



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

VOLUME 70 • NO. 7

JULY 2018

General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

There are no meetings held over the summer and the next meeting will be on September 20 at 7pm. 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.

Monterey Bay Coastal Field and Pelagic Trips

SAVE THESE DATES!

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

OCTOBER 6-7

Join Sacramento Audubon Society for the annual Monterey Bay coastal and pelagic weekend!

Note: this year the coastal field trip will be on Saturday, October 6, and the pelagic trip will be on Sunday, October 7.

For those arriving early in Monterey for the weekend, on Saturday, October 6, we will visit coastal habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and

Pelagic Trip continued on page 7

ELK GROVE'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE EXPANSION PLANS

Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) is joining other local environmental groups in a lawsuit challenging Elk Grove's Sphere of Influence expansion plans. This latest round in a twelve-year long battle to insist on smart growth principles teams SAS with the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS), the Sierra Club, Habitat 2020, Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, the California Native Plant Society Sacramento Chapter, and the Friends of Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge. Expanding Elk Grove's Sphere of Influence is the first step in increasing the urbanized footprint of the city. The SAS Board has voted to contribute \$7,000 to the lawsuit. The Sierra Club et al will be represented by the outstanding local environmental attorney, Don Mooney, and are seeking help funding the lawsuit.

The Sacramento Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) approved an application to increase Elk Grove's Sphere of Influence onto 1,156 acres of important farmland that harbors numerous avian species. This area is an extremely important upland forage area for North Delta species, such as the Greater Sandhill Crane, that are displaced by the natural cyclical flooding of the Cosumnes River. Global climate change and sea level rise will amplify the importance of this area as a corridor for species to move to higher ground to the east.

The lawsuit that Sacramento Audubon is supporting challenges the adequacy of the environmental documents and the legally flawed basis on which LAFCo made its decision to grant an increased sphere of influence. This is despite the demonstrated fact that the city of Elk Grove has sufficient vacant land to satisfy any growth needs for decades to come. Perhaps most importantly, if this erroneous LAFCo decision stands, other landowners in the area will see it as a green light to apply for urban expansions into open space. The ability to achieve conservation through mechanisms like the South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan will be damaged, if not destroyed.

For detailed maps of the area in question, see the SAS Website, SacramentoAudubon.org or www.SacLAFCo.org (scroll down to Kammerer Road/Hwy 99 Sphere of Influence DEIR).

Please consider giving to this important cause. Checks should be out to "Sierra Club Foundation" –the c3 fiscal entity of the Sierra Club–and should note "Elk Grove LAFCo litigation" in the memo line. Send to:

Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club
c/o Dyane Osorio
909 12th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Sandhill Crane
Linda Pittman

Field Trip Findings

Ancil Hoffman Park (6/13) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Eight people saw 50 species of birds on a very warm late spring morning along the Parkway. Highlights included Common Merganser with eight fledglings, Cooper’s Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Bullock’s Oriole.”

Mather Lake (6/10) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “We started in windy conditions with fewer birds than usual in the first 20 minutes. However, 8 of us persevered and recorded 45 species for the morning. Breeding indications were clear for Black Phoebes, Tree Swallows, Canada Geese, Mute Swans, California Quail, Red-winged Blackbirds and California Towhees. Of additional note, Western Kingbirds, Swainson’s Hawks, Bullock’s Orioles, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Eurasian Collared Doves and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.”

Enchanting Cosumnes (6/9) — No report received from leader Genelle Treaster but participants reported record attendance, interesting historic cemetery headstones, and singing Western Meadowlarks with Swainson’s Hawks overhead.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (6/4) — Leader Bob McCleary reported: “A wonderful morning presented itself for the 4 of us as we walked Effie Yeaw nature preserve in anticipation of great birding. We were not disappointed. The observation pond had a female Wood Duck with her two babies in tow, a very intense little Green Heron fishing, and Red-winged Blackbird playing in the tules. The River trail was full of sightings of Ash-throated Flycatchers, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatches and great views in the scope of a female American Kestrel and Red-shouldered Hawks. Numerous Tree Swallows were keeping the insect population down. We saw many more common residents, Common Mergansers, Acorn Woodpeckers, Killdeer, Spotted Towhee, etc, 31 species in all.”

Crystal Basin (6/3) — Wendy Money, co-leader with Phyllis Wilburn reported: “A postcard perfect day in the Sierras provided the perfect backdrop for viewing and photographing the charismatic birds of the mountains. The Cleveland Corral is now closed and we miss the

hummingbird feeders. The big meadow further up the road did house a male Calliope Hummingbird, who was not shy about flaring its gorget. The meadow was also busy with nesting empids, Western Tanagers, and Red-Breasted Nuthatches. We had our two species of tiny kinglets come to near eye-level. We missed the Nashville Warbler this year, but located an elusive Yellow-Breasted Chat, seen by some and heard by all. We saw a Black-throated Gray Warbler—not usually seen on prior trips. The Hermit Warblers at close range were the birds of the day, based on the oohs and aahs. Mountain Quail were all around us, singing their flute-like crow calls, but stayed hidden. A disappointing miss was Mountain Bluebird, but the birding esprit de coup was wonderful. Thank you to all the great spotters.”

Northern California River Walks (6/2) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “A small group of us, including Cynthia and Mary visiting from North Carolina, braved the promised hot weather, starting out at the Spenceville Wildlife Area and Camp Far West Lake. Highlights there included Western Grebes, a Pied-billed Grebe with babies, Bullock’s Oriole, and an Osprey that flew over us, carrying a big fish to a nest. The North Carolinians appreciated seeing Western King Birds and Acorn Woodpeckers. At the state park, we enjoyed stunning views of the South Yuba and were a bit frustrated by many birds we could hear but not find in thick foliage near the visitor’s center. Good finds included immature Bald Eagle and its nest, Orange-crowned Warbler, Hairy Woodpecker, Western Tanager, and briefly, Yellow-breasted Chat, the latter one of many we could hear.”

Sacramento Bar (5/31) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “A group of six people gathered at Sacramento Bar for a morning of birding and hiking. Bird sightings were slow at the start; as we walked along the river Tree Swallows, Northern Rough-winged Swallows and White-throated Swifts were flying around, then a Bald Eagle came flying down the river.

As we approached the far end of the trail a young Red-shouldered Hawk was calling from a nest. In one of the ponds adjacent to the river two female Wood Ducks, each with three ducklings, were paddling about. We had a total of 41 species, It was a good day.”

Sierra Valley (5/27) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “This was a really awesome trip. One comment made at the end from someone who has been on many Audubon field trips: “This is the best trip I’ve ever been on!” We had a great group of 10 of us, and a few people had several life list birds. With so many good birds, it’s hard to pare it down to keep this report brief. But, among the highlights were an Osprey with a large fish in it’s talons that landed on a nearby utility pole, only to lose its catch a few minutes later to a Bald Eagle; at least 10 Redheads, many Wilson’s Phalaropes (the most I have ever seen there); Lewis’s Woodpecker (a lifer for a couple in the group); a pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers going to and from a nest hole; a male White-headed Woodpecker chasing a Northern Flicker from its favored snag (a nest site?), and Clark’s Nutcrackers. A real highlight was a homeowner in Sierraville, the same one who had graciously invited us in 6 years ago on this trip, inviting us up to his house to see the bird feeders. The hummingbird feeders were pretty quiet, but there were several Pine Siskin and Cassin’s Finches coming to the seed feeders. It was pretty “birdy” everywhere we went, and with a tally of about 84 species for the day, it may have been a record for the 11 years I’ve been leading this trip.”

Sailor Bar (5/26) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Twelve people saw 57 species of birds on a very overcast morning along the Parkway. Highlights included a Great Blue Heron nest with two young, a Red-shouldered Hawk nest with three young, a Common Merganser with one chick on her back and eight



Bullock's Oriole
Linda Pittman

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Field Trips



Savannah Sparrow
Stephen D'Amato

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, 916-704-0951. For trips from July 12 through August 11, contact the scheduler Craig DeMartini, cloudwalk7@icloud.com, 916-599-3300.

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. 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.

Sunday, July 1, 7:30am
Del Paso Regional Park
Leaders: Maureen Geiger
916-281-6652,

mkgeiger@comcast.net
Ken Poerner: 707-580-6277
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This large, little known park is tucked into the confluence of I-80, Business 80 and the Auburn Boulevard exit. But its lush riparian habitat along Arcade Creek is definitely worth exploring, so join Maureen and Ken for a morning walk and see which species might be found there. If you want Yellow-billed Magpies, this is your site!! This will be a 2 mile walk ending mid-morning with a possible add-on for those who want more birding. Parking is an issue, although there is room for 8-9 vehicles on Park Road which is accessed from Auburn boulevard east of Watt Avenue. Because access is possible from several different major roads and highways, contact Maureen for more detailed instructions to the meeting site.

Friday, July 6, 7am
Icehouse Road, Crystal Basin
Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661
MarkSawyer3383@gmail.com

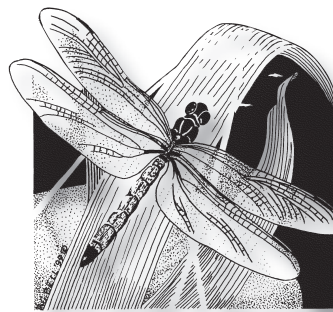
Mark will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Quail, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Mark 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. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Saturday, July 7, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Come join Scott for this trip to Loney Meadows, a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. 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. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, July 8, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
Wayne.
Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him 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



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

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.

Thursday, July 12, 7am
Cabbage Patch, Calaveras County
Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-372-3318
biancwm@yahoo.com

Bill will bird the Ramsey Fire (September 2012) site at 6600 feet 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 feet (moderate difficulty), we'll be looking 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.

Sunday, July 15
Dragonfly Trip
Location: TBD
Leader: Tim Manolis
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

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

meeting location as the date approaches. E-mail Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place, or phone him the day before at 916-485-9009. 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.

Tuesday, July 17, 7am
Tells Creek, Van Vleck Meadow
Leader: Craig Swolgaard
530-334-3023, cswol@sbcglobal.net

This trip will explore a little birded part of the Sierra Nevada off Ice House Road at over 6000 feet elevation. Tells Creek flows through Van Vleck meadow just west of the Desolation Wilderness. A trailhead for equestrians and hikers begins at the parking lot but we will follow a road that circles the meadow itself. This is a good spot to see a variety of Sierra Nevada birds including Lazuli Bunting, MacGillvray's Warbler, Purple and Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brown Creeper, and others. Four years ago an Indigo Bunting spent most of the summer there. The trip will include other stops as well. We will meet at my house in Georgetown (El Dorado County) at 7am and car pool from there. The address is 2884 Church Street, one block over from Main Street. Georgetown is about an hour from Sacramento and can be found on Google Map for directions. This trip will last into the early afternoon so bring a lunch and water. Hiking is easy and fairly level.

Saturday July 21st, 3pm meeting time
Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too!
Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk
Leaders: Sandra Steurer
916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 916-205-3194
wendydoug@msn.com

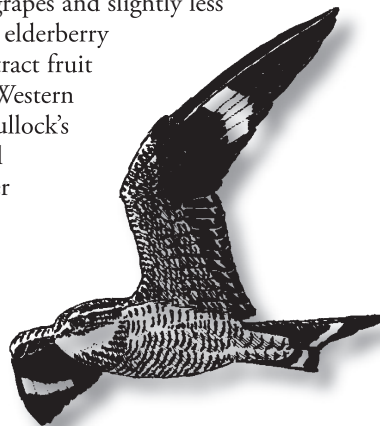
Come look for mountain birds and the Common Nighthawks. Meet at 3pm at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. Bring a sack dinner or snacks, lots of water and comfortable shoes, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars will be available. Please RSVP to wendydoug@msn.com or text to 916-205-3194.

Saturday, July 21, 6:30am
Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca
Leaders: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com
Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
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 south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center 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 22, 7:30am
American River Parkway,
Spanos Court Access
Leader: Dan Kopp, 916-213-2791
rey_ality@hotmail.com

Join Dan for a leisurely walk on the north side of the river across from the Paradise Beach area. This area is fairly typical of most Parkway locations, but has an overabundance of grapes and slightly less blackberry and elderberry which helps attract fruit lovers such as Western Tanager and Bullock's Oriole. We will likely encounter several riparian species such as Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Song Sparrow, Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee, as well as California Quail. The trip will probably end late morning before the intense heat of the day. Meet Dan in the parking area at the



Common Nighthawk
Daniel D'Amato

end of the Spanos Court cul-de-sac along the levee. Spanos Court runs west off Howe Avenue between Northrup and Sierra Blvd.

Thursday, July 26, 7am
Sacramento Bar
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
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 and follow it into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, July 28, 9am (in Petaluma)
North Bay Area Birding
Leader: Ron Storey, 707-479-0171
ronstorey@ronstorey.com

Join Ron Storey and bird a part of the North Bay. This trip is a good trip for beginners who would like to bird away from the Sacramento area. The destination(s) will be determined by what is being reported and the weather. We will meet at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 9am and carpool from there. For directions to Shollenberger Park go here: colintalcroft.com/Sonoma_County_Bird_Watching_Spots/Shollenberger_Park,_Petaluma.html. Bring a lunch and snacks, as this is an all day trip. Also, be prepared for both cool and hot weather; bring clothing that will be suitable for both conditions.

Sunday, July 29, DEPART 7am
Beginning Shorebirds

Leader: Scott Hoppe
916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

This trip is designed for beginning and intermediate birders who wish to learn more about identifying shorebirds. We will cover the basics of types of shorebirds, as well as the finer details of separating those confusing little "peeps". This will likely be a two to four hour trip, however, habitat and conditions may require us to go a little farther afield. So, bring liquids and snacks. Limited to 15 people; contact Scott to register and get meeting place.

Tuesday, July 31, 5pm-9pm
Yuba Gap: Night Hawks and the Night Sky

**Leaders: Richard Barbieri, 916-761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.com
Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

Join Richard and Craig for an afternoon and evening of birding and astronomy in the Sierras. This area can host as many as 50 Common Nighthawks at one time, feeding and calling. After sunset, the planets Saturn, Jupiter, and Venus will be visible (weather permitting). Bring a folding chair or cushion, an evening snack, a light jacket, and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit #110 off I-80. Turn left and the Park and Ride is on the immediate right. From there we will carpool up to Yuba Gap.

**Saturday, August 4, 7:30am
Mather Lake**

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
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, Exit #17, 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.

**Sunday, August 5, 7am-11:30am
SRWTP Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610
conardc@gmail.com**

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time for early songbird migrants, lingering breeders, and peak shorebird migration. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. New directions: Take I-5 south from Sacramento and exit at Laguna Blvd. Drive east to Franklin Blvd and turn left. Go past the stoplight at Bighorn Blvd and turn

left at the next block (Sims Rd—no stop-light) with poplar trees and a brick planter. Drive 0.6 mile and turn right on Laguna Station Rd. Drive 0.5 mile and turn left at Glacier Way before reaching the guard station (If using GPS, enter Glacier Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758). Drive 0.25 mile to the Bufferlands office entrance at the end of Glacier Way. A large gate will be open and the front glass doors will be unlocked.

Tuesday, August 7, 7am

Ancil Hoffman Park

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will be looking for nesting and fledgling birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet Mark in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A SAC County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, August 11, 8am
Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass**

**John York, 916-409-9276,
530-320-4751
johnyork157@yahoo.com**

We will meet at The Fork and Horn parking lot in

Sierraville, corner of Lincoln St and Main. at 8am. We will bird the valley floor and then the pass. Bring snack, lunch and liquids as we have no scheduled eating stops. This trip will take most of the day. The highlights should be the young mountain birds, woodpeckers and warblers, although the valley can turn up some great birds as well. If you want to caravan from the Denny's at Newcastle, please contact John so he can meet you there. Please RSVP to John so we know to look for you at either rendezvous point.



Shorebirds
Kirsten Munson

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

SAS ACTION ALERTS

With many drastic changes on the horizon for our country's natural resources and wildlife, many organizations are hoping you will take the opportunity to make your voice heard by legislators who put some of these changes in place. While we are besieged daily by unwanted emails if you would like to receive timely email notification of birding, conservation and other issues that effect wildlife, both locally and nationally, send an email to: webmaster@sacramentoaudubon.org containing your name and email address with "SAS Action Alert List" as the subject.

Most Alerts have a short action period which seems to be the norm. This is an opportunity for you to do your part to affect change in the wildlife conservation arena. (Alerts are gleaned from various sources and information is provided for your consideration and possible action).

CALIFORNIA AUDUBON ACTION ALERTS BIRDS NEED YOU:

The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help. As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife and their habitats — and be heard like no lobbyist.

Please sign up for Actions Alerts at ca.audubon.org/. Click on the Action Alerts in the top right of the page. You may sign up for just their newsletter about current issues and CA Audubon activities on the same page by unchecking the 'Remember Me' box.

NATIONAL AUDUBON ACTION ALERTS

Lawmakers care about your views and opinions. As a constituent, you have the ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife, and their habitats—and be heard like no lobbyist here in Washington, DC. The only way they'll be successful in their conservation efforts on our behalf is with your help.

Sign up for Audubon's Action Network at audubon.org/takeaction. Or take action immediately with one of their current campaigns listed on the same page. As you can see there is no shortage of concerns you may voice to your lawmakers.

At the bottom of the page you may choose to sign up for their emailed newsletter which will keep you informed about all the current projects National Audubon is taking part in.

BUSHY LAKE RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES

Bushy Lake has always been a favorite SAS birding locale and Sac State environmental studies professor Michelle Stevens said she has been actively working to restore the wetlands and habitat surrounding Bushy Lake for four years. Sacramento State students and a few SAS members participated in the celebration of Earth Day by tending to Bushy Lake, located behind Cal Expo. Michelle thanked everyone in an article published by the Sac State *Hornet*.

CONDOR CAMS ARE BACK AND OTHERS TOO!

People across the world can get up close and personal with an endangered California Condor chick in real time through live-streaming video of a wild nest in the Hutton's Bowl area—a small piece of property surrounded by private land and overseen by the Bureau of Land Management. It's near the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, California. The chick and its parents make up one of the 12 California Condor nests in the mountains of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Kern counties—the highest number of nests ever recorded in Southern California.

If you'd like to view the action go to cams.allaboutbirds.org and choose the Condors tab. As you'll see there are quite a few cams to choose from. Not that it's spring anymore, but many birds are still raising their young and each cam page also has many clips from the birding and nesting season. Along with nesting cams, there are viewing cams of pond visitors in Ithaca, New York; and a hummingbird feeder with over a dozen species of hummingbirds swirling around the feeder in the Davis Mountains

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others in tow, Bald Eagle, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Phainopepla, Bullock's Oriole and Rufous-crowned Sparrow."

Lincoln Grasslands (5/23) — Leader John York reported: "No one showed for the Lincoln grasslands trip on a too windy day, so John went home to see the quail and Tri-colored Blackbirds in his yard."

Mosquito Ridge (5/20) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "It was a good day of birding for 12 of us, as we made our way from lower Sierra foothills up to mid-elevation (5000' or so). Highlights included Olive-sided and Dusky Flycatchers, Canyon and Pacific Wrens, an excited fiery-crowned Golden-crowned Kinglet, 7 species of Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat (a first for this trip). We also had a pair of cooperative Cassin's Finches that came down right in front of us to drink at a small rivulet, affording good looks and opportunities for studying field marks. It was a good group, and a great time was had by all."

William Pond and River Bend Parks, Family Friendly Trip (5/20) — Leaders Wendy Money and Sandra Steurer reported: "A cool, breezy spring morning didn't deter birders or birds as we were treated to 48 species, some of them quite unexpected. A male Townsend's Warbler in brilliant breeding plumage and a puzzling flycatcher—prompting much follow-up discussion throughout the week—on an open branch at eye-level were well appreciated. We were pleased to see a large flotilla of newly hatched Mallard ducklings and were mesmerized by a stealthy young Cooper's Hawk, who eventually ambushed a songbird and flew right by us with it. Youngsters from the Red-Shouldered Hawk nest have fledged and are staying low in the riparian habitat. Rabbits seemed to be doing what

rabbits do, as there were many, many young jackrabbits scampering around the east side of the bridge. Park activity in the background included a bike fundraising event by the American River Parkway Foundation, a live band, and good smells from food trucks. Urban birding at its best!"

Georgetown Nature Areas (5/19) — Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: "The Georgetown area trip included a National Forest botanical area at Traverse Creek, about three miles from Georgetown. About ten of us hiked the 2-mile loop and saw or heard over 30 species of birds. The trail switches between chaparral and conifer forest. We had good practice at identifying by ear as many species were skulkers. Wrentits, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, and Orange-crowned Warblers were plentiful, and many Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers were calling from the taller trees. Unfortunately, we missed the pair of Pileated Woodpeckers I had seen a few days earlier when scouting, but we did get satisfying looks at Hairy Woodpecker and many Acorn Woodpeckers. The best bird of the day we heard near the creek when returning to our cars: a Yellow-breasted Chat."

Dragonfly Trip (5/19) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "Highlights were two of my usual target species, the California endemic Exclamation Damsel (quite a few) and Sinuous Snaketail (one female recently emerged from the river). Other nice things to see were Arroyo Bluets and Emma's Dancers, and good numbers of common stuff like Blue Dasher, Western Pondhawk, Common Whitetail, and Twelve-spotted Skimmer. We saw twelve species of odonates in total."

Ancil Hoffman Park (5/15) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: "Ancil Hoffman Park provided a very pleasant morning of birding for 8 participants. An Osprey perched atop a telephone pole with his shad catch of the morning. Two Spotted Sandpiper parents tended to their demanding youngster. A pair of Swainson's Hawks transferred a rodent-mid-flight—and flew to their new nest. A Western Wood-Pewee, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, and a calling Indian Peafowl from across the river helped make this a great day. We tallied 46 avian species."

Spenceville WLR (5/13) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "With a small group of 8 people we explored the back roads north of Lincoln up to Camp Far West Lake and into the wildlife area on a slightly breezy but, nice spring day. Highlights for the day were two different pairs of Osprey (one carrying nesting material), immature Bald Eagle being harassed by a Red-tailed Hawk, Clark's Grebe, Rock Wren, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow, all seen at the lake. In the wildlife area were Lazuli Bunting, Yellow-breasted Chat, Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Wood Pewee, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Kingfisher. Total species count for the day was 74."

Cathie LaZier



Twelve-spotted Skimmer

**BUFFERLANDS EVENTS
TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS**

Wednesday, July 18, 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, if you have a pair. Please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

There are only two remaining Twilight events which will be on Wednesday, August 15, and Thursday, September 20.

OPEN TRAIL DAY

Saturday, October 13

Come enjoy the Upper Beach Lake wildlife area at your own pace. Trails will be marked and open to stroll around the wetlands, lakes, and riparian forests in this beautiful part of the Sacramento area. Bring a camera or binoculars, as there are always plenty of birds to see this time of year, including nesting herons, egrets, and cormorants. The endangered Swainson's hawks and other raptors are typically soaring in the area, as well. Mammal sightings could range from jack rabbits and deer to beavers and river otters. In addition, the riparian trees and wetland plants are in full foliage and beauty.

Each person will be required to sign in with a Bufferlands biologist on arrival to receive maps and other information. Please check back at www.regionalsan.com/bufferlands-calendar-events for time and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com.

No Pets, Please! For all Bufferlands events, we respectfully request that you please leave your dogs and other pets at home.



Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, October 7, 2018 Registration deadline: September 15, 2018

Tour departs from Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. Trip price: \$100 per person

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

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

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

*Monterey Bay
Pelagic Trip*

continued from page 1

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 Sunday's pelagic trip, we'll look for shearwaters, albatrosses and other pelagic birds as well as marine mammals. Experts will be on board to spot and identify the pelagic birds and other wildlife we encounter.

The boat will depart Fisherman's Wharf promptly at 7:30am and return about 3:30pm. The boat trip is limited to 25 participants to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation form and check early to reserve your spot. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. This trip fills up quickly! 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 916-715-1876 for further information.



**SEE THE LATEST
SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK**

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Sonja Armour, Bill Bianco, Dale and Theresa Blue, Gregory G Brott, Betty J Cooper, Jennifer Dunmire, Gary O Fregien, Joanne L Hagopian, David Harlow, Peter Hayes, Jim Hepler, John Hess, Elizabeth Johnson, James and Nancy Ree Joye, Scott and Julie Kenney, Terrence Kopp, Kimya Lambert and Chris Conard, M Kevin Mc Rae, Rosemary and Robert Mundhenk, Bob and Becky Norris, Steve Ball and Susie Nishio, Susan R Oie, Maria Ostendorf, D Brown and W Patterson, Angela Thompson, Rita Thompson, Harry and Karen White, Theresa Johnson and Dan Williams, and Carolyn Woodruff made donations to the **General Fund**.

Richard Meredith made a donation in memory of Elsie Meredith from Jan and Harry Campbell.

Daniel A Airola, Carla R Barbaro, Bill Bianco, Nancy and Bill Bittner, Suzanne Covington, Marc and Natalie Fenner, Elizabeth Galbreath, Kay M Gist, Susan R Oie, Andrea Salmi, Janet Sandlin, Lynn Saxelby, Carolyn Schilling, Jeffrey Shelton, James Sousa, Vicki Stoffers, Jean Thayer, and Harry and Karen White made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Bill Bianco, Dale and Theresa Blue, Janice Caravantes, Pohlin Gillis, Jeffrey and Bunkie Mangum, Beverly Moon, Susan R Oie, Lori Stoneman, and Sharon Wisecarver made donations to **Bobelaine**.

Thank 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 after last winter's flooding.

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

**Saturday July 21st, 3pm meeting time
Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too!
Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk**

Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 916-205-3194 wendydougmsn.com

Come look for mountain birds and the Common Nighthawks. Meet at 3pm at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. Bring a sack dinner or snacks, lots of water and comfortable shoes, a light coat for the evening and **MOSQUITO REPELLENT**. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars will be available. Please RSVP to wendydougmsn.com or text to 916-205-3194.

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks have been suspended for the summer because of the heat but on the fourth Saturday of July:

**Saturday July 28, 10:30 meeting time
Effie Yeaw Nature Walk**

Take time to appreciate trees for all the shade they provide by enjoying a leisurely morning walk on the Preserve trails. Join a Naturalist as you watch for deer, hawks, woodpeckers and much more before the afternoon heats up.

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.

Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

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

Reports from this April and May included many good water birds, excellent shorebirds, a good movement of small flycatchers, but relatively few songbird vagrants. Over 50 **Redheads**, including more than one brood, were reported by many at the Woodland WTP, while a pair at a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County was found on 5/3 and another pair was at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 5/4-7. One of the major highlights of the period was one or two **Glossy Ibis** reported by many at Woodland WTP from 5/25 into June. One was seen on a nest among nesting **White-faced Ibis**.

Shorebirds were reported in excellent numbers highlighted by several unexpected finds. **Snowy Plovers** were reported along Desmond Rd at CRP on 4/15, and two to three were at the Davis Wetlands on 4/24-25. Very impressive

numbers of **Semipalmated Plovers** were reported from CRP, including an amazing report of 320 on 4/25. Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) reports included a **Ruff** from 4/17-22, a **Stilt Sandpiper** on 4/21 and 5/2, and, most impressively, a **Marsh Sandpiper** from 4/15-21 (with only a handful of state records, this being the third from our area). At least six **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported throughout the period and region.

A **Common Poorwill** was a nice find at Mather Lake on 5/12 and a late **Lewis's Woodpecker** was found along the American River Parkway (ARP) at William B Pond on the same day. **Hammond's Flycatchers** were widely reported throughout the region and the period, and single **Gray Flycatchers** were found at the Sacramento City Cemetery on 4/27, Yolo Grasslands Park on 5/7, a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County on 5/10, and Babel Slough on 5/11 and 5/16. **Dusky Flycatcher** reports included singles at YBWA on 4/23, Yolo Grasslands

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Faith Boucher
Corey Caudill
Pam Giarrizzo
Florence Luna
Janet Sandlin
Gwenda Schoen
Dim Shores
Kathy Sims

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings held over the summer. The next meeting will be on August 28, 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.

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

sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

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

Observations continued

on 4/26, Putah Creek near Pedrick Rd on 4/29, Reichmuth Park on 5/15, and Babel Slough on 5/16. An apparent breeding range expansion by **Say's Phoebes** included the first confirmed nesting in Yolo County at the Wildhorse Ag Buffer in northeast Davis on 4/25. They were also confirmed nesting in southeastern Woodland, as well as north Stockton.

Plumbeous Vireos were reported near the UC Davis campus on 4/18, at CRP on 4/21, and Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd on 4/22. Two **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were seasonally unexpected on 5/6 along Putah Creek downstream of Winters. The only vagrant warbler reported this period was a singing male **Hooded Warbler** along Cache Creek at Wild Wings Park on 5/21. A surprising three **Harris's Sparrow** reports included singles at Putah Creek Access #3 on 4/3, Julietta Winery in Clarksburg on 4/14, and the Davis Wetlands on 5/7. The **Swamp Sparrow** that wintered at YBWA was last

reported on 4/7. **Yellow-breasted Chats** were found at several locations on 4/27, including the Sacramento Regional WTP Bufferlands, the Sailor Bar access to ARP, and Putah Creek Fishing Access #5, plus Yolo Grasslands Park on 5/10. For the fifth year in a row there was a singing **Summer Tanager** at CRP, with one at the Orr Ranch on 5/20. A **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** along Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd was a nice find on 4/26, and a few **Pine Siskins**, reported from several sites, lingered into early May.

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:

Roger Adamson, Keith Bailey, Kathy Blankenship, Brent Campos, Holly Coates, Lyann Comrack, Farley Cross, Mathew Dodder, Lily Douglas, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Frank Fogarty, Deb Ford, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, James Holmes, Joan Humphrey, Paul Hurtado, Logan Kahle, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Tim Ludwick, Mark Martucci, Sara Mayhew, Kurt Mize, Michael Perrone, Sonia Santa Ana, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Jim Thomas, John Trochet, 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.

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ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

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