

# The Observer

## Sacramento Audubon Society



### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### NEW WEB SITE

I am happy to announce the launch of Sacramento Audubon Society's new website. You will find the site very userfriendly and equipped with many helpful features. Like our original website, it is full of information. The gorgeous photos throughout are by chapter members. You can even access the site via your smartphone or tablet! To visit go to [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

It was clear to the Website Committee that the original SAS website needed updating. Since March of 2019 this team of dedicated SAS volunteers has worked diligently on the project. Most recently, they have had to contend with the limitations created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Forging ahead, the committee members utilized web video for their meetings, relied on email, and worked individually to meet their goal of launching the new website by mid June.

The Website Committee members are Gesna Clarke, Mary Forrestal, John Harding, Jane Van Kessel, Elliot Chasin, Heather White and Daphne Reimer. On behalf of the board and members of Sacramento Audubon Society,

I want to thank the Website Committee for its excellent work. Special recognition goes to Gesna Clarke for her leadership as committee chair. Without her perseverance, vision and organizational ability the new website would not be launching this early. There are many other individuals who deserve credit for their contributions. Look for them on our new website under About Us/Credits.

You might be wondering what this is costing the chapter. During their research the committee learned web design firms charge anywhere from \$3,000 to \$10,000 to create a basic website. This high dollar amount motivated them to look elsewhere. The committee selected Squarespace, a website building platform recommended by National Audubon. The Squarespace fees will only cost the chapter slightly more than \$200 annually, a comparable amount to what we've already been paying.

#### NATIONAL AUDUBON STATEMENT AGAINST RACISM

On June 4th the SAS board sent out a letter to our members in support of National Audubon's statement regarding racism faced

by birders of color and the systemic racism plaguing our nation as a

whole. (The board letter can be found on our website under News & Events/News.) We recognized that there is much more we can do as an organization to address racial injustice. To that end, we will announce new strategies for engaging and supporting local birders of color in the coming months.

#### PANDEMIC RESPONSE

COVID-19 remains a threat to public health. All activities (field trips, general meeting and guest speaker series, educational and outreach activities and programs) are cancelled. You can check the calendar for scheduled virtual events hosted by other organizations. We hope to host a virtual general meeting and guest speaker in the near future. If you have any virtual events or lectures to recommend let us know. Check the website, *The Observer*, or our Facebook page for status updates on the resumption of SAS activities.

The annual events NatureFest, Lodi Crane Festival and the Central Valley Bird Symposium have been cancelled. The UCCE Master Gardeners of Sacramento County will be hosting Virtual Harvest Day on August 1. Go to [sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest\\_Day/](http://sacmg.ucanr.edu/Harvest_Day/) or call 916-875-6913 for more information.

#### FUTURE EVENTS

We look forward to the day when we can resume our activities as a chapter. Until then we can only try to come up with more creative ways to function as an organization. The new website will be a huge part of that effort. It's possible that field trips might come back but with much smaller groups and restrictions. We continue to support the conservation work of Habitat 2020 and the Environmental Council of Sacramento. Our support of Dr. Michelle Steven's Bushy Lake Restoration Project also continues. Another project SAS has been able to support is the California Montessori Project Youth Birding Club. We have lots of other ideas and plans for the future but, for now, our health and safety must take priority. Happy birding whether it be outdoors (social distancing, of course!), in your backyard or online.

Stay well, Bill Bianco, President, Sacramento Audubon Society



# 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.

## HARRIET SAECK – Treasurer

I have been a board member for about three years. I was asked by then Board President Sally Walters to serve on the board and fill the treasurer position. I love birding and had been birding with Sally and her late husband Don Schmoldt many times. Sally knew my professional background and thought I could help.

I am an accountant, specializing in non-profits. I was the Director of Finance for the Sacramento Zoo for 10 years. Since retirement, I have volunteered for several local non-profits as their treasurer and have worked on updating their accounting systems. I have worked toward this goal with Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) and am hopeful that I have recommended procedures to enhance the society's accounting practices.

I view my relationship with the board in two ways. First and foremost I am an advisor on budget matters. I have given the Board the knowledge and confidence in its finances so the members may accomplish SAS's mission. Secondly, I have learned so much about local conservation issues through my engagement with other board members.



Harriet Saeck

I have been extremely impressed with SAS's outreach to the community and to education. I think a challenge would be in expanding community relations and communication of local conservation issues.

It has been an honor to work with the very professional and knowledgeable group on the board. It's also a lot of fun!

## HEATHER WHITE – Recording Secretary

I have been a Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) board member for 2 years and a SAS member for about 6 years.

I am originally from the Ozarks of southern Missouri and moved to California when I was 19. I grew up on 10 acres of land, down a gravel road, in a "holler" bordered on two sides by Mark Twain National Forest. I developed a love of nature when I was a kid, hopping the fence and entertaining myself in the forest.

I joined SAS because I love birds and am passionate about their conservation. I realized how cool birds are when I was an undergraduate at Sonoma State and I worked as a research assistant on a shorebird study at Bothin Marsh Preserve in Marin County. I work in the Natural Resources Division of California State Parks. While my position with State Parks focuses on wildlife issues at the statewide level, SAS allows me to get involved with local wildlife conservation, which I really appreciate.



Heather White

I enjoy seeing the dedication and hard work of my fellow board members. They all inspire me to get more involved and stay abreast of local issues. I love being among fellow conservationists.

One of my favorite events we sponsor is Nature Bowl. I've had the honor of serving as a judge at one of our Nature Bowl competitions and I really enjoyed seeing the kids' eyes light up as they identified the natural phenomena they'd been studying in the classroom at a local park.

Two of the biggest issues facing birds today are habitat loss and climate change. With an ever-changing economic and development landscape around Sacramento, SAS has an important role in advocating for local habitat conservation. It is difficult to know how best to influence decision-makers and position our organization to get our positions heard. Habitat conservation benefits not only birds, but other wildlife, and even humans, when public access is provided, where appropriate, and made available to all.

Would you like to join a hard-working, dedicated group of nature-lovers who share your values, in making a difference for local conservation and environmental education? If so, consider serving on the board.

## Jane Van Kessel – Membership Chair

I joined Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) in October 2014 and have been on the Board since mid-2016. I was appointed Membership Chair in 2018 and love the position!

I have always loved nature and animals of all kinds. However, it was the Barn Owl that sparked my profound interest in birds. A few years prior to my retirement from nursing, I asked my husband to build and put up a Barn Owl box in our backyard. A pair of Barn Owls came three months after the box went up in 2012. Every year except for one, when bees took up residence, there have been clutches raised in our owl box. One year there were two clutches! I soon discovered that Barn Owls are the most fantastic and devoted parents. It has been amazing to watch them. After the Barn Owls came, I started looking at every bird I saw and became fascinated with them all! I was hooked.



Jane Van Kessel

When I share with my family and friends about a fascinating nature area that I just visited or about an exciting bird I just saw, many respond with: "That's nice, Jane." and quickly change the subject. To my dismay, I again realize that these special interests of mine are not as universal as I wish they were. That is why it's so wonderful when I am among SAS members and bird lovers in general. It is so pleasant to be among those who enjoy discussing such top

Jane Van Kessel continued on page 3

**Jane Van Kessel** continued from page 2  
ics. When I go on SAS field trips, I feel at home.

I have enjoyed being on the SAS Board of Directors for the same reason. I am again with folks who share similar values and thoughts. My fellow SAS Board members want to ensure that education about wild birds is accessible in our area and continually strive to protect our area's wild birds and their habitats, as do I.

One of the top challenges for SAS is our ongoing push to protect our area's wild bird habitats. We need to continue to be a strong advocate for the preservation of these areas and to provide support for causes that safeguard wild birds and other wildlife. Future generations need to be able to experience and appreciate nature as we do.

In addition, SAS needs to strive to both increase and diversify our membership. We need to find more opportunities to showcase our efforts and goals to attract more people to join us. If we can interest more people of all ages who are from various cultures and ethnicities, it will strengthen our cause and give us a broader vision. Diversity brings in novel ideas and will help us explore new avenues for accomplishing our goals.

My time on the SAS Board has been extremely rewarding. The goals in our society's mission are so vital. Acting on and carrying out these goals is worth one's time and effort. We have so much more to do; so if you are interested, please reach out!



*Western Pondhawk*  
Chris Conard



*12 Spotted Skimmer*  
Chris Conard



*Common Whitetail*  
Chris Conard



*Variegated Meadowhawk*  
Chris Conard

## DRAGONFLIES OF SUMMER

As late May gives way to June, and then July, bird activity in our area slows. One compensation for this is an abundance of dragonflies. Some of the larger, showy species are pretty easy to tell apart. Others are tricky and some of the damselflies require a net and a hand lens to identify to species. There is a wonderful UC Press book, *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California*, by Sacramento's own Tim Manolis. Many a slow morning bird walk can be saved by increased odonate (the collective term for dragonflies and damselflies) activity as the day warms. Dragonflies are larger than damselflies, with a round head largely taken up by compound eyes resembling ski goggles, and wings held perpendicular to the body when perched. Damselflies are smaller, with a hammerhead appearance made up of the opposing sets of compound eyes, and most fold their wings in line with their bodies when perched.

Common dragonflies to look for include Common Green Darner, Blue-eyed Darner, Flame Skimmer, Twelve-spotted Skimmer, Widow Skimmer, Common Whitetail (I think my favorite local ode), Western Pondhawk, Blue Dasher, Variegated Meadowhawk (amazingly abundant in late summer), Black Saddlebags, Spot-winged Glider (abundant in summer), and Wandering Glider. The power blue or whitish substance on some species, like the Common Whitetail and Twelve-spotted Skimmer, is called pruinescence. When the animal dies, it quickly fades; strange and ephemeral. Dragonflies are most abundant around water, but many wander widely, and you'll likely notice several species in your yard in the next few months. You can quite easily see the species mentioned above this summer right around Sacramento.

*Chris Conard*

# REFLECTIONS BE REFLECTIONS?



North Laguna Creek Wild Life Area  
Gesna Clarke

SAS Friend,

Over the next few months *The Observer* will feature a section called *Reflections*. All SAS members will have an opportunity to share tips and stories about how they're managing their new circumstances during the COVID 19 pandemic. This section will be featured in upcoming *Observers*. If you have thoughts or tips to share, send them to [education@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:education@sacramentoaudubon.org) by the 10th of the month. Your comments will appear in either the August issue of *The Observer*.

Thank you, Gesna Clarke, Education Chair

## PRECIOUS LIFE

I see this tree every day yet I don't  
my mind's focused, tasks at hand  
yard  
in full bloom like a palette  
today I slow down, as so many under  
shelter at home  
but today I ponder  
the smaller things, life's subtleties  
what's in between the lines of my life  
not it's lemonade on a hot day  
nor a basket for a meringue pie  
but to reflect, to ramble over its  
beauty  
and function, the ripples it casts  
Dappled yellow orbs, suspended  
swaying and swaying, in unison  
luscious with quiescent nipples  
so patient beneath blue sky like a  
constellation  
Your story is one of the ancients  
of sweat and smiles of cultivators  
commoners and royalty, beggars  
and banquets  
threads of cuisine, bouquets and  
invisible ink letters  
For shading kisses cushioned by  
loamy earth  
seducing lovers with bloom's fragrance  
a home to thrush's soft serenade  
from seeds of hope in brave new  
worlds

My gaze is held captive  
the tight textured skins beam  
sunlight dances from fruit to fruit  
dangling, ready to release  
perhaps one will drop into my lap  
let me caress its smooth, gilded  
globe  
to freshen old, garden worn hands  
and savor its piquant zest  
I bath in the beauty of a generous  
crown  
The tree's slow rhythms fill me  
easing the idleness from the pandemic  
silently stirring the warmth of  
spring's sweet song

Bruce Forman

## THE TREASURY OF BIRDS

Like many, bird watching brings me joy,  
connects me to nature, and fills me with  
peace. Covid-19 hasn't changed that.  
There is an exciting and mysterious com-  
ponent to bird watching as nature unfolds  
into unexpected sights. For example the  
Red Shouldered Hawk hopping in the tall  
grass, tipping its head like a Robin, listen-  
ing, and pulling up a worm, and then  
repeating multiple times. Or a Great Blue  
Heron who drifts down stream like a duck,  
getting out of the water, walks to the start  
point, and repeats the float trip multiple  
times. Why? Lots of questions, lots of mys-  
teries to unravel. Lots to learn.

Our experi-  
ences bird  
watching  
stay immor-  
talized in  
our memory  
for years  
in what I  
call "The  
Treasury  
of Birds". I  
bet each of you  
have such a Treasury even if it is unnamed.  
Maybe it is a special Life Bird, or a special  
scene you shared with friends or family.  
The memory can be recalled, revitalized  
and shared again—a day that keeps on giv-  
ing. We are blessed to be bird watchers,  
even more so during the current pandemic.

Carla Babaro

Carla Barbaro



## JUST ADD WATER

A well-known quip in the gardening world  
is: "Question: When's the best time to  
plant a tree? Answer: 30 years ago!" I grew  
up in soggy northern England and my wife  
is a Michigan farm girl so when we first  
saw this 2.5 acre treeless, bush-less, parched  
land in July 1989 we christened it "Dead  
Man's Gulch".

But in winter the gulch became a seasonal  
swale, which we enlarged. We then dug  
out a year-round pond, planted trees and  
shrubs like mad, "applied water regularly"  
and voila, 31 years later we have a mini-  
reserve. Those spindly 5 gal Valley and Live  
Oaks are now 50+ feet, while the poplars  
and willows (Gooding's mostly) just arrived

## MESSAGE FROM THE SAS BOARD

June 4, 2020

Dear Sacramento Audubon Chapter Members:

As the events of the past week have demonstrated, there are dangers facing our fellow birders, naturalists, and nature lovers who are people of color. Since Christian Cooper's experience in New York City's Central Park went viral, more people of color have come forward with their harrowing and heartbreaking stories sharing the lengths to which they must go to work, study, or just enjoy the outdoors.

We would like to draw your attention to National Audubon Society's swift response in support of Christian Cooper: "Black Americans often face terrible daily dangers in outdoor spaces, where they are subjected to unwarranted suspicion, confrontation, and violence," said Audubon SVP for State Programs Rebecca Sanders. "The outdoors—and the joy of birds—should be safe and welcoming for all people. That's the reality Audubon and our partners are working hard to achieve. We unequivocally condemn racist sentiments, behavior, and systems that undermine the humanity, rights, and freedom of Black people. We are grateful Christian Cooper is safe. He takes great delight in sharing New York City's birds with others and serves as a board member of the New York City

Audubon Society, where he promotes conservation of New York City's outdoor spaces and inclusion of all people."

As board members of the Sacramento Audubon Society, we wholeheartedly agree with the sentiments expressed by National Audubon. We applaud their efforts to work towards a more equitable society and we commit to doing the same as an organization. Through education, outreach, and collaboration we plan to expand our support of our fellow (and future) birders of color locally to ensure everyone has access to, and can enjoy birds and the natural world. We know there is much work ahead of us but we view these challenges as opportunities for positive change. We hope we can count on your support.

Sincerely, Members of the Board Sacramento Audubon Society

For more information on National Audubon's response visit [audubon.org/news/audubon-statement-incident-central-parks-ramble](http://audubon.org/news/audubon-statement-incident-central-parks-ramble)

For more information on #BlackBirdersWeek visit [audubon.org/news/black-birders-week-promotes-diversity-and-takes-racism-outdoors](http://audubon.org/news/black-birders-week-promotes-diversity-and-takes-racism-outdoors)



so now we have riparian thickets for warblers, vireos, woodpeckers etc.

As we can run our consulting business from home we finally have time for those winter visitors (our first Red Breasted Nuthatch season-ticket holder this year!), the elusive migrants (was it an Olive-Sided or just a dark-ish Western Wood Peewee...? – ask Chris C) and the usual Central Valley nesting suspects in summer. We can confidently claim well over 100 species on or over this spot and a good day brings 20-30 from Hooded Mergansers (egg-dumper in a Wood Duck box) and Osprey to Hermit Thrush and Pine Siskins.

Oh, and that quip about when to plant a tree? We have our very first raptor nest (Cooper's Hawk) in one of those 50 ft Live Oaks (planted in 1992), though sadly we think the local Ravens—also new around here—got the eggs.

While we have friends and clients tragically impacted by this awful pandemic, we know we are very fortunate to be able to stay-in-place in this place. Best wishes all,

*Ian and Lisa Baldwin*



*Lorquin's Admiral*  
Bushy Lake  
Dan Williams

*American Kestrel*  
Bushy Lake  
Dan Williams



## BUSHY LAKE RESTORATION UPDATE

### GRANT APPROVAL

CSU Sacramento Environmental Studies Professor Michelle Stevens recently received a grant from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board to develop a Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan for Bushy Lake. There are three key objectives to the Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan; Objective 1: Conduct studies and develop a plan for Western pond turtles and other sensitive wildlife species conservation; Objective 2. Conduct studies and design a plan for fire resilient refuge for native flora and fauna and Objective 3. Draft and Final Conceptual Restoration Plan.

Professor Stevens plans to establish a Technical Advisory Committee to support the conceptual restoration project: The Technical Advisory Committee will be comprised of scientists, biologists, and other professionals with expertise and knowledge relevant to component areas of the restoration plan. Sacramento Audubon member and biologist Dan Williams will serve on this committee and continue

ongoing avian surveys. A second Audubon member will also be invited to serve on the committee. If you are interested in serving, contact Dan Williams at Daniel.Williams@hdrinc.com.

### AVIAN SURVEY

Since March Dan has coordinated CSU interns' avian survey at Bushy Lake. He and the interns have recorded 106 species during the first 9 rounds of point counts, with the following species confirmed nesting on site: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Anna's Hummingbird, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Black Phoebe, Western Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Bushtit, Western Bluebird, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starlings, Hooded Oriole, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Professor Stevens says the avian survey will play an integral role in development of the Bushy Lake restoration plan.

Read more about Bushy Lake at [www.bushylake.com](http://www.bushylake.com).

*Dan Williams*

## “Even during a pandemic we celebrate new life and watch family drama unfold”

May 28, 2020

Sacramento Audubon Society member, student of nature and wildlife photographer, Kathy Kayner captures it all near Lake Natoma—a site where bald eagles have been nesting for the past few years. Below Kathy recounts what she observes.

### GENTLE DRAMA AT THE BALD EAGLE NEST

Today, when I arrived to check out the Eaglets from across the Lake, I saw Mama and #8 were standing together in the nest. I heard vocalizations and thought it was coming from one of the Eaglets as they are forever hungry.



I looked up higher and saw another bird perched up above the nest and thought that bird is skinny but just could not make it out. I circled it.



Then I could tell by Mama's body language that she was about to take off, so I kept my camera on her: Eventually the bird perched above the nest flew after Mama vocalizing all the way...



They eventually flew past each other. It was a 3rd year Bald Eagle—Probably #1, a female. I noticed that Mama is alright with a female, prior offspring, flying around the nest but, it is not allowed anywhere near it while the Eaglets are still there . . . A male will be aggressively screamed at and vigorously chased away by Papa.



The 3rd year eagle landed on a tree about 120 yards east of the nest tree and stayed there for about 45 minutes:



Mama flew back into the nest while the 3rd year Eagle kept flying around the nest:



Eventually it flew across the lake awfully close to me and turned to try to land back onto the nest tree. Mama was not having it and gave chase but in a non aggressive way:



Mama was at her limit and flew off to chase it eastward. Papa flew in out of nowhere and chased it as well. With Papa taking care of #1, Mama flew back into the nest to keep an eye on her Eaglets:



I can tell there is a soft spot in Mama's heart for her previous offspring but when they fly too close to the nest, she gently reminds them that this nest is no longer their home and they must leave. I do not know why #1 returned, other than it might have wanted something to eat. I do know the Eaglets in the nest did not like having it around. They vocalized quite loudly whenever it flew near the nest tree.

## BOBELAINE VISITORS:

Be aware that the final section of the road (dirt and gravel) to Bobelaine is a private road and visitors should maintain a slow vehicle speed (5 mph). See the directions at [www.sacramentoaudubon.org/Resources/Bobelaine](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/Resources/Bobelaine).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

American Online Giving, Bill Bianco, Jodie L Crandell, Ellen Dutkiewicz, Gil Ewing, Joshua Frost, Debbie Michel & Pablo Garza, Melissa Gates, Barbara Jeffus, Elizabeth Johnson, Joann Ludwig, Rosemary Mayfield, Valerie Phillips, Carolyn Schilling, Emily & Kelley Shelton, David Steele, Alta & Del Tura and Your Cause-Npo Nonprofit made donations to the **General Fund**.

Bill Bianco, Gesna Clarke, Norman Eade, Dennis Eckhart, Marc & Natalie Fenner, Charles McDonald, Alice (Joan) Miller, Valerie Phillips and Alta & Del Tura made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Sonja Armour, Bill Bianco, Janice Caravantes, Elizabeth Galbreath, M Kevin Mc Rae, Valerie Phillips and Alta & Del Tura 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.

### 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 July. It is not clear when they will resume, so please check the SAS website, [sacramentoaudubon.org](http://sacramentoaudubon.org), and our Facebook page as they will reflect future field trips as soon as they are scheduled once again.



## Members Interested In Art and Gardening

Jane Ingram Allen has been selected by the City of Sacramento to do an environmental art project at Sojourner Truth Community Garden in the Pocket-Greenhaven area. She wants to involve community people of all ages to participate in the process and installation. Jane did a similar public art project at Santa Clara, CA in 2018. It is called "Living Quilt for Santa Rosa" For a slide show see: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rfH104j92o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6rfH104j92o).

Anyone interested in participating should contact Jane by email at [info@janeingramallon.com](mailto:info@janeingramallon.com). The project will start in October or November depending on advisories about the Coronavirus.



## Salmon Habitat Construction At Ancil Hoffman Park

To restore habitat for salmon and steelhead, gravel restoration projects have been undertaken in the American River west of the Nimbus Dam. A major project was undertaken last year at Sailor Bar that resulted in successful increases in salmon and steelhead nests in the restored gravel. Another gravel restoration project is scheduled for Ancil Hoffman Park. If all the permits are finalized there will be heavy equipment in and around the river at Ancil Hoffman Park for the month of September 2020. While it is somewhat shocking to see heavy equipment in the river, steps are taken to assure the equipment is managed to eliminate contamination of the river. More information about these habitat restoration projects can be found at: [www.waterforum.org/the-river/habitat-management/](http://www.waterforum.org/the-river/habitat-management/)

*Larry Hickey*



### SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon)

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

## Seasonal Observations

May 1 to May 31

### Rare and Unusual Bird Reports [www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

Certainly by mid-month, many people were getting out in the field and traveling more widely than they had during the first month and a half of the stay-at-home order for COVID-19. The migration came in fits and starts, with some really high numbers of regular songbird migrants in early May and a few vagrants peppered in, raising excitement levels. A young male **Common Goldeneye** lingered through at least 5/26 along the American River Parkway (ARP) near Paradise Beach and another young male was reported on the Delta Shores Circle pond, just north of the Bufferlands, on 5/23. **Black Swifts** are rarely encountered on the Valley floor, and

when they are, it is usually during periods of unsettled weather. This May, singles were reported from Sailor Bar along the ARP on 5/13 and 5/25.

Among the shorebird highlights was a **Sanderling** in breeding plumage at the Woodland WTP on 5/18. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 5/4, and one was found on the same date at the Yolo County Central Landfill Pond. A bigger surprise came in the form of four **Red Phalaropes** in a flooded field near the Davis Wetlands on 5/18. **Least Terns** were first noted back at the Sacramento Regional WTP on 5/8, with two pairs attempting nesting; success is difficult, with a high level of predation by **Common Ravens**, **Swainson's Hawks**, and others on the young of nesting stilts and avocets, as well



## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Max Brodie            Alice "Joan" Miller  
Ken Cherry            Dawn Salazar  
Kathryn Firsching    John Williams  
Joshua Frost          Sue Zuehlke  
Aja Holmes  
Robert Jensen  
Charles McDonald

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at [biancowm@yahoo.com](mailto:biancowm@yahoo.com); or 916-372-3318 to find out if 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 be held at 7pm at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at [sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html). Scroll down to 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. 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

[www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)  
[sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com)  
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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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.

### *Observations* continued

as the terns. Sacramento County's second **Glossy Ibis** was found along Desmond Rd at CRP from 5/5-7.

Among the songbird highlights were typically wintering species found later than usual into spring, including a very late **Golden-crowned Kinglet** singing at Twitchell Island on 5/21, and a singing brown (female-type) **Purple Finch** at CRP on 5/12. Unprecedented numbers of **Chipping Sparrows** were reported in April, but much more surprising was a nesting pair found in a closed portion of CRP in mid-May and continuing into June, establishing the first breeding record for the county and perhaps for the Valley floor. A **Brewer's Sparrow** was a nice find along the grassland portion of Michigan Bar Rd on 5/25. Good numbers of **Yellow-breasted Chats** were reported, including

one apparently on territory at Sailor Bar. Notable vagrants included a **Tennessee Warbler** at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on 5/9, a **Kentucky Warbler**, exceedingly rare for the region, seen by many at Yolo Grasslands Regional Park on 5/27, a male **Hooded Warbler** at CRP on 5/29, and a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at CRP on 5/16.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html](http://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 listserve ([cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org)) and in eBird ([ebird.org](http://ebird.org)). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Max Brodie, Lyann Comrack, Matthew Doyle, Konshau Duman, Leo Edson, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Mike Guard, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Michael Novak, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Jason Riggio, Steve Scott, Sean Smith, Jim Thomas, John Trochet, Bart Wickel, Dan Williams, Lynette Williams.

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

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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

All programs are temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Let's hope we will all be up and running in September! Look for updates in the August issue of *The Observer* and on our website [sacramentoaudubon.org](http://sacramentoaudubon.org). In the meantime please stay healthy and watch your safe distance from others.