



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

March General Meeting

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

The March meeting will be held online via Zoom. You must register for the meeting, but there is no cost to register and you do not need a Zoom account. Registration is required due to space limitations set by Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the meeting. You will also receive email reminders about this event.

For more information visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker.

International Bird Rescue's Conservation Work

International Bird Rescue is a global conservation organization for birds in a changing world. Since 1971, Bird Rescue has responded to more than 250 oil spills and other wildlife emergencies, caring for more than 160,000 birds on six continents. With crisis response centers in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Anchorage, the organization specializes in emergency preparedness and response, day-to-day aquatic bird care, and scientific research. Innovations are shared worldwide to inspire the next generation of wildlife specialists. Bird Rescue aims to give a voice to waterbirds through conservation, advocacy, and wildlife literacy that builds empathy and encourages action. For more information, please visit www.birdrescue.org

JD Bergeron is passionate about birds as indicators of environmental health. He joined International Bird Rescue as its Executive Director in 2015, an opportunity which allowed him to bring together his passion and work experience to benefit wild birds in a changing world. He values integrity, curiosity, and mindfulness in his leadership of 300 staff and volunteers, in an organization advancing wildlife conservation through emergency response, rehabilitation, innovative research, and knowledge sharing with peers and the public. Previously, JD served in progressive leadership roles in international development and founded Chooda, a nonprofit incubator helping to inspire change through outdoor adventures that engage individuals with world challenges. JD received his bachelor's degree from Washington University in Saint Louis, but he counts his time in the Peace Corps, international travels, and a month on Midway Atoll among a million albatrosses as the true lessons of his life.



JD Bergeron with Snowy Plover hatchlings

Field Trips: March 16 to April 13, 2022

Sacramento Audubon is gradually returning to volunteer-led field trips. As the pandemic continues, we have added precautions for everyone's safety. We are only offering a few field trips each month and registration is required for all participants. More field trips will be offered as we gain experience with this new way of doing things. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

COVID - 19 Protocols

- All participants must register in advance to attend. 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.
- There will be no sharing of binoculars, scopes or other optics on any field trips.
- Additional restrictions may be required, such as proof of vaccine or facemasks. 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 trip leaders are authorized by the Sacramento Audubon Board to cancel field trips if unregistered participants attempt to join or stated precautions are not met.

Riparian Area near Antelope/ Elverta

Saturday, March 19, 7:15 am
Expected length: 4 hours/ 3 Miles max
Leader: Max Brodie
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration Opens: Noon February 21

Join leader, Max Brodie, for a well-rounded morning of birding along the northern edge of Sacramento County. You can expect to see waterfowl, herons, woodpeckers, raptors, swallows, and passerine birds in this highly diverse, but relatively lightly birded area. We will cover approximately 2 ½ to 3 miles on mostly flat, well-groomed trails. Keep this in mind if considering bringing a scope. Public restrooms are available on site. Parking is \$5 without a Sacramento County Parks pass.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

American River Parkway

Wednesday, March 23, 8 am
Expected length: 2 hours
Leader: Cathie LaZier
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration opens: Noon February 28

On this morning walk in the first week of spring, we will look on the river and in adjacent wooded areas, hoping for early nesting birds and early migrants. This is a good trip for beginners. A \$5 parking fee or a Sacramento County parking pass is required.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

Folsom Marshes and Folsom Lake

Sunday, March 27, Time: 8 am
Expected length: 4 hours
Leader: Chris Conard
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration opens: Noon February 28

Development in Folsom over the past 35 years has covered most of the habitat between Folsom's city core, Hwy 50 and El Dorado Hills, but small pockets of marshlands, oaks and riparian forest remain along Humbug and Willow Creeks, including an impressive array of trails. We'll look for marsh birds, including rails, sparrows and other species before checking Folsom Lake and the oak woodlands near Mormon Island. Be prepared for up to four miles of fairly easy walking.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

American River Parkway

Sunday, April 3, 8 am
Expected length: 2 hours
Leader: Cathie LaZier
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration opens: Noon March 7

Join Cathie to look for spring birds and possibly nests in this woodland area. This is an excellent trip for beginners. Parking is \$5 without a Sacramento County Parks pass.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

To Register for a Field Trip:

- Visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/field-trips
- Select a field trip by clicking on the picture or title of the trip. This will open a new webpage. At the top of the new page, it will indicate if registration for the field trip is open, closed, or coming up.
- If registration is open, scroll to the bottom of the page and fill in your name and email address and click the "Register Now" button.
- You will be sent an email by our Registration Coordinator within 48 hours. The first participants to register will be sent an email with meeting location and directions. Remaining registrants will be added to a waiting list.
- Please let us know as soon as possible if you will not be able to attend, we have a waiting list for most field trips.

If registration for a field trip is marked as full, this means the field trip and waiting list are full. If you have questions or need help, email our Registration Coordinator at sacramentoaudubonfieldtrips@gmail.com.

Riparian Area in Yolo County

Saturday, April 9, 8 am
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Sonja Sorbo
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration opens: Noon March 7

This riparian habitat supports resident nesters and attracts spring migrants. We can expect to see passerines such as flycatchers, sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, and wrens. We will be hiking up and down over uneven dirt trails for about a mile. Rain Cancels.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

Pine Hill Preserve Birding

Sunday, April 10, 7 am
Expected length: 5 hours
Leader: Chris Conard
Maximum number of participants: 20
Registration opens: Pre-registration is required through Pine Hill Preserve contact Virginia Meyer at vcmeier@mac.com
www.pinehillpreserve.org

The preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on the specialized soils of the Pine Hill area. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Hwy 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit Kanaka Valley, with a mix of oak woodland and chaparral. We'll look for California Thrashers, Bell's Sparrows, migrating warblers, and, on a clear day, great views of the Sierra and the surrounding geography. A botanist will be on the trip to provide background on the rare plants. Be prepared for three miles of moderate walking.

Special Provisions: Pre-registration is required through Pine Hill Preserve contact Virginia Meyer at vcmeier@mac.com
www.pinehillpreserve.org. Do not register through the SAS website.
Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

Folsom Area Lakeside Walk

Saturday, April 16, 7:30 am
Expected length: 2-3 hours
Leader: Craig Swolgaard
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration opens: Noon March 21

Join Craig on this approximately 2-mile easy walk. He has birded this area for 25 years and has recorded a list of about 140 birds. The area hosts a good representation of valley and foothill birds such as Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, grebe, nesting Bald Eagle, and many migrating species. Hutton's Vireo can be found in the oak woodland as well as Cooper's Hawk. Hairy Woodpecker has been found during the breeding season. This is a good trip for beginners.

Covid Protocols: Participants will be required to adhere to COVID-19 protocols as outlined.

Field Trip Reports

Sacramento Bar, (1/18)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported:

It was a very active birding day. Even though it was a cold morning, birds were moving about. Just off the parking area a **Hermit Thrush** was spotted moving through the brush. When we looked up a **Black-headed Grosbeak** was perched on a tree limb. As we scanned the trees a **Red-shouldered Hawk** was staring down at us from the top of an evergreen tree. From the parking lot we proceeded to the trail along the American River. It wasn't long before a **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** was spotted. We moved a little farther down the trail when a **Red-breasted Sapsucker** popped into view. The American River had a number of species active in the water: **Common Mergansers, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead and Pied-billed Grebe**. These are just a few of the 48 species that were seen. A very happy group returned to their cars.

North Natomas Regional Park, (1/15)

Leader Ben Graber reported:

The trip went well. At the beginning, it was foggy and there weren't many birds, but as the sun came out, so did the birds. Highlights included several **Ring-necked Pheasants, Say's Phoebe, Black-crowned Night Herons**, 5 species of **sparrows**, and some large flocks of **American Pipits** and **Western Meadowlarks**.

West Placer County, (1/29)

Leader Richard Barbieri reported:

Eight happy birders joined me on this trip around the Lincoln area from the pond at William Jessup University to Camp Far West and back via the fields and ponds of western Placer County. The varied habitats produced a high number of species including: a sitting **Bald Eagle** and **Savannah Sparrows** at the Lincoln Airport; six **Wilson's Snipe**, two **Ferruginous Hawks** and at least two **Red-breasted Sapsuckers** at Manzanita Cemetery; a **Rock Wren** and **Rufous-crowned Sparrows** at the Camp Far West dam and **Eared Grebes** on the reservoir; and ducks, ducks, ducks including large numbers of **Northern Pintails** and **Northern Shovelers** and good numbers of **American Wigeon** and **Green-winged Teal**. A **Loggerhead Shrike** was a nice "best species" ending to the day. We had a total of 81 species.

Mather Lake, (2/1)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported:

Windy, cold and sunshine. That is how the day started. Nine people were ready at 8 AM but it did not look like a promising day for birding. At the beginning of the tour there were few birds about. Black birds were perched in the trees in the parking lot. As we moved towards Mather Lake, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were feeding in the oak trees. Soon we saw **Titmice** and **Anna's Hummingbird**. As we walked around edge of the lake it became obvious that the invasive **Mute Swans** were there in large numbers. A few ducks were seen at the far end of the lake. Our total species count was 42.

Bodega Bay, (2/5)

Leader Dan Williams reported:

Our group enjoyed a gorgeous sunny Saturday morning at Bodega Bay and some of us continued on for a bit of an impromptu bonus afternoon journey. Our first stop was Doran Regional Park, where low tide gifted us mudflats teeming with **Marbled Godwits, Willets, Sanderlings, Dulin, Least and Western Sandpipers**, and **Snowy Plovers**. The remaining bay water a little further out was jam-packed with scores of **Brant**, as well as **Surf Scoters, Greater and Lesser Scaup**, and **Short-billed Gulls**. At the far end of the park, the Doran Jetty was pretty crowded with folks fishing, but we did manage to find a few **Black Turnstones** and one **Surfbird**. The back patio at The Tides Market and Restaurant worked its magic, affording super close views of paddling **Common Loons, Horned Grebes, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers**, and a lone **Ruddy Turnstone**. As the tide came back in, hundreds of fleeing **Godwits, Willets**, and few **Whimbrel** came coursing past seeking the remaining shoreline. A brief stop at Diekmann's Deli scored us **Anna's Hummingbirds**, and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** though we failed to dig out the overwintering Nashville Warbler that another gentleman had just photographed there. On to Campbell Cove where we rounded out the Bodega Bay portion of our day with a singing **Hutton's Vireo** at Hole-in-the-Head. At this point some of us decided to spend the afternoon on a bonus journey: pursuing the ultra-rare Oriental Turtle-Dove which had been seen in Palo Alto the previous 3 days. While ultimately the dove did not show for us, it was a fun experience meeting birders from all over the country, and we were treated to a **Merlin**, a **Peregrine Falcon**, a **White-tailed Kite**, a **Red-Shouldered Hawk** being mobbed by crows, and a **Red-breasted Sapsucker**.

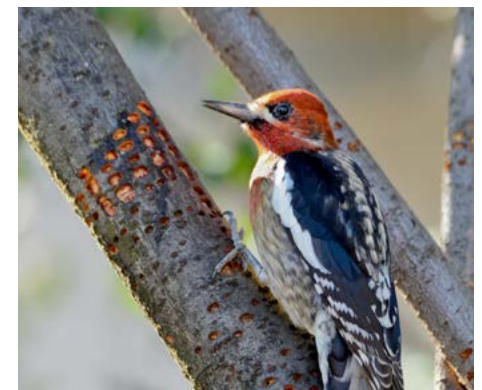


Lincoln's sparrow by Kim McIlheny

Del Paso Regional Park, (2/13)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported:

The trip to the east end of Del Paso Regional Park was a great success. Nine of us walked the almost two mile, riparian loop stopping frequently. With 35 species it was a nice, birdy morning. Best bird was a gorgeous **Great Horned Owl** sitting on a limb of a plane tree out in the open, sleepily eyeing us and anything else that was going on. Very unbothered by so many pairs of eyes peering at it; we were able to watch this bird for a long time. But, of course, as always at this Park, the enormous number of **Yellow-billed Magpies** stole the show over and over again. There were at least 40 of them (probably a low count) and they were very busy, calling frequently, with many carrying sticks to improve and shore up old nests. **Oak Titmice, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Bushtits** and **Bewick's Wrens**, and several **Red-shouldered Hawks** were in abundance as were **American Goldfinches**. This is an important Park in the city limits and did not disappoint.



Red-breasted Sapsucker by Dan Brown

Getting Water to Places Birds Need Most from *National Audubon*

Audubon's California water policy priorities in 2022

While December's rains provided a bit of respite, Californians and the birds of the Pacific Flyway continue to struggle through the ongoing drought. Migratory and wetland-dependent bird species have already lost over 90 percent of California's natural wetlands, and even in wet years they lack adequate, high-quality habitat for foraging, resting, and breeding. As this drought persists, Audubon and our partners must work with urgency to find, deliver, and protect water supplies for birds.

In 2022, Audubon California is prioritizing four water policy strategies to bolster birds' resilience through this drought.

- Ensuring agencies deliver the water needed to create habitat on our last remaining wildlife refuges and to post-harvest rice fields that are providing surrogate habitat, while identifying opportunities to reconnect floodplains and improve ecosystem function to benefit fish, birds, and people.
- Protecting managed wetlands that depend on groundwater during the implementation of California's groundwater protection law, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).
- Restoring habitat at the Salton Sea, advocating for protections for the Sea and local communities and pushing efforts for sustainability on the Colorado River, the source of water for the Salton Sea.

Investing in California's Wetlands

Audubon is focused on conserving, improving, and expanding California's last 220,000 acres of wetlands in the Central Valley. At one time, wetlands sprawled across four million of the Valley's 13 million acres and supported tens of millions of birds. But after agriculture and urban development drained lakes, plowed wetlands, cleared riverside forests, and disconnected floodplains, bird populations declined by the millions and continue to struggle.

Wetland-dependent birds like migratory shorebirds, ducks, and geese need every acre still available and rely on a mosaic of managed wetlands across the Valley. These areas are spread across public and private lands, and are supplemented by bird-friendly agriculture, such as rice fields that are strategically flooded after harvest. Nearly all struggle to get access to adequate water supplies to provide habitat, especially during drought.

In 2022, Audubon is calling on state and federal decision-makers to invest in wetlands on the same scale as investments in water infrastructure to benefit agriculture, industry, and large cities. These investments will improve water delivery systems to refuges, acquire long-term water rights for sensitive ecosystems, and promote natural infrastructure that support floodplain reconnection and groundwater recharge. Increased investment in water for wetlands is essential if the Biden administration's America the Beautiful and the Newsom administration's "30 by 30" initiatives are to be successful in California.



Clark's Grebes with chicks. Photo: Ann Kramer/Audubon Photography Awards

State and federal public lands deserve at least as much taxpayer investment as private water delivery structures. For example, last year, the State of California dedicated \$100 million in public funds to repair water delivery structures damaged by subsidence caused by over pumping groundwater. It's likely that hundreds of millions more in federal taxpayer dollars will be invested in coming years to repair water delivery systems that benefit private landowners. While Audubon recognizes the importance of these public investments, we are working to ensure that investments are matched with funding for the community drinking water and the environment.

Protection of Managed Wetlands

As California wrestles with reducing reliance on groundwater and implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), managed wetlands and ecosystems that rely on groundwater are increasingly at risk of losing an important source of water. In 2022, Audubon and our partners will be working with the California Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, private landowners, and groundwater sustainability agencies to ensure that

habitats that depend on groundwater are protected in the implementation of SGMA.

Audubon studied proposed groundwater sustainability plans (GSPs) in key areas in the state where implementation of the plans will have direct consequences for thousands of acres of managed wetlands. Many of these wetlands rely entirely on groundwater to provide essential habitat for migratory birds. In our review of GSPs, only a handful even acknowledged the wetlands in their basin, and only one consider wetland groundwater needs. None of the GSPs proposed adequate protections or supplies for wetlands or wildlife.

Audubon is calling on the State of California to fulfill its public trust obligations to protect birds and critical habitats like wetlands as SGMA is implemented. With a broad coalition of wetland advocates, Audubon will pursue advocacy with the relevant agencies and Legislature and consider crafting legislation and other policy solutions to ensure these last remaining wetlands receive the water birds need.

Restoring Bird Habitat at the Salton Sea

In 2021, Audubon and our partners helped secure a three-year commitment for \$220 million to be invested in projects to reduce dust emissions and create habitat at the Salton Sea. It is all part of the implementation of an agreement between the State of California, the Imperial Irrigation District, and stakeholders including Audubon, which mandates that over 29,000 acres of dust suppression and habitat projects be completed by 2029.

In 2022, Audubon is prioritizing securing the second payment in the three-year commitment, this time approximately \$100 million for projects. Some of this funding may support Audubon's Bombay Beach habitat restoration project which will protect and enhance wetland habitat, as well as provide dust suppression near the town of Bombay Beach on the eastern shore of the Salton Sea.

A sustainable Salton Sea that is managed for habitat and dust control to ensure improvements to air quality is integral to Audubon's advocacy for water supply sustainability on the Colorado River, since the Colorado River is the primary source of water sustaining the Salton Sea. Ongoing efforts to find sustainable water solutions on the Colorado River are integrally connected with the Salton Sea.

SAS Education Chair Needed

The Education Chair is a volunteer position that coordinates the efforts of lead volunteers on the Education Committee. The chair and lead volunteers are responsible for a variety of activities focused on reaching out to both adults and children. Examples of these activities include community outreach, beginning birder activities, and family friendly and youth activities. The Education Chair also serves as the primary contact to the general public, fielding inquiries and passing them on to the appropriate committee member. If you are interested in this position and helping Sacramento Audubon fulfill one of its primary missions, please contact the President of Sacramento Audubon. Contact the President of Sacramento Audubon at for more information or to volunteer: president@sacramentoaudubon.org

Conservation Chair Needed

The Conservation Chair is the Sacramento Audubon's point person for bird conservation issues in the Sacramento area. This individual serves as Sacramento Audubon's representative to Habitat 2020/ECOS, a consortium of local conservation groups. Habitat 2020 considers most local conservation issues and how to address them in a unified manner. The Conservation Chair is expected to attend Habitat/ECOS 2020 meetings and update the Sacramento Audubon Board on issues as they arise. The Conservation Chair may also form a Conservation Committee to work on specific issues such as comment letters, campaigns, or outreach. Contact the President of Sacramento Audubon at for more information or to volunteer: president@sacramentoaudubon.org

Scholarship Opportunity

At its August 2021 meeting, Sacramento Audubon Society Board voted unanimously to continue its sponsorship of Amplify the Future (<https://amplifythefuture.org/>).

Amplify the Future offers scholarships to Black & Latinx birders who are undergraduates studying in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, math). Scholarships range from \$2500 to \$5000.

The deadline for the current round of scholarships is March 15, 2022. If you know of any students who might qualify, please tell them about Amplify the Future. Or maybe, you know of educators who might know students who would qualify. Please tell them.

In the meantime, help amplify Amplify the Future by posting its information on your social media.

Twitter: [@BirdersFund](https://twitter.com/BirdersFund)

Instagram: [@BirdersFund](https://www.instagram.com/BirdersFund)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AmplifyTheFuture>

[AmplifyTheFuture](https://www.facebook.com/AmplifyTheFuture)



Save The Date for 2022 Chautauqua

Mark your calendar—the Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua is a little more than four months away: June 17–19, 2022 in Lee Vining. Chautauqua will be in-person this year. The weekend's schedule of field trips and outdoor workshops will be posted online on Friday, March 18.

Chautauqua registration will open on Friday, April 15 at 6:30 a.m. PDT.

Lee Vining motels tend to sell out early for this busy weekend.

The Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua brings birders together to enhance appreciation and understanding of the Mono Basin's diverse and abundant bird life and to educate the public about this area's value to birds and people. The Chautauqua offers more than 90 field trips, workshops, and presentations with renowned bird guides, naturalists, and artists.

Bobelaine Clean-up Day



Eleven volunteers turned out for the Sacramento Audubon Bobelaine clean up day, on January 29, 2022. Big items removed: 2 refrigerators, 2 tires, water heater, plastic totes, Styrofoam coolers, and more. Many thanks to the volunteers, and to Fred Turner for the photos.

Sacramento Picks It Up!

Sacramento Picks It Up!, a local volunteer group that organizes trash cleanup days, has announced its “Keep Our Rivers Wild Campaign!” for 2022. Ambitious in its scope, the campaign is a commitment to clean out the trash from the Sacramento and American Rivers and their tributary creeks and waterways. In addition to the group’s regular cleanup events around Sacramento County, at least one river or tributary will be selected for cleanup each week for the entirety of 2022.

As birders, we are well aware of the havoc trash causes to wildlife. Sacramento Picks It Up! feels the same way too. Their efforts are primarily focused on habitat restoration by ridding it of the plastic bags, soggy mattresses, shopping carts, needles, masks and other detritus found throughout our county but especially on our rivers and creeks.



Trash collected during Arcade Creek cleanup on January 23, 2022. Image used with permission from SPIU! Facebook page.

Seasonal Sightings January 1 to January 31

After record-breaking storms in October and December, this January was dry but for a trace, offering many wonderful days in the field despite concern over what the dry weather might bring. Continuing on the **Trumpeter Swan** theme from last month, a juvenile **Trumpeter Swan** was found on 1/15 at a portion of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) not regularly open to the public. Earlier in the month, over 70 were reported among **Tundra Swans** to the northwest of Oroville, north of the area usually covered here, but a remarkable number for anywhere in the state. A male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** along Desmond Rd at CRP on 1/9 was a nice find. A **Greater Scaup** was found on Baldwin Reservoir along the Sacramento/Placer line near Folsom Lake on 1/2, continuing to mid-month; this species is quite rare locally away from the Delta. The female **Long-tailed Duck** found on 11/26 near the **Nimbus Hatchery**, usually below the Hazel Ave bridge, continued into February, and a male **Red-breasted Merganser** was among the Common Mergansers on Lake Natoma for most of the month. A **Red-necked Grebe** on Folsom Lake was an excellent find, first seen from Folsom Point on 1/2 and continuing for at least a week.

Winter records of **Semipalmated Plovers** are quite rare, so the one first found at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) on 12/20 was notable; it continued sporadically through 1/10. **Mountain Plovers** continued in ag fields along Hwy 45 in Yolo County, just south of the Colusa County line. A **Western Sandpiper** was a nice find at SRWTP in the first half of the month, as were two south of Stone Lake NWR on 1/3, and another at CRP on 1/26. One to two **Pacific Loons** were seen on Folsom Lake from Folsom Point throughout



Pacific Wren by Dan Brown

the month. The **Neotropic Cormorant** found on 12/31 among a group of Double-crested Cormorants along Brannan Island Rd at the junction of the San Joaquin River and Seven Mile Slough continued into February. A **Harlan’s Red-tailed Hawk** was a nice surprise at CRP on 1/3. **Long-eared Owls** are quite rare locally, but 8-10 were found at a traditional roost site on 1/6 and 1/22 at a portion of CRP with limited access. A **Red-naped Sapsucker** was found north of Courtland along Waukeena Rd on 1/3. The **Hammond’s Flycatcher** at Reichmuth Park continued through at least 1/15, and the Gray Flycatcher at CRP continued into February. The **Eastern Phoebe** at the southern tip of Tyler Island continued from 12/12 into February. A **Pacific Wren** at Sweetwater Creek was a nice find on 1/2 of a species that is getting increasingly hard to find locally. A small flock of **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported near the Nimbus Hatchery on 1/1. A **Grasshopper Sparrow** photographed at the Yolo Bypass was a nice surprise for the location and season, while **Chipping Sparrows** were hard

to come by this winter after being quite regular in recent winters. A **Swamp Sparrow** was found south of Lambert Rd on 1/3, and another was reported off East Levee Rd on 1/24. Unexpected warblers from portions of CRP with limited access included a **Nashville Warbler** on 1/3 and 1/26, and the **Hooded Warbler** re-found from November on 1/6 and 1/9. A male **Black-headed Grosbeak** was quite a surprise near Sacramento Bar along the American River Parkway on 1/18-19.

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 listserve (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, Lyann Comrack, Konshau Duman, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Lauren Glevanik, Susan Goodrich, Mike Guard, Cliff Hawley, Jim Holmes, Liam Huber, Emmett Iverson, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Nora Papiian, Michael Perrone, Jim Rowoth, Steve Scott, John Trochet, Jane Van Kessel, Dan Williams, and Lynette Williams. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

—Chris Conard

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members:

Alison Aleman
John Anderson
Melinda Bekker
Manjit Dhillon
Carol Greenwood
Sharon Hebert
Harvey Kaufmann
Kimberly McIlnay
Kristine Mietzner
Corazon Pamintuan
Patty Reetz
Betty Wilhelm

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Alison Aleman, James Bennett, Sue & Kenn Bucholz, Donald Childs, Betty J. Cooper, Maxine Cornwell, Manjit Dhillon, Terry Dozier, Mary Gaspari, Cam Ha, Lois Harter, Arthur Hartwell, Harvey Kaufmann, Nancy Kniskern, Kimberly McIlnay, Beverly Moon, Thomas & Carol Murphey, Shirley R. Poirier, Lynn Saxelby, Harry & Karen White, Network for Good

Education and Conservation Fund

Jim Coate, Bruce Hester, Michelle James, Nancy Kniskern, Beverly Moon, Lynn Saxelby, Sonja Sorbo

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Sal Acosta & Suzanne Hutchinson, Tracy Archipley, James Bennett, Maggie Coulter, Kristin Dockter, Bruce Hester, Beverly Moon, Lynn Saxelby

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.

See the Latest SAS Action on Facebook

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

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 president@sacramentoaudubon.org; 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 March 29, 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 membership@sacramentoaudubon.org.

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

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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

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March Events: Mark your calendars

Field trips (see page 2 for details):
Riparian Area near Antelope/Elverta
Saturday, March 19

American River Parkway
Wednesday, March 23

Folsom Marshes and Folsom Lake
Sunday, March 27

Riparian Area in Yolo County
Saturday, April 9

Pine Hill Preserve Birding
Sunday, April 10

Folsom Area Lakeside Walk
Saturday, April 16

General Meeting

Thursday, March 17, via Zoom
International Bird Rescue's Conservation Work