

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



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APRIL 2019

General Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Birding Adventures in Morocco

John Sterling

John has been a hard core birder in California since he was shown a Pileated Woodpecker in 5th grade camp in 1971. He is a professional ornithologist and has worked for the Smithsonian Institution, US Forest Service research stations, HT Harvey & Associates, Arizona and Oregon state universities among other organizations since 1981. John has traveled extensively throughout California learning

about local bird distribution and is an authority on that state's avifauna. In 2015 he set California's new big year record with 501 species and has many big day records as well. He has traveled interna-



Blue-cheeked Bee-eater
John Sterling

nationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions including projects as a Smithsonian ornithologist to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, The Philippines, Sumatra, Canada and Russia. John currently has his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), specializing in tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting for The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon's International Alliance Program, CA Department of Water Resources among other organizations.

John will share highlights from his tours' adventures in Morocco. With its high mountains, high desert, low Sahara desert, agri-
General Meeting continued on page 6

CATHIE LAZIER RECEIVES A NATIONAL AUDUBON AWARD

Cathie LaZier was recognized at the February General Meeting with a Meritorious Service Award from the National Audubon Society for her 40 years of exemplary service to our Sacramento Chapter. Cathie has served as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Field Activities Chair for SAS. Once upon a time there was a Banquet Chair and, you guessed it, that was Cathie. Currently she leads innumerable field trips and began the Beginning Birding trips program. She served as the Outreach Chair for several years and is still always ready to volunteer her time and efforts for our important community involvement. Cathie is also the 'behind the scenes' editor for the Field Trip Findings and the compilation of all the new Field Trips.

Thank you Cathie for all you have done and continue to do. We appreciate your dedication and look forward to your continuing involvement.



Cathie LaZier receiving her National Audubon award from Bill Bianco, SAS President

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2019

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 29th 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 will 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!

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 \$115 per person. Sign up deadline is July 1.

Pelagic Trip continued on page 6

KIDS CBC COUNTS 2019, TEENS AND YOUNGER KIDS

TEEN COUNT: We did it! We dodged several storms and finally compiled a 2019 Christmas Bird Count on February 24, 2019. A skillful group of teens gathered—some seasoned birders, some alumni from past CBCs, some gaining skill for upcoming Nature Bowl Competitions or other nature activities—and all collaborated by using their senses, taking on the task of recording data, FSR radio monitoring, and referencing birds in field guides for the group. We learned about the effect of high water levels on the birds, discussed hybrid birds, noted nesting activities, and observed territory and courtship displays. Our total bird count for the morning was 60 species. Exciting species, as they aren't typically or easily observed at the site during this season, were: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Green Heron, American Pipits, and Lincoln's Sparrows. The heron/egret roost was quite occupied and it is not so full on a count in January. Mammal notes: Two leaders assisted park employees in a rescue of a cottontail rabbit who had been hit by a cyclist and we had several opportunities to observe a resident coyote known by researchers. Close looks revealed it was not in good condition and there was concern and a good discussion. A morning full of learning, skill practice, discovering the dynamics of the natural world, and, of

course, brilliant bird behavior! Each teen received two bird-related gifts/books in an inclusive gift drawing—sending them home with reminders of their successful day.

Wendy Money

YOUNGER KIDS COUNT: The Eighth Annual Kids' Bird Count on February 23 was another wonderful success, in spite of having been rescheduled from the original January 5 date due to a windy rain storm. Altogether about 30 kids of varying ages, 30-40 adult supporters, a dozen leaders and support staff (providing coffee, food and raffle prizes for the children) enjoyed the morning. The kids had fun traipsing about Effie Yeaw Nature Center counting birds and, of course, the ever present deer. A sitting Peregrine Falcon was a great find although the leader had to pretty much lie on his stomach to get the scope in position for the little folk! The weather cooperated and a better venue for this count could not be found than the Nature Center. This is a wonderful event with a wide impact on families in this area who are interested in nature and being outdoors. Sacramento Audubon will continue to partner with Effie Yeaw to proudly sponsor in years to come.

Maureen Geiger

Field Trip Findings

Bucks Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway (3/12) — Leaders Jane Van Kessel and Sue Darst reported: "9 of us happy birders lucked-out with nice weather and experienced a beautiful, DRY, and sunny morning along Bucks Creek in El Dorado Hills. The area was active with birds and our eBird volunteer logged in 48 species! Thank you Mary! A few species seen were an American Wigeon pair, 3 Hooded Mergansers, one female Bufflehead, 4 species of woodpeckers, 21 Great-tailed Grackles, 14 Common Gallinules, 2 Fox Sparrows, 2 Hermit Thrushes, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks and about 50 Cedar Waxwings. We all spent a good amount of time trying to ID a particular accipiter that painstakingly and repeatedly chased several Great-tailed Grackles and a weary American Crow. This accipiter would land for a split second and take off again in its pursuit for breakfast! It was truly a fun morning!"

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (3/10) — Leader Dan Murphy reported: "Three birders new to the Sacramento area did not receive notice of the cancellation and met me on the Yolo Bypass levee at dawn. As the levee was uninviting, we went over to Bridgeway Island Pond. With a raucous soundtrack of Cackling Geese squabbling and wrens scolding, we watched the Garganey put on a show, flying about with a group of Cinnamon Teal. We garnered 43 species, and an eBird report with pictures. As we arrived before the paparazzi rush, parking was not too awful and the weather became

nicer as the morning progressed."

Tonzi Road (3/9) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "Seven brave birders spent a day highlighted by brisk and chilly winds in western Amador Co for a full day in search of raptors, passerines, shorebirds and waterfowl. We found some of each group. Raptors seen included Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawk, and American Kestrel; although the Ferruginous Hawk was seen late in the day hovering alongside the road on our return. Eleven waterfowl species were observed; notably Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck and Lesser Scaup. Other species of note included Common Loon, Pied-billed, Horned and Clark's Grebe, American White Pelican, Least Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Lewis's, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black and Say's Phoebe, Yellow-billed Magpie, Tree, Violet-green, Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallow, Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing and Phainopepla. The group tally was 79 species for the day, on par with the January outing to this location. Special thanks to Ed Harper and Muriel Parker for the eBird lists."

William Pond Park (3/6) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "In spite of rain and wind 2 birders met me and a 3rd joined later. We managed to total 34 species, with a couple of lifers for a New York birder. As weather cleared we walked across the bike bridge and checked out the Great-horned Owl nesting in the eucalyptus grove."

Mather Lake (3/3) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Trip canceled because of rain."

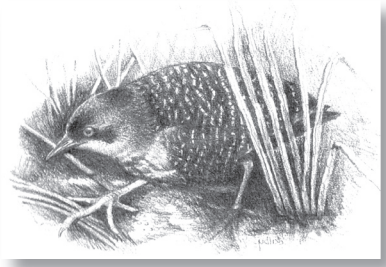
Arrowhead Marsh and MLK Jr Regional Shoreline (3/2) — Leaders Scott Hoppe and Mark Martucci reported: "Despite rain forecast, 9 birders met us in West Sacramento, with 2 more meeting us later at the MLK Jr Regional Shoreline. We had rain all the way down, and showers at our first stop. Spirits were waning, with optics getting so wet that, at times you couldn't see much. But then the rain stopped, and the rest of the day was great. A big plus was no wind, and mild temps. Highlights included an abundance of Ridgway's Rails. We saw at least ten, some of them out in the open within 10 to 12 feet of us, and there were certainly many more as they would periodically call from out across the marsh. A Sora was seen perched up on a bush, quite an unusual sight. We also had 15 species of shorebirds, including 9 Red Knots. And huge rafts of ducks (Lesser and Greater Scaup and others) were seen out in the bay. A couple of people in the group got several life birds. We tallied 83 species for the day. All in all a fun day with a great group of people."

Cosumnes River Preserve (2/26) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: "Trip cancelled due to wind and rain."

Michigan Bar (2/24) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Twelve of us enjoyed a great outing along Michigan Bar and

Findings continued on page 7

Field Trips



Black Rail
Daniel Kilby

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. For trips through April 11, contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 916-717-8808. 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 ride-sharing/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.

Saturday, March 30, 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 take the first left on Pennsylvania and follow it into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, March 31, 7:30am

Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for spring migrants, as well as returning nesting birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Tuesday, April 2, 8am

Mormon Island to Brown's Ravine, Folsom Lake @ Sophia Pkwy

Leader: Rich Howard, 916-203-0952
rhowarda@gmail.com

On this half day trip Rich will explore Folsom Lake for both woodland and water birds. A known pair of nesting Bald Eagles may be present. Other possibilities are Hairy Woodpecker, Audubon's and Myrtle

Yellow-rumped Warblers and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Park on Sophia Parkway down from the Arco Station at 300 Green Valley Road. Meet Rich at the Arco Station.

Saturday, April 6, 7:30am

Point Reyes National Seashore

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276
Cell, 520-320-4751
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 7:30am 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 7

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 birds. On this spring trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and look for some of our returning migrants and nesting birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

Sunday, April 7, 7am-Noon

Pine Hill Preserve Birding

Leader: Chris Conard
Pre-registration is required through Pine Hill Preserve

Contact Graciela Hinshaw at

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 newly acquired land in Kanaka Valley, with 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.

Wednesday, April 10, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
Larryhickey1@gmail.com

This park has varied habitats and a variety of birds may be found. Larry will be looking for early spring migrants as well as resident wrens, towhees and other small passerines. He'll check out the heron rookery and the pond area. Trip will end before noon. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, April 13, 7am

Lincoln Grasslands

John York, 530-320-4751
johnyork157@yahoo.com

John will be eating breakfast at Sterling Cafe in the Raley's parking lot on Lincoln

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Bldv in Lincoln at 7am. Feel free to join him. We will leave the parking lot for local hot spots in the Lincoln area, including looking for Burrowing Owls in the fields off the old highway and Tri-colored Blackbirds to the east of town. Very easy walking and short distances. Bring a lunch and fluids; if the birding is good, the trip may last late into the afternoon.

Sunday, April 14, 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.

Tuesday, April 16, 8am

Putah Creek Riparian Preserve

**Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com**

This UC Davis Reserve along Putah Creek is a fine place to find migrants and resident species. Join Bill for a leisurely walk on an easy trail west of UC Davis. This trip is good for beginners and those already familiar with the birding on the creek. Trip will end before noon. From I-80 near Davis, take Hwy. 113 north and exit on Hutchison Drive, exit 27. Turn left. At the first roundabout, stay right, passing new student housing, and at the second roundabout go west onto Hutchison Drive. At about 1 mile, turn left onto Hopkins Road. About 1 mile, going south Hopkins dead ends. Turn left onto Levee Road and park at area on your left. You will see one of the entrances to the Reserve.

Saturday, April 20, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

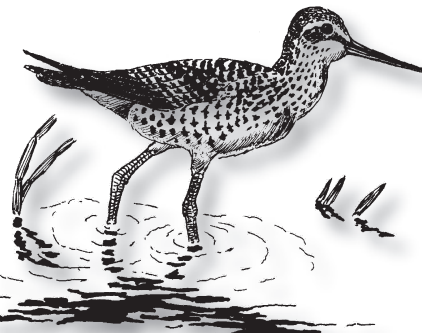
Join Audubon birding leaders Sue Darst and Sheila Green and a Nature Center docent for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and Bushtits will be active. Reservations are not needed, families 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.

Saturday, April 20, 7am

Deer Creek, El Dorado Co.

**Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip follows the riparian zone along Deer Creek, but also includes oak woodlands and open grasslands, affording a variety of bird habitats. The route takes us along the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad tracks, which have become a Rails-to-Trails corridor, now open to the public for hiking. There are many migrant and resident passerines during this season. Expected species include Willow and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, and numerous woodpeckers, sparrows and raptors. Be prepared to hike along the ties of the tracks, which can be uneven. Bring adequate water and snacks, and dress for a cool morning with seasonal warming during the day. The trip should end around midday. Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center in El Dorado Hills. 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 the right.



Yellowlegs Species
Stephen D'Amato

Sunday, April 21, 6:30am

Sand Creek Road

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 916-947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Join Tim and Ann for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take 1-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Tuesday, April 23, 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.

Saturday, April 27, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri

916-761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.com

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wild flowers 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.

Sunday, April 28, 7:30am

Knickerbocker Creek-Auburn State Recreation Area

**Leader: Timothy Jackson
530-558-5164
eldoradobirds@yahoo.com**

We will look (and listen) for songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, game birds, and hummingbirds in a three to four mile walk through predominately oak grasslands. We'll visit a couple of ponds early in the walk to look for wetland species and then parallel part of the creek which feeds the north fork of the American River. We'll be on the lookout for incoming breeding season migrants and a few lingering non-breeding season migrants. The trip should last until 12noon or 1pm. Depending on precipitation the trails may be muddy and bordered by wet grass. Meet Tim at the Northside Elementary School parking lot at 7:30am.

The address is 860 Cave Valley Rd, Cool, CA 95614.

Directions from Highway 50 (recommended route): From Sacramento head east and leave highway 50 at exit 30B. This will cloverleaf onto El Dorado Hills Blvd heading north. At approximately 5 miles the road crosses Green Valley Rd and becomes Salmon Falls Rd. Continue on Salmon Falls Rd for a little under 12 miles. Turn right on Salmon Falls Cutoff Rd and in a few hundred feet turn left onto Highway 49 heading north. Go about three miles and turn left onto Cave Valley Rd. Park in the Northside Elementary School lot on the left.

Directions from Highway 80 (descends into and ascends out of the American River Gorge): From Sacramento head east and leave Highway 80 at exit 119C. The exit lane will split in two during the cloverleaf so make sure to get in the left lane and turn left onto Elm Ave at the stoplight. In a few hundred feet turn left at another stoplight onto Highway 49. Continue for seven miles and turn right onto Cave Valley Rd. Park in the Northside Elementary School lot on the left. While the destination is closer to the highway on this route it does involve hairpin turns on a rural highway in a river gorge. Take the route from Highway 50 if you are not prepared for this type of drive.

**Thursday, May 2, 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 4, 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.



Oak Titmouse
Kirsten Munson

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. In honor of Global Big Day, we will go a full day.

If we seem to have exhausted species at the location, we will continue to other locations in search of more birds. Those who wish to leave earlier may want to connect with others that also want to leave early. For us die-hards, we will keep going until....? Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. 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 5
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. More information can be found on page 7.

**Sunday, May 5, 7:30am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
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 in

the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

**Wednesday, May 8, 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. 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, May 11, time TBD
Dragonfly Trip—Location: TBD
Leader: Tim Manolis, 916-485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, including the California endemic Exclamation Damsel, Tim will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place; the trip is typically a few hours in the morning. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site, and share fascinating information about migration patterns of the odonates, and other bits of natural history. (Ask him about spiders!) Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case

Environmental Education Program (EEP) For Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (SRCC)

Education Committee Update

Friday, February 15, Sheila Green conducted the second classroom session for Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps' EEP at John Muir Charter School Friday. The session focused on the theme of 'Adaptability'. Sheila reports that students considered "why are particular birds found at certain habitats", a question that was asked at the previous field trip. In that vein, she used various objects representing bird bills (pliers, chop sticks, clothes pins, spoons) to demonstrate how birds "survive" in different habitats with different "foods" (marbles, rice, cheerios, marshmallows). This captured the students' interest and helped them understand that bird bills, and other bird features, adapt to the surroundings based on their ability to survive and thrive.

The next classroom session is scheduled for April 12.



Sandra Steurer and Bill Bianco with SRCC students at Putah Creek

Putah Creek Field Trip

February 22 Sandra Steurer and Bill Bianco led SRCC students and their teacher on a trip to Putah Creek Riparian Reserve where they viewed Red-tailed Hawks, Common Mergansers, a female Hooded Merganser, Great Egrets, Turkey Vultures, Yellow-billed Magpies, Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, Hermit Thrush and multiple other songbirds. Sandra reports that the young adults were engaged and asked lots of good questions.

The trip is a component of the Environmental Education Program Sacramento Audubon Society offers to SRCC corps members.

The next field trip is scheduled April 19 at Bobelaine Sanctuary.

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cultural plains, coastal lagoons, cork oak woodland, and coniferous forest, Morocco has much to offer birds and birders. Home to several endemic bird species as well as North Africa species not readily seen elsewhere, it is also along the major migratory pathway for European migrants including shorebirds, raptors, songbirds and others. Join us for a virtual tour of the country's birds, landscapes and culture.

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://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2019-2020

This new slate of officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2019-2020 will be announced at the April General Meeting. Other nominations may be made from the floor. A vote will be held at the May General Meeting.

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Heather White
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Sally Walters Schmoltdt
Directors	Grant Boice
	Rosalind Becker
	Gesna Clarke
	Elliot Chasin
	Jane VanKessel

Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

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 late June. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Harriet Saeck, hssaeck@gmail.com, (email preferred) or phone 916.233.8282 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 14, 2019 Registration deadline: July 1, 2019

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$115 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:
Harriet Saeck, 5823 Callister Ave, Sacramento, CA 95819

Birding and Nature Events

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST, APRIL 12-14 IN SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

Grab your binoculars and join the 16th annual Olympic BirdFest 2019, celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, **April 12-14**. 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. Program information and registration can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

GODWIT DAYS, ARCATA

The 24th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is being held **April 17-23** in Arcata, CA. Godwit Days is a week long, spring migration bird festival celebrating California's North Coast. 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 or call 1-800-908-WING.

10TH ANNUAL POINT REYES BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

Save the dates of **April 26-28** for the Bay Area's best birding and nature extravaganza! Held over the last weekend of April, the three day festival attendees choose from 50+ educational field outings and classroom-based events based in Marin and Sonoma counties, and focused on birds, wildlife, plants and marine life, plus hiking, biking, kayaking, art and field photography, and led by some of the Bay Area's award-winning naturalists and birders. Kenn Kaufmann is the keynote speaker. 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.

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2019

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sundays, April 7 and May 5

*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.

Findings continued from page 2

Meiss Rds. It was overcast, but we missed the rain and wind that had been forecast to arrive earlier. The clear highlight was a flock of about 30 Mountain Bluebirds along Meiss Rd that allowed extended views and posed for photos. We also enjoyed at least seven Ferruginous Hawks, a distant soaring Bald Eagle, a male Barrow's Goldeneye, a pair of Loggerhead Shrikes, and hundreds of Tricolored Blackbirds."

Sailor Bar (2/23) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "A cool cloudy morning and ten people were eager to bird the area. The first bird to fly over was a Bald Eagle. As we walked along the American River there were many Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneye and Barrow's Goldeneye. A large number of Phainopepla and Western Bluebirds were in the area. The group consisted of two new people who were very eager to see birds. One new person found our outing listed with AARP. We had a total 55 species. It was a good morning tour."

Lake Solano/Putah Creek (2/19) — Leaders Ann Burris and Tim Fitzer reported: "On a cold brisk morning 9 birders arrived at Lake Solano for a day of birding. We walked both the east and west side of Lake Solano Park. Some of the highlights were: Western Screech and Barn Owls, Golden-eye, Hooded Mergansers, Ospreys, Wood Ducks, Green Heron, Hermit Thrushes and Phainopeplas. We had a fun time on a nice but cold day."

Ancil Hoffman Park (2/18) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "A very high river level left 3/4 of the planned route impassable, but the 6 birders who joined me were flexible and managed to find a total of 41 species. Highlights were good looks at a Spotted Sandpiper, American Kestrel, Anna's Hummingbird and Northern Flicker. Of botanical interest were a California Bay tree in bloom and Dutchmen's Pipevine flowering."

Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary/changed to Hansen Ranch Park (2/18) — Leaders Maureen Geiger and Ken Poerner reported: "Although the original plan to bird Wolf Ranch did not work due to muddy condi-

tions, the walk on the levee at Hansen Ranch Preserve worked very well indeed. In spite of icy weather, 9 intrepid birders saw 41 species including both juvenile and adult Cooper's Hawks, many geese and ducks, and surprising numbers of sparrows picking along the edge of the marsh. Both Virginia Rail and Sora were heard and a Tri-colored Blackbird with two females was seen, possibly one of a huge flock seen in the distance. Most fun was lots of activity in a large Great Blue Heron rookery in a very long line of trees to the north of the levee."

North Natomas Regional Park (2/16) — Leader Ben Graber reported: "The weather held up nicely. The highlights were some close up looks at a Say's Phoebe, the resident pair of White-tailed Kites, Ring-necked Pheasants, Western Meadowlarks, Savannah Sparrows, and Common Gallinules."

Lincoln WWTP (2/14) — Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: "Trip canceled due to extreme rain and winds."

Cathie La Zier

NEW CONSERVATION CHAIR

Elliot Chasin, who is on the proposed slate of officers for this year, has also volunteered to be the new Conservation Chair. Elliot has been attending the H2020 meetings for the past couple years—he has the background and knowledge, and has been in the role for quite a while and is WAY qualified. Jeff Shelton and Larry Hickey will continue to be on the Conservation Committee and Larry will continue to be the liaison with ARPAC (American River Parkway Advisory Committee). Thank you everyone for volunteering your efforts.

CHOOSE TO RECEIVE THE OBSERVER BY EMAIL

If you are interested in switching from a paper Observer to an emailed pdf version, please contact Jane Van Kessel at sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com and let her know. Please make sure you are emailing her from the address with which you want to receive your Observer pdf. The benefits of getting the Observer by email are several. You will help us save printing and mailing; save tree resources; get the Observer earlier so you can plan your field trips sooner; and have a pdf version on your phone, tablet and/or pc! If you prefer to keep getting the printed Observer in the mail, you don't need to do anything.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Jon Beck, Rosalind Becker, Wayne Blunk, Cynthia Burton And Janet Holmberg, Ross Campbell and Alana Wyatt, Jodie L Crandell, Norman Eade, Barbara Flanigan, Connie Gehrt, Kay M Gist, Angelique Goodhue, Lawrence E Grady, David Harlow, Truman Holtzclaw, Monte Ikemire, Terrance and Marion Jones, Fred and Peggy Klass, Carol Livingston, Lachlan Mc Clenahan, Arla Mc Guire, Jim and Patricia Moses, Jill Pease, Rick Skehen, Jon Wato, and Jane Woehl made donations to the **General Fund**.

Bob and Cindy Austin, Timothy D Fitzer, Stanley G Ford, Monte Ikemire, and Carey A Johnson made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Richard and Mary Howard, Monte Ikemire and Beverly Moon made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

Many thanks to all of 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 and management.

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks 2019

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels are welcome. No registration is necessary but you might want to arrive a little early.

These walks occur monthly at Effie Yeaw, all led by a Naturalist and 2 Sacramento Audubon leaders. The schedule through May of this year is as follows:

April 20: With SAS leaders Sheila Green and Sue Darst

May 18: With SAS leaders Dan Williams and Craig DeMartini

NOTE: Meeting location and other information for all trips is available in our Field Trips column, beginning on page 3, or at sacramentoaudubon.org under Field Trips.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

On February 28, Wendy Money made a presentation on *Being Kind to Birds*, requested by Early Kindergarten Teacher, Hazel Matolo, Washington Elementary School - Sacramento City Unified School District. Wendy consulted with the teacher to ensure her presentation met the school's Project Based Learning (PBL) expectations. Part of Wendy's prep also involved a visit to the school to assess the level, atmosphere, and accommodations. Based on the teacher's PBL, Wendy developed a lesson plan and included the *Leader in Me* (Steven Covey's program for children) strategies adopted by the school.

Wendy reported that the lesson went smoothly, despite an unexpected fire drill in the middle of the session. In the informal assessment at the end, the students were able to recap what birds need for survival, ways to show them kindness, and ways to help scientists.

Community presentations are one way for the Education Committee to spread the word about Sacramento Audubon Society and encourage the spirit of curiosity, respect and responsibility for the environment.

Please contact education@sacramentoaudubon.org for more information on scheduling a presentation for a school or local organization.

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.

Seasonal Observations

February 1 to February 28
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

This February was fairly quiet, with many of the reports being continuations of birds found earlier in the season. One to two **Surf Scoters** continued off of Sherman Island E Levee Rd from early January into late February, while the cooperative male **White-winged Scoter** first found on 12/13 near the Nimbus Hatchery continued into March. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was seen by many in a south Davis yard from 2/7 through the end of the month.

Mountain Plovers continued along Hwy 45 in Yolo County, just south of the Colusa County line, with up to 14 through the first

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Jill Bucher	Terrence and Marion
Cynthia Burton and Janet Holmberg	Jones
Marcia Cooper	Marie Loretta
Maxine Cornwell	Patti Michel-Evleth
Hiresha De Silva	Linda Raymond
Norman Eade	Serena Sanchez
Angelique Goodhue	Katharine Severson
Lawrence E. Grady	Barry Strother
Rebecca Inman	Debra Turner

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 30, 2019, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at Carmichael Library, 5605 Marconi Sacramento, 95608.

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

Programs for 2019

May: Lindsay Wood, *Nesting Grebes in the High Lakes of Plumas County*

Observations continued

week of February. An immature **Glaucous Gull** has been reported sporadically this season in Yolo County, including on 2/16 from the Central Landfill along County Rd 28H. The report of an adult **Black-headed Gull** (a CA Bird Records Committee review species) was a nice surprise off of Hwy 12, west of the town of Terminous, on 2/22. A **Red-throated Loon** was found along the Deep Water Channel between Bridgeway Island Pond and the turning basin on 2/27, and was seen by many into March. It was likely the proximate cause of the discovery of a major rarity that was found nearby on 3/1 (check back next month).

A **Hairy Woodpecker** was found off of Young Wo Circle along Lake Natoma on

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

sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Date _____

The Observer Newsletter \$25 per address (1 Year) _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

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Check if you would prefer to receive the Observer in PDF form by email []

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

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You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook



2/12, a little upstream of the reports from recent years. The **Northern Shrike** found near Yolo County Rds 25 and 103 on 11/15 continued in the general area through February, and what is likely a different bird was found across I-5 to the northeast at the Trestle Ponds on 2/7. **Mountain Bluebirds** were widely reported, with the largest local flock (up to 35) found along Meiss Rd from 2/24 into March. The bright male **Tennessee Warbler** photographed in a north Davis yard on 1/25 continued into March along the greenbelt in the vicinity of Elk Place and Falcon Ave. A **Palm Warbler** was seen by many, beginning on 2/12, near the corner of Covell Blvd and Pole Line Rd in Davis. It foraged on or near the ground in

various locations at the nearby office park, parking lot, and apartment complex.

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

Keith Bailey, Lyann Comrack, Dave DeSante, Leo Edson, Sid England, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Rob Fowler, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Joan Humphrey, Afton Kern, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Michael Perrone, Jason Riggio, Steve Scott, Sean Smith, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Craig Swolgaard, Robert Traverso, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@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 18, at 7pm

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

John Sterling, *Birding Adventures in
Morroco*



John Sterling