

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 70 • NO. 5

MAY 2018

General Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2018

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

Biologists Without Borders

Sue Orloff, John Sterling, Dale Steele, and Martin Taylor

Speakers will include Sue Orloff - Wildlife Biologist and president of Biologist Without Borders (BWB); John Sterling - our local birder, global Ornithologist, and superb photographer; and a virtual interview will be conducted by Dale Steele—retired Branch Chief of the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife with Martin

Taylor—Special Projects Programme Manager for BirdLife South Africa whose primary focus is to build capacity within and assist the conservation efforts of BirdLife partners and bird oriented conservation organizations. Martin is the regional



Marico Sunbird
John Sterling

coordinator (South Africa, Namibia and Angola) for the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative. He was the lead editor of *The 2015 Eskom Red Data Book of Birds of South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland* and is currently responsible for the compilation of the *2017 State of South Africa's Birds Report*.

Sue will introduce some of the projects funded by BWB (biologistswithoutborders.org) and summarize the current status of wildlife in Africa. One of their main goals is to safeguard several strategic private land parcels in order to create a wildlife corridor connecting two important wildlife reserves in South Africa. If connectivity is restored through this

General Meeting continued on page 6

DON'T MISS WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

Saturday, May 19, 10am–4pm

This FREE family-oriented event is a must for all of us nature lovers. Complete information on all the walks, exhibitions and entertainers can be found on page 7.

BIG DAY OF GIVING, MAY 3

Please Consider Donating to Sacramento Audubon

This is Sacramento Audubon's 3rd year participating in Big Day of Giving (a fundraising effort for non-profit organizations in our region). Over 500 non-profits register for this annual event. Donations that non-profits receive from generous supporters help contribute to many important causes. Big Day of Giving is a 24 hour 'giving challenge' that enables non-profits to obtain needed funds to carry out their missions and programs. Last year Sacramento Audubon obtained over \$3,200 for this single-day-giving event thanks to many of you! Sacramento Audubon Society has many ongoing expenses. We continue to work hard to preserve and maintain the wonderful Bobelaine Sanctuary and always strive to educate our community about birds and their natural habitat.

If you would like to help our great organization, please put May 3rd on your calendar. You can donate ONLINE at www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubon from midnight to the following midnight! Gifts may be made ahead of time by using the "schedule your gift" feature. There is a minimum donation of \$15. Please tell your friends and family who care about birds and the environment, that Big Day of Giving is a great way to donate to Sacramento Audubon Society! You can read about our organization's mission and programs at the online site above. Thanks so much!

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 28th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every trip is different! We'll travel out under the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Time permitting, we will go out to the continental shelf.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We'll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Tufted Puffin, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown and Blue-footed Booby, Northern Gannet, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. Join us and discover for yourself!

A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure presentation and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. We will be going out on the Outer Limits. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out

Pelagic Trip continued on page 7

Field Trip Findings

Falcon Crest (4/9) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “Nine of us enjoyed the spring wildflowers and fresh greenery that is so abundant at Falcon Crest this time of the year. Globe lilies, blue-eyed grass, golden brodiaea, shooting star, blue dicks, Johnny Tuck, and lupines supplemented the 53 avian species we saw. The nesting Bald Eagles at eye-level always steal the show, and even graced us with a close fly-by. An Orange-crowned Warbler bravely sang continuously for several minutes on an exposed dead branch. A pair of Belted Kingfishers popped in and out of holes in the lake embankment. Lesser Goldfinches were busily constructing a nest. An Acorn Woodpecker granary of tens of thousands of drill holes were in the bark of a single, living, Ponderosa pine.”

Pine Hill Preserve (4/8) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had a nice outing in a beautiful setting, with a good show of wildflowers and endemic plants. Many birds were in full voice, but seemed to be more reluctant to show themselves than usual. We had excellent views of a singing Pacific-slope Flycatcher, decent views of a Hutton’s Vireo, Violet-green Swallows, and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. A few California Thrashers were singing, with one distantly seen by a few. Orange-crowned Warblers seemed to be singing everywhere, we saw an apparent Large-billed Fox Sparrow, at least seven Bell’s Sparrows, and heard singing Purple Finches.”

Point Reyes (4/7) — Leader John York reported: “Trip canceled because of rain.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (4/4) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Ten people joined me for this morning walk. Craig DeMartini kindly carried a scope and gave us close up looks at our FOS Western Kingbird and a Great Horned Owl on its nest. Bullock’s Oriole was a life bird for some, and everyone enjoyed a House Wren carrying sticks to its nest hole. Trip list tally was 54 species.”

Sacramento Bar (4/1) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Not many people were out on Easter Sunday. Birders on the other hand were plentiful. Eight of us started our tour in the parking lot and moved towards the river. We spotted a Bullock’s Oriole at the end of the parking lot. At first there were only a few birds

around. As we moved closer to the river Yellow-rumped Warblers were feeding in the trees. The river was running high and not many water birds or shore birds were to be seen. When the morning walk ended we counted 43 species of birds. That is a good day.”

Lake Natoma-East Side (3/31) — Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: “About a dozen people showed up for this morning bird walk along the east side of Lake Natoma. The day began with the songs of White-crowned Sparrows in a tangle of grape vines and a Phainopepla perched on a tree. We observed well over 40 species in around three hours, the highlights being Hooded Merganser, Cooper’s Hawk, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and the resident pair of Bald Eagles on their nest with young. Singing Bewick’s Wrens were the dominant sound as we covered close to a mile of trails along the reservoir as were the calls of Acorn Woodpeckers. Waterfowl were not as abundant as in past years, but most of the expected birds “got the memo” and showed up!”

Mather Lake (3/30) — Mark Martucci, substituting for Mark Sawyer reported: “Nineteen people saw 51 species of birds on a bright, sunny day at Mather Lake. Highlights included a Great Horned Owl on nest with two Owlets, Swainson’s Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Western Kingbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird and Bullock’s Oriole.”

Teal Bend (3/25) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “I had 10 people join me on this morning trip to the areas on and around the golf course. It was a nice early spring weather day but a bit quiet and not too birdy. Our highlights however, were Great Horned Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, and 4 Swainson’s Hawks.”

Sutter’s Landing (3/24) — Leader Lily Douglas reported: “Six birders joined me, including visitors from Arizona and Florida, and the weather cooperated for a nice morning at the Landing. Although our early migrants were yet to show, we

enjoyed watching multiple pairs of Wood Ducks exploring potential nest trees, picked out Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows among the cloud of Tree Swallows, and practiced our birding by ear. Raptors gave us a good showing, including White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier over the landfill. We even scored a couple of lifers for our out-of-town visitors!”

Gray Lodge SWR (3/21) — Leader Bill Bianco reported: “Trip canceled because of rain.”

William Pond Park (3/18) — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Craig DeMartini, Larry Hickey and Darrell Mohr, reported: “10 Beginning Birders, 5 of whom had come with us on previous trips, spotted a total of 49 bird species. Highlights were Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets in rookery nests, two Bushtit nests, and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks starting a nest in a eucalyptus. Also popular with the participants were Western Bluebirds and Yellow-billed Magpies.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (3/18) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Nine people saw 66 species of birds on a very cold and clear morning. Highlights included Great Horned Owl on nest, Cooper’s Hawk nest building, Merlin, Swainson’s Hawk, Slate-colored Fox Sparrow, Purple Finch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Spotted Sandpiper.”



Swainson’s Hawk
Linda Pittman

Family Friendly Trip, North Natomas Regional Park (3/17)

— Leader Ben Graber reported: “Our loaner binoculars came in handy for the family attendees. The

undisputed highlight of the trip was a Mountain Bluebird! We got great looks at it in all its sky blue glory. We also had 3 pairs of Cinnamon Teals, several Ring-necked Pheasants, Savannah Sparrows, Northern Harriers, a White-tailed Kite, Eurasian Collared Doves, Great and Snowy Egrets, and endless numbers of American Coots and Double-crested Cormorants.”

Cathie LaZier

Field Trips



Moorhen
Daniel Kilby

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 May 11, contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com, 916-508-7192. For trips from May 12 through June 11, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 916-502-2699.

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.

Tuesday, May 1, 8am

Sweetwater Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net

Ann Burris, 916-947-7573
burrin.nellieann@gmail.com

This trip is another chance to bird this favorite hotspot for Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. 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. This will be a half day trip and is a good one for beginners.

Saturday, May 5, 7am

Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky
Auburn State Recreation Area
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is one of Scott's favorite birding spots. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end early to mid afternoon, and plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. NOTE: there is a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

Sunday, May 6, 7am

Bodega Bay

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276
Johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Meet John 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. John is planning to stop for lunch in Bodega Bay.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30am

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Leaders: Maureen Geiger
916-281-6652

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This walk in the Bobelaine Sanctuary on the Feather River will follow a different route from past, recent walks as we search for resident and migrating birds. The fairly level, approximately two-mile walk will lead to the southern-most end of the Sanctuary through a dense riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores, willows and the oak woodlands. Mosquitoes will be present, so repellent is a must. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd; go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Road, and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Or meet at Bobelaine at 8am. From Sacramento take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge, turn right on

Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.

Saturday, May 12, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809
mikezots@gmail.com

Meet Mike along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. This park has varied habitats and Mike knows them well. Mike will be looking for spring migrants such as Ash-throated Flycatchers and Western Kingbirds, in addition to our resident wrens, towhees and other small passerines. He'll check out the heron rookery and the pond area. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park.

Saturday, May 12, 10:30am

(note 2nd Saturday, not usual 3rd)
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Audubon birding leaders Sue Darst and Maureen Geiger and Nature Center docents for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and Bushtits will be active. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, May 13, 7am

Spenceville WLR

Leader: Richard Barbieri
916-761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.com

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

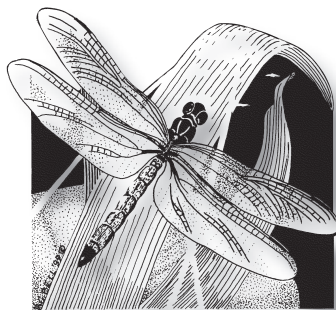
This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Tuesday, May 15, 8am
Family Friendly Trip
Ancil Hoffman Park
Leader: Craig DeMartini
916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Craig will be looking for spring migrants, as well as nesting birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. Meet him at the main picnic area parking lot across from the golf course. 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. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Saturday, May 19, time TBD
Dragonfly Trip—Location: TBD
Leader: Tim Manolis, 916-485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, including the California endemic Exclamation Damsel, Tim 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; the trip is typically a few hours in the morning. 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, and share fascinating information about migration patterns of the odenates, and other bits of natural history. (Ask him about



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

spiders!) Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

Saturday, May 19, 7:30am
Georgetown Nature Areas
Leader: Craig Swolgaard
Home, 530-333-4345
Cell, 530-334-3023
cswol@sbcglobal.net

Traverse Creek Botanical Area and/or Georgetown Nature Area are two diverse nature areas near Georgetown, both with forests and creeks. Hike several miles on trails to find Sierra Nevada species: kinglets, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, seven woodpecker species, Black-headed Grosbeak, etc. Migrating warblers, vireos, and Lazuli Bunting are also present. Bell's Sparrow and California Thrasher may be found in the chaparral. Meet at Craig's house in Georgetown, 2884 Church Street. Georgetown is an hour drive from Sacramento and can be reached either by highway 50 to Placerville, then Hwy 193 north or by taking highway 80 to Auburn, then Hwy 49 south to Cool, then Hwy 193. Church Street intersects Hwy 193 one block north of Main Street. Parking is available.

Saturday, May 19, Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk, CHANGED to MAY 12.

Sunday, May 20, 6am
Mosquito Ridge Rd, Placer County
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott for this early season trip into the lower to mid-elevation Sierra. While seemingly a bit early for this area, Scott has found it very productive in this time period. Previous trips have found 6 species of woodpecker including Pileated and White-headed, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific and Canyon Wrens and several warbler species. Plan for an all day trip. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be walking 1-2 miles over moderate terrain. Meet Scott at 6am at

the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. FRS radios are helpful on this trip, so bring them if you have them.

Wednesday, May 23, 8am SHARP!
Remaining Lincoln grasslands and

other habitats

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276 or 530-320-4751
johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a day of birding based in Lincoln. We will look for Tri-colored Blackbirds, Western Kingbirds, and the great raptors that inhabit the area. You can join John and others at Sterling Cafe at 7am for breakfast, located next to Raley's on Lincoln Blvd and Sterling Parkway. We will be leaving the parking lot at 8am sharp for our excursion, which will end about mid-afternoon depending on the birding. Some easy walking involved. Bring lunch and drinks.

Saturday, May 26, 7:30am

Sailor Bar

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

Join Mark to look for late migrants and returning summer nesters. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$8 (holiday weekend) entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, May 27, 6am

Sierra Valley

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

The month of May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. This gem of the Sierras is unique in that it has characteristics of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin, yet is part of the western drainage. The Feather River flows out of the northwestern corner of Sierra Valley, through the Sierras and into the central valley, where it joins the Sacramento River. We will stop on the way at Kyburz Flat to look for nesting Mountain Bluebirds and other montane species, and Sandhill Cranes are possible here as well. Birding will be done mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. FRS radios are helpful on this trip, so bring them if you have them.

Thursday, May 31, 8am

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 vari-

ety of resident birds and spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 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.

Saturday, June 2, 6:30am
Northern California River Walks
Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net

Last year on Memorial Day Weekend, we walked along the South Yuba River, which is our likely venue for this trip, returning via Spenceville and Camp Far West Reservoir. We saw and heard several Yellow-breasted Chat, 4 species of swallows, Western

Tanager and several warblers. At Spenceville, we had good views of a Bullock's Oriole and an audio message from a nearby rattlesnake. Parking at South Yuba River requires a \$10 per car

fee. If it is not too hot, we may consider instead visiting two of the parcels among the Sacramento River Wildlife Refuges near Colusa for a longer but easy walk. A recent visit yielded a calling Yellow-breasted Chat, nesting Great Horned Owl, 3 woodpecker species, an adult Bald Eagle and several seasonal sparrows. A remote but real possibility is Yellow-billed Cuckoo returned to nest in the area. We can decide when we meet at the Park and Ride near Brookfield's Restaurant In Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride. This trip will last into mid-afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. FRS radios may be helpful while en route.

Sunday, June 3, 7am
Crystal Basin
Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn
530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com
Wendy Money, 916-205-3194
wendydoug@msn.com



American Goldfinch
 Kirsten Munson

This trip will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads, looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area, including Calliope Hummingbird. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Wendy 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. You can also meet Phyllis at 8am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Monday, June 4, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leader: Bob McCleary, 916-960-3390
bobmccleary@comcast.net

Bob is a docent at the Nature Center and knows the trails, and where to find the birds. On this morning walk he'll be looking for both resident and summer birds. Meet him in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park. This is a good trip for beginners as well as more experienced birders. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, June 9, 9am-12pm
Enchanting Cosumnes
Leader: Genelle Treaster
CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Interpretive Services: 916-358-2869

Join a naturalist-led journey into the natural and cultural history of the Cosumnes River basin. Witness firsthand why this part of south Sacramento County is the Central Valley's ecological jewel. Tour goes onto DFW property--a normally closed section of the multi-agency Cosumnes River Preserve. First, we'll meet in Wilton at the historic Hicksville Cemetery on Arno Road, just east of Highway 99. With Western Kingbirds and Western Meadowlark song reverberating across the grassland, we'll respectfully explore the area's extraordinary past--while viewing the present and future. After a short caravan, we'll set off on a two mile hike on uneven farm roads and game trails into oak woodland and thick riparian jungle, where we'll search for Western Bluebird, Swainson's Hawk, Wood Duck and Acorn Woodpecker. Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy walking shoes,

long pants and a hat. Bring ample drinking water, binoculars and insect repellent. Going south on Hwy 99, take the Arno Road Exit #280 and go east about 1/2 mile to the cemetery.

Sunday, June 10, 7:30am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-876-0457
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr, then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$ or your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

HARRY FULLER'S
GREAT GRAY OWL

Our March speaker, Harry Fuller, sent SAS five of his *Great Gray Owl* books. They will be used as raffle gifts for a few of the festivals we participate in. Thank you so much Harry.

SAS ENDORSES PROPOSITION
68 ON THE JUNE BALLOT

Proposition 68, is called the California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act and will be on the June 5 primary ballot. This bond will provide funding for many things including local parks, open spaces, habitat restoration, and the Salton Sea. The names of endorsing organizations are listed on the official proposition website: yes68ca.com/. California Audubon and other environmental organizations are among the supporters of this bill.

Our SAS Board voted at their March meeting to also endorse the bill. This \$4 billion bond was approved by the legislature in 2017 and is now on the ballot to be approved by the voters. At www.cacities.org/2018ballotmeasures you can find a listing of what the bond would pay for. If you click on 'funding in three main areas' there is a specific breakdown of where the money is to be spent.

General Meeting continued from page 1 corridor, wildlife will be able to roam freely across a protected area larger than Yosemite National Park.

To that end, BWB has partnered with their sister organization, Wild Tomorrow Fund, to raise funds to purchase these



Cheetah
John Sterling

lands. They have raised over 80% of the funds needed. They need help to take them over the top. This is a compelling effort, so please spread the word and if you wish to possibly contribute go to www.wildtomorrowfund.org. This is an opportunity to be a part of a conservation project of national and international importance.

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 and Anthony Asay
Program Chairs



Lion
John Sterling

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2018-2019

This new slate of officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2018-2019 will be voted on at the May General Meeting.

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	John Huls
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Heather White
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Sally Walters Scmoltd
Directors	Grant Boice
	Rosalind Becker
	Elliot Chasin
	Jane VanKessel
	To be determined

Spreading the Birding Word *SAS Volunteers*

24 Sacramento Audubon volunteers led field trips for adults and families, and monitored spotting scopes focused on birds' nests for two March Bird and Breakfast events at Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Adults enjoyed a breakfast provided by ARNHA members, and families had a Kiwanis pancake breakfast. Participants enjoyed scope looks at Anna's Hummingbirds fledging, the plump young ones flapping their wings as they rose up and down in the nest. Another hummer nest had views of the adult feeding the short-billed young. Bushtit pairs coming and going from their sock type nests were also in scopes. Some groups watched a coyote chasing deer, some saw a sea lion in the river, and some watched Red-tailed Hawks carrying nesting materials to a nest high on the bluffs. And everyone had up close views of dramatically displaying Wild Turkeys.

In April Craig DeMartini gave a short presentation about Sacramento Audubon and led a birding field trip at the Harrington Access on the American River for the monthly meeting of the group Roots of Connection.

Also in April Maureen Geiger and Jane VonKessel led a Family Friendly birding field trip at Laguna Creek in Elk Grove for the Laguna Creek Watershed Council.

Birding and Nature Events

17TH ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 16-18**, so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining. The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua brings birders together to enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people. The Seventeenth Annual Chautauqua offers over 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists. Add live music and delicious food, and you've got yourself a fantastic long weekend in nature with friends! Registration begins on April 15 at 6:30am so you can tell there is a high demand for the many field trips. More information can be found at birdchautauqua.org and the many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

DON'T MISS WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

Saturday, May 19, 10am–4pm

Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This FREE family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, live animal shows by Wild Things, Inc and Hawks, Honkers, and Hoots, music by Side-Wheeler String Band, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more! (Get directions.)

Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian forest restoration projects. Take one of the Bufferlands guided tours and enjoy a unique opportunity to see a rare heron and egret rookery—one of only four in Sacramento County. This rookery contains more than 120 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets and double crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds.

Walk on the Wildside has grown to be one of Sacramento's favorite outdoor environmental events, and both the event and parking are FREE! The fun activities are held at the beautiful Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport.

Directions: Exit I-5 at Pocket Road and head east. At Freeport Blvd. turn south. Continue 2 miles through the town of Freeport and past the golf course. Turn left at the signs (just opposite Cliff's Marina) and continue until you reach the Beach Lake event parking area.

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

OTHER BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OPEN TRAIL DAY, Saturday, June 2, 7am–1pm

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 here: www.regionalsan.com/bufferlands-calendar-events, for updates and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com.

TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS

Wednesday, June 20, 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 email Twilight on the Bufferlands to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

Additional Twilight events will be on Wednesdays, July 18, August 15, and Thursday, September 20.



Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 29, 2018 Registration deadline: July 15, 2018

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$105 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

Farallon Trip continued
from page 1

of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip presentation starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 25 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. Note: reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. The trip cost is \$105 per person. Sign up deadline is July 15.

Your space will be confirmed by email after your reservation form and check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided in early July. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 916-715-1876 for further information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Richard Anderson, Wayne Blunk, Ross Campbell and Alana Wyatt, Gesna Clarke, Lisa and Chris Couper, Jodie L Crandell, Roberta Deering, Bob Ellis, Carole S Gates, Connie Gehrt, Terrie Gray, Lachlan Mc Clenahan, Arla Mc Guire, Sarah Powell, Nancy Schoellkopf, Susan E Solarz, Jerry Vollmer, and Jon Wato made donations to the **General Fund**.

Nancy and Bill Bittner, Stanley G Ford and Herbert Freeman made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Lisa Moraga made a donation to **Bobelaine**.

Jane Woehl made a donation in the memory of **Joyce Yee**.

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.

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.



Tricolored Blackbird
Linda Pittman

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

PLEASE NOTE: This event has been rescheduled to the 2nd Saturday, May 12th. It was previously on May 19th.

Saturday, May 12, 10:30am, Family Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael

These events at Effie Yeaw are held the third Saturday of almost every month and no registration is needed. Just show up and enjoy! Their website address for other outdoor, family friendly, weekend events is sacnaturecenter.net/events/weekend-programs/.

Tuesday, May 15, 8am, Family Friendly Trip
Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader Craig DeMartini will be looking for spring migrants, as well as nesting birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. Meet him at the main picnic area parking lot across from the golf course. Further information can be found on page 4.

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.

Tricolored Blackbird News from Audubon California

We're in mid-April, and that means that Tricolored Blackbird nesting season has begun in earnest in California. If you've been following Audubon California for a while, you know that we've been working hard over the last decade to ensure a future for this struggling species.

Audubon California biologists are already out in the field seeking out the Tricolored Blackbirds giant nesting colonies, and working to protect them. As this is going on, their colleagues are advocating before the California Fish and Game Commission this week, encouraging that body to list the Tricolored Blackbird under the state's Endangered Species Act.

Audubon California is also working with a number of private landowners to create safe nesting habitat for the birds. Tricolored Blackbirds live almost entirely in California and once numbered in the millions, but their population has declined to a fraction of what it once was, about 178,000 remaining.

The reasons for this decline are many, but the loss of marsh and nearby feeding habitats along the coast and in southern California and the Central Valley is the main issue. With the loss of native habitat, the

species has become dependent on agricultural lands, with most of the largest colonies nesting in grain fields. A real dilemma develops because Tricolored young typically have not yet left the nest before the time farmers harvest their crop, and harvesting destroys Tricolored Blackbird nests and young. Thousands of chicks can be lost in a few minutes.

In recent years, Audubon California has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the dairy industry to strike agreements with farmers to delay harvests to allow the young birds to fledge. These agreements with farmers have saved many thousands of Tricolored Blackbirds.

And Tricolored Blackbirds are already making their nests. Four sites have been identified in Merced County, along with two in Tulare County, and one in Kern County. Some of these already have chicks in nests.

The California Fish and Game Commission is expected to make its decision on the listing Thursday, April 19. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has recommended listing based on its review of the best available science.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Nicole Biggart	Rebecca Kirby
Donald Childs	Susan Lincoln
Richard Deletets	Elizabeth Page
Roberta Deering and Gregory Ptucha	Sarah Powell
Herbert Freeman	Tim Schmidt
Sandra Graham,	Autumn Skimin
Tina Gray	Diane Soucy
Barbara Jeffus	Jerry Vollmer



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

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

You can enjoy the photos and commentary
without joining Facebook

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

March gives us the first taste of spring, with some of the early-arriving Neotropical migrants in place before month's end. All of the regularly occurring swallows, including Purple Martins, arrived by mid-month and were scouting or building nests. The first **Western Kingbird** was reported on 3/16, and **Bullock's Orioles** arrived a week later. Lingering from February, a **Red-necked Grebe** continued at Lagoon Valley into April. Three **Ferruginous Hawks** continued near Plainfield Elementary School through 3/16. Interesting shorebird reports included a **Pacific Golden-Plover** throughout much of the month at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, and a **Ruff** was at the same location on 3/10. Most surprising was a **Baird's Sandpiper** at the Woodland WTP on 3/22-23, one of very few spring records and apparently the earliest by far.

Early March produced several reports of a calling **Long-eared Owl** about a mile

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

membership@sacramentoaudubon.org
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 _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

and a half up Rd 53 from Guinda in the Capay Valley. A "group" of **Long-eared Owls** spent the winter in an olive orchard along Putah Creek downstream of Winters. The status of this secretive species in our area is poorly understood. On 3/23, an impressive six **Northern Pygmy-Owls** were detected calling in Bray Canyon at Bobcat Ranch, on the north side of Hwy 128 and the Putah Creek Canyon.

A **Cassin's Vireo** was found at Bray Canyon on 3/23, and photos are still being evaluated of a "**Solitary Vireo**" reported as a **Plumbeous Vireo** on 3/31 along Arcade Creek near American River College. On 3/11, a pile of feathers was all that remained of the **Sage Thrasher** first found on 2/8 in a Davis yard, illustrating the vulnerability of out-of-range birds, if not all birds. The **Northern Waterthrush** continued along Putah Creek near the Hwy 128 bridge through at least 3/8, and the **Palm Warbler** first found at the Woodland WTP on 11/24 was reported through 3/21. A male **Lawrence's Goldfinch** visiting a Natomas feeder on 3/10 was a nice find for the Valley floor, away from typical breeding locations in the low foothills.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.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, Holly Coates, Lily Douglas, Gil Ewing, Frank Fogarty, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, James Holmes, Joan Humphrey, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Tim Ludwick, Mark Martucci, Michael Perrone, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon Society
P.O. Box 160694
Sacramento, CA 95816

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: membership@sacramentoaudubon.org

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

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

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

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

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

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, May 17

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm
Sue Orloff, Dale Steele, John Sterling,
and Martin Taylor

*South Africa by
Biologists Without Borders*

