

# The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



## Meet Your Board

Over the next few months there will be additional profiles in the *Meet Your Board* series. You will meet current, outgoing and new board members. We hope that these introductions will provide you with a better sense of your board and each member's commitment to the Sacramento Audubon Society's mission.

### DIANA HICKSON – Corresponding Secretary

I've been a Board Member and Member for ten years. I'm a biogeographer who classifies and maps vegetation. Birds are extra!

I joined when Keith Wagner (a former President of Sac Audubon), asked if I would be the Corresponding Secretary. I had just finished a 10 year stint on the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society as Programs Chair and was taking a break, or so I thought. I'd been aware of Sacramento Audubon's conservation work due to the cross-over of people and goals between SAS and SacValley CNPS in Habitat 2020, the Habitat and Conservation Committee of the Environmental Council of Sacramento (ECOS). I'd also attended a statewide California Audubon meeting with Keith and Tim Fitzer also a former Sac Audubon President. When Keith told me that the SAS Board meetings were well-run, on time, and that we grant funds for conservation and research, I couldn't say no.

I work for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It's hard not to want to know the birds when you're doing field work in vegetation. Why do I see this bird only in this vegetation type? I worked with Dr. Todd Keeler-Wolf, an excellent birder (and all-



Diana Hickson

### DAPHNE REIMER–Vice President

I've been a member of SAS since June 2016 and was invited to join the board in 2018.

My husband, daughter, our six cats and I moved to Sacramento from Berkeley in 2002. Like many people from the Bay Area, I knew little of what the Sacramento region had to offer. Though I had heard the summers were hot. I wasn't a birder and had no idea of the riches available to birders in the Central Valley. I would observe the geese flying overhead and think "maybe I should check out what the local Audubon chapter has going?" After my daughter left for college I went on a beginning birders' field trip and really enjoyed it. Soon after I joined SAS.

When I joined the SAS Board I didn't have a major interest I wanted to pursue as a board member. I've volunteered for a variety of causes for much of my life and believe in serving my community. I was delighted to be considered and figured I would find where I could be of help, and I have. I discovered early on that Bill Bianco, Board President, was also chairing the Hospitality Committee in addition to serving on several other committees. I like to bake and have catering experience so, in an



Daphne Reimer

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## BIRDS IN OUR AREA

I'm sometimes asked how people are finding so many warblers and other migrants. Birders see reports, visit the area the next day, and find next to nothing. What's going on? Well, migrating birds come through in waves, so someone may have a great day followed by very little the next. There are certainly sites that tend to concentrate them better than others. One

of the best local sites, and one not visited all that much because it is a bit out of the way, is Babel Slough Rd in Yolo County. You should park along the River Rd (well south of West Sacramento and across the river from the Pocket Area of Sacramento) and walk the lightly-traveled Babel Slough Rd to the west. If there is a good movement of warblers in the region, that spot should

have them. Other good sites are Reichmuth Park, many spots along the American River Parkway, and the River Walk at Cosumnes River Preserve, especially the oaks on the outer portion of the trail near the river.

Weather patterns drive the pulses and lulls in bird migration, but it is very difficult to predict what is going to be a good day

**Birds In Our Area** continued on page 3

strong wind from the south in spring is often a recipe for a slow day for migrants—they keep flying north). The best advice is to find a place you like and go out over and over (especially from about the second week in April to late May, sometimes extending to early June, and again from as early as late July through early October). Many of the really high numbers reported are largely based on call notes. Learning the little nasal sneeze (“imp”) of Wilson’s Warblers, the “choop” of Yellow Warblers, and the “prederit” of Western Tanagers will get you started. It can be difficult, but, honestly, once you learn a couple, you have a reference and it gets a bit easier.

### WHERE CAN I FIND MAGPIES?

Travelling birders often ask where they might find Yellow-billed Magpies. This species is a California specialty and found primarily in the Central Valley and in portions of the central Coast Range. While still in decent numbers in many locations, they are perhaps only 25% as numerous as they were before West Nile Virus first hit the area in 2004-2005. The species has also had significant range shrinkage at the southern portion of the Central Valley, occurring in good numbers only down to the vicinity of Merced; they are no longer regular around Fresno.

There are two places in Sacramento I tell people to start if they really want to see magpies. The first is Del Paso Park, accessed from Auburn Blvd, east of Watt Ave and just east of Winding Way. You can park on Park Rd and there is a nice riparian trail there. Magpies are also nearby at the old Renfree Field, accessed via Bridge Rd, also off of Auburn Blvd. The second main location is Ancil Hoffman Park around the picnic area and near the driving range at the golf course. There is a \$5 fee to enter, but the picnic area near the golf course headquarters is a hotspot for magpies and other area specialties. A walk from the picnic area (magpie central) downstream along the path paralleling the river is good in nearly any season and is often one of the birdier spots in migration. Surely there are other good locations (I regularly see them around Davis, and Discovery Park often has good numbers), but I’ve never visited Del Paso Park or Ancil Hoffman Park without seeing multiple Yellow-billed Magpies.

Added note: Magpies are omnivorous, like crows, but do eat a lot of insects as well as grain, fruit . . . pretty much anything. They also eat roadkill and discarded human food (probably why they are so common at the picnic area at Ancil Hoffman)

### CALLIOPES FOR SPRING

There were at least 18 individual Calliope Hummingbirds reported in Sacramento County this April through eBird. As a comparison, in the previous four Aprils there were between two and eight reported. Calliopes are fairly rare migrants (or at least rarely found) in the Valley and appear to be found slightly more often from Fair Oaks east than on the flats of the Valley. They breed in the Sierra and elsewhere in the western mountains. Away from feeders, they have been reported several times feeding on wild radish as well as blooming locust trees. One can only speculate whether the increased numbers this April were from people staying local and watching their feeders, or if there really was an increase of North America’s smallest hummingbird passing through our neighborhoods. My guess is that it was a combination of the two.

Chris Conard



*Yellow-billed Magpie*  
Chris Conard



*Calliope Hummingbird*  
Off Icehouse Rd, 5/16/20  
Max Brodie



*Calliope Hummingbird*  
Off Icehouse Rd, 5/16/20  
Nora Papian

## Meet Your Board continued from page 1

### Diana Hickson

around naturalist), who taught me a lot of species. My Program at DFW is finishing up a study of bird use of vegetation types on the Modoc Plateau, looking to see if our fine-scale vegetation maps can be used to create better species distribution models for birds for use in conservation planning. (I don't work in a regulatory program at the Department, but I recuse myself from Board discussion and votes in legal matters that involve SAS and the Department.)

My major interest in serving was helping further conservation and working with similarly-minded people. I get to personally thank the generous people who make donations to our General, Conservation/Education, and Bobelaine Sanctuary Funds.

Granting funds for local bird research, education and conservation projects is very satisfying. The best part, however, has been working with the wonderful people on the Board.

A major challenge is bringing our message of the urgency of protecting birds and their habitats to a bigger, broader audience in the Sacramento Region.

What would I say to encourage someone to join the Board? You don't have to commit to 10 years. I didn't...but here I am!

### Daphne Reimer

effort to help Bill, I took over as Hospitality Committee chair. Similarly, I agreed to become Vice President, not because I see myself as SAS President down the road, but to support Bill Bianco. As Hospitality Chair I enjoy sharing what I've baked and conversing with chapter members I wouldn't ordinarily meet. FYI Board members are asked to serve as an officer, chair a committee, OR both, if there is an opening.

This is my first time serving on a board and I am pleased to work with an exceptionally nice group of people. I think we work well together, so that is a real plus. I appreciate how our work feels organic yet ever mindful of following the Chapter's mission.

A key challenge facing SAS is increasing and engaging our membership. Between work and family so many people are stretched to the limit and have little time to volunteer let alone participate. And birders want to bird, not necessarily volunteer. I'm hoping our revamped website will attract even more people and gain SAS greater visibility in Sacramento. Perhaps, in turn, new (and old) members will find the time to volunteer either assisting with the running of SAS and/or donating their time and energy to projects they feel passionate about that serve the Chapter's mission.

Board work is integral to keeping SAS going. You can do as much or as little as you want (hopefully the former). You don't have to have a professional background or be an ace birder. It is a two year commitment but most people end up staying on because it's simply worth the effort. It's exciting to think about what SAS can achieve as an organization. We already do a lot but there is so much more to be accomplished. Wouldn't you want to be a part of that?

### SALLY WALTERS—Past President

I grew up in rural Calaveras County. As kids, my siblings and I made up names for the songs and calls of birds we heard. I was fortunate to have parents, grandparents, and great grandparents that were interested in birds, and the conservation and preservation of wild undeveloped lands.

I earned a BS in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University as well as an AA from Columbia Community College—I'm an ardent supporter of community colleges. I worked as an Environmental Scientist for various State and Federal agencies throughout California. That said, the best birders I know have no formal education in ornithology and are self-taught by memorizing field guides and other literature they can get their hands on, and spending a lot of time watching birds.

I did volunteer to do bird banding for many years with PRBO (now Point Blue) and Coyote Creek Riparian Station. This was truly a highlight of my education.

I have been a Sacramento Audubon board member for 10 years. I met my late husband, Don Schmoltdt, through our mutual inter-

est in birding. We immediately joined the Sacramento Audubon in 2000 when we moved here for work. I was the Program Chair for the monthly general meetings for many years, while simultaneously on the board and later the president.

Three top challenges the Chapter faces include: 1.) Connecting with the diversity of people in our area, 2.) Recruiting the generations to come, and 3.) Restoring and preserving habitat. In addition we all face climate change, the most serious and complex issue of all.

It has been and will continue to be rewarding working with the board and other volunteers. We speak for Sacramento Valley's unique bird and wildlife habitat at public hearings, through letters and meeting with City and State Officials. Funding is given to educate adults and kids, and research and habitat restoration. I encourage any member to consider joining the board or some aspect of outreach.

Isolating in place due to COVID 19 means observing birds in my yard, sending lists to [eBird](#), and enjoying the cleaner air, and bluer skies without the smog! I am using the time to review and, hopefully, enter Don's 55 years of bird notes to [eBird](#).



Sally Walters



# REFLECTIONS BE REFLECTIONS?



North Laguna Creek Wild Life Area  
Gesna Clarke

SAS Friend,

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

Thank you, Gesna Clarke, Education Chair

## Sailor Bar reflections 2020

Spring 2020 was strange . . . and delightful. Everything was shut down and life became simple. It turns out our species is threatened too.

In the downtime I was able to walk around Sailor Bar for hours everyday. When you first go to Sailor Bar you notice large mounds of river rock and the occasional rusted cable left from the gold dredging machines that ripped open the earth here from the late 1800's to the mid 1900's. Then you notice the huge Cottonwood and Oak trees that have reclaimed the land, and then you notice the birds and the wildflowers.



Larry Hickey

If you spend enough time at Sailor Bar you will walk by the bedrock mortars used by the first people who lived here. Sailor Bar is named after a story of two sailors who jumped ship and discovered gold.

I wonder what the first people who lived here called this place and what stories they told. I think about the pandemics they went through. I wonder if in the spring they saw the Yellow Rumped Warblers become colorful and if they heard the Ruby-crowned Kinglets begin singing before they left for their nesting grounds. Did they see the same flashes of yellow and red from the migrating warblers and Western Tanagers? Did they witness the exuberant chattering of the Western Kingbirds and Bullock's Orioles returning to nest?

Larry Hickey

When the COVID-19 virus started I hoped all my former students and their parents were remembering what I always told them at conference time: To be a well-rounded person one must play a musical instrument to foster brain creativity, have a hobby for creativity and using the executive functions of the brain, have a sport for fitness, and have an area of service for social connections and community responsibilities. This was a good time to check myself with my own advice. I no longer have my clarinet, tenor

saxophone, piano, or recorder—so I spent more time with my music genre and donated to CapRadio. I jumped into some of my hobbies—knitting, cross stitch, and gardening. I made 21 knit garments to donate to families in a central American county—someday when I can go there. I read lots of books that I had set aside for someday. I walked the dog, jumped on the stationary bike, and did Tai Chi. I stayed in contact the friends and volunteer organizations via Zoom, Hopin, Youtube and Skype.



Wendy Warren Money

## What is one important lesson you have learned while sheltered at home over the past several weeks?

Positive: I feel very lucky, as I am retired so my income did not change, and I have a home with a nice yard so I can see greenery and sky from the windows or sit on the porch. I am close enough to parks, and some areas of the American River Parkway, so I can walk and bird while keeping my "social distance", and thanks to the various media I am able to keep in contact with friends and family. I appreciate how lucky I am to be better equipped to handle these circumstances, compared to many.



Cathie LaZier

Negative: we normally use almost no plastic, and purchase most grocery items in glass, or in bulk, for which we use and re-use our own glass containers, and of course we bring our own bags of all sorts. Now, understandably, we can bring nothing with us into the grocery, so although we are trying to purchase items mostly in glass, which can be recycled, we are piling up plastics in an enormous amount, most of which are non-recyclable. I did not realize how important this was to me until the circumstances changed.

Cathie LaZier

## A TIP TO ALL BIRD WATCHERS

Never get close enough to change a bird's behavior. This includes never disturbing resting flocks of ducks or shore birds, and nesting birds for that photo or just for fun. During the nesting season keep the volume of bird recordings low and close to your ear to confirm what bird you are hearing. Using a recording full volume to verify a bird should be done once only, if at all. It causes additional stress and expenditure of calories that are needed to migrate, regrow feathers, defend a territory and feed young.

Some bird songs and calls are difficult to ID, so I play the song that I think is the birds song close to my ear for confirmation.

*Sally Walters*



So many thoughts and experiences in the last several months for us all—things we would not have believed 3 months ago or would have rejected as ludicrous or the stuff of science-fiction.

Whoever would have believed that elastic (for masks) would be in such high demand that yards of it are being mailed all over the country, keeping the US Post Office going in these troubled times.



*Maureen Geiger*

Nevertheless, here we are. And I have been reminded that marvelous things can happen when there is a major shift. Such as: were it not for the stay-at-home order, I probably would have missed the wonderful Swainson's Thrush that has been flitting around my backyard all morning. Much more likely that I would have been out walking or birding somewhere else or running the dread and ever-present errands. So, sitting here at my computer and watching for miscellaneous bird life in my backyard, I have been granted the great gift of a new bird for my yard list. This is no small thing since I have been birding in this spot for almost 30 years!

So, heart-felt hopes for everyone to stay healthy and find many new birds during these strange times.

*Maureen Geiger*

## SIERRA HOTSPOTS TO VISIT

### Loney Meadows

As spring turns to summer, I find myself each year looking ever higher in elevation for my birding exploits. One of my favorite out-of-the-way spots is Loney Meadows. If you're looking to avoid crowds, you can't go wrong here. I have often been there and seen hardly a soul. At 6000 feet, this gem can produce some great neo-tropical songbirds, as well as Sierra resident species. This a good spot for woodpeckers. Pileated and White-headed are often seen. Keep your eyes (and ears) out of for warblers such as MacGillivray's and Nashville. And, shhh, don't reveal our little secret, lest too many people discover this beautiful spot.

To get there, take I80 east to the Highway 20 off ramp and exit there. In a little over 5 miles, look for Bowman Lake Rd on the right, turn there and travel 10 miles until the pavement ends, then look for the road to Loney Meadows on the right. This last stretch is pretty rough, and high clearance vehicles are recommended. Bear to the left, as there are a couple of forks. Park in the small parking area and consult the Forest Service signage on the right for a map of the area.

### Paige Meadows

Another of my favorite Sierra hot spots is Paige Meadows. And the plural certainly does apply here. There are a series of seemingly endless meadows that one can explore. Not quite as remote as Loney, as it is in the Tahoe Basin, but if you get there early, you can almost have the place to yourself. This is another good spot for woodpeckers. I have seen nesting Williamson's Sapsuckers and Black-backed Woodpeckers here. Evening Grosbeaks have been somewhat regular, and I once saw Pine Grosbeaks here. Also, listen for the ethereal song of Hermit Thrushes. Another possibility is Northern Goshawk.

Take I80 east to Truckee and the Highway 89 off ramp south toward Lake Tahoe. When you reach Tahoe City, bear right to continue on 89 along the west shore of the lake. In the community of Sunnyside, turn right on Pineland Drive. When you come to a fork bear left and you will be on Ward Creek Blvd. Watch for Chamonix (second right). Turn there and park at the small turnout about half way down. Walk to the end of the road go around the gate. You will be in an open forest that was thinned some years ago. When the trail starts angling left with thicker growth, watch for a trail on the right. This will lead to the meadows. You will cross a small creek to the first meadow and eventually come to a "T" with another trail. Go left here to reach the other meadows.

I usually visit Loney Meadows from late June through early July. And Paige Meadows in late July. In a somewhat dry year such as this, earlier visits are not out of question.

These are just a couple of the Sierra Hot Spots I love to visit. There are plenty of great locations up there. Just do some exploring, you may discover a hot spot of your own.

*Scott Hoppe*

## TRY A BIRD SIT

A bird sit is like an outdoor meditation with a focus on birds. Bird sits provide similar benefits to mindfulness practices, including relaxation and quiet mind. They also cultivate a deeper bond with the birds around us and reveal the birds' secret languages.

- Find a Spot: Choose a spot where you can sit quietly and observe birds for 10-20 minutes. This can be your window, doorstep, backyard, or local park. Convenience is key.
- Have a Seat: Find a comfortable sitting position. Feel free to bring along whatever you need to be comfortable. When we sit down, the birds come closer to us than they would if we were walking.
- Wake Up Your Senses: Take 5 deep breaths to settle your nervous system. Then, take a moment to activate your senses, focusing on what you are feeling, seeing, hearing, touching, and smelling. Take a moment to listen for the quietest sound in all directions.
- Tune in to the Birds: Now, tune into any birds you might hear or see. Don't worry about identifying them. Instead, watch their behavior and listen for their vocalizations. Try to notice when the birds seem relaxed, alarmed, aggressive, or joyful. Gently check in with the feelings that arise in your own body while you are sitting.
- Repeat: The best benefits come from repetition. Each day, look for the same birds you may have seen the day before. Getting to know a few feathered neighbors well is much more important than listing all the birds you're seeing or hearing.

For more on Bird Sits see [ca.audubon.org/news/how-do-bird-sit](http://ca.audubon.org/news/how-do-bird-sit)?

Article contributed by Molly Tsongas, Audubon California, and Dan Gardoqui, Founder of Lead with Nature

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Terry Atkinson, Dale & Theresa Blue, Wayne Blunk, Jean & Bob Bonar, Gregory G Brott, D Brown & W Patterson, Victoire Chochezi, Suzanne Covington, Stanley G Ford, Pohlin Gillis, Kay M Gist, Sandra Graham, Susan Harbison, Arthur Hartwell, Jackie Heath, Monte Ikemire, Carey A Johnson, Lynn S Johnson, Theresa Johnson & Dan Williams, Terrance & Marion Jones, Judith & James Lamare & Pahl, Lachlan Mc Clenahan, Dan Murphy, Kathryn Rian, Susan R Oie, Marilyn & Donald Spiegel, Jon Wato, Sharon Wisecarver and Jane Woehl made donations to the **General Fund**.

Terry Atkinson, Timothy D Fitzer, Stanley G Ford, Kay M Gist, Monte Ikemire, Theresa Johnson & Dan Williams, Kathy Moore & Dan Brown, Susan R Oie, Vicki Stoffers and Sharon Wisecarver made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Terry Atkinson, Dale & Theresa Blue, Gary O Fregien, Pohlin Gillis, Susan Harbison, Norman E Hill, Candy Holland, Truman Holtzclaw, Monte Ikemire, Theresa Johnson & Dan Williams, Jeffrey & Bunkie Mangum, Kelly Swanson and Sharon Wisecarver made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community. Donations to the Bobelaine Sanctuary are encouraged to help defray the cost of continuing restoration and management.

### Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

## Field Trip Information

Due to the continuing coronavirus threat, SAS is not offering field trips for the month of June. It is not clear when they will be resumed, so please check the SAS website, sacramentoaudubon.org, and our Facebook page as they will reflect future field trips as soon as they are scheduled once again.



### Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

In light of all of the uncertainties around public gatherings, the Lodi Sandhill Crane Association Board of Directors has cancelled this year's event, normally held in November. Though the Festival will not take place in 2020, the LSCA Board has reaffirmed its commitment to promoting awareness, appreciation and conservation of sandhill cranes and their habitat.



### Bobelaine Visitors:

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



### A Time For Giving To Others

SAS is extremely grateful for the extra amount of generous gifts this last month. They go a long way towards furthering our mission. Please don't forget to also give to other organizations that rely on donations to survive. Here I'm thinking of zoos, museums, or parks that rely strongly on admittance fees which are now non-existent. Also, of course, many of us may be fortunate to have escaped the financial impact of this pandemic but we all know there are thousands in our own communities who are desperately in need of basic necessities. Please keep them in mind and donate to organizations that are experienced in lending a helping hand.



**SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK**

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

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

## Seasonal Observations

**April 1 to April 30**

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

Despite (and to some degree because of) travel restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, a lot of bird observation was happening—much from near home and some a little farther afield. The male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** continued through at least 4/3 at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on the Lost Slough Wetlands. **Band-tailed Pigeon** reports included one from a Wilton yard on 4/19 and two flying on the west side of Lake Natoma on 4/24. Unprecedented numbers of **Calliope Hummingbird** reports came in this April (see separate feature on page 2), with at least 18 distinct individuals reported from Sacramento County alone. A **Golden-Plover** not identified to species was among hundreds of **Black-bellied**

**Plovers** on 4/7 at the Robben Rd Ponds southeast of Dixon. Good numbers of shorebirds were reported at CRP, highlighted by 145 **Semipalmated Plovers** on 4/22. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, very rare for spring (and perhaps the first for Sacramento County in spring) was found at CRP on 4/25. On 4/14, a **Stilt Sandpiper** was reported among good numbers of other shorebirds, including three **Willetts**, and a **Marbled Godwit** at the Woodland WTP. **Solitary Sandpipers** were found at CRP on 4/14 and 4/20 and at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) from 4/16-19. A winnowing flight display by two **Wilson's Snipe** at the marsh at the end of Payen Rd, just into El Dorado County, was a nice surprise on 4/12. The only two **Least Bittern** reports came from the Cache Creek Wild Wings Park on 4/12 and YBWA on 4/27. A possible **Glossy Ibis** was seen at YBWA on 4/11.



## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Norm & Liz Alexander	Lynn Johnson Peace for Pets
Bonnie Allen	Personal Defense Team
Dominique Bouza	William Weaver
Janet Carlson and John Bailey	Vivian Yost
Geraldine Douglas	

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at [biancowsm@yahoo.com](mailto:biancowsm@yahoo.com); or 916-372-3318 to find out if the Board Meeting is being held.

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be in August, and would be held at 7pm at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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

## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Your membership supports the SAS mission of conservation, environmental education and protection of the region's natural ecosystems and diverse wildlife populations. Please include your email address if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List for letter/email writing on conservation issues.

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

[www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)  
[sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Observer* Newsletter \$35 per address (1 Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

### *Observations* continued

Nesting **Bald Eagles** are increasing locally, and now include a nest with a chick at the Tall Forest portion of CRP. A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** was an excellent find on 4/17 at a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County. One of the biggest surprises was a **Long-eared Owl** photographed as it was being harassed by crows in the Curtis Park neighborhood of Sacramento on the late date of 4/29. A **Hairy Woodpecker** was found on the east side of Lake Natoma on 4/21 where they have been found in recent years. There were impressive numbers of rare to uncommon empids reported, including **Hammond's, Gray,** and **Dusky** flycatchers; many of the reports came from sites along the upper portion of the American River Parkway, such as Sailor Bar. A **Plumbeous Vireo** was reported at Willowbank Ditch in Davis on 4/15. On a busy morning for migrants along Putah Creek near Fishing Access #1 on 4/18, an **American Dipper**

was a nice surprise, especially so late in the season. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found at the Old Fellows section of the Sacramento City Cemetery on 4/21, and there was a flurry of reports of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** from multiple sites toward the end of the month. There were continued reports of good numbers of **Chipping Sparrows**, such as along the upper ARP, and an impressive 25 were found over a long day at a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County on 4/17; a **Brewer's Sparrow** was found on the same visit. Single **Brewer's Sparrows** were also reported on Meiss Rd on 4/16 and 4/26. While good numbers of regular species were reported, there were no unexpected warblers detected this April.

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

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club listserv ([cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org)) and in eBird ([ebird.org](http://ebird.org)). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Max Brodie, Elliot Chasin, Leo Edson, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Desiree Haight, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Will Hemstrom, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Jeri Langham, Michael Perrone, Linda Pittman, Steve Scott, Mark Stephenson, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, Bart Wickel, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

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Sacramento, CA 95816

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*White Tailed Kite Dan Brown*

### Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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### **ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM**

All programs are temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Let's hope we will all be up and running in September! In the meantime please stay healthy and keep your distance.