

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 70 • NO. 6

JUNE 2018

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

SAVE THIS DATE!
SUNDAY, JULY 29, 2018

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 28th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every trip is different! We'll travel out under the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Time permitting, we will go out to the continental shelf.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We'll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Tufted Puffin, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown and Blue-footed Booby, Northern Gannet, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. Join us and discover for yourself!

A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure presentation and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. We will be going out on the Outer Limits. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip presentation starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 25 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. Note: reservations are

Pelagic Trip continued on page 6

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY PLANS AND LAUNCHES FIRST NATURE BOWL SEMIFINAL

Camp Pollock was the host site for the April 26 Nature Bowl semifinal where seventeen 3rd-6th grade teams participated in 5 science and ecology focused events. The overall highest scoring teams advanced to the May 12 finals at Sacramento State University.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) coordinates and has led Nature Bowl for the past 33 years. Last year CDFW Interpreter Bruce Forman reached out to Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) and Sacramento Valley Conservancy (SVC) to participate. This resulted in SVC donating the Camp Pollock site for Nature Bowl 2018.

SAS committed to taking on the project after Education Committee Chair Gesna Clarke and committee members Bill Bianco, Cathie LaZier and Sue Darst observed other regional semifinal sites and activities – and received board approval and funding. Then the team launched into several months of planning and established positive and collaborative working relations with Camp Pollock staff and CDFW's 2018 Nature Bowl Coordinator, Joanie Cahill.

Participating schools included American River Science, Blue Oaks, David Lubin, Natomas Charter School Star Academy, New Joseph Bonnheim, Phoebe Hearst, Theodore Judah and West Lake Charter. Phoebe Hearst, Theodore Judah and Westlake Charter advanced to the finals.

SAS's volunteers and judges spoke favorably of the event. Rachael Cowan of Effie Yeaw Nature Center and one of the judges said that "everything was brilliant. I enjoyed it from beginning to end and was happy to be a part." Bill Bianco who coordinated parking and signage observed that all logistical aspects of the event worked well and that "NB is definitely in line with our mission statement." Other judges and volunteers included Ann Burris, Tim Fitzer, Kathy Moore, Harriet Saeck, Joanne Vinton, Daphne Reimer, Rosalind Becker, Gibbe Parsons, Maureen Geiger, Sue Darst, Cathie LaZier, Heather White, Sharon Wisecarver and Carolyn Gilmore of the Sacramento Valley Conservancy.

Teachers/Coaches and students loved the Camp Pollock experience. One coach commented, "Everything from sign-ups to the ribbon ceremony was efficient and relaxed. Due to the ease of the event, the students were able to focus on their event and be successful. Most importantly, the atmosphere was enjoyable and fostered a love of science!"

Pending board approval, the planning team looks forward to Nature Bowl 2019 at Camp Pollock. Watch for the dates next year and volunteer to be part of it.



Maureen Geiger leading some students at Nature Bowl.

Field Trip Findings

William Pond Park (5/12) — Leader Mike Heacox reported: “The trip started slowly as eight people moved out, seeing fewer birds than expected in the lawn area. As we crossed the bike trail, things began to improve, with Cedar Waxwings feeding in a mulberry tree. Various flycatchers moved through the scene: a Western Kingbird, Western Wood Pewee and Ash-throated Flycatcher appeared briefly, then vanished.

William B Pond has a small grove of cottonwoods frequented by woodpeckers: typically Nuttall’s, Acorn and Downy. Today was different, for at the top of a cottonwood on a bare branch, sat a Lewis’s Woodpecker! More sights appeared: a cloud of Cliff Swallows gathering mud, their wings fluttering upright as they prepared to return to their nests, a pair of Wood Ducks weaving through partially submerged plants in an isolated pond.

The expected highlight of our trip, a Great Horned Owl nest, turned into a tragedy when we found one of the two owlets lying dead, draped over a branch below the nest, talons extended upward — probably killed during the night’s windstorm. One owlet and the mother occupied the nest, where there is once again room for her to sit. As we ended the trip, some saw a Red-shouldered Hawk carrying a lizard. We watched as the bird flew to a nest where a hungry bird awaited. Two occupied raptor nests for the day! Despite the slow start, we had a good day: 49 species of birds and two occupied raptor nests.”

Bobelaine Sanctuary (5/9) — Maureen Geiger, co-leader with Ken Poerner, reported: “A wonderful morning at Bobelaine. 13 of us walked to the south boundary, along the way collecting almost 40 species in this lush, beautiful riparian habitat. Of particular interest were the Bank Swallows flying in and out of nests across the Feather River and the many singing or calling Black-headed Grosbeaks, House Wrens and Ash-throated Flycatchers.”

Bodega Bay (5/6) — Leader John York reported: “Huge turnout for Sunday’s Bodega Bay trip! Both of us headed out in great weather to see the loons, geese and Wilson’s Warblers. Ellen is a newer birder, so she was able to tick

some life birds. Lousy looks at Brandt’s Cormorants, lots of Common Loons and a few Brant were the highlights there. Our best looks were at Ruddy Turnstones a few feet from us at the Tides and Hairy Woodpecker that landed ten yards away and pecked on a branch until we got bored with it. Very pleasant birding day and good seafood as well.”

Driver’s Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky (5/5) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Simply outstanding! This is why I lead field trips. The birding was incredible. It was a fairly large group of 19 of us, but a really fun group, with one attendee from Hayward and one from San Francisco, who both agreed that it was well worth the trip.

We tallied about 53 species (a fairly high count for this area). Highlights included Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Gray Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher (a first for this location), Lazuli Bunting, Hermit Warbler, great views of Yellow Warbler, Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle. A cool non-avian find was a large Rattlesnake which calmly slithered away and up a rock face. Thanks to all the participants for being so cooperative, good-natured and enthusiastic.”

Sweetwater Creek (5/1) — Leaders Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris reported: “15 birders joined us to walk and bird this beautiful riparian area, a private property hotspot accessible by permission only. Some of the highlights were: 4 species of warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a pair of Hutton’s Vireos feeding young at nest and a nesting female Rufous Hummingbird. We finished with 35 species.”

Sweetwater Creek (4/29) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “12 people attended the trip on this somewhat overcast and breezy spring morning, one from as far away as Paradise, CA. The first leg of our trip we walked a portion of the lower creek with a few highlights: Violet-green Swallows, Lark Sparrow, Bald Eagle, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, and Townsend’s Warbler. Along the upper stretch we saw Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow-breasted Chat (courtship flight display), Warbling and Hutton’s Vireos, Orange-crowned, Wilson’s, and Black-throated

Grey Warblers; Ash-throated and Olive-sided Flycatchers; and Western Tanagers. We heard a few California Thrashers and saw a female Rufous Hummingbird that eventually landed on her nest with everyone getting a good look. Total count for the day was 51 species.”

Lodi Lake (4/28) — Ann Burris, co-leader with Cathie LaZier, reported: “12 people joined us for a morning of birding the Lodi Lake Nature Area. The weather was cool and clear when we arrived and changed to cloudy skies with gusty winds by the time we finished. Although unusually quiet, bird wise, we did see a nice Common Yellowthroat, a soaring Swainson’s Hawk and a pair of Western Bluebirds foraging in the parking area. An unexpected sighting was a few visible bats hanging low from a bat box along the trail. All agreed it was a very enjoyable morning.”

Teal Bend (4/26) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Nine people saw 53 species of birds on a very pleasant spring morning at Teal Bend Golf course. Highlights included White-faced Ibis, Swainson’s Hawk, Barn Owl, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Nashville, Townsend’s and Wilson’s Warblers; Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak.”

Bushy Lake (4/22) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Sunshine and cool temperature to start the day. No sooner than four of us started to walk birds began jumping up in the dry catch basin. The grass had grown to about three feet above the lake because of the reconstruction of the dam and the likely new lower water level going forward.”

Dry Creek–West Roseville (4/19) — Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: “We took advantage of a gorgeous spring day and spent the morning birding the riparian corridor along Dry Creek out of Dry Creek Community Park in Roseville. Bird activity was great, with several species seen on the nest; the highlight of the day was watching an adult Red-shouldered Hawk feed a fresh kill to its chick in the nest located near the top of an oak. Although warblers were lacking (except for a plethora of colorful Yellow-rumped), we still logged 53 species seen or heard. These included an Ash-throated Flycatcher, Chipping Sparrows, three woodpeckers, a Ring-necked Pheasant, Swainson’s Hawk, and White-tailed Kite.”

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Spotted Sandpiper
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trips



Great Crested Flycatcher
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through June 11, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 916-502-2699. For trips from June 12 through July 11, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 916-704-0951.

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. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. 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: We are now listing depart times for our field trips. It is up to you to arrive at the meeting place in plenty of time to arrange for your ON TIME departure. Thank you!

Saturday, June 2, 6:30am
Northern California River Walks
Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net

Last year on Memorial Day Weekend, we walked along the South Yuba River, which is our likely venue for this trip, returning via Spenceville and Camp Far West Reservoir. We saw and heard several Yellow-breasted Chat, 4 species of swallows, Western Tanager and several warblers. At Spenceville, we had good views of a Bullock's Oriole and an audio message from a nearby rattlesnake. Parking at South Yuba River requires a \$10 per car fee. If it is not too hot, we may consider instead visiting two of the parcels among the Sacramento River Wildlife Refuges near Colusa for a longer but easy walk. A recent visit yielded a calling Yellow-breasted Chat, nesting Great Horned Owl, 3 woodpecker species, an adult Bald Eagle and several seasonal sparrows. A remote but real possibility is Yellow-billed Cuckoo returned to nest in the area. We can decide when we meet at the Park and Ride near Brookfield's Restaurant 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. This trip will last into mid-afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. FRS radios may be helpful while en route.

Sunday, June 3, 7am
Crystal Basin
Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn
530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com

Wendy Money, 916-205-3194
wendydougmsn.com

This trip will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads, looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area, including Calliope Hummingbird. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Wendy at the Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit 30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. You can also meet Phyllis at 8am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Monday, June 4, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leader: Bob McCleary, 916-960-3390
bobmccleary@comcast.net

Bob is a docent at the Nature Center and knows the trails, and where to find the birds. On this morning walk he'll be looking for both resident and summer birds. Meet him in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park. This is a good trip for beginners as well as more experienced birders. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, June 9, 9am-12pm
Enchanting Cosumnes
Leader: Genelle Treaster

CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Interpretive Services: 916-358-2869

Join a naturalist-led journey into the natural and cultural history of the Cosumnes River basin. Witness firsthand why this part of south Sacramento County is the Central Valley's ecological jewel. Tour goes onto DFW property--a normally closed section of the multi-agency Cosumnes River Preserve. First, we'll meet in Wilton at the historic Hicksville Cemetery on Arno Road, just east of Highway 99. With Western Kingbirds and Western Meadowlark song reverberating across the grassland, we'll respectfully explore the area's extraordinary past--while viewing the present and future. After a short caravan, we'll set off on a two mile hike on uneven farm roads and game trails into oak woodland and thick riparian jungle, where we'll search for Western Bluebird, Swainson's Hawk, Wood Duck and Acorn Woodpecker. Dress for the weather. Wear sturdy walking shoes, long pants and a hat. Bring ample drinking water, binoculars and insect repellent. Going south on Hwy 99, take the Arno Road Exit #280 and go east about 1/2 mile to the cemetery.

Sunday, June 10, 7:30am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-876-0457
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr, then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5 or your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

Wednesday, June 13, 7:30am

Ancil Hoffman Park

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

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

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17, 8am

Onsite both Saturday and Sunday

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass

**Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an over-nighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra Valley or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. We will bird the Sierra Valley area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, including a variety of wetland and upland habitats. On Sunday we will bird the Yuba Pass area until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola and Sierra City. U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/14. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along FRS hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Tuesday, June 19, 7:30am

Estates Drive American River access

**Leader: Craig DeMartini,
916-599-3300,
cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

We hope to get an early start on the day, as it could get hot. This area is a great

example of established riparian habitat.

The American River meanders, creating islands and ponds where we will look for Wood Ducks, herons, egrets, and kingfishers. Further inland there are several very old Valley Oaks along a trail that has been referred to as the Avenue of Giants, where we will look for towhees, wrens, titmice and nuthatches. From Watt Ave, take American River Drive east to Estates Dr. Turn south on Estates and follow until it dead-ends at the levee

Saturday, June 23, 7:30am

Indian Grinding Rocks State Park

**Leader: Cliff Hawley, 916-300-2495
yellowhammerCA@gmail.com**

Join Cliff for a day of birding at this State Park. The birdlife varies depending on the season, but many species are seen year round, including Turkey Vultures, Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, Wild Turkeys (non-native), and California Thrashers. In summer, the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods around the meadow. A bird list is available at the museum. Meet Cliff at the Starbucks parking area in the College Greens Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (near Florin-Perkins, between Watt and Howe) at 7:30 am. Trip goes till 2 or 3pm so bring water and lunch. Some light to moderate walking. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, June 24, 7:30am

River Bend Park

**Leader: Dan Brown, 916-704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for a walk through the oak woodland to the river, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. 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.

Tuesday, June 26, 7am

Granite Springs Road and Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spkua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris: 916-947-7573,
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Join Tim and Ann for a full day of fun and birding. We will start by driving Granite Springs Road, then head into Crystal Basin for the remainder of the trip. We hope to find flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbird. If we are lucky, we will find Mountain Quail with young. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. Please bring FRS Radios if you have them. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. We will leave promptly at 7am.

Saturday, June 30, 1pm till sunset

Common Nighthawks at Sunset

**Leader: Dan Brown, 916-704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for an afternoon and evening of birding in the Sierra, ending in an area that, at this time of year, hosts many Common Nighthawks that can be observed feeding and calling at sunset. Dan has seen up to 50 nighthawks in the air at one time here, which can present great photo opportunities! This spot is about an hour away from Sacramento, We will start the day around 1:30pm, birding a small private lake, looking for common Sierra birds such as Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Sandpiper, White-headed Woodpecker and possible Osprey and Bald Eagle. Also of interest at this lake are numerous species of Dragonflies that we don't see in the Valley. We will then bird our way toward the nighthawk site, stopping for a picnic dinner in the field and ending the day after sundown watching the nighthawks. We will be walking for about 2 miles total, mostly on flat terrain so wear appropriate shoes. Bring a folding chair or two and whatever you would like for our picnic dinner. Also bring water, sunscreen, a hat, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This trip is limited to 12 participants, so please contact Dan to save a spot and for meeting location/time.

Sunday, July 1, 7:30am

Del Paso Regional Park

Leaders: Maureen Geiger,

916-281-6652,

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Ken Poerner: 707-580-6277,

kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This large, little known park is tucked into the confluence of I-80, Business 80 and the Auburn Boulevard exit. But its lush riparian habitat along Arcade Creek is definitely worth exploring, so join Maureen and Ken for a morning walk and see which species might be found there. If you want Yellow-billed Magpies, this is your site!! This will be a 2 mile walk ending mid-morning with a possible add-on for those who want more birding. Parking is an issue, although there is room for 8-9 vehicles on Park Road which is accessed from Auburn boulevard east of Watt Avenue. Because access is possible from several different major roads and highways, contact Maureen for more detailed instructions to the meeting site.

Friday, July 6, 7am

Icehouse Road, Crystal Basin

Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661
MarkSawyer3383@gmail.com

Mark will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Quail, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Mark at the Bella Bru in EIDorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit#30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Saturday, July 7, 6am

Loney Meadow

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

Come join Scott for this trip to Loney Meadows, a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, July 8, 7:30am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

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Beginning Birding at William Pond Park (4/15) — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Larry Hickey, Craig DeMartini and Valerie Phillips reported: "A very interested group of beginners began the morning with a large flight of Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese in formation overhead, then checked out some Bushtit nests and saw and heard myriad House Wrens singing. Vibrantly colored Western Bluebirds and Western Kingbirds were seen, and a young coyote and a fishing river otter were nice surprises."

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/15) — Leader Bill Bianco reported: "Seven of us bucked strong winds on a sunny day, and had a species count of 41. Top sighting was the Marsh Sandpiper that has been reported at the area. Also saw Hammond's Flycatcher, White-faced Ibis, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Greater Yellowlegs, American Avocet, to name a few. Surprised to see some Greater White-fronted Geese still around."

Birding By Ear (4/14) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: "Spring time at Ancil Hoffman park is a great place to practice your birding by ear! Eleven birders had a great time and as always, heard way more than we saw. That's why you want to bird by ear as well as sight! Singing birds included Yellow-rumped and Wilson's Warblers, House and Bewick's Wren, and Spotted Towhee. Other birds of interest included Chipping Sparrow, Plumbeous Vireo, Red-shouldered Hawk, White-tailed Kite and Yellow-billed Magpie. Good times!"

Cathie LaZier

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

OPEN TRAIL DAY, Saturday, June 2, 7am-1pm

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 here: www.regionalsan.com/bufferlands-calendar-events, for updates and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com.

TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS

Wednesday, June 20, 6:30pm-9pm

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore some of the Great Central Valley habitats at dusk on the Bufferlands. During the tour, participants may have a chance to see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair. Please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or email Twilight on the Bufferlands to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

Additional Twilight events will be on Wednesdays, July 18, August 15, and Thursday, September 20.



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Sacramento Audubon Society



www.sacramentoaudubon.org

SAS ENDORSES PROPOSITION 68 ON THE JUNE BALLOT

Proposition 68, is called the California Clean Water and Safe Parks Act and will be on the June 5 primary ballot. This bond will provide funding for many things including local parks, open spaces, habitat restoration, and the Salton Sea. The names of endorsing organizations are listed on the official proposition website: yes68ca.com/. California Audubon and other environmental organizations are among the supporters of this bill.

Our SAS Board voted at their March meeting to also endorse the bill. This \$4 billion bond was approved by the legislature in 2017 and is now on the ballot to be approved by the voters. At www.cacities.org/2018ballotmeasures you can find a listing of what the bond would pay for. If you click on 'funding in three main areas' there is a specific breakdown of where the money is to be spent.

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not confirmed until payment is received. The trip cost is \$105 per person. Sign up deadline is July 15.

Your space will be confirmed by email after your reservation form and check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided in early July. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 916-715-1876 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 29, 2018 Registration deadline: July 15, 2018

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$105 per person

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to **Sacramento Audubon** to:
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693