

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 69 • NO. 10

OCTOBER 2017

General Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Sandhill Cranes, Biology and Viewing

Paul Tebbel

Join Paul Tebbel, long time crane biologist and Executive Director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, as he shares his passion for cranes. Sandhill Cranes are one of the largest birds you can see in CA and many spend the winter just south of us in the North Delta Area. Finding them is fun but learning about these amazing birds is even better. During Paul's program, you'll learn about their basic biology, migration and conservation status across the US through the use of video and stories gained from 40 years of working with cranes. Paul will also provide maps and directions to the best places (and times) to see cranes in CA and how to plan your personal 'Crane Watching Trips' in California and in Nebraska. If you have the Platte River on your bucket list, don't miss this program!

Presenter Paul Tebbel started his biology career doing research on Sandhill Cranes in northern Michigan and central Canada nearly 40 years ago. After a decade as the first Environmental Affairs Director for Patagonia in Ventura, he then spent 11 years running Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in south-central Nebraska where he helped orchestrate one of the best eco-tourism experiences in North America. Paul returned to California in 2008 and has run Effie Yeaw since 2011.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/sacramentoaudubon](https://www.facebook.com/sacramentoaudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, President and Program Chair



Paul Tebbel holding a Sandhill Crane

In Memorium ~ June Carolyn Persson

June Persson died on July 7th of this year, quietly and peacefully, according to her niece, after an energetic life of service in nursing and in Sacramento Audubon.

Conservation, a love of nature, and enjoying people were among June's chosen commitments. June was a proud graduate of John Hopkins School of Nursing. In her nursing career she sailed with Project Hope on the *SS Hope* bringing medical care to third world countries, served the US Olympic teams in Munich and Mexico city, and worked as an operating room nurse. After moving to Sacramento in the 1980's, June devoted her energies to Sacramento Audubon Society. Here she served in many capacities—field trip leader, area leader for CBC's, compiler for the Folsom Count (1990-1995), field researcher on the Breeding Bird Census, contributor and editor for revisions of *Birding in the Sacramento Region* (1998 and 2008), and President for an unprecedented four years. Energy and enthusiasm were June's trademark.

In Memorium continued on page 7

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES FOR 2017-2018

Saturday, December 2, Daybreak, ARNHA Wildlife Count

Coordinators: Paul Tebbel and Rachel Cowan

e-mail: rachaelc@sacnaturecenter.net

Annual census of birds and other wildlife on the American River Parkway.

More information can be found on page 6.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON-SPONSORED CBC DATES

Thursday, December 21, Woodfords Christmas Count

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

Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216, e-mail: andisalmi@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 17, Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 987-2422, e-mail: mcudney@aol.com

Sunday, December 31, 2016, Folsom Christmas Count

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

Saturday–Sunday, January 6-7, 2018, 6th Annual Sacramento Kids' Christmas Count

Registration is required.

Compiler: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

For locations and dates of additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit natureali.org/cbcs.html

Field Trip Findings

Bushy Lake (9/14) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Three people went into the wilderness to bird around Bushy Lake. Birding started out slow but when we walked to the far end of the lake more birds started to come out of the bushes: Wood Ducks, Green Herons, warblers, as well as sparrows. The foliage around the lake is very thick and trying to see out on the lake is limited. However, we had a total of 41 species and it was a good day for birding.”

SRWTP Bufferlands (9/10) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “On a morning that turned out to be warmer and muggier than desired, we still had a nice outing with good numbers of migrants including ten Black-throated Gray Warblers, seven Yellow Warblers, two Wilson’s Warblers, four Warbling Vireos, and one or two Western Tanagers. We also had nice views of a common whitetail (dragonfly), and several butterflies including monarch, western tiger swallowtail, Lorquin’s admiral, and mournful dusky-wing.”

Teal Bend (9/9) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “We concentrated on the wooded areas of Teal Bend golf course because the heat of the day came fast. There was a good showing of fall migrants and other expected regulars. Some of the highlights were Black-throated Gray, Yellow, and Wilson’s Warblers, Western Tanagers, Hooded and Bullock’s Orioles, Western Wood Pewee, Swainson’s Hawks, and Warbling Vireos.”

Yolo Bypass WLA (9/5) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Rather warm and humid conditions met 10 of us while we gathered to explore this wonderful wildlife area just west of downtown Sacramento. Because of the recent extreme heat wave and not much water on the refuge, we were aware the birding would be slow. However, the group was enthusiastic and we left on our route right on time. While it was true the birding was slow, we found a few points of interest everyone enjoyed. We found an area where many Tree

Swallows were resting, providing a nice opportunity to compare adults with first year birds in just the right light. At another spot, we came across lots of Red-winged Blackbirds where we had scope comparisons of males and females. Some of us got to see a few Yellow-headed Blackbirds as well. We ended the outing watching a large flock of American White Pelicans lazily circling as they worked to catch a thermal updraft. Only 25 species, but a fun morning in the field none-the-less.”

Sacramento Bar (9/3) Leader Paul Cordero reported: “Four intrepid birders set out on this especially hot day. Due to our small group size and our adventurous spirit, we ventured out into unexplored terrain and visited the hidden lakes in the back country. Highlights included Wood Ducks, Pied-billed Grebes, Green Herons and Egrets. A good mix of warblers were present including Black-throated Gray, Wilson’s, Yellow, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray’s. Other migrants included Warbling Vireo, Cassin’s Vireo and Western Tanager.”

North Bay Hotspots (9/2) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “The goal in planning this trip became as much a search for cooler weather and less smoke as it did for birds. I decided Bodega Bay would be the best place to go, after first making a stop at the wetlands along Highway 37, since it was right on the way. Highway 37 was very productive, with a good

showing of waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds. One highlight here was at least 30 Forster’s Terns roosting on a nearby island. Bodega Bay turned out to not be much of an escape at first, as it was also hot and smoky. Our first stop was The Tides where we found quite a few Western and Least Sandpipers, 3 Whimbrel and both Ruddy and Black Turnstones. We then continued on around the Harbor to Owl Canyon where we found a Yellow and a Wilson’s Warbler, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Downy Woodpecker and Song and White-crowned Sparrows. Up on Bodega Head we discovered that it was much cooler and were tempted to stay there the rest of the day. Scanning the ocean, we found at least 5 Marbled Murrelets (first discovered by Gary Fregien). Also seen were Pigeon Guillemot and Common Murre.

Heading back around the Harbor, we made a few more stops before wrapping up our visit with ice cream at the shop on Smith Brothers Rd. It was a good day for a relative small group of 7, tallying about 70 species over all.”

Yolo Basin WLA (8/31) — Leaders Maureen Geiger and Cathie LaZier reported: “Trip canceled due to heat.”

Riverbend Park (8/27) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Eight birders joined me for an incredibly slow and hot morning of birding. Although we totaled only 28 species, many of those not seen well, Darrell Mohr did spot a group of Cedar Waxwings, FOS for all in the group. Vinegar weed was in bloom and we found a Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly just emerged from its chrysalis.”

Alpine County (8/26) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “9 of us headed into the rising sun for several stops in Alpine Co, CA and Douglas Co, NV. Fall and juvenile plumages made IDs a challenge, but we saw Hermit Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Song Sparrow and Pacific Slope Flycatcher at Luther Pass. Cedar Waxwings foraged for fruit as a Stellar’s Jay scolded near Woodford’s Store. Black-billed Magpie, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk and several California Quail were spotted on the way to Mud Lake. At the reservoir, birds’ eclipse plumage slowed identification, but we agreed on Mallard, Gadwall, Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck, Common Merganser and Forster’s Tern, among others. Barns on the property were home to 4 Barn Owls; Say’s Phoebe patrolled the fence. Our last stop in Markleeville yielded few birds, but a Black Bear munching on garbage in a backyard startled us. We totaled about 45 bird and one large mammal species for the day.”

Wright’s Lake (8/22) — Leaders Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris reported: “A late August morning after a Sierra thunder storm rain proved to be a fun day of birding. Thirteen birders enjoyed a beautiful day walking around Wright’s Lake. Some of the highlights were 3 Pine Grosbeaks within 10 yards, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Spotted Sandpiper, Townsend’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Brown Creepers and Red-breasted Nuthatches. What a refreshing day after the earlier storm; fun time had by all.”

Findings continued on page 7



Vireo species
Kirsten Munson

Field Trips



Whimbrel
Stephen D'Amato

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 October 11, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 502-2699. For trips from October 12 through November 12, contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@comcast.net, 281-6652.

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.

Sunday, October 1, 5pm till sunset Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds

**Cosumnes River and Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

Our Sandhill Cranes are back! And your SOSOC leaders will also be looking for the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors which feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Call Mike at 446-1392 to get last minute instructions about meeting place and route.

Sunday, October 1, 7am Putah Creek Preserve Family Friendly Trip Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682 Bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk along Putah Creek in search of late migrants and wintering riparian birds. If the participants so desire, we may also visit Lake Solano or Monticello Dam. Meet Ben at the Park and Ride lot off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue exit, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This is a good trip for experienced birders, beginners and younger birders alike. Loaner binoculars are available.

Wednesday, October 4, 8:30am Ancil Hoffman Park-Effie Yeaw Nature Center Leader: Cathie LaZier, 502-2699 empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the Effie Yeaw parking lot for this birding walk, looping around the golf course with a couple of side trips down

to the river, then returning to the parking lot on Effie Yeaw Nature Center trails. This walk is approximately 3 miles, with some up and down slopes and uneven footing. Wear comfortable shoes and you may want to bring water or snacks. We'll end the trip by noon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, October 7, 8am Sacramento Bar Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999 mohrdd@gmail.com

Darrell will be checking for mergansers, goldeneye, and other birds on the river. Among the more common passerines, such as crowned sparrows, towhees, goldfinches, and wrens, there's a possibility of the less common Phainopepla, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and who knows what other surprises! This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 8, 7am Ancil Hoffman Park Fall Migration Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722 matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for fall migrants, as well as returning wintering birds, and maybe something unexpected may turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. A SAC County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. Meet Mark at the main parking lot across from the golf course. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it to the golf course area parking lot.

Tuesday, October 10, 7am Sand Creek Road

**Leader: Bill Bianco, 372-3318
889-4849, biancowm@yahoo.com**

Join Bill for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102, (exit 536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Saturday, October 14, 8am-10am Family Friendly Trip! Earl J Koobs Nature Area, Carmichael Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495 yellowhammerca@gmail.com

Join Cliff in exploring this gem in Carmichael which is only open on occasion. Cliff knows it well and will seek out resident, migrating and early-wintering species that may be present. Families with children, beginners and anyone wanting a nice stroll in a beautiful area will enjoy this morning trip. Loaner binoculars are available. The Nature Area is at 5325 Engle Road next to the La Sierra Community Center (also the location of the California Montessori Project) between Engle Road and Cypress Avenue and Walnut Avenue and Garfield Avenue.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Sunday, October 15, 7:30am-noon
SRWTP Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time for waterbirds, wintering songbirds, and late migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. New Directions: Take I-5 south from Sacramento and exit at Laguna Blvd. Drive east to Franklin Blvd and turn left at the next block (Sims Rd-no stoplight) with poplar trees and a brick planter. Drive 0.6 mile and turn right on Laguna Station Rd. Drive 0.5 mile and turn left at Glacier Way before reaching the guard station. (If using GPS, enter Glacier Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758). Drive 0.25 mile to the Bufferlands office entrance at the end of Glacier Way. A large gate will be open and the front glass doors will be unlocked.

Sunday, October 15
Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults
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 common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 502-2699.

Wednesday, October 18, 10am
Family Friendly Trip!
Mather Lake
Leader: Sheila Green, 813-1470
raeshei@aol.com

Mather Lake is a great local birding location, with a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Pied-billed Grebes. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning

and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars are available.

Saturday, October 21, 7am SHARP!
Hope Valley – Alpine County
Fall Foliage Birding
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Autumn color explodes in mid-October at Hope Valley. Join Dan to enjoy the fall foliage and to look for resident and specialty birds that include: Sooty (Blue) Grouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cassin's Finch. Some of the terrain is hilly, so wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. A camera is a recommended addition to your pack. Bring water and lunch. FRS radios would also be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the north end of the Raley's parking lot 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. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot. We will leave at 7am sharp!

Saturday, October 21, 8am-noon
Elk Grove/Cosumnes Area
Leaders: Wendy Money, 205-3194
wendydougmsn@msn.com
Sandra Steurer, 580-8398
sasteurer@yahoo.com

Welcome Back Sandhill Cranes! Join Sandra and Wendy for a drive and easy walk looking for cranes, early arriving species of waterfowl, migrating shorebirds, and the year-round species which make this location such a wildlife jewel. Intrigued? Meet at 8 am at the intersection of Bruceville Road and Desmond Rd. Plan to finish birding by noon, and bring water and snacks. Scopes and loaner binoculars will be available to bring those wonderful birds in closer. Expect your children to exclaim "Wow!" Also suitable for beginning birders and anyone who enjoys cranes. Questions? Contact Wendy or Sandra.

Saturday, October 21, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed; families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists from the nature center and bird-

ers Maureen Geiger and Larry Hickey from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 22
Birding By Ear

Improve your birding skills by learning to recognize the songs, calls and chips of our local birds. This trip on the American River Parkway is limited to 10 people to ensure quality listening time, and will be led by Mark Martucci and Paul Cordero, two experienced birders with good auditory skills. Registration is required; email Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net to sign up and learn the meeting time and place.

Wednesday, October 25, 8:45am
Ancil Hoffman Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 502-2699
empid@earthlink.net

Join Cathie to explore the riparian area between the river and the golf course. Meet 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 to the end. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, October 28, 8am
Bucks Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway,
El Dorado Hills
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a leisurely fall walk through this riparian habitat looking for resident woodpeckers, nuthatches, towhees, wrens, Green Herons, possible Hooded Mergansers and Common Gallinules, as well as wintering warblers and sparrows. This trip will end late morning. Meet at the southeast corner of the intersection of Silva Valley Parkway and Serrano Parkway. To reach this spot, exit Hwy 50 at Exit 31, Silva Valley Parkway, and turn left. Follow the Parkway about a mile to the first stop light, make a U-turn and immediately park along the Parkway.

Saturday, October 28, 5pm till sunset
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River and Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

Our Sandhill Cranes are back! And your SOSOC leaders will also be looking for the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors which feed in the flooded fields and

marshy areas of the delta. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Call Mike at 446-1392 to get last minute instructions about meeting place and route.

Sunday, October 29, 6:30am

Bodega Bay

Leaders: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Scott Hoppe, 835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott and Mark for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Bring lunch, water and warm clothes. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. This is one of the most popular trips; it's been called "the best Audubon trip we have taken" by more than one participant.

Monday, October 30, 8am

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills

Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300

cloudwalk7@icloud.com

We will be scouting the oak woodlands of a peninsula on the south side of Folsom Lake. We'll keep our eyes open for eagles and osprey as well as the smaller passerines, woodpeckers, and water birds on the lake. We'll scan the mouth of Sweetwater Creek where a pair of Rock Wrens can usually be found. From Sacramento head east on Highway 50 towards Placerville. Take the El Dorado Hills Blvd, exit #30B and go north on El Dorado Hills Blvd for approximately 4 miles to Green Valley Road. Go straight across Green Valley Road where El Dorado Hills Blvd becomes Salmon Falls Road. Continue on Salmon Falls Road for 3 miles to a large dirt parking lot on the left with a large wooden sign that reads "Falcon Crest". Use caution when crossing oncoming traffic to enter the parking lot.

Saturday, November 4, 8am

Family Friendly Trip!

Sailor Bar

Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682

bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk checking out the resident birds and looking for wintering species as well. Meet Ben at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners and families, and everyone will benefit from

Ben's expertise identifying birds. Loaner binoculars are available. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way just west of Hazel. A Sac Country park pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Sunday, November 5, 7:30am SHARP!
Note Change from Daylight Savings
Time**

**Lynch Canyon/King Ranch,
Solano County**

Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277

kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

Solano County has wonderful birding in a variety of habitats. Join Ken and Maureen in a 2.5 mile hike at Lynch Canyon searching for the large numbers of wintering raptors and ducks at the reservoir pond. From there, drive through the King Ranch, a Solano Land Trust property rarely open to the public, again in search of raptors and Burrowing Owls.

Lunch at the top of King provides a breathtaking view of the San Pablo Bay looking east and is a nice way to end the morning. This trip will last to early afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. Scopes and FRS radios will be useful. There is a \$5 per car parking fee at Lynch. Meet Maureen at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue exit, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Second meeting place in Fairfield is the Safeway just east of the Waterman exit about 8am.

Tuesday, November 7, 9:30am

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 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 9:30. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Williams; take Exit 578, Hwy 20 east, and go approx-

imately 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 1pm.

Saturday, November 11, 8am

Sacramento Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Andi Salmi, 508-7192

andisalmi@yahoo.com

Andi 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 can be found here regularly. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. 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 Road, 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 \$6 day use fee for each vehicle at the refuge. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Sunday, November 12

**Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults
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 common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 502-2699.

SAS CAPS ON SALE NOW

SAS ball caps, with our logo, are now on sale for \$20 each. Bill Bianco will have them for sale at the monthly meetings and at upcoming festivals. If anyone is interested in purchasing one they can also contact Bill and he can work out the purchase. Ann Burris also has a few she is selling on her field trips. Contact Bill Bianco at biancowm@yahoo.com, or 372-3318.



EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER'S NATURE FEST

This year's Nature Fest will be **Saturday, October 8**. It's their largest family event of the year, and promotes science and nature education and is an excellent opportunity to learn more about local organizations that support our community. This family-friendly event includes live animal shows, kids activities, demonstrations, guided nature hikes, and food. Attendees especially enjoy animal shows on the main stage and close up visits with the Nature Center's own ambassador animals at Critter Corner, plus many more creatures of all shapes and sizes!

This very low-cost event draws a variety of attendees including nature enthusiasts, families, boys and girls scouting groups, and other youth organizations. Exhibitors represent natural resource, natural history and healthy recreation businesses. From frogs to fly-fishing, and from bats to native basket-weaving, this event truly has something of interest for everyone!

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sundays, October 15,
November 12 and December 3

*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 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.

33rd Annual American River Natural History Association Wildlife Count

Saturday, December 2, 7am-3pm

Compiler: Rachael Cowan, rachaelc@sacnaturecenter.net

Join ARNHA in this annual count of birds and other wildlife along the American River Parkway. Results of this count are important for use in future planning for the Parkway. 10-12 teams of volunteer counters cover all areas of the Parkway from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park on foot or in canoes. This count differs from Christmas Counts in that the teams count total numbers of birds and animals. Email Rachael if you would like to be included in the count as a new participant. See previous results on eBird.

Birding and Nature Events

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 22nd annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held **November 3-5**, 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 early!

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 21st annual Central Valley Birding Symposium, November 16-19, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. 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! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

New this year, is a Thursday field trip with Jon Dunn, then the CVBS kicks off with a scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet and no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program on *Wings over the Central Valley*.

Friday night's keynote program *Bank Swallow Colonies on the Upper Sacramento River* will be presented by Dawn Garcia.

Saturday night's keynote program, *Birding Without Borders: An Epic World Big Year* will be presented by Noah Strycker. This humorous and inspiring presentation about Strycker's epic World Big Year, in which he set a world record by seeing 6,042 birds in one calendar year, will give you a real appreciation for the birds and birders of the world. His newest book, *Birding Without Borders*, about his around-the-world Big Year, is due out in fall 2017.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *Wintering Burrowing Owls in the Central Valley* with Lynne Trulio, *Neotropic Migrants* with Joe Morlan, *Winter Waterfowl in the Central Valley* by Jon Dunn. Build your skills at workshops: Image Editing (Bob Steele), Bird Sketching (Keith Hansen), 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!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/info/. Registration has begun, so sign up now for their popular trips.

SAS OUTREACH, VOLUNTEER, HELP OUT, HAVE FUN!

Fall events are coming up and we need volunteers to prepare the SAS table. Your help would be appreciated at the following festival:

- Central Valley Birding Symposium, Stockton, November 16–19. This event only requires our table to be set up on Friday, November 17 by 3pm and taken down on Sunday, November 19, anytime after noon. This doesn't have to be done by the same person but should be easy for someone attending the festival.

Bill Bianco will be out of town during this event, so please contact Bill at biancowm@yahoo.com; or 372-3318, for coordinating outreach materials transfer, directions, and location, etc.

DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES

It's Autumn again, and the wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and cranes are back. This is an opportunity to work on duck and other wetland bird identification, and is a great trip for families, youth groups and newer birders.

Stop by the Cosumnes River Preserve and check out "Ducks In Scopes", where docents have a row of scopes set up, including lower ones for children, giving you good views of the many colorful ducks (up to 10 different species!) and other wetland birds.

Microscopes and hand lens provide close-up looks at "Duck Soup", dishes of water dipped from the pond full of sand fleas, dragonfly nymphs, 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:

Saturdays: 10/28, 11/4, 11/11 and 11/18

Sunday: 11/26

In Memorium continued from page 1

June's genuine fondness for people and nature were evident. For many years she led a New Year's Day morning walk through Bobelaine Sanctuary, bringing home-made 'glug' and Swedish pastries to share with those who braved the January weather to greet the New Year with her. On another late winter field trip along the American River, June noticed a frantic flutter of wings in the cyclone fence just below the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. Quietly leaving the group, June deftly enveloped the snared blackbird with cupped hands and gently untangled its leg. Then, still holding the bird, she lifted her hands over her head and opened them. The bird flew free. It was so like June, always observant, caring and purposeful.

June was devoted to the mission, activities and friendships she formed in Sacramento Audubon and she remembered Audubon in her last wishes.

Respectfully submitted by
Jerry Marinovich

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2018 NATURE BOWL PARTNER - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sacramento Audubon is the newest Nature Bowl partner with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Sacramento Audubon will host semi-finals at Camp Pollack April 26, 2018. Nature Bowl is a science based program developed for 3-6th graders that "increases ecological knowledge and conservation literacy". Read more about Nature Bowl at wildlife.ca.gov/regions/2/nature-bowl

Volunteers are needed in several areas* (see numbers needed next to area).

- Promotion and outreach to school districts, youth organizations, on line publications (3)
- Parking and signage (3)
- Set up (6)
- Welcome and sign-in table (2-3)
- Semi-finals event assistants (12)
- Volunteer refreshments and lunch service (2)
- Cleanup (all volunteers)

*Some volunteer help may overlap from one area to another.

If you are interested in volunteering in any of the listed areas, contact host coordinator, Gesna Clarke; gesna_clarke@sbcglobal.net or phone 343-6303.

A volunteers' information meeting will be scheduled in October. Time, date and place TBD.

Findings continued from page 2

Putah Creek (8/20) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Seventeen birders saw 59 species on a very pleasant summer morning in Yolo County. Highlights included Willow Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Yellow, Wilson's, Nashville and Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Lazuli Bunting. After Putah Creek twelve of us drove over to North Davis Farms and had great looks at the Hooded Warbler that had been seen for over a week. We also added Hermit and MacGillivray's Warblers to our list."

Colusa WLR Family Friendly Trip (8/20) — Leaders Wendy Money and Sandra Steurer reported: "There are two sides to every coin and the value of the summer at the seasonal wetlands was impressive on this trip. Our total species for the day was 37 and our highlights were a Ring-Necked Pheasant flying across the road, 50 American White Pelicans circling above, a large flock of endangered Tri-colored Blackbirds, two juvenile Turkey Vultures who were just as curious about us and gave us long, close views,

two Great Horned Owls watching from low branches, and a striking Loggerhead Shrike. We also encountered deer, many baby lizards, and a basking Western Pond turtle."

Bodega Bay (8/19) — Susan Scott substituted for Andi Salmi and participants enjoyed the day at the coast.

Sailor Bar (8/17) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "There were seven eager people ready to bird the Sailor Bar Area and the birds were waiting for us in the parking lot. A covey of California Quail were feeding fifty feet in front of us, undisturbed by our actions. As we turned to leave the parking area a pair of Phainopeplas were flitting around in an oak tree. As we moved along there were more Phainopeplas in the trees along the way. Also we had two Belted Kingfishers flying side by side, very unusual. Amongst all the birds there was an abundance of Lesser Goldfinches. All told we counted thirty-five species of birds and one coyote."

Cathie LaZier

TREASURER FOUND!

Harriet Saeck has kindly volunteered to be our new treasurer! Thank you so much Harriet.

BIRD PRESENTATION AT SCHOOLS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Gesna Clarke, our energetic and productive Education Chair, would like some speakers for birding presentations at schools, local groups and organizations. The time commitment is less than 5 hours annually. The program is already prepared with a slide presentation and information sheet. You don't have to use the slides and can use your personal experience and knowledge, but the visuals can make presentations interesting.

Contact Gesna Clarke at gesna_clarke@sbcglobal.net or 343-6303, if you are interested.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Bill Bianco, Lawrence Broeren, Lyla Burnor, Julie Clark, Stephanie Cyr, Terry Dozier, Robert L Garcia, Pohlin Gillis, Georganna Griffin, Jim Hagedorn, Susan Scott and Ed Harper, Peter Hayes, Marie Heid, Elizabeth Johnson, James and Nancy Ree Joye, Scott & Julie Kenney, Ken Mateik and Karla Meadows, Rosemary Mayfield, M Kevin McRae, Linda Melching, The Morehead Family, Dan Murphy, Kris Niemi, May Jean Ralph, Daphne Reimer, Eric Ross, Beverly J Spencer, Robin B Thompson, made donations to the **General Fund**.

Dan Airola, Bill Bianco, Valerie Brown, Lyla Burnor, Janice Caravantes, Stephanie Cyr, Craig De Martini, Jennifer Dunmire, Mercedes R Gay, Maureen Geiger, Frank Goss, Georganna Griffin, Jim Hagedorn, Christine Hansen, Susan Scott and Ed Harper, Gary and Cary S Hart, Yoshino Hatanaka, Marie Heid, Jim Hepler, Timothy and Angela Jackson, Peggy Jenkins, James and Nancy Ree Joye, Bruce and Peggy Kennedy, Scott and Julie Kenney, Robin Kulakow, Thomas Manning, Mark Martucci, Rosemary Mayfield, Susan McIntire, Mary Beth Metcalf, Joyce A Mihanovich, Lori Miyasato, Valerie Phillips, May Jean Ralph, Vicki P Ramsey, June A Ritzman, Robin B Thompson, Alta and Del Tura, Richard and Salli Warinner, and Daniel Williams made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

John and Ellen Huls made a donation for **Bobelaine**.

Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community.

SAS HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED

The Board of Directors is requesting volunteers to help with the meeting hospitality. We hope to get enough volunteers, so we can make it a rotating service. Duties are basically making the coffee, lemon water, providing cookies or pastries; and setting up and clearing the hospitality table. Helpers will be reimbursed for their costs. If you have questions and/or want to help out contact Bill Bianco at biancowm@yahoo.com, or 372-3318.

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, October 14, 8am-10am, Earl J. Koobs Nature Area in Carmichael
Join leader Cliff Hawley

Wednesday, October 18, 10am, Mather Lake, Mather Regional Park
Join leader Sheila Green

Saturday, October 21, 8am-noon, Elk Grove/Cosumnes Area, Sandhill Cranes and Waterfowl
Join leaders Wendy Money and Sandra Steurer

Saturday, October 21, 10:30am, Family Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael.

Saturday, November 4, 8am, Sailor Bar
Join leader Ben Graber

Saturday, November 16, 10:30am, Family Nature Walk
Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael.

Sunday, December 10, Yolo Bypass, 9 am
Join Sandra and Wendy in this great seasonal floodplain 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. We will enjoy the returning ducks, geese, swans, pelicans, raptors, and watch for stealthy rails and owls. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, and then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A) on your left, at the beginning of the auto tour. On this trip we stay in our vehicles, as blinds, most of the time, popping out for brief scope-aided views. The trip will end before noon, but bring water and snacks as needed. Loaner binoculars available. Questions? Contact Wendy Money 205-3194, wendydoug@msn.com or Sandra Steurer 580-8398 or sasteurer@yahoo.com

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

August 1 to August 31

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

Although many associate September with the peak of migration, August might be the best time of year for birding. Shorebird numbers are very high and peak flows of common songbird migrants are moving through. It is true that more rare songbirds typically come next month, but for shear numbers and diversity this is a great time of year to be in the field, especially before the heat of mid-day. Up to four **Redheads** were reported throughout the month at the Woodland WTP. They are uncommon at any season in the region, but a few typically show up in the summer in Yolo County. A **Least Bittern** was found at

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome this new member:

Bea Pearson

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 October 31, 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.



Laysan Albatross
Kauai, Hawaii
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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 _____

Email _____

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

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



Observations continued

Bridgeway Island Pond from 8/6-11 and another was at Mather Lake on 8/23.

Despite the wet conditions earlier in the year, shorebird habitat (and/or access) was hard to come by in many traditionally good locations. Among the good finds were three **Baird's Sandpipers** at the Woodland WTP on 8/8, with one continuing through 8/14. A single was found at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 8/10. **Solitary Sandpipers** continued at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) Bufferlands from late July, with a peak of four on 8/2. Three **Willetts** were at SRWTP on 8/7, and three were also at the Davis WTP on 8/9.

A **Northern Pygmy-Owl** at Willowbank Ditch in Davis on 8/31 was a nice surprise. This species is regular in low numbers around the Putah Creek Canyon west

of Winters, but very rare anywhere on the flats of the Valley. Wildwings Park along Cache Creek west of Woodland produced reports of good migrant numbers as well as a **Gray Catbird** on 8/14 and a male **Summer Tanager** on 8/5. A **Northern Waterthrush** was found at CRP on 8/18, and a male **American Redstart** was found at CRP on 8/19. One of the biggest surprises of the season was a molting female **Hooded Warbler** in north Davis from 8/16 through at least 8/29.

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, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Cliff Hawley, Will Hemstrom, Stanton Hunter, Dan Kopp, Kris Kordana, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Tim Liguori, Mark Martucci, Michael Perrone, Jim Rowoth, Steve Scott, Kevin Thomas, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

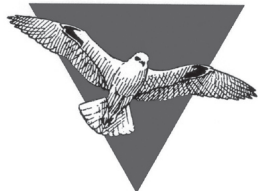
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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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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.

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, October 19

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Paul Tebbel: *Sandhill Crane Biology and Viewing*



Cranes Rising
from the
Platte

FUTURE PROGRAMS

November 9: Please note the early date, *TBD*

January 18: Ed Harper, *Norway/Svalbard*