

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



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OCTOBER 2018

General Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Coyote In Our Midst

Guy Galante

Guy Galante has been involved with the American River Parkway for more than 15 years and has created a strong network of environmental stakeholders while establishing himself as a Parkway leader focused on



Coyote
Guy Galante

creating future stewards of the Parkway. He is an avid outdoor enthusiast and enjoys snowshoeing, hiking, camping and exploring the diverse landscape of California. He is a nature photographer focused on the

lower American River, and has photo-documented Coyote for over 10 years. Guy works with the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Sacramento Valley Conservancy, Save the American River Association, Friends of the River Banks and other Parkway entities. His primary focus is to bring County Parks, stakeholder groups and communities together to foster a deeper connection with, and appreciation of, the American River Parkway.

The presentation will provide: basic coyote information, discussion on why coyotes are around you, pet and child safety tips, attractants, tips for deterring coyotes, appropriate responses when encountering a coyote, and proper hazing techniques. Participants will receive print materials and links to additional resources that will help provide consistent messaging and shared language to similarly address coyote coexistence in our communities. Environmental and human factors have resulted in more coyote sightings in our region's urban

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Monterey Bay Coastal Field and Pelagic Trips

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6-7

Join Sacramento Audubon Society for the annual Monterey Bay coastal and pelagic weekend! Note: this year the coastal field trip will be on Saturday, October 6, and the pelagic trip will be on Sunday, October 7.

For those arriving early in Monterey for the weekend, on Saturday, October 6, we will visit coastal habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises. On Sunday's pelagic trip, we'll look for shearwaters, albatrosses and other pelagic birds as well as marine mammals. Experts will be on board to spot and identify the pelagic birds and other wildlife we encounter.

As of press time there are still spaces available. In lieu of the mail-in registration form please contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 916-715-1876. Further information may be found in September's *Observer* or online at sacramentoaudubon.org.

SAS PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

The SAS Board has proposed changes to our Chapter's bylaws, and SAS members will be voting on these changes at the November meeting. Below is a summary of the proposed revisions.

Most of the changes are to simplify the language. We also added dates for election milestones. The proposed substantive changes are to:

- 1) Allow the Board to change the membership dues with notice to the Members, instead of stating the dues in the Bylaws (see below)
- 2) Increase the terms that Board members serve from one to two years
- 3) Explicitly require non-routine expenditures (anything that is not the payment of budgeted, recurring bills) be approved by the Board
- 4) Delete the requirement for bequests to be held in an endowment fund (see below)
- 5) Require that gifts of stock be liquidated upon receipt, which is standard practice for non-profits

Currently, membership dues cover the costs of producing, printing and mailing the newsletter. The balance of the monetary needs for the Society's work is supported through donations. We are not contemplating raising the dues, but given the Board's fiscal responsibilities, we did not believe the dues should be set in the Bylaws.

SAS does not have a permanent office or paid executive, and so tracking endowment restrictions and expenditures is not practical. We therefore propose removing the section requiring bequests to go into an endowment fund. Instead, we would not accept endowments. We will spell out our policy of not accepting endowments in a Policies and Procedures document.

You can see all of the revisions on the SAS Website, or contact Diana Hickson (dianahickson@comcast.net) if you would like to have them emailed to you.

Field Trip Findings

Point Reyes Family Trip (9/9) — Leaders Sandra Steurer and Wendy Money reported: “Five participants began the trip with long, open views of a bobcat near the entrance to the Earthquake Trail near the Visitor Center. What a wonderful way to start a bird trip that included forest, cliff and wetland habitats. Besides the memory-of-a-lifetime views of the feline, highlights were three roosting Great Horned Owls, migrant flycatchers and warblers, a Brown Pelican feeding frenzy, and families of quail scuttling about the understory. Pinnipeds included sea lion and young elephant seal. One member saw two Tule Elk on a slope while we were driving and Black-Tailed Deer were well represented. A total of 72 species of birds were enjoyed.”

Sacramento Bar (9/9) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: “Sac Bar offered a dozen birders its expected late summer selection of migrants: Wilson’s, Black-throated Grey, Yellow and Orange-crowned warblers, as well as a Pacific Slope Flycatcher. The group focused on learning the calls of local birds such as wrens, woodpeckers, towhees, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bushtit, Black Phoebe, Cedar Waxwing, and California Scrub Jay.”

Point Reyes (9/8) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had a very enjoyable day at Pt Reyes, visiting Drake’s Estero, the Fish Docks, Drake’s Beach, and Abbott’s Lagoon. Despite a lack of rarities and windy conditions, we saw a nice selection of birds as well as mammals, plus a leopard shark at close range. Highlights included Pygmy Nuthatches, close views of Wrentits, elephant seals, a river otter, great views of two Wandering Tattlers, a Hermit Warbler, three Common Terns, Elegant Terns, two or three bobcats, coyotes, and around 1,000 Sooty Shearwaters off the beach at Abbott’s Lagoon.”

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (9/6) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “This morning 11 of us had a wonderful time driving the auto route at YWA. We had 42 species including two American Bitterns out in the open, 6 species of raptors including a Peregrine, one Barn Owl, one Aleutian Cackling goose, the continuing Egyptian Geese, many peeps which were mostly Least Sandpipers, and hordes of swallows. While the Buff-breasted Sandpiper eluded us, it was a very nice morning for all of us.”

Fall Migration Wild Card (9/2) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “10 of us explored a couple of local hot spots, finding some great birds at both locations. We started out at Putah Creek Reserve. Highlights included 6 species of flycatcher, including Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers and an unexpected Olive-sided Flycatcher. We also had 6 species of warbler here, including MacGillivray’s and great views of a Nashville Warbler. Our second stop was Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, where we saw the bird of the day: Buff-breasted Sandpiper. This bird is very rare for the Central Valley and only the second record for Yolo County. Also present here were at least 8 Red-necked Phalarope. We tallied over 70 species over all. It was a great day with a great group of birders.”

Alpine and Douglas Counties (9/1) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “16 folks rendezvoused in El Dorado Hills, several of whom had not made this trip before. At our first stop near Luther Pass, we saw Orange-crowned, MacGillivray’s and Yellow-rumped Warblers and Olive-sided and Pacific Slope Flycatchers. Further on, a bridge over the West Fork Carson River was as reliable as ever for American Dipper. Picking up a Reno birder at Woodford’s Store, we headed to Mud Lake where our hospitable host, Bobby Goodspeed, provided shore access from where we spotted Western and Clark’s Grebes, juvenile Eared Grebes, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Mallard, and American Wigeon in drab plumage, a couple of Caspian Terns, a Bald Eagle, and Say’s Phoebe. Barn Owls were found in barns, and two of us saw Prairie Falcons fly by. At our last stop, Indian Creek Reservoir, we had brief looks at Lewis’ and White-headed Woodpecker, Osprey, and a few distant Pinyon Jays. Two saw a Williamson’s Sapsucker, and on exiting the area, lead cars were treated with a flock of Pinyon Jays feeding in a pine tree. Our species total was not high at something over 30, but we did have some good ones.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (8/31) — Leader Mark Sawyer reported: “Nothing majorly rare and missed the Black and White Warbler, but 7 of us enjoyed an early morning walk with over 50 species. Highlights were Willow Flycatcher, Hermit and Townsend’s Warblers.”

Riverbend Park (8/26) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Eight people joined me this morning and we totaled 38 species of birds, mostly the expected ones. Darrell Mohr spotted an early Brown Creeper, and Jane VanKessel heard a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. A possible Hammond’s Flycatcher interested the group. Blooming vinegar weed and various galls were also seen.”

Sailor Bar (8/25) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “With perfect weather, nine people gathered to walk along the Parkway, starting at Sailor Bar. At the parking lot we had four Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Good start. As we walked down the trail large flocks of Lesser Goldfinches flew out of the clumps of dried Star Thistle. Farther down the river we spotted Vaux’s Swift flying overhead. The trip ended up with a total of 43 Species. Everyone enjoyed the morning.”

Bats and Swainson’s Hawks (8/22) — Dan Brown, co-leader with bat expert Joellen Arnold, reported: “A small group of us were treated last night to thousands of Mexican Freetail Bats, five Swainson’s Hawks and two Peregrine Falcons. The bats flew out of their roost by the thousands and the nimble raptors chased and caught several. Thanks to bat expert Joellen for her great presentation prior to the flyout which included several live rehab bats!”

Putah Creek (8/19) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Eleven people saw 77 species of birds on a mid August morning in Yolo County. Along Putah Creek the highlights were: Nashville, Townsend’s, Black-throated Gray and Chestnut-sided Warbler, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo and Chipping Sparrow. On the way home we made a quick stop at the Yolo Bypass and had great looks at Least, Western and Baird’s Sandpipers.” A trip participant commented :”Thanks to leader s Mark Matucci and Scott Hoppe for taking the extra time on our trip yesterday to scope out the shorebirds at Yolo Bypass. They were close in, allowing some good views of the Baird’s sandpiper, and comparisons with the Western and Least Sandpipers.”

Napa-Sonoma Marshes (9/18) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “A good trip with 7

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Field Trips



Warbler Species
Kirsten Munson

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached for trips through 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.

Saturday, September 29, 7am North Bay Hot Spots Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471 Shophe01@surewest.net

The vast area to the north of San Francisco Bay, known as the "North Bay", has many great birding locations, especially during fall migration. Join Scott as he explores some of these hotspots. We may go as far as Point Reyes or Bodega Bay, depending on reports and weather conditions. This will be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and liquids. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, September 30, 7:30am/9am Point Pinole Regional Shoreline, Contra Costa County Leaders: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652 mkgeiger@comcast.net Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277 kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This large park, at the confluence of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, includes a long shoreline as well as a 1,250' fishing pier. Join Maureen and Ken on a two mile (one way), fairly level hike through eucalyptus stands and meadows, past the historical munitions areas, and to the northern shoreline and pier. They will look for resident species as well as shorebirds. Return to the parking area may be via the county-provided shuttle or on foot. Restroom facilities are available in several park locations. This trip will last until late morning. Weather can be very different from Sacramento, so dress for the possibility of cold, windy and/or foggy weather. Scopes are useful. Meet Maureen and Ken at the Safeway Market

in Fairfield. From I-80W take Exit #47B onto Waterman Road, bear right, then turn left into the Safeway Market parking lot. To meet at the Park BY 9am, from Sacramento, take I-80 West to Richmond. Take Exit #20 onto the Richmond Parkway (also says to I-580) and continue on the Parkway to the Giant Highway. Turn right on the Highway and into the Park. There is a \$3 parking fee.

Tuesday, October 2, 8am Woodland/Davis Clean Water Agency ponds Leader: Craig DeMartini 916-599-3300 Cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Join Craig and search the settling ponds of this water treatment facility for a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, and passerines. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. The trip should end around noon. FRS radios are useful while birding from the vehicles.

Saturday, October 6, 7am Point Reyes for Fall Vagrants Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266 jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of birding at Point Reyes. Bring lunch and plenty of water and be prepared for a full day of chasing rare birds, wherever they might be! Fall at the Point is always exciting, and Dan will let the most recent rare bird reports dictate the day's itinerary. Every fall is different and of course there are no guarantees in birding, but this trip in the past has turned up such goodies as Broad-winged Hawk, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, White-winged

Dove, Least Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, and just about every warbler imaginable! Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, October 7, 7:30am Lincoln Area Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366 1jgtaylor@att.net

While others enjoy lots of water on this weekend's Monterey pelagic trip, we will be looking for it around Lincoln, where water assures very good birding in the late fall and winter. October is a little early, but we will explore parks and other sites to find riparian, oak, and grassland habitats and their seasonal birds. Meet at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp, Exit #105A, and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Saturday-Sunday, October 6-7 Monterey Pelagic trip Saturday: Coastal Land Birding Sunday: Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Co-ordinator for both days: Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net

As of our Press deadline there are still places available.

Thursday, October 11, 8am Humbug Creek, Folsom Leader: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652 mkgeiger@comcast.net

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Meet Maureen at the Cummings Family Park on the corner of Creekside Drive and Oak Avenue Parkway in Folsom. You'll follow Humbug Creek around an easy 2-3 mile paved trail. Depending on how dry it is, this can be a good place to look for a variety of woodpeckers, ducks, Common Gallinule and returning wintering sparrows and kinglets. Sometimes River Otters are seen in the creek. This is a great trip for beginning birders. Trip will end by late morning. To reach the Park, exit Hwy 50 at East Bidwell Street, Exit #27, north on Bidwell, then right onto Oak Avenue Parkway. Shortly after, turn left on Creekside Drive and right into the Park.

Saturday, October 13, 8am

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. We will look for a variety of resident species and migrants. Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take up to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

Sunday, October 14, 8am-10am

Family Friendly Trip!

Earl J Koobs Nature Area, Carmichael
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 916-300-2495
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.

Thursday, October 18, 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, October 20, 7:30am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations at all seasons of the year, and he always turns up quite a list of bird species. Possibilities include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Bittern, Green Heron, and Pied-billed Grebe. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a wonderful trip for beginning and experienced birders.

Saturday, October 20, 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 Sac Audubon birding leaders Craig DeMartini and Sue Darst. For directions, see sac-naturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 21, 8am

Family Friendly Trip

Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Wendy Money, 916-205-3194
wendydougmsn.com

The group will be looking for fall migrants, as well as returning wintering birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. Loaner binoculars are available. Trip should end about 11am. Meet in the picnic park-

ing lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 21

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, with Beginning Birder in the subject line.

Thursday, October 25, 8am

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills

Leader: Craig DeMartini

916-599-3300, 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 Hwy 50 east towards Placerville, take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway; continue on El Dorado Hills Blvd north for approximately 4.5 miles. Cross Green Valley Road where El Dorado Hills Blvd becomes Salmon Falls Road. Continue on Salmon Falls for 3 miles to a large dirt parking lot on the left with a large wooden sign that reads "Falcon Crest". Use caution when turning across oncoming traffic.



Rough-legged Hawk
Photo Illustration

Saturday, October 27, 6:30am

Bodega Bay

Leaders: Mark Martucci

916-833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471

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 Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. This is one of our most popular trips; it's been called "the best Audubon trip we have taken" by more than one participant.

Saturday, October 27, 4:30pm–Sunset
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River and Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc
Coordinator: Mike Savino
916-446-1392

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. Meet on the deck of the Visitor Center. 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.

Sunday, October 28, 8am
Riverbend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier
916-502-2699
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and down to the river looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as possible migrants. This is a good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 28
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds

See times, location and information for October 27.

Wednesday, October 31, 8am
William Pond Park
Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809
mikezots@gmail.com

Meet Mike along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. This park has varied habitats and Mike knows them well. He'll be looking for fall migrants such as crowned sparrows and warblers, in addition to our resident wrens, towhees and other small passerines. He'll check out the river and the pond area. Trip will end before noon. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Thursday, November 1, 8:30am
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 3, 8am
Sutter's Landing Park
Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net

This morning trip will take us along levee and riverbank searching for wintering birds and river dwellers in this short stretch of riparian habitat on the American River in midtown Sacramento. Ducks, occasional shore birds, passerines, sea lions and raptors are all possibilities. Be prepared for a chilly morning and possible muddy trails, when we will walk up to an easy three miles. Heavy rain or dense fog cancels. Meet at the skate park lot at the terminus of 28th Street. From Business 80 heading east (towards Cal-Expo), exit on E Street, turn left onto E and then right on 28th Street which dead ends at the Park. Heading west

on Business 80, also take the E Street exit; turn right onto E Street, then right again onto 28th and proceed to the Park. This trip should end before noon so bring liquids and, if desired, snacks.

Sunday, November 4, 8am
(NOTE: Daylight Savings Time ends today)
Lynch Canyon, Solano County
Leaders: Maureen Geiger
916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This 1,039-acre park just off I-80 in Solano County consists of rolling hills with stands of native oak, buckeye and bay trees, small riparian corridors, panoramic vistas and a pond for ducks, grebes and possible shorebirds. Other fall and resident birds may include Golden Eagles plus harriers, hawks, kites and woodpeckers, Western Bluebirds and quail. This trip involves about a two mile walk on an easy trail and will end mid-day. Please note: this area is generally colder, wetter, foggier and windier than Sacramento, so dressing in layers is recommended. There is a \$5 parking fee. From Sacramento on I-80 West, after Fairfield, take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (parallels I-80) and follow for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 overpass. There is a gate at the entrance which Ken will open at 8am. Drive into the gravel parking lot.

Tuesday, November 6, 8am
Sacramento Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Andi Salmi, 916-508-7192
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, Exit #524; 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.

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

Saturday, November 10, 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. Trip will end before noon.

Sunday, November 11, 8am

River Walk Park, West Sacramento

**Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-372-3318
biancowm@yahoo.com**

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

SACRAMENTO AREA CBCS FOR 2018-2019

Time is flying so I just a reminder that the Christmas Counts will be here before you know it. Please think about signing up for one, especially if you've never gone before. They're a lot of fun, informative and usually followed by a nice get-together to compile the results. Further information will be in next month's *Observer*.

Stockton: Sunday, December 16

Woodfords: Wednesday, December 19

Sacramento: Saturday, December 22

Lincoln: Thursday, December 27

Folsom: Sunday, December 30

DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES

It's autumn, and our waterfowl, shorebirds and cranes are returning. Here's a great opportunity to work on your wetland bird identification; it's a great trip for families, youth groups and newer birders.

"Ducks In Scopes" is set up at the Cosumnes River Preserve, where from 10am to 2pm CRP 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: 10/27, 11/3, 11/10 and 11/17

Sundays: 11/4 and 11/25. And check next month for further winter dates.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sundays, October 21 and November 18

*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.

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS BY THE SAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

August 28, Sierra Madre Garden Club, Jackson

Heather White presented 66 Sierra Madre Garden Club Members with a talk which focused on common birds seen in the Sacramento Valley and the Sierra Nevada Foothills, with a particular emphasis on fall migration. Discussions included local places to see birds as well as how to attract them to one's yard. Q&As followed the talk, which was well received by club members. The Sierra Madre Garden Club made a \$100 donation to Sacramento Audubon Society.

September 13, Sacramento Rose Society

25 members of the Sacramento Rose Society assembled in the Shepard Garden and Arts Center to hear Maureen Geiger talk about backyard birds. The presentation included an audio of the common bird calls. Members found this useful. They had lots of questions ranging from how to keep cats away from your birds to the best bird seed to buy, and best plants to attract birds without using bird seeds. Louis (Lou) Campbell, an officer of the Sacramento Rose Society, said he learned a lot and will now be able to identify some of the birds he sees in his backyard. Lou presented Education Committee Chair Gesna Clarke, and presenter Maureen Geiger thank you cards for their preparation and time



Board and Education Committee member Heather White talks to Sierra Madre Garden Club Members about birds seen in the valley and foothills.

General Meeting continued from page 1

and suburban neighborhoods. This has created both excitement and fear among residents. Roots of Connection has assumed a voluntary role with Project Coyote to provide outreach and educational materials to foster a peaceful understanding and coexistence with wildlife. Coyote Coexistence Plans and materials, created by Project Coyote, are designed to ensure human safety, minimize conflicts, and promote coexistence through mutual respect, fairness and empathy.

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).

Birding and Nature Events

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 22nd annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held **November 2-4**, 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!

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM 2018

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 22nd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 15-18, 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! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

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, birder, and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program entitled *Northern Delights*.

Friday night's keynote program *Bird Migration: The More We Learn, The Less We Know* will be presented by Ed Pandolfino. Saturday night's keynote program, *The Trade Off* will be presented by John Kricher. In this lively and thought-provoking presentation, he will contrast the lives, ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine birds with bird species that are permanent residents of lowland tropical forests.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *History of Field Identification* with Joe Morlan, *eBird, Bird Identification, and Alternative Facts: eGads!* by Kimball Garrett, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Digiscoping (Clay Taylor), 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! 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 begins August 24, 2018.

Findings continued from page 2

attendees. Hundreds of shorebirds, plus others of interest. Highlights included both Wilson's and Red-necked Phalaropes, Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Willow Flycatchers and a couple of Chestnut-backed Chickadees joined us for lunch as they foraged above us while we ate at a picnic table."

Wright's Lake (8/14) — Leaders Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris reported: "It was a very nice day, without the smoke that has been so prevalent in the Sierra recently, as ten people joined us to look for birds and enjoy this beautiful area. Some of the day's highlights were 5 Pine Grosbeaks, an adult Bald Eagle soaring above the lake, a Spotted Sandpiper along the lake edge, a Red-breasted Sapsucker, several Western Wood-peewees, an entertaining Brown Creeper, at least 15 Violet-green Swallows flying over the lake, and a Hermit Warbler. Thanks to all who joined us and made the day so enjoyable."

Cathie LaZier

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

OPEN TRAIL DAY

Saturday, October 13

Come enjoy the Upper Beach Lake wildlife area at your own pace. Trails will be marked and open to stroll around the wetlands, lakes, and riparian forests in this beautiful part of the Sacramento area. Bring a camera or binoculars, as there are always plenty of birds to see this time of year, including nesting herons, egrets, and cormorants. The endangered Swainson's hawks and other raptors are typically soaring in the area, as well. Mammal sightings could range from jack rabbits and deer to beavers and river otters. In addition, the riparian trees and wetland plants are in full foliage and beauty.

Each person will be required to sign in with a Bufferlands biologist on arrival to receive maps and other information. Please check back at www.regionalsan.com/bufferlands-calendar-events for time and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com.

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



**SEE THE LATEST
SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK**

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Roger Dunstan, Joe Easley, Robert L Garcia, Nancy Gronert, Michael J Harris, Marilyn and Phil Isenberg, Debara Johnson, Thomas Manning, Frances Spivy-Weber, Ken and Janet Stites, Doctors J W and Patricia Wells, and Howard Whitaker made donations to the **General Fund**.

Karen D Benson, Ann Burris, Debara Johnson, Lena O Lem, and Joyce C Rietz made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Alta and Del Tura, Debara Johnson, and M A Nunes made donations to **Bobelaine**.

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

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Sunday October 14, 8am-10am

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Loaner Binoculars Always Available
Earl J Koobs Nature Area, Carmichael

Leader: Cliff Hawley, 916-300-2495, 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.

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks

Saturday, October 20, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Nature Walk

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. No registration is necessary but you might want to arrive a little early.

Sunday, October 21, 8am

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Loaner Binoculars Always Available
Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Wendy Money, 916-205-3194, wendydougmsn.com

The group will be looking for fall migrants, as well as returning wintering birds, and maybe something unexpected may turn up. Trip should end about 11am.

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks

Saturday, November 17, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Nature Walk

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. No registration is necessary but you might want to arrive a little early.

NOTE: Meeting location and other information for all trips is available in our Field Trips column, beginning on page 3, or at sacramentoaudubon.org under Field Trips.

**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

This was a very busy month. Combining peak shorebird migration with one of the better seasons for migrant songbirds makes for a great time to get out in the field despite the heat and smoke-filled skies from regional fires. The fires in the Coast Range may have accounted for increased numbers in some Valley hotspots, such as Putah Creek. **Rufous Hummingbirds** were also reported in higher numbers in Sacramento, perhaps detouring from their more typical migration routes at higher elevations. Many of the interesting reports came from the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA), including multiple reports of a single **Least Bittern** through the first three weeks of the month. An intriguing report of a solo **Chimney Swift** on 8/19 came from Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd, where

several of the month's highlights were found.

Shorebirds again stole the show, with only the second Yolo County record of a **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at YBWA on 8/31. It was seen by many through 9/2. Other highlights included a **Ruff** at the Davis WTP from 8/21-22, and many **Baird's Sandpipers**, including singles from the Woodland WTP on 8/8 and 8/20-29, a single at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 8/14, up to three from YBWA from 8/15-22, and two at the Lincoln WTP on 8/28. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were reported from YBWA on 8/17 and E Catlett Rd near Brewer Rd in Placer County on 8/28. Single **Semipalmated Sandpiper** reports came from YBWA on and off throughout the month, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at West Pond in Davis on 8/17. The **Least Tern** pair at the Sacramento Regional WTP fledged one chick by 8/23 and at least one adult continued through 8/28.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Dennis Eckhart
 Madi Elsea and Rod Lee
 Michael Flaningam
 Stanton Hunter
 Frances Kynett
 Kimberly Oldehoeft
 Steven Rockoff
 Frances Spivy-Weber
 Laura Thompson

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 October 30, 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.

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

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

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued

A calling **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported at Fremont Weir State Wildlife Area on 8/20, and a **Greater Roadrunner** was seen along Yolo County Rd 30 about a mile west of Rd 98. The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** along Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd that was first found in July continued through at least 8/25. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was found at Ancil Hoffman Park in the oaks between the American River and the golf course on 8/22-25; this species has been found in August or September at the same site in four of the past five years. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was found at Grasslands Regional Park south of Davis on 8/27-28, and a **Green-tailed Towhee** and an early **Golden-crowned Sparrow** were at the



Greater Roadrunner
 Dan Brown

same location on 8/25. A **Bell's Sparrow** found at Reichmuth Park on 8/19 represents one of very few records for the Valley floor. A flurry of **Summer Tanager** reports included one at Reichmuth Park on 8/17, another downstream of Pedrick Rd from 8/18 through the end of the month, and the male first found in May and continuing through 8/26 at the Orr Ranch portion of CRP. The **Indigo Bunting** found in July downstream of Pedrick Rd continued through at least 8/6, and a possible female-type **Orchard Oriole** was photographed at Marriott Park in the Pocket area of Sacramento on 8/22.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/

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:

Holly Coates, Laura Davis, Lily Douglas, Jon Dunn, Leo Edson, Stephen Fettig, Robert Furrow, Maureen Geiger, Douglas Hall, Steve Hampton, Terry Hodapp, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Tim Ludwick, Mark Martucci, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Deren Ross, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Ian Taylor, Gene Trapp, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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

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www.sacramentoaudubon.org



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

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

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, wisew7@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, October 18

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Guy Galante:

Coyote In Our Midst

