

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



General Meeting

MEETING NOTICE:

With the continuing uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus situation, the SAS Board has decided to suspend our May general meeting. The Officer and Board Member election will be postponed until the September General Meeting. We are needing two board members. If you or anyone you know would like to volunteer please contact President, Bill Bianco, at biancowm@yahoo.com; or 916-372-3318. Please check the *Observer*, our web site: sacramentoaudubon.org; or our Facebook page: facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon for any updates concerning this ongoing crisis. 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.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

MARY FORRESTAL

MEET MARY FORRESTAL

Mary hit the ground running after joining Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) in late 2018. She, her husband, an air force retiree, and their nine-year-old daughter, Maggie, started the Sacramento adventure three years ago, after moving from South Korea. Previously, they lived in England, Nebraska, Ohio and Colorado. Mary has a vivid memory of the day she and her family arrived in Sacramento and why she joined SAS.

“The first time we drove up from the Sacramento Airport on Hwy 99, was in December, 2017. I was so excited by all the birds in the rice fields. I just couldn’t believe everything I was seeing. It took me about a year to settle in and discover the Sacramento Audubon Society. After a little while I started going on field trips. I love our field trips, whether it is a small one with only a few participants or one that everyone flocks to.

“There is always something to discover, something new to learn. Our trip leaders are fantastic, generous with their knowledge and experience. Not being from the area, it feels like I have discovered specialized tour guides to all the places I want to go. Beyond that, I knew I wanted to contribute to the organization.”

Mary was appointed to the board in 2019. Her smile and infectious laugh are her trademark. In a unique way, they reflect her passion for SAS. She doesn’t hesitate to volunteer where there is a need. In addition to serving on the Board, Mary has assisted with kid friendly activities. This past February a Folsom area girl scout troop leader reached out to



Mary Forrestral and her daughter Maggie

Mary Forrestral continued on page 2

THE TIMING OF SPRING MIGRATION

Warm days with singing birds in late March and even the first half of April can still be devoid of hoped for migrants. For many birders, the first good pulse of migrant warblers is the highlight of the avian calendar, but nearly everyone experiences some impatience. Sure, the bright spring male Audubon’s Yellow-rumped Warblers are beautiful and many are singing, but after looking at hundreds if not thousands from fall to early spring, one gets antsy for the real show to begin. While spring officially begins with the equinox around

March 21st, the turning of the calendar to April is another milestone and anticipation builds. Migration always comes in fits and starts based on favorable weather conditions, but it is often not until around April 15th, and sometimes later, that things really pick up.

The early arrivals are the swallows, with Tree Swallows singing and checking out nest cavities by mid-to-late January, and the other common swallows are all evident by early March. Western Kingbirds and Bullock’s Orioles are bright splashes

of local color adding to the more subtle beauty of our wintering sparrows; they can typically both be found in the last week of March. Another conspicuous addition is the sunflower-yellow Wilson’s Warbler. On good days, they can be quite abundant, often in willow margins, singing their simple songs from mid-April, peaking in early May, and tapering off along with most of the migrants by month’s end.

What are often considered the oak specialists also arrive in good num

Migration continued on page 2

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 bers, singing their buzzy songs,
 with Black-throated Gray Warblers on a
 similar schedule to Wilson's Warblers,
 with Townsend's Warblers and the much
 less common, Hermit Warblers, arriving
 in numbers in late April and peaking in
 May. Some migrants like Yellow Warblers
 and Swainson's Thrushes arrive quite late,
 peaking in mid-May and continuing into
 early June.

Learning and appreciating how the migra-
 tion unfolds can be a daily exercise in
 learning the rhythms of the season. This
 is at its most apparent if you visit the



Black-Throated Gray Warbler
 Chris Conard

same area
 many times
 throughout
 the season.
 As Say's
 Phoebes
 and Hermit
 Thrushes
 depart,
 Western
 Kingbirds
 and
 Swainson's

Thrushes arrive. The sparrows leave, the
 warblers pass through and linger, and the
 first migrant songbirds will pass through
 again starting as early as late July (with
 shorebirds arriving a month before that!).
 I've barely touched on half of the species
 and groups that constitute our regular
 spring migration, so there is much more to
 explore.

Reading about the migration is all well
 and good, but there's simply no substi-
 tute to getting in the field. Some days will
 be really slow, but nearly every day has
 something to offer and no two are exactly
 alike. After things slow down in late May
 and June is often when rarities such as
 Eastern warblers can be found. And unlike
 in the fall, many are singing and in their
 brightest plumage. That unfamiliar song
 could lead you to a bird you'll remember
 for a lifetime.

The bar charts in eBird are a great source
 of information which you can narrow to
 region, such as by county ([ebird.org/
 explore](http://ebird.org/explore)). An excellent expanded discus-
 sion, including line graphs of many of our
 regular migrants, can be found at Steve
 Hampton's blog ([thecottonwoodpost.
 net/2019/04/12/spring-migration-in-the-
 central-valley/](http://thecottonwoodpost.net/2019/04/12/spring-migration-in-the-central-valley/)).

Chris Conard

Guides Alone Field Trip Findings

River Bend (4/8/20) – Dan Brown reported: “Well, I was scheduled to lead a Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) field trip this morning at River Bend County Park and I did it, sort of! With the new world that we live in with “stay at home, stay healthy” and “physical distancing” in place, of course no one showed up, which is great, in my opinion. Why, you ask, did I make the effort to show up? When SAS recruits leaders for our field trips, one requirement of them is that they show up, rain, shine or pandemic and either lead the trip or cancel it if folks show up. That's what I did this morning. And while I was there I did a little birding, tallying 19 species and shooting a few pix along the way. A highlight was seeing two leucistic female Wild Turkeys being courted by several normal plumed males!”

Bobelaine (4/17/20) – Cathie LaZier reported: “Hearing from Bill Bianco that Bobelaine was open for walking and birding, I spent an entire morning alone walking the loop to the north. Wrentits were calling on the Grassland trail, and Spotted Towhees were calling everywhere! The trails, shaded by huge oaks and sycamores, were cool and inviting, but a word of warning—Poison Oak is rampant and in full bloom, alive with the buzzing of many bee pollinators, beautiful, but a constant reminder to stay on the trail.”

Cathie LaZier

MARY FORRESTAL continued from page 1

SAS for someone to lead a birding field trip. Mary volunteered to take on and coordinate the project. February 28, she led the girls, the troop leader and the parents on an educational and fun birding trip to Cohn Park in Folsom.

Mary values SAS's locally focused environmental and habitat conservation and preservation advocacy and actions. She fondly shares that sometimes her daughter feels like mom is dragging her on these bird walks; but she explains that she does this because of a fear that by the time her daughter is her age the habitat may not be around; nonetheless, she is proud to be part of an effort to protect the environment and its habitat. Mary is planting an important seed by bringing her daughter on the walks.

As Californians continue to shelter in place at home, Mary encourages families to stay connected to nature, birding and conservation within the state recommended parameters. While traveling isn't allowed right now, going out and taking a walk is still OK. She gently reminds folk to wear a mask and honor the social distancing guideline (6 feet apart from others) when out. Mary and her daughter usually walk at dusk, partly because the sidewalks are emptier later in the day and partly because of her daughter's interest in bats. Whatever time of day families

with kids go out to walk, let the kids lead the way. Take time to listen to what they are discovering and fascinated by. You may have gone out looking for bats but find that the kids are more interested in the stars, or the bugs.

Mary also suggests that if you're having trouble pulling a child away from a screen to go outside, then let them take some technology with them. Most kids love taking pictures. A digital camera is a great addition to a walk. There are also free Apps available that kids may use with a little supervision. Merlin Bird ID is one example. It's easy interface and bright pictures make it fun for kids of all ages.

One of SAS's on-going challenges that concerns Mary is identifying and applying effective ways to encourage more Sacramento Valley residents to take advantage of the society's cost-free activities. This isn't unique to SAS as more and more like-minded organizations offer competing activities to individuals and families with and without children. Feel free to contact [president@sacramentoau
 dubon.org](mailto:president@sacramentoaudubon.org) with ideas and suggestions on ways SAS may boost attendance at activities and events—once the Covid-19 crisis passes.

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. For trips through May 11, contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 916-717-8808. For trips from May 12 through June 11, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid77@gmail.com, 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..

These trips are contingent on “social distancing” being no longer required. If you are not sure please contact the leader prior to the trip to ensure that it is happening. If social distancing is still required the leader will not be at the meeting place. You can also consult the SAS website, and/or Facebook for clarification regarding the status of future field trips.

Sunday, May 10 7am

Spenceville WLA

Leader: Richard Barbieri

916-761-1124, offleash227@gmail.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. 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 12, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651

Larryhickey1@gmail.com

Meet Larry along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk for this morning walk looking for summer and year round resident birds. Along the river mergansers, herons and egrets can be found in the backwaters. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area and various raptors may be spotted. Trip will end before noon. From the

intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, May 16, 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.

Sunday, May 17, 7:15am

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. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the

first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Wednesday, May 20, 8am

River Bend Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699

empid77@gmail.com

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

Saturday, May 23, 8am SHARP!

Remaining Lincoln Grasslands and Other Habitats

Leader: John York, 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.

Sunday, May 24, 6am

Sierra Valley

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

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Field Trips continued from page 3

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.



White-crowned Sparrow
Gesna Clarke

Thursday, May 28, 7am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the local birds. Possible birds include Phainopepla and California Quail. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way just west of Hazel. Meet at the last parking lot on your left, just before the boat launch parking area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, May 30, 7am

Grassland, Riparian or Foothills habitats
Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
Home: 916-498-1546
Cell: 1jgtaylor@att.net

This trip will likely be valley/riparian or foothills oriented, depending on how hot it is at the end of May. We will practice our listening skills to help us find and identify a variety of birds. Plan for an early afternoon conclusion, so bring liquids and a snack or lunch. Consider a jacket or layered clothing to ward off morning chill, and FRS radios may be helpful while en route. 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.

Sunday, May 31, 8am

River Walk Park, West Sacramento
Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

This is a newer area for Sac Audubon and should turn up a variety of passerine species, sparrows, wrens, thrushes and more. We'll bird the river from the boat landing, then walk south past the I Street and Tower Bridges and up onto the levee. Walk should end by noon. Meet Bill at the Raley's parking lot by the bus stop; from Hwy 50 take Jefferson Blvd north; go left on W Capitol Ave and left on Westacre Rd to the lot.

Monday, June 1, 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 6, 7:30am

Crystal Basin, Eldorado NF
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net
Jane VanKessel, 916-524-4157
Jvankessel55@gmail.com

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 some hiking, not more than 1/2 mile or so at several stops. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Maureen 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 the group by 8:30am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton/Ice House Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Sunday, June 7, 7:30am

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

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

Wednesday, June 10, 7:30am

Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
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 in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A MONTH MAKES

And never more true for so many than right now. Regular birding walks in my neighborhood that have made life tenable and even enjoyable during this time of shelter in place. This is not the pattern any of us would have chosen, but here we are. Speaking personally, a busy field season at work has been mostly upended, long anticipated travel plans canceled, and a half-dozen public events and tours canceled or put on hold. More importantly, a close work colleague and friend is in the hospital with COVID-like symptoms, but has so far tested negative.

I feel incredibly fortunate not to be riding this out in an urban apartment building, but to have access to walk the American River levee and a portion of the Parkway

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

A MESSAGE FROM SACRAMENTO AUDUBON'S EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Carla Barbaro, Bill Bianco, Sue Darst,
Cathie Lazier, Sandra Steurer, Gesna
Clarke (Chair)

COVID-19 has created a new vocabulary - words like flattening the curve, social distancing, contact tracing, and superspreading. It has also created the challenge of managing day to day life apart from family, friends, colleagues, coworkers and the general public; schools and non-essential businesses are closed; alternative ways for continuing education and business activities are prevalent; fear is rampant for front line workers, and the virus has taken the lives of family members, friends, co-workers and associates.

Amid this global crisis life goes on. The backyard is a perfect laboratory to observe this life force and the current harbingers of spring. There's the chorus of songs from a mockingbird, rose buds sprouting like weeds, colorful flowers popping up everywhere, tiny apples solidly perched on stems, having survived a wind storm the night before, and a single petunia pushing through a tiny crack in a retaining wall. Birders, naturalists and conservation-

ists know this activity gives us hope and strengthens our resolve to do all we can to keep ourselves and our families healthy, strong and resilient.

One way to do this while sheltered at home is to take advantage of resources such as books, webcams, virtual tours, family and children's activities, and consumer information. We've all been inundated with these resources, but committee members hope you find the few suggestions below helpful.

The list links to on-line resources, but is not intended as a substitute for other family activities such as card and board games, flash cards; activities that encourage use of the mind, or creative activities such as knitting, sewing, painting, drawing; and at home theatrical, musical or dance performances.

Hopefully the list below will complement what you are already doing, or provides general information of interest.

If you receive *The Observer* via the US Postal Service, you won't be able to access the links unless you refer to *The Observer* at Sacramento Audubon Society's website. Some of these links are so long it is impractical to list them here but you can readily find them on the SAS website.

Contact education@sacramentoaudubon.org if you have a related story or tips to share.

Good Reads

The Field Guide to Citizen Science: How You Can Contribute to Scientific Research and Make a Difference

www.amazon.com/o/ASIN/B07NMCSH14/sciencefriday/

Birding Blind: Open Your Ears to the Amazing World of Bird Sounds

www.audubon.org/news/birding-blind-open-your-ears-amazing-world-bird-sounds

NAT GEO Subscription

NAT GEO Subscription for Kidst

www.nationalgeographic.com/subscribe/kids-magazines-bundle-1/?key=NAVKDS6

Links to Activities

Sibley Jigsaw Puzzle

www.sibleyguides.com/product/jigsaw-puzzle-1000-piece/

National Audubon

Audubon Adventures for Young Nature Lovers

click.everyaction.com/k/16870073/179637665/



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to 'exercise.' Rather than lament (too much) the lack of access to favorite sites during the height of spring migration, I've enjoyed really getting to know my local patch, often neglected for other sites like my workplace at the Bufferlands, Cosumnes River Preserve, the eastern Sacramento County grasslands, and the wider world. As much as I love and require walks in nature in and



White-throated Sparrow
Chris Conard

of themselves, it's the variety of birding that make nearly every one of them enjoyable. It's great tallying first of season Bullock's Orioles, Wilson's Warblers, and Rufous Hummingbirds. It's been equally rewarding to check on the Anna's Hummingbird nest we found a week ago (still there), the lingering male Common Goldeneye with the bad leg (still there after missing him yesterday), the Black-crowned Night-Heron in its roost tree (about half the time), and the White-tailed Kite nest (very hard to see). I've also been impressed

with the numbers of Lincoln's Sparrows, have occasionally seen a couple of different White-throated Sparrows, and been surprised by the number of Hooded Orioles (and palm trees) in my neighborhood. Another surprise came when Jeri Langham alerted me to about 60 Whimbrels roosting and preening on an island in the river a short walk from my house.

I have not been bored with my patch in the near month of local confinement, but that may change as the heat and summer doldrums roll in. It's not all an idyllic walk in the Parkway. Early mornings are good, but as the day unfolds, screaming kids and exceedingly loud adults, off-leash dogs, the huffing and puffing joggers (should I hold my breath as they go by?), bikes blasting through on narrow trails causing one to jump into high grass to escape are all causes of concern, frustration, and even flashes of anger (how can someone be so selfish and/or oblivious!). But overall, this has been a good time to slow down and observe behavior. I could go on, but will end with

one more. Several Common Mergansers have been fishing in a line, driving small fish into the shallows of a gravel bar. Not to let an opportunity go, Snowy Egrets have been jumping in front of them and grabbing their share. On a recent walk with Kimya, I thought we were about to witness a replay of this sequence when the mergansers continued through the shallows and out onto the rocks. They were all looking back in the same direction as an otter swam by; predators had become potential prey in an instant. The same basic walk, but each time a little different.

Chris Conard



River Otter, American River
Chris Conard

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Daniel A Airola, Steve Ball & Susie Nishio, Dale Claypoole, Betty J Cooper, Lisa & Chris Couper, G J Crandall, Virginia G. Gardner, Carole S Gates, Scott & Julie Kenney, Alison Rood, Gerald (Jerry) Schaar, Nancy Schoellkopf, Rick Soehren and Nanci Woody made donations to the **General Fund**.

Daniel A Airola, Betty J Cooper, Lisa & Chris Couper, Carole S Gates, Scott & Julie Kenney, Nancy Schoellkopf and Rick Soehren made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Daniel A Airola, Betty J Cooper, Lisa & Chris Couper, Carole S Gates, Lisa Moraga, Nancy Schoellkopf and Rick Soehren made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

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



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

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.

September Western Field Ornithology Conference Postponed

Because of the extraordinary circumstances regarding COVID-19, and the uncertainty about the course of this epidemic in the weeks and months ahead, WFO has decided to postpone our next conference to 2021. This difficult decision was made to protect the health of our members and to protect WFO from a potentially significant financial loss.

We are scheduling our next conference at the same hotel (Whitney Peak in Reno) from August 25-29, 2021. More info will follow in the months ahead.

Stay well! Kurt Leuschner, President, WFO

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Committee Members: Elliot Chasin, John Harding, Daphne Reimer, Jane Van Kessel, Heather White, Gesna Clarke (Chair)

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted Sacramento Audubon Society's website redevelopment project. Prior to pandemic cases being identified in California, the committee's computer technology representative John Harding presented a new website test model to the Board. A follow up presentation was scheduled for the March 31 board meeting, but it was cancelled. John, a state employee, redirected his focus to Governor Newsom's medical hiring initiative, in response to documented Coronavirus cases in California.

July 1, 2020 is the new website launch date. Committee members still anticipate meeting this target. If circumstances change, a new launch date will be posted.

National Audubon Members Reflect On Their Thoughts About Birds

To me, birds are a promise: Life in all its splendor goes on. They embody hope.

Birds mean resilience and rugged independence. They fly thousands of miles each year, braving the elements with their tiny bodies. Not all survive, but they continue.

Watching birds has made me infinitely more observant of all that's around me—a wonderful way to be at one with the natural world.

They are our first musicians. They give their all. They don't ask for recognition. I cannot imagine the world without them.

Birds are a constant reminder of the connected beauty of the natural world—a connection that includes me. They do this with grace, whimsy, and a steady purpose to their lives.

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31 Rare and Unusual Bird Reports www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

The first half of the month was more or less a typical March in the Sacramento region, but with stay-at-home orders ramping up in the latter half of the month in response to COVID-19, there was a significant decrease in bird reports from many local hotspots. For the birds, spring was still unfolding, and early spring migrants like **Western Kingbirds**, **Hooded Orioles**, and **Bullock's Orioles** were in place before month's end. Birders too were getting out when they could, reporting the continuing presence of Colusa County's first **Garganey**, found on 2/26 off of White Rd east of I-5 and continuing into April. A possible **Garganey** was also reported at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 3/25 but was not refound, while a male

Eurasian Green-winged Teal was reported at CRP on and off throughout the month. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was heard calling in north Davis on 3/5, and a male **Allen's Hummingbird** was reported at CRP on 3/28. An immature **Glaucous Gull** was seen sporadically in the first half of the month between the Yolo County Central Landfill Pond, adjacent ponds along Rds 103 and 104, and the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA).

A couple of wintering empids were notable for the region. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** found at CRP on 3/21 was likely the same bird found a few times beginning in early January. A **Dusky Flycatcher** in north Davis was found on 3/5 through the end of the month. It was seen, recorded calling, and photographed by multiple observers. The **Northern Shrike** found on 2/29 at the Colusa Garganey location continued through at least 3/20. An early-

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Marianne Leach
Gerald (Jerry) Schaar

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 Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at biancowm@yahoo.com; or 916-372-3318 to find out if the Board Meeting is still being held.

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on May 26, 2020, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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

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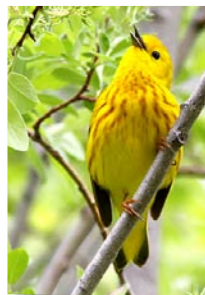
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Observations continued

arriving **Warbling Vireo** was found at CRP on 3/27, and an **Evening Grosbeak** was a nice surprise in Sacramento near 42nd St and U St on 3/9.

While the **Vermilion Flycatcher** left before March began, the **Clay-colored Sparrow** first found on 12/27 at Tanzanite Park continued until at least 3/9. A **Sagebrush Sparrow** was an excellent find along Robinson Rd south of Dixon on 3/3-4. A small flock of **Vesper Sparrows** along English Hills Rd between Vacaville and Winters became more interesting when a banded individual was photographed. It was later learned that the bird had been banded just south of Tacoma, Washington, and was only the second from the banding project to be reported on the wintering grounds; the first was also found by local birders in the Capay Valley in November 2018. This is important information



Yellow Warbler
Chris Conard

about the movements of this declining subspecies known as the **Oregon Vesper Sparrow**. Additional notable reports included the continuing **Harris's Sparrow** in Woodland, the continuing **Swamp Sparrow** along the auto tour route at the YBWA, and a **Yellow Warbler** found at CRP on 3/28 that was quite unexpected so early in the season. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** found near the Mayhew Drain (downstream of the Gristmill access to the American

River Parkway) was found in late February and inadvertently left out of last month's column.

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-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Stuart Angerer, Max Brodie, Holly Coates, Gil Ewing, Douglas Hall, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Stan Hunter, Emmett Iverson, Logan Kahle, Jeri Langham, Roger Muskat, Michael Perrone, Dave Quady, Steve Scott, John Trochet, Dan Williams, and David Yee.

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

Chris Conard

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

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ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

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