

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 69 • NO. 6

JULY 2017

General Meeting

Thursday, September 21, 2017

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Migration and Wintering Locations
of Swainson's Hawks

Dan Airola

Dan says about his study partially funded by SAS, "We put satellite transmitters on Hawks to track their movements during spring and fall migration and to locate and describe their wintering areas. We found an unprecedented diversity of wintering areas from western Mexico to central South America, which appears to distinguish the Central Valley population from those residing elsewhere in western North America."

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sacramentoaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/sacramentoaudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, President and Program Chair

Monterey Bay Pelagic and Coastal Field Trips

**SAVE THESE DATES! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017
and SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2017**

Pelagic Trip, Saturday, September 30, 2017

Coastal Field Trip Sunday, October 1, 2017

Join Sacramento Audubon for the annual Monterey Bay pelagic trip on Saturday, September 30. Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place for birding. On Saturday's boat trip we'll look for shearwaters, albatrosses and other pelagic birds as well as marine mammals. For those staying overnight in Monterey, on Sunday, October 1, we will visit coastal habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises. The boat trip will depart Fisherman's Wharf promptly at 7:30am and return about 3:30pm. The boat trip is limited to 25 participants to ensure every-

Pelagic Trip continued on page 5

In Memoriam – Bill Dillinger

William Clarke "Bill" Dillinger, local writer and environmentalist, died on April 19, 2017. He was 93. He retired in 1984 after serving 31 years with the State, rising from editorial assistant to chief of public information at the California Department of Fish and Game and then moving to the Department of Parks and Recreation in 1968 to serve there as chief of public information. As a retiree, he went on to do part-time information work for the California Tahoe Conservancy for more than 20 years. He was president of the Sacramento Audubon Society in 1986-87, and also served as Publicity Chair, and was honored with the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. He also served on the boards of the Save the American River Association, the American River Natural History Association, and the Friends of the Arden-Dimick Library. His book, *James Marshall and the Discovery of Gold in California*, is popular at the Gold Rush era parks, and won the Sacramento County Historical Society's annual Award of Merit for Publications in 1991. *A History of the Lower American River*, which he edited in 1991 for ARNHA, has continually been updated and reissued. As

a freelance writer and long-time member of the Outdoor Writers Association of California, he wrote for the Outdoor and Forum sections of The Sacramento Bee, and for National Audubon magazine, the Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, and other publications.

Born in Placerville on January 1, 1924, he was the son of the late State Senator H.E. Dillinger. He attended El Dorado County High School ('41) and graduated from Stanford University in 1947 after service as a combat infantryman in Europe. On December 28, 1947 he married Carol Ellen Renius of Manhattan Beach, CA, whom he had met at Stanford. They were married for 56 years, until her death in 2003. He is survived by four children: Ellen A. Dillinger and Carla C. Dillinger of Sacramento, Anne F. Lemieux of Galt, and William R. Dillinger of Great Falls, VA, and by six grandchildren.

Published in *The Sacramento Bee* on April 30, 2017

Field Trip Findings

Sacramento Bypass (6/14) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Today 12 of us discovered that the Sacramento Bypass is a good place to bird in mid-June. We were treated to a dark Swainson’s Hawk that posed for long, great looks and later was overhead, close and clear. Other good birds were 35 American White Pelicans, a number of Ash-throated Flycatchers, the usual House and Bewick’s Wrens, adult and juvenile Black-crowned Night-Herons, and innumerable Bullock’s Orioles. Nice morning and parking was not a problem.”

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass (6/10, 6/11) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Eleven birders braved a blustery day in Sierra Valley on Saturday. The valley was still quite wet from winter and spring storms, so nesting habitat for species like Sandhill Crane and Willet was significantly reduced, and we saw relatively few of them compared to previous years. On the other hand, waterfowl were much more abundant.

White-faced Ibis was the most common shore-bird, with American Avocet and Black-necked Stilt as runner-ups. Other highlights

for the valley include breeding plumage Eared Grebe with young, American White Pelican, Swainson’s Hawk, Wilson’s Phalarope, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Black-billed Magpie, Sage Thrasher and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Sunday as Yuba Pass threatened, but never quite produced, the forecasted heavy rain and snow, but we had a taste of both. Highlights include Mountain Quail, calling of course. Western Wood-Pewee, Hammond’s and Dusky Flycatcher rounded out the flycatchers. Cassin’s Finch, Pine Siskin, and Evening Grosbeak lined the road shoulder, as usual. And this year we were treated to, drum roll please, two female Pine Grosbeaks. We recorded 101 species for the weekend, just shy of last year’s tally of 103. As a side note, and not part of the tally, two of us saw a thrush at the SF State U Summer Field Campus that was

all reddish from tail to head (could the Veery be back?).”

Glenn Hall Park (6/7) — Leader Sally Walters Schmoltdt reported: “7 folks recorded 30 species. Though it was very quiet we had remarkably vocal Bewick’s and House Wrens. Notably only male plumaged mallards were present, some splotched with molting feathers. No young ducklings. Green Heron thrilled us with good views. Spotted Towhees were singing, and Ash-throated Flycatchers heard and observed. Good looks at Violet-green, Tree, Cliff and Rough-winged Swallows. We observed a field trip first at this location, a male Great-tailed Grackle!”

Granite Springs Road (6/6) — Leaders Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris reported: “The day was one of listening to bird songs, observing nesting birds feeding young and beautiful mountain wildflowers. We were greeted by 8 fun people from the Placerville area and our group equaled 16 enthusiastic folks. Highlights were 8 nesting species: Calliope Hummer, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hairy Woodpecker, Cassin’s Vireo, Hermit, Macgillivray’s and Nashville Warblers and Lazuli Buntings. Beautiful day in the Sierra, great people and a fun time had by everybody.”

Mosquito Ridge (6/4) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported:

“7 people joined me on the trip into the Sierra along Mosquito Ridge Road. Overall we had a good day with a variety of birds but we really had to work for it. Highlights included White-headed Woodpecker, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Canyon Wren, Nashville, MacGillivray’s and Black-throated Gray Warblers. We also had Green-tailed Towhee, Lazuli Bunting, and Northern Oriole.”

Crystal Basin (6/3) — Leader Phyllis Wilburn reported: “We had a beautiful day in the Crystal Basin, although there is logging now on the road up to Ice House Reservoir where we usually find woodpeckers. We did have White-headed Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers, but no Pileated Woodpecker this year. We had a small group of 14 birders, and got good looks at the Golden-crowned Kinglet and the Calliope

Hummingbird, as well as MacGillivray’s, Yellow, and Hermit Warblers, and glimpses of Nashville. Warbling Vireos were singing everywhere, but kept themselves hidden. Mountain Bluebirds were easily found at Big Hill Lookout, and the view from there was spectacular with the snowy peaks in the background. We took a side trip off the trail to find the Giant Trillium (*Trillium chloropetalum*) that was blooming with maroon red flowers in the woods next to the meadow. We were surprised that they had survived the drought and were still there after so many years. All in all it was a great day to be in the Sierra Nevada birding.”

Lincoln Grasslands (5/31) — Leader John York reported: “Three birders set out in the rain, which lasted for about thirty minutes into the trip – leaving a beautiful morning to see Kingbirds, a Burrowing Owl, Swainson’s Hawk with prey and lots of quail. Highlight was probably the Ash-throated Flycatcher attacking a squirrel. Nice easy morning of birding.”

Sierra Valley (5/28) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “9 of us enjoyed a beautiful day exploring the diverse habitats of Kyburz Flat and Sierra Valley. Highlights included Sandhill Crane with young, both Wilson’s and Red-necked Phalaropes, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Willow Flycatcher, Clark’s Nutcracker, both Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Sage Thrasher, and a sweep of the Nuthatches — Red-breasted, White-breasted and Pygmy. We tallied over 80 species for the day.”

South Yuba River SP (5/27) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “Eight of us explored riparian habitat along the S Yuba River and later in Spenceville WLR. Among the 50 species seen and heard including those on the return trip to Roseville, were Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow Warbler, Band-tailed Pigeon, Pacific-slope and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bald Eagle and Bullock’s Oriole. We also had a startling encounter with a Western Rattlesnake rattling from behind a fence we were peering through.”

William Pond Park Family Trip (5/27) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “Six participants enjoyed great weather, watching a rookery of nesting Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets, and a Western

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Golden Eagle juvenile
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through July 11 contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 704-0951. For trips from July 12 through August 11, contact the scheduler Dan Tankersley, 662-1951, dantank1016@gmail.com.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

NOTE: Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.



Savannah Sparrow
Kirsten Munson

Saturday, July 1, 7am
Point Reyes National Seashore
Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266
Jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Dan will bird the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks, Lighthouse and Abbott's Lagoon if the weather is good. If it's too foggy at the coastal spots, he'll bird the onshore locations. Meet Dan at 7am at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring fluids and dress for changeable weather.

Sunday, July 2, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, July 8, 7am
Sailor Bar, American River Parkway
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the resident birds. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for

beginners. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, July 9, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Tuesday, July 11, 8:30am
Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1951
dtank1016@gmail.com
email preferred

Though much quieter than last month, the birds should still be present. We may see feeding activity and possibly some newly fledged young. At the pass we will look for Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Western Tanager and other montane species. After lunch we will head down to the valley in hopes of finding Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and others. Bring lunch and be prepared

for changing weather conditions, as summer thunder storms occur here this time of year. We'll be walking in the morning at high elevation and over uneven trails at some spots. Most of the birding in the valley will be in or near our vehicles. FRS radios, scopes, and cameras are useful. We plan to end around 3pm, but sometimes go extra innings. 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 and meet in the large parking area to the left of the highway.

Saturday, July 15
Dragonfly trip, Location: TBD
Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners, etc, but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars, water to drink and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case.

Sunday, July 16
FARALLONS PELAGIC TRIP

Tufted Puffins! Rhinoceros Auklets! Sooty Shearwaters! Don't miss this great ocean

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

birding opportunity. To ensure comfortable seating on the boat the trip is limited to 30 people. Contact Linda Pittman to sign up, pittmanl@frontiernet.net (email preferred), or phone 715-1876.

Tuesday, July 18, 7am
Granite Springs Road
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com

Join Ann and Tim for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wrights Lake. We should find a nice variety of woodpeckers and mountain residents on Granite Springs Road, and around Wright's Lake we may find Osprey and more montane species. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. FRS Radios are helpful. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Saturday, July 22, 6:30am
Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca
Leaders: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com
Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Gary and Scott on this high elevation 3-mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping and Brewer's Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Townsend's Solitaire, 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. Meet at the Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Sunday, July 23, evening trip
Bats and Swainson's Hawks
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan along with bat expert, JoEllen Arnold to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge for their evening hunt while Swainson's Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Dan Brown for meeting time and place.

Tuesday, July 25, 7am
Cabbage Patch, Calaveras County
Leader: Bill Bianco, 372-3318
biancowm@yahoo.com

Bill will bird the Ramsey Fire (Sept. 2012) site at 6600 ft. elevation, located in eastern Calaveras County, about 2-2.5 hour drive from the meeting site. Plan on walking the fire roads, which will be downhill access and uphill return to the parking area. Elevation difference of 500 ft (moderate difficulty). Looking



Spotted Sandpiper
Kirsten Munson

for woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, and other passerine birds. Depending on time additional birding can be on the Saint Michele Meadow Road. Trip will last until late afternoon, so bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, insect repellent, and bring FRS radios and scopes if you have them. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride. From Sacramento take Hwy 99 south to Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104, Exit #277; turn left (east) on Twin Cities; cross the freeway and turn right (south) on Stockton Blvd. The Park and Ride is just south of Twin Cities Road.

Saturday, July 29, 7am
Sacramento Bar
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of birds. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the

first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, July 30, 6:30am
Post-drought Sierra Birding
Leader: Jane Taylor, 587-3366
jg.taylor@att.net

By this trip, snow should have retreated from much of the Sierra, allowing access to several venues to seek birds. As other wet-winter conditions like muddy roads and trails or swampy meadows permit, Webber Lake/Lacey Meadow or Perazzo Meadow trails, Kyburz Flat, or Martis Creek Reservoir are possibilities. Birds, from a 2013 list for Lacey and Perazzo Meadows, that could be present include Willow Flycatcher, both eagles, Osprey,

Virginia Rail, Calliope Hummingbird, Pygmy Nuthatch, Townsend's Solitaire, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pileated and Hairy Woodpeckers and Pine and Evening Grosbeaks. (No promises, though!). The trip should last into early afternoon, so bring lunch and plenty of liquids. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in

Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Saturday, August 5, 12 noon-sunset
Common Nighthawks at sunset,
Yuba Gap
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for an afternoon and evening of birding in the Sierra, ending in an area that at this time of year hosts many Common Nighthawks that can be observed feeding and calling at sunset. Dan has seen up to 50 nighthawks in the air at one time here, which can present great photo opportunities! This spot is about an hour away from Sacramento. We will begin about 1:30pm birding a small private lake, looking for common Sierra birds such as Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Sandpiper, White-headed Woodpecker and possible Osprey and Bald Eagle. Also of interest at this lake are numerous species of dragonflies that we don't see in the Valley. We will then bird our way toward the nighthawk site, stopping for a picnic dinner in the field and ending the day after sunset watching the nighthawks. We will be

walking for about 2 miles total, mostly on flat terrain so wear appropriate shoes. Bring a folding chair or two and whatever you would like for our picnic dinner. Also bring water, sunscreen, a hat, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This trip is limited to 12 participants, so please contact Dan to save a spot and for meeting location/time.

Sunday, August 6, 7am
Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

August is a great time to view shorebirds in the Sacramento Valley on migration from their Arctic breeding grounds. Since ideal conditions change depending on water levels, we will visit areas with the best shorebird habitat. This may be in Yolo, Placer, or Sacramento County—or all three. This is a good chance to brush up on the common species and possibly find something unexpected. If you have a spotting scope, bring it, along with water and a snack. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Wednesday, August 9, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake and the surrounding grasslands host a variety of birds and it's one of Wayne's favorite birding spots. Join him to explore the area on this morning trip. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Bring water and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

CONDOR CAMS AT DEVIL'S GATE IN LOS PADRES NATL FOREST

For the third year in a row the public has a unique opportunity to get up-close and personal with a California Condor chick through livestreaming video of a nest. The chick and its parents live in the remote mountains near Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Ventura County, California. The camera was made live for the public on May 31st, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with partners, including the Cornell Lab of Ornithology which will carry the live camera on its Bird Cams website at www.cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/49/California_Condor/ If you spend some time on the Condor cam site you'll learn some Condor facts and see some amazing (and cute) things. Last year's Condor pair lost their first egg, undoubtedly to predation, but were able to fledge successfully a pipped captive laid egg from the Los Angeles Zoo. Unfortunately, that chick from last year's nest camera, died due to unknown causes, but biologists and other conservation partners are hopeful for a successful year of California Condor breeding, with at least 11 active nests in California.

You should also take a look at the Laysan Albatross cam. Those are some incredible birds. For instance, a typical young Albatross will spend five years at sea before finally returning to land to breed. Adults with chicks to feed take foraging trips that last up to 17 days and travel 1,600 miles away from their nest. (So the nearest Safeway is in Ohio when you need baby food!)

And just for a silly way to start off your day check out this video of one of the Laysan chicks getting ready for his day: [youtube.com/watch?v=8wniZHBjSKQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wniZHBjSKQ). I dare you not to laugh out loud.



Laysan Albatross

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

one has plenty of room, so send your reservation form and check early to reserve your spot. Note: reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. You do not need to be a Sacramento Audubon Society member to participate.

Your space will be confirmed by email after the reservation form and your check is received. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876 for further information.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Saturday, September 30, 2017 Registration deadline: September 14, 2017

Trip price: \$100 per person

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

*include the name for each person in the reservation

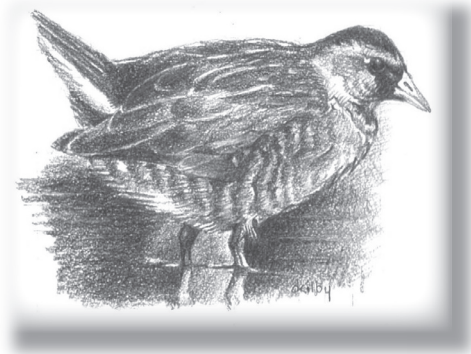
Return this form and your check made out to **Sacramento Audubon** to:
 Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE BIG DAY!

Donation amount doubled from last year

Jane VanKessel reported that SAS received a total of \$3,245 in donations that went through the Big Day online site and there were 39 donations made as part of the Big Day fund drive during May. Last year there were 32 gifts in all totalling \$1,650 so it looks like the total donation amount this year more than doubled! Thank you all very much for your participation in this event and a special thanks to Jane for acting as liaison for us with the BDOG organization.



Sora
Daniel Kilby

WATCH FOR NEW SUMMER OBSERVER ISSUES

You may be wondering what happened to June's *Observer* which you received in the mail. Where are all the other pages? The SAS Board approved having two supplemental issues over the summer. So your June issue was four pages with just Field Trips and Field Trip Findings. This is your normal July issue and you'll receive another small issue in August with just Field Trips and Field Trip Findings. This has already made scheduling summer trips easier for the Field Trips Committee and the hope is that you'll find it easier too.

POST-FLOOD BOBELAINE SANCTUARY NEEDS HELP

Damage to the Oroville Dam spillway this winter resulted in massive flooding and debris deposition along the Feather River, including at the 430-acre Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary on the river's west bank. When the floodwaters receded, we found that trees had fallen across several trails and our new benches and trail signs had washed away. Debris needs to be cleared so we can mow the trails. Although National Audubon owns the Sanctuary, Sacramento Audubon Society is responsible for maintaining it, and this year's funding needs exceed our budget. SAS contracts with the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps in a very successful education partnership, but we'll need their crews for more days this year than budgeted. We are hoping to open Bobelaine to the public again this November and to begin monthly Audubon walks there as well. If you would like to help, please send donations to SAS marked "Bobelaine" at PO Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816, or use our website, sacramentoaudubon.org.

Thank you, The SAS Bobelaine Committee

WEBSITE REDESIGN AND SUMMER STORYTIME PROGRAM!

Effie Yeaw Nature Center has a new website design and on it I found Storytime Programs. It's something I thought might interest parents and their preschool kids.

On July 20, Deer and Fawn Storytime introduces preschoolers and their parents to the wonders of the natural world and helps reinforce a lifetime love of learning in children. It's a nature-focused program for parents and their pre-school Mini-naturalists only! They invite you and your preschooler to join them for a whimsical journey into nature through stories, songs and crafts. And if time allows, you'll meet and learn about one of their friendly, resident animals! The program ends before lunchtime, so feel free to bring a picnic lunch or enjoy a short walk in the nature preserve before you head home.

The next program is July 20 from 10:30am to 11:30am and the cost is \$5 per child. (Adult accompanying child is free.) Join them as they explore the summer season. What happens to plants and animals when the weather warms up? Appropriate for ages 3 and 4.

You're invited to join them seasonally for these fun, engaging programs! You can join their email list at sacnaturecenter.net/subscribe/ to be notified when Storytime Programs are scheduled.

Birding and Nature Events

13TH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

The montereybaybirding.org website for the 13th annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival did not yet have the Festival dates for this year. Judging from previous years the dates are probably **September 22-24**.

The Monterey Bay area is home to one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America. From soaring golden eagles, effortlessly gliding California condors, cheeky bushtits, gorgeous Townsend's warblers, scampering snowy plovers, to thousands of sooty shearwaters streaming along the ocean's surface, few places can match the diversity of species as the Monterey Bay region.

September marks the peak of fall migration, with wintering shorebirds arriving en masse. Warblers and other passerines are doing the same, and the first appearances of wintering ducks and other waterfowl is sometimes seen in September. Meanwhile, just a few miles offshore, jaegers, shearwaters, and alcid are present in good numbers. There's no better time to visit the Monterey Bay area to see the greatest number of species or to find a rarity.

This year's date, lineup, and trips have not been announced yet, but check the website montereybaybirding.org, in early July for more detailed information and registration. This is a very popular festival in a spectacular area and field trips can sell out quickly, so be sure to check the website often for the opening registration date.

Findings continued from page 2

Kingbird attending to its nest in the top of a power pole. We also came across the remains of a deer carcass being consumed by dermestid beetles. We tallied 44 avian species."

River Bend Park (5/25) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "House Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches and Oak Titmouses were busy feeding young and an adult Red-shouldered Hawk kept watch over two juvenile young at the nest, but birding was generally slow. Elegant Clarkia, St. John's Wort and Winter Vetch were in full bloom and Pipe Vine caterpillars were abundant."

Dragonfly Trip (5/21) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "Only a couple of folks showed up, plus my daughter and two grand-kids. With high water levels along the river, very few dragonflies are out flying yet. Highlights were Exclamation Damsel in hand and one Sinuous Snaketail seen. Plus a rattlesnake."

Fremont Weir (5/20) — Leader Brian Gilmore reported: "Eleven birders attended the California Fish and Wildlife led tour of FWWA walking a distance of about three miles in about three and one-half hours' time exploring mature riparian habitat floodplain along the Sacramento River. Highlights were good views of singing Western-wood Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Bullock's Oriole, and Western Kingbird. More challenging to see (if it were not for the experience and skill of the birders in attendance) were views of Wilson's Warbler, Common Yellowthroat and Warbling Vireo. However, I think all would agree, the best sighting was of about 30 to 40 Swainsons Hawks kettling in the sky along with Turkey Vultures, two White Pelicans and several Red-tailed Hawks."

Sailor Bar/Olive Ave (5/17) — Leader Larry Hickey reported: "Eight of us enjoyed a delightful morning on the American River Parkway. The Olive Ave access to Sailor Bar is not used much and can be very interesting. Our late spring birds were abundant. Western Kingbirds were enthusiastically engaged and Ash-throated Flycatchers were everywhere. Susan Thrower, a birder from Texas, joined us and we were delighted to introduce the sounds and sights of our endemic Nuttall's Woodpecker. The wildflowers continued to delight. In the woodlands we saw Phainopepla, Bullock's Oriole and White-breasted Nuthatches

with young and at the river Belted Kingfishers, Green Heron and Osprey. Another wonderful day in Sacramento!"

Mosquito Ridge Rd (5/14) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "A good group of 7 of us set off to explore the steep canyons and wooded areas traversed by Mosquito Ridge Rd. While some of the birds were tantalizingly heard only (including calls in two places of Pileated Woodpecker and, as usual, Mountain Quail), we all enjoyed some good views of several nice species including Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Canyon Wren, Pacific Wren, a pair of nearby perched Violet-green Swallows, Western Tanager, a lone Lark Sparrow and several Fox Sparrows. We also had brief views of a beautiful male Hermit Warbler. And one of the group saw a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, not an easy bird to find in the Sierras. We tallied about 40 species for the day."

Spenceville WLR (5/13) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "I had a small group join me on a nice day of birding. We made several stops as we worked our way to the wildlife area; some of those highlights included Black-necked Stilts with young, Avocets, Cinnamon Teal, Osprey on the nest, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Prairie Falcon. At our final destination we saw Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow and Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Lazuli Bunting. Total species count for the day was 77."

Bodega Bay Family Friendly Trip (5/13) — Leaders Sandra Steurer and Wendy Money reported: "Our Family Friendly trip to Bodega Bay included five teens and four adults. What a day of birding in brilliant sunshine we found as we explored the nooks and crannies of the land surrounding the bay. A handsome flock of 40 Brant were viewable all day as they gathered on the beach. A lone Horned Grebe and Pigeon Guillemots-foraging and flying-were viewed from Campbell's Cove. Velvety Red-Winged Blackbirds were not shy about showing us their red "shoulders". At Bodega Head, Black Oystercatchers picked around the rocks-amazing us with their stunning red bill and eyes. Arriving at a nearby pond, a Mallard mom, with about a dozen "teenage" young, pulled the Mother's Day Weekend theme together for us. We totaled 50 bird species for the day."

Cathie LaZier

VOLUNTEER NEEDED WITH EXCEL EXPERIENCE

SAS is looking for a volunteer with extensive Microsoft Access experience to work with several of us to evaluate a custom membership Access database developed by another chapter to decide if it will meet our chapter's membership needs. If it does, we'll also need help importing our current Excel data and getting started. We have been evaluating several commercial membership databases and this alternative would be much less expensive. If you are interested, contact Diana Hickson at 709-3563 or dianahickson@comcast.net.

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS Wednesday, July 19, 6:30pm-9pm

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore some of the Great Central Valley habitats at dusk on the Bufferlands. During the tour, participants may have a chance to see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars. Please contact Roger Jones (jonesro@sacsewer.com) to confirm your reservation and meeting location.

We will have additional Twilight Tours on August 16, and September 20.

A PROBLEM FOR BIRDS FIXED THANK YOU DR GATES

Dr. Melissa Gates of Cordova Veterinary Hospital saw a problem with the fence posts around the Ancil Hoffman Golf Course. The metal posts were open at the top, an attraction for cavity nesting birds, who are then often trapped inside. After posting on Sacramento Audubon FaceBook about the problem, she was put in contact with some Sac Audubon members and Paul Tebble, co-director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and Greg Bliek, golf course manager. After clearing the project with them, she purchased metal caps, took her sledge hammer and ladder, and capped all the posts. Thank you Melissa, for seeing a problem and fixing it!

PUBLIICITY CHAIR NEEDED!

With the sad passing of Bill Dillinger a new Publicity Chaair is needed. The main responsibility is to connect with local newspapers to publicize our meetings and special events that the public may be interested in. Anyone interested in this position may email the President, Sally Walters-Schmoldt at bajaowl@gmail.com, or phone 710-1077.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Steve Ball and Susie Nishio, Wayne Blunk, Gregory Brott, Bob Ellis, Connie Gehrt, Bud Getty, Monte Ikemire, Donn K Johnson, Susan R Oie, and Jan Schori and Case Butterman made donations to the **General Fund**.

Terry Atkinson, Dale and Theresa Blue, Bruce Bostick, Jon J Courtway, Suzanne Covington, Tim Fitzer, Gary Fregien, Carole S Gates, Connie Gehrt, Monte Ikemire, Jane S Jackson, Donn K Johnson, Michael T Ogara, Susan R Oie, Nancy Schoellkopf, Bob Slakey Jr, Rick Soehren, Marilyn Spiegel, and Vicki Stoffers made dontaions to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Anthony and Elinor Decristoforo sent a donation in the memory of Bill Dillinger.

Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community. Any donations to the Bobelaine Sanctuary for its restoration after all the flooding will be gladly accepted.

SAS HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED

The Board of Directors is requesting volunteers to help with the meeting hospitality. Hope to get enough volunteers, so we can make it a rotating service. Duties are basically making the coffee, lemon water, provide cookies or pastries; and set up and clearing the hospitality table. Helpers will be reimbursed for their costs. If you have questions and/or want to help out contact Bill Bianco at biancowm@yahoo.com, or 372-3318.

SAS OFFICERS NEEDED-YOUR CHANCE TO CONTRIBUTE

The Board of Directors is in search of people interested in filling vacancies for the Fiscal year 2017-2018, for the following positions: Treasurer and Board Member. Anyone interested in these positions may email the President, Sally Walters-Schmoldt at bajaowl@gmail.com, or phone 710-1077.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2017-2018

These are the officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2017-2018 approved at the May General Meeting.

President	Sally Walters Schmoldt
Vice President	Bill Bianco
Treasurer	Marcia Ferkovich
Recording Secretary	Keith Waagner
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Larry Hickey
Directors	Grant Boice
	Elliot Chasin
	Gibbe Parsons
	Jane VanKessel
	Open Position

Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

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

As spring progressed, many sites were still partially flooded from the historically wet winter. Nevertheless, good reports of shorebirds and migrant songbirds were widespread. Three **Red-breasted Mergansers** were a surprise along Able Rd at the south end of the Colusa NWR on 5/4. The pair of **Bald Eagles** with two chicks at Lake Natoma continued as a highlight for many into May. There were multiple reports of **Black Rails**, including calling birds at White's Slough (a known location for the species near the Lodi Sewer Ponds), one seen along the Wetlands Walk boardwalk at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/28, and birds seen and heard along a small drainage in El Dorado Hills in late April and into May. There were quite a few good shorebird reports, including three **Snowy Plovers** at the Granite Bay boat launch at Folsom

Lake on 4/7 and a single along Desmond Rd at CRP on 4/15. Two **Marbled Godwits** were found on 4/14 at the Colusa NWR auto tour shortly after it reopened from flooding. A single **Marbled Godwit** was at CRP on 4/22 as was an impressive flock of 78 **Whimbrels** on 4/13. Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were found on 4/30 at the large Meiss Rd Pond near Dillard Rd and at the Orr Ranch at CRP, and another was at CRP on 5/5. Two **Willetts** were along Desmond Rd on 4/15, a **Sanderling** was found at the Lincoln WTP on 4/21, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, especially rare for spring, was photographed at the Sacramento Reg WTP (SRWTP) on 4/18-19, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found along Yolo County Rd 30 near Rd 105 on 4/27, and another **Pectoral Sandpiper** (a male in breeding plumage) was at CRP on 5/3. The Davis WTP had a great run, with a single **Stilt Sandpiper** from 5/7-9, two from 5/10-14, and a **Red Knot** on 5/10 and 5/13. A **Sabine's Gull** was a nice find at the Woodland WTP on 4/7 and a **Least Tern** on 4/25 was locally early at SRWTP

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.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Beth Coffman

Susan J Poggi

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings over the summer. The next meeting will be on August 29, 2017 at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

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

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



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

Mara Weston, Membership Chair, mara_weston@yahoo.com
7708 McClintock Way, Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

Date _____ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued

where they have nested in recent years, including this year beginning in May.

A **Common Poorwill** was heard calling along Latrobe Rd on 4/30 and a **poorwill** was found dead from a vehicle strike on 4/16 along S River Rd, south of West Sacramento; this species is a rare, or at least rarely detected, migrant on the Valley floor. There were multiple reports of **Calliope Hummingbirds** visiting local feeders, and an impressive report of 6-8 males found in chaparral/chamise habitat on the ridge above the Beek's Bight parking lot at Folsom Lake on 4/25. There were a fair number of **Hammond's Flycatcher** reports throughout the month and, surprisingly, **Gray Flycatcher** reports, between 4/9 through May, were too numerous to list here (more than a dozen reports). Single **Dusky Flycatchers** were reported at Bobcat Ranch west of Winters on 4/20 and at Wood Duck Lake, south of West Sacramento, on 4/30. A late **Say's Phoebe** on 5/15 was unusual for the date along the ag buffer in the Wildhorse neighborhood in Davis. Two **Varied Thrushes**

along Irish Hill Rd near Lone were a surprise on the late date of 5/14 when they have been extremely scarce in our area this year. Single **Northern Parulas** were found along Irish Hill Rd on 5/14 and at Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd on 5/28. A **Palm Warbler** at White's Slough from at least 4/2-10 was an excellent find for the Valley. Other notable reports included a **Green-tailed Towhee** visiting a Rancho Cordova yard on 4/24, a **Vesper Sparrow** along Meiss Rd on 4/30, a **Brewer's Sparrow** on Meiss Rd on 5/2, and an impressive 20 **Chipping Sparrows** along Michigan Bar Rd on 4/24. A singing male **Summer Tanager** was present at CRP on 5/27 (for the fourth year in a row) and a singing male **Baltimore Oriole** was reported from private property along Putah Creek near the Solano diversion dam on 5/28.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html).

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' 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:

Stuart Angerer, Keith Bailey, Carla Barbaro, Paul Buchanan, Roy Carlson, Lily Douglas, Leo Edson, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Stephan Fettig, Frank Fogarty, Claire Gallagher, Ted Gilliland, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, James Holmes, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Stephen Long, John Luther, Mark Martucci, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, Jim Rowoth, Sonia Santa Anna, Mark Sawyer, Sarah Newton-Scott, Jim Thomas, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, Charley Walker, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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

The Observer is published by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December, except June and August, when we publish abbreviated editions.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

Thursday, September 21, 20
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Dan Airola: *Migration and Wintering
Location of Swainson's Hawks*