

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



Nature In the Classroom Sponsorship

First Year Round-up

It's been a little over a year since Sacramento Audubon Society offered to cover the costs of Effie Yeaw Nature Center's "Nature in Your Classroom" programs for Sacramento City Unified School District's Title 1 elementary schools. All 41 Title 1 elementary schools within the district were contacted with our offer to sponsor either 2 in-person programs or 3 Zoom programs per school (35 students per program). 20 schools accepted, the majority choosing the in-person program. A total of 1,267 students participated in programs such as "Scales and Tales," "Amazing Adaptations," and "Raptors of the River."

SAS chose Title 1 schools because they were most likely to need help with funding for extra-curricular activities. We tried to make the registration process hassle-free since teachers are usually so pressed for time. (A big "thank you" goes to Dorothy Wagner, the administrative assistant at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, who scheduled the programs.)

We've received many notes of appreciation from teachers. You can read the most recent, a letter from Mrs. Gee-Campbell of Tahoe Elementary at <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/news/nature-in-the-classroom-first-year-round-up>. It demonstrates the impact these programs can have on students. We look forward to resuming this program in the fall and bringing more "Nature in Your Classroom" to the Title 1 schools in the region.



Drawings of animal skeletons that students shared

For Sale - Sacramento Audubon Lapel Pins

If you haven't already noticed, pins are everywhere these days. Many Audubon chapters have them and now Sacramento Audubon Society does too. The design is based on our logo and measures 1 inch square with a rubber clasp on the back that easily attaches to your clothing, hat, lanyard or backpack. It's available for purchase on our website at <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/news/lapel-pins> or at SAS outreach events. The cost online is \$10 each (includes shipping) or \$5 in person. The SAS pin is a fun and inexpensive way to show your support for Sac Audubon. Order your SAS pin today!



– Daphne Reimer

Watch the Monthly Speaker Presentations, Again!

Our Monthly Speaker Presentations are on hiatus for the summer. If you missed any of our fantastic online speakers or would like to watch the presentations again, they are available on our General Meeting / Monthly Speaker webpage, under Past Presentations. Presentations will resume on September 15, 2022. We don't yet know whether future presentations will be in-person, online, or some combination of the two. Check for information on future Monthly Speaker programs in the August Observer and on the website.



Blue-footed Booby, image by Susan Goodrich In November 2021, Susan Goodrich presented *A Galápagos Adventure*

Thank You for Making Big Day of Giving 2022 a Success!

Thanks to everyone who donated to Sacramento Audubon Society for BDOG! Big Day of Giving (BDOG) is an annual, online fundraising event that aids local non-profits in carrying out their missions. Thanks to the many supporters who donated, Sacramento Audubon Society was able to raise a total of \$5,514! Thank you very much for supporting Sacramento Audubon Society!



Field Trips: Field Trips June 1 – July 7, 2022

Sacramento Audubon has returned to volunteer-led field trips. Precautions are still in place for everyone's safety. Unless otherwise noted, field trips are geared towards adults and those over age 13. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

COVID - 19 Protocols

- Some trips may require advance registration. For those trips, please only sign up if you are committed to attending as field trips have a limited number of participants.
- All participants, including field trip leaders, must be vaccinated.
- Field trip participants should maintain adequate social distance.

To Register for a Field Trip:

Visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/field-trips If you have questions or need help, email our Registration Coordinator at sacramentoaudubonfieldtrips@gmail.com.

- Additional restrictions may be required, such as proof of vaccine or face masks. It varies with each field trip. Please read the description of the field trip carefully. Do not register for a field trip if you are unwilling to comply with the stated COVID precautions.
- Field trips leaders are authorized by the Sacramento Audubon Board to cancel field trips if unregistered participants attempt to join or stated precautions are not met.

William Pond Park

Wednesday, June 1, 8 AM

Expected length: 3-4 hours

Leader: Larry Hickey, (415) 305-0651

LarryHickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry for this morning walk looking for resident birds. Herons and egrets can be found along the river. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area. Various raptors may be spotted as well. The trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east until it runs into the park. Park along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Beals Point Family Friendly Trip

Saturday, June 4, 8:30 AM

Expected Length: about 3 ½ hours

Leader: Sandra Steurer, (916) 580-8398

sasteurer@yahoo.com

This is a great spot for family members of all ages, and this is a good time to find a nice variety of birds. Join Sandra on a 2 to 3 mile walk in the oak woodlands with views of the lake. Recently, in addition to expected species, specialty birds such as Phainopepla, Rock Wrens, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow have been found. There could be some patches of uneven trail. The trip will end before noon. Meet in the parking lot of the Beals Point unit of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (turn left as you enter the parking lot, to park near the first row). The entrance to Beals Point is on Oak Hill Drive off Auburn-Folsom Rd, about 2 miles south of Douglas Blvd and about 3 miles north of Greenback Lane. This is a great trip for beginning birders. The entrance fee is \$12 per car, or you may use a state (not county) park pass.

Beginning Birding Field Trip-William Pond Park

Sunday, June 5

Registration is required for this trip. Please see details below.

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks and bird behavior as we look at individual birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at: empid77@gmail.com; put Beginning Birder in the subject line. Registrants will be emailed the meeting time and exact location

Crystal Basin

Wednesday, June 8

Meet Maureen at 8 AM at Bella Bru, or meet Phyllis at 8:30 AM at Crystal Basin (see below) Expected length: Plan to return to Bella Bru, mid to late afternoon.

Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn, 530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com
Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net

Phyllis will visit a variety of sites along Ice House Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. They hope to see the beautiful Calliope Hummingbird again. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Maureen at 8:00 AM at the Bella Bru in Raley's Shopping Center 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 8:30 AM 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.

Mosquito Ridge

Sunday, June 12, 3 PM

Expected length: return as late as midnight

Leader: John York, (530) 320-4751,

johnyork157@yahoo.com

We will meet at the Denny's on I-80 Newcastle exit at 3 PM. We will then caravan to Mosquito Ridge, stopping on the way for sandwiches at Worten's. We will bird a bit while daylight happens, then go to Big Trees for Spotted Owls. Then we will descend to Little Oak Flat to try for Flammulated Owls. This can go very late into the night with arrival times back at Denny's near midnight or not, depending on the birds. It can get chilly so layer appropriately. Bring mosquito repellent. Mosquito Ridge is aptly named. Higher profile vehicles are preferable for Little Oak Flat. Bring owl lights if you have them, but they are not necessary.

Humbug Willow Creek - Easy Walk or Roll Beginning Birding

Wednesday, June 15, 10 AM

Expected Length: 2-3 hours

Leader: Paul Miller (916)768-7503

Pjmiller1962@me.com

Maximum number of Participants: 6

Proof of vaccination is required.

Registration is required for this trip. Registration opens: Noon May 23

This trip is specifically designed for beginning birders in a location with paved trails, handicapped parking and fully accessible restrooms. Whether you walk, use a wheelchair, or a walker, this trip is for you. We will travel along paved trails within the Humbug Willow Creek Trail system located in the City of Folsom, a short drive from Sacramento. This location offers a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of bird species. Interesting species may include Red Tailed Hawks, Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, and Red-Winged Blackbirds.

This is a beginning birding trip. No previous birding experience is required. The trip leader will start off the trip discussing basic birding skills, and bird ID resources. Binoculars will be available to use. Bring water, lunch, and a smart phone if you have one.

Proof of vaccination is required.

Registration is required for this trip.

Field Trips: continued

Tells Creek

Saturday, June 18, 8 AM

Expected length: Full Day

Leader: Craig Swolgaard

(530) 334-3023, cswol@sbcglobal.net

This trip will explore a little birded part of the Sierra Nevada off Ice House Road at over 6000 feet elevation. Tells Creek flows through Van Vleck meadow just west of the Desolation Wilderness. A trailhead for equestrians and hikers begins at the parking lot but we will follow a road that circles the meadow itself. This is a good spot to see a variety of Sierra Nevada birds including Lazuli Bunting, MacGillivray's Warbler, Purple and Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brown Creeper, and others.

In the past, an Indigo Bunting spent most of the summer there. The trip will include other stops as well. This trip will last into the early afternoon so bring a lunch and water. Hiking is easy and fairly level.

We will meet at Craig's house in Georgetown (El Dorado County) at 7am and carpool from there. The address is 2884 Church Street, one block over from Main Street.

Georgetown is about an hour from Sacramento and can be found on Google Maps for directions

High Sierra Loop Trail NE of Emigrant Gap

Saturday, June 25, 6 AM

Expected length: 2 hours each way driving and 4-5 hours birding

Leader: Sonja Sorbo

(916) 390-8463, ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

Maximum number of participants: 8

Registration opens: Noon Monday, May 30

As summer's heat hits the Central Valley, the Sierras become a lovely refuge for birds and birders alike. Our trail is located off of the Highway 80 corridor at about 6000 feet in elevation, and it is a great place for a birdy day hike. A large meadow and the surrounding conifer forest attract neo-tropical songbirds and provide habitat for several delightful resident species. We will be walking for several miles on a generally well-maintained dirt trail with just a small elevation gain. We will look for warblers such as Nashville, Wilson's, Black-throated Gray, and MacGillivray's, plus, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Warbling and Cassin's vireos. Several species of flycatchers are possible to see, including Western Wood-pewee, Olive-sided, Dusky, and Hammond's Flycatchers. This area is also home to some great woodpeckers, and if we're lucky we'll get binocs on a White-headed or a Pileated beauty.

Additionally, Mountain Quail can often be heard calling, but we'll have to be very stealthy and lucky if we hope to view one.

Just a warning - the last couple of miles of road to the trailhead are fairly sketchy dirt and rock, so a high-clearance vehicle is recommended. Wear sturdy walking shoes or hiking boots, and bring a hat,

sunscreens, lunch, snacks, and plenty of water

The number of trip participants is limited, so register early. Directions for our meet-up point will be sent out to participants upon registration.

Bannister Park to Sacramento Bar

Tuesday, June 28, 7:30 AM

Expected length: 3 hours

Leader: Stan Hunter

(530) 902-8462, stanton.hunter@gmail.com

On this morning walk through the woods to the American River, you will see and hear a nice variety of resident birds and spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. Meet Stan in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd, west of Sunrise Blvd.

Family Friendly Trip to Del Paso Regional Park

Sunday, July 3, 8:30 AM

Expected length: 3 hours

Leader: Maureen Geiger

(916) 281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.com

FAMILY FRIENDLY TRIP! This large, little known park spans the confluence of I-80, Bus. 80 and the Auburn Boulevard exit. Its lush riparian habitat along Arcade Creek is definitely worth exploring, so join Maureen for a morning walk and see which species are present this time of year. If you are longing for Yellow-billed Magpies, this is your site!! This will be a 2-mile walk ending mid-morning.

Meet Maureen on Park Road north of Auburn Boulevard.

From the intersection of Watt Avenue and Auburn Boulevard, drive east on Auburn Boulevard to Park Road, turn left and park on your right.

Wrights Lake

Thursday, July 7, 7 AM

Expected length: Full Day

Leader: Bill Bianco

(916) 889-4849, biancowm@yahoo.com

Escape the valley heat and join Bill in searching for a variety of montane birds at this mountain lake. The high Sierra offers a wide variety of woodpeckers, finches, towhees, and other passerine birds, and it's a good trip for beginners, as well as more experienced birders. Bring plenty of water and lunch for a full day of birding.

Bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather.

Meet Bill at the North Side of Raley's Parking lot in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east, take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Help Sacramento Audubon Keep Up to Date

As we approach fire season this year, Sacramento Audubon could use your help in keeping our information up to date. If you visit an area and find it is inaccessible, damaged, or changed, please email sacramentoaudubon@gmail.com. Help us to provide the best information possible to all those who visit our website and are out there birding in our community.

In early spring of 2020, the Fleming Meadow Trail was recommended as a great location for birding in the spring. Then the Caldor Fire shut the trail to the public. It has since reopened, however, there are many warning signs and dangers in visiting this trail. Many thanks to the SAS member who visited the area, took pictures, and forwarded us the information.



Warning sign at the Fleming Meadow Trailhead.



Fire damaged trees seen from the parking area at the Fleming Meadow Trailhead.

Seasonal Sightings April 1 to April 30

April is one of the busiest months, and this year did not disappoint. In the latter half of the month, excellent numbers of migrants were reported, especially from the upper portion of the American River Parkway (ARP) and from Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP). Remarkably, the **Long-tailed Duck** found last November near the Nimbus Hatchery continued into May. A female **Hooded Merganser** with 4 young found along the River Walk at CRP on 4/19 adds to the growing list of breeding records for this species. A **Common Poorwill** was flushed on private property in southeastern Sacramento County on 4/27. **Calliope Hummingbirds** were thought to be quite rare and notable as spring migrants, but as more observers report their sightings to eBird we're learning that the species is uncommon but fairly regular this time of year, particularly from about Rancho Cordova east to the low foothills. The sighting of a **Virginia Rail** with five small young off the wetland boardwalk at CRP on 4/27 was a rare confirmation of breeding by this fairly

common, but secretive species. Groups of one, four, and 15 **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were found in Solano County along Bulkley, Etzel, and Delhi roads south and east of Dixon on 4/15-16; they were found in the same area last year, perhaps indicating a regular migrant passageway. Single **Snowy Plovers** were found at Folsom Lake near the Granite Bay Boat Launch on 4/17-21 and CRP off Desmond Rd on 4/24. A **Ruff** at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on 4/17-23 was well-seen and photographed, and among the few **Solitary Sandpiper** reports for the region this month was one at CRP on 4/24 north of Twin Cities Rd. The only **Least Bittern** record for the month was from Sutter NWR on 4/23. Five **Lewis's Woodpeckers** continued at CRP on the Orr Ranch property as late as 4/25, continuing the presence of this species from this winter on the flats of the Valley floor in a year with good but not staggering numbers in the low-elevation foothills where they are expected. **Hammond's, Gray, and Dusky flycatchers**, as with **Calliope**

Hummingbird mentioned above, appear to be more numerous than previously thought as they move through our area in spring. **Say's Phoebe**s continue to establish themselves not just as a common wintering species, but as an increasing local nester. A **Loggerhead Shrike** nest at the Sacramento Regional WTP found on 4/19 containing five featherless young was notable for its location: a pile of tumbleweed blown against a fence. **Brewer's Sparrows** were reported from two locations along ARP on 4/26, with one at the William B. Pond access, and two at Sailor Bar. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was an excellent find near the El Manto River access on 4/23, where it was seen and photographed by many. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was a nice find in western Nevada County, just south of Spenceville Wildlife Area on 4/25. Good numbers of migrants at CRP on 4/23 included a locally impressive 18 **Nashville's Warblers**. Female **Yellow-rumped (Audubon's) Warblers** were seen breaking off small twigs, and were followed closely by a male at CRP on 4/17, and River Bend Park along ARP on 4/13, suggesting breeding behavior. This is quite surprising for a species known regionally as a breeder in montane coniferous forest, but a female seen with three young in southeast Glenn County a few years ago indicates lower-elevation nesting is possible. Finally, the young male **Summer Tanager** found feeding on bees at Fairytale Town, William Land Park, on 2/16 continued through at least 4/22.

To view photos of some of the highlights, visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bird-sightings, and then click on the highlighted eBird checklists. 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 listserv (groups.io/g/centralvalleybirds) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports: Max Brodie, Aidan Brubaker, Krystal Coles, Lyann Comrack, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Rob Furrow, Linda Gal, Susan Goodrich, Bob Greenleaf, Kevin Guse, Cliff Hawley, Emmett Iverson, Jeri Langham, Jim Laughlin, Cathie LaZier, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Ethan Monk, Adam Panto, Nora Papian, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, Steve Scott, Judy Spittler, Cameron Tescher, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, and Bark Wickel. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

Sacramento Audubon Society Slate Of Officers and Directors for 2022-2023

Voting on the slate opens on May 22nd and closes on June 17th, 2022. You can cast your vote in one of two ways: either using online voting at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/board-election or by sending in the mail-in ballot. The ballot and instructions for online voting will also be emailed to members. As per the SAS bylaws, one must be a dues-paying SAS member in order to vote.

President..... Paul Miller
 Vice President Eric Johnson
 Treasurer..... Harriet Saeck
 Recording Secretary..... Mary Forrestal
 Corresponding Secretary ... Nancy Gronert
 Directors..... Anthony Asay, Taylor Florence, Susan Goodrich, and Jane Van Kessel

MAIL-IN BALLOT TO VOTE FOR THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2022-2023

To vote, complete and mail the ballot below to:

Sacramento Audubon Society, PO Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816

A 'yes' answer indicates your approval of all of the nominated board officers and directors for the 2022-2023 fiscal year of the Sacramento Audubon Society. Voting will close on June 17, 2022. Please vote only once. Only dues-paying members should vote. Thank you.

Yes, I confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon.

No, I do not confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Name:

First _____

Last _____

Your name will only be used to verify your membership.

Field Trip Reports

Folsom Area Lakeside Walk, (4/16)

Leader Craig Swolgard reported the trip was canceled due to rain.

Gristmill Park, (4/19)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported: A Wet Day! We started to cancel the tour due to rain; however four people showed up for the tour, so off we went on a very wet trail. There were birds everywhere. Right in front of us perched on a branch were a **Hutton's Vireo** and a **Black-chinned Hummingbird**. As we went along the trail we saw and heard **Ash-throated** and **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**. As we went further more birds flew into view and we heard, and briefly saw, a **Black-headed Grosbeak**. We stopped to scan the American River and saw **Wood Ducks** with ducklings and **Canada Geese** with goslings. We had a very successful day. Our total number of species was 52.

William Pond Park, (4/21)

Leader Paul Miller reported the trip was canceled because of rain.

Sacramento Bar, (4/23)

Jane Van Kessel, co-leader with Mary Forrestal, reported: Eight very friendly and enthusiastic folks showed up at 7:15 am to go birding. It was a cool morning; but it was calm and the sun was out. The highlights of this trip were likely all the **Bullock's Orioles** and **Ash-throated Flycatchers**. One female **Bullock's Oriole** sang in a tree right over our heads. I was hoping for a few species of warblers today; but that was not the case. We did see lots of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. Two **Red-tailed Hawks** were seen soaring overhead. One **Red-shouldered Hawk** was perched in a tree and one **Cooper's Hawk** flew by very quickly. **Common Mergansers**, several **Bufflehead**, **Common Goldeneye**, and 21 **Wood Ducks** were observed. One female **Wood Duck** was being followed by 14 ducklings. A **Belted Kingfisher** let us know he was around; so we were able to spot him easily. **Bewick's Wrens**, **House Wrens**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, and **Oak Titmice** were quite vocal and active. We saw two **Green Herons** and one **Spotted Sandpiper**. Several **Golden-crowned Sparrows** were still in town. We also passed by a rookery in a large tree with adult **Great Blue Herons** on nests. Our group identified 51 species in total!

Sailor Bar, (4/26)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported: Eight people braved a perfect weather day for a good day of birding. We gathered together at the boat ramp and in a cottonwood tree had a **Bullock's Oriole** perched on a branch. As we scanned the American River, four **Common Mergansers** were sitting on rocks in the river. Across the parking lot we spotted a **Western Kingbird** on the ground. Up near the fish hatchery a **Belted Kingfisher** was perched on the cable across the river. As we proceeded down the river looking for more birds, we found **Great Blue Herons** setting up a rookery along the river's edge. Farther along we heard a **Yellow-breasted Chat**; however we were unable to locate the bird. Spotting **Bushtits** carrying food, we looked in a densely foliated oak and found their nest. We counted 41 species for the morning. A good day was had by all.

Sweetwater Creek, (4/30)

Leader Richard Barbieri reported: With a group of eight people we set off on a beautiful spring day to a great jump start of a **Great-horned Owl**, followed with a good variety of birds throughout the morning, like **Yellow**, **Townsend's** and **Wilson's Warblers**, **Lazuli Bunting**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, **Warbling** and **Hutton's Vireos**, **Ash-throated** and **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**. Total count was 44.

Bushy Lake, (5/5)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported: Six people were ready to look for birds at 8:00 AM. Unfortunately the birds made us wait for a while before they began to show. When we started down off the levee into the flatland **Red-winged Blackbirds** seemed to be everywhere. We also had a **Common Yellowthroat** warbler land on a tree branch. We were surprised to see a pair of **Common Ravens** flying near the river. As we walked around the lake a **Northern Harrier** flew overhead, followed by a pair of **Cooper's Hawks**. While walking back to the starting point a pair of **Osprey** flew over our heads. In addition, **Swainson's Hawks** were circling overhead. In all our count for the day was 52 Species. A great day was had by all.



Green Heron, photo by Daniel Brown

Lake Solano Park, (5/7)

Leader Bill Bianco reported: Our group of six had a cool and sunny day. We did a .9 mile leisurely walk over 3 hours and viewed a total of 46 species. We started at the bridge seeing **Cliff Swallows**, **Green Heron**, a single **Ring-necked Duck** and one **American White Pelican**. Highlight species were **Swainson's Thrush**, **Bullock's Orioles**, **Warbling Vireo**, **Yellow Warbler**, **Phainopepla**, **Western Tanager**, **Cedar Waxwings**, **Western Wood-Pewee** and **Wood Ducks**, to name a few. The fruiting mulberry tree at the higher parking area provided an assortment of feeding species that made for an enjoyable ending.

Johnson Springview Park, (5/8)

Leader Jane Taylor reported: Five of us set out on a breezy, cool Mother's Day morning at Johnson Springview Park in Rocklin, which features handsome blue oaks; a good many **Yellow-billed Magpies**, **European Starlings** and **Western Bluebirds**; and multiple recreational amenities. We tallied upward of 30 species, with Joe Piette spotting female **Townsend's Warbler** and a **Yellow-billed Magpie** nest with young high in an oak. A glimpse of a thrush was inconclusive, but the range map suggests Swainson's. Prime habitat along a drainage of Antelope Creek is, rather unfortunately, dominated by a sprawling frisbee golf layout that had us watching out for errant frisbees as well as birds.

See the Latest SAS  Action on Facebook

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

\$30 Park Pass for Seniors

Many people frequent the American River Parkway while birding such places as Sailor Bar, William B. Pond Recreation Area, Sacramento Bar, and many others. It's easy to save time and money while supporting these regional parks! At \$60/year, the Regional Parks Pass pays for itself in 10 visits and all funds go directly towards maintaining and operating our beautiful 15,000 acre system.

However, did you know that Senior Citizens may purchase the annual pass for \$30 for one vehicle, meaning the pass pays for itself in 5 visits! The only stipulation is that the pass must be purchased in person at one of two locations:

Sacramento County Parks Main Office
10361 Rockingham Drive, Ste. 100
Sacramento, CA 95827
The office is open
Monday - Friday, 9 am-1 pm

American River Parkway Foundation
5700 Arden Way
Carmichael, CA 95608
This office is open
Monday - Friday 8:30 am – 4:30 pm



American River, photo by Larry Hickey

You may use your annual pass at the following locations:

- American River Parkway - All public access points along the American River from Discovery Park to Hazel Avenue (except Hagan Park)
- Sacramento River Delta - Cliffhouse, Hogback Island and Sherman Island accesses
- Elkhorn Boat Launch, Gibson Ranch and Mather Regional Park

More information may be found at <https://regionalparks.saccounty.gov/Parks/Pages/Purchase.aspx>

New Legislation Will Help Bring Birds Back Across the Western Hemisphere

Increased U.S. funding through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act will benefit more than 350 bird species.

"Birds don't recognize borders so we must work with our neighbors to protect them wherever they fly," said Marshall Johnson, chief conservation officer, National Audubon Society. "This legislation will provide more places to nest, winter, and rest for the millions of birds across farms and forests in Ohio, through backyards and bays in Maryland, to the mountains of Colombia, and beyond."

Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) introduced legislation this week to enhance the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. The NMBCA is an innovative and cost-effective approach to the conservation of the more than 350 neotropical bird species in the U.S. that travel to Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Canada every year, such as the Scarlet Tanager, Purple Martin, and Baltimore Oriole. It supports the conservation of bird habitat as well as research, monitoring, outreach, and education.

As a matching grant program, it catalyzes funding from a range of sources beyond the U.S. government. Since 2000, the U.S. has invested \$80 million which has sparked an additional \$310 million in matching funds from public-private partnerships. These funds have supported 658 projects in 36 Latin American and Caribbean countries, 40 U.S. states and territories, and

provinces and territories across Canada.

"There are so many incredible, yet imperiled birds we share across the Western Hemisphere, this legislation will promote shared stewardship of those birds and the places they need," said Johnson. "The proposed bill would triple the investment NMBCA can make in on-the-ground habitat protection, restoration, education, and research. It also ensures those funds are leveraged by other governments and partners."

The Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act (S. 4187) specifically aims to:

- More than triple the authorized annual funding for the program from up to \$6.5 million to up to \$25 million by fiscal year 2028.
- Increase the available match of federal funds that can result in more, larger proposals and fewer barriers to participation by partners at a time when action is urgently required.
- Provide greater capacity to implement the grant program by raising the amount the Fish and Wildlife Service can allocate toward managing it.

"These are the kinds of investments we must make to help recover the 3 billion birds lost on this continent alone since 1970," added Johnson. Every spring, millions of birds travel thousands of miles from Latin America and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds in the U.S. and Canada, as far north as the Arctic. As winter approaches,



Purple Martins by Maggie Smith

these migratory birds make the long trip back south. Apart from being among the most stunning and awe-inspiring species enjoyed by birdwatchers, these more than 300 species of birds are also economically important for their role in pest control, seed dispersal, pollination for agriculture, and ecotourism. In the U.S., the Fish and Wildlife Service estimates there are 45 million birdwatchers, generating an economic output of \$96 billion.

In recent years, Congressional spending committees and the Biden administration have shown an increased commitment to funding the NMBCA program. To continue to grow the program, fulfill the unmet demand by applicants, and address urgent conservation needs for these species, Audubon urges Congress to take up and advance this legislation swiftly.

—National Audubon Society

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members:

Alice Bourdykina-Jelobniouk
Julie Duey
Dean Jaggar
Suzanne Kyle
Kathleen Mikulin
Jill Race
William W. Wade Jr.

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Daniel A. Airola, Michael Agron *In Memory Of Judith (Judy) Mathews*, Terry Atkinson, Karen Benson *In Memory Of Ken Poerner*, Gregory G. Brott, Patrick & Nancy Carney, Valerie Chenoweth *In Memory Of Lena Chenoweth*, Betty J. Cooper, Suzanne Covington, Ellen Dutkiewicz, Lisa Foster *In Memory Of Thomas Graham*, Gary O. Fregien, Carole S. Gates, Susan Gearhart, Sandra Graham, Susan Harbison, Scott & Julie Kenney, Judith Lamare & James Pachi, Bunkie & Jeff Mangum *In Memory Of Violet Vaira*, Arla Mcguire, Debbie Michel & Pablo Garza, Laura Nickerson, Joseph Piette, Charles & Debra Real, Regen Rose, Bob Slakey Jr., Rick Soehren, Marilyn & Donald Spiegel, Susan Stratton, Nina Thomson, Fred Turner *In Memory Of Kathryn Bates Turner*, Meredith Williams

Education and Conservation Fund

Sonja Armour, Douglas Bonetti *In Honor Of Judith (Judy) Mathews*, Terry Atkinson, Carole S. Gates, Deborah M. Hopwood, Judith Lamare & James Pachi, Katharine & Frank Severson, Vicki Stoffers, Robert W. Turnage

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Terry Atkinson, Dale & Theresa Blue, Pamela Compton, Mary Anne Dann, Gary O. Fregien, Carole S. Gates, Cathy George

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 management.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds.
- Foster the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach.
- Encourage, support, and provide environmental educational opportunities.
- Advocate for the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at sacaudubonpresident@gmail.com; or 916-372-3318 to find out how the Board Meeting is being held. Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month, except for June, July, and December when no meetings are held.

The next meeting is:

Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found at sacramentoaudubon.org/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. Members receive our online newsletter, *The Observer*; so be sure to include your email address.

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

www.sacramentoaudubon.org

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

SAS Membership per address/household (for 12 months): \$ 35

I want to add an extra Donation of: \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form with your check payable to Sacramento Audubon Society to the address shown above. You can also use your credit card or PayPal account on SAS website:

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/join-renew>

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel _____

Email _____

New members will receive *The Observer* in color via email. Please provide your email address above. If you would prefer a black & white, paper copy mailed to you instead, please email sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com.

If you would like to be added to the SAS Action Alert list, check here _____.

Sacramento Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit. #94-1615830

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

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

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

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery



SACRAMENTO
AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.sacramentoaudubon.org
facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



White-tailed Kite Daniel Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Jane Van Kessel
sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard
2405 Rio Bravo Circle, Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail: cend86@gmail.com

The Observer Editor: Carla Resnick, e-mail: carlaphoto@gmail.com

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.

Field Trips

William Pond Park, Wednesday, June 1

Beals Point Family Friendly Trip, Saturday, June 4
Beginning Birding Field Trip-William Pond Park
Sunday, June 5

Crystal Basin, Wednesday, June 8

Mosquito Ridge, Sunday, June 12

Humbug Willow Creek - Easy Walk or Roll

Beginning Birding, Wednesday, June 15

Tells Creek, Saturday, June 18

High Sierra Loop Trail NE of Emigrant Gap,
Saturday, June 25

Bannister Park to Sacramento Bar, Tuesday, June 28
Family Friendly Trip to Del Paso Regional Park,
Sunday, July 3

Wrights Lake, Thursday, July 7