

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



May General Meeting Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

The May 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.

Following the Scent of Avian Olfaction

Presented by Gabrielle Nevitt

When John James Audubon proclaimed that birds lacked a sense of smell, the study of avian olfaction was doomed to suffer ridicule by ornithology textbooks for years to come. In recent years, ornithologists have renewed their interest into the sense of smell in birds leading to a new appreciation of their chemical ecology. The tubenosed seabirds (petrels and albatrosses) of the order Procellariiformes have among the most impressive olfactory abilities of any animal on earth. Species within this order spend most of their lives flying over the world's oceans, returning to land each year or every other year, to breed and rear a single offspring. They tend to partner for life and show strong nest-site fidelity between breeding seasons. Much of my research career has focused on elucidating how procellariiform species use olfaction to perform behaviors ranging from foraging and navigation to mate choice and individual recognition. My presentation will touch on some of our recent findings and hopefully convince you

that olfaction is a rich field of study, and that questions related to sensory ecology are both important and applicable to scientific inquiry into the biology and conservation.

Gabrielle Nevitt is a professor of Animal Behavior at UC Davis. She has worked extensively in the field of Sensory Ecology, which seeks to understand the different sensory worlds of animals. She has done pioneering research into the sense of smell in birds, focusing on the procellariiform seabirds living in the Southern oceans around Antarctica. She has also worked with pacific salmon, and various marine organisms. Research from her lab has appeared in leading journals (Science, Nature and Proceedings of the National Academy of Scientists among others). She lives in Winters, California with her husband, Marcel Losekoot, and a variety of birds, including some very sweet emus.



Gabrielle with Black-browed Albatross

Big Day of Giving (BDOG)

Mark your calendars! Big Day of Giving (BDOG) is on **Thursday, May 5th** this year. BDOG is an annual online event in which local non-profits can obtain extra funds to support their missions! You can help Sacramento Audubon Society with its mission by donating online at:

www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubonsociety

There is a \$15 minimum donation. Starting on April 21st, if you'd like to schedule your BDOG donation prior to the event, you can. Every gift, no matter the size, makes



a difference!

Golden 1 Credit Union match is back!

Once again, when you use your Golden 1 credit card or debit card to donate, Golden 1 will match your donation! Longtime BDOG sponsor Golden 1 Credit Union is offering a \$100,000

proportional match during Big Day of Giving! Gifts made both during the early giving period (April 21-May 4) and on Big Day of Giving (May 5th) will count toward the proportional match.



Field Trips: Field Trips May 5 – June 15, 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.

Bushy Lake

Thursday, May 5, Time: 8AM

Expected length: 2–2 ½ hours

Leader: Darrell Mohr

(916) 225-3999 mohrdd@gmail.com

Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species. Wood Ducks and White-tailed Kites are a good possibility. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 2 1/2 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. This is a great trip for beginners. A Sacramento County Parks Pass or a \$6 day use fee is required. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. From Hwy 50, take Howe Ave. north. Turn left on Hurley Way, then turn left at Ethan Way.

Low Foothills, Northern Solano County

Saturday, May 7, Time: 8:30AM

Expected length: about 5 hours

Leader: Bill Bianco

Maximum number of participants: 8

Registration opens: noon April 18

Join Bill for an easy walk through low foothills looking for a variety of woodpeckers, warblers, late wintering species and other songbirds. Walk 1 - 1.5 miles on fairly flat terrain. May want to bring a lunch and water. Heavy rain and strong wind cancels. A \$6 Park Fee is required.

Walk in a Park North of Sacramento

Sunday, May 8, Time: 7:30AM

Expected length: The trip should end before lunch.

Leader: Jane Taylor

Maximum number of participants: 8

Registration opens: noon April 18

This is a well-developed park north of Sacramento with a dog park, Frisbee golf, and play fields, but it is large and offers many trails through oaks and grassland adjacent to Antelope Creek. We should find woodpeckers, flycatchers, raptors, bluebirds and other birds associated with this habitat. Plan to bring liquids and, if desired, a snack.

Bodega Bay

Saturday, May 14, Time: 8AM

Expected length: All day

Leader: John York

(530) 320-4751 johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a full day of birding in a variety of coastal habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, and gulls. This will be a leisurely paced trip with many stops to view ducks and seabirds and very little hiking. Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Bring snacks and water. We will stop to buy lunch, or you can bring your own. Rain cancels.

River Bend Park

Sunday, May 15, Time: 8AM

Expected length: 2–3 hours

Leader: Ben Graber

(916) 844-2022, bgrab984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a walk through oak woodlands along the American River, looking for our resident birds and spring migrants. This is a good trip for beginning birders. Meet at the first parking lot on right past kiosk. From Folsom Blvd., between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles. Rain cancels.

Ancil Hoffman Park

Wednesday, May 18, 8AM

Expected length: 2-4 hours

Leader: Rich Howard

(916) 203-0952, rhowarda@gmail.com

Rich will be looking for spring migrants, as well as returning nesting birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet Rich at the double parking lot on the left between Effie Yeaw and the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks, take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it to the golf course. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a good trip for beginners.

Spenceville WLR

Saturday, May 21, 8 AM

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 916-761-1124

offleash227@yahoo.com

Expect to return mid-afternoon

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams and reservoirs offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers, and more. Bring lunch and plenty of water. Meet Richard at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Beginning Birding Field Trip-William Pond Park

Sunday, May 22

Registration is required via email: empid77@gmail.com

Put Beginning Birder in the subject line

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with three Audubon trip leaders, it is 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.

Dragonfly Trip-American River Parkway

Saturday, May 28, 9AM

Expected length: About 3 hours

Leader: Tim Manolis

(916) 485-9009, Ylightfoot@aol.com

Join Tim for a morning of viewing and identifying a variety of Dragonflies along the American River. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible areas. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case! Meet Tim at the parking lot of Rio Americano High School. From Hwy 50, take the Watt Ave exit North. Take the American River Drive exit and turn right on American River Drive. The high school will be on the right in approximately 1.5 miles. Please let Tim know via email if you plan to attend.

Field Trips: continued

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 via email: empid77@gmail.com

Put Beginning Birder in the subject line

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with three Audubon trip leaders, it is 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.

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 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 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.



Great Blue Heron, photo by Daniel Brown

State Legislation Supported by Audubon California

Nature Access for All (AB30)

Audubon California supports creating a policy in the State of California that every human has the right to safe and affordable access to nature and its benefits. The bill would require all relevant state agencies to incorporate this policy into program implementation to vastly expand potential outdoor access opportunities for people throughout the state. Access to nature and time spent in natural settings provide profound benefits for people, especially children. Children who spend time outdoors in natural environments have shown improved health and cognitive functions, strong motor coordination, reduced stress, and enhanced social skills.

Audubon knows that access to nature is a right of all people.



Seasonal Sightings March 1 to March 31

The waiting is the hardest part, or so the song goes. March has many spring-like days, but if you're hoping for spring migration to fully arrive, you'll have to wait a little bit longer. This March there were a few early **Warbling Vireos**, **Cassin's Vireos**, and **Wilson's Warblers** in the last week of the month, but it isn't until mid-April that the first waves of spring migrants reach our area. So we wait. Yet, from a diversity standpoint, March is very rich, with most of the wintering birds (ducks, massive numbers of geese) continuing, augmented by early Neotropical species like **Swainson's Hawks**, all of the regular swallows, **Western Kingbirds** (the first reported this year was on 3/12), and **Bullock's Orioles** having arrived well before month's end. A **Common Poorwill** singing along lower Latrobe Rd. in Sacramento County on 3/11 was an excellent find. **Allen's Hummingbirds** were found at Brannan Island SRA on 3/5, and at a private residence southwest of Clarksburg on 3/22.



Western Kingbird photo by Daniel Brown

Among the notable shorebirds were lingering **Mountain Plovers** in ag fields along Hwy 45 in Yolo County, just south of the Colusa County line, with at least three continuing through 3/6. A **Marbled Godwit** on Marcuse Rd in Sutter County, west of Hwy 99, on 3/3 was a bit early for local records, as was another along Desmond Rd. at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 3/26-30. Also on 3/3, a **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (2nd cycle) and a **Glaucous Gull** (1st cycle) were found at the Yolo County Central Landfill. Five **Long-eared Owls** continued at a traditional roost site since January at a portion of CRP with limited access. **Short-eared Owl** reports have been fairly limited of late, with one along Yolo County Rd. 27, between Rds 103 and 104, on 3/6, and up to three along Sankey Rd., west of Hwy 99 in Sutter County for much of the month.

This March produced an unexpected **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** bonanza, with an immature female seen by many at Gibson Ranch from 3/16-23, accounting for the first widely-seen individual of this species in Sacramento County for decades.

And then from 3/20-29, a male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was seen along Willowbank Ditch in Davis, at San Marino Park. It appears to have been lingering from earlier in the season where views had been inconclusive. The **Eastern Phoebe** at the southern tip of Tyler Island first found on 12/12 was last reported on 3/5, and the **Gray Flycatcher** continued at CRP through at least 3/26. The first **Purple Martin** of the year was found on 3/18 at the Sutterville overpass near Sacramento City College. Reported as a hyper-local point of privilege, a male **Phainopepla** found on 3/12 during a tour of the Sacramento Regional WTP Bufferlands was a long-overdue new addition to the property's bird list (number 246). Meiss Rd. continued to host two **Vesper Sparrows**, and the young male **Summer Tanager** found feeding on bees at Fairytale Town, William Land Park, on 2/16 continued through at least 3/16.

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, Lyann Comrack, Konshau Duman, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Frank Fabbro, Susan Goodrich, Ben Graber, Cliff Hawley, Liam Huber, Emmett Iverson, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Jasen Liu, Mark Martucci, Dana Miller-Blair, Nora Papian, Jim Rowoth, Steve Scott, Cameron Tescher, John Trochet, Tom Uslan, Lynette Williams, and Zachary Yeates. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

—Chris Conard

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

Gibson Ranch (3/19)

Leader Max Brodie reported:

Eight of us braved the foreboding rain forecast at Gibson Ranch County Park, and enjoyed a morning of birding with a wide variety of species. Before most of us arrived, a **Barn Owl** was seen flying at first light. Early on, we walked to the edge of Gibson Lake and watched **Tree Swallows** actively foraging at sunrise as a **Black Phoebe** perched nearby. **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were heard giving their unique calls. We saw several **Great Egrets**, **American Coots**, **Mallards**, **Canada Geese**, and **Pied-billed Grebes** on the lake as well. A single **White-tailed Kite** soared high above us. First hearing their distinctive song, we spotted several **Great-tailed Grackles** amongst the more numerous **Brewer's Blackbirds** and **European Starlings** on the far side of the lake.

Slowly working around the south end of the lake, we heard and then saw a male **Nuttall's Woodpecker** drumming on a tall snag. Continuing around the lake, one of the feral domestic geese singled out one participant and charged at them! We quickly came together to usher the aggressive goose back towards the lake, after which we observed the nest his mate was currently sitting on.

We continued into the picnic area hoping to find the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** that I first located a few days prior when scouting for this field trip. Luck was on our side, and we were all able to enjoy excellent scope views of this very confiding individual. We then continued into the grassland portion of the park, first coming across **Northern Mockingbird** and **Anna's Hummingbird** before the two grassland specialists, **Western Meadowlark** and **Savannah Sparrow**. Here we came across our first **House Finches** as well as **Northern Flicker**. A **Ring-necked Pheasant** had been heard but not seen until spotted by a very keen-eyed participant. The bright red face and white collar of the pheasant could only be briefly seen, as it came into and out of view from the reedy vegetation it was hidden behind. Scoping a distant pond, we added a male **Cinnamon Teal**, a small group of **American Wigeon**, and had an **American Kestrel** fly by.

Nearing the parking lot, we came across half a dozen **Greater White-fronted Geese** in a pasture with a few **Canada Geese**. Having been rained on lightly and with more in the forecast, four of the participants decided to end their morning here. Four of us continued down to the Dry Creek trail, where we saw a **Red-shouldered Hawk**, a completed **Bushtit** nest, and a very large flock of **White-** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**. While we did end up a little wet, the rain was never bad, and overall we had an excellent morning of birding despite the weather, ending with a total of 54 species.

William Pond Park (3/23)

Leader Cathie LaZier reported:

A covey of **California Quail**, a **Northern Mockingbird** in full song, a pair of **Canada Geese** in a water wrestling match, and colorful **Barn Swallows** and **Western Bluebirds** were popular scope views on this warm morning walk. The heron/egret rookery was in full swing, and other nesting birds were **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Bushtits**, and an uncooperative **Red-shouldered Hawk**, lying very low in her nest.

Folsom Area, (3/27)

Leader Chris Conard reported:

After more than two years, it was a lot of fun to get back into the field with SAS. We had a really nice outing, with a lot of bird song and other signs of early spring. We even had some nice wildflowers, including Ithuriel's spear and shooting stars. Bird highlights included a cooperative pair of **Hooded Mergansers**, **Horned Grebes** in breeding plumage, three **Bald Eagles**, a dark-morph **Red-tailed Hawk** performing display dives, **Violet-green Swallows**, two pairs of **Rock Wrens**, a **Pine Siskin**, and singing **Orange-crowned Warblers**.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (4/3)

Leader Cathie LaZier reported:

Four people joined me, including two first time birders. At the river we watched a **Snowy Egret** feeding quite close to us, with good looks at the semiplumes and the golden feet. We saw **Bushtit** and **Black Phoebe** nests, and had some good looks at the cavity nesters - wrens, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Oak Titmice**. A **Spotted Towhee** and the ubiquitous **Acorn Woodpeckers** also were in view, and we spotted small red eggs laid by Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies on the twining pipevine.

Putah Creek (4/9)

Leader Sonja Sorbo reported:

Mother Nature gave us some harsh conditions for birding, with 20 mile an hour winds and gusts of over 40 mph. We can't blame the birds for hunkering down, but we still managed to see over 30 species on our walk along the creek. This time of year presents the opportunity to view a mix of spring migrants, resident species, and overwintering species who will soon be departing the area. Also, many species are pairing up, establishing territories and building nests.

For several birders in the group, they were treated to their first-of-season views of **Swainson's Hawks**. In fact, the best entertainment of the trip came when a pair of **Swainson's Hawks** chased off a pair of **Red-tailed Hawks** who were perhaps getting too close to a potential nesting site.

Swallows abounded in the skies above, seemingly unperturbed by powerful gusts of wind; we noted **Tree, Cliff**, and **Northern Rough-winged** species, and found one **Cliff Swallow** peeking out from its nest.

Although we had hoped to find some migrating warblers, **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were the only ones to show themselves. A **Western Kingbird**, some **American Goldfinches**, and **Lesser Goldfinches** were kind enough to sit atop some seesawing bare branches in front of us. Resident species were present in small numbers, and included **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **House Wren**, **California Scrub-Jay**, **Downy** and **Nuttall's Woodpeckers**, **California Quail**, **Black Phoebe**, **Yellow-billed Magpie**, **Oak Titmouse**, **Bushtit**, **Western Bluebird**, **California Towhee**, and **Song Sparrow**.



California Thrasher, photo by Daniel Brown

Pine Hill Preserve, Kanaka Valley (4/10)

Leader Chris Conard reported:

Despite heavy winds around Sacramento, it was calm but very cool when we arrived at Kanaka Valley. We had a nice showing of wildflowers and the preserve's endemic plants, with fair views through somewhat hazy skies of distant and not-so-distant landmarks. There was a nice pulse of migrants, including **Chipping Sparrows**, singing **Nashville** and **Wilson's Warblers**, plus many singing **Orange-crowned Warblers**. A **Hutton's Vireo** perched for scope views while singing, and a **Hairy Woodpecker** called and showed itself on a burned pine. Recently-arrived **Ash-throated Flycatchers** were very vocal, and we heard singing **Purple Finches** at the start of the walk. We also heard just a few distant phrases of **California Thrasher** song, but several **Bell's Sparrows** were very cooperative, and one was even seen carrying nesting material!

World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day is Saturday, May 14, 2022. This year's theme is "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night," focusing on the impact of light pollution on migratory birds.

Artificial Light at Night and Birds

The Impact

Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as they pass over populated areas along their way, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and sky glow, resulting in detours, energy drain and collisions with buildings or windows. An estimated one billion birds are killed annually from direct collisions with illuminated buildings, towers, and other structures across the country. With 80% of the United States impacted by photo-polluted nights, light pollution of airspace and increased urbanization poses serious threats to birds migrating at night.

Increasing Our Understanding

Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships

Through the Migratory Bird Initiative, Audubon is partnering with organizations like the USGS Bird Banding Lab, Smithsonian, Georgetown University, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Movebank to bring together the latest and best tracking data for birds that spend at least a portion of the year in North America to better understand and visualize when and where migratory birds will be and how to drive actions that protect them along their journey.

As we focus on full life cycle conservation, providing safe passage and ensuring quality habitat throughout the year, the work of Audubon Americas is critical to engaging community partners throughout the hemisphere. A national collaboration among Audubon's Bird-Friendly Communities network and the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) is helping to build and strengthen partnerships among local Audubon and IDA chapters, bringing together knowledge, tools, and resources to protect the night sky for both birds and people.

Local Action Across the Network

Lights Out Programs

Across the country, Audubon and partners are collaborating with community members, building owners and managers, corporations, and city leaders across the country in helping to prevent night-time collisions through voluntary Lights Out programs. To date, over 40 cities and several state and regional efforts are underway. While some groups focus on Lights Out engagement and collision monitoring to further our understanding of collisions, others advocate for legislation to ensure bird-friendly construction and lighting. As we couple advances in migration science and light pollution with the many Lights Out programs, public awareness, and engagement with decision makers at all levels, we can give birds a better chance of survival on their journeys between their breeding and wintering grounds.

Contribute to Lights Out

- Turn off exterior decorative lighting
- Extinguish pot and flood-lights
- Substitute strobe lighting wherever possible
- Reduce atrium lighting wherever possible
- Turn off interior lighting especially on higher stories
- Substitute task and area lighting for workers staying late or pull window coverings
- Down-shield exterior lighting to eliminate horizontal glare and all light directed upward
- Install automatic motion sensors and controls wherever possible
- When converting to new lighting assess quality and quantity of light needed, avoiding over-lighting with newer, brighter technology

Turning off bright lights helps birds move on within minutes, as discovered by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and New York City Audubon during the annual 9/11 memorial in New York City. Hundreds of birds are caught in the memorial's beams every year but turning them off for just 20 to 30 minutes at a time greatly reduces the density of birds in the area. Taking more steps to decrease the amount of light our buildings emit minimizes unnecessary bird deaths saves money by reducing energy consumption, and supports your or your organization's sustainability goals.

Learn more at: <https://www.audubon.org/lights-out-program>

LIGHT TO PROTECT THE NIGHT
Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



USEFUL		ALL LIGHT SHOULD HAVE A CLEAR PURPOSE Before installing or replacing a light, determine if light is needed. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and the environment. Consider using reflective paints or self-luminous markers for signs, curbs, and steps to reduce the need for permanently installed outdoor lighting.
TARGETED		LIGHT SHOULD BE DIRECTED ONLY TO WHERE NEEDED Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.
LOW LIGHT LEVELS		LIGHT SHOULD BE NO BRIGHTER THAN NECESSARY Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.
CONTROLLED		LIGHT SHOULD BE USED ONLY WHEN IT IS USEFUL Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.
COLOR		USE WARMER COLOR LIGHTS WHERE POSSIBLE Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members:

Sandra Cappelletti
Bob Eernisse
Jennifer Halmo
Evelina Hinojosa
Jeanine Lasiter
Ann Schuyler
Ben Sotelo
Zachary Yeates

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Richard Anderson, Wayne Blunk,
Jean & Bob Bonar, Sandra Cappelletti,
Betty J. Cooper, David & Maxine Clark,
Toni L. Curtis, Sue Darst, Ellen Evans,
Angelique Goodhue, Janis Kukla,
Hope Leja, Eric Liskay,
Ken Mateik & Karla Meadows,
Shirley Opie, Sarah Powell, Odile Roques,
Susan Ryan & Steve Goldstein *In Memory
of Tom Graham*

Education and Conservation Fund

Richard Anderson, Carla R. Barbaro,
Timothy D. Fitzer, Virginia Gardner,
Nancy Schoellkopf

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Richard Anderson,
Steve Ball & Susie Nishio,
Wayne Blunk, Ben Johnson,
Marianne Leach

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:

Tuesday, May 31, 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 _____

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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 Daniel Brown

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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.

General Meeting & Program

Thursday, May 19, 7 pm via Zoom

Following the Scent of Avian Olfaction
presented by Gabrielle Nevitt

