Positas Rd on 2/21. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was found in West Sacramento near the Port of Sacramento Barge Access on 2/3-4, and a **Cassin's Vireo** was found in east Davis on 2/3, perhaps continuing from last fall.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Your membership supports the SAS mission of conservation, environmental education and protection of the region's natural ecosystems and diverse wildlife populations. Please include your email address if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List for letter/email writing on conservation issues.

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

membership@sacramentoaudubon.org
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Date _____ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

Send address changes to our Membership Chair to help keep down our costs.



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

A **Sage Thrasher** was an excellent find near Slide Hill Park in Davis on 2/8. The **Northern Waterthrush** continued along Putah Creek near the Hwy 128 bridge through the end of the month, and the **Palm Warbler** first found at the Woodland WTP on 11/24 was reported into March. A **Wilson's Warbler** was an unexpected winter find in a Davis yard on 2/5. The **Swamp Sparrow** found just off the auto tour at YBWA on 11/25 continued through the end of February, and a **Red Fox Sparrow** was found in a closed portion of CRP on 2/27.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html).

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to

the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird (ebird.org).

It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Stuart Angerer, Keith Bailey, Terry Colborn, Lisa Couper, Chris Dunford, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Steve Hampton, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Stan Hunter, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Bruce Mast, Roger Muskat, Michael Perrone, William Rockey, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, John Trochet, Mara Weston, Dan Williams, and Rick Williams.

Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon Society
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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, sawise7@sbcglobal.net

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Send all copy to the Editor. Observations must reach the Seasonal Observations Editor by the 8th of the month.

The Observer is published by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December, except June and August, when we publish abbreviated editions.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

Thursday, April 19

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Vivek Tiwari: *Rediscovering Peru*



Vivek Tiwari in the
field in Peru