

### General Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2019
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm
Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

Falconry-Ancient to Modern Kate Marden

Kate Marden, Master Falconer, West Coast Falconry founder and owner, has been a falconer since 1998 and is an experienced speaker and educator. She is a successful business owner in Marin County specializing in canine care. Her work with birds of prey predates her years as a licensed falconer. Kate has worked in bird of prey interpretive programs at Renaissance Fairs, Corporate Events, Historical Events, Scottish Games and schools for more than twenty years. She has flown her birds in videos and on shows such as Mythbusters, Nat Geo, KQED, Wreakreation Nation, Unchained Reaction, Mancations and Methods of Take. She specialized in training her raptors outside of the box. Her vision for creating a falconry center in the United States that is accessible to everyone is the seed that grew West Coast Falconry.

She will bring live birds to the program: Red-Tailed Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Great Horned Owl.

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.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

#### KATHY KAYNER-A STUDENT OF NATURE, SPEAKS OF A PASSION

This month's article features Sacramento Audubon member Kathy Kayner. Kathy is a self-described student of nature with a passion for wildlife photography and raptors.

She supports this passion through her volunteer work with two non-profit organizations; Save The American River Association (SARA) and Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma (FOLFAN)

Kathy does most of her photography along the American River Parkway which she believes is the Jewel of Sacramento, a jewel that needs to be cherished and protected for our children and our children's children. The Wildlife and their habitat need this parkway to flourish and survive. SARA's mission is

KATHY KAYNER continued on page 5

#### **SACRAMENTO AREA CBCS FOR 2019-2020**

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

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

Sacramento: Saturday, December 21, Dan Williams Folsom: Sunday, December 29, Chris Conard Kids: Saturday, January 4, Maureen Geiger Teens: Sunday, January 5, Wendy Money

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE**

#### **Planning For Nature Bowl and Conservation Corps Programs**

Planning is currently underway for two 2019-20 programs: Nature Bowl and Sacramento Audubon Society sponsored Environmental Education Program for Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps.

Nature Bowl is an annual science-based educational program for 3rd through 6th graders and is sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Semi-Finals are scheduled at several locations in the Sacramento area and region. Top scoring teams at each site will go on to the finals.

Sacramento Audubon Society semi-finals are scheduled for March 31 at Camp Pollock, and planning is now underway. Several volunteer positions will be available if you'd like to spend a half or full day at the event. In a few weeks planning committee members (Bill Bianco, Sue Darst and Cathie LaZier) will reach out to the membership for volunteers, with details of areas where help will be needed.

Read more about Nature Bowl at: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/2/Nature-Bowl

The Environmental Education Program, now in its third year, serves Corps members of the Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps. The program includes in classroom sessions at John Muir Charter School, and field trips to local areas. Planning is currently underway to confirm program dates for 2019-20, classroom session themes, identify field trip locations and volunteers to lead field trips.

If you would like to volunteer 2-3 hours to lead a Friday morning field trip for this group of 5-12 students, please email: www.education@sacramentoaudubon.org .

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## Field Trip Findings

Ancil Hoffman Park (9/11) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "13 people saw sixty species of birds on a nice cool morning along the American River Parkway. Highlights included Lewis's Woodpecker, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Hutton's Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Western Tanager and Yellow, Wilson's, Orangecrowed, Hermit and Black-throated Gray Warblers."

Sacramento Bar (9/8) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: "10 eager birders had a great day viewing and listening to some nice migrants and residents. Highlights for the group included American Kestrel, which is not a terribly common bird in the area. Warblers included Wilson's, Black-throated Gray, Yellow, and Orangecrowned. Waxwings were the most numerous species and other standouts included Phainopepla, Hutton's Vireo, and Warbling Vireo."

Point Reves (9/7) - Leader Chris Conard reported: "14 of us enjoyed a fun, but windy day at Point Reves, visiting Five Brooks, Bear Valley, the Estero Trail, Drake's Beach, and the Fish Docks. There were no rarities reported, nor did we find any, but resident and migrant species were plentiful. Highlights included great scope views of a calling Pileated Woodpecker and Band-tailed Pigeons. Among the songbirds were Olive-sided Flycatcher, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Pygmy Nuthatches, great views of a Wrentit and Hutton's Vireos, plus Yellow, Townsend's, and Wilson's Warblers. Two Great Horned Owls flew toward us for some reason and landed, giving great looks. The Outer Point produced Red-necked Grebe, Common and Pacific Loons, Black Turnstones and a Wandering Tattler, Rednecked Phalaropes swimming at close range, Common Terns, and great views of diving Brown Pelicans. Elephant seals, plus a bobcat, seen by a few, rounded out a full day."

Riverbend Park (9/5) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "9 people joined me this morning for a walk through the woodland. An immature Cooper's Hawk was of interest, with all the usual hummers, finches and other small passerines. A gang of crows all giving loud warnings alerted us to a coyote who paralled our route along the river. Vinegar weed was blooming."

Fall Migration Wild Card (9/1) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "This trip consisted of 2 widely spaced locations, and

2 very different habitats. One participant expressed appreciation for the juxtaposition. We started off at Putah Creek Reserve with 13 people, and tallied over 50 species. Highlights included several Willow Flycatchers, Warbling Vireos and 5 species of warblers. From there we headed down to American Canyon Wetlands. This location rarely fails to disappoint, usually having hundreds of shorebirds, waterfowl and some passerines and raptors to keep birders attention piqued. Highlights here included 16 species of shorebirds, including 2 Pectoral Sandpipers and at least 9 or 10 Whimbrels (both species uncommon for this location), ever increasing numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs (they kept turning up, practically everywhere), and more Willow Flycatchers. A very rewarding day with a great group."

Alpine County (8/31) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: "9 of us headed up Highway 50 to sites in Alpine and Douglas Counties. Luther Pass was quite productive, and a few of us spotted American Dipper on the West Carson River. It was a very warm day, and we tried a few ponds and marshes near Genoa, NV, before ending at Indian Creek Reservoir. Ed Harper, recovering from a broken arm suffered in a rough July pelagic trip, kept our eBird tally and reported 60 species for the day. Highlights included 5 species of warbler at Luther Pass, as well as Song-and Lincoln's Sparrow family groups, flycatchers and, out in the peat meadow, a few Sandhill Cranes. We had eclipse-plumage Mallard, Gadwall, and Cinnamon Teal at a pond off of Highway 88. At the reservoir, Caspian Terns made passes, and both Western and Clark's Grebes surfaced long enough for positive IDs. All three nuthatches made appearances at various venues along the route."

Ancil Hoffman Park (8/26) — Leader Mark Sawyer reported: "6 of us birded during a lovely morning where temperatures ranged from mild to cool to slightly hot as the day progressed. Nothing out of the ordinary was observed however, there was a good influx of migrants. Although parts of the park were very quiet we did find some areas with small flocks of warblers—that was fun. Highlights included great walk away looks at 2 Hermit Warblers, nice study of a distant Willow Flycatcher, and also good looks at different plumages in Yellow Warblers and nice Black-throated Gray Warblers. Great

day on the American River Parkway. Can't wait for the next trip."

Sailor Bar (8/25) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "A nice sunny day, cool at the start of the trip, then the heat. 11 people braved the weather for a early morning trip. Our first encounter was a flock of Cedar Waxwings. Our next encounter was four Phainopeplas. Out over the river there were many White-throated Swifts feeding on bugs and insects. We had a total of 34 Species of birds. About 9am the temperature was beginning to heat up, so we headed back to the parking lot."

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (8/24) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "A good sized group of 15 of us enjoyed beautiful weather, and the escape from the heat of the Valley. As would be expected, shorebirds were the hit of the day. We tallied 14 species. But some passerine migrants were found as well. We had at least 5 Willow Flycatchers, and a couple of Yellow Warblers were seen. The group also enjoyed great views of a perched adult Peregrine Falcon. The tally for the day was well over 70 species."

Wrights Lake (8/20) — Leaders Tim Fitzer, Ann Burris and Mark Martucci reported: "35 species, a great day in the Sierra! Some of the highlights were 7 species of warblers, Williamson's and Redbreasted Sapsuckers, 5 Pine Grosbeaks, Western Wood-Peewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Vaux's Swift and Bald Eagle. A birder from Iraq got 8 lifers and took the day's photos. Great guy and special guest; everybody had a fun time with great birds and laughs."

**Putah Creek Reserve** (8/18) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "16 people saw 55 species of birds on a cool morning along Putah Creek. Highlights included Yellow, Wllson's, Orange-crowned, Nashville and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ashthroated Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole and Bullock's Oriole."

Common Nighthawks, Yuba Gap (8/17) — Leader Dan Brown reported: "Our field trip was a welcome break from a recent valley heat wave. Our goal was to see a Common Nighthawk feeding display at sundown. The weather was great and we tallied 24 bird species for the half day trip. The birding started at around

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# Field Trips

#### **Field Trip Information**

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. For trips through October 11, contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@comcast.net, 916-281-6652. For trips from October 12 through November11, 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.



Warbling Vireo
Chris Conard

NOTE: Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.

#### Thursday, October 3, 7:30am Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant, etc. Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366 1igtaylor@att.net

Join Jane for a morning outing to the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant for possible ducks and to seek out a couple of other watery/marshy/grassy sites in the area. This trip should end before noon, so bring snacks and liquids as appropriate. Heavy rain or high winds cancel. 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, October 5, 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 6, 7:30am William Pond Park Leader: Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809 mikezots@gmail.com

This park has a great variety of habitat for birds; grassland, oak woodland, riparian, and open water pond with many species possible. Residents such as California Quail, Western Bluebirds, wrens, towhees, herons, egrets and other water birds are all possible plus arriving winter residents and migrants. Trip will end before noon. This is an excellent trip for beginners. 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, October 10, 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. This

trip may last into early afternoon; you may want to bring snacks and water. There are no bathrooms.

# Saturday, October 12, 8am Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain Leader: Gibbe Parsons, 916-802-8674 ghparsons@ucdavis.edu

Meet Gibbe 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 13, 8am Sailor Bar Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999 mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the resident birds. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners. 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, near the boat launch area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

#### Tuesday, October 15, 7:30 am Willow Creek Trail, Folsom Leader: Susan Thrower, 469-231-5418 susan.thrower@gmail.com

Join Susan for a leisurely walk looking for birds on Willow Creek Trail in Folsom. We'll follow the creek on the "hike and bike trail" through a wooded portion with

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some open field and wetland areas. Meet at the parking lot of Cummings Family Park at Oak Avenue and Creekside. From Hwy 50 take Exit #27 on E Bidwell, north on Bidwell, then right at Oak Avenue and the park will be on your left at Creekside. This trip will end mid-morning.

## Saturday, October 19, 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 Larry Hickey and Dan Williams. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

# Saturday, October 19, 8am Bucks Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway, El Dorado Hills Leader: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652 mkgeiger@comcast.net

Experience has shown that trips along this Creek are good any time of the year. Join Maureen for a fall walk through this rich, riparian habitat looking for resident woodpeckers, nuthatches, towhees, wrens, green herons and common gallinules, as well as possible migrating and wintering warblers and sparrows. In this varied habitat, there is always the possibility of unusual finds. Meet at the corner of the intersection of Silva Valley Parkway and Serrano Parkway. To reach this spot, exit Hwy 50 at Exit 31 and turn left onto Silva Valley Parkway. Follow the Parkway about a mile to the stop light at Serrano Parkway, make a U-turn and immediately park along Silva Valley Parkway.

#### Sunday, October 20 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 empid77@gmail.com with Beginning Birder in the subject line.

#### Sunday, October 20, 7:30am Mather Lake Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767 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 Yellowheaded Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Bittern, Green Heron, and Piedbilled 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.

# Tuesday, October 22, 8am Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River Leader: Craig DeMartini 916-599-3300 Cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Join Craig for a morning walk identifying gulls and riparian species along the American River downstream of Lake Natoma and Nimbus Dam. Mergansers, goldeneye and cormorants should be plentiful, and raptors, including Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon are always a welcome sight. Spotting scopes are useful, as are field guides and the various birding apps for identification. Prepare for variable weather. This trip ends late morning. Meet Craig in the hatchery parking lot. From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Avenue; turn left on Gold Country Blvd and the hatchery is on your right.

# Saturday, October 26, 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.

# Family Friendly Trip!!! Saturday, October 26 , 10am-11/Noon Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge Leader: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652 mkgeiger@comcast.net

This easy, morning walk is suitable for families with toddlers and strollers as well as those with disabilities as it offers a smooth, wide, level cement trail. This NWR is just south of Elk Grove, and due to varied habitat, may turn up interesting birds. In addition, there are many interpretative kiosks featuring birds and other creatures plus a native plant garden. The presence of a large marshy area and surrounding farmed and fallow fields may ensure a good variety of bird species including Sandhill Cranes. The trip will consist of several looped trails, all near the parking lot, so can last as long as desired. Driving south from Sacramento on I-5, two miles south of the Elk Grove exit, take Exit 504 at Hood-Franklin Road and drive .8 of a mile to the NWR entrance on the left. There is a large parking lot and restrooms. Loaner binoculars are available.

#### Sunday, October 27, 8am River Walk Park, West Sacramento Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849 biancowm@yahoo.com

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

# Thursday, October 31, 8am William Pond Park Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651 Larryhickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry for this morning walk looking for fall/winter migrants and resident birds. Along the river mergansers, goldeneye, herons and egrets can be found in the backwaters. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area and various raptors may be spotted. Trip will end before noon. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

#### Saturday and Sunday, November 2–3 Lodi Crane Festival

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

#### Tuesday, November 5, 8am Solano Lake/Putah Creek Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207 spskua2@comcast.net Ann Burris, 916-947-7573 burris.nellieann@gmail.com

The lake is a good area for wintering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers. Phainopeplas and Brown Creepers are possible, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in the area. Meet at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. From Sacramento take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd, Exit #75; turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride lot a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Heavy rain or high wind cancels the trip, which will end in the late afternoon, so you may want to bring lunch and water. There is a \$6 fee per car at Lake Solano Park.

# Thursday, November 7, 8am Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463 ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

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

#### Saturday, November 9, 8am Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471 shoppe01@surewest.net

This great area is only10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of

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

#### Sunday, November 10, 8:30am Cosumnes River Preserve Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699 empid77@gmail.com

Walking the boardwalk loop, we'll check out the wintering waterfowl, including a variety of duck species, Greater Whitefronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes. Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe and yellowlegs should be present, and there are always some passerines and raptors. Finishing the 1-1/2 mile loop there will be an option to continue on down to the river. You may want to bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. Spotting scopes are helpful if you have them. This is a great trip for beginning birders. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road, Exit #498; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org. Heavy rain cancels.

**NOTE:** Cathie LaZier's email has changed. It is noted correctly in this Observer but if you have it on file, you should change it. Thanks, Ed.

#### **CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH**

Reduce, reuse, recycle has changed to reduce, reuse, repurpose for now, since things aren't being recycled much anymore. Think about how you can REDUCE, REUSE and REPURPOSE. (Repurpose means using an item you no longer need for a purpose other than what is was originally made for. For example, save your popsicle sticks and use them to make crafts.)

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to make sure the wildlife and native plants do just that.

As a FOLFAN docent, Kathy leads groups to view bald eagles' nests in the pines above Lake Natoma. This compliments her passion for raptors, which sparked her interest in wildlife photography. She enjoys taking pictures of birds, mammals, insects and fish and sharing them with others to show what's out there, documenting their life cycle and the interesting things they do. She cites an example of an American Mink scurrying in a slough along the American River Parkway at a high rate of speed to grab a full-grown Bullfrog and run down a log to drop the frog to its waiting baby hiding in a den. It's priceless to capture a scene like this!! Kathy is passionate about all wildlife and hopes her volunteer work and photography will inspire others to enjoy, cherish, respect and advocate for the protection of wildlife and habitat.

Contact education@sacramentoaudubon. org to recommend someone involved in conservation or nature related activities for an upcoming feature article.

#### **DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES**

It's autumn and our wintering waterfowl are returning to the preserve. A wide variety of birds make use of the flooded fields to eat and rest and a visit to the Cosumnes River Preserve is your chance to see them. CRP docents have a row of spotting scopes set up, including lower ones for children, giving you excellent views of the many colorful ducks, geese and shorebirds. Sandhill Cranes are also often seen.

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

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

Come any time between 10am and 2pm on the following dates:

**NOTE:** These are corrected dates to the printed and mailed Observer, also the previous version of the Epub posted online before 9/28/19.

**Saturdays:** 10/26, 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/23, 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/28.

**Sundays:** 11/3 and 12/22.

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3pm with Dan's sister, Linda Brown leading us into a private campground area where we explored picturesque Raccoon and Kelly Lakes, seeing Common Mergansers, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Mountain Chickadees and a beautiful male Lazuli Bunting. We also found a group of about 30 Fritillary butterflies feeding near Kelly Lake. From there we left the private campground and found a nice spot for our picnic dinner. After dinner, birding turned up Western Tanagers, Cassin's Finches, Fox Sparrows, Yellow, Audubon's and Nashville Warblers. Two MacGillivray's Warblers were heard only. From there we headed to the Nighthawk observation area and were not disappointed! At least 20 Common Nighthawks appeared just before sundown and gave us quite a show, sometimes coming within 20 feet overhead. Quite a finale to a successful trip, with a great group of people! A big Thank You to Linda Brown for escorting us into the private lakes.

Cathie LaZier

#### FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2019

**Location:** William Pond Park, American River Parkway

**Dates:** Sundays, October 20, November 17 and December 8

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

These outings are geared toward people who aren't yet entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. It is not necessary to be an Audubon member to participate. The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. This walk, covering about a mile and a half, will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. You can sign up for just one session, or for more than one.

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

#### PACIFIC FLYWAY SHOREBIRD SURVEY

As you may know, Audubon California has been a valued partner in the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (www.prbo. org/pfss), a long term shorebird monitoring effort led by Point Blue Conservation Science. We value the data collected and that it can be used to inform when and where shorebird habitat is needed most and track changes in shorebird populations and habitat related to drought and changing weather patterns.

We'd like to continue our support of this program and are looking for volunteers if

anyone is interested from SAS and might be willing to assume responsibilities for coordinating this portion of surveys in the Central Valley beginning this October.

Coordination is estimated to take 2-3 weeks over the period from October through December and detailed templates and tracking sheets are available for use. Please contact Khara Strum, Conservation Project Manager, at 530-219-7207 for further information

#### STATEN CRANE ROOST COUNT SURVEY

We have been keeping our eyes out for cranes on Staten and spotted our first cranes of the winter Monday Sept 9th! We on Staten have already begun our crane and large water bird surveys for this winter and we will soon be needing your help to cover different roosting units during our weekly sandhill crane roost counts. These surveys help us track sandhill crane population trends on the island and are planned for each Tuesday morning. On survey mornings we meet at the Staten

office an hour before sunrise in order to get organized, and drive to our survey locations throughout the island. Morning surveys are often completed by half an hour after sunrise.

If you are interested in helping out, please call or email me if you have any questions, concerns and for further information.

Emily Wells, emily.wells@cfrstaten.com Office: 916-776-1531, Cell: 209-331-3363

#### SANDHILL CRANES AND OTHER WINTERING BIRDS

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

#### **CAMERON PARK FOR HAWKS HONKERS AND HOOTS**

#### Annual "Wings & Wine" fundraiser on Sunday, October 20, 10:30am-1:30 pm

Hawks Honkers and Hoots is a non-profit, all-volunteer education group based in Cameron Park. Our mission is education about birds of prey in our area. We have 9 education bird-ambassadors; owls, falcons, hawks who will be available to meet, greet and photograph, while enjoying a wonderful champagne brunch at the beautiful Cameron Park Country Club in Cameron Park. There will be a silent auction, raffles and "Jep-Birdee" game. Fun for the whole family! Please get your tickets on their website: www.hawkshonkersandhoots.org. See you then!

#### **BUFFERLANDS EVENTS** Saturday, October 19, 7am-5pm

Come enjoy the Upper Beach Lake wildlife area at your own pace. Trails will be marked and open to stroll around the wetlands, lakes, and riparian forests in this beautiful part of the Sacramento area. Bring a camera or binoculars, as there are always plenty of birds to see this time of year, including nesting herons, egrets, and cormorants. 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. Access will be the same as for Walk on the Wildside, via Freeport Boulevard into Beach Lake Park. 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

### Birding and Nature Events

#### **LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL**

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

#### NORTHERN SACRAMENTO VALLEY SWAN FESTIAL

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

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

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

#### CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM 2019

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

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

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

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

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

#### **DID YOU KNOW**

A Youth Activity Committee was set up to determine what could be done in Sacramento for the Youth by cooperating with youth organizations, either by assisting them in their nature and conservation programs, or by setting up Audubon Jr Clubs, or by inviting their participation in some of our activities. November, 1954, *Observer* Today the Education Committee is having a similar discussion. If you want to join in on the discussion, and help take it to the next level, we welcome your ideas, suggestions and comments.

Contact education@sacramentoaudubon. org

#### In Memorium

#### Peter J Hayes

Peter died peacefully on August 30, 2019 after rewarding careers in journalism and voluntarism. Born May 31, 1926 in Vancouver, Canada, he moved with his family to Seattle, WA in 1939. There he was a 1948 journalism graduate from the University of Washington. Upon graduation, he joined United Press (later United Press International). In Alaska he met and married Carol Lou Tippit, a reporter on the Anchorage Daily News. In 1966 he went to work on The Sacramento Union, serving as editor in 1970-74 and 1982-83 before retiring in 1990. In retirement he was a contributing editor of *The Union* and wrote freelance articles for Sierra Heritage and Outdoor California magazines.

In 2001, the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) published *An American River Almanac*, a collection of Sunday nature editorials he had written for *The Union*. With release of the *Almanac*, Hayes joined the ARNHA Board and helped edit its publications, including a second collection of his nature editorials. In addition, he volunteered as a reading tutor at Jonas Salk High-Tech Academy and contributed to the Sacramento Audubon Society newsletter. In 2009, the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors recognized him as County Parks Volunteer of the Year.

He enjoyed camping with his beloved family, growing roses and fuchsias, bird-watching and reading Western history. When he moved from his Sacramento home of 60 years to Eskaton Village Carmichael in September, 2016, he authored a weekly blog, *Notes From Pete*. Donations may be made to the American River Natural History Association P.O. Box 241, Carmichael, CA 95609

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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Clifford E Anderson, Jon J Courtway, Joe Easley, Dennis Eckhart, Dean and Jayne Hamilton, John and Julie Hamlin, Debara Johnson, Gary Johnston and Michael Mccurdy, Madi and Rod Elsea Lee. Diane Luke, Thomas Manning, M Kevin Mc Rae, Joyce C Rietz, Susan Scott and Ed Harper, Ken and Janet Stites, Virginia Vonasek, Drs J W and Patricia Wells, Howard Whitaker, and Joel Wiley made donations to the **General Fund**.

Karen D Benson, Ann Burris, Gesna Clarke, Debara Johnson, Cathie Lazier, M A Nunes, Joyce C Rietz, Susan Scott and Ed Harper and Drs J W and Patricia Wells made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund.** 

Alice Bauman, Karen D Benson, Debara Johnson, Gibbe H Parsons, Joyce C Rietz, Susan Scott and Ed Harper, and Drs J W and Patricia Wells made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary.** 

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



Common Nighthawk Stephen D'Amato

## 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.

#### **INCREASE IN ANNUAL DUES**

#### THE FIRST IN 18 YEARS!

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

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

### Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, October 19, 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 Larry Hickey and Dan Williams. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walks are held the third Saturday of most months. Future dates are November 16, and next year, January 18, February 15, April 18 and May 16. Reservations are not needed; families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with Nature Center docents and leaders from Sacramento Audubon.

Saturday, October 26, 10am–11 or Noon, Family Friendly Trip, Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net

This easy, morning walk is suitable for families with toddlers and strollers as well as those with disabilities as it offers a smooth, wide, level cement trail. This NWR is just south of Elk Grove, and due to varied habitat, may turn up interesting birds, including Sandhill Cranes. In addition, there are many interpretative kiosks featuring birds and other creatures plus a native plant garden. See all the information on page 4.

**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.

### Seasonal Observations

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

While the long, hot summer still holds sway in August, migrating birds are one of our best indicators that the season is changing. By the first of the month, warblers, flycatchers and other songbird reports were picking up. Shorebird numbers that soared in July continued at high levels through the end of the month. As happens in most Augusts, shorebirds led the way with unusual reports, and a few songbirds highlights kept things interesting. On the last day of the month, the first **Sandhill Cranes** were reported at Cosumnes River

Preserve (CRP).

Among the shorebird highlights, a Snowy Plover was a nice find at CRP on 8/6, and up to five Marbled Godwits at Sherman Island toward the end of the month were notable for Sacramento County, where they are much less frequently found than in neighboring Yolo County. It's likely that increased coverage of Sherman Island, in the extreme southwestern portion of the county, would yield more of this and other locally uncommon species. A Sanderling, also from Sherman Island on 8/1, was a nice find. Baird's Sandpiper reports came from the Davis WTP on 8/16. Sherman Island on 8/28, and the Sacramento Reg WTP on 8/31.

#### **SAS NEW MEMBERS**

Please welcome these new members.

Leanna DeFazio Michael and Cecelia Kingsbury Kristina Vandershaf Kevin Riggs

#### 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 29, 2019, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at a **new** location, Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

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

## SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon
You can enjoy the photos and
commentary without joining Facebook



#### Observations continued

A **Red Phalarope** was an excellent find on 8/25 at the Davis WTP; there are very few Central Valley records of this species. The only **Least Bittern** report of the month was from Mather Lake on 8/10-11.

After being largely absent last fall and winter, starting on 8/22, there were good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports that continued into September. A **Green-tailed Towhee** at Babel Slough on 8/31 was a nice find where this species has been found before. Four **Yellow-breasted Chats** at Babel Slough on 8/30 is an impressive number, but this species has been widely reported this year. Rare warbler reports included a **Tennessee Warbler** 

#### JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

#### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

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

Date	
The Observer Newsletter \$25 per address (1 Year)	
Donation for Conservation/Education \$	
Total Enclosed \$	
Make checks payable to Sacramento	Audubon Society
Name	Telephone
Address	
City State	ZIP + 4
Email	
Check if you would prefer to receive the Observer	in PDF form by email [ ]
Send address changes to our Membership Chair	to help keep down our costs.

at Ancil Hoffman on 8/28, a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Sacramento Bypass on 8/10, and a **Magnolia Warbler** along the American River Parkway at the William B Pond access on 8/18. Surely September promises additional interesting finds.

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

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club listserve (cvbirds.org)

and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Dan Airola, Max Brodie, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Emmett Iverson, Afton Kern, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Nora Papian, Michael Perrone, Susan Schneider, Steve Scott, Kirk Swenson, John Trochet, Daniel Welsh, Amy Welsh, Dan Williams, and Bart Wickel.

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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White Tailed Kite Dan Brown

### Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,

Sacramento, CA 95826

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

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@gmail.com Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, sawise7@sbcglobal.net

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

The Observer is published by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December, except June and August, when we publish abbreviated editions.

## ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

Thursday, October 17, at 7pm
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Kate Marden, Falconry-Ancient to Modern



Kate Marden and Friend

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