



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

MONTHLY SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS CAN BE WATCHED AGAIN!

Our Monthly Speaker Presentations are on hiatus for the summer. If you missed any of our fantastic online speakers or would like to watch the presentations again, they are available at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker/#past-speakers.

Presentations will resume on September 17, 2021. We don't yet know whether future presentations will be in-person, online, or some combination of the two. Check for information on future Monthly Speaker programs in the August Observer and on the website www.sacramentosudubon.org/monthly-speaker.

CORNELL LAB'S BIG DAY OF BIRDING WAS THE BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR

Our BIG DAY 2021, was the Cornell Lab's biggest conservation fundraiser of the year, and surpassed all our expectations!

As Team Sapsucker raced against the clock to find as many bird species as they could in 24 hours, thousands of people around the world showed their support for the team's mission to raise vital funds for birds.

All in all, Team Sapsucker counted 512 different bird species across 145 locations, including highlights such as Gray-cheeked Thrushes seen migrating over Florida. Team Sapsucker spotted these and so many more spectacular birds while scattered across cityscapes, canyons, wetlands, forests, and more—but they were never birding alone. You and thousands more cheered them on while raising \$396,000 for birds—funds that will go directly toward powering the Lab's conservation work for the year ahead.

Thank you for helping to making every bird count on Big Day 2021. If you've yet to make a Big Day gift, it's not too late! You can still support this important fundraiser that helps power the Lab's work on behalf of birds all year long by clicking on Donate at www.allaboutbirds.org/news/.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2021-2022

Voting on the slate opened on June 20th and will close on July 16th, 2021. You can cast your vote in one of two ways: either using the online voting link at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/board-election, or by sending in the mail-in ballot. The link to vote online will also be emailed to members. As per the SAS bylaws, one must be a dues-paying SAS member in order to vote.

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Mary Forrestal
Corresponding Secretary	Heather White
Directors	Nancy Gronert
	Eric Johnson
	Paul Miller
	Jane VanKessel

MAIL-IN BALLOT TO VOTE FOR THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2021-2022

To vote, complete and mail the ballot below to: Sacramento Audubon Society, PO Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816.

A 'yes' answer indicates your approval of all of the nominated board officers and directors for the 2021-2022 fiscal year of the Sacramento Audubon Society. Voting will close on July 16, 2021. Please vote only once. Only dues-paying members should vote. Thank you.

BALLOT

Vote

- Yes, I confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon.
- No, I do not confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Name: First _____
Last _____

Your name will be used to verify your membership.

This Month's Suggested Birding

JUNE–JULY 2021 Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com

The Field Trip Committee has decided to use *This Month's Suggested Birding* for two months at a time until we start having our normal Field Trips again. We will have new trips next month for August and September. More information about birding sites can be found on the DIY Field Trips page at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/field-trips under the recommendations for June and July. The web address for the Foothills and Sierra Nevada section is www.sacramentoaudubon.org/foothills-and-sierra-nevada. The web address for the birding locations index page is www.sacramentoaudubon.org/birding-locations. This page is a fantastic resource for the larger Sacramento area.

Loney Meadows

A beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation.

The area can have some excellent birding. 8 species of woodpecker, (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's



Townsend's Solitaire
Dan Brown

Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. This area requires a hike of about 2-3 miles over mostly level terrain, however, there is one short, fairly steep incline, and a creek crossing on stepping stones. Directions to Loney Meadows can be found here: www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/regions/Pacific_Southwest/LoneyMeadow/index.shtml

Mather Lake

A great local birding location, and usually turns up quite a list of bird species. You can expect a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. To reach Mather Regional Park, from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Boulevard, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

River Bend Park

Always a very nice morning walk through the oak woodland to the American River, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. Morning is best. 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.

Indian Grinding Rocks State Park, Amador County

The birdlife in this area varies depending on the season, but many species are seen year round, including Turkey Vultures, Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, Wild Turkeys (non-native), and California Thrashers. In summer, the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods around the meadow. Some light to moderate walking is required. The park is northeast of Stockton in the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Take State Highway 88 East through Jackson to the town of Pine Grove. Take a left turn on Pine Grove-Volcano Road and approximately 1.5 miles later you will arrive at the park. The SECOND turnoff is the main entrance to the day use area while the first turn off is to the campground.

Crystal Basin

is a great place for birding in late spring. Flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, several species of woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbird are all good possibilities. If you are lucky, you can find Mountain Quail with young. Expect the trip to last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. From Sacramento, take Highway 50 east to Ice House Road, about 60 miles. Take Ice House Road and explore any areas along the road that have safe parking.



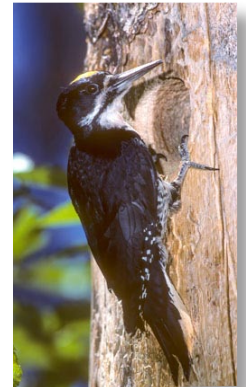
Williamson's Sapsucker
Dan Brown

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca

This is a great trip for mid-summer, after the snow has receded (timing varies depending on the previous winter snow levels). This is a high elevation 3-mile hike (8600 feet elevation) in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch and, with luck, Sooty Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Bring lunch and plenty of liquids; wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather. Carson Pass is a USFS fee area for day-use parking. This hike should be considered moderate to strenuous depending upon your physical condition. Carson Pass is about 90 miles east of Sacramento via Highway 16 and Highway 88.

Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley

is very good in June and early July with nesting and feeding activity and possibly some newly fledged young. At the pass look for Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Western Tanager and other montane species. In the valley, look for Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and water birds in the marsh such as Wilson's Snipe, Willets, Bitterns and Sandhill Cranes. From Sacramento, it's approximately 2.5 hours to Yuba Pass. Head east on I-80; take exit 188B at Truckee and turn left (north) on 89; drive 25 miles to the intersection of highways 89 and 49 in Sierraville. Turn left on Hwy 49 and go about 11 miles to Yuba Pass. Follow signage for Yuba Pass campground. After birding the pass area, head back east on Highway 49 to Highway 89, turn north, then after several miles, turn east on Calpine Road, then North on Westside Road, which changes names to Beckwith/Calpine Road. Follow this road North to Marble Hot Springs Road and turn east. This will take you to the marsh area.



Black-backed Woodpecker
Dan Brown

HEADING UP THE HILL

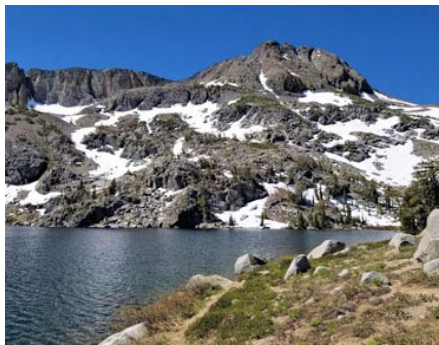
There are a handful of mountain locations I visit nearly every year. There is a tension between visiting known sites with a good track record and trying to explore new ones. As late spring approaches, the temperatures rise and bird diversity in the Sacramento Valley drops, and the urge to visit a few of my favorite places in the Sierra is impossible to resist. Because I live near the Hwy 50 corridor, most of these locations are easily accessed from there, so depending on where you live, your list of favorites is likely to be different. More



Pine Grosbeak
Chris Conard

information on the sites below can be found on the SAS website at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/foot-hills-and-sierra-nevada. Granite Springs Rd off Ice House Rd is a great place to see a nice mix of mid-elevation Sierran species. This area is best visited in mid-May to June, but will have some activity throughout the summer. As with everywhere this year, the season is advanced with early snowmelt (from a much reduced snowpack). The most productive area is about 3.5 miles in from Ice House Rd, near the spring, with brushy hillsides and standing snags from the Fred's Fire. It is especially good for Nashville and MacGillivray's warblers. The very different looking but similar sounding Thick-billed Fox Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhees are usually pretty easy to find here. The towhee's song is usually buzzier and not quite as musical; the towhee's call sounds like a cat's mew, while the Fox Sparrow's sounds like the sharp chip of a California Towhee (unlike the loud smack of the northerly-breeding Fox Sparrows we have around Sacramento in winter). In recent years, Lewis's Woodpeckers have nested in snags in the vicinity of the springs. Hearing the "quark" of Mountain Quail is easy, but seeing them usually takes a few visits and a little luck. A full write-up can be found at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/birding-locations.

Depending on the year, June or July and beyond is a great time to visit the Wright's Lake area. The mountains are among the prettiest in the north-central Sierra, and Wright's Lake has an excellent track record for Black-backed Woodpecker and Pine Grosbeak, among the more expected species. I typically walk the road that goes past the



Winnemucca Lake and Round Top
Chris Conard

cabins on the south side of the lake and a portion of the trails to the east that lead to Twin, Island, Grouse, and Smith lakes. Listen for Lincoln's Sparrows singing in the marshy areas, and Spotted Sandpipers are usually somewhere along the shore of Wright's Lake. One of the most dramatic locations within two hours of Sacramento is Winnemucca Lake under the cliffs of Round Top (the "pretty meter" maxes out at 10). I typically walk from Woods Lake to Lake Winnemucca, sometimes out and back, and sometimes as a loop past Round Top Lake. Red Crossbills and Rock Wrens are often found, along with species mentioned above (occasionally Pine Grosbeak). Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches are sometimes found, but I have never been so lucky (around 20 trips, including two to the top of Round Top). If you have time to drive 30 minutes farther east, the little park in Markleeville along the creek, as well as Airport and Diamond Valley roads east of Hwy 89, are definitely worth repeated visits. Before long, migrant shorebirds will be coming back through the Valley, followed closely by the migrant songbirds, but an escape to the mountains sure helps shake the summer doldrums.

Chris Conard

Bathing Beauties 2

Who knew Western Screech-Owls took baths?? My friend, Bea, recently witnessed bird behavior that is a surprise even to long-time birders. Here is how she describes it:

Swim, Perch or Bathe?

"Of late, I've been an earlier riser than usual because I have a Western Screech-Owl in my backyard nesting box. Friday am early, almost dawn, "Owlie" took a break from his nightly ritual of hunting elsewhere and sailed down from his nesting box to my birdbath all in one easy swoop. He sat on the edge with his short tail in the water and searched the yard looking in every direction, then down, flying to the nearby garden bed finding a moth to eat. He then flew back to the edge of the birdbath and just flopped forward into the center of the bath, climbed to the other side, turned around and took one more forward flop into the water, before returning to his nesting box as dawn was fast approaching. He had previously used the birdbath for perching, never bathing.

Fast forward to an early am 2 days later. This time, he went the whole way, perching on the raised center of the birdbath, then immersing his tummy, fluffing feathers, fluttering wings, and getting thoroughly wet."

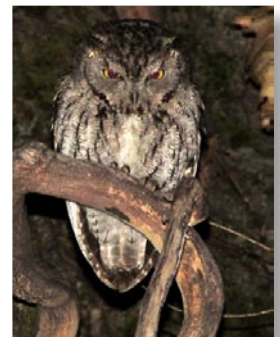
The three long-time, very good birders I have talked to about this all said they had not seen or heard of owls bathing. Assumedly, they do take baths at night, so we would not normally see them, but how fun that Bea has been able to witness this behavior.

I am reminded that in the second year of a tough drought it might be harder on birds than we know. The very high heat of this past week may also contribute to this behavior. I think being sure there is water for birds to drink and bathe in is an excellent and important thing to do.

Bea Pearson and Maureen Geiger
May 2021



Black-backed Woodpecker
Chris Conard



Western Screech-Owl
Chris Conard

BRUCE SWINEHART'S INFLUENCE CARRIES ON

Bruce Swinehart served as president of the Sacramento Audubon Society from October 1952 to August 1953. After his presidency, he continued to volunteer with Sacramento Audubon for decades. On May 13, 2021, Bruce Swinehart passed away at the age 94.

Jeri Langham, one of the many introduced to birding by Bruce, shares this remembrance:

Bruce Swinehart passed away at 94 on May 13th, 2021. I attended the Lind Brothers Mortuary Service for him on May 21. The only two people I knew there were long-time Sacramento Audubon members Tim Fitzer and Truman Holtzclaw and we spoke at the service.

I want to present examples of how Bruce's love for birds will be carried on forever.

Truman mentioned how Bruce's class changed his life. He was into diesel engines but Bruce's ability to teach and transfer his love of biology led to Truman joining the Sacramento Audubon Society. Truman went on to transfer this new love of biology to his students at Peter Lassen Junior High and then for 20 years at Sacramento High School.

I was hired by California State University in fall of 1970 to teach the introductory Plant Biology class all majors had to take. Believing field trips were important to learning, I led an optional overnight field trip to the ocean and another to the Sierra. When students asked me to identify birds, I had no clue. And I hate to admit this, but I used to think birding was only for "little old ladies in tennis shoes."

In fall of 1975, one of my teaching assistants talked me into taking a night class in bird identification from Bruce Swinehart at American River College. Bruce completely changed the rest of my

life as his love for birds and his teaching abilities opened my eyes to a new world. Soon I was chasing rare birds all over California and increasing my life list by traveling to other states. More than 7,000 students took my classes at CSUS. I was able to transfer my love of birding to some of them who now pass that love on to others wherever they live. Some who live in or near Sacramento continue to join me on Christmas Bird Counts and the four Breeding Bird Surveys I do each year and some join me for local birding activities. Their influence is inestimable.

Like Bruce, Tim and Truman and I served as Presidents of Sacramento Audubon Society and led field trips for decades. In 1986, I co-led my first tour for Victor Emanuel Nature tours and 35 years later I am still taking birders all over the world.

My son Gary was 7 years old when I started birding, so he grew up birding and around birders. He became a birder and still holds the record for being the youngest person to co-lead a VENT tour (about 90 tours with me). Gary received a PhD at Cornell University, studying birds. He then worked for Audubon for 12 years, first in California, and then in D.C. as Vice President and Chief Scientist. Without Bruce's class changing my life this never would have happened.

Truman and I are but two examples of how Bruce Swinehart was able to drastically change lives and how those changes have and will continue to move on from person to person. What an incredible legacy he left!!!

An outstanding article about his life can be read at www.legacy.com/obituaries/sacbee/obituary.aspx?n=durward-bruce-swinehart&pid=198692766&fhid=6705

Jeri Langham, May 2021

PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER BIRDING FESTIVALS?

Our traditional Birding Festivals held across the country are trying to make a comeback. They are opening up on their usual schedule and trying to highlight the species that have always migrated to their area. Many are dropping their virtual events in favor of a 'festival as usual'. If you are comfortable with this please patronize these festivals if you are able to. The two Festivals mention here are both in Arizona but you have about a month of planning time. The "Hybrid" Southwest Wings Festival does have virtual events and no indoor activities.

To find other festivals you may be interested in travel on over to www.allaboutbirds.org/news/birding-festivals/ and search their complete list of festivals across the country.

There is one caveat. Perhaps along with your binoculars you should pack some travel insurance just in case the situation in the United States changes in regards to the Covid pandemic.

Birding and Nature Events

SEDONA HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL, JULY 29-JULY 31

Arizona is well known for seeing hummingbird species, and people travel great distances to see Arizona's hummers. The Sedona Hummingbird Festival is held at the peak of Sedona's hummingbird season—5 to 7 species and typically five times the number of hummers as in early summer.

Thanks to Sedona's high altitude of 4,500 feet, the temperature is cooler than in more southern parts of Arizona, and lodging is lower at this time of year. There is no prettier place in America to see hummers.

Visit their website at www.hummingbirdsociety.org/hummingbird-festival-open/ for more information.

"HYBRID" SOUTHWEST WINGS BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL, AUGUST 4-AUGUST 8

Come celebrate the 30th Southwest Wings Summer Festival, Arizona's oldest birding festival! Registration is now open. This year's Summer Festival will be a "hybrid" festival with small-group, Covid-safe, caravan-style guided field trips in participants' own vehicles (no group vans), along with a range of free online virtual speaker talks and presentations (live and pre-recorded). There will be no indoor activities, such as registration, pre-festival Jamboree, our talks, Keynote Speaker dinner, or vendor/exhibit floor in the college library.

For more information, such as field trip descriptions, Guide bios, lists of birds seen last year, and to register, visit the website at www.swwings.org or Contact: 520-263-4507, admin@swwings.org.

AMPLIFY THE FUTURE SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE EXTENDED

At its final meeting on May 25th for the 2020/2021 fiscal year, the Sacramento Audubon Society Board voted unanimously to become a sponsor of Amplify the Future.

Amplify the Future offers scholarships to Black and Latinx birders who are undergraduates studying in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). Scholarships range from \$2500 to \$5000.

Frederick, Maryland, June 15, 2021

Today, we are announcing the extension of the deadline for the Black and Latinx Birders Scholarship to **JULY 18, 2021**.

This year, we are delivering at least three scholarships for the 2021-2022 cycle. American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has stepped forward to be our new fiscal sponsor and is matching donations up to \$10,000. ABC's sponsorship will make our work to deliver scholarships to Black birders and Brown Birders in STEM, along with new initiatives, sustainable.

American Bird Conservancy is delighted to assist in the next stage of development of the Black and Latinx Birder's Scholarship Fund. They will be providing a \$10,000 challenge match for donors wishing to support the fund in the short-term, and will be working with Amplify the Future and other partners to seek ways to develop programming to support an even broader range of deserving applicants as we advance.

We at Amplify the Future, founders of the Black and Latinx Birders Scholarship, through our work and partnerships, aim to amplify and center folx who identify as Black, as Indigenous, and/or as folx of color, and show support for TLGBQ+ identifying folx and communities. As we grow our mission, as we expand our efforts, and as we make connections which nurture our initiatives and spark new ones, we partner with groups who through their missions aim to dismantle the status quo, are committed to being anti-racist, and that support initiatives such as ours.

For more information on the scholarship eligibility and applications please visit www.amplifythefuture.org/about/black-latinx-birders/



SACRAMENTO AUDUBON EQUIPMENT DONATION PROGRAM FOR THE NEOTROPICAL GRASSLAND CONSERVANCY

Sacramento Audubon is partnering with the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy (NGC) to provide Latin American graduate students and faculty with field equipment such as binoculars and spotting scopes for use in grassland research in the Neotropics. NGC is a non-profit organization based in Sacramento/Carmichael that has provided Latin American university research labs and graduate students with equipment and monetary assistance since 2001. Sacramento Audubon members who wish to donate equipment such as binoculars or spotting scopes to the NGC have several options:

Deliver or mail the equipment to:

- Jeri M Langham
9619 Mira del Rio Drive, Sacramento, CA 95827
1-916-505-0002 - cell phone
- Kam Langham
6274 Heathcliff Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608
1-916-967-3223 - Land line (calls screened, please leave message)
- Mail equipment to:
Jeff DaCosta
150 Monroe Street, Dedham, MA 02026

If you wish to ship your items(s), please feel free to send a copy of the shipping receipt to Sacramento Audubon, PO Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694 and you will be reimbursed.

THERE ARE NOW CONFIRMED POSITIVE SAMPLES OF WEST NILE VIRUS IN SACRAMENTO AND YOLO COUNTIES.

According to the Sacramento-Yolo Vector Control District the West Nile Virus is active in our communities this year. So far there have been 16 confirmed bird deaths and 9 positive WNV samples. The majority of bird deaths so far have been Scrub Jays but the susceptible Yellow-billed Magpie is especially at risk from this disease.

Humans, of course, are also at risk so take extra precautions at this time of year to eliminate standing water around your property. Though we've had very little rain this year, which can be the major contributor to standing water, sprinklers and garden watering can also leave standing water. If you have a pond, very effective Mosquito fish can be ordered with no charge from Vector Control at 800-429-1022. This can also be done online at www.fightthebite.net.

Practice the District D's of Mosquito Prevention:

- DRAIN standing water that may produce mosquitoes.
- DAWN and DUSK are times to avoid being outdoors.
- DRESS appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside.
- DEFEND yourself by using an effective insect repellent. Make sure to follow label directions!
- DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition.
- DISTRICT personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. Call them at 800-429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net

BUT DON'T FORGET BIRDS NEED WATER

While you are checking your property for standing water please consider offering birds a continuous supply of water. Water is important to birds, not only for hydration, but also for cleaning their feathers in order that they stay in good working order. If you have a birdbath please make sure that you clean it regularly—daily in the summer. Dripping water is a great way to attract birds to your yard! Solar fountains can be found online that not only circulate water to prevent mosquitoes but also provide the sound of water that attracts birds. Also on line are hanging water bags that can be arranged to cause a drip into a planter tray, shallow container, even an old garbage can lid. You may be surprised at how many birds this attracts or the new birds that have now found your yard more interesting.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds.
- Foster the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach.
- Encourage, support, and provide environmental educational opportunities.
- Advocate for the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK



facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon
You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

BIRD STRIKE SOLUTION

Hi, folks. We have a large front window, facing north. We also have water for birds in our front yard, making it a gathering place for many different birds. Unfortunately, when I work at my computer, I've often heard things hitting that front window (or nearby), and suspected that those things could be birds. I usually have gone out and looked around, and have on rare occasions discovered a dying or stunned bird.

I have repeatedly tried to find a solution to this bird-hitting-the-window problem, but the commercial solutions—like things that hang down, stuff one can spray in the window, or decals—have never seemed suitable, partly because they obscure the view.

I think I have finally found a solution, and would like to pass it on. That large window has no screen; it doesn't open. But I ordered a screen that would fit it and secured the screen with small C-clamps. Since then I have never heard any bird making contact with the window/screen. The screen sits about 3/4 of an inch away from the window itself, and does not obscure the view.

The cost: about \$45 for the (custom-made) screen, about \$13 for four one-inch C-clamps. The clamps make removal easy, should I want to, or need to for window cleaning.

A cheap solution for saving birds' lives.
Dan Dorritie, Davis Community Network

Field Trip Information

Due to continuing coronavirus restrictions, SAS is not offering field trips for the months of June or July. Suggested places to bird according to the month can be found on page 2.

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!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for volunteers who can help with the technology aspects of future online or hybrid meetings. To volunteer your technological expertise or experience, please contact meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org. 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/Sacramento Audubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).



CHOOSE TO RECEIVE THE COLOR OBSERVER BY EMAIL

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Richard Anderson, Anne L Bersinger, Bill Bianco, Nancy & Bill Bittner, Kathy Moore & Dan Brown, Janice Caravantes, Suzanne Covington, Sue Darst, Pam Decant, Barbara Flanigan, Joshua Frost, Glenda Green, Elizabeth Johnson, Charles McDonald, Barbara Mendenhall, Clay & Penny Mitchell, Dan Murphy, Harry Oakes, D Brown & W Patterson, Valerie Phillips, David Fullerton & Daphne Reimer, Carolyn Schilling, Emily & Kelley Shelton, Timothy Spenser, Kathleen Styc, Jane Van Kessel, and Sharon Wisecarver made donations to the **General Fund**.

Rosalind Becker, Bill Bianco, Hiresha De Silva, Christine Hansen, Robert & Anne Meagher, Valerie Phillips, Patricia L. Sutch and Sharon Wisecarver made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**. Bill Bianco, Gary O Fregien, Candy Holland, Jo Ann Ludwig, M Kevin Mc Rae, Valerie Phillips, Ken Poerner, Alta & Del Tura, and Sharon Wisecarver 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.

Seasonal Sightings

May 1 to May 31

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

This May continued from last month to combine for a fairly slow spring, perhaps as a result of the persistent drought. No rare warblers were found through 5/31 and there were few reports of days with really good numbers of migrants. Unfortunately, several heron, egret, and cormorant rookeries in the region were abandoned part way through the breeding season. The cause at some sites may be complex, but at others, the early drying up of wetland foraging sites was the leading cause. There were a fair number of **Black Swift** reports in the latter half of the month, especially along the edge of the Coast Range to the west and in eastern Sacramento County. A few **Calliope Hummingbirds** lingered into early May, particularly around Mississippi Bar and Lake Natoma.

Among shorebird reports, most notable was a **Snowy Plover** at Cosumnes River Preserve from 5/2-4 and a **Sanderling** photographed at the Woodland WTP on 5/11. A pair of **Least Terns** was present

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Jennifer Benson	Chris McAllister
Bethany Cates	Barbara Mendenhall
Eileen P. Crim	Clay & Penny Mitchell
Pam DeCant	Mr and Mrs
Nicole Gardner	Timothy Spenser
Robert Gibson	Kathleen Styc
Richard Hyde	Bhavna Trehan
Andrea Leonard	

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 meeting for July. The next meeting is August 31.

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

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Sightings continued

at the Sacramento Regional WTP from 5/14-28, but they ultimately departed without attempting to nest. A combination of **Northern Harriers**, **Swainson's Hawks**, and **Common Ravens** that preyed on the chicks of **American Avocets** and **Black-necked Stilts** likely caused them to leave. A **Neotropic Cormorant** found at Ellis Lake in Marysville on 5/28, continuing into June, was a first for the area and the most northerly record in the state of this rapidly expanding species; ten years from now, this may well be a regular component of the local avifauna. Single **Least Bittern** reports came from Mather Lake on 5/22 and Wild Wings Park along Cache Creek on 5/2. A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed along Catlett Rd to the west of Lincoln on 5/28, a nice surprise among the **White-faced Ibis**.

Virtually no **Burrowing Owls** were reported this May, which may point to a near future where this species will no longer breed

locally, but will only be a winter visitor and transient. **Say's Phoebes** are heading in the other direction, with new nesting records from many sites in the past few years, including the first nesting recorded at the Sacramento Regional WTP/ Bufferlands this May. After a winter with very high numbers, a few **Pine Siskins** were reported through the end of the month and into early June. The only rare songbird reported this May was a **Black-throated Sparrow** photographed at Sailor Bar along the American River Parkway on 5/5. One highlight for the month was a fair number of **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports, both from scattered locations, and more expected sites like Sailor Bar.

To view photos of some of the highlights, visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bird-sightings, and then click on the highlighted eBird checklists.

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 (groups.io/g/centralvalleybirds) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Max Brodie, Aidan Brubaker, Lyann Comrack, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Ed Harper, Larry Hickey, Jim Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Asher Perla, Michael Perrone, Roger Muskat, Nora Papian, Jim Rowoth, Steve Scott, Sean Smith, Gaven Stacey, Cameron Tescher, John Trochet, Zeke VanZante, 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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White Tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: membership@sacramentoaudubon.org

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

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,
Sacramento, CA 95826

916-203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@gmail.com

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

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

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ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

7pm, September 17, 2021

We're taking a break for the summer but the General Meetings and Speaker Programs will begin again on September 17. Until then, go to the SAS website at sacramentoaudubon.org and [facebook/SacramentoAudubon.com](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon.com) for the latest news about birds and society information.

And don't forget to vote for our new slate of Officers and Board Members. Voting has begun and the nominees and mail-in ballot are on page 1.