

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



General Meeting

The Next General Meeting will be
Thursday, January 21, 2021
Webex Meeting 7pm

There is no general meeting in December but we look forward to January's meeting. Enjoying the holidays may be difficult this year but we are all lucky that we can still enjoy birds and the outdoors. Try to celebrate safely and see you next year!

Sacramento Audubon meetings are now held online the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. 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](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

FAMILY BIRD COUNTS FOR 2021

For more than 100 years, birders all over the world have looked forward to December, the time of the Christmas Bird Counts. Data gathered from these counts, or CBCs as they are known, is enormously valuable to scientists and other researchers regarding the abundance and distribution of the world's bird species.

This year, the pandemic has changed this long tradition. CBCs are either cancelled entirely or modified to eliminate close personal contact as much as possible. Sadly, this applies to the Kids' and Teen CBCs which SAS has sponsored for years with great success.

However, while disappointing, this does not mean that children and their families must give up counting birds this winter. The same option is available for fami-

Family Counts continued on page 2

This Month's Suggested Birding

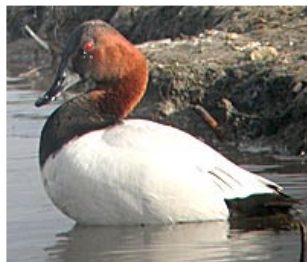
DECEMBER From Maureen Geiger

Winter birding in the Sacramento region can be excellent with many options for finding birds, sometimes in large concentrations. In the last several months, a number of National Wildlife Refuges and Preserves have been recommended by SAS media as good places for winter birding. Following are several other ideas that might produce great birding. All three venues also support large numbers of ducks and geese. Shorebirds may be present, raptors work the surrounding fields, and wintering sparrows can be found in the open fields and along hedgerows.

COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE

Sandhill Cranes are a specialty of the Central Valley in late fall and winter, and unlike birding for other species, late day-early evening viewing of these amazing birds can be a great success. Several of the best places to do this are south of Sacramento near I-5. First in the string of sites is CRP where they can be found along Desmond Road and on both sides of Franklin Boulevard.

To reach Cosumnes Preserve, drive south on I-5 from Sacramento about 20 miles to Twin Cities Road. Exit and cross over the freeway heading east to Franklin Boulevard. Turn right onto Franklin and go south 1.7 miles; the Visitor Center will be on the left.



Canvasback
Chris Conard

STATEN ISLAND

My favorite Crane experience can be found here in the late afternoon and just past sunset. This is when large numbers of Sandhill Cranes come in to rest overnight in the safety of shallow, flooded fields. To see these birds against the sky at dusk, especially if there is also a great sunset, is a wonderful treat.

To reach Staten Island, take I-5 south from Sacramento for 24 miles to the Walnut Grove/Thornton exit, #493. Head west for 3.8 miles on Walnut Grove Road. Shortly after crossing the Mokelumne River, turn left on Staten Island Road. Continue down this road about half a mile to the flooded fields, birding only from the road as this is a working agricultural area.

WOODBIDGE ECOLOGICAL RESERVE (AKA ISENBERG CRANE RESERVE)

This Reserve is considered the site to see cranes. It's the third site heading south on I-5 and is also known as Isenberg Crane Preserve. Viewing from the parking lot is excellent any time of the day, and one of the places where the fly-in at dusk can be spectacular. A CDFW Lands Pass must be in possession by each visitor who is 16 years of age or older, however, visitors who are in possession of a valid California hunting or fishing license in their name are exempt from this requirement. Lands passes may be purchased on-line, at wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Lands-Pass, by phone at (800) 565-1458, or in-person

November Birding continued on page 2

Family Counts continued from page 1

lies as for other birders for CBCs. The way this might work is for each family to choose a site: a backyard, a nearby park, a school yard, or a nature center such as Effie Yeaw, along the American River. There are many options where one might find wintering birds in the Sacramento area.

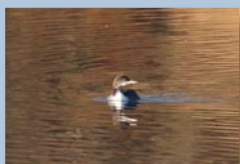
Count all the birds your group sees and keep track of them. This can be for half an hour or all day. Hopefully, you will want to enter them in the great data base called eBird. (For information on this, see the informative article by Chris Conard in the November Observer and on the SAS website at sacramentoaudubon.org.) This is the citizen scientist part of the equation and makes the efforts worthwhile beyond the pleasure everyone receives from engaging in them.

To be consistent with past years' dates for the two CBCs, the weekend to do this would be the first weekend in January, that is January 2nd or 3rd.

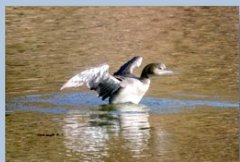
This is such a great way to engage kids' and teens' involvement with nature and the out of doors and to spend time as a family. Enjoy!!

Maureen Geiger

Kathy Kayner reports: The first part of November there was a rare sighting on Lake Natoma...a Pacific Loon. Now I have seen different species of Grebe on the lake but never have I seen a Loon.



Pacific Loon
November 2
Kathy Kayner



Pacific Loon
November 4
Kathy Kayner

December Birding continued from page 1

at locations wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Driving directions and maps of the area and other information can be found here: wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Woodbridge-ER

To reach Woodbridge Preserve, from Sacramento take I-5 south to Peltier Road, exit #490. At the bottom of the exit, turn left to Thornton Road where you will go right. Continue on Thornton until the stop sign at the corner of Woodbridge Road. At this point make a right turn on to Woodbridge Road which goes west under the I-5 freeway. Drive 2.4 miles to the turnout of the Preserve on the left side of Woodbridge Road.

RIVER BEND PARK

This large, wooded park offers a variety of trails to explore, riverfront, shaded oak woodlands and open grassy areas. Entering the park, follow the road in till it crosses the bike path, then take your first left and continue to the main parking area. The mown picnic area lawn is good for turkeys, Western Bluebirds, Dark-eyed Juncos, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Red-shoul-



Belted Kingfisher
Linda Pittman

dered Hawks. Then take the river trail going upstream, watching the oak woodland for towhees, wrens, Oak Titmice and other passerines, and scanning the river for mergansers, goldeneye and Bufflehead. Shortly after you pass another parking lot/bathroom/picnic area, there is a large rocky island midstream, which is good for yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and Killdeer. Herons, egrets and Belted Kingfisher can be found in this area too. When you reach the triangular 15 mile sign, it's time to turn back. You can return on the same trail, or take the side trails down to the cobbled river bank or into the oak woodland. From the developed section of the park you can cross the river on the footbridge to William Pond Park. The bridge offers good views up and down river; sometimes you can

watch mergansers hunting underwater. This park is worth several trips, as the extensive oak woodland between the bike trail and the river is criss-crossed with smaller trails. Great Horned Owls are often found in these woods. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Cathie Lazier

EAST LAWN CEMETERY

This park-like setting has mowed lawns and tall evergreen and deciduous trees such as palm, oak, maple, pine and magnolia. Dense shrubbery lines the west boundary with a few thickets scattered throughout the cemetery, and paved roads meander through this 40-acre park. The wonderful old trees are a haven for common wintering birds and may produce less common species such as Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadee and Red-Breasted Sapsuckers. The entrance is at 43rd Street and Folsom Boulevard in Sacramento. Winter hours are 8a to dusk. Parking is permitted along the paved roads.

From *Birding in the Sacramento Region*, pages 35-36, as written by Mary Beth Metcalf and excerpted by Maureen Geiger

BOBELAINE AUDUBON PRESERVE

Bobelaine is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife throughout the seasons. Winter is a nice time to explore the trails and search for resident and wintering birds such as woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes, Spotted Towhees and a variety of sparrows including Fox Sparrows settling in for the winter. Woodland raptors such as Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk and Sharp-shinned Hawk may be found as well. Trails are accessed via a high, steep levee, but once inside the Preserve, you can walk several miles on mostly level ground. 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.

Maureen Geiger

ONE MORE BURROWING OWL AT THE BUFFERLANDS

For about 30 years, the Bufferlands surrounding the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP), between Sacramento and Elk Grove, have been managed in part to improve habitat for Burrowing Owls. This species has been one of a few unofficial mascots for the property and a key consideration in management efforts. About a third of the 2,600-acre buffer surrounding the treatment plant, a mix of wetlands, riparian forest, and grasslands, is appropriate habitat for the owls. Over 30 constructed sites (typically a buried utility box for a nest chamber, several feet of buried four-inch plastic tubing to make two burrows for each chamber, and cinder blocks for the entrances) have been built and, as importantly, maintained, for the owls. The owls also require fairly short grass and good sight lines, and this is accomplished through a mix of mowing and seasonal grazing by cows. Keeping the grass low also encourages California ground squirrels, which are the most important source in most of the state for natural burrows. The owls feed on a mix of insects, including a lot of beetles, mice, and other small animals. Cow dung attracts insects, and the owls will often line the burrows and entrances with dung—perhaps to mask their scent from predators or draw edible insects close to home. Most of their activity is around dawn and dusk, but unless it's hot, cold, raining, or windy, they are often visible at the burrow entrances during the day.



Burrowing Owl Outside of Constructed Habitat at the Bufferlands

Unfortunately, despite considerable effort, numbers of Burrowing Owls at the Bufferlands have declined substantially in three decades of monitoring. While once there were multiple nesting pairs on the property, they have only occasionally nested in recent years, with an influx of five to ten owls in the fall and winter (September to March). It appears that when conditions are good (safe and easy to find food), the owls will stay to breed. Research has shown that their migration can vary depending on conditions, and when conditions are really good, they may not migrate at all. This matches what we've observed at the Bufferlands. Reasons for regional and rangewide decline are a mix of knowns and unknowns. There's the obvious loss of sites to development, increased ground squirrel control on adjacent levees, as well as more amorphous factors leading to a reduction in habitat productivity (less food) from drought, increased pesticide use (such as the drastic increase in the use of neonicotinoids), and a generally warming and less consistent climate.



Banded Burrowing Owl Up Close

In October 2020, I was contacted by Esther Burkett from CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife to see if we had a site to release a rehabbed Burrowing Owl. The owl had been retrieved a year ago with a broken wing, but by this point, was catching mice in a flight cage and deemed ready for release. We released the bird into one of our constructed burrows on October 14th. For over a week, the owl remained at the release site, even once avoiding becoming food for a Cooper's Hawk that was standing just outside the burrow entrance. Stan Wright banded the owl with a readable band and we were able to know it was the same owl when it relocated to a different burrow a short distance away. During that time, the wintering influx added another six Burrowing Owls to the property, though one was later taken by a raptor (with just a pile of feathers and a wing left behind). Like so much with this species, our rehabbed owl is a question mark right now. After three weeks with us, we've lost track of its whereabouts. It may still be on the property or it may have moved on a short distance or many miles. We do know that it can feed itself, having seen it catch a mouse at dusk a few days after its release, and seeing beetle parts and bones in its pellets. We'll keep watch for this owl and all the others during their stay at the Bufferlands.

Chris Conard

Chris Conard is a Natural Resource Specialist at the SRWTP Bufferlands, having worked there since 1997 with a committed team to improve the habitat for Burrowing Owls and other wildlife. For more information on the Bufferlands, visit www.bufferlands.com.

SACRAMENTO NWR

Recently, Lora Heller, visitor services manager, for the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex sent the following message to Sacramento Audubon and asked that we share it with our community. Normally at this time of year, Sacramento Audubon would be leading several field trips to these fantastic wildlife refuges. Until we can lead those trips again, we encourage you to visit on your own and keep in mind the following recommendations.

Fall is upon us and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex is booming with birds. The visitor center has been closed since March, our office staff including myself worked at home most of the summer. It is amazing to see the wildlife's response to very few staff and visitors around the visitor center. A flock of 20+ turkeys walk by every day. Several cottontail rabbits are now living next to the building. Over the last two months, other wildlife are starting to return for their wintering grounds. I work on my computer, distracted by the sounds of white geese getting blown into the air by disturbances (planes, people, and predators).

In the past, we have always emphasized to visitors how the refuge is a home for wildlife. Now more than ever, we as a society need this refuge as an escape from our work at home, our teleconferences, and as a chance to get outdoors and absorb the sounds of nature, peace, and marvel at the wonders of migration.

Staff are limited on-site, but we are ready for you to visit! With the visitor center closed, we want you to be informed and prepared before you visit. Remember these tips while you visit.

Please recreate responsibly by staying socially distant on trails, restrooms, and platforms. Bring and wear your mask.

Restrooms are open but limited on cleaning. We recommend you bring hand sanitizer and toilet paper just in case. Also, plan to take all of your trash home with you.

Respect the wildlife by staying in your vehicle on the auto tour! This means keeping your doors closed, heads inside the vehicle, and use designated parking areas to get out of your vehicle. Why? Your vehicle acts as a blind. When waterfowl see humans, they take off into flight burning calories. During the day, the waterfowl are on the refuge to

Sacramento NWR continued on page 4

BOBELAINE — A RARE, SPECIAL PLACE AND IT'S OURS!!

My first involvement with the Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary was in the early 1980's, a few years after this amazing 430-acre property was willed to National Audubon Society by Bob and Elaine Crandall. An agreement between National Audubon and SAS in 1976 resulted in SAS management of this Sanctuary on the banks of the Feather River ever since.

From the beginning, many SAS members have been involved in a variety of support functions to keep the Sanctuary available to walkers and birders. Bird surveys, fund-raising Bird-A-Thons, Christmas Bird Counts and trips led by local SAS birders help to keep this property on everyone's radar screen. In addition, the annual Swan Festival of the Yuba City Chamber of Commerce has sponsored field trips to Bobelaine the first weekend in November in a successful effort to introduce that area to the general public.

For many years, Bill and Jan Clark, SAS members, managed and supported Bobelaine, and Robert Thomas, a Roseville resident, worked for years to maintain the Sanctuary trails for walkers and birders, finally retiring in 2015.

In about 2008, Ken Poerner was introduced to Bobelaine. His background of more

than 25 years as the Land Steward for the Solano Land Trust had taught him about various habitats and properties, and he recognized immediately that Bobelaine was a unique gem that needed to be treasured. In late 2016, after retiring from the Land Trust, he volunteered to take over the care of the property, in spite of having an hour and a half commute each way from his home in Fairfield.

Ken has worked hard to keep trails open, clear downed trees and limbs, keep the parking and picnic areas clear, the signs up to date and a supply of maps at the kiosk. In addition, Ken made signs for the interior of Bobelaine to help people follow the maps and not get lost! He also made half a dozen benches; two in particular sit on the bank and are well suited to contemplation of the beautiful Feather River.

Bill Bianco, President of SAS, works alongside Ken to keep Bobelaine accessible. In addition to general upkeep, Bill creates work days using other volunteers who are willing to help and carries out the fairly high level of administration needed to deal with levee repair, flood damage, relations with nearby land owners, and myriad other tasks.

Over the years Bobelaine has burned and flooded on many occasions which has in the main kept the Sanctuary habitable for birds and other wildlife and has surely contributed to the almost 200 species which have been found in the Sanctuary (as entered into eBird).

But in spite of this, the future of Bobelaine is by no means secure. It depends at least in part on continued support by SAS members and National Audubon. There seems to be agreement that the Sanctuary is protected in perpetuity from any use other than for "wildlife conservation and public use associated with such conservation values" as defined by the Will of Bob and Elaine Crandall. Its position between the newly elevated levee and the Feather River which is prone to flooding helps to ensure its riparian status going forward.

The Sanctuary has been closed for several months due to levee improvements but should be open to the public again by late November. Winter is a great time to visit as it brings in several wonderful, dense understory species such as Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow.

Hope to see you there!

Maureen Geiger

Sacramento NWR continued from page 3

rest. On cold days, they need to conserve all the calories they can. Let them burn the calories to escape a bald eagle or peregrine falcon, not because you wanted to get a better look or forgot something in your back seat.

Be patient and considerate to other drivers. Drive the 15 mph speed limit. Keep your eyes open for vehicles wanting to pass. Use pullouts and keep your tires on the gravel road. When it rains, vehicles can get stuck on the side of the roads.

The local towns love having your business but be prepared. Most restaurants are not at full capacity, only have takeout options, and have limited restroom availability.

With the visitor center closed, be sure to bring your own binoculars and field guides.

Sacramento NWR day and annual passes can be purchased via credit card at the fee machine near the entrance. All of our passes, Federal Duck Stamps, and America the Beautiful senior passes are available online at sacnwr.recaccess.com/.

Brochures will be limited. Download maps and information before you come. Visit www.fws.gov/refuge/Sacramento/map.html.

Staff are getting creative with our programs and interactions this year. We have programs and activity sheets on Facebook, fun photos on Instagram, and children's books laminated along the Wetland Walk trail (coming soon). Junior Ranger Booklets will be available online and in limited quantities

onsite. A variety of virtual programs for school groups (visit the educators page of our website). The Agents of Discovery cell phone game on the trail and visitor center allows users to play virtual games and learn about the refuge wildlife.

After your visit, share your experiences with friends, family, and neighbors. Let them know that getting outside and exploring the bounty of our National Wildlife Refuges is a great way to enjoy our wintering waterfowl.

Thank you, enjoy your visit, Lora Heller



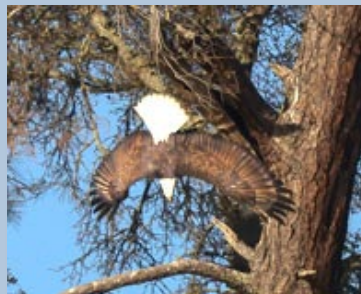
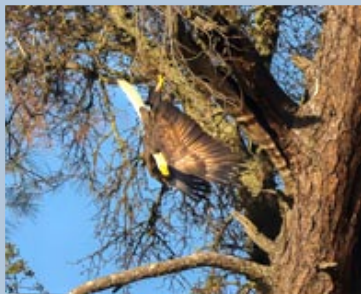
Snow Goose
Dan Brown

LAKE NATOMA BALD EAGLE FAMILY UPDATE

On November 2, I was across the lake (Natoma) observing our Eagles. Papa was bound and determined to fly and snag a dead branch from in front of the nest tree. He actually made three passes and got two small branches to take back to the nest. I thought he was hurt but later realized, he was using his weight to break off the branch.



Papa Gathering Small Branches



It was such a thrill to witness this amazing display that I have never seen before.

Kathy Kayner

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Jean Alford, Marilyn Armbruster, Martin D Bailey, Darlene Bettencourt, Clarisse Cespedes, David & Maxine Clark, Cynthia Dragovich, K Globus & B Klass, Judi & Stephen Green, Robert & Muriel Parker, Molly & Peter Ross, Jeffrey Shelton, Cheryl Stewart, Robert Stuart & Rosemary Hoskinson, Carol A Sughrue, Dan & Jan Tankersley, Nancy Weagly, DVM, and Harry & Karen White made donations to the **General Fund**.

Jean Alford, Marilyn Armbruster, Martin D Bailey, Cynthia Dragovich, K Globus & B Klass, Dr J M Langham, Ken Lee, Marya Liberty, Mary P Morris, Robert & Muriel Parker, Dan & Jan Tankersley and Patricia Trimble made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Jean Alford, Marilyn Armbruster, Martin D Bailey, Cynthia Dragovich, K Globus & B Klass, Marya Liberty, Mary P Morris, Kaj Olson, Robert & Muriel Parker and Patricia Trimble 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 management.



Grasshopper Sparrow
Linda Pittman

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 December. Suggested places to bird according to the month can be found on page 1.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON'S ACTION ALERT

Join our Action Alert subscriber list and receive monthly alerts on important local issues affecting birds, wildlife and habitat. www.sacramentoaudubon.org/conservation-alerts. Speak up for those who cannot speak!



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SHOP AT AMAZON AND SUPPORT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Sacramento Audubon every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Sacramento Audubon. You can use your current Amazon account including shopping cart, wish-list, registries, etc. Its very easy. Just remember to go to smile.amazon.com and select Sacramento Audubon Society as your favorite charity. Then add a bookmark so you return to the site whenever you shop at Amazon.



SAS WEBSITE UPDATES

I hope you have checked out the new Gallery of Birds at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/gallery-of-birds with photos of over 240 species of Sacramento Area birds. These fantastic photos were all contributed by Sacramento Audubon members and we can always use more photos for the website. If you are photographer interested in contributing, please email webmaster@sacramentoaudubon.org for details.



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

CBC for 2020-2021 Cancelled

Our SAS President and CBC leaders are so sorry to announce that due to the pandemic this year, we will not have the traditional Christmas Counts, but we are hoping to have them next year.

However, you are encouraged to get out there, bird and record your findings this season. The great valleys of California are essential wintering spots for innumerable avian travelers. Please see our December birding column beginning on page 1 for nearby places to enjoy birding. If you refer to November's *Observer* you'll find a helpful article by Chris Conard on how to use eBird and contribute to citizen science. Plus you can get eBird to work for you in finding where the birds are you may want to see. Also, beginning on page 1, there's an article by Maureen Geiger on Family Counts. Just because there are no CBCs this year doesn't mean you can't still go out with your family and bird. Show them your favorite places and why you love birding. And count!

Seasonal Sightings

October 1 to October 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

After the amazing list of finds last month, things were bound to settle down a bit, but there were still many interesting reports to go through. An immature **Surf Scoter** was a very nice find on 10/24 along the American River, downstream of the Gristmill access to the American River Parkway (ARP), continuing into November. A **Red-necked Grebe** was quite a surprise, reported mid-month from the El Dorado Hills WTP. Reports of **Common Poorwills** in migration this fall were few, but one was found along a service road at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 10/6, and another was seen in a driveway adjacent to the east side of CRP, west of Galt, for a few days mid-month. These birds are typically found by their eyeshine in vehicle headlights as they perch on little-travelled roads after dark.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

William Gardner
Helen Hancock
Michele Jay
Susan Mastman
Aleksander Podlubny
Cheryl Stewart

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. There is no monthly meeting in December so the date for the next meeting is January 26 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.

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

Observations continued

Shorebird numbers continued fairly high, but rarities were limited, with a **Red Knot** from 10/5-8 at the Sacramento Regional WTP (just the third record for the county and the first in twenty years). A **Parasitic Jaeger** was reported at Folsom Lake from Folsom Point on the early morning of 10/28, and a **Long-eared Owl** was found in the Sacramento Bypass (Yolo County) on 10/19. Overlooked in last month's column was the report of a dead **Flammulated Owl** found in the Land Park neighborhood of Sacramento on 9/25. This species is rarely detected in migration, away from its mid-elevation breeding grounds.

A female **Vermilion Flycatcher** was reported at the Woodland WTP on 10/31, and a "**Solitary Vireo**" with characteristics pointing toward **Blue-headed Vireo** was seen on 10/19 at CRP. We might be in for a good winter of irruptive finches, with higher than typical numbers and reports of

Purple Finches and **Pine Siskins** throughout the region. Single **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported on 10/17 in east Davis and near Cal Expo on 10/28. **Red Crossbills** were reported from east Davis, with 12 on 10/27, and at least one on 10/29. A late **Grasshopper Sparrow** was a nice find along Desmond Rd at CRP on 10/31, away from its low foothill, grassland haunts. Late **Yellow-breasted Chats** were nice surprises from Elk Slough in southern Yolo County on 10/3 and from Sailor Bar (ARP) on 10/16. A **Tennessee Warbler** was reported along Babel Slough on 10/4 and again on 10/9, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** was found on 10/2 at the Putah Creek Riparian Reserve.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Society Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/bird-sightings).

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 listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Steve Abbott, Bill Avery, Max Brodie, Andy Engilis, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Scott Hoppe, Emmett Iverson, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Barbara Leary, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Frances Oliver, Michael Perrone, Sonia Santa Anna, Steve Scott, John Trochet, Sally Walters, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon Society
P.O. Box 160694
Sacramento, CA 95816

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facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



White Tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: membership@sacaudubon.org

P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,
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ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

7pm, January 21, 2021

There is no meeting in December.
Enjoy your holidays safely.

January's meeting will be held online via Cisco Webex. To receive a link to join the meeting, email meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org during the first part of January next year.