

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 69 • NO. 5

MAY 2017

General Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2017
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Asian Nature Transect: Enjoying the
Wildlife of India, Bhutan and Thailand
Joe Ferreira

One of our past Sacramento Audubon presidents, Joe Ferreira, will show highlights of four very different Asian national parks he visited in April and May of 2016. This single journey invites comparison between the dry woodlands of India's Bandhavgarh National Park and the humid Sunda rainforests of Kao Sok National Park in peninsular Thailand. Likewise, it explores the lofty slopes of the Bhutanese Himalayas as well as the flood plains below in Assam's Kaziranga National Park. The diverse habitats allowed him to photograph nearly a hundred bird species, including three species of hornbill. The Indian parks do provide sightings of the classic mega mammals such as Asian elephant, Indian Rhino, wild water buffalo, leopards, tigers and bears. Five species of deer were photographed along with two antelope and three types of mountain goats. All areas offered views of wildflowers, insects, primates, fish, and reptiles. Even the temples, wats and dzongs seemed to harbor resident wildlife in every crevice.



Hoopoe
Joe Ferreira

Encouraged by a college professor, Joe joined Sacramento Audubon while attending CSUS. He majored in conservation biology

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BIG DAY OF GIVING, MAY 4

Please Make Donations to Sacramento Audubon

This year, SAS is again joining the May 4 **Big Day of Giving** which is a fundraising effort for non-profit organizations in the Sacramento area. Over 500 non-profits participate in this annual event which is a 24 hour giving challenge that lifts up lives and makes Sacramento a better place to call home. Last year, Sacramento area residents donated over \$5 million to their favorite non-profits. The minimum donation is \$15 and and we'll be perfectly happy with that amount to boost our financials!

This is a special request for you to involve your family and friends who have the slightest interest in birds, conservation, or SAS. The more people that talk about it, the better for birds in Sacramento. So please tell at least 10 people who share your values, that May 4 is a great day to donate to Sacramento Audubon.

If you would like to help SAS, May 4th is the day to do it, so please put it on your calendar. You can read all about the Sacramento Audubon, its mission, goals, projects and finances at: bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubon. To donate go to bigdayofgiving.org, type Sacramento Audubon Society as the NPO name; then click on GIVE and choose your amount. Thank You!



Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2017

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 27th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year 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.

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 Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. Will the Northern Gannet be there this year? 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 a different boat this year but from the same dock. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out 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

Pelagic Trip continued on page 6

Field Trip Findings

Ancil Hoffman Park (4/12) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Three people joined me on this rainy morning, and we saw a variety of small passerine birds, but as the rain grew heavier two turned back. One intrepid birder continued with me at an accelerated pace, and we did manage to see a Cooper’s Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, nesting Cliff Swallows and Yellow-billed Magpies. I continued to bird alone for a while, and found my FOS Ash-throated Flycatchers.”

Earth Day Birding and Tree Appreciation at Estates Drive (4/10) — Leader John Huls entertained the birding group with comparisons of native and introduced vegetation, hybridization, and stories about the decimation of European wine grapes as a result of the introduction of California grape. Signs of the recent high water were everywhere, as were House Wrens and other cavity nesters. An Osprey fly-by was a nice treat, and birder Betty Kniffen spotted a Black-throated Gray Warbler.

Birding By Ear Specialty Walk (4/9) — Paul Cordero, co-leader with Mark Martucci, reported: “It was a beautiful, sunny morning at Ancil Hoffman park. Eight eager birders spent several hours focusing on local bird song. It was a great time to practice birding by ear as the sunny spring morning brought out a ton of birds. We focused mostly on the basics: House and Bewick’s Wren, Spotted Towhee, Oak Titmouse, European Starling, Nuttall’s, Downy, and Acorn Woodpeckers. Spring songs were heard from Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Bullock’s Orioles, Magpies and Robins were observed gathering nesting materials.”

Mather Lake (4/9) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “A little chill did not deter 7 souls to explore Mather Lake for 53+ species. Nesting, nest building, courting behavior or fledglings indicated breeding of Robins, House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Western Kingbirds, Canada Geese, American Bitterns, Red-winged Blackbirds and Black Phoebe. The Great Horned Owl was sitting on the same nest from last month. A Common Yellow-throat at each end of the lake was an additional treat.”

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/8) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “cancelled due to closure and bad weather.”

Glenn Hall Park (4/5) — Jane Von Kessel, substituting for Sally Walters Schmoltd reported: “Six of us headed out on a pretty and mild weather day. Birds seemed fairly inactive but we did manage to see and/or hear 28 species. We saw one Yellowlegs, a Wood Duck in flight, and one accipiter in a tree—we thought to be a Cooper’s Hawk but not positive. There was an interesting Woodpecker who looked to be similar to a Nuttall’s but had a fairly large rounded patch of tanish-brown color in the middle of his back. There was a male Nuttall’s close by in the same tree with more common coloration.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (4/2) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “A large group of 25 people saw 52 species of birds on a beautiful early spring morning along the American River Parkway. Highlights included Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson’s Hawk, Fox Sparrow, Bullock’s Oriole and Cassin’s Vireo.”

Putah Creek Riparian Reserve (4/1) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Nine valley birders enjoyed a mild spring day under the canopy searching for migrants and nesting resident species. Tree Swallows were most abundant, competing with Western Bluebirds for the bird boxes located along the riparian strip of the reserve. We were also able to find Northern Rough-winged Swallows but, interestingly, not Cliff Swallows, which should already be here. Other migrants included Swainson’s Hawk, seen soaring overhead. Resident raptors included frequently calling Red-shouldered Hawk and a soaring Red-tailed Hawk. We had a brief look at a soaring Sharp-shinned Hawk. House Wrens were quite numerous and noisy. White-crowned Sparrows outnumbered their Golden-crowned cousins. All of the warblers observed were Yellow-rumped. A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets remain in the valley. We had good views and numbers of Yellow-billed Magpie. Other expected species included Wood Duck, Black Phoebe, Oak Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Spotted and California Towhees, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall’s, Downy and Acorn Woodpeckers, and Western Kingbird. The group tallied 47 species for the day, on par with last

year’s number, but seemingly a slow start to the spring migration.”

Mather Lake (3/26) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Braving overcast and slightly chilly weather 9 of us spent a leisurely 3+ hours on the shores of Mather Lake. The trees were leafing but still provided good looks at 42 species. Raptors included Red-tailed Hawks, White-tailed Kites, Red-shouldered Hawks, and a Swainson’s Hawk spending time on an established nest from last year. A nesting Great Horned Owl was spotted. Several Bitterns were heard on the north shore and one gave us looks later on the south shore. At least 3 FOS Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen along with a large number of Great-tailed Grackles. All got scope looks of a beaver inside its den in a hollow log and the last bird noted was a Common Raven flying over the picnic area.”

Beginning Birding Field Trip, William Pond Park (3/26) — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Craig DeMartini, Larry Hickey and Darrell Mohr, reported: “A group of interested and observant beginning birders joined us in finding 45 species on this spring morning walk. Highlights were Bullock’s Oriole singing from tree top, brilliantly colored Western Bluebirds, and a singing Chipping Sparrow. 8 different species were observed in, on and constructing nests.”

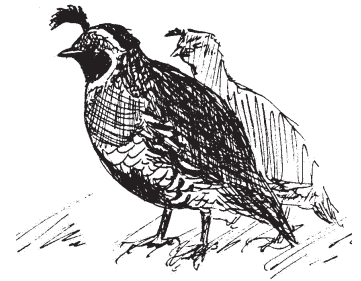
Teal Bend and Sutter County (3/25) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “I had a four people join me for a nice morning walk around and through the property at Teal Bend Golf Course. We saw most of the common birds along with Common Gallinule, Phainopepla, Western Kingbird, nesting White-tailed Kites, calling Pied-billed Grebe, Swainson’s Hawk, and Orange-crowned Warbler. We also heard a Common Yellowthroat and were treated to a fly by of a Great Horned Owl being chased by a few crows. Total species count was 62.”

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/22) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Heavy rain canceled the trip.”

Sacramento Bar (3/19) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: “A dozen birders had a grand old time at Sac Bar. The focus

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Field Trips



California Quail
Kirsten Munson

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 7 contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 717-8808. For trips from May 8 through June 11 contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips.

Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

NOTE: With continued rain in our forecast, it is especially important to contact the trip leader if you have any doubts about the status of a trip. Fieldtrips along the Yolo Bypass and Cosumnes River Preserve may still have flooding.

Tuesday, May 2, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris

Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Ann: 947-7573, burris.

nellieann@gmail.com

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.

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30am

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach

American River Parkway

Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt,

710-1077, bajaowl@gmail.com

Join Sally for her monthly bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for migrants and resident breeding birds, wrens, towhees, and other small passerine birds. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. This is a City Park so there is no charge for American River access. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some

uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, May 6, 8am

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266

jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Meet Dan at the Visitor's Center Parking Lot off Franklin Boulevard by 8am for a full morning of birding at this gem in the south end of Sacramento County. There should be lots of fun migrants and many in stunning breeding plumage for us to enjoy along the trail system. Bring snacks and plenty of water and expect a slow-paced easy loop hike. After birding the riparian woodland for most of the morning we will also scope any wetlands west of Franklin Boulevard and off Desmond Road (depending on conditions) for shorebirds and waterbirds. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org.

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne 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 \$5; your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too!

Saturday, May 13, 8am

Bodega Bay

Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398

Wendy Money, 205-3194

sasteurer@yahoo.com

wendydoug@msn.com

Join Sandra and Wendy for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. This trip is great for families with kids and beginning birders too. Bring a sack lunch, water and layered clothes. Optional stop for dinner on the way home. Meet at the Mace Blvd. Park and Ride. From Sacramento take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride exit a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Loaner binoculars will be available.

Saturday, May 13, 7am

Spenceville WLR

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124

offleash56@yahoo.com

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.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

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.

Sunday, May 14, 6am
Mosquito Ridge Rd, Placer County
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 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 at 6 am at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Rd in Loomis. Exit 110 off I-80.

Wednesday, May 17, 8am
Sailor Bar, Olive Ave entrance
Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
larryhickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry at the Olive Ave entrance to Sailor Bar. This is a good area to see Phainopepla and a variety of woodpeckers and resident birds. We will walk for about 3 miles along the base of the bluffs to the fish pond, then back on trails along the American River. To access the Olive Ave entrance to Sailor Bar from Winding Way, go south on Toyon Ave, continue left on Natoma Ave. At 0.4 mile and turn left on Olive Ave, down a hill and into the parking lot. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 am
Fremont Weir Wildlife Area
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 358-2869
George.gilmore@wildlife.ca.gov

This riparian stretch along the Sacramento River north of Woodland features large expanses of meadow/grassland where Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings and Western Kingbirds have nested in recent years. Swallows, bluebirds, orioles, wrens and Swainson's Hawks are usually present also. This easy walk will last until late morning

and be mostly in the sun so hats, liquids and sunscreens are good. Meet at Fremont Weir Wildlife Area Parking lot. Directions from Sacramento: Travel I-5 north toward Woodland. Take the County Rd 22 Exit after crossing over the Sacramento River. Turn right or east on County Rd 22 take the first left, County Rd 117, over the railroad tracks. Travel on County Rd 117 for 5.8 miles and turn left (west) on County Rd 16 (unpaved). County Rd 16 will terminate at the parking lot on the east levee of the Fremont Weir Wildlife Area.

Saturday, May 20, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Audubon birding leaders 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



Tricolor Blackbird
Linda Pittman

in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, May 21, time TBD
Dragonfly Trip—Location: TBD
Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, 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. 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 and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

Thursday, May 25, 8am
River Bend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 502-2699
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and over to the river, looking for small woodland birds and woodpeckers. We sometimes have good looks at Red-shouldered Hawks or Great Horned Owls. Walk will end by noon, and it's a great walk for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, May 27, 9am
Family Friendly Trip
William Pond Park
Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Meet Craig along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk, for this morning walk looking for returning migrants and resident birds. Wrens and towhees call from the bushes. Western Bluebirds may be found in the park area, and Craig will be looking for Red-shouldered Hawks and Ash-throated Flycatchers. Although the focus of the trip is birds, Craig can also help you identify some of the plants. 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. This is an excellent trip for beginners of all ages, and loaner binoculars are available.

Saturday, May 27, 6:30am
South Yuba River State Park Vicinity
Leader: Jane Taylor, 587-3366
jg.taylor@att.net

With abundant snow in the Sierra this year, access to the high country may be problematic in late spring, but we have the foothills. Expect to explore a trail or trails in the vicinity of South Yuba River State Park near the Bridgeport covered bridge where we can approach the Yuba River or Englebright Lake to look for local birds, a list of which may be found at: southyubariverstatepark.org/RespWebPages/PlantsAndAnimals.html. Most of our raptors, woodpeckers, owls, wrens, and many warblers, including the Yellow-breasted Chat, are representative

of the area. Starting early to avoid holiday crowds, we may walk up to 3 miles so bring food and liquids; this trip may last into the late afternoon. Meet Jane 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. Note: Parking at the State Park requires a state parks pass or \$5 fee.

Sunday, May 28, 6am

Sierra Valley

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 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 6 am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Wednesday, May 31, 8am

Remaining Lincoln Grasslands and Other Habitats

**Leader: John York, 409-9276 or
530 320-4751**

johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a day of birding based in Lincoln. We will look for tricolored blackbirds, 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, June 3, 7am

Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn,
530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com
Sue Darst, 530-902-3427
sue.darst51@gmail.com**

**Jane Van Kessel, 524-4157
jvankessel55@comcast.net**

Phyllis 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, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. They hope to see the beautiful Calliope hummingbird again. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Sue and Jane 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 8 am 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.

Sunday June 4, 6am

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County

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

Richard will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end late afternoon. We will be walking about 2-3 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet 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, June 6, 7am

Granite Springs Road and Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spkua2@comcast.net**

**Ann Burris, 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Join Tim and Ann for a full day of fun and birding. We will start by driving Granite Springs Road, then head into Crystal Basin for the remainder of the trip. We hope to find flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbird. If we are lucky, we

will find Mountain Quail with young. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. Please bring FRS Radios if you have them. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. We will leave promptly at 7am.

Wednesday June 7, 6:30am

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach

American River Parkway

**Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt
710-1077, bajaowl@gmail.com**

Join Sally for her monthly bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for resident breeding birds, wrens, towhees, and other small passerine birds. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. This is a City Park so there is no charge for American River access. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**Saturday and Sunday,
June 10-11, 8am onsite
both Saturday and
Sunday**

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass

**Leader: Gary Fregien
708-0636**

**calaveri.gary@gmail.
com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra Valley or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. We will bird the Sierra Valley area by car on Saturday,



Purple Martin

Photo Illustration
Sharon Wisecarver

a full day's excursion, including a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire located at the southern end of the valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks. On Sunday we will bird the Yuba Pass area until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola and Sierra City. US Forest Service campgrounds

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Field Trips continued from page 5

are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/8. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Tool
Saturday, June 17, 3pm
Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk
Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398
sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 205-3194
wendydoug@msn.com

Join Sandra and Wendy to look for mountain birds and the Common Nighthawks. Meet 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.

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sunday, May 7

Trips are limited to 10 adult participants and registration is required.

These beginner field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on where to look and what important field marks to look for. This walk will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders.

Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

New Summer Observer Issues

The Sacramento Audubon Society Board has approved having two supplemental issues over the summer. There will be a small issue in June with just Field Trips and Field Trip Findings, a normal issue in July and another smaller issue in August with Field Trips and Field Trip Findings.

Short-eared Owl
Stephen D'Amato



VOLUNTEER NEEDED WITH EXCEL EXPERIENCE

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

General Meeting continued from page 1

and has now worked for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for over 36 years. With his family he has lived at a fish hatchery, an ecological reserve and a wildlife area before returning to work as an environmental scientist in the Sacramento region. Among his hobbies he enjoys birding and wildlife photography which he has pursued, so far, in ten countries on five continents.

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/Sacramento Audubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, President and Program Chair

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

first 30 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 \$100 per person. Sign up deadline is June 30.

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

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 16, 2017 Registration deadline: June 30, 2017

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. 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

DON'T MISS WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

Saturday, May 20, WALK ON THE WILDSIDE!

Bring the family and join Regional San's Bufferlands staff for our annual Walk on the Wildside event, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

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, a live animal show by Wildthings, Inc, music by Cliff Compton and Mountaintop, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more!

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!

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.

DEAR SACRAMENTO AUDUBON GUIDES AND SCOPE MONITORS

On behalf of ARNHA and Effie Yeaw Nature Center, I want to express our sincere appreciation for your wonderful assistance at our annual Bird & Breakfast. I had the opportunity to talk with some of the birders as they came in from the field and all were extremely positive about their experience and could list off many of the birds they enjoyed seeing. Thank you for making this fundraiser an annual success—I can't think of any other event which has run for so long (over 25 years) and continues to be a big draw. Your willingness to provide your birding expertise and passion are the big reason for the event's success. We truly appreciate your help.

And a special thank you for the Sunday guides—the goal was to get more young people and young families out into the preserve and enjoy nature and birding—you all made that happen. We are really excited that this year we sold out both Saturday and Sunday—for that means more and more people received great exposure to birds and nature!

Thank you Sacramento Audubon! Paul Tebbel, Co-Executive Director
American River Natural History Association, Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Birding and Nature Events

16TH 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 Sixteenth Annual Chautauqua offers over 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists. Registration, which has already begun, and more information can be found at birdchautauqua.org. Many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

OTHER BUFFERLANDS EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLID

OPEN TRAIL DAY, Saturday, June 3, 7am–5pm

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. 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 on arrival to receive maps and other information. Please check back here (regionalsan.com/event/open-trail-day) for updates and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at jonesro@sacsewer.com

TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS

Wednesday, June 21, 6:30pm–9pm

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

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

We will have additional Twilight Tours on July 19, August 16, and September 20th.

Findings continued from page 2

was learning bird songs and the birds were singing! Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Titmouse, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nuthatch, Nuttall's and Acorn Woodpeckers were calling and singing. Raptors included Peregrine Falcon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Merlin, and an Accipiter."

Sailor Bar (3/18) — Leader Ben Graber reported: "The Sailor Bar trip went great. We had a big group of people, and we saw most of the usual resident birds. The most notable were several Lincoln's Sparrows, a Downy Woodpecker, some recently arrived Tree Swallows, and a Phainopepla."

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills (3/14) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: "It was a perfect spring day in the foothills of Folsom Lake. Bird song was abundant, and wildflowers were in bloom; Douglas Iris, Blue Dicks, Buttercup, and Shooting Stars. The day started out cool and ended up warm. Six of us counted 43 avian species, including a nesting Bald Eagle."

Cathie LaZier

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Angela Thompson made donations to the **General Fund**.

Harry & Karen White and Dee E Warenycia made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community and don't forget to donate on May 4th—the BIG Day of Giving.

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.

Join Us For Family and Beginner Field Trips!

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Bodega Bay Join Sandra Steurer and Wendy Money on **Saturday, May 13 at 8am**, for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. This trip is great for families with kids and beginning birders too. Bring a sack lunch, water and layered clothes. Optional stop for dinner on the way home. Loaner binoculars will be available. More information is on page 3.

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk On **Saturday, May 20**, at **10:30am**, join Audubon birding leaders 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.

William Pond Park On **Saturday, May 27**, at **9am**, meet Craig DeMartini along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk, for this morning walk looking for returning migrants and resident birds. Wrens and towhees call from the bushes. Western Bluebirds may be found in the park area, and Craig will be looking for Red-shouldered Hawks and Ash-throated Flycatchers. This is an excellent trip for beginners of all ages, and loaner binoculars are available. More information, is on page 4

Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk On **Saturday, June 17 at 3pm** meet Sandra Steurer and Wendy Money to 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.

SAS OFFICERS NEEDED!

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

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2017-2018

The new slate of officers and board members for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2017-2018 will be voted on at the May General Meeting.

President	Sally Walters Schmoldt
Vice President	Bill Bianco
Treasurer	
Recording Secretary	
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Larry Hickey
Directors	Grant Boice
	Karen Cadle
	Thomas Cadle
	Elliot Chase
	John Hulls
	Keith Wagner

Seasonal Observations

Maarch 1 to March 31

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

While there were breaks in the weather, the historically wet season continued to produce a lot of rain and flooding. It's fitting that many of the notable birds for the month were water birds. Among the most interesting ducks of the season was a male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** at Cosumnes River Preserve from 3/5-7. The male **Tufted Duck** found on the San Joaquin River along W Brannan Island Rd continued through at least 3/11. A female **Surf Scoter** was found on Putah Creek near Fishing Access #4 from 3/4-19, and a female **Red-breasted Merganser** was found on Lake Natoma on 3/23. A **Common Loon** was downstream of Fishing Access #4 on 3/13.

SAS NEW MEMBER

Welcome this new member:

Barbara Wells

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

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

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



Common Loon
Kirsten Munson

Observations continued

A pair of **Bald Eagles** were seen nesting at Lake Natoma throughout the month, continuing the local expansion of this species. A **Snowy Plover** was an early surprise on 3/22 at Bridgeway Island Pond in West Sacramento, and an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was photographed at the Scally Rd landfill off Hwy 12, east of Fairfield, on 3/5. Up to 10 **Short-eared Owls** were reported along Metro Air Parkway between Elkhorn Blvd and Elverta Rd, and up to seven **Long-eared Owls** were found on private property in an olive orchard between Davis and Winters. A **Merlin** of the locally rare prairie subspecies was a nice find along Michigan Bar Rd on 3/9.

Before the month was over, **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles** were getting established on their breeding grounds and the first **Pacific-slope Flycatchers** and **Warbling Vireos** were being reported.

A very early or wintering **Cassin's Vireo** was found in north Davis on 3/5. At least five **Steller's Jays** were found at Fishing Access #1 along Putah Creek on 3/13. Surprisingly early **Swainson's Thrush** reports by experienced birders came from Davis on 3/11 and the American River Parkway (ARP) near the Gristmill access on 3/17. A hybrid **White-crowned X Golden-crowned Sparrow** was photographed at the west end of Rd 27 north of Winters on 3/18. Up to three **White-throated Sparrows** continued along the ARP between Howe and Watt Aves, and the wintering **Red Fox Sparrow** at the same site continued through 3/9.

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:

Keith Bailey, Terry Colborn, Lily Douglas, Gil Ewing, Stephan Fettig, Frank Fogarty, Steve Hampton, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Roger Muskat, Jason Riggio, Mark Sawyer, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, Charley Walker, Chris Wills, and Terry Wills.

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

Chris Conard

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

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

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

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

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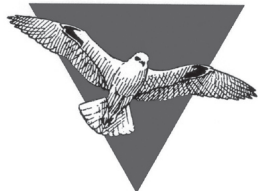
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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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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 monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

Thursday, May 18, 2017

Joe Ferreira:

*Asian Nature Transect: Enjoying the
Wildlife of India, Bhutan and Thailand*
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm



Painted Storks
Adult and Immature
Joe Ferreira