

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 67 • NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2015

General Meeting

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

California Spiders

Tim Manolis

In his presentation, Tim will begin with an introduction to spider biology and the types of spiders that occur in California, then describe some of the common spiders likely to be seen in Central Valley homes and yards, and, finally, focus primarily on jumping spiders. According to Tim, jumping spiders are not your average spiders. Among other amazing things, they stalk prey—



Jumping spider, female
Phanias concoloratus
Ken Schneider

insects and other spiders—like cats, using vision that rivals that of many birds and mammals. Male jumpers can be brilliantly colored with courtship displays rivaling those of birds-of-paradise. Some species are remarkable mimics of ants, wasps, or beetles. Salticidae, the family of jumping spiders, is the largest family of spiders worldwide, with around 5000 described species. Though most numerous in the tropics, they are found just about everywhere. Over 100 described species live in California, and you can probably find five to ten of these in your backyard.

Tim Manolis (Ph.D, University of Colorado) is an artist, writer and field

General Meeting continued on page 8

THE 18TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT! FEBRUARY 13-16, 2015

One of the easiest ways to get new birders and kids involved in birding is to participate in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), which will take place February 13-16. In support of this annual event, Sacramento Audubon is leading two birding trips dedicated to the GBBC, Friday, February 13 at 8am at William Pond Park and Saturday, February 14 at 8am at Discovery Park. Details can be located at www.sacramentoaudubon.org under Activities. Families and new birders are encouraged to join these events to connect with and learn about our local birds, and participate in this citizen science project.

When citizens from around the world count and report the birds they see during the GBBC each year, scientists are able to use this information to track bird populations and migration patterns. Over time, this information helps scientists see trends and determine how bird populations are affected by things such as development and habitat loss, disease and climate change. From this data, scientists are able to make recommendations that will conserve and protect habitat and birds.

The beautiful thing about the GBBC is that anyone can participate from anywhere in the world. You can count birds for 15 minutes from your kitchen window or during a walk downtown or anywhere there are birds. The greater the variety of locations we can document, the better. Additionally, a person's age or skill level does not hinder participation. Kids are great contributors to the GBBC because their enthusiasm is naturally uninhibited and the challenge of spotting as many birds as they can can be as exciting as a treasure hunt.

For more information about the GBBC and for details on how to report the birds you see, visit gbbc.birdcount.org/.

FOURTH ANNUAL KIDS CBC A WONDERFUL FAMILY BIRDING EVENT!

This year's Fourth Annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count was another great success! The weather was lovely and warm which may have contributed to the 52 species of birds seen—about 6 species more than last year.

Effie Yeaw staff and docents helped SAS members shepherd 22 children aged 4 to 15, plus their families, along the trails at the Nature Center with about 12 leaders and another 10 or so support staff. This year, Kari Bauer, the photographer who memorialized the action of the 5 teams as well as some of the wildlife (the deer were a big hit!), used a new system which made it easy for families to find pictures of their teams out on the trail. Liz Williamson, as in the past, brought out live birds to show and, as always, these were an enormous hit with all the participants. And since everyone loves free stuff, the raffle prizes, offered during the morning's compilation and tally, were also a huge hit.



A crowd of intrepid birders
at this year's Kids CBC

Everyone is looking forward to next year, so be sure and look for this event next January!

Maureen Geiger, Kids CBC Count Chairperson

Field Trip Findings

Bushy Lake (1/15) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “The morning started with dense fog. Eleven people decided we should go for it. At the parking area Western Bluebirds were everywhere. As we proceeded more birds appeared and when we arrived at Bushy Lake, we could see the Wood Ducks in the water. We had a total of 30 species. Finally the fog lifted, but we were back at our starting point by then.”

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (1/11) — Leader John York reported: “Though we started out in heavy fog in Sacramento, four of us enjoyed the day at Colusa and Sacramento NWR. It was bright and clear and even warm, perfect weather for birding. Though no Falcated Ducks were seen at Colusa, we did see 3 Eurasian Wigeons mixed in with the multitudes of Ross’s and Snow Geese.

“Sacramento started with two Bald Eagles in the trees at the visitor center, previewing the four more we would see throughout the day. There were plenty of geese and the usual ducks to show our newer birder and one covey of 11 hen pheasants beside the road. The highlight came in the last half mile of the loop, when a Golden Eagle refused to leave a dead goose that it was gorging on. A very enjoyable day.”

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (1/7) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “Our trip included a stop at Colusa National Wildlife refuge. The 10 of us enjoyed a beautiful, bright, clear day with very little wind. Although the Falcated Duck was never located, we got good looks at a Eurasian Wigeon. A Black-crowned Night-Heron roost estimated to consist of over 120 herons was mesmerizing. Some favorites of the trip were a perched Peregrine Falcon, Loggerhead Shrike, Bald Eagle, Merlin, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Long-billed Curlew, Dunlin, Long-billed Dowitcher, Common Raven, White-faced Ibis, and uncouped thousands of Ross’s, Snow, and White-fronted Geese—including a beautiful blue-morph. We also got long looks at a relaxed Coyote leisurely surveying the multitude of waterfowl while keeping an eye on us. We topped out at a satisfying 72 bird species.”

Colusa National Wildlife Area (1/5) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Crisp clean air on a beautiful winter’s day met our group as we arrived at this wonderful

National Wildlife Refuge. During our visit, we enjoyed thousands of waterfowl as they went about their routines. In addition to the ducks and geese, we saw several species of passerines including sparrows, warblers, flycatchers, wrens and American Pipits. Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs and White-faced Ibis were among others also observed. The highlight was a close view of a perched adult Bald Eagle. The trip ended with a tally of 51 species.”

Tonzi Road and Western Amador County (1/3) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “A party of 7 birders ascended on western Amador County for a day of birding back roads, ponds and reservoirs. The weather was chilly to start, but shirts were coming off by the middle of the morning, eventually warming to a mild high 50s. On the drive to our first scheduled stop, along Vaira Ranch Rd, we were treated to a couple of Varied Thrushes, several Western Bluebirds, 3 Yellow-billed Magpies, several Lewis’s Woodpeckers, numerous Acorn Woodpeckers, one or more Phainopeplas, Lark Sparrows and a fleeting Great Horned Owl. Obviously, we were quite pleased with this start. At our first stop we added Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Oak Titmouse, Spotted Towhee, crowned sparrows and a Steller’s Jay. At the next scheduled stop on Tonzi Rd we were able to add both Lesser and Lawrence’s Goldfinches, and a Hermit Thrush. A high flying flock of Band-tailed Pigeons had us puzzled, at first. A stop at a pond along Sutter-lone Rd produced numerous Ring-necked Ducks. At the lone water treatment plant we saw Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye and American Wigeon. But the treat here was 4 Hooded Mergansers, 2 pair, in the adjacent creek, where we also saw a Belted Kingfisher. One Red-shouldered Hawk was seen here, too. On the drive to Camanche Lake we saw a mixed flock of blackbirds that included a few Tricoloreds. This drive also produced a Say’s Phoebe and a pair of Ferruginous Hawks. At the lake we saw a few American White Pelicans, Western and Clark’s grebes, a Common Loon and a perched Bald Eagle to finish the day there. The group tally was 69 species for the day.”

Beals Point, Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (12/28) — Mara Weston, co-leader with Deb Weston, reported: “Eight of us enjoyed beautiful weather while birding and we finished the

trip with 53 species. Highlights included a Bald Eagle, a Merlin, a Common Loon, a Steller’s Jay, and a very cooperative Rock Wren.”

Mather Lake (12/23) — Leader Mark Sawyer reported: “Thirteen birders joined me on a beautiful morning at Mather Lake. In roughly three hours we had an impressive 57 species with four other taxa. They included a Red-breasted Sapsucker that posed for some time and allowed for scope views, Brown Creeper and eight Pine Siskins, both rare for Mather Lake.”

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (12/17) — Ann Burris, co-leader with Tim Fitzer, reported: “Morning skies were cloudy and threatening rain as the group headed north to its first stop, Colusa NWR. There the group went directly to the viewing platform (the auto loop was closed) to look for the Falcated Duck. Unfortunately the duck didn’t make an appearance. So, after scoping the area and taking a short walk to the second viewing platform to further the search, the group again headed north to SNWR where skies had cleared. Viewing was very good and it didn’t take long before the group had spotted two adult Bald Eagles and a Prairie Falcon. The ponds held numerous duck species, thousands of geese and several species of shorebirds. The day ended with 52 species.”

Lincoln Grasslands Trip #2 (11/30) — Scott Hoppe, co-leader with Mark Martucci, reported: “This was the second half of back-to-back Lincoln area field trips for the weekend. Like the first day, we experienced clouds and intermittent rain showers. However, it turned out to be a great day of birding for a small group of 5 birders. We tallied 94 species, beating out the Saturday team by 1. Highlights included Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Rock Wren, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Tricolored Blackbird. A note to potential participants in the future: predictions of bad weather don’t necessarily mean bad birding.”

Pete Hayes

2014-2015 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS BY AREA

Woodfords, December 21

Dan Brown, co-leader with Tim Fitzer and Andi Salmi, reported: "Twenty-two participants tallied 83 species on a day that was the warmest that I can remember for the Woodfords CBC (39 to 52 degrees). The species total was just below the average but the overall numbers of individuals was very low, possibly due to the drought. The highlights were: 1 Northern Goshawk spotted by Dan Williams near the Woodfords Store, 6 Golden and 11 Bald Eagles, 4 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks, several groups of Pinyon Jays totaling 190, and 4 American Dippers near Sorensen's Resort found by Tim Fitzer's group.

Sacramento, December 27

Compiler Mark Cudney reported: "Sixty-six individuals tallied 165 species on a gorgeous sunny day. This total was one shy of the all time Sacramento Christmas count record, and we have been doing this count since the fifties. Great finds were 18 Blue-Winged Teal, 5 Redhead, 3 Greater Scaup, 1 Barrow's Goldeneye, 1 Osprey, 1 Golden Eagle, 1 Rough-legged Hawk, 1 Semipalmated Plover, 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 5 Western Sandpipers, 1 Glaucous Gull, 1 Western Gull, 1 Cliff Swallow (has not been seen for years), 16 Band-tailed Pigeon, 1 Short-eared Owl, 4 Red-breasted Nuthatch, 8 Brown Creepers, 3 Pacific Wren, 15 Golden-crowned Kinglets, an unprecedented 363 Varied Thrush, 1 Black-throated Gray Warbler, 4 Townsend's Warblers, 2 Western Tanagers, 1 Chipping Sparrow (great find), 6 Vesper Sparrows, 10 White-throated Sparrows, 230 Tricolored Blackbirds, 25 Purple Finch, and 106 Pine Siskins. The bad misses that stopped us from beating the record included Eurasian Wigeon, Western Grebe, and Western Screech-Owl."

Folsom, January 4

Compiler Chris Conard reported: "We had an excellent Christmas count with nearly perfect weather. Although we seem to have reentered a dry period, on count day there was still plenty of moisture; ponds and fields that were bone dry on the last count were in much better shape. The species count was 139 (surprisingly, two lower than last year) within an historic range of 123 to 146 over the past 37 years. Overall numbers are still preliminary, since a couple of final tallies have yet to come in.

"Folsom always has relatively low waterfowl diversity compared to the Valley floor, and this year we missed white-fronts and white geese, but did get a small flock of

Tundra Swans. By Folsom standards, we did okay with ducks, getting Cinnamon Teal, missing Northern Shoveler, getting one Northern Pintail, missing Canvasback and Redhead, getting four Ring-necked Ducks, five Lesser Scaup, 18 Barrow's Goldeneye, 71 Hooded Mergansers and one Red-breasted Merganser. The Dec 31-only Long-tailed Duck missed count week by a day (which is three days before and after count day), but Ron Pozzi reported two Eurasian Wigeons for count week. Eight Common Loons on Folsom Lake was about average in addition to the continuing Red-throated Loon (Beals Point).

"There were seven Bald Eagles, surprisingly only one Ferruginous Hawk, but three Rough-legged Hawks. Golden Eagles are getting harder to find in the circle and we missed that species again. Shorebird numbers and species diversity were low, as is often the case. We missed Long-billed Dowitcher, but got an American Avocet for count week. Among 20,000+ gulls, none were unexpected species, though the one Mew Gull could easily have been missed. The Iceland Gull found on Jan 2 has not been refound, but did make it for count week.

"Nearly 200 Band-tailed Pigeons from several parties was in keeping with this winter's invasion. Limited owling produced one Western Screech-Owl, and two Burrowing Owls were found (one beyond Payen Rd and the other at the Folsom Lake Peninsula). We missed Barn Owl as we often do. Lewis's Woodpeckers were found in high numbers, with at least 130, though we somewhat surprisingly missed Hairy Woodpecker. We had five Merlin (including one black merlin), two Peregrine Falcons and three Prairie Falcons. Three Loggerhead Shrikes held steady from last year.

"We sometimes miss Steller's Jay, but the invasion continued, with at least 40 spread among several parties. Common Ravens used to be rare, but we had 16 among four parties. Yellow-billed Magpies were way up from last year's 23, with 134! We had two Brown Creepers and two Golden-crowned Kinglets. A Canyon Wren at upper Lake Natoma was good for Sacramento County (they are sometimes also found near Beek's Bight). We also found an impressive six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and a White-throated Sparrow. Tricolored Blackbirds were missed yet again. Wrapping up the winter invaders, we had nearly 300 each of Varied Thrush and Pine Siskins--both species we often miss completely.

"Thanks to all who participated in the count, but especially to the area leaders who do a lot of extra work organizing their teams (Ed Pandolfino, Maureen Geiger, Tim Fitzer, Cathie LaZier, and Scott Hoppe). Thanks to Jeff Mangum, for the first year ever, I believe, we had coverage of the Folsom Prison grounds. The great weather helped bring out 78 counters, missing the record high by one."



Ferruginous Hawk
Linda Pittman
(photo not from CBC 2015)

KIDS CBC PHOTOS

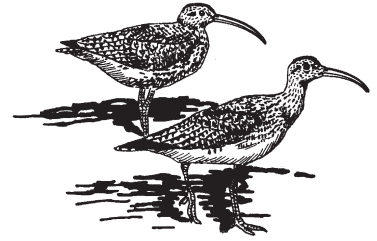


Cliff Hawley showing his daughter Priya a bird's eye view at this year's Kids' CBC



Sophia, a Northern Saw-whet Owl, waiting for the kids return at the recent CBC count at Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Field Trips



Whimbrel
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, contact the scheduler Richard Barbieri, offleash56@yahoo.com, 761-1124, for trips through March 1. For trips from March 2 contact the scheduler Mark Martucci, 833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Sunday, February 1, 8am

Birding the Best Places

Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009
yflightfoot@aol.com

Tim is going to take you birding where the best birds are. Meet him at the Natomas Fish Hatchery to bird along the American River and perhaps look for other birds of interest recently reported in the vicinity. This will be a half day trip, and should be of interest to experienced as well as beginning birders. From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Avenue; turn left on Gold Country Blvd and the hatchery is on your right.

Tuesday, February 3, 12pm

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290
dtankers@winfirst.com

Join Dan for an afternoon of birding at this wonderful NWR. This time of year the majority of white geese are Ross's, and the afternoon "fly-in" can be spectacular if the weather cooperates. There will be many duck species as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here and we can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. Birding will include the viewing platform, driving around the tour route, and an easy walk on the riparian trail. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take I-80 west to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again to the Park and Ride behind Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. You may want to

bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end around 4pm.

Wednesday, February 4, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 962-0387
Larryhickey1@gmail.com

Meet Larry along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk for this morning walk looking for wintering and resident birds. Along the river mergansers, gold-eneeye, herons and egrets can be found in the backwaters. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area and various raptors may be spotted. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, February 7, 7:30am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd. take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Sunday, February 8, 7:30am

Yuba County Wetlands

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
offleash56@yahoo.com

Streams and rivers draining from the foothills to the valley and farmers' irrigation help to create these wetlands and winter habitat on surrounding properties. Join Richard on a trip to one of his favorite places to bird while he looks for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and birds of prey. 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. Bring lunch, layered clothes, and scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

February 13 through 16

Great Backyard Bird Count

www.birdsource.org/gbbc

Count birds for 15 minutes or more in your backyard or other favorite birding locale; then post your results online and see what's happening in your area and across the country. It's fun for all ages and skill levels. Check the website for more information, or join one of the field trips and the leader will input the group's checklist.

Friday, February 13, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Let's count birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Cathie will post our results on the GBBC website. Meet her at the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk.

We'll check out different spots on the river, where mergansers and goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area for Red-winged Blackbirds and Green Heron. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or a \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, February 14, 8am

Discovery Park

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
Or 281-6652**

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for another chance to count birds for the GBBC. This park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers is a great place for a walk in any season with open lawns, revegetated sections and dense riparian stands. Maureen will be looking for resident species such as Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites and Yellow-billed Magpies plus still wintering sparrows. Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches are also possibilities, and Hermit Thrushes can be common. This is an easy walking trip for beginners and experienced birders and will last until late morning. To reach Discovery from I-5, drive east on the Garden Highway, turning right into the park at the first traffic light. Past the kiosk turn left at your first opportunity and then left again, driving a short distance to the farthest parking lot at the archery range. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

February 14, 15 and 16,

President's Day Weekend

Eureka/Arcata/Crescent City area

Leaders, Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spskua2@comcast.net

Joe Ceriani, 707-476-9127

joeceriani@usmessage.net

Join Tim and Joe for 3 days of birding along California's North coast, visiting some of the traditional spots in the Eureka, Arcata and Crescent City areas and possibly some of Joe's new favorite spots. Please contact Tim or Joe for further details.

Sunday, February 15

Beginning Birders' Walk

Cosumnes River Preserve

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. This trip will focus on wintering waterfowl, sorting out the different duck species, and looking at some other wetland birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882.

Wednesday, February 18, 8am-11am

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach

American River Parkway

Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt

710-1077, bajaowl@surewest.net

Join Sally for a morning bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for wintering sparrows and waterfowl, plus the resident wrens, towhees, and other small passerine birds. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

WEEKEND TRIP, February 21 and 22

Merced County Refuges and

Grasslands

Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951

naturestoc@aol.com

Co-leader: Dale Azavedo

Join Dan and Dale for a full weekend of birding the wetlands and grasslands around the Merced area. We will start Saturday morning birding several private duck club properties. Duck season is over in mid-February and these duck clubs can really be packed with birds! We will check out the area prior to the field trip for best birding and access, as muddy roads can be a problem and are not recommended for low clearance vehicles. After we have had our fill of the private areas, we will spend the rest of the day birding the National Wildlife Areas nearby. We will overnight in Merced for an early start Sunday morning to bird the grasslands and foothills of Eastern Merced County. This area is known for big numbers of raptors, including all the winter species (Ferruginous, Rough-legged, Prairie Falcon, Merlin). On a trip to the area last year, we had 10 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks and numerous indi-

viduals of both eagle species! Because we will be visiting private lands, this trip will be limited to 15 participants. Please contact Dan Brown for information on meeting place and time on Saturday morning and lodging in Merced on Saturday night with an option of lodging on Friday night to be closer to the meeting place in the morning.

Saturday, February 21, 7am until noon

Michigan Bar and vicinity

Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610

conardc@gmail.com

We will focus on Michigan Bar Rd and may visit portions of Latrobe and Meiss Rds, though access will be partially dependent on road conditions and recent weather. Vast areas of open grassland and blue oak woodland interspersed with rocky outcrops and the Cosumnes River provide habitat for winter raptors, resident and winter songbirds, Lewis's Woodpeckers and perhaps a surprise or two. We'll have a mix of car birding (bring FRS radios if you have them) and short to moderate walks. Meet at the Park and Ride on Hwy 16 (Jackson Hwy) just west of Sunrise Blvd and the Folsom South Canal (7 miles east of Watt Ave). Steady rain cancels.

Saturday, February 21, 10:30

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Theresa Blue and Sheila Green of Sac Audubon and Nature Center docent Melanie DuBoce for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds, as well as some wintering species, will be active. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, February 22, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999

mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell 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. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident and wintering species. With most leaves fallen from the trees, there will be better views of the lake, and Wood Ducks are a good possibility. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. You may want to bring water. This is a

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

good trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Sunday, February 22
Beginning Birding Field Trip
William Pond Park

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We explore the varied habitat at William Pond, looking at wintering sparrows, some waterfowl and shorebirds at the river, and those small confusing bushtits, titmice and kinglets. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882.

Friday, February 27, 8:30am
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758
IshIM2000@comcast.net

Join Marlene in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl as well as raptors. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A) on your left, at the beginning of the auto tour. FRS radios and scopes are helpful on this trip, which is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Trip will end before noon. If the bypass is closed due to flooding, the trip is canceled.

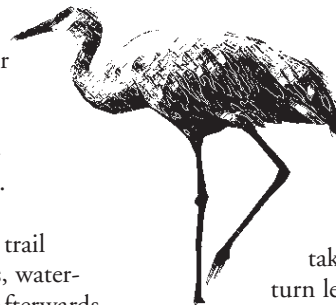
Saturday, February 28, 8am
North Natomas Regional Park
Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682
Bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a leisurely morning walk around the North Natomas Regional Park. We can expect to see a wide variety of grassland species including Meadowlarks, Ring-necked Pheasants, and Savannah Sparrows, along with herons, egrets, and waterfowl. Various wintering species of raptors, including falcons, are also possibilities. This trip will include approximately 2 to 3 miles of walking over flat terrain, and bringing liquids is recommended. Meet Ben at the parking lot on the North side of New Market Drive across from Inderkum High School. New Market Drive is off

Truxel Road approximately a mile north of Interstate 80. This is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders.

Saturday, February 28, 3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley
Save Our Sandhill Cranes and Sacramento Audubon
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

Our Sandhill Cranes will be leaving soon to migrate to their nesting grounds. Don't miss this opportunity to see them, as well as a variety of ducks, swans, geese, and shorebirds. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center deck at 3:30pm to hear a brief talk about Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll walk the Lost Slough Wetlands trail for views of the cranes, waterfowl and shorebirds. Afterwards, we'll drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars. Scopes are helpful. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org. This is a great trip for beginners and for families



Sunday, March 1, 7am
Highway 37 and Schollenberger Park, Petaluma
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

From the West Sacramento Park and Ride, Mark will lead the group towards Petaluma, with various birding stops along Hwy 37. Moving on to the Petaluma area, he'll look for Blue-winged Teal and a variety of other waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, Common Yellowthroat and the occasional rail and possibly a Peregrine Falcon. Bring lunch and liquids and layered clothing. Meet Mark at 7am at the Park and 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 and Ride lot. This is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders.

Sunday, March 1, 3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes and Sacramento Audubon trip
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

See the write up for February 28.

Saturday, March 7, 8am
Lake Solano/Putah Creek
Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris
Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net
Ann: 947-7573, burris.nellieann@gmail.com

This is a great area to find Pileated Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Brown Creeper, Barrow's Goldeneye and many other late wintering birds. Meet Tim and Ann at the Park and 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 and Ride lot.

Saturday, March 7, 9am
Nature and Birding Walk
Cosumnes River Preserve

Not an Audubon trip, but a great walk for beginning birders, this monthly First Saturday morning walk at the CRP is led by docents who will share information about the preserve, and help you identify the various birds and plant life. This time of year waterfowl are still abundant and spring is arriving on the preserve. Meet at the Visitor Center. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org.

Sunday, March 8, 7am
NOTE: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Leader: Ron Storey
Co-coordinator: Mark Martucci, 833-6722,
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Meet Tim at the West Sacramento Park and Ride, (from Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot), at 7am. Alternate meeting place is the boathouse at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park at 9am. We will bird around Stow Lake, including the island in the middle of the lake. After birding Stow Lake we will drive to Middle Lake and the surrounding area. We will then drive to the Sutro (Cliff House) area to look for ocean going birds. If there is a rare bird (i.e. Rustic Bunting)

in the area our plans will change after our walk around Stow Lake. You can expect to see Townsend's Warbler, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Brown Creeper at Stow Lake. On past trips Ron has found both turnstone species, Wandering Tattler, Surf-bird, and Red-throated Loon, not to mention the rarities Tufted Duck and Orchard Oriole on this field trip. Bring a lunch and dress in layers. This is a great trip for beginners and experienced birders. Heavy rain will cancel.

**Thursday, March 12, 8am
Mather Lake**

**Leader: Mark Sawyer, 968-1661
Marksawyer3383@yahoo.com**

Mather Lake is fast becoming one of the area's most popular birding locations, with quite a list of bird species. Join Mark to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, American Bittern, Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Yellowthroat. If you bring your camera Mark may give you some photography tips as well. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

**Saturday, March 14, 8am
Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary,
North Natomas**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

This is a little known 60-acre wetlands created when an area of open pasture in Rio Linda was used as a borrow pit to provide dirt for levee improvements in the North area of Sacramento. Mid-March should provide a good variety of species in the open water and wetland perimeters which have been planted with native riparian shrubs and trees. Maureen will walk the perimeter and explore the different habitats along the way. On a recent visit, two Beavers were seen napping in the sun on top of their lodge near the middle of the pond. This trip will last until late morning and will involve walking on a fairly good, flat trail which may be muddy depending on rainfall. From Sacramento take I-5 north, then follow Hwy 99/70 north 1.1 miles. Take the Elkhorn Boulevard exit 525B and, turning right, continue 3.1 miles, cross Steelhead Creek, and make an immediate right turn on Sorrento into a large, unpaved

parking lot. You will see a sign for the Walter S Ueda Parkway in the parking lot.

**Sunday, March 15, 6am
North Bay Birding
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net**

We will be exploring the area north of San Francisco, known as the North Bay. Scott will most likely concentrate on locations surrounding the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. This area is known for high concentrations of shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Likely stops will include American Canyon Wetlands, Huichica Creek and Hudeman Slough. But the itinerary could change depending on reports and conditions. This trip is designed for the adventurous, so be prepared for a full day of birding and fun. Bring lunch, liquids and layered clothing, as weather can be unpredictable in the Bay Area. Meet Scott at the Park and 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 and Ride lot.

**Wednesday, March 18, 9am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

This area of the parkway is excellent for birding and Cathie will be looking for early nesting birds and returning migrants, as well as blooming wildflowers. This is a very good trip for beginners, as well as more experienced birders. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park in Fair Oaks. The trip will end by noon. A Sac County Park Pass, ARNHA membership card or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.



Wood Ducks at Effie Yeaw
Linda Pittman

**FUTURE DATES OF FIELD TRIPS
FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS**

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway,
Sundays, February 22 and March 8

Location: Cosumnes River Preserve, (focusing on wintering waterfowl and wetland birds) **Sunday, February 15**

**Trips limited to 10 adult participants:
Registration required**

These beginner field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on where to look and what important field marks to look for. This walk will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. Trips are limited to 10 adult participants and registration is required. Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at (916) 457-6882, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

**LAST MONTH FOR
DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES**

A great trip for families, youth groups and beginning birders.

Stop by the Cosumnes River Preserve and check out "Ducks In Scopes", where docents have a row of scopes set up, including lower ones for children, giving you good views of the many colorful ducks and other wetland birds. A microscope and hand lens provide close-up looks at "Duck Soup", dishes of water dipped from the pond full of sand fleas, dragonfly nymphs, and other squiggly things that provide the protein the birds are feeding on. The Preserve is a quick drive from Sacramento -south on I-5 to Twin Cities Road; left (east) on Twin Cities for 1 mile; then right (south) on Franklin Blvd. The viewing area is in the first parking lot on your right as you drive into the preserve. Come any time between 10am and 2pm, on the following dates:

January: Saturday, 1/31

February: Saturdays, 2/7, 2/21,
2/28 and Sunday 2/15

Local Events

BIRD AND BREAKFAST AT EFFIE YEAW MARCH 21 AND 22

Traditional Event -- Saturday, March 21 at 8am

Family-Friendly Event -- Sunday, March 22 at 8am

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and Sacramento Audubon are teaming up to offer a special weekend of morning birding trips coupled with wonderful breakfast fare.

This event, held at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park in Carmichael, starts with Bird Walks guided by some of our best local birders. For weeks in advance, these guides scout the Nature Study Area so they will be able to point out nests and local rarities. After the Walk, you will join fellow birders for wonderful food, good coffee and other fun to help raise money for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. No extensive birding experience is necessary--this event caters to all levels.

On Saturday, the Bird Walk will be approximately 90 minutes long, followed by the traditional casserole breakfast buffet provided by some of the best cooks among ARNHA Board members and Nature Center volunteers. Participants can also bid for attractive baskets and experiences in the silent auction.

On Sunday, you can choose to join either a Family Bird Walk, a one hour walk with children 6 or over welcome, or a longer, approximately 90-minute, Adult Bird Walk open to those ages 12 and above. The Sunday event features an excellent pancake breakfast prepared by the Carmichael Kiwanis, and a nature-themed craft activity for children.

Mendocino-based Discount Binoculars will be available on Saturday showing a wide range of binoculars and spotting scopes. They feature over 25 styles of binoculars and scopes, made especially for birding, to compare and test.

This event often sells out. Reservations are required. Call 489-4918 for information, questions and to make reservations or register online at: www.sacnaturecenter.net/birdandbreakfast15.html.

8TH ANNUAL WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

The City of **Galt** in collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary School District are pleased to bring you the 8th Annual Winter Bird Festival, **Saturday, February 7**. New this year, there will be a Wildlife Habitat Celebration Dinner on **Friday, February 6**.

Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. Guided tours offer an exciting opportunity to see the birds that spend their winters in the Central Valley! Wetlands, songbird and sandhill crane tours, led by Cosumnes River Preserve managers and biologists are included so sign up and have your binoculars ready! There will be three tours for photographers and one kayak tour of the waterways at Cosumnes River Preserve. The birding tour at Heritage Oak Winery includes wine tasting and lunch, and is again led by David Yee. Google 'Galt Birding Festival' for more detailed information. Registration for the 8th annual festival is already open so check online or call so you don't miss any of your favorite tours. Sign up at the festival for a chance to win a \$300 BASS PRO Gift Card and remember, admission to the festival is free!! If you have any questions please call 209-366-7115.



**SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION
ON FACEBOOK**

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

General Meeting continued from page 1
biologist who has lived in Sacramento for many years. From 1986 to 1990, he was the editor and art director of the magazine *Mainstream*. His papers on birds and his bird illustrations have appeared in many journals and magazines. He is the author of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California*. He is the illustrator of *Field Guides to Butterflies of the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento Valley Regions* and the recently published *Field Guide to Spiders of California and the Pacific Coast States*. Tim is a long-time member of the Sacramento Audubon Society, having been involved in many of the society's activities over the years.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

BIRDING IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION

PDFs of the site information are now available online for Sacramento Audubon's book *Birding in the Sacramento Region*. They can be found at sacramentoaudubon.org/bookcontents.html. This 2008 book (which is currently being revised) contains lists of over 110 sites in the Sacramento area. Areas covered include American River Parkway, City of Sacramento, County of Sacramento, Folsom Lake Area, and selected sites in Yolo County, North of Sacramento, San Joaquin County, Solano County, and Foothills and Sierra Nevada. Each site includes concise descriptions of where and when to find resident, wintering and migrating birds. Since the information is from 2008 some things (e.g. the entrance/ parking fees) may have changed. The PDF format makes it possible for you to print out only the information you need for a day trip to the location of your choice.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

Up to four Pasadena Audubon/Western Field Ornithologists Youth Scholarships are being offered to the Western Field Ornithologists conference in Billings, Montana, June 10-14, 2015. The competitive scholarships are available to students in Grades 6 through 12. Applications are being accepted now through January 20. The WFO conference offers the opportunity for young, motivated youth to meet some of the people who earn their living and/or volunteer in field ornithology, bird conservation, biology and other distinguished fields.

Follow this link to the scholarship opportunity: www.westernfieldornithologists.org

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The Central Valley Bird Club is once again offering scholarships for young birders to attend birding camps or classes. Camp opportunities include the Sierra Nevada Field Campus near Yuba Pass sponsored by San Francisco State University, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours' Camp Chiricahua, Seattle Audubon Society's Cascades Bird Banding Camp, and other ABA Sponsored Birding Camps.

For further information on this scholarship and links to various camps, please check the website: cvbirds.org/Scholarship.htm.

The application deadline is February 15, 2015 and an essay and letter of recommendation are required. The scholarship is available to ages 10-18 (be sure to check specific camp requirements) and will cover the cost of the camp registration only. However, Sacramento Audubon may have funds available to help with travel expenses in the case of financial need.

For questions and further information please contact:

John Sterling at jsterling@wavecable.com,
or Carolyn Woodruff at
dewoodruff@comcast.net

Birding and Nature Events

2015 KLAMATH FALLS WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL FOUR DAYS! FEBRUARY 12-15

The 36th Annual Winter Wings Festival will be held in **Klamath Falls, Oregon**. The 2015 festival is once again loaded with birding and nature photography talent. The speakers this year include Richard Crossley, author of *The Crossley ID Guide* who will be Saturday's keynote speaker. Jennifer Wu, a noted nature and bird photographer specializing in images of the stars and beautiful night sky will speak on Friday night.

There are numerous photography workshops and field trips including some especially for youth; many raptor and owl prowls, and Bald Eagle flyouts. Workshops cover bird ID, photography, and even critter cams. One trip you won't find at every festival is a tracking and snowshoe adventure with a 1 mile snowshoe walk. Registration is now open and required for all activities with an associated fee, including field trips, workshops, mini-sessions, receptions, and keynotes. Register early to ensure your place; the field trips and photography workshops fill rapidly. The website with the complete schedule and registration information and forms is at: winterwingsfest.org. Further information is available at 877-541-BIRD (2473).

OLYMPIC BIRDFEST 2015, SEQUIM, WASHINGTON

From **April 10-12** the Olympic Birdfest will take place in Sequim, WA. The festival offers a most spectacular setting where you can visit the rain shadow of the Olympic Peninsula to discover the birds of the coastal Pacific Northwest—Marbled Murrelets, Rhinoceros Auklets, Harlequin Ducks, dippers, Black Oystercatchers, Long-tailed Ducks, and more. Guided field trips, a boat cruise in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, silent auction, and a gala banquet are also offered. Join the Birdfest Pre-trip on April 8-9, which is two days exploring northwest coastal Washington, a region rarely seen by birders. More information can be found at www.olympicbirdfest.org.

Immediately following BirdFest, there is a three-day, two-night birding cruise of the San Juan Islands, April 12-14, 2015. Cruise registration can be found separately at www.pugetsoundexpress.com/audubon.

GODWIT DAYS, ARCATA

The 20th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is being held **April 16-21** in Arcata, CA. Godwit Days is a week long, spring migration bird festival celebrating California's North Coast. The northern coast of California offers towering redwoods, rocky ocean coasts, wild river valleys, expansive mudflats on Humboldt Bay, and the world-renowned Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where over 270 species of birds have been sighted. Held at the peak of spring migration, shorebirds abound and special opportunities are planned to see many other species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Snowy Plover and even whale watching. Further information can be found at www.godwitdays.org or call 1-800-908-WING.

POINT REYES BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL!

Save the dates of **April 24-26** for the Bay Area's best birding and nature extravaganza! Enjoy birding at the height of spring migration with some of the best naturalists around. The keynote speaker will be Steve Howell: *SHIFT HAPPENS: Rare (Vagrant) Birds in North America*.

For more information, visit www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org. Tickets are scheduled to go on sale February 20, and all proceeds benefit the habitat conservation work of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

GOOD NEWS FOR THE TRICOLORED BLACKBIRD

Audubon California recently received a major federal grant to help grow the population of the Tricolored Blackbird, one of California's most imperiled species. The funding from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will support a partnership with Farm Bureau, Western United Dairymen and DairyCares to work with farmers to protect birds that breed in their silage fields.

Because of habitat loss in California's Central Valley, Tricolored Blackbirds often set up massive breeding colonies on dairy farms instead, which becomes a problem when the farmers need to harvest their fields for feed. Most of this \$1.1 million grant will go to farmers who delay harvesting in order to give the birds time to fledge their chicks, and will also fund off-farm habitat restoration to encourage these birds to safely set up their colonies away from the dairy farms.

Although this grant provides much-needed funding for Tricolored Blackbird conservation, the fact that it is a matching grant means that Audubon California will still rely on supporters to help fund silage

buyouts, perform habitat restoration, and do other important conservation tasks.

The Tricolored Blackbird program is one of six new partnership-driven conservation projects in California funded under a new section of the 2014 Farm Bill. Two of those six provide conservation benefits on a multi-state level.

"We are excited and energized by the new opportunities made possible with a strong mix of partners involved in the RCPP projects that will take place here in California," said NRCS State Conservationist Carlos Suarez. "It is very powerful to be able to engage in partnerships that embrace both agricultural and environmental interests and perspectives—and find collaborative ways of making progress on critical issues such as

avian habitat, climate change, groundwater protection and more."

The funding comes at a critical time for the Tricolored Blackbird. In December, the California Fish and Game Commission approved an emergency listing for the species under the state's Endangered Species Act. The move was in response to a recent statewide survey showing a 44 percent decline in Tricolored Blackbirds since 2011. Tricolored Blackbirds live almost entirely in California.

The new grant takes to a whole new level work that Audubon California has been doing in partnership with the NRCS for the last three years. Partnering with the Farm Bureau, Western United Dairymen and DairyCares on outreach and education to dairy farmers is a critical element.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

Seasonal Observations

December 1 to December 31 Rare and Unusual Bird Reports www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

The highlight of the month came on the last day of the year with a **Long-tailed Duck** found downstream of Sailor Bar on the American River Parkway (ARP), the same spot where one was found 20 years earlier. Other interesting waterfowl included the **Falcated Duck** at Colusa NWR continuing into January, a high of 34 **Blue-winged Teal** at Bridgeway Island Pond in West Sacramento on 12/31, a female/immature **Red-breasted Merganser** at the same location also on 12/31, another **Red-breasted Merganser** on Folsom Lake on 12/7, and another continuing from November on ARP into January. An impressive total of 137 **Hooded Mergansers** were found on the 12/14 Putah Creek CBC. A Red-throated Loon and possibly two **Pacific Loons** were reported on Folsom Lake 12/4-7, and a **Red-necked Grebe** was on Lake Berryessa on 12/14.

Rough-legged Hawks were not widespread this month, with reports limited to one found on 12/13 (and continuing) near the intersection of Yolo County Rds 103 and 28H and up to three reported off Payen Rd south of Folsom, beginning on 12/22. Six **Swainson's Hawks**, a rare winter bird in the Delta, and a **Ferruginous Hawk** were along Hwy 12 just west of Lodi on 12/27. At least three **Glaucous Gulls** were in Yolo County, with an adult at the Davis WTP on 12/6 and the Yolo Bypass on 12/27, and two 2nd cycle birds were in the vicinity of the Landfill and WTP. On 12/14 a **Greater Roadrunner** near Rds 31 and 91A was just the third Putah Creek CBC record. **Band-tailed Pigeons** continued in impressive numbers, with over 200 recorded on 12/1 and 12/29 at Michigan Bar. The two male **Costa's Hummingbirds** (Putah Creek between Davis and Winters and the other in South Sacramento) continued, and a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was photographed on 12/4 in the Hollywood Park neighborhood of Sacramento.

An amazing 292 **Steller's Jays** were reported on the Putah Creek CBC (previous high of 78), though they were slightly less widespread in the region than they had been a month earlier. Other interesting songbirds included a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at William Land Park on 12/12 (with probably the same bird continuing on 12/31), a **Cliff Swallow** at the Yolo Bypass on 12/27, and an **American Dipper** at the traditional location below the Hwy 128 bridge in the Putah Creek Canyon from 12/7 throughout December. **Varied Thrushes** were widespread, with moderate to shockingly high numbers. An example of the latter was 85 counted in one area of William Land Park on 12/14 and other reports of over 60 in view at one time. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was found on 12/27 along Babel Slough Rd and continuing into January; a **Chipping Sparrow** was at Teal Bend Golf Course on the same date; five **Western Tanagers** were in the same tree in William Land Park on 12/17, and **Pine Siskins** continued to be numerous and widespread.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Linda Alameda	David Panush
Taylor Florence	Colene Rauh
Kent Hutchings	Roberts Rogerson
Steve Lilley	Beverly Sales
Laurie Litman	Gwen Schoen
Ray and Patricia	Dale Steele
Missman	Rich Wilcoxon

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on February 24, 2015 at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

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. Please include your email address if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List for letter/email writing on conservation issues.

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair, llandry46@comcast.net
11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

Date _____ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

Send address changes to our Membership Chair to help keep down our costs.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html).

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Lyann Comrack, Matthew Dodder, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Jim Holmes, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Jolie Lipsig, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Mark Sawyer, Charles Smith, Kirk Swenson, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, Bruce Webb, Amy Welsh, Dan Welsh, and Deb Weston.

Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

Chris Conard

YOUR SUSTAINABLE BACKYARD CREATING A LIVING LANDSCAPE

Save the Date! Saturday, March 28, 2015

Topics to Include:

- Plants that provide “refugia” for wildlife
- Attracting birds to your landscape
- Not-so-common beneficial insects
- Green roof applications
- Less toxic methods of pest control

Join the California Center for Urban Horticulture for this workshop to learn how to create a living landscape. Garden enthusiasts and Master Gardeners welcome.

Contact Anne Schellman at aschellman@ucdavis.edu for more information. Workshop registration and more information will be posted in early February at ccuh.ucdavis.edu.



Sacramento Audubon Society
11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1297
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

Sacramento Audubon Society



www.sacramentoaudubon.org



White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
llandry46@comcast.net

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

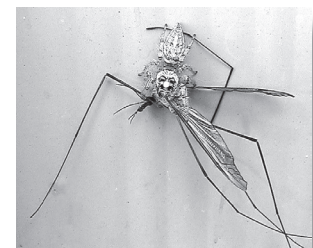
Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, sawise7@sbcglobal.net

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 monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

February 19, 2015 with Tim Manolis,
California Spiders
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm



Jumping Spider (female *Thiodina hespera*) eating a crane fly
Linda Pittman