

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



General Meeting

Thursday, November 21, 2019
(NOTE: Our Usual Third Thursday)
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Feathers and Flight—A Journey To The New World Tropics

Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

Bird guide, naturalist and photographer, Benny Jacobs-Schwartz will take us on a gripping journey throughout the New World Tropics. Sharing his dazzling bird photos,



Trogon Species
Benny Jacobs-Schwartz

captivating videos, and animated story telling, he brings a slice of the tropics to California.

Delving into topics of migration, tropical speciation, and drivers of bio-diversity, this media rich journey will share some of the fascinating and unique birds that inhabit the new-world tropics.

Sure to both educate and entertain, this presentation will certainly leave you with a deeper understanding of tropical ecology, and knowledge about where some of our backyard birds spend their winters!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates a bird guiding business and lifestyle brand called BIRDS by BIJS (pronounced Bee-jus). Working seasonally as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide, Benny works in a variety of locations. Most recently bringing him to such exotic places as coastal Alaska, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Ecuadorian cloud forest.

When not trip leading or following birds across the world he is at home growing his

General Meeting continued on page 7

SACRAMENTO AREA CBCS FOR 2019-2020

Here are the dates so please think about signing up for one, especially if you've never gone before. Further information will be in next month's *Observer*.

Woodfords: Wednesday, December 18, Dan Brown and Tim Fitzer

Compiler: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207, e-mail: spskua2@comcast.net

Sacramento: Saturday, December 21

Compiler: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266, e-mail: jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Folsom: Sunday, December 29

Compiler: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610, e-mail: conardc@gmail.com

KIDS: You must register and that information can be found on page 6.

Kids: Saturday, January 4, 2020

Compiler: Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652, e-mail: mkgeiger@comcast.net

Teens: Sunday, January 5, 2020

Compiler: Wendy Money, 916-205-3914, e-mail: wendyjbirds@outlook.com

BUD GETTY—COUNTING SHEEP FOR 49 YEARS AND STILL COUNTING

Stewardship takes on special meaning when you mention Bud Getty, well-known and respected by colleagues in the wildlife conservation and preservation world. Bud is a member of Sacramento Audubon Society and a retired Superintendent of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park in San Diego County.



Bud Getty

Bud's work and research at Anza-Borrego set the foundation for successful monitoring of Desert Big Horn Sheep for almost 50 years. The first weekend of July for a 3-day period—and a 10-hour day—volunteers come together to do the job. Wendy Money, Gary Fregien, and Craig Swolgaard journey to Anza-Borrego, and are members of Bud's monitoring team. Gary considers Bud "an advocate for environmental education, who was always his department's environmental conscience", and Craig comments that "Bud has always embodied the true professional conservationist: respect for science, vision, and ability to listen and work with others. But when it comes to protecting parks, he is

single-minded."

At 85 years old Bud continues to have an unyielding commitment to the population of big horn sheep who inhabit the harsh desert environment of Anza-Borrego. Wendy marvels that he still participates at least one day of the sheep monitoring and bird counting in over 100-degree weather! Demonstrating his commitment, Bud proudly reports the latest sheep count is 300, the highest ever for the park!

BUD GETTY continued on page 5

Field Trip Findings

Falcon Crest (10/10) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “A brisk 37 degree morning greeted the 10 of us, but we shed our outer layers as the day warmed. We were surprised to see six Phainopeplas at the top of two valley oaks, then they flew off together. Twenty Common Mergansers repeatedly skimmed the water in short bursts as an opportunistic gull joined their feeding frenzy. A lucky few of us got a glimpse of a Bald Eagle cruising low over Folsom Lake. An evasive Red-breasted Sapsucker played hide-and-seek with us in the pine trees. A Sharp-shinned Hawk made good use of a convection thermal, gaining altitude without a single wingbeat. The thick bark of two healthy ponderosa pines were riddled with thousands of perfectly spaced holes; evidence that Acorn Woodpeckers had spent years creating their granary. We totaled 48 avian species.”

William Pond Park (10/6) — Leader Mike Heacox reported: “Somehow we scheduled our hike for the same day as Ride The River, where it was feared that hordes of speeding bicyclists would scream down the bike path, making for a difficult outing. Luckily we had barely a trickle. The biking event may have even reduced the number of people in the birding area, making for calmer conditions. Our group of eight people spotted 47 species, taking time to see some interesting behavior: two Ruby-crowned Kinglets flashing their crowns, an Acorn Woodpecker trying unsuccessfully to evict a European Starling from a hole in a tree and numerous small bird species foraging in the trees. Other highlights were a Turkey Vulture sitting on rocks in the stream sunning, and a Double-crested Cormorant doing the same thing farther downstream. With eight people, we were able to take smaller, narrower paths through more wooded areas. This brought us to a woody lookout with views of a more remote pond frequented by egrets (but not today), a Green Heron, Killdeer, Pied-billed Grebes and Mallards. Toward the end of the hike, we cut across the meadows, looking for some “missing” birds: Northern Mockingbird, California Towhee, and quail. We found the towhee and mockingbird, missed the quail and got a great look at a Red-shouldered Hawk. It was a great day to be out, even though we spotted no rare birds we saw a lot of activity, including a group of otters hunting in the river, making for a lively outing.”

Point Reyes (10/5) — Leader Dan Williams reported: “A baker’s dozen of us enjoyed a bright, clear day at the Point with lots of sunshine, little wind, summer temps, and mostly winter birds. Our first stop was Inverness Tennis Club where we were greeted by teeming flocks of Pine Siskins, a couple of Band-tailed Pigeons, Hairy Woodpeckers, Hermit Thrushes, a few Black-throated Gray and Townsend’s Warblers, and the first (but what would CERTAINLY not be the last) Red-breasted Nuthatch. We also had what would turn out to be the only rarity of the day, an Evening Grosbeak which we heard calling and saw briefly overhead. On the Outer Point, we stopped first at Mendoza Ranch where the Red-breasted Nuthatch onslaught began in earnest. We watched them not only taking over the cypress trees, but crawling on the face of the barn, hanging out on the wires, and even clambering around in the roadside thistles! I’ve never seen anything like it. We also had a roosting Barn Owl in the Mendoza trees, an immature Greater White-fronted Goose with the Canadas on Mendoza Pond, and a large flock of Tricolored Blackbirds in the Mendoza cow pasture. At Nunes Ranch, we had zero warblers but LOTS of Red-breasted Nuthatches, as well as lots of sparrows, with newly returned Golden-crowns joining the resident White-crowns, a couple of Sooty Fox, Lincoln’s and Song Sparrows, and Oregon Juncos. We also had a Swainson’s Thrush and a Say’s Phoebe at this location, as well as a few migrant raptors: a young Cooper’s Hawk, a young Red-shouldered Hawk, and a Merlin. Besides the ever-present burping Elephant Seals, the Chimney Rock Trail/Fish Docks area also provided us a Common Murre, all 3 cormorants, a small group of Black Turnstones on the rescue pier, and a pair of roosting Great Horned Owls in the cypress trees along with (get this) RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES! Our last stop of the day was Drake’s Beach where we were able to get scope views of a few Common and Red-throated Loons and Surf Scoters on the bay, as well as Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, and a pretty large amount of Heermann’s Gulls on the beach. We also had an Osprey cruise over and a Peregrine patrolling the cliff line to the east.”

Lincoln WTP (10/3) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “A very small group visited a riparian suburban park, a wastewater treatment plant, and a suburban pond.

We found, among expected species, Black-throated Gray Warbler, four species of woodpecker, a good number of Yellow-billed Magpies, a Peregrine Falcon, several Common Gallinules, and an apparent Egyptian Goose (reported two days prior on a bird app) among over 500 Canada Geese. We had upward of 50 species of birds and 3 mammals, including a fleeting glimpse of a River Otter. Not bad for a morning’s ‘work!’”

Teal Bend (9/29) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “I had 10 people join me on a beautiful fall morning through and around Teal Bend Golf Course. There were several highlights. Some of those included Common Gallinule, White Pelicans, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Western Tanager, Yellow, Townsend’s, Wilson’s, and Black-throated Grey warblers.”

Cosumnes River Preserve, Family Trip (9/28) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “On a beautiful morning at Cosumnes, 2 leaders birded the boardwalk with the single birder who showed up. (A second birder was unable to find the parking lot, so had a few minutes’ birding at the very end.) Many Sandhill Cranes soared overhead and landed nearby. The flooded field south of the boardwalk afforded great looks at Gadwall, Shovelers, a dozen Greater Yellow-legs and Desmond Road produced surprising numbers of Violet-green Swallows with Barn and Tree Swallows mixed in and one fairly late Cliff Swallow.”

Point Reyes (9/23) — Leader Mark Sawyer reported: “Myself and 4 other participants enjoyed the day at Pt Reyes. 85 species total with highlights being Pelagic Cormorant, Western Tanager, Common Murre, Hairy Woodpecker, and 8 Townsends.”

Bobcat Ranch (9/22) — Leader Stan Hunter reported: “6 birders joined me for a four-hour hike at Audubon California’s Bobcat Ranch, in the foothills of the coast range just west of Winters. It was a beautiful last day of summer, with comfortable temperatures and wispy clouds floating through the skies. The group hiked about 2.5 miles round-trip, heading north from the ranch house on a fire road known as the “Alleyway”. Twenty-six species of birds were seen, with highlights including a soaring Golden Eagle, a group of four Black-throated Gray warblers (including

Findings continued on page 6

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 October 11, contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@comcast.net, 916-281-6652. For trips from October 12 through November 11, contact the scheduler Darrell Mohr, mohrdd@gmail.com, 916-225-3999.

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.



Pileated Woodpecker
Chris Conard

Thursday, October 31, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
Larryhickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry for this morning walk looking for fall/winter migrants and resident birds. Along the river mergansers, goldeneye, 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 a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Saturday and Sunday, November 2-3

Lodi Crane Festival

Don't miss this festival—their 23rd year and it has it all! An art show, exhibits, activities, programs and field trips. Great for families—check it out online at cranefestival.org and sign up for a field trip. www.cranefestival.com/index.php

Tuesday, November 5, 8am

Solano Lake/Putah Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 916-947-7573
burriss.nellieann@gmail.com

The lake is a good area for wintering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers. Phainopeplas and Brown Creepers are possible, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in the area. 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 lot a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Heavy rain or high wind cancels the trip, which will end in the late afternoon, so you may want to bring lunch and water. There is a \$6 fee per car at Lake Solano Park.

Thursday, November 7, 8am

Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads

Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

In this morning trip we will start by birding the Lincoln water treatment plant. There are several large ponds which can hold a variety of ducks. From the plant, we will drive some nearby backroads of Placer County, searching flooded fields for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. We will search a small riparian area for sparrows, woodpeckers and other resident species. Several open dry fields may provide hunting grounds for raptors. Meet at the parking lot of Dry Creek Community Park at 9235 Walerga Road in Roseville. FRS radios will be helpful.

Saturday, November 9, 8am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

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

This great area is only 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl. Scott may do some short walks on the foot trails to get better vantage points. From Sacramento

on I-80 west, take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway, East Chiles/Rd, 32A, Exit #78. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. Scopes are helpful on this trip, as are FRS radios. This is an excellent trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. This trip is usually a half-day, however, if birding is good we may go into the afternoon.

Sunday, November 10, 8:30am

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid77@gmail.com

Walking the boardwalk loop, we'll check out the wintering waterfowl, including a variety of duck species, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes. Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe and yellowlegs should be present, and there are always some passerines and raptors. Finishing the 1-1/2 mile loop there will be an option to continue on down to the river. You may want to bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. Spotting scopes are helpful if you have them. This is a great trip for beginning birders. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road, Exit #498; 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. Heavy rain cancels.

Tuesday, November 12, 9am

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

**Leader: Dan Tankersley, 916-662-1951
dantank1016@gmail.com**

Approximately 1 hour north of Sacramento, the Colusa NWR is a great location to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be plenty of ducks and geese, as well as other wetland species, passerines and raptors. We will spend a good amount of time on the viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will finish our outing to this wonderful NWR by taking the short auto tour. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Meet Dan at the Colusa NWR in the parking area near the restrooms at 9am. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Williams; take Exit 578, Hwy 20 east, and go approximately 6 miles to the refuge entrance on the right. Rain, strong winds, or thick fog cancels. No lunch break, but bring snacks and liquids. This trip will end around 12:30pm.

Saturday, November 16, 8am

Mid-Yolo County Hotspots

**Leader: Dan Murphy, 916-541-4213
dmmurpete@gmail.com**

Join Dan for a trip to several mid-Yolo hotspots, beginning with the Davis WTP and ending with the Plainfield Elementary School quadrangle. Target birds include Burrowing Owl, wintering waterfowl, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks, and perhaps a Prairie Falcon. We should finish by noon. Bring a snack and liquids. 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 lot a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, November 17

**Beginning Birding Field Trip
William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this autumn trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and look for some of our returning winter birds, as well as residents. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid77@gmail.com; put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

**Sunday, November 17, 9am
Robinson Road; Road 113 and
Birds Landing**

Leader: Paul Cordero, 916-454-4061

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. 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 lot a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Heavy rain or high winds cancel the trip, which will end in the late afternoon.

Tuesday, November 19, 8am-11am

**Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach
American River Parkway**

**Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltd
916-710-1077, bajaowl@surewest.net**

Join Sally for a morning bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for returning winter sparrows and waterfowl, plus the resident 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. Meet Sally in the parking lot; there is no charge to park here. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Lincoln Grasslands Trips

#1, Saturday, November 23

**Leaders: Richard Barbieri and
Tim Fitzer**

#2, Sunday, November 24

**Leaders: Scott Hoppe and
Mark Martucci**

The grasslands and farmlands surrounding Lincoln provide some of the best winter birding in the Sacramento Valley. Because of the diversity and large area to be covered, back to back trips are being offered again this year. Once again, two teams of experienced field trip leaders will enter a friendly competition to show participants as many birds as possible. Richard and Tim will start Saturday, searching for the largest number

of raptors and rarities; Scott and Mark will follow Sunday hoping to produce even better numbers. Both days, they will search the back roads of Placer County for a large variety of raptors, shorebirds, ducks, swans and sparrows plus specialty species such as Tricolored Blackbirds and Lewis' Woodpeckers. These trips will last into the afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids as well as scopes and FRS radios if you have them. These are fast-paced trips, some portions on back country roads, so it is necessary to limit the number of participants and the number of vehicles. Sign up to get meeting time and place information:

Trip #1: Tim Fitzer

phone 916-870-5207

Trip #2: Scott Hoppe

email shoppe01@surewest.net

Friday, November 29

**Cosumnes River Preserve,
Black Friday Trip**

**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid77@gmail.com**

Want to do something non-commercial? Meet Cathie at the main CRP parking lot and we'll walk the boardwalk loop looking for Sandhill Cranes, geese and a wide variety of duck species. Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible. Then we'll take the walking trail to the river looking for smaller passerines. This is a great trip for beginners. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road, Exit #498; 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

Saturday, November 30, 7:30am

Gray Lodge SWR and Colusa NWR

**Leaders: Daniel and Pam Thompson
916-769-4476
keiran247@hotmail.com**

Join Pam and Daniel for a tour of this prime wintering area for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge, they'll take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes, looking for Sandhill Cranes, raptors and grassland birds, and then stop at the Colusa NWR viewing platform. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing for this all-day trip. FRS radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. Meet in 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 Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. There is a \$4.25 per person charge at Gray Lodge, and it's wise to bring the exact amount for the Iron Ranger.

Sunday, December 1, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: John York, 530-320-4751
Johnyork157@yahoo.com

John will be looking for the enormous flocks of ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles are a possibility. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks and hydration as the refuge has no restaurants and birds poop in the water. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. 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 Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Please note there is a \$6 day use fee for each vehicle at the refuge, or buy a Duck Stamp and support all our national refuges. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Wednesday, December 4, 8am
Sailor Bar, American River Parkway
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark for a morning walk checking out the resident and wintering birds. This is a good trip for beginners and experienced birders too, with Mark sharing his expertise on identification of the birds and their vocalizations. 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, December 7, 8am
Tonzi Road and
Western Amador County
Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com

Join Gary on a trip featuring the waters and back-country roads of the Sierra foothills in western Amador County. There is a surprising variety and number of passerines and raptors in this area, with a possibility of Lewis's Woodpeckers, Hermit and Varied

Thrushes, sparrows, Prairie Falcons and Ferruginous Hawks. This trip also includes stops for waterfowl and shorebirds at ponds near Sutter Creek and Ione. We may also stop at Lake Comanche, where a day-use fee is charged. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for winter conditions. Bring along hand held radios if you have them, food and water. Meet Gary at the Local Bean Cafe in the Rancho Murieta shopping center. Turn right at the 1st traffic light; junction of Hwy 16 (Jackson Rd) and Murieta Drive, and right again just past the fire station.

Sunday, December 8
Beginning Birding Field Trip
William Pond Park

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this winter trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and look for some of our returning winter birds, as well as residents. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid77@gmail.com; put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

Sunday, December 8
Gull ID trip on the American River
Leader: Ed Harper

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River and a chance to sharpen your identification skills. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting or unusual birds, with emphasis on tricky identification of the many gulls that winter on the river. Herring, "Thayer's" (which is now considered a race of Iceland Gull), Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Spotting scopes will be very useful, and be sure to bring your field guides and bird apps for this intensive study. Trip will end at noon and is limited to 15 people to ensure quality learning opportunity. To register for the trip contact Cathie LaZier, empid77@gmail.com, (put Gull Trip in the subject line), or phone 916-502-2699, to register and find meeting time and place.

DID YOU KNOW ?

On March 6, 1890, a Mr. Eugene Scheiffin released in Central Park, New York, some 80 European starlings which he had imported, presumably prompted by a nostalgic affection for these birds that are so common in Europe. Again in 1891, 40 more birds were released, and it is probable that these two groups were the progenitors of our present population.

BUD GETTY continued from page 1

Bud says the average person probably doesn't know anything about this work, but telling his story is a way to raise awareness and understanding of the need to maintain a park environment to support its wildlife inhabitants. He smiles and even gets a little teary-eyed when he thinks back to when he began his career as a park naturalist. At the end of his first summer he hired two college students as research assistants who later became leaders in their respective professions. One of those students, Mark Jorgensen, even took over as Park Superintendent when Bud retired. Mark credits Bud for having the most profound impact on his own career than anyone—calling him a “wilderness warrior, and a leader in outdoor educational programs who led the way to acquiring wild lands for parks throughout California.”

If you are interested in volunteering for the Anza Borrego State Park Sheep Count for July 2020, contact Mike Puzzo: AB.Sheepcount@parks.ca.gov.

DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES

Sandhill Cranes, Greater White-fronted Geese, and a wide variety of duck species have returned to the preserve. They make use of the flooded fields to eat and rest and a visit to the Cosumnes River Preserve is your chance to see them. CRP docents have a row of spotting scopes set up, including lower ones for children, giving you excellent views of the many colorful ducks, other waterfowl, shorebirds and more.

Microscopes and hand lens provide close-up looks at “Duck Soup”, dishes of water dipped from the pond full of water fleas, rat-tailed maggots, scuds and other squiggly things that provide the protein the birds are feeding on.

The Preserve is a quick drive from Sacramento—south on I-5 to Twin Cities Road; left (east) on Twin Cities for 1 mile; then right (south) on Franklin Blvd. The viewing area is in the first parking lot on your right as you drive into the preserve. Steady rain or flooding cancels event. Check www.cosumnes.org for updated schedule.

Come any time between 10am and 2pm on the following dates: NOTE: These are corrected dates from the October *Observer*

Saturdays: 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23 and 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/28.

Sundays: 11/3 and 12/22.

FUTURE FEST

The 21st Annual Snow Goose Festival in Chico, CA, will take place January 22–26, 2020. Complete information next month or go to snowgoosefestival.org or call 530-592-9092.

SANDHILL CRANES AND OTHER WINTERING BIRDS

Free trips in the delta to view the Sandhill Cranes coming in to roost for the evening are run by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc. Of course they also look at the wintering waterfowl and other birds in that habitat. They begin at either Woodbridge Road or Staten Island and meet in the late afternoon on the last weekend of each month. Current information is at soscranes.org/visit-the-cranes/free-tours/. The Coordinator is Mike Savino, yogoombah@yahoo.com.

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

Tones of Fall

Saturday, November 9, 9am–12pm

Each fall, the riparian forests and wetlands change colors from lush greens to the familiar shades of autumn. Many species of wildlife leave the area, while many others come into the valley to spend the winter. Come see and listen as our biologists explain the physiological and ecological reasons behind these changes.

The meeting location is weather-dependent, so please contact Roger Jones at jonesro@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location.

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

Wetlands and Waterfowl

Saturday, December 7, 9am–12pm

Come visit our Fishhead Lake mitigation wetlands as we look for waterfowl and other wetland birds and mammals. Hundreds of thousands of migrating ducks and geese fly into the Sacramento region each fall. Our small wetland is an important place for waterfowl to rest and forage. We typically see northern pintail, American wigeon, green-winged teal, mallards, northern shovellers, gadwall, and a host of other water birds.

The meeting location is weather-dependent, so please contact Roger Jones at jonesro@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location.

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

CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH

Keep that bucket in the tub and an empty gallon container by the kitchen sink. Catch that water that's running while you wait for it to heat, and use the water outside for pot plants, shrubs and flower beds that need a little summer and dry winter watering.

CALLING YOUNG BIRDERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Mark your calendars for January 4 and 5, the first weekend of 2020! Please join the Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) and Sacramento Audubon Society in the Ninth Annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count.

These family Bird Counts provide an exciting opportunity for kids, young adults and their families to be outside looking at birds and enjoying nature. Participants will be joining citizen scientists all over the world and will gain practice finding, identifying and counting all the birds they see. Day 1 for the younger birders aged 6 to 11 will be Saturday, January 4 from 9-12:30 and will be followed by a companionable lunch with other birder families at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Questions can be sent to Maureen Geiger at mkgeiger@comcast.net or texting/calling 916-281-6652.

A second site for older birders 12-18 years and up and their families will occur on Sunday, January 5 with faster paced birding for more experienced young people at William Pond Park. It will be followed by a Compilation Gathering at a nearby restaurant. Questions can be sent to Wendy Money at wendyjwbirds@outlook.com or calling/texting 916-205-3914.

Space is limited for both days, and children must be pre-registered to attend. Registration is first come, first served and opens on December 1, 2019. To register go to effieyeaw.eventbrite.com.

Findings continued from page 2

a juvenile), an American Kestrel hunting dragonflies, several Say's Phoebes, a Rock Wren behind the barn, a flock of Band-tailed Pigeons, and early cool-seasonals Golden-crowned Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The ranch regulars did not disappoint, with plenty of Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Morning Doves, Bushtits, California Scrub-Jays and Common Ravens. Two red-tailed Hawks and several Turkey Vultures rounded out the raptor count. Absent or under-represented were regulars such as Towhees and California Quail. An all-around nice morning for a hike."

"Bobcat Ranch is a 6800-acre parcel in the blue-oak grassland of the eastern Coast Range, in western Yolo County. It is owned and managed by Audubon California, and in addition to providing a large area of preserved habitat, it is also a valuable resource for scientific studies on the flora and fauna of the blue-oak grassland, as well as the underlying geology of the region.

It is also a working cattle ranch that is helping to develop sustainable ranching practices that allow beef production to coexist with science-based habitat management and preservation. Access to the ranch is through special arrangement or guided tours."

Putah Creek Riparian Reserve (9/21) – Leader Bill Bianco reported: "15 people walked the trail and 30 species were observed, with a few only heard. Good views of Western Bluebirds, Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black-throated Gray Warbler, to name a few. The wind and temperature came up part way through the walk, but it was still a pleasant trip."

Reichmuth Park (9/17) – Maureen Geiger, a participant on Leader Dan Airola's trip, reported: "Dan Airola led ten of us through and around Reichmuth Park on a cool, clear morning. We had almost 30 species including good numbers of Yellow, Wilson's and Black-throated Gray Warblers. Other great finds included a sitting Great Horned Owl being harassed first by crows, then

Findings continued on page 8

Birding and Nature Events

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 23rd annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held November 1-3, at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S Hutchins Street, Lodi. The event is free. Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. In awe-inspiring numbers, and with a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane continues to attract and inspire visitors. We have tours designed to appeal to everyone, led by experienced guides and experts in their field. The choices are many: crane fly-out and fly-in tours; kayaking and cruise tours; birding field trips; expert-led photography field trips; and winery tours. In between the tours, you can check out informative presentations and workshops. Learn more about the event and register for tours at www.cranefestival.com or call (800) 581-6150. Tours fill up quickly so register online or call now!

NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY SWAN FESTIVAL

Have you seen the great swan fly off? The Northern Sacramento Valley Swan Festival, is **November 8-10** in Yuba City will feature workshops, presentations, guided tours and educational programs catering to bird and nature enthusiasts of all ages and levels of interest. Register at: www.yubasutterchamber.com/field-trips.html

The California Swan Festival is timed to honor the return of the tundra swans to their winter home. Arriving in the tens of thousands and in close-knit family groups, they make a spectacular show for bird watchers and photographers. Each winter, tens of thousands of huge, beautiful Tundra Swans wing their way south from their breeding grounds in northwest Alaska to spend the winter in the Sacramento Valley. Thousands of them stop to rest and feed just north of Marysville in an agricultural region in the flood basin of the Feather and Yuba rivers. The flooded postharvest rice fields provide ideal temporary wetland habitat for Tundra Swans, huge flocks of White-faced Ibis, abundant geese and ducks of many species, various shorebirds, lots of hawks, and even bald eagles.

Expert birders and biologists from the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife will lead you along the back roads to see the birds and learn about the compatibility of rice growing and waterfowl conservation.

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM 2019

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 23rd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium **November 21-24**, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley!

The CVBS kicks off with a delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet and no host bar on Thursday night. Thursday through Saturday nights feature keynote speakers of special interest to birders of a feather.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *Subspecies for Birders* with Joe Morlan, *I Know It When I See It* by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Nature/Wildlife Photography and Photo Editing (Ben Knoot), Bird Sketching (René Reyes), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/. Registration has begun. Don't miss out on popular trips!

General Meeting

continued from page 1

business. BIRDS by BIJS, initially begun in response to many requests for urban bird outings, the business has now grown to encompass a nature inspired clothing line, bird photography, wildlife documentaries and of course local and international bird watching tours. Seasonally Benny or BIJS, is based in Los Angeles, where he leads public and private birding adventures to urban hot-spots. He is also a passionate photographer, specializing in birds. He uses his impressive collection of content to leverage his prolific social media presence. Benny hopes his love of the natural world will inspire others to conserve the open spaces around them and look up more often from their phones!

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).

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2019

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sundays, November 17 and December 8

*Trips limited to 10 adult participants, and require a minimum of 3 participants: Registration required.

These outings are geared toward people who aren't yet entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. It is not necessary to be an Audubon member to participate.

The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. This walk, covering about a mile and a half, will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. You can sign up for just one session, or for more than one.

Register via email to Cathie at empid77@gmail.com, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 916-502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Patrick and Nancy Carney, David Jones, James and Nancy Joye and Jane Van Kessel made donations to the **General Fund**.

Valerie Chenoweth, Gesna Clarke, Kaj Olson and Vicki P Ramsey made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Glenn Wilson made a donation 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.



Horned Lark
Chris Conard

INCREASE IN ANNUAL DUES

THE FIRST IN 18 YEARS!

On August 27, the Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors approved a \$10 increase in annual membership dues. Effective January 1, 2020 dues will increase from \$25 to \$35 annually. This increase will support the chapter's mission, programs and goals, and support ongoing service improvement. One example is the current project to rebuild and redesign the website by moving it to a more contemporary and user-friendly platform.

The Board is grateful to chapter members for generous donations beyond their dues, and we appreciate your support for this increase.

Findings continued from page 6

Scrub Jays; several Western Tanagers and Western Bluebirds; and good looks at a Pacific-slope Flycatcher. This trip was particularly informative as Dan is a biologist who has completed many local studies and shared knowledge about birds and nature in general all along the trail. Afterwards, a small contingent cleared climbing, non-native English Ivy from about 20 valley oaks."

SRWTP Bufferlands

(9/15) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "18 of us enjoyed a cool start to the morning, though increasing wind made bird spotting a challenge as the morning progressed. Highlights included a quick flyby

of Vaux's Swifts, first-of-season White-crowned and Lincoln's sparrows for several observers, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, and

abundant Yellow Warblers, Common Yellowthroats, plus lingering female-type Blue Grosbeaks. We finished the day with a nice assortment of common shorebirds, including close views of Spotted Sandpipers and a flyby Peregrine Falcon."

William Pond Park (9/14) — Leader Gibbe Parsons reported: "Of the 14 birders who showed up, the bird walk for "beginners" included 5 true beginners, and everyone else was far from a beginner, including Mary Forrestal, who kept the ebird list. They helped us see a total of 41 species including Yellow-billed Magpies, Cedar Waxwings, 5 different warblers, a Western Wood-Pee-wee, and, thanks to Darrell Mohr, an Osprey half a mile away! We saw multiple herons and egrets and a Pied-billed Grebe. It really warmed up by 10:20 and we had seen far more than I expected on a Saturday morning with a busy bike trail. The "beginners" were amazed at the number of birds we saw in a short time. Thanks to all the help!"

Cathie LaZier

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

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

Seasonal Observations

September 1 to September 30 Rare and Unusual Bird Reports www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

September might be the most interesting month on the local bird calendar.

Shorebirds are still excellent, though perhaps slightly down in numbers from July and August (assuming good conditions can be found) and it is peak time for warblers and other songbird migrants. In addition, wintering and migrating waterfowl, **Sandhill Cranes**, and raptors are moving in, along with wintering sparrows. There is even turnover in open country flycatchers, as we say goodbye to the last of the **Western Kingbirds** and hello to **Say's Phoebes**.

Interesting shorebird reports continued from August, with a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at the Woodland WTP on 9/28 leading the pack. On 9/1 at Sherman Island, two **Baird's Sandpipers** were reported along with 19 **Marbled Godwits**. Two **Baird's Sandpipers** were also at the Sacramento Regional WTP on 9/3, and two **Baird's Sandpipers** were at the Woodland WTP on 9/20 along with a **Pectoral Sandpiper**. Two **Sanderlings** were a nice surprise at the Winters WTP on 9/9, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at North Pond in Davis on 9/7. A **Franklin's Gull** was found at the Woodland WTP on 9/20, and a **Long-tailed Jaeger** was found and photographed at Beals Point, Folsom Lake, on 9/12-13.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Kara DeSouza
Brian Higginbotham
Tod Rasmussen
Frankie Reed

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on November 26, 2019, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at a new location, 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.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook



Observations continued

There was a big region-wide movement of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** on 9/21: 8-10 were reported moving over North Pond in Davis, with a similar number flying upriver at Ancil Hoffman, plus at least 80 moving south in Auburn, about 500 feet up, along with **Turkey Vultures!** A major highlight for the month was a **Wood Thrush** along Putah Creek, west of Mace Blvd in Solano County, on 9/15-19. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was found in a Fair Oaks yard on 9/1, while another was found at the **Wood Thrush location** west of Mace Blvd on 9/16; also at the latter site was a **Northern Waterthrush** on 9/15-16. A **Tennessee Warbler** was a nice find at Yolo County Grasslands Park on 9/27. During a period of a few days with excellent warbler numbers, the Tall Forest

and vicinity at Cosumnes River Preserve on 9/29 produced a **Chestnut-sided Warbler**, a **Blackpoll Warbler**, and at least 85 **Black-throated Gray Warblers**. **Blackpoll Warblers** were also found at Upper Sunrise on the American River Parkway on 9/17 and William Land Park on 9/22. Flyover **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported over Davis on 9/21 and 9/26, and over Putah Creek at Mace Blvd on 9/27.

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:

Dan Airola, Jean Broadhvest, Max Brodie, Holly Coates, Chris Dunford, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Emmett Iverson, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Roger Muskat, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, Deren Ross, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet.

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

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

Date _____

The Observer Newsletter \$25 per address (1 Year) _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

Check if you would prefer to receive the Observer in PDF form by email []

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

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

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1827
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery



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: sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com

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

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

916-203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@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, November 21, at 7pm
(The usual third Thursday)**

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Benny Jacobs-Schwartz, *Feathers and
Flight—A Journey to the
New World Tropics*



Benny Jacobs-Schwartz