



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Birds and Culture of Oaxaca

Rudy Darling

In March 2010, Rudy Darling and three other Nevada County birders went on a 12-day birding and culture trip to Oaxaca, Mexico. They took over 2,000 photos and Rudy has selected some of the best to share in this presentation. The emphasis will be on birds, but will also include some cultural aspects of the trip.

Oaxaca lies at the southern end of Mexico. Habitat varies from desert to cloud forest to coastal mangrove swamps, and the bird life reflects this diversity. Many of the winter birds there are familiar to us as summer breeders up north. Others are more typical of Central American countries further south. A handful of them are endemic to Oaxaca. Indigenous human cultures include Mixtec and Zapotec peoples. Monte Alban overlooks the city of Oaxaca and is one of the premier pre-columbian archeological sites in the area. Join us as Rudy takes us on a brief tour of the amazing birds and culture of this southern treasure.

Rudy Darling has been a birder since 1963 and a member of the board of Sierra Foothills Audubon Society (SFAS) since 1998. He is in charge of the Grass Valley Christmas Bird Count and the SFAS Bird-A-Thon fundraiser. He also leads field trips and teaches classes for SFAS and Sierra College, specializing in owls and birding by ear. He is Nevada County editor for *North American Birds* and *eBird*. His formal training includes a BA in Biology and an MS in Ecology. He is retired from a career in analytical laboratory work.

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/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).



Russet-crowned Motmot
Rudy Darling

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 18th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium, November 20-23, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton. Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends! Meet new ones! Take advantage of the scrumptious Hors D'oeuvres buffet and No Host Bar on Thursday night.

Thursday night's Keynote speaker is Ed Harper presenting a program on *Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley*. Ed is a widely known, popular and highly sought after speaker.

Friday night's keynote program is presented by Nat Seavey on *From Flood to Drought: A Bird's-Eye View of Water Management in the Central Valley*. Nat Seavey, is the Research Director of the Pacific Coast and Central Valley Group at Point Blue Conservation Science (formerly PRBO). His research is focused on the ecology and conservation of riparian ecosystems, bird migration, the ecological effects of climate change, and applying science to conservation decision making and public policy.

Saturday night's keynote program is presented by Joel Greenberg on *The Echoes of Their Wings: The Life and Legacy of the Passenger Pigeon*. For the past four years he has been a leader in Project Passenger Pigeon which aims to mark the anniversary of the species' extinction. He is co-producing with director David Mrazek the documentary, *From Billions to None: The Passenger Pigeon's Flight to Extinction*.

Workshops include: *Subspecies for Birders* by Joe Morlan, *What Birders Should Know About Taxonomy in Flux* by Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett, and a photo workshop by Bob Steele, plus, informative talks by Monica Iglesia, Sara Kross, and Bob Meese. Andy Engilis and his UCD Museum crew will present the very popular Specimen Workshop.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips or register, check out our website at: <http://www.2013cvbs.org/>

Registration: <http://www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2014>

Field Trip Findings

Sacramento Bar (8/14) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “The morning started fast. The parking lot and the surrounding area had birds everywhere, however, nothing unusual. The five of us continued along the river, and spotted a pair of Phainopeplas. Farther along we encountered a Black-headed Grosbeak. We had a total of 31 species. A lady from Texas went home happy. She added a few more birds to her total.”

North Bay Marshes (8/9) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “Ten of us, including Shelly on only her second Sac Audubon outing, searched the Napa-Sonoma marsh area for water and shorebirds on a breezy, cool morning. Highlights included Black-bellied Plovers in left-over breeding plumage and side-by-side comparisons of Long- and Short-billed dowitchers, Greater and Lesser yellowlegs and Western and Least sandpipers at American Canyon Wetlands. Later at Huichica Creek, Scott Hoppe spotted a smaller bird among yellowlegs sheltering from the wind. Before a definitive ID was made, the birds flew off. When they returned a short time later, Scott confirmed a beautiful Pectoral Sandpiper that most of us observed. We tallied right around 50 species for the day.”

Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley (8/3) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “It was a great day of birding for 12 participants, and the weather was not hot so we stayed out well into the afternoon. We had a full itinerary, starting out at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA), then hitting the Davis Wastewater Treatment ponds, then down to Lodi Wastewater Treatment ponds, and finally wrapping it up with a stop on Desmond Rd. at the Cosumnes River Preserve. Best birds of the day were at least 2 Snowy Plovers and a Ruddy Turnstone, both seen at YBWA. Other highlight shorebird species were Willet, Marbled Godwit, Spotted Sandpiper, both Wilson’s and Red-necked Phalaropes, and several Lesser Yellowlegs. Some other highlights were both Caspian and Forster’s Terns (side by side), Blue Grosbeak, and both White-headed and Tricolored Blackbirds. We tallied 17 shorebird species (a record for this yearly trip), and 75 species of birds over all.”

Common Nighthawks at Sunset (8/2) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “A group of enthusiastic birders headed for the Sierra

to enjoying an afternoon and evening of birding in Northeast Placer County. After birding around a private lake observing four or five species of dragonflies, then enjoying a picnic dinner, the group headed off to a nearby pond where we enjoyed good looks at four species of woodpeckers and quite a few Lazuli Buntings. A surprise find on the pond was two female Bufflehead. We ended the day with a beautiful sunset and incredible views of up to 50 Common Nighthawks at a time in the air. Our total species count was 33 for the afternoon.”

William Pond Park (7/30) — Leader Larry Hickey reports: “Four birders went for a mid-week morning walk in the middle of our hot and dry summer. The William Pond Recreation Area (named after the first director of the Sacramento County Department of Parks and Recreation, not the beautiful pond in the southern part of the area) yielded over 30 species including many juveniles begging and learning from their elders. Young California Towhees, loudly calling juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks, Bewick’s Wren, Western Bluebirds and a young Song Sparrow practicing his song were observed. Dozens of Lesser Goldfinches and House Finches were observed feasting on star thistle, fennel and other seed-bearing plants. A Caspian Tern was heard and seen, a cooperative Belted Kingfisher gave us good views, and a large number of Double-crested Cormorants were observed roosting in the trees east of the pond used as a rookery by herons and egrets earlier in the year. On our return Cathie LaZier drew our attention to the exquisite blue flowers of the fragrant Vinegar Weed flourishing, somehow, on the parched rocky path.”

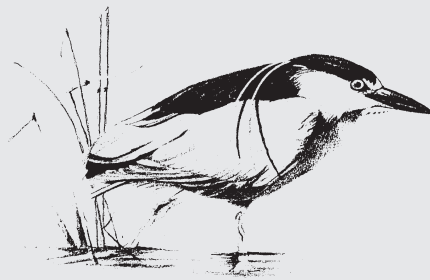
Ellis Road/Power Fire Area (7/27) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Ann Burris, reported: “Ellis Road is a new area for SAS, discovered by Linda Pittman. It is between Ham’s Station and Silver Lake to the south of Highway 88. Ann Burris and I substituted for Linda who was off

to Arizona. Highlights of the day were Mountain Quail, Common Nighthawk, Hammond’s, Dusky, and Olive-sided flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewee, White-headed, Hairy and Lewis’s woodpeckers, MacGillivray’s and Black-throated Gray warblers. A guest from Wisconsin attended, getting 20 lifers. (He owes us big time!) We all had a fun day and returned to 100-degree plus weather in the valley.”

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca (7/26) — Gary Fregien, co-leader with Scott Hoppe, reported: “We were joined by 17 other birders for a High Sierra hike on a very pleasant summer day. Once we reached about 9,000 ft. elevation, we were never out of sight or sound of Clark’s Nutcrackers, where they kept busy feeding their fledglings. There was a nice array of woodpeckers observed, including Williamson’s Sapsucker, Hairy and White-headed woodpeckers, and Northern Flicker. Two “empids” were seen: Dusky and Hammond’s Flycatchers, as well as Western Wood-Pewee. Green-tailed Towhees were seen in several locations and one Brewer’s Sparrow made an appearance. At Lake Winnemucca, an Osprey patrolled the lake. One member of the group flushed a Sooty Grouse; unfortunately, he was the only one who saw it. By the time we had completed the 5-mile round trip, 44 species made our list.”

Hidden Falls Regional Park near Auburn (7/20) — Leader Ben Graber reported: “We had a nice walk on an unseasonably cool and overcast, yet very pleasant morning at Hidden Falls. The main target bird, the Yellow-breasted Chat, was present and was seen well by the whole group. We got great looks at a Rufous-crowned Sparrow hopping around the parking lot. Other highlights included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cassin’s Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lincoln’s Sparrow, and Pacific-slope Flycatcher.”

Sacramento Audubon Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip (7/13) — Leader Linda Pittman reported: “It was sunny and the water was glass at the harbor in Sausalito



Black-crowned Night Heron
Daniel Kilby

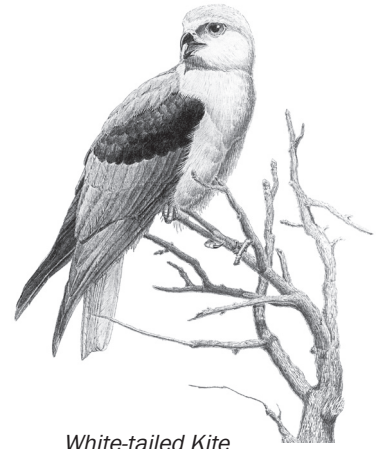
Findings continued on page 6

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 Scott Hoppe, 835-8471, shoppe01@surewest.net, for trips through September 29. For trips beginning September 30 and later contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, empid@earthlink.net.

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.



White-tailed Kite
Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, September 6, 7am

North Bay Hotspots

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

The vast area to the north of San Francisco Bay, known as the North Bay, has many great birding locations, especially during fall migration. Join Scott as he explores some of these hotspots. Possible stops include American Canyon Wetlands, the wetlands along Highway 37, Schollenberger Park and maybe a coastal location, time permitting. This will be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and liquids. 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.

Sunday, September 7, 8am

Sacramento Bar,

American River Parkway

Leader: Paul Cordero, email preferred

pkcordero@gmail.com, 454-4061

Paul will lead you on a morning walk along the American River. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early fall surprises. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. A focus of the walk will be identifying our local birds by ear. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, September 13, 7am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682

bgrab984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk checking out the resident birds, and looking for fall migrants. Meet Ben at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, September 14, 7am-11:30am SRCSB Bufferlands

Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610

conardc@gmail.com

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitat types include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time of year to look for migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the Meadowview/Pocket Rd exit (the first exit north of Laguna Blvd, and the first exit south of Florin Rd). Head east on Meadowview and then turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd. In one mile, just past the former entrance to Stonecrest Ave, meet in the large gravel lot on the right side of Freeport Blvd at the north edge of the town of Freeport. This is a new meeting location made necessary because of major road construction.

Saturday, September 20, 7am

Point Reyes for Vagrants

Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266

jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan on this annual trip to the coast for rare fall migrants. With fall migration in full swing, who knows what will appear. The geography of Point Reyes Peninsula makes it a magnet for warblers and shorebirds migrating south. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet Dan at the Park and Ride 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.

Monterey Bay Boat Trip

Unfortunately Cancelled for 2014

Saturday, September 20, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists from the nature center and birders Sheila Green and Sharon Wisecarver from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, September 21, 7am

Fall Migration "Wild Card"

Leaders:

Scott Hoppe and Dan Tankersley

Scott, 835-8471,

shoppe01@surewest.net

Dan, 662-1290,

dtankers@winfirst.com

Join Scott and Dan in pursuit of fall migrants. But this trip has a twist: the des-

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

tinations will be a mystery until the day of the trip. Scott and Dan will be watching the posts for rarities, and scouting locations. Depending on where the birding has been best recently, the agenda might likely include coastal or Bay Area locations, or something more local. So be prepared for a fun and adventurous full day in the field. Bring a lunch, plenty of water, dress for possible cooler coastal weather and be prepared for a fair amount of easy to moderate hiking. Meet 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.

**Thursday, September 25,
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. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcon are possible also. 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 and go under the freeway, then make a left up onto the levee and drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A). Scopes are helpful on this trip, which is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Trip will end before noon.

**Saturday, September 27, 7:30am
Discovery Park**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
Cell # for that morning only: 281-6652
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers is a great place for a walk in any season. Join Maureen to look for migrants, early winter arrivals, and resident species generally found in the park such as Yellow-billed Magpies, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Red-shouldered Hawks and White-tailed Kites. Other possibilities include wrens, woodpeckers and bluebirds. Generally, there is an unlocked restroom near the beginning of the walk. This walking trip will last until late morn-

ing. This is a great trip for beginners. To reach Discovery from I-5, drive east on the Garden Highway, turning right into the park at the first traffic light. Once in the park, you need a Sacramento County Parks Annual Pass, or you must stop at the kiosk and register, paying the \$5 entrance fee. Then turn left at your first opportunity and then left again, driving a short distance to the farthest parking lot at the south end of the archery range where we will meet.

**Sunday, September 28, 7am
Search for Fall Rarities**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com**



Virginia Rail
Stephen D'Amato

Point Reyes and Bodega Bay are known this time of year for producing rare fall migrants. Chris will be watching posts and checking conditions to see where birding might be best. These locations are both good, so either way it should be a fun trip. Be prepared for a full day, so bring a lunch and plenty of water. Dress for possible cooler coastal weather and be prepared for a fair amount of easy

to moderate hiking. Meet 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, October 1, 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 returning winter 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.

**Saturday, October 4, 7:30am
Mather Lake**

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

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations at all seasons of the year, and he always 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, Wild Turkey, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe 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, October 5, 8am-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 1/4 mile east on Main, from where Main and Sunset Avenues meet in Orangevale.

**Wednesday, October 8, 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 returning migrants and resident birds. Along the river mergansers and possibly goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area, and Larry will be looking for returning White and Golden-crowned Sparrows. 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, October 11, 7am
Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495
yellowhammerCA@gmail.com**

Bobelaine Sanctuary is a 430 acre remnant Gallery Riparian area on the Feather River opposite the mouth of the Bear River. There are about five miles of trails we can walk with nice river views and many native plants. We'll be looking for later fall migrants and returning wintering birds. Meet Cliff 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. If you wish to meet at Bobelaine, take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City and about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot. The group will probably arrive there about 7:30am.

**Sunday, October 12, 7am SHARP!
Solano Lake/Putah Creek
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

The lake is a good area for wintering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers. Phainopeplas are possible, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in the area several times during the last year. A drive up Putah Creek may turn up wintering passerines as well. There is a \$5 per car fee at the Lake Solano Day Use Park. Bring lunch and liquids and meet Mark at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From I-80 take the West Capitol Ave exit; turn left at the light; then left again into the lot. Plan on a trip lasting into the afternoon.

**Wednesday, October 15, 9am
Mather Lake
Leader: Sheila Green, 813-1470
raeshei@aol.com**

Mather Lake is a great local birding location, with a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Pied-billed Grebes. 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, October 18, 8am
American River Parkway,
Spanos Ct. Access
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com**

Join Darrell for a leisurely walk on the north side of the river across from the Paradise Beach area. The area is fairly typical of most Parkway locations but does have an overabundance of grapes with slightly less blackberry and elderberry which helps in attracting possible overwintering fruit lovers such as Western Tanager. We may encounter common winter birds such as Fox and Lincoln Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Common Goldeneye and crowned sparrows as well as residents such as Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee and California Quail. There are elevated views of the river and well-worn trails. Trip will probably end around 11am. Meet Darrell in the parking area at the end of the Spanos Court cul-de-sac along the levee. Spanos Court runs west off Howe Ave between Northrup and Sierra Blvd.

**Saturday, October 18, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk**

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. In addition to the resident birds, you may see recently returned White and Golden-Crowned Sparrows, or possibly some Common Mergansers on the river. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalist/birders John Huls and Ann Burriss from Audubon and docents from the nature center who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

**Sunday, October 19, 8am
River Bend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and down to the river looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as returning fall migrants. This is a very good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry

Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Thursday, October 23, 8am
Upper Sunrise Park
Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758
Ishim2000@comcast.net**

Meet Marlene at the north end of the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot for this morning walk. We should see some gulls, Goldeneyes, (Common and Barrow's), White-throated Swifts, Phainopeplas, and Western Bluebirds. Expect to walk about two miles at birders' pace. The path will be mostly level and the trip will end by noon. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Saturday, October 25, 7am SHARP!
Hope Valley-Alpine County
Fall Foliage Birding
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com**

Autumn color explodes in mid-October at Hope Valley. Join Dan to enjoy the fall foliage and to look for resident and specialty birds that include: Sooty (Blue) Grouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cassin's Finch. Some of the terrain is hilly, so wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. A camera is a recommended addition to your pack. Bring water and lunch. FRS radios would also be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the north end of the Raley's parking lot 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. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot. We will leave at 7am sharp!

**Saturday, October 25, 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**

Our Sandhill Cranes are back! They, as well as a variety of ducks, swans, geese, and shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, and hawks patrol overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center deck at 3:30pm to hear a brief presentation of Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, enjoying views of the

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

cranes, wintering 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.

Sunday, October 26, 7am

Bodega Bay

Leaders: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471

Mark Martucci, 833-6722

Scott: shoppe01@surewest.net

Mark: matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Scott and Mark for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Bring lunch, water and warm clothes. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY TRIPS

Sacramento Audubon has joined with the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael to offer birding/nature walks as a way of maximizing efforts to serve families with children who are looking for outdoor experiences.

The family friendly trips will be offered on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:30am. The trips are listed with our regular field trips, and on the Effie Yeaw website, www.sacnaturecenter.net. 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. The first trip this fall takes place on September 20.

Findings continued from page 2

when we started the trip. Once past the Golden Gate, however, the wind picked up substantially and we ran into swells and wind chop. We saw the usual close-in birds: Western and Heerman's gulls, Elegant Tern and Common Murres. By the time we were about seven miles out, the weather was too bad to continue and we turned around and headed toward San Francisco. On the way back, we saw a few harbor porpoises and a single Harbor Seal. Back in the bay, the water was very smooth again and the sun was shining. We cruised around Alcatraz Island and got good views of Pigeon Guillemots and the celebrity Northern Gannet. We had a good group of participants for what turned out to be a half day trip."

Dragonfly Trip (7/12) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "Nine folks joined me for a Sacramento Audubon Society field trip to look for Giant Darners and other odonates along Bear Creek in Colusa County. Weather was warm and sunny. We saw a couple of patrolling Giant Darner males at two different spots, and a female appearing to search for ovipositing sites.

Overall diversity seemed lower than in past years, but some species were in excellent numbers (Flame Skimmers, Black-fronted Forktails). Usually Widow Skimmers and Common Whitetails are in much better numbers."

Ice House Road and Crystal Basin Aea

(7/6) — Co-leaders Tim Fitzer and Richard Barbieri reported: "Valley temperatures were 100 degrees-plus, and it was a nice day in the Sierra for a field trip. Highlights were Calliope Hummingbird, Olive-sided and Dusky flycatchers, Western Wood-Pewee, Cassin's Finch, Warbling Vireos, MacGillivray's, Nashville and Yellow-rumped warblers, Mountain Bluebirds and White-headed and Hairy woodpeckers. Two Black Swifts were seen by Mark Martucci and Pam Thompson. All 20 participants had a fun time, and we headed back early due to the end of the Fourth of July weekend."

Loney Meadow (7/5) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "Fourteen participants enjoyed a very "birdy" day at this beautiful Sierra location. Highlights included Pileated Woodpecker, heard and seen (although fleetingly) more than once; White-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, at one point together on the same tree; several Red-breasted Sapsuckers, one

going to and from a nest hole; a Dusky Flycatcher nest with 2 nestlings and an adult coming in to feed them; great close up views of a Warbling Vireo; lots of Orange-crowned Warblers, as well as several MacGillivray's and a couple of Nashville Warblers; and a pair of Ospreys circling overhead. The wildflowers also put on a great display. It was a great group and everyone had a good time."

Fremont Weir/Sacramento River (6/28) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported:

"Ten of us saw about 42 species walking the mainly open meadow areas along the Sacramento River north

of Woodland. Some riparian habitat upped the bird count a little; however, the drought and the dryness seem to have reduced the overall numbers of birds and species. As usual, we had many great looks at Swainson's Hawks in all three color phases along with Red-tails and a surprise Osprey. Many Western Kingbirds and Western Meadowlarks were present along with some Lark Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Western Bluebirds and one or two each of Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock's Oriole. On the way back to the parking area, the trip became a bit more interesting with shot-



Wren species
Kirsten Munson

2014-2015 DUCK STAMP NOW AVAILABLE

Following the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp in 1934, the National Wildlife Refuge System grew exponentially over the next decade. Many of the country's most popular birding destinations are national wildlife refuges established or aided by Federal Duck Stamp dollars. Refuge visitation is now approaching 46 million people per year, and according to recent USFWS figures, more than 80 percent of these visitors engage in wildlife watching, specifically birds. Just as importantly, these visitors are part of the millions of Americans increasingly interested in wild birds and birding.

Buying a \$15 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as a Federal Duck Stamp) gets you free admission to any national wildlife refuge. Each stamp is valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Both Federal Duck Stamps (\$15) and Junior Duck Stamps (\$5) are sold in many post offices across the country. You can also buy both stamps on the internet, and at many national wildlife refuges, sporting goods and outdoor stores. Visit fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm to learn where you can purchase Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.



EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER NATUREFEST 2014 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5

The annual Nature fest at Effie Yeaw Nature Center will take place on Sunday, October 5th, from 10am to 3pm. Mark your calendar now for NatureFest, their largest family event of the year! NatureFest promotes science and nature education and safe and healthy outdoor recreation and includes live animal shows, kids activities, demonstrations, guided nature hikes, and family-friendly food in the beautiful Nature Center area.

Check sacnaturecenter.net soon to see who the headliners will be this year! Pictures from the event can be found here: sacnaturecenter.net/nf14.html

Admission (at the door): Adults-\$5; Kids 12 and under-FREE

guns being fired in what seemed to be far too close proximity. After several attempts to gain the attention of the shooters in the hopes they would become aware of us, we walked into the open and they stopped shooting. In spite of a little more adventure than we needed, it was a very nice morning."

Mather Lake (6/22) — Wayne Blunk reported: "Another excellent turnout of 18 birders with a wonderful mixture of experience and new to Mather Lake. Kudos to long time Audubon members who stepped up to lead the group when I explained about back issues. Forty-eight species were identified with some special sightings: a rarely seen Sora and .about half the group was treated to what at first was believed to be a Least Bittern but when photos were checked turned out to be a Green Heron. Many other great looks at Green Herons were registered. A regular for Mather, the American Bittern, was seen and was a lifer for a number of members of the group. Though the Yellow-headed Blackbirds were gone, a late nesting Western Kingbird was enjoyed by all. A

Northern Harrier was spotted, which was nice as they have become more scarce in the neighborhood. One member of the group reported a Band-tailed Pigeon, which would be rare for Mather. All in all, a great morning of birding."

Indian Grinding Rocks State Park (6/21) — Cathie LaZier reported: "As a scheduling conflict kept Cliff Hawley from leading this trip, a co-operative group of 10 birders attempted it on our own. Orioles, tanagers and Lesser Goldfinches made bright splashes of color in the greenery. Mark Sawyer pointed out immature Western Bluebirds, but birding was generally slow, and Linda Pittman recorded only 28 species for e-bird. Gary Fregien shared some history of the park, and identified many of the trees and plants. Most impressive, and definitely worth the trip, were the massive Valley Oaks, some of them 300-400 old."

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass (6/14-15) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "Nineteen birders enjoyed the weekend in Sierra Valley and at Yuba Pass. Notable species observed included Redhead,

Mountain Quail, American White Pelican, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Virginia Rail, Sandhill Crane, Black-necked Stilt, American Avocet, Willet, Wilson's Snipe, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Poorwill, White-headed Woodpecker, Black-backed and Pileated woodpeckers, numerous Western Wood-Pewees, Warbling Vireos, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, all three Sierra nuthatch species and Brown Creeper, American Dipper, Sage Thrasher, eight species of wood warblers, ten kinds of "sparrows", Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Tricolored Blackbird, Pine Grosbeak and Pine Siskin. The official group tally for the weekend was 114 species, many of which were life birds for some members. Surprisingly, we did not record either Williamson's Sapsucker or Olive-sided Flycatcher, although some in the group saw the sapsucker in other locations on Friday preceding the trip."

Pete Hayes

Birding and Nature Events

10TH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

The 10th annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival will take place from **September 25-28**. From soaring golden eagles, effortlessly gliding California condors, cheeky bushtits, gorgeous Townsend's warblers, scampering snowy plovers, to thousands of sooty shearwaters streaming along the ocean's surface, few places can match the diversity of species of the Monterey Bay region.

September marks the peak of fall migration, with wintering shorebirds arriving en masse. Warblers and other passerines are doing the same, and we even start seeing the first appearances of wintering ducks and other waterfowl. Meanwhile, just a few miles offshore, jaegers, shearwaters, and alcid are present in good numbers. There's no better time to visit the Monterey Bay area to see the greatest number of species or to find a rarity.

This year's lineup of nightly speakers, will be headed by author, artist, naturalist and conservationist Kenn Kaufman. Joining Kaufman as nightly speakers will be Brian Sullivan, project leader for eBird; and local Monterey birder Don Roberson, who has been the "keeper" of the Monterey County bird list for 35 years while serving as the county editor for *North America Birds* and now eBird.

Designed for both seasoned and beginning birders, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival's field trips offer unique opportunities to learn about, explore, and appreciate world-class habitats, such as the Elkhorn Slough National Marine Estuary and Pinnacles National Park. Join a pelagic trip to experience one of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, one of the most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and more. Or, take a scenic ride in Elkhorn Slough by kayak, pontoon, or silent electric boat.

There are other 'practical' workshops covering birding optics, pelagic bird ID, raptor ID, photography and sketching.

Registration for the 2014 MBBF has already opened and some field trips may already be full, so go quickly to the website montereybaybirding.org for detailed registration information.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

The 39th annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be in **San Diego, October 9-12**, at the Marriott Courtyard hotel at Liberty Station. This is a beautiful location on the San Diego Harbor, less than a mile from the San Diego airport.

Field trips will include two pelagic trips, as well as visits to a wide diversity of San Diego's many birding hot spots. In addition, the conference is offering a two-day field trip Sunday and Monday (October 12-13) to the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley area led by Guy McCaskie and Jon Dunn.

There will be workshops on field identification of warblers (Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett) and sparrows (Homer Hansen), molt (Peter Pyle), specimen preparation (Phil Unitt), and bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow). The Saturday evening banquet will feature a celebration of the rich 44-year history of WFO. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight and sound.

Registration for the conference will open in mid-June. If you are NOT currently on the electronic mailing list, please send an email to erpfromca@aol.com, include your full name and city and state of residence, and you will be added.

In addition to WFO's usual general science session, the conference will include a symposium on avifaunal change in western North America to be published subsequently as a volume of WFO's monograph series *Studies of Western Birds*. The WFO welcomes and solicits contributions to this symposium and peer-reviewed publication. To inquire about participating, please contact Dave Shuford or Bob Gill.

OUTREACH HELP WANTED

Autumn and Winter events are on the calendar and we need volunteers to work at our table. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding, and talking to people about our field trips and you would work with an experienced volunteer. Please volunteer for one of the following events.

- The NatureFest at Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Sunday, October 5
- Lodi Crane Festival, Saturday and Sunday, November 8-9
- Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, November 22-23
- And for next year – the Galt Winter Bird Festival, Saturday, February 7

If you can work a 3 or 4 hour shift on one of the above days, please contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, or 457-6882.

CORNELL'S MERLIN BIRD ID APP NOW AVAILABLE FOR ANDROID

Answer Five Quick Questions and Find Out Which Bird You Saw

Merlin Bird ID—available for iOS devices and just released for Android—is a revolutionary new app for identifying common birds of North America. What's so revolutionary?

- It asks you five simple questions about the bird you saw and then gives you a short list of the most likely possibilities.
- That short list is a smart list—Merlin uses data from our eBird project to tell you which birds are most likely to be seen near you, right now.
- It's loaded with 2,000 top-quality photos and 1,000 songs and calls to help you confirm your ID.
- It's completely free.

The app now covers 400 species and is available for iOS 7 devices and Android OS4 and higher (it's not available for Kindle, Nook, or Windows phone). It is a large download (630 MB), so please use a wifi connection when you download it. Thanks to Pennington for sponsoring the creation of the Android version.

Merlin is a great tool for beginning birders or anyone who wants to help share their love of birds. Download the free app now. Go to the Google Play store and search for Merlin Bird ID, download and enjoy.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Judith Aubin	Kay Lovegrove
Nancy Carney	Gina and Keith
Kathleen Correia	McLenithan
Isabela Davin	William Pettis
Bruce Forman	Elizabeth Plevka
Nancy Gronert	Sarah Stoltz

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 September 30, 2014 at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.



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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.

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

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

Observations continued from page 10

vate residence near North Highlands on 7/20. Among the good songbird reports was a **Red-eyed Vireo** reported singing in east Davis on 7/4, an **American Redstart** at the Regional San Bufferlands on 6/4, and an **Ovenbird** enjoyed by several observers on the border of the Sacramento Zoo on 6/7. A juvenile **Chipping Sparrow** was found at CRP on 7/12. Another highlight of the season was two **Summer Tanagers** countersinging on 6/21 near the Tall Forest. One of the birds continued into August and was seen by several observers. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found on 7/26 and continued through at least 8/1, and an immature or early molting male **Indigo Bunting** was at the Bufferlands on 7/23.

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:

Dan Airola, Ashley Casey, Terry Colborn, Lyann Comrack, Bob Ellis, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Eli Gross, Steve Hampton, Joan Humphrey, Jenner Junghans, Afton Kern, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Susie Nishio, Charles Smith, John Sterling, Fritz Steurer, Michael Strom, John Trochet, Dan Williams, and Sharon Wisecarver.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

June 1 to July 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

June through July is an important period for breeding birds, but, aside from shorebirds, it can be pretty slow for birders, with overall diversity quite low. This year was an exception with many interesting finds. Among the most enjoyable was a **Little Blue Heron** seen by many in Natomas at a large rookery at an apartment complex near San Juan Rd and Azevedo Dr. The bird was discovered on 6/22, where it was arranging sticks in a nest and displaying among **Snowy Egrets** and **Cattle Egrets**; it continued through at least 7/7. Perhaps this was the same bird seen at the Conaway Ranch in Yolo County on 5/30. Breeding evidence of **Hooded Mergansers** continues to accumulate, with two young birds at the Lost Slough portion of CRP on 7/13. A **Least Bittern** was seen by several observers throughout the period at Mather Lake, and a **Glossy Ibis** was found at the Davis Wetlands on 6/27 among the **White-faced Ibises**.

There was an excellent assortment of shorebirds found in the region this summer, including an adult **American Golden-Plover** reported at Woodland WTP on 6/27 and an **Golden-Plover** unidentified to species at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 7/20. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** mostly in breeding plumage was reported along Desmond Rd at CRP on 7/21 and 7/27. A **Snowy Plover** was found at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 7/20 and continued to the end of the month and a

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Snowy Plover was also at CRP on 7/20. A **Willet** was found at the Woodland WTP on 6/23, while two were found at CRP along

Desmond Rd on 7/26, with at least one continuing through the end of month. Up to ten **Marbled Godwits** were reported on several occasions in Yolo County, while six were found at CRP along Desmond Rd 7/23. A **Ruddy Turnstone** was an excellent report along with a couple of very early **Dunlins** at YBWA on 7/28. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was found at YBWA 7/23 and perhaps the same bird was reported on 7/30. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was a nice find at YBWA on 7/20 and a **Wilson's Phalarope** chick at YBWA on 7/19 was a nice breeding record.

A **Greater Roadrunner** was reported calling from the Solano County side of Putah Creek west of Winters near Fishing Access 4 off Hwy 128 on 6/19. The male **Costa's Hummingbird** continued at a south Sacramento yard from 5/31 into August. A female or immature **Calliope Hummingbird** was reported from a pri-

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

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Observations continued on page 9