

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020
Online Meeting 7pm, TBA

Southern Ecuador: In Search of Rare, Local and New Species

Vayun Tiwari

Exploring the most biodiverse country in the world in search of rarities and local birds takes us to Southern Ecuador. From the dry Tumbesian woods, to the cloud forest, to the high Andean paramo, and finally Amazonian foothills. In this talk, Vayun will share experiences from his first hard-core birding trip to Ecuador, showing highlights such



Toucan Barbet
Vayun Tiwari

as the Jocotoco Antpitta (whose discovery started a new habitat conservation effort in Ecuador), Blue-throated Hillstar (a striking hummingbird discovered only in 2018 on a high Andean ridge!), Orange-throated Tanager (localized to the border region with Peru in the shadow of the remote Cordillera del Condor), Spot-winged Parrotlet (perhaps the first photographs from Ecuador), El Oro Parakeet (discovered in 1988 and already Endangered), the amazing Long-wattled Umbrellabird and more! The talk will also cover some time spent around Mindo, in the cloud forests west of Quito, photographing iconic species such as Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan and an array of colorful hummingbirds and tanagers.

Vayun is a rising Junior at Harker High School in San Jose. Besides bird photography, his other interests are skiing and

playing the trumpet in his high school Jazz Band. While Vayun has been birding with his dad, Vivek Tiwari, for a few years, and has participated in birdathons with the Fledglings, the Santa Clara Audubon youth team, he started bird photography when he was 10 years old, during a family trip to the Florida Everglades. Since then he has also photographed in California, Panama, Peru, Belize, Hawaii, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and on his most recent trip to Ecuador. Vayun is currently working on analyzing 40 years of bird population data from his home region, connecting bird population trends to climate change, and setting up a wildlife photography club in his school. Vayun won 1st place in the youth category for the 2020 Audubon Photography Contest. Vayun uses his photographs to help raise funds for conservation, including for habitat protection of the Blue-throated Hillstar.

Sacramento Audubon meetings would be held the third Thursday of the month. Normally, they would be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. The September *Observer* will include details of how the meetings will be held online, going forward. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker for further information. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

LOCAL FALL MIGRATION

While the calendar may say August, “fall” migration is well underway. For shorebirds, migration starts in early July (with a few returning as early as late June). For the migrant passerines, mostly those heading for their wintering grounds in Central and South America, you can find many in the Central Valley by late July/early August.

In July, I start heading to a few local spots looking for shorebirds. Places like Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (if water levels are right), and Woodland Water Treatment Plant. These places can be good for “peeps” like Western and Least Sandpipers, Dowitchers and Greater (and often Lesser) Yellowlegs. Many birders come to these spots hoping to find a rare, out of place, shorebird. Lots of these rarities have been found here over the years—see page 5 for ID help. By August, I may go a little farther afield and check out American Canyon Wetlands bordering the Napa River, which can draw thousands of shorebirds.

By August, I’ll also include some good passerine locations. Putah Creek Reserve off of Pedrick Road in Yolo County is a popular spot for migrants. Although it is also somewhat popular with joggers and dog walkers, so it is suggested that you get out there early if you go, since most of these non-birders don’t show up until later in the morning. The Reserve can be good for migrant warblers, vireos and flycatchers. And it has had its share of rarities as well. The American River Parkway can also have good migrant activity.

Fall migration can last well into October for shorebirds, and through September for passerines. So, you have plenty of time to enjoy the show. In fact, if I had to choose a favorite time of year for birding, it would be during the fall migration.

Scott Hoppe

Meet Your Board

This month we continue with the profiles in the *Meet Your Board* series. Here you are meeting current, outgoing and new board members. We hope that these introductions will provide you with a better sense of your board and each member's commitment to the Sacramento Audubon Society's mission.

GESNA CLARKE – Education Chair

I have been attuned to nature for as long as I can remember. When I found myself living in the middle of a redwood forest at UC Santa Cruz, that connection only deepened. Called the “City on a Hill,” the campus has a splendid panoramic view of Santa Cruz, the Santa Cruz Mountains and Monterey Bay. While on my lunchtime walks, I knew I would cross paths with wildlife: a deer with her fawn, a herd of bucks, a fox, bobcat or coyote, raccoons, ground squirrels or weasels. Flying overhead might be Peregrine Falcon, Red-tail Hawk, American Kestrel, Golden Eagle, or Cooper's Hawk.

I retired from UCSC and relocated to Sacramento in 2005. My life made several twists and turns along the way. One led me to Cathie Lazier during a Beginners' Birding Walk. Cathie and I reconnected again in 2016.

Shortly afterwards, I joined Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS). As chance would have it, I met Larry Hickey, president of SAS at the time, on one of the many Society field trips. While chatting about our common work experience at the UC's, he mentioned the Education Committee chair position was open and asked if I would consider it. I was hesitant at first because I did not want my leisure time to be consumed by volunteer work. Then, I reminded myself that I have a lot to offer and should give it a go. I accepted the position and took Larry's advice: “Get to know Maureen Geiger and Cathie Lazier.” The rest is her(story)!

Recently, via email, SAS Vice President Daphne Reimer asked what the chapter meant to me. This was my answer:

The chapter reinforces and nurtures my love of nature and birds. It gives me an opportunity to work with expert birders, naturalists, scientists, conservationists and ecologists who freely share information and help to perpetuate a mindset of lifelong learning. It enables me to volunteer in areas where I make contributions to advance the chapter's mission, particularly as chair of the Education Committee, and as a board member.

One of the benefits of SAS membership is getting to meet talented photographers like Dan Brown. When asked for advice on a suitable camera for a novice like me, Dan knew what to recommend. And, with that recommendation came a photography lesson. Now I enjoy snapping photos of my backyard birds nearly every day.

As Education Chair I am always looking for opportunities to engage our youth, especially marginalized youth, in birding. This is no easy task. Our outreach efforts require, figuratively speaking, many boots on the ground. To work effectively with schools and community organizations, we need a lot of “boots.” Frustratingly, our volunteer pool is shrinking, a not uncommon occurrence with other Audubon chapters. To combat our dwindling volunteer numbers, my personal goal is to develop a program that would raise awareness of our organization and generate interest in our volunteer

opportunities. More volunteers, in turn, will help us to expand our education outreach in communities of underserved youth. Our efforts will not only engage (hopefully) these young people but it will be good for birds, the environment, the chapter, and the larger community. Stay tuned!

Elliot Chasin – Conservation Chair

I love birds! Upon moving to Sacramento in 2011, my wife and I joined the Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS). Previously, we were members of the Santa Barbara Audubon Society, where I served on that board and was part of an education program presenting raptors to the public. I joined the SAS Board in 2017, where I have been serving as our liaison to Habitat 2020. In my day job, I work on broad California wildlife and habitat issues, and I joined the SAS board to contribute locally to bird conservation.

SAS is a founding member and has a long-standing partnership with Habitat 2020—the highly influential local consortium of conservation organizations. As the liaison to Habitat 2020, I am constantly amazed at the members' passion, knowledge, work ethic, and results. I am proud that Sacramento Audubon is part of Habitat 2020's struggles and successes.

I believe SAS's top three challenges and call to action are:

1) Becoming relevant with a more diverse constituency. All Audubon chapters, including SAS, need to become more diverse in age, color, orientation, and socioeconomic background. Nature, and therefore birds, should be for all people to enjoy. And if everyone cares about birds, birds can thrive.

2) Hiring Paid Staff. Doesn't the world seem to be getting more complex every day? SAS would benefit from paid, full-time staff to help navigate our complex world of regulations, budgets, outreach, social media, organization, and conservation initiatives.

3) Getting the public invested in local issues. It is so easy to get wrapped up in national and global issues. Of course, national elections and issues like global climate change are important, but so much is occurring locally that has day-to-day implications for the residents of Sacramento. And what is more, organized groups of people can have their voices heard and lead to positive changes in our community! Advocacy must go beyond local elections and signing petitions. Volunteerism and civic engagement are necessary if we bird and nature lovers want to shape the future of our community and the world.

These challenges are interconnected. SAS must reach out to a broader community base to help stimulate an interest in the enjoy



Gesna Clarke



Elliot Chasin

Elliot Chasin continued on page 3

Elliot Chasin continued from page 2
habitat protection and bird conservation.

I cannot think of more compelling reasons than these to join the board! Its membership is also an amazing group of like-minded people. We debate, learn, and have laughs. It is a wonderful way to make some new friends and give a little of yourself.

When I am not involved in my day job and volunteer work with SAS, I am fanatic about football (soccer). In addition to having played my entire life, I love watching the sport. While there is no direct familial connection that I know of, many years ago I became unexpectedly chemically bonded to Liverpool Football Club in England. Being a Red is now part of my being. Attending a Liverpool FC match at Anfield (their home stadium) is probably #1 on my non-bird bucket list. You'll Never Walk Alone.

LOCAL BUTTERFLIES

By the time you read this, the birding will be picking up. As I write, many of the summer breeders have quieted their singing and most migrant songbirds are a few weeks away. Shorebirds are arriving, but access to habitat is limited. Fortunately, when the birding gets slow, butterflies are a nice compliment to the birds. Like dragonflies, they get more active as the morning warms and the birds quiet.

Common butterflies to look for include, on the larger end, Western Tiger Swallowtail, Anise Swallowtail, and Pipevine Swallowtail. Sadly, Monarchs have gotten quite rare and have mostly ceased breeding locally in the past four or five years, with the western population having declined to devastatingly low numbers. Painted Ladies can be abundant in spring and are found in summer; look for the similar American Painted Lady and West Coast Lady (hint: check the spots on the hind wing). The Red Admiral is more commonly found earlier in the year, but it and the Mourning Cloak, typically found in late winter and early spring, deserve mentioning. The Lorquin's Admiral, my favorite local butterfly, is very similar to the California Sister (rarely found in the Valley), and is patchily distributed, but can be fairly common in willow-dominated riparian areas. Note that unlike the sister, the Lorquin's Admiral has orange going all the way to the tips of the wings.

Continuing more or less by decreasing size is the Buckeye. These are quite numerous locally and persist well into fall. Cabbage Whites and Alfalfas can be positively abundant. Purplish Coppers can be quite common in vegetated seasonal wetlands (especially on smartweeds) on the flats of the Valley like the Cosumnes River Preserve's Lost Slough Wetlands. There are additional common species that are small and less attention-grabbing for the uninitiated, but some are quite beautiful in close binocular views. These include Mylitta Crescent, Common Hairstreak, the non-intuitively named Eastern Tailed-Blue, Acmon Blue, and the abundant but easily overlooked Western Pygmy Blue (often on tumbleweed). Lastly, there are the Common Checkered-Skipper, Mournful Duskywing, and an array of small orange to tan skippers that I've yet to learn to identify to species, but they are still attractive and fun to watch. Occasionally, other species can be found in low numbers, but the list above captures the expected species and in learning them, you will be familiar with nearly all of the butterflies you are likely to see around Sacramento. The species mentioned are found in and around the low elevations. As you climb into the Sierra, butterfly diversity increases, but the relatively manageable number of local species is a good place to start.

Chris Conard



Acmon Blue
Chris Conard



Western Tiger Swallowtail
Chris Conard



Lorquin's Admiral
Chris Conard



Mylitta Crescent
Chris Conard



Common Checkered Skipper
Chris Conard

Summertime Shorebird Viewing in the YBWA

Every summer, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife provides shorebird habitat in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Due to the timing of improvements being made to the roads and drainage structures around the auto-tour loop, one field will be flooded this year. The large rice field near the wildlife viewing auto-tour loop has been left fallow and will start to be flooded on July 6 to the appropriate level to create the shorebird-friendly feeding habitat. Enjoy! A map and directions to visit can be found at yolobasin.org/directions-to-the-ybwa/

See important road closure note on page 6.

SUPPORTING OUR FUTURE BIRD LEADERS

Dear Central Valley birders,

My name is Fiona Gillogly and I have been a Central Valley Bird Club Youth scholarship recipient for the past four years. When I was thirteen, the first bird camp I attended with this scholarship was Bird Identification by Song at the Sierra Nevada Field Campus, where I later met author, educator and naturalists extraordinaire John Muir Laws. He became the most amazing mentor and friend to me and introduced me to nature journaling. Since that day, I have kept a nature journal and I have found that it is one of my favorite parts of birding. I love to draw the birds that I see and get to know them even better through art. I just published my first article in *Birding* magazine about how nature journaling enhances my birding experience and makes birding even more fun.

The *Birding* magazine web site doesn't have the issue available online to non-members, but I have a high-res PDF saved here that you can read: drive.google.com/file/d/1DwLr1BtWLyx6Oyehzk59Xxqf8jEgqm/view?usp=sharing

I know that many of you have donated to the CVBC Youth Scholarship fund and I hope you will continue to do so. Your generosity helps many young birders like me have these incredible and life changing experiences in nature. Thank you so much.

If you would like to donate to that scholarship fund, you can click on the red donate button in the upper right corner of this page: www.cvbirds.org.

Thank you for your support of me and so many other young birders. I could not have attended these camps without your support.

Fiona

NEW SAS SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Voting on the slate will open on August 20th and close on September 23rd, 2020. Since our General Meetings are currently suspended, you may cast your vote in one of two ways: with an online voting link or a mail-in ballot. Both will be found in the September issue of *The Observer*. The link to vote online will also be sent via email to members. Per SAS bylaws, one must be a dues-paying SAS member to vote.

SLATE OF SAS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Mary Forrestal
Corresponding Secretary	Heather White
Board of Directors	
	Elliot Chasin
	Gesna Clarke
	Nancy Groner
	Diana Hickson
	Jane Van Kessel

SACRAMENTO VALLEY CONSERVANCY \$45,000 NEEDED FOR A TINY HOUSE FOR TIM

On Friday, July 3rd a huge Alder tree fell at Camp Pollock causing damage to the caretaker trailer. Tim and his two yellow labs (Philbin and Luther) were inside the trailer when the tree came down, and while very shook up, thankfully they were all able to walk away. The tree pierced the roof and side of the trailer and caused damage to the inside. While we haven't yet received an official assessment, the trailer is likely totaled.

Tim and his pups have lived on-site and managed this beautiful hidden jewel for the



last 5+ years. If you've ever met Tim, you know he's a kind and caring person with a HUGE heart. He works hard to manage the entire 11 acres and is always willing to lend a hand to visitors. Sacramento Valley Conservancy owns the trailer and manages the site without any dedicated funding. With COVID-19, SVC has lost nearly all rental income and does not have the funds to purchase a new caretaker unit. This is where we are asking the community for help. Having a 24-7 caretaker presence is a critical component to keeping Camp Pollock open to the public. SVC board and staff is scrambling

to secure a safe unit (trailer or tiny house) for Tim to continue living on site and fulfilling the essential role of taking care of and looking after the site. It's critical that we have eyes on the property at all times and the unit has to be moveable since the property has flooding most years.

Can you help keep Camp Pollock a safe and free location to access the American River? Any donation you can give will help make an impact. We are raising money to help SVC purchase a safe trailer or tiny house for Tim to stay in, so he can continue caring for the space 24-7. Thank you in advance for your contribution which can be made at sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/camp-pollock/.

2020-2021 DUCK STAMP AVAILABLE NOW

Help support this vital federal program with your purchase of a Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp known colloquially as the Duck Stamp. The program is an essential tool in purchasing refuge lands for consumptive and



Federal Duck Stamp 2020-2019

non-consumptive habitat conservation. Locally, Sacramento NWR, Stone Lakes NWR, and Merced NWR were 100% purchased with Duck Stamp funds. While waterfowlers are required to buy a stamp to hunt, birders who visit refuges should consider purchasing this annual stamp in support of conservation. A onetime \$25 purchase of the Duck Stamp gets you free admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee. The stamp is valid from July 1 to June 30, 2021.

The Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is for sale at refuges, sporting goods stores and US Postal Offices. Or, you can go online to order your stamps: www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/buy-duck-stamp.php

“This \$25 purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds,” says the Cornell University, All About Birds site.

Hunters willingly purchase this stamp. It would be terrific if birders (and non-birders) would purchase Duck Stamps annually too. By increasing the base support of this program, the number of acres of wetland, grassland and other habitats conserved each year only increases. The funds are used to support the expansion of refuges system-wide and are used for non-consumptive, closed zones as well. Funds from this program have been spent in all 50 states in support of refuge acquisitions. Some funds, such as in Hawaii, are used to conserve wetlands and forests for critically endangered species.

BIRDING DURING COVID 19

To say things have changed since mid-March is probably the understatement of the year, so far. As it relates to birding, in particular in our neighborhood, the greater Sacramento region, we are pretty much at a standstill, in any organized fashion. As you know, the Sacramento Audubon Society's field trips have been on hold since March, and the rest of the year is, at best, up in the air. So what's a birder to do? Well, we all have yards, and if you haven't yet done so, you can always start your own yard list. You can also get involved in birding websites and tools like E-bird. Here you can list your own sightings and review what others are seeing. It's a good way to stay connected, and pass the time productively, as the citizen

scientist. Now to make this a bit more personal and put it into perspective, I haven't been entirely idle. One might even say I've sometimes been in violation of the Shelter-in-Place mandate once or twice (or 5-6 times) this spring by getting out to those same areas where I would have participated in or led SAS field trips. Often by myself, but occasionally with a few birding buddies; of course practicing physical distancing and wearing proper PPE. Let it be said that you can take the birder out of the woods, where there are birds, but you can't take the woods and birds out of the birder. So what have you been up to? Stay safe while having some fun.

Gary Fregien

FINDING THE NEEDLE AMONG THE PEEPS

With the returning waves of shorebirds, it is fun to look for that needle in the haystack as well as just appreciating the ephemeral abundance of these birds, most of which have traveled from the Arctic. Many birders get overwhelmed by shorebirds, but a little time spent learning them can lead to a lifetime of enjoyment. In many ways, they are the perfect study subjects, allowing close approach (at least sometimes) and extended observation (unless there's a Peregrine nearby) for identification and an array of interesting behavior as they forage and squabble. I've heard from quite a few intermediate birders that they “don't do” peeps. I always try to encourage them that when they learn Least Sandpipers and Western Sandpipers well, it becomes more interesting and fun.

Nearly all (99%) of the local “peeps” (small sandpipers) will be Least or Westerns, at least until the decidedly larger Dunlin arrive in numbers in late September. Least are smaller, shorter-billed, and browner than Westerns, which are grayer, with rufous caps and shoulders (in season), and longer-billed. When you can see leg color (often covered in mud), Least have yellowish legs. Posture is also helpful. Least often appear a little back on their “heels” while Westerns are more front-heavy and tipped forward. Once you get a feel for them, the odd Semipalmated Sandpiper or Baird's Sandpiper will be a lot easier to find.

Chris Conard



Western and Least Sandpipers
Chris Conard



Semipalmated Sandpiper
Chris Conard



Baird's Sandpiper
Chris Conard

BOBELAINE CLOSURE DUE TO LEVEE CONSTRUCTION

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary will be closed **August 23 through September 23, 2020** due to levee construction. Construction truck traffic will make it unsafe to walk or cross the levee to the sanctuary. Closure dates could change if the levee construction schedule changes. Changes to the schedule will be posted on the Sacramento Audubon Website at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bobelaine-audubon-sanctuary

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at biancowm@yahoo.com; or 916-372-3318 to find out how the Board Meeting is being held.

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting would be in August, and would normally be held at 7pm at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/board-minutes.

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.

Field Trip Information

Due to the continuing coronavirus threat, SAS is not offering field trips for the month of August. It is not clear when they will resume, so please check the SAS website, sacramentoaudubon.org, and our Facebook page as they will reflect future field trips as soon as they are scheduled once again.



MORE SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT WINDOW STRIKES

The American Bird Conservancy estimates up to one billion birds die each year in the United States when they hit glass windows, walls, and other structures, making this threat one of the most costly to bird populations. But it's also a relatively easy problem to solve. This is a solution from a private company which offers free DIY instructions.

My name is Jeff Acopian and I am the founder of Acopian BirdSavers—a very effective technique to prevent birds from flying into windows, which everyone should know about. Acopian BirdSavers is a very simple, elegant, aesthetically pleasing solution to the major problem of birds dying at our windows. BirdSavers are especially inexpensive if you make them yourself (we supply DIY instructions at www.birdsavers.com/make-your-own/).

Go to YouTube and search for our short video “How to Stop the Thuds”. The more BirdSavers made, the less birds that will meet an untimely demise at our windows!



Construction and Detours in the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is getting an upgrade! Two new bridges are being installed that will improve drainage and lessen road flooding, creating better access for all of us! Please stay alert while in the Wildlife Area as construction is going on throughout the summer. Currently, the road south out of Parking Lot A will be closed while improvements are in progress near the South Davis Drain. The road east out of Parking Lot A will allow two-way traffic for now. Look to yolobasin.org/directions-to-the-ybwa/ for a map of the area referred to. Various closures and rerouting will likely take place through the end of July. Please follow all posted signs. We will update the Yolo Basin Foundation Facebook page with new information as it becomes available.



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

Seasonal Sightings

June 1 to June 30

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

June is undoubtedly the slowest birding month in the Sacramento area in terms of species diversity, but this month had more surprises than one would expect. By June, nearly all of the songbird migrants have passed through, though any lingering migrants found are likely as not to be something of interest. By the last week of the month, the first wave of shorebird migrants signal that the slow times are about over. A **Snow Goose** photographed at the Davis Wetlands on 6/9 was quite unexpected. Also on 6/9, two female **Hooded Mergansers** with young were found at the normally closed Valensin portion of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP), confirming continued breeding by this species in our area.

A presumed **Vaux's Swift** was found near the I St Purple Martin colony, adjacent to the Railroad Museum, into the second half of the month. By then, it seemed just as likely to be a **Chimney Swift**, but a convincing decision on the bird's species has yet to be rendered. **Vaux's Swifts** are regular migrants through the area, but there are summer records of **Chimney Swifts**, and one record of presumed breeding in Yolo County, after nearly all of the **Vaux's** have passed through. Among a smattering of early shorebirds, two **Willetts** were a nice find at CRP on 6/20. A young **Bald Eagle** that fledged from a nest in the Tall Forest at CRP by 6/19 provided the first successful nesting record for the lower Preserve.

For June, there were some really notable songbird records. A **Pine Siskin** photographed in a Davis yard on 6/9 was unexpected for the date. The area's first nest

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Timothy Aspinwall	Kaine Gish
Kristie Cooley	Lewis Ingram
Kit Custis	Richard Marques Sr.
Karen Dibiasio	The Real Estate Solution Group, Inc.
Elizabeth Etgen	Connie West
Selma Fields	

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Jon Beck, Lyla Burnor, Hiresha De Silva, Selma Fields, Susan Fregien, Amy A Hibbitt, Timothy & Angela Jackson, David Jones, Bruce & Peggy Kennedy, Linda Melching, The Morehead Family, Beverly J Spencer, Jane Van Kessel and Connie West made donations to the **General Fund**.

Gesna Clarke, Hiresha De Silva, Susan Fregien, Maureen K Geiger, Timothy & Angela Jackson, Peggy Jenkins, Bruce & Peggy Kennedy and June A Ritzman made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Hiresha De Silva, Terry Dozier, Susan Fregien, Maureen K Geiger, Amy A Hibbitt, Timothy & Angela Jackson, Robin B Thompson, Christie Vallance, Jane Van Kessel and Richard & Salli Warinner 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.

Observations continued
ing **Chipping Sparrows** along the edge of CRP's Tall Forest fledged at least two young and continued to be found through 6/21. A **Dark-eyed Junco** feeding a recently fledged young bird on the UC Davis campus was a surprise on 6/12 and the first nesting record for the campus. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** was reported almost daily at Sailor Bar along the American River Parkway (ARP) throughout the month and into July. For the second month in a row, a **Kentucky Warbler** was found; this time it was Sacramento County's first on 6/10 at a closed portion of CRP. A female **American Redstart** along Babel Slough on 6/8 was a nice find. Up to 10 **Yellow Warblers** were singing in the vicinity of the Accidental Forest, northeast of the Tall Forest at CRP, with breeding confirmed by early July. This is an unprecedented number for the area, but the forest qual-

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. All new members will only receive our newsletter online so be sure to include your email address and check if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List.

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

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

Date _____

The Observer Newsletter \$35 per address (1 Year) _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society or use your credit card
or PayPal on our website at: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____ Check for Action Alert _____

New members will receive *The Observer*, in color, via email. (Please provide your email address above.) If you would prefer a black and white paper copy mailed to you instead, please email: membership@sacramentoaudubon.org

ity continues to improve, with well over a mile of unbroken, early successional riparian forest. A gorgeous singing male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** along ARP, downstream of the Gristmill access, was found on 6/10 and very early on 6/11. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found at a closed and seldom-visited portion of CRP on 6/6. On the same day and in the vicinity, among at least 15 **Lazuli Buntings**, was a hybrid **Lazuli x Indigo** that was blue except for white wing bars and a white belly. A young male **Indigo Bunting** was seen and photographed by many from 6/10-15 at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. 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-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club listserv (cvbirds.org) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Lyann Comrack, Lily Douglas, Andy Engilis, Irene Engilis, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Emmett Iverson, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Michael Perrone, Zane Pickus, Jason Riggio, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, Jim Thomas, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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Sacramento, CA 95816

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Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

September 17, 2020

Vayun Tiwari, *Southern Ecuador: In Search of Rare, Local, and New Species*

All in-person programs are temporarily suspended due to Covid 19. Look for online program arrangements in the September *Observer*.



White-breasted Parakeet
Vayun Tiwari