

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

October General Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom

The October 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.

Multiple Lines of Evidence Indicate Survival of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana

Presented by John Trochet

As many ornithologists and birders have staked their reputations, on both sides of the question, of whether the Ivory-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus principalis*) has survived into the 21st Century, controversy surrounds any recent claim of a sighting. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and 22 other species from the protections of the Endangered Species Act in September 2021, because it is judged by some in the service to be extinct. This proposal, if seen through to fruition, will have widespread consequences for endangered species conservation and for land use in the historic range of this woodpecker. John Trochet is part of a team attempting to demonstrate that this iconic species persists in Louisiana. Multiple lines of evidence suggest that this is the case. In this talk he will review the history of this species and present the evidence that the team has adduced so far.

John Trochet is a Sacramentan formerly with the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology, at U.C. Davis and still a research associate there. He has searched for Ivory-billed Woodpeckers for decades, which, along with a 40+-year study of the birds of the Zuni Mountains Region of New Mexico, and 25+ years following the birdlife of the Cosumnes River Preserve, is one of three, long-term, avian survey projects that he continues in retirement.



John at Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana

SAS Pop-Up Field Trips

In the spirit of offering as many field trips as possible, thereby giving more birders the chance to bird with experienced birders, and learn about new and interesting places to bird, SAS is now offering "Pop-Up" field trips. We'd like to take advantage of quicker ways to communicate through the SAS website and SAS Facebook pages. These trips are in addition to those announced in *The Observer* and usually provide shorter notice, and do not require registration.

The idea behind pop-up field trips is to make the most of field trip leaders' availability, and to follow up on good habitat and bird reports quickly. If good bird and/or habitat areas pop up, and a trip leader is available, the goal is to get out there and investigate. Keep an eye out as we navigate new field trip ideas!

—Maureen Geiger & Nancy Gronert

Field Trips: Field Trips October 1 – November 13, 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. With wildfires on the rise, smoky conditions may occur. Please note that a forecast of bad air quality (AQI of 100 or higher) will result in trip cancellation. If you are unsure, please contact the trip leader.

For questions regarding the trip, or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please contact the trip leader. Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ride-sharing/carpools. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios may be helpful. Please arrive early if you need driving directions or plan to carpool as starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.

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 children 5 and up and field trip leaders, must be vaccinated.
- 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.

To Register for a Field Trip, follow the instructions in the trip description or visit <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/field-trips>. If you have questions or need help, email our Registration Coordinator at sacramentoaudubonfieldtrips@gmail.com.

Sacramento Bar

Sunday, October 2, 8 AM

Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leaders: Jane Van Kessel, Mary Forrestal (530) 209-0826
cmforrestal@yahoo.com

Jane and Mary will be checking for mergansers, early goldeneye, and other birds on the river. Among the more common passerines, such as crowned sparrows, towhees, goldfinches, and wrens, there's a possibility of the less common Phainopepla, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and who knows what other surprises! This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders.

Meet in the parking lot at Sacramento Bar. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. Proceed along Pennsylvania to the parking lot. A Sacramento County Parks Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

River Bend Park

Wednesday, October 5, 8 AM

Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Cathie LaZier (916) 502-2699
empid77@gmail.com

We'll walk through the oak woodland and over to the river, looking for small woodland birds and woodpeckers. We sometimes have good looks at Red-shouldered Hawks or Great Horned Owls. The walk will end by noon and it's a great walk for beginners. Meet Cathie at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk.

From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Beaudry Dr north into the park. A Sacramento County Parks Pass, or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

American Canyon Wetlands Edge Park

Sunday, October 9, 8 AM

Expected length: 6-7 hours
Leader: Sonja Sorbo, (916) 390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Sonja if you would like to attend.

We will walk 3-4 miles on level trail around this tidal marsh hotspot, searching for ducks, shorebirds, and passerines. Bring plenty of water, snacks, and lunch.

Meeting location and directions will be provided upon registration.

Beginning Birder Walk William Pond Park

Sunday, October 9

Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.

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. 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.

Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant

Tuesday, October 11, 7:30 AM

Expected length: 4-5 hours
Leader: Jane Taylor (916) 884-1323
1jgtaylor@att.net
Maximum number of participants: 5
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Jane Taylor if you would like to attend.

Join Jane for a morning outing to the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant. Several large ponds can hold any number of duck species, and if the water levels are favorable, shorebirds as well. Trees, fields, and fence posts adjacent to the levees may yield raptors, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other species. A small wetland area visible from the levees can hold rails, herons, egrets, gallinules, and Marsh Wrens.

After birding the plant as time permits, we will explore other watery/marshy/grassy sites in the area. The trip should end by noon; bring water and snacks. The plant is often windy so bring warm layers. Spotting scopes are extremely useful so if you have one, bring it along. Heavy rain will cancel.

Meeting location and directions will be provided upon registration.

UC Davis Arboretum

Wednesday, October 12, 8 AM

Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Paul Miller (916) 768-7503
pjmiller1962@me.com
Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Paul if you would like to attend.

This trip is specifically designed for beginning, to more experienced 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 and hard-packed dirt within the UC Davis Arboretum,

located in the City of Davis, a short drive from Sacramento. This location offers a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of bird species, including the elusive Green Heron.

Bring water, a snack, and a smart phone if you have one.

Specific meeting place and directions will be provided at the time of registration.

Gibson Ranch Regional Park

Saturday October 15, 7 AM

Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Kevin Thomas (916) 217-6946
bionerdkevin@gmail.com

As fall migration starts winding down, we will take a leisurely walk along the riparian parkland and wetland areas of this wonderful county park. We should get good looks at the local wintering birds, and run into a few late migrants making their way south. Expect easy walking with frequent stops to scan the creek, riparian habitat, and surrounding grasslands to see what interesting birds we can find. A Sacramento County Parks Pass or \$6 day use fee is required.

Meet Kevin at the entrance kiosk and we will caravan to the parking area. From Elverta, head east on Elverta Road (3.1 miles), turn left onto Gibson Ranch Park Rd (0.7 miles), turn right (0.2 miles), turn right on to Gibson Ranch/Dry Creek Trail (150 feet), turn left.

Family Friendly Trip to Humbug Creek Wetlands

Saturday, October 15, 8 AM

Expected length: 2 ½-3 hours
Leader: Nicole Barden, (530) 304-5461
Sandra Steurer, (916) 580-8398
nicolebarden@gmail.com

Join us for some slow-paced creek-side birding! We will follow the bike path through a unique mix of wetland and forest habitats. We are likely to find common feathered friends returning for the winter, including Golden-crowned Sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Hermit Thrushes. We are also likely to see some fun wetland birds, such as Wood Ducks, herons, and maybe even a turtle or two.

This trip is open to all birding levels and ages, and will be slow paced. We will be listening for birds as much as looking for them, and keep an eBird list as we go. Beginning birders and young birders are encouraged to join. The trail is mostly flat and paved, with occasional benches along the way. There are bathrooms available in the parking area. Feel free to email any questions.

Meet Nicole and Sandra at Cummings Park in Folsom, 1775 Creekside Drive,

Field Trips: continued

Folsom, CA 95630. From Hwy 50 east, take the Folsom Blvd exit and go left under the freeway. Follow Folsom Blvd for 1.5 miles and then turn right on Blue Ravine Road and follow for 2 miles. Turn right on E Bidwell and soon after, turn left on Creekside Dr. Cummings Park will be on your left just before Oak Ave Parkway.

Point Reyes National Seashore

Sunday, October 16, 8 AM

Expected length: All Day

Leader: John York (530) 320-4751
johnyork157@yahoo.com

John plans a full day of birding at the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks and Abbott's Lagoon (if the weather is good). If it's too foggy at the coastal spots, we'll bird the onshore locations. Bring fluids, snacks, and dress for changeable weather. John plans to stop for lunch at the deli in Inverness.

RSVP to John by email or text is recommended in case of change of plan due to weather, etc.

Meet John at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol Avenue exit #81, turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sacramento Bar

Thursday, October 20, 8 AM

Expected length: 2-3 hours

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of birds. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. A Sacramento County Parks Pass or a \$6 day use fee is required. Rain cancels.

Meet Darrell at the Sacramento Bar Parking Lot. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania Ave. and follow it into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Family Friendly Trip to Earl J. Koobs Nature Area, Carmichael

Sunday, October 23, 8 AM

Expected length: 2 hours

Leader: Cliff Hawley (916) 300-2495
yellowhammerca@gmail.com

This beautiful area is a great place for families to enjoy nature. Cliff knows it well and will seek out resident, migrating and early-wintering species that might be present.

Meet Cliff at the Earl J. Koobs Nature Area, 5325 Engle Road, Carmichael. From Fair Oaks Blvd and Manzanita

Ave, continue south on Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn right on Engle Rd. After about ½ mile turn right at La Sierra Community Center. Drive several hundred feet. The entrance will be on your right.

Family Friendly Halloween Walk in North Davis

Saturday, October 29, 5:30 PM

Expected Length: 2 – 2 ½ hours

Leader: Nicole Barden, (530) 304-5461
nicolebarden@gmail.com

Join Environmental Educator Nicole on this evening adventure and find out whooo is out in the night. We will walk along the North Davis canal (Anderson Rd canal on eBird) and look out over agricultural fields and the trees lining the greenbelt. We will be looking and listening for wildlife that come out in the evening including owls, bats, and maybe even coyotes! This spot will also provide us an excellent place to watch the sky change color as the sun sets.

This trip is open to all birding levels and will be slow paced. We will be listening for birds, as much as looking for them, and keep an eBird list as we go. Beginning birders are encouraged to join, as are Halloween costumes that do not restrict movement. The trail we will be on is mostly flat, but it is unpaved, and we may have to avoid the occasional ground squirrel hole or star-thistle plant along the edge of the path. This trail is very safe, and we will cover no more than 2.5 miles. Bring a flashlight and warm layers. Closed-toe shoes and long pants are recommended. Feel free to email any questions.

Meet Nicole on Sandpiper Dr, near Pintail Pl. Coming from Sacramento, take the Mace Blvd exit off I-80. Follow until it turns into E. Covell Blvd, turn right on F St, turn left on Anderson Blvd, and then make an immediate right on Sandpiper Dr. Park on Sandpiper Dr near the intersection of Sandpiper Dr and Pintail Pl.

Bridgeway Island Pond, West Sacramento

Sunday, October 30, 8 AM

Expected length: 2-3 hours

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

If large numbers of Blue-winged Teal knock your socks off, join Maureen for this morning walk to view Teal and other shorebirds and waterfowl on the Pond and islands. A walk along the surrounding upland to the levee separating the West Sacramento area from the Yolo Causeway may produce other species as well. This trip involves walking on a level pathway of just over a mile. Spots will be a valuable asset.

Please note that there are no restrooms.

Meet Maureen at Bridgeway Island Pond, West Sacramento. From downtown Sacramento, take Hwy 50 west, cross over the Sacramento River and exit on Jefferson Blvd. Turn left onto Jefferson, and right on Lake Washington Blvd. From Lake Washington Blvd, turn left onto Southport Pkwy. At 2.8 miles, turn right on Oakland Bay Dr, make an immediate right onto Bowen Island St, left on Solomon Island Rd and right on Pender Island Rd. Park at the end of the cul-de-sac.

Cosumnes River Preserve

Thursday, November 3, 9AM

Expected length: 3 hours

Leader: Paul Miller, (916) 768-7503
paul@pjmill.com

Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Paul if you would like to attend.

Cosumnes River Preserve is a wonderful venue for those with mobility challenges. Within a few hundred feet of the main parking lot there is a wooden easily accessible viewing platform. The flooded fields attract a wide range of dabbling ducks. Greater White-fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, and yellowlegs should be present. There are also some passerines and raptors.

Specific meeting place and directions will be provided at the time of registration.

Sacramento River: Garcia Bend Park to the Infamous Water Tower

Saturday, November 5, 8 AM

Expected length: ends before noon

Leader: Ben Graber, (916) 844-8682
bgraber984@protonmail.com

Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.
If you would like to register for this trip, please email Ben.

This is a new location for Sacramento Audubon, but not for Ben! This section of the Sacramento River is one of the more reliable spots to see the imperiled Yellow-billed Magpie. Osprey and Bald Eagles have also been seen here. We can expect to see egrets, herons, and various waterfowl along with the usual sparrows and towhees.

Specific meeting place and directions will be provided at the time of registration.

Camp Pollock

Wednesday, November 9, 9 AM

Expected length: 2 hours

Leader: Bill Bianco (916) 889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

Join Bill at Camp Pollock, the Sacramento Valley Conservancy property on the American River just east of downtown Sacramento. Some of you will know this as the old Boy Scout Camp which it was for many years. Bill will survey the property which is composed of wide grassy areas interspersed with huge old cottonwoods, oaks, a large native plant nursery and a variety of shrubbery. This property has not been well birded, at least that he knows of, and Bill would like to get a start on changing that. Restrooms are not available.

Meet Bill at the Camp Pollock parking lot. Going North on I-5 from downtown, take the Garden Hwy Exit. Go east on Garden Hwy. Turn right on Northgate Blvd. Proceed for a short distance and turn right into Camp Pollock.

Beginning Birder Walk William Pond Park

Sunday, November 13

Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip. Please see instructions below.

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'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.

Sacramento Audubon Pin

Order your SAS pin today!

\$10 online

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/store/lapel-pin>

or pick one up at outreach events for \$5



Field Trip Reports

UC Davis Arboretum, (8/18)

Leader Paul Miller reported: The UC Davis Arboretum is always an enjoyable birding location. This trip was designed to allow birders using mobility devices (walkers or wheelchairs) to participate. The Arboretum has miles of paved trails along Putah Creek, making for excellent birding. Trip highlights included several **Green Herons** and **Pied-billed Grebes** posing for photos. The trail system is heavily planted with flowering plants and attracts many species of hummingbirds.



Pied-billed Grebe. Photo by Paul Miller

Nimbus Fish Hatchery, (8/20)

Leader Kevin Thomas reported: We had an early start (6 am) for a Sacramento Audubon Society field trip to the Nimbus Fish Hatchery and surrounding area. A great group of 9 folks showed up to take a walk along the riverbank, searching for resident breeding birds and early migrants. The first of the gulls have shown up with several **California Gulls** present today. We had great looks at **Green** and **Black-crowned Night Herons** in the fish hatchery area. A few migrants were around this morning with a standout **Nashville Warbler** among the **Yellow** and **Wilson's**. **Warblers** Participants were all smiles as we passed through the flock of warblers and scanned to see what was flitting around. Our first of the winter **Cedar Waxwings** flew around on both sides of the river; their numbers will grow substantially in the coming month. A bit surprising was the lack of raptors this morning, a few **Red-shouldered Hawks** were all we could muster up. A great morning was had by all as we saw great birds and made it back in time to beat the heat.

Carson Pass Lakes, (8/21)

Leader Max Brodie reported: We enjoyed a well-rounded day of subalpine hiking, birding, and botanizing. Hiking up to Winnemucca lake, we came across our first decent flock of birds in a small clearing. **Dark-eyed Junco** was our most abundant bird throughout the day and there were several here, along with **Mountain Chickadees** and **Cassin's Finches**. I had everyone listen for the **Townsend's Solitaire** that was calling, and we spent several frustrating minutes trying to see it before it finally cooperated and perched for all to see. This was one of our target species and a lifer for at least one of us. We saw **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in the conifers as well as **Orange-crowned** and **Wilson's Warblers** in the shrubby willows. **Clark's Nutcrackers** came and went multiple times, usually announcing their presence with loud, harsh calls. A **Rufous Hummingbird** zipped by us just before we reached the sapphire blue water of Lake Winnemucca, nestled in a cirque below the sheer rocky face of Round Top

peak. Hiking up to Round Top lake, two **Prairie Falcons** put on an incredible show of aerial agility, making steep dives and tight turns in front of the cliffs below the peak. It was an awesome sight to behold. Here we saw Belding's ground-squirrel and yellow-bellied marmots. After a well-deserved rest and lunch break at Round Top lake, while listening to a pika calling from across the water, we descended towards Woods lake, soaking in the spectacular vista below. A **Pine Grosbeak** made a brief appearance, and we were also able to see **Western Tanager**, **Black-headed Grosbeak**, and **Brown Creeper**. We were very fortunate to come across a family group of **Golden-crowned Kinglets** with the begging juveniles being fed by adults right overhead. A mule deer munched on some shrubs nearby when a male **Williamson's Sapsucker** swooped so low over us its wing noise was clearly heard. We spotted many species of wildflowers despite the late date. Overall a great success and a trip I look forward to leading again.

Ueda Parkway, (8/27)

Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: The "dog days of summer" seem interminable by this time of the year, and any place near water may seem like a haven to birds. Many of today's species were clustered around several small ponds in which the fish are concentrated because there's nowhere else for them to go. The herons and egrets had a field day; we saw five **Great Blue Herons**, five **Snowy Egrets**, seven **Great Egrets**, a **Green Heron**, and three **Black-crowned Night-Herons**. A few intrepid ducks were paddling around in a deeper pond, no doubt counting down the days until rain and cooler weather bring in their buddies from parts north. Several **Mallards**, a female **Wood Duck**, and a juvenile **Hooded Merganser** gave us nice views. They were outnumbered by **Double-crested Cormorants** who took over an adjacent pond. Shorebird numbers were low, but species included **Killdeer**, **Spotted Sandpiper**, **Least Sandpiper**, and **Greater Yellowlegs**. A half-dozen **White-faced Ibis** poked around in the mud, their feathers shining in the sunlight, showing gorgeous green and maroon highlights. **Black Phoebe**s and **Mourning Doves** seemed to be around every

corner, and a **Say's Phoebe** was an unexpected pleasure to see. Several dozen **Barn Swallows** were swooping to and fro over one particular pond, and a couple of them even perched for a while, so we were treated to good looks at them. The raptors represented themselves quite well; **Red-tailed**, **Swainson's**, **Red-shouldered**, and **Cooper's Hawks** plus two **American Kestrels** were spotted by the group. We were hoping for some warbler species but only spotted one **Orange-crowned** male in an oak tree. Oaks also hosted **House Finches**, **Lesser Goldfinches**, a **Northern Mockingbird**, **Yellow-billed Magpies**, **California Scrub Jays**, and **Anna's Hummingbirds**.

Sailor Bar Family Trip, (8/28)

Leader Nicole Barden reported: Hazy skies didn't stop 18 birders from meeting at Sailor Bar for a relaxed birding adventure. Our group had several young birders, and out of town visitors from San Francisco and Pasadena. The group enjoyed spending a little extra time observing new things about familiar birds, standing or sitting quietly staring up at oak trees, and listening for bird calls. One of our first species of the day was 20 **White-throated Swifts**, flying high overhead as we gathered in the parking lot. Before we even left for the hike, 15 **Cedar Waxwings** flew in and landed in the top of nearby trees, offering great looks at one of our target birds for the day. We headed west down the dirt path and soon saw a group of **Phainopepla**, and had great looks at their crests and white wing patches. Several of the young birders were very excited to see this interesting species. We came upon a field with **Lesser Goldfinches** feeding on Yellow Star Thistle, and as we watched we realized that the whole field was full of goldfinches! We ended up counting around 50 individuals, and that is probably a conservative number. After counting goldfinches, we realized there was a group of **California Quail** on the opposite side of the trail and we were able to watch them carefully pick their way down a rocky slope. Someone spotted a male **Kestrel** sitting on a snag, who then took flight showing off his tail and circling. A few folks stayed after the main walk for a short trip up the steep trail on the east side of the parking lot, and we were able to add **Ash-throated Flycatcher** and **Wilson's Warbler** to our day's list. Other highlights included **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, **Bushtits** on anise, a picture-perfect **Great Egret**, and **Lark Sparrows**. Overall, it was a fun day with lots of bird activity and a total of 39 species. Check out our eBird lists for a full list of the birds we saw:

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S117740586>

<https://ebird.org/checklist/S117739166>

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Field Trip Reports *continued from p. 4*

Sacramento Bar, (9/11)

Leader Paul Cordero reported: A dozen or so birders with a good mix of beginning to advanced skills set out on a hazy Sunday morning. The usual suspects appeared with a few migrants thrown in for fun: **Yellow Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Warbling Vireo**, and **Cedar Waxwings** were observed. Resident birds included **Nuttall's Woodpecker**, **Blue-gray Gnatcatcher**, **Belted Kingfisher**, and **California Towhee**. The focus of the trip was bird calls and we had plenty of practice with **Red-shouldered Hawk**, **Bewick's Wren**, **White-breasted Nuthatch**, and **Western Tanager**. Forty-four species in all.

Auburn State Recreation Area, (9/1)

Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: Our birding excursion at Auburn State Recreation Area (Catecroft access) was fair, with a total of 37

species being recorded. This State Park is still an excellent place to bird, with many trails passing through a variety of habitats. Unfortunately, the temperatures rose pretty quickly in the morning, causing us to end a little sooner than planned. Still, we recorded some good oak woodland and marsh species such as **White-breasted Nuthatch**, **Great Horned Owl**, **Northern Flicker**, **Wilson's Warbler**, **Virginia Rail**, **Wood Duck**, and **Common Gallinule**. Before parking at the trailhead, one of the party saw a couple **Yellow-billed Magpies** fly over, near the town of Cool. Sadly, we missed the **Willow Flycatchers**, **Yellow-breasted Chat**, and **Yellow-rumped Warblers** that I recorded just a couple days before. The heat definitely had a dampening effect on bird activity. In spite of the slow morning we had, I recommend this spot for birding during migration and even in

winter, when I've seen **American Dipper** down at Knickerbocker Creek.

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary (9/12)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported: Today Bobelaine was wonderful, as it always is, in this unique Preserve. Especially nice, after the heat wave, was the relative cool and the sky covered with light overcast, so the sun was not in our eyes, even on the levee. The light on the calm water near the confluence of the Bear and Feather Rivers was just stunning. Although there were occasional mutterings that "it wasn't very birdy," the ten of us saw 45 species, lots of photos were taken, and we all had good looks at a **Warbling Vireo** close to the levee.

Seasonal Sightings August 1 – 31

Despite the heat, August is one of the best months to experience migration. As it turned out, this August was really active in terms of rare and uncommon birds. Shorebirds continued in excellent numbers from July, and by the end of the month songbird migrants were showing in good numbers and diversity. A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** at Rossmoor Bar along the American River Parkway (ARP) on 8/28 was quite a surprise. This species has declined precipitously in recent decades, so any local observation is a real treat.

Uncommon shorebirds vied with songbirds to get top billing this month. There were so many excellent reports of both, we'll call it a draw. **Snowy Plovers** are very rare in our area, but are typically found each year. One was at the Woodland WTP on 8/1–7, and another was at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) on 8/29–31. More unexpected was a **Ruddy Turnstone** at the Woodland WTP on 8/4–7. SRWTP hosted a **Ruff** from 8/17–30. There are perhaps five records for Sacramento County, and this was just the second for the property, and the first in over 20 years. The first few **Baird's Sandpipers** started showing up on 8/24, and the first **Pectoral Sandpiper** was found on 8/30. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was seen by several observers at Cosumnes River Preserve from 8/27–29, and one was found at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on 8/27.

Lewis's Woodpeckers are rare on the flats of the Valley and also rare this early in the season, so a few seen toward the end of the month were notable. A **Brewer's Sparrow** at the Russell Ranch,

along Putah Creek between Davis and Winters, on 8/22 was a nice find. **Northern Waterthrushes** are not found in our area every year, so it was a real surprise to have one along Babel Slough from 8/27–29, and another at Sacramento Bar (ARP) on 8/30. **Tennessee Warblers** are equally rare around Sacramento, so one at Reichmuth Park from 8/28–8/30 was another excellent find. Also nice was a **Blackpoll Warbler** at Bridgeway Island Pond near West Sacramento on 8/30, as was a **Summer Tanager** along the Humbug Creek Trail in Folsom on 8/31.

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 we thank the following for their



Lewis's Woodpecker. Photo by Daniel Brown

reports: Max Brodie, Aidan Brubaker, Lyann Comrack, Todd Easterla, Gil Ewing, Robert Furrow, Cliff Hawley, Jim Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Michele McCormick, Dana Miller-Blair, Nora Papian, Michael Perrone, Zane Pickus, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, and Tom Usan. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible. —Chris Conard

Chalk It Up!

For the second year, Sacramento Audubon Society participated in Chalk It Up!, a local arts festival/arts fundraiser in Midtown Sacramento, held annually on Labor Day Weekend. The artist, Dawn Pedersen (dawnpedersen.com), created a gorgeous chalk mural of a Common Raven. With its iconic shape and bold coloring, “The Raven” received “rave” reviews from festival attendees.

Outreach Committee Chair, Bill Bianco, and volunteers Cathie LaZier,

Sue Darst, Marti Ikehara, and Daphne Reimer helped out at the outreach table over the three-day event. Many people stopped by the table to pick up information. Others wanted to share their bird stories. It was heartening to learn how many people in our community support birds, with feeders, plantings, and rescue efforts. All in all, it was a successful outreach weekend despite the scorching heat. We even sold a few SAS pins.

—Daphne Reimer



Dawn Pedersen's Raven. Photo by Daphne Reimer



Artist Dawn Pedersen. Photo by Daphne Reimer

The Bird Migration Explorer Lets You Interact With Nature's Most Amazing Feat

Humans have long been captivated by migratory birds, awed by the animals' biannual treks between their breeding and wintering grounds. A new digital platform, the Bird Migration Explorer (<http://birdmigrationexplorer.org/>), brings this natural phenomenon to your screen, enabling you to pore over the movements of individual species, discover the birds at a specific location, and learn about challenges these far-flying creatures face.

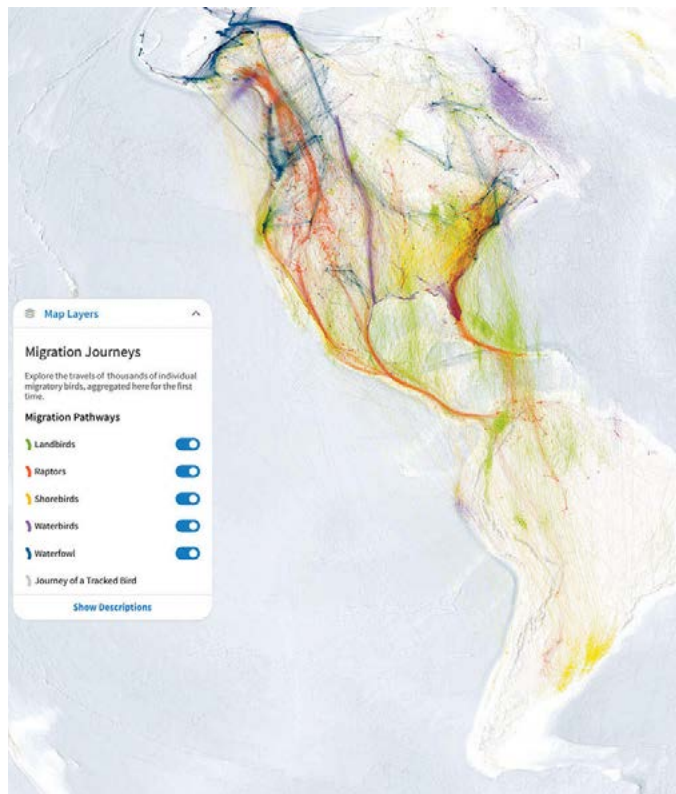
Created by Audubon and nine founding partners, using science contributed by hundreds of researchers and institutions, the platform paints the most complete picture ever of the journeys of 458 avian species that breed in the United States and Canada.

Users are met with a colorful map composed of routes of more than 9,300 birds captured by tracking devices and shared by scientists across the Western Hemisphere. The effect is astounding, says Melanie Smith, program director for the project: “You can see how birds trace the outlines of continents, rivers, lakes, mountain ridges.”

Smith and her colleagues envision a broad audience utilizing the Bird Migration Explorer, from conservationists looking to identify and protect the places migratory birds need to members of the public curious about their seasonal neighborhood visitors. Available in English and Spanish, the platform makes it possible to delve into the fascinating world of migratory birds.

Read more at:

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-bird-migration-explorer-lets-you-interact-natures-most-amazing-feat>



Map: Bird Migration Explorer

—Audubon

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members:

Tiffany Aiello
Kim Bacon
Hanika Cook
Larry Cranford
Kenneth Dangles
Dave & Sue Hansen
Yael Lachman
Nancy Rice
Angela Rivera

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Betty J. Cooper, Joe Easley, Charlene G. Eberwine, Madi Elsea & Rod Lee, Heather Fargo, Susan Gearhart & David Drabble, Michael J. Harris, Diana Hickson, Debara Johnson, Cathie LaZier, Gibbe & Ann Parsons, Deldi Reyes, Joyce C. Rietz, Ken & Janet Stites, Kathleen Styc, Donald Taylor, Maureen Tracy, Doctors J. W. & Patricia Wells, Joel Wiley

Education and Conservation Fund

Ann Burris, Dennis Eckhart, Michael J. Harris, Debara Johnson, Gibbe & Ann Parsons, Joyce C. Rietz, Angela Rivera, Doctors J. W. & Patricia Wells

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Alice Bauman, Susan Gearhart & David Drabble, Michael J. Harris, Christine K. Holmstrom, David L. Johnson, M. A. Nunes, Gibbe & Ann Parsons, Bea Pearson, Debara Johnson, Joyce C. Rietz, Doctors J. W. & Patricia Wells

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, Paul Miller, at sacaudubonpresident@gmail.com 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, October 25, 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: \$ _____

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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 _____

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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 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

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White-tailed Kite Daniel Brown

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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.

October General Meeting Program

Multiple Lines of Evidence Indicate Survival of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Louisiana Presented by John Trochet

Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 7pm via Zoom



John at Kisatchie National Forest, Louisiana