



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2014  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center  
Assembly Room, 7pm

### Biological Exploration of the Mekongga Mountains, Sulawesi, Indonesia

Andy Engilis, Jr.

Join Andy Engilis, Curator of the UC Davis Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology, as he shares the fantastic biological discoveries made in an unexplored region of Indonesia, the Mekongga Mountains. Never before systematically surveyed for its diversity Andy will highlight the plants, insects, and vertebrates discovered in this very remote region of the World; including many species new to science. The expeditions took place from 2009–2011 and the results have led to the establishment of a new national park protecting this unique rain-forest system of Wallacea—one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

Born and raised in Sacramento and Davis, Andy Engilis has been the Curator of the Museum of Wildlife Fisheries Biology

(MWFBB) at the University of California Davis since the year 2000. He is a Research Associate of the Bishop Museum, Hawaii. Andy has been a birder since 1970 and has traveled throughout the world since. His current research activities include biogeography and avian community ecology, recovery of endangered species, waterfowl conservation, and faunal inventories. His research is centered in California, Chile, Indonesia, and the Hawaiian Islands. In addition, Andy is an ornithologist that specializes in the avifauna of Pacific

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Nicobar Pigeon  
Andy Engilis, Jr

## Farallon Islands Boat Trip

**SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014**

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 24th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! We'll travel out the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We'll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Tufted Puffin, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. What will we see this year? Join us and discover for yourself!

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## MARCH BIRD AND BREAKFAST ANOTHER BIG SUCCESS

Jamie Washington

With almost perfect spring weather, this year's two days of Bird and Breakfast dazzled attendees with wonderful views of wildlife behavior and wonderful breakfasts. Both the Traditional Saturday Bird and Breakfast and the newer Family Bird and Breakfast on Sunday were sold out.

Birding experts from Sacramento Audubon guided small groups through the 100-acre nature study area, helping guests see bird activity and nests, deer, and other wildlife. Turkeys astrut with fanned tails and in full mating color put on a show.

Thirty-one ARNHA volunteers signed in guests; prepared wonderful casseroles, fruit salads, and breakfast breads and jams; created gift baskets for the silent auction; passed out parking permits; photographed the event; worked the children's table on Sunday; set up, cleaned up, and more. On Sunday, Carmichael Kiwanis volunteers prepared and served their signature pancakes and sausage breakfast.

SAS contributed twenty-two volunteers who led tours both days and manned spotting scopes for unique views of hummingbird and bushtit nests. They helped young and old spot forty-five different bird species on Saturday including the unusual sightings of a Barrow's Goldeneye and a juvenile American Bald Eagle. Sunday birders spotted 50 different species.

But even more impressive, as Sunday's event was winding down, some of the children who had gone on the morning walk spotted and identified—on their own—a previously unnoticed Bushtit nest just in front of the Assembly Building! How many kids can do that?

Jamie Washington is Volunteer Coordinator for Effie Yeaw Nature Center

# Field Trip Findings

**Serrano Parkway (4/13)** — Leader John Ginn reported: “A bit foggy, it was a fabulous mix of a winter and spring morning for a bird walk at Serrano Parkway of El Dorado Hills. There were 38 species identified. The remains of winter were a flock of 12-15 American Wigeon, a solitary female Bufflehead, four Cedar Waxwings and some White-crown and Golden-crown Sparrows. Throughout the walk, among the ever present Red-winged Blackbirds, the flutter and squeals of Western Kingbirds boasted that spring had arrived. Towards the end of the walk we spied an American Kestrel showing off in the sun. There was the usual White-breasted Nuthatch, but this one was perched high on a snag singing away with a “weep-weep, weep-weep, weep-weep.” Topping off the morning, our party drove to Bass Lake, one exit east, where nine more species were added. Among them were a pair of Lesser Scaup (male and female) and an Osprey soaring.”

**Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults, William Pond Park (4/13)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Highlights of this beginners’ trip were scope views of Great and Snowy Egrets side by side, allowing for good comparisons. We found a Red-shouldered Hawk nesting, and also a Bushtit nest. Western Kingbirds were active, and participants enjoyed good views of California Quail and Yellow-billed Magpies. John Huls pointed out blooming fiddleneck and Yerba Santa and a stand of pipevine provided some good looks at caterpillars.”

**Granite Regional Park (4/12)** — Leader Ben Graber reported: “Despite a few issues, we still managed to have a good time and see a decent number of birds. 15 or so people showed up, and the highlights were a Black-throated Gray Warbler, a Lincoln’s Sparrow, a Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Western Kingbirds, and a very cooperative Common Gallinule that was well seen by all.”

**Mather Lake (4/9)** — Harlin Perryman filled in for Wayne Blunk and led and reported the group of nine saw 44 birds. Highlights were an Osprey, Bullock’s Oriole, White-tailed Kite and Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

**Mather Lake Park (4/6)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Twenty observers spent a beautiful morning spotting some 46 species of birds. Highlights were a Brown-headed Cowbird, Bullock’s Oriole,

Western Bluebird, Downy Woodpecker, Lincoln’s Sparrow and Western Kingbird. A fun and spirited discussion played out in the group about whether we were seeing a Wilson’s Warbler or an Orange-crowned Warbler. All agreed it was a warbler. A minor disappointment for the group was that no Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen or heard.”

**Caswell Memorial State Park (4/5)** — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “This spring day started with temperatures in the low 60s, warming to the low 70s by the afternoon, but with a steady breeze all day, which moderated the feel of the air. As is typical of this park in spring, with tall canopy and lush understory, the sounds of birds filled our senses throughout the day. House Wren, Downy Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee and Lincoln’s Sparrow were heard often and seen, some. High above we had a migrating flock of White-faced Ibis. We also had numerous looks at Swainson’s Hawk and heard their calls often. Along the river we had Northern Rough-winged Swallows and flushed several Wood Ducks. Along the Majestic Oaks Trail we flushed a Great Horned Owl twice, likely two individuals. Perhaps the best bird of the day was an Allen’s Hummingbird; unfortunately not seen by all birders. This species is a new record for this park by SAS birders. At trip day’s end, seven birders tallied 41 species.”

**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway (3/30)** — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Ten birders saw 56 species of birds on a bright sunny morning along the American River. Highlights included Green Heron, Wood Duck, Western Kingbird, Bufflehead, White-tailed Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Violet-green Swallow.”

**Beginning Birding Field Trip (3/30)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Our beginning birders totaled 48 species on this sunny morning walk. We had Lark, Chipping, White- and Golden-crowned

Sparrows, as well as brilliant American and Lesser Goldfinches. While scoping the heron/egret rookery, Dan Tankersley spotted a Great Horned Owl using one of the heron nests. White-tailed Kites were displaying; House Wrens were singing and it was Spring everywhere. Good looks at a very colorful Western Bluebird at the end of the walk was, as Mike Pease said, “the icing on the cake.”

**Ancil Hoffman Park (3/26)** — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Canceled due to heavy rain and muddy trails.”

**Yolo Wildlife Area (3/25)** — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: “The group was able to enjoy a morning of birding before the rains started. The best bird of the morning was the Glaucous Gull in Field 31. We had a chance to study its field marks and enjoy this rarity at the Bypass. Other highlights included Cinnamon, Green-winged, and Blue-winged Teals; Black-bellied Plovers; American Avocets in breeding plumage; large flocks of Dunlins; and flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. The Bypass never disappoints.”



Northern Gosawk  
Steven D'Amato

**Sacramento Bar American River Parkway (3/23)** — Leader Paul Cordero reported: “A group of seasoned birders had a great walk along the American River. A few ducks remained on the river, including American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, and Common Mergansers. Several Wood Ducks perched high in a tree. Great Blue Herons were observed on their nests. Raptors included the usual suspects and a possible Merlin. End-of-season sparrows included crowned sparrows, Lincoln’s and Fox. Bushtits were all paired up and we got a good look at a nest. Gorgeous Yellow-rumped Warblers and American Goldfinches were enjoyed by all.”

**Sunrise Boulevard section of the American River (3/22)** — Leader Jane Taylor: “Twelve of us, including a youngster named Holton with his dad and grandmother, set out on the horse trail at Upper Sunrise parkway on a clear, cool morning, after observing a River Otter swimming under the Fair Oaks foot bridge. We tallied 56 species and logged 4.5 miles for the morning, non-

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# Field Trips

## 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 Carla Barbaro, 717-8808, cbarbaro@comcast.net, for trips through May 13. For trips beginning May 14 through June 15, contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com; and June 16 through July 6, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.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.



Northern Shrike  
Steven D'Amato

### Saturday, May 3, 7am

**Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky  
Auburn State Recreation Area  
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
shoppe01@surewest.net**

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is Scott's favorite 'secret' birding spot. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Gray, Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end mid-day, but plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. NOTE: there is now a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

### Sunday, May 4, 7am

**Spenceville WLR  
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124  
offleash56@yahoo.com**

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. 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.

**Saturday, May 10, 8am to noon  
Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek  
Leader: Lea Landry, 638-1141  
llandry46@comcast.net.**

This morning walk will include riparian habitat, ridge trails and a good view of Lake Natoma. Lea will be looking for both woodland birds and waterfowl. There may be some short steep climbs on the trail, and if the rains come it may be muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring liquids and snacks if you wish. Lea usually finds a nice variety of birds on this trip, which is suitable for both beginning and experienced birders. Meet Lea in the parking lot of the Snowberry Creek Equestrian Staging area, (Shadow Glen Stables), about ¼ mile east on Main, from where Main and Sunset Avenues meet in Orangevale.

### Sunday, May 11, 6am

**Sand Creek Road  
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207  
spkua2@comcast.net  
Mark Martucci, 833-6722  
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-

Box. Take 1-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

### Wednesday, May 14, 7:30am

**River Bend Park  
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882  
empid@earthlink.net**

Join Cathie for a walk through the oak woodland to the river, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

### Saturday, May 17, 7:30am

**Mather Field  
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457  
wayne.blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne 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.

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**Saturday, May 17, 10:30am**  
**Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk**

Join Sacramento Audubon birders Craig DeMartini and Muriel Parker, with Nature Center docent Brena Seck for a family friendly nature and birding walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. 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](http://sacnaturecenter.net).

**Sunday, May 18, 6 am**  
**Mosquito Ridge Road to French Meadows**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@surewest.net**

Join Scott for this early season trip into the lower to mid elevation Sierra. While seemingly a bit early for this area, Scott has found it very productive in this time period. Highlights from a solo trip last year produced 6 species of woodpecker including Pileated and White-headed, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific and Canyon Wrens and several warbler species. Plan for an all day trip. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be walking 1-2 miles over moderate terrain. Meet at 6am at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Rd in Loomis. Exit 110 off I-80.

**Tuesday, May 20, 8am**  
**Upper Sunrise Parkway, Nimbus Fish Hatchery**  
**Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758**  
**ishim2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene for a morning stroll along the American River Parkway beginning at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery. Hopefully we will see Ash-throated Flycatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, Western Bluebird, Tree Swallows, and Bewick's Wren. This is a good trip for beginning birders. We will be walking about 2 miles on flat surfaces at a slow pace. Meet Marlene at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot (north end of the lot) at Hazel Avenue and Hwy 50 at 8am.

**Saturday, May 24, time TBD**  
**Dragonfly trip**

**Location: TBD**  
**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009**  
**Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, Tim will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

**Sunday, May 25, 6am**  
**Sierra Valley**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@surewest.net**



*Pileated Woodpecker*  
Steven D'Amato

The month of May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. This gem of the Sierras is unique in that it has characteristics of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin, yet is part of the western drainage. The Feather River flows out of the northwestern corner of Sierra Valley, through the Sierras and into the central valley, where it joins the Sacramento River. We will stop on the way at Kyburz Flat to look for nesting Mountain Bluebirds and other montane species, and Sandhill Cranes are possible here as well. Birding will be done mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

**Saturday, May 31, 7am**  
**Crystal Basin**  
**Leaders:**  
**Phyllis Wilburn, 530-642-9942 and**  
**Wendy Money, 205-3194**  
**Phyllis: abirder@aol.com**  
**Wendy: wendydougmsn.com**

Phyllis and Wendy will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers, vireos and other birds of the area. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginners and experienced birders are

welcome. Meet Wendy at the Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit#30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. You can also meet Phyllis at 8am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

**Sunday, June 1, 7am**  
**Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain**  
**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 species; Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

**Saturday, June 7, 6am**  
**Mosquito Ridge, Placer County**  
**Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124**  
**offleash56@yahoo.com**

Richard will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end by mid-afternoon. We will be walking about 2-3 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet in 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.

**Sunday, June 8, 6am**  
**Granite Springs Road**  
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207,**  
**Mark Martucci, 833-6722 and**  
**Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**Tim: spskua2@comcast.net**  
**Mark: matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**  
**Scott: shoppe01@surewest.net**

Join Tim, Mark and Scott for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wrights Lake Road, a distance of about 8 miles. We should find Mountain Quail with young, and possibly Evening Grosbeaks, flycatch-

ers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Calliope Hummingbird. Around Wright's Lake we expect to find Pine Grosbeak, Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. FRS Radios are helpful. Since Granite Springs Road is dirt, we will scout its condition to determine its drivability. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15**  
**8am, onsite both Saturday and Sunday**  
**Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/  
Yuba Pass**  
**Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636**  
**calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra/Antelope Valleys or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. Antelope Valley is located at the southern end of Sierra Valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks, and includes a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire. We will bird the Sierra/Antelope Valleys area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, and the Yuba Pass area on Sunday until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola, Calpine and Sierra City. US Forest Service campgrounds are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/13. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

**Saturday, June, 21, 7:30am**  
**Indian Grinding Rocks State Park**  
**Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495**  
**yellowhammerCA@gmail.com**

Join Cliff for a day of birding at this State Park. The birdlife varies depending on the season, but many species are seen year round, including Turkey Vultures, Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, Wild Turkeys

(non-native), and California Thrashers. In summer, the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods around the meadow. A bird list is available at the museum. Meet Cliff at the Starbucks parking area in the College Greens Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (near Florin-Perkins, between Watt and Howe) at 7:30am. Trip goes till 2 or 3 pm so bring water and lunch. Some light to moderate walking.

**Sunday, June 22, 7:30am**  
**Mather Lake**  
**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**  
**wayne.blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne 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 great trip for beginning birders.

**Saturday, June 28, 7am**  
**Fremont Weir/Sacramento River**  
**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This riparian stretch along the Sacramento River north of Woodland also features large expanses of meadow/grassland where Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings and Western Kingbirds have nested in recent years. Swallows, bluebirds, orioles, wrens and Swainson's Hawks are usually present also. This easy walk will last until late morning and be mostly in the sun so hats, liquids and sunscreens are good. Meet Maureen at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1 for a departure at 7am sharp. Secondary meeting spot is the Jack in the Box in Woodland just off I-5 at the Road 102 exit. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. We will leave there by 7:45 (this is the last opportunity for a restroom break). Call Maureen if questions.

**Sunday, June 29**  
**Bats and Swainson's Hawks**  
**Leader, Jude Lamare, 916-447-4956**  
**Friends Of The Swainson's Hawk**  
**judelam@sbcglobal.net**

Join Jude along with bat expert, JoEllen Arnold to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge while Swainson's Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Jude Lamare for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, July 5, 6am**  
**Loney Meadow**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@surewest.net**

Come join Scott for this July trip. Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

**Sunday, July 6, 7am**  
**Ice House Road and Crystal Basin area**  
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207 and**  
**Richard Barbieri, 761-1124**  
**Tim: spskua2@comcast.net**  
**Richard: offleash56@yahoo.com**

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento and is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, flycatchers, warblers and other surprises. Mountain wildflowers are a possibility so bring your flower field guides. Several stops will be made along Ice House Road and side roads for short walks. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Meet Tim and Richard at the Bella Bru Cafe at the south end of the Raley's parking in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

*Field Trips* continued on page 6

*Field Trips* continued from page 5

**Saturday, July 12, time TBD**

**Dragonflytrip**

**Location: TBD**

**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009**

**Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners etc, but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars, water to drink and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

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### *General Meeting*

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Islands, North America, and Australasia. Andy has published 80 professional papers dealing with avian distribution, systematics, and life histories in California, Hawaii, Western Great Basin, Chile, Tanzania, Mexico, and New Guinea.

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](http://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).

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*

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### **FAMILY-FRIENDLY TRIP DATES**

Sacramento Audubon is merging education activities with Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael as a way of maximizing efforts to serve families with children who would like to be out of doors and enjoy nature walks. The next date is **Saturday, May 17**. The walks begin at 10:30am.

Reservations are not needed. Simply show up at Effie Yeaw Nature Center at the appropriate day and time and walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge.

## **BIRDERS ARRIVING IN DROVES TO SEE MARSH SANDPIPER IN SOLANO COUNTY**

The rare arrival of a Marsh Sandpiper to California is big news to birders in this state and beyond. The bird, which is native to Europe and Asia, arrived here the early part of April and has attracted a ton of attention. It's also lighting up all the birding listservs. Check out this great video taken by the unstoppable Keith Hansen: [audublog.org/?p=12524](http://audublog.org/?p=12524)

And from the **American Birding Association blog:**

[blog.aba.org/2014/04/abarare-marsh-sandpiper-california.html](http://blog.aba.org/2014/04/abarare-marsh-sandpiper-california.html)

By Nate Swick, on April 10, 2014

On the evening of 4/9, Roger Muskat discovered an ABA Code 5 Marsh Sandpiper in Solano County, California. The bird was found again the next day early in the morning, but has proven to be intermittent, finally showing again on the evening of 4/10. This is the second record for California and only the second record of the species in the ABA Area away from Alaska.

The bird was seen on South Liberty Island Road, just north of the town of Rio Vista. Marsh Sandpiper is extremely rare in the ABA Area, and known from only about 10 records, most of which come from the central and western Aleutians and the Pribilofs. Outside of the ABA Area, the species is known from at least 2 records from Hawaii and one from Baja California, Mexico (2011). Notably, a Marsh Sandpiper found and photographed at the northern Salton Sea last fall was California's first, and the first ABA Area record away from Alaska.

Perhaps most interesting is that this individual represents the first spring record for the ABA Area. According to Howell et al, Marsh Sandpiper distribution is too westerly and migration is too much overland to contribute to the spring drift migration of vagrant shorebirds in the western Alaskan islands. Which suggests that this individual was likely one that overwintered in the New World.

### *Findings* continued from page 2

ing our listening skills along the way. Highlights included a 2nd or 3rd year Bald Eagle, observed on both sides of the river before it flew downstream; an Acorn Woodpecker clearing a nest hole from the inside; a Myrtle's race Yellow-rumped Warbler; and a calling Cooper's Hawk."

(Two days later, Cathie LaZier wrote to Field Trip Findings: "Here's Jane's write up for her 3/22 trip, and I'm forwarding it to Wayne (Blunk) as well, since he also saw an Immature Bald Eagle the same day a little farther downstream during the Effie Yeaw Nature Center's Bird and Breakfast event. (Wayne Blunk replies: "Cathie, Pete...I would speculate this was the same bird I saw from the northeast corner of Ancil Hoffman fly up river clear around the curve towards Lower Sunrise...great sighting for all.")

**Yolo Wildlife Area and Davis Wetlands (3/16)** — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Twelve birders saw 77 species of birds on a very nice 78 degree day in Yolo county. Highlights included Glaucous Gull, Redhead, Great Horned Owl, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Yellow-headed Blackbird, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis and American Avocet."

### **Lake Solano/Putah Creek (3/15)**

— Leader Tim Fitzer reported: "Twelve birders met and had a great day at Lake Solano. We birded the Solano Lake dam area, the campground and the picnic areas. Some of the highlights were Osprey, Brown Creeper, Phainopepla, and Lewis, Downy and Acorn woodpeckers, and Red breasted Sapsucker, Purple Finch and many species of waterfowl. Pam Thompson spotted a Great Horned Owl perched and its mate on a nest. A beautiful day and many fun birders."

### **Arbor Day Birding, Estates Drive, American River Parkway (3/14)**

— Leader John Huls reported: "Eight of us enjoyed watching the competition for nesting cavities high in the Fremont cottonwoods and Valley Oak snags. Checking out the holes were a pair of Wood Ducks, numerous starlings, Tree swallows, Nuttall's and Downy woodpeckers, Bewick's and Marsh wrens, Oak titmice and even a female House Sparrow. Late rains created lush spring growth and we were able to identify many of the plants and most of the trees from ARNHA's *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*."

*Pete Hayes*

A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure lecture and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. We'll be on the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. The trip cost is \$90 per person. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Your space will be confirmed by email after the reservation form and your check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided after the June reservation deadline. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876 for further information.

### Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 13, 2014 Registration deadline: June 15, 2014  
Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$90 per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (with zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:  
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693



### SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY NOMINATIONS FOR 2014-2015

The Sacramento Audubon Board recommends the following slate of officers for the 2014/15 fiscal year. This is the revised slate of nominations which will be voted on in May. Other nominations may still be made from the floor.

President	Linda Pittman
Vice President	Subhash Chand
Treasurer	Marcia Ferkovich
Recording Secretary	Keith Wagner
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt
Directors	Bill Bianco
	Gary Fregien
	Larry Hickey
	Darrell Mohr
	Jonilynn Okano

### SAS OUTREACH

Audubon volunteers have been very active this spring. 22 SAS birders led trips or manned scopes at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Bird and Breakfast fundraiser. Our Outreach Table was at the Earth Fest at the Sacramento Zoo, Welcoming Back the Swainson's Hawks event at Sutter's Landing, and Creek Week at Carmichael Park. Subhash Chand and Jerry Towner gave presentations to a University Women's Club, a Garden Club and a Retirement Home. Volunteer birders continue to co-lead monthly Family Friendly birding walks at Effie Yeaw Nature Center and adult Beginning Birder walks at William Pond. Our Outreach Table will be at Walk On The Wildside in May, and the Fair Oaks Harvest Fair in August. We can always use more volunteers, so if you're interested call or email Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, or 457-6882.

## Birding and Nature Events

### WALK ON THE WILDSIDE!, SATURDAY, MAY 17, 10AM-4PM

Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see one of approximately four heron rookeries in Sacramento County on a Bufferlands guided tour. This rookery contains over 120 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets and double crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. For more information call 875-WILD.

### ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 13th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 20-22**, so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining, but field trips extend as far south as the White Mountains where bristlecone pines are found. Several surrounding lakes are visited, the ghost town of Bodie and neighboring wetlands, and an owling trip is planned. Besides field trips the festival offers music, art and science exhibits. Registration begins April 15th and more information can be found at [birdchautauqua.org](http://birdchautauqua.org). Many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

### LIVE EXCITEMENT

It's nest cam time again. Follow nest building, bird sex!, egg laying, hatching and fledging at some of these web cams:

[www.calacademy.org/webcams/farallones/](http://www.calacademy.org/webcams/farallones/) for all the activity at the Farallones. This is an informative site for the Farallones and all the bird activity and research that goes on there.

[cams.allaboutbirds.org/live-cams/](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/live-cams/)

which last year featured Ospreys in Montana and Great Blue Heron and Red-tail Hawk in Ithaca, New York, has added Barn Owls, Barred Owls and Laysan Albatross in Hawaii.

For Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills and Common Terns from Seal Island, Maine go to [explore.org](http://explore.org) and click on the Live Cams tab though it appears the season hasn't started quite yet. Also at [explore.org/live-cams/player/live-osprey-cam](http://explore.org/live-cams/player/live-osprey-cam) are a pair of Ospreys. An Audubon blog says of them: Hog Island's best-loved (and most-watched) couple Rachel and Steve are nesting together again after spending a long season apart! The Osprey wintered separately in and around South America - thousands of miles away from their home in Maine - but have found their way back into the wings of one another. The two are having no trouble picking up right where they left off.

### 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.

### EAST AFRICA IN 2015

Ed Harper has announced there are still a few openings for the Tanzania safari he and Susan Scott are leading March 6-20, 2015. This date frame is an excellent time to observe masses of wildlife from the calving season and the throngs of wintering birds from Europe and Asia. Drawing on their many years of experience, Ed and Susan have designed a highly productive itinerary. Camps and lodges have been carefully chosen to maximize the wildlife viewing experience. This friendly and inviting country is very safe and has some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities in all of Africa.

For more information for prices and itineraries, contact Ed at [calidris@surewest.net](mailto:calidris@surewest.net) or call him at 971-3311 or 704-7954.



Cheetah  
Ed Harper

### 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 May 27, 2014 at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

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



## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

### SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Leslie Amsberry  
Michelle Casey-Tattersall  
Douglas and Mary Davy  
Alan Dutra  
Carole Gates  
Jill Pease  
Slue Railsback  
Kristie Shaw  
Marilyn Spiegell

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

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@comcast.net

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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



*Spotted Sandpiper*  
Steven D'Amato

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Terry Atkinson, Anne Bersinger, Michael Corlew, Alan Dutra, Connie Gehrt, Gary Harbison, Jim Hepler, Jeff and Bunkie Mangum, Darrell Mohr, Gerald Swafford, Arthur Watkins and Liz Williamson to the **General Fund**.

Anne Bersinger, Grant Boice, Peggy Garrick, Carole Gates, Jean Gervin, Gary Harbison, Jim Hepler, Eugene Masuda, Claudio Monge, Nancy Schoellkopf and Gerald Swafford to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Sharon Wisecarver made a donation in memory of **Jack Hiehle**.

*Observations* continued from page 10

the Pedrick Rd Bridge on 3/7, the continuing **Harris's Sparrow** in north Davis off of Cortez Ave, two **Red Crossbills** over east Davis on 3/28, and several early reports of **Lawrence's Goldfinches** in the last week of the month along Latrobe Rd in Sacramento County.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html](http://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](http://cvbirds.org)) and in eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Dan Airola, Chris Dunford, Todd Easterla, Tim Fitzer, Gary Fregien, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, John Harris, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Jim Laughlin, Eric LoPresti, John Luther, Mark Martucci, Tristan McKee, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, John Sterling, Michael Strom, Craig Swolgaard, and John Trochet.

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

*Chris Conard*

# Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

March is an interesting month with a mix of winter and spring. The swallows arrive in force and the first of the colorful migrants, **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles**, are seen while thousands of ducks and geese remain. Shorebird numbers build and the last of the **Sandhill Cranes** leave as **Swainson's Hawks** arrive. The **Red-breasted Merganser** found on the American River near the Gristmill access on 2/22 continued through March and into April. A **Northern Goshawk** was reported near the Old Salmon Falls Bridge at Folsom Lake on 3/23.

Among the notable shorebird reports were three **Snowy Plovers** near the Granite Bay boat ramp at Folsom Lake on 3/29. Early **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported from both the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 3/25. The adult **Slaty-backed Gull** (a state review species) and adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** reported from the landfill south of Dixon at Hwy 113 and Hay Rd last month continued through 3/4, and a second-cycle **Slaty-backed Gull** was reported at the Davis WTP on the same day. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** found near the landfill on Ostrom Rd southeast of Beale Air Force Base on 3/5-6 was a first Yuba County record. A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull** at the Davis WTP continued through much of the month and it or another was at the Yolo Bypass

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Wildlife Area on 3/22.  
A **Common Poorwill** was calling along

Latrobe Rd in Sacramento County on 3/24. The male **Costa's Hummingbird** that wintered along Putah Creek between Davis and Winters continued through the month, while a male **Calliope Hummingbird** was at the same location on 3/30. A **Hairy Woodpecker** was reported at Lake Natoma near the Young Wo access on 3/26, and a male **Yellow-shafted Flicker** was at the same location on 3/5. An early singing "**Solitary**" **Vireo** (probably a **Cassin's**) was at CRP on 3/23, and an early **Wilson's Warbler** was reported in east Davis on 3/28. Single **Black-throated Sparrows** were found and photographed, with one at Yolo County Rd 16 and Ridge Cut Slough, east of Rd 102, from 3/5-21, and the other at Rancho Murieta from 3/16-17. Other interesting reports included a **Vesper Sparrow** on Payen Rd on 3/30, the continuing **Swamp Sparrow** along Putah Creek near

*Observations* continued on page 9

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

**Internet Address:** [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
[llandry46@comcast.net](mailto:llandry46@comcast.net)

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

**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, [sawise7@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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.

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