



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

VOLUME 70 • NO. 8

SEPTEMBER 2018

General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Nature–Alive on the American River

Susan Maxwell Skinner

Susan “eagle woman” Maxwell Skinner is a Sacramento photojournalist. Her photography and written observations of bald eagles on the American River have been in the news for several years. She also has a huge international following at *American River Nature Blog* on Facebook.

Susan also writes for Arden and Carmichael community newspapers and sings in the John Skinner Band. Her interests include most of nature’s crea-

tures and the photojournalist has a particular love for recording family interactions between many species of birds—large and small! For her presentation, Susan will share her pictures and experiences with nature on the American River. Check out Susan’s blog at www.facebook.com/Susan-Maxwell-Skinner-1543823865927571/ Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair



Hummingbird Family
Susan Maxwell Skinner

Monterey Bay Coastal Field and Pelagic Trips

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6–7

Join Sacramento Audubon Society for the annual Monterey Bay coastal and pelagic weekend! Note: this year the coastal field trip will be on Saturday, October 6, and the pelagic trip will be on Sunday, October 7.

For those arriving early in Monterey for the weekend, on Saturday, October 6, we will visit coastal habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going

Pelagic Trip continued on page 7

2018 CA AUDUBON ASSEMBLY IN NOVEMBER

Chapter leaders, members, and friends are invited to join Audubon California November 2nd through 4th in Long Beach for the 2018 Audubon Assembly. The theme of the 2018 Assembly is Look Up. The weekend will be an opportunity to look outside our local programs and learn from each other.

This will be an exciting opportunity for you to meet with chapter leaders, members, and partners from all over the state to enjoy birding coastal wetlands and other unique areas, explore conservation opportunities and practices, share stories with leaders from various regions, and establish peer-to-peer collaborations and partnerships. This program will offer multiple interactive presentations and breakout sessions that focus on topics from advocacy, fundraising and communications to SoCal conservation and coalition building.

The last Audubon Assembly, held in Yosemite in 2016, offered chapter members a chance to connect with other conservationists from all over California. One chapter leader said: “Feeling part of something larger was my first ‘ah ha’ moment. I was also humbled by the education, experience, accomplishments and skills of some of the chapter leaders. Many were inspiring to be around.”

Please visit the Audubon California website at ca.audubon.org/about/chapters/audubon-california-assembly to register, reserve lodging, and see the agenda. If you have any questions, please email the Chapter Network Team at chapternetworkca@audubon.org. Hope to see you in Long Beach this fall!



Great Egret
Mick Thompson

Field Trip Findings

Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley and Beyond (8/12) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “With shorebird habitat being iffy, I decided to start the day off going to Putah Creek Reserve, just to flesh out the morning with some nice migrating passerines. We were not disappointed, with some concentrated areas of activity. We tallied six warbler species, plus Warbling Vireo, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, Lark Sparrow and Bullock’s Oriole. Then it was on to Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. We tallied 10 species of shorebirds including an uncommon for the valley Willet, Wilson’s Phalarope and 3 Black-bellied Plovers, one in nearly complete breeding plumage. There were also huge numbers of Dowitchers. I was joined by 8 people, and it was a great group.”

Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass (8/11) — Leaders Mark Martucci and Scott Hoppe, substituting for John York, reported: “Highlights included, Evening Grosbeaks, Cassin’s Finches and Pine Siskin, before we even got out of the car at Yuba Pass. Other birds from the pass included, Townsend’s Solitaire, Dusky and Hammond’s Flycatchers and several warbler species. Sierra Valley was way different than all of us had seen before, as it was much dryer. But, it caused birds to concentrate in the remaining wet areas. In one of these areas, we had a Sora that stayed out in the open just below us, no more than 15 to 20 feet away, for a long stretch of time. It was eventually joined by a Virginia Rail. Other highlights in the valley included several American Bittern and Red-necked Phalarope. It was a great trip for a group of 9 of us. We tallied close to 70 species.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (8/7) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Seven people saw fifty-seven species of birds on a smoke filled morning along the American River Parkway. Highlights included Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, Hooded and Bullock’s Oriole, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Wilson’s and MacGillivray’s Warbler, Western Tanager, Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Vaux’s Swift.”

SRWTP Bufferlands (8/5) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “The hoped for migrant songbird flocks did not materialize, but we still had a very enjoyable trip. There were multiple close looks at Blue Grosbeaks, a Black-headed Grosbeak, and Common

Yellowthroats, including one feeding a young Brown-headed Cowbird. After a walk through riparian and wetland areas, we checked the sewer ponds, which had a nice variety of shorebirds. Highlights included Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs standing together, Semipalmated Plovers, a Spotted Sandpiper, and great looks at the continuing pair of Least Terns.”

Mather Lake (8/4) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Highlights for the morning for 9 birders included a Burrowing Owl spotted off the NE end of the runway and a male Western Tanager. The group got great looks at two juvenile Swainson’s Hawks along the fence line to the golf course. One of the juveniles flew into a big pine tree on the edge of the golf course suggesting the possible nest site. The total count was 40 . . . not bad for a summer month.”

Yuba Gap: Night Hawks and the Night Sky (7/31) — Leaders Richard Barbieri and Craig DeMartini reported: “Even though the wildfires made for smoky conditions in the Sierra, ten of us made the trip to Yuba Gap and were rewarded with Osprey, White-headed Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Lazuli Bunting, Evening Grosbeak, and many nighthawks catching insects overhead. After dark, Venus, Saturn, Jupiter and its moons were all visible despite the haze.”

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip (7/29) — Leader Linda Pittman reported: “Our annual trip to the Farallon Islands was full as usual. The water was somewhat rough, and wind was 15 to 25 knots, but it was not as rough as 2017! We had overcast and temps in the 60s most of the day. After pausing briefly outside the Golden Gate for humpback whales, we headed toward Bolinas and out to the islands. At Southeast Farallon, we saw good numbers Cassin’s Auklets, Common Murres and Pigeon Guillemot along with a Rhinoceros Auklet or two, and Tufted Puffins. We then headed out past the drop off at the continental shelf for Black-footed Albatross, Northern Fulmars, Sooty Shearwater, Pink-footed Shearwaters and the star of the day, a South Polar Skua.”

Beginning Shorebirds (7/29) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Six of us went down to American Canyon Wetlands in

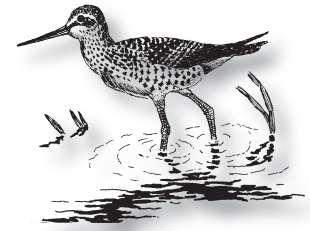
search of shorebirds. We enjoyed seeing Black-bellied Plovers still in breeding plumage; I pointed out their plaintive call to the group; a relatively large flock of 21 Semipalmated Plovers caught everyone’s attention; and while Marbled Godwits and Long-billed Curlews look very similar in plumage, their bills are very telling for a quick ID. It took some time to find a Western Sandpiper in amongst the Least to get a good side-by-side comparison, but everyone took note of the differences. Thanks to Mike Ishihara for photographing 3 Red-necked Phalaropes that flew off, to help nail down the identification.”

North Bay (7/28) — Leader Ron Storey reported: “8 people met at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma and shortly after we left for Bodega Bay. The weather was nice and cool and there were no complaints about the temperature. We started off the day by seeing 20 Snowy Plovers up close on the beach at Doran Park in Bodega Bay. We moved from Doran Park to Bodega Head making a few stops in between, and then drove up to Jenner Beach Overlook where we saw a Steller’s Sea Lion basking on a rock at the confluence of the Russian River. Bird highlights in addition to the plovers were Red-throated Loons (one with red on the throat), Wandering Tattler, and 2 Peregrine Falcons. Other species seen included Whimbrels, Black Oystercatchers, both Turnstones, three species of Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot, Surf Scoter, Caspian Tern, both species of Pelican, and more. The trip bird total was only about 45 bird species but no one was disappointed with what we saw, and no one missed seeing a species.”

Sacramento Bar (7/26) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Seven people braved the hot weather to look for birds. At first the birding was slow. As we progressed along the river more birds were moving about. Several Hummingbirds were in the trees including Anna’s and a Black-chinned. No shore birds were seen along the river. The pond had Wood Ducks and there was a Swainson’s Hawk perched in a tree. This is the same bird that was perched in the tree the last time we took a tour of the area. Birds that were flying around included, a Kingfisher, White-throated Swift, and a Grosbeak as well as many other species. Our total for the

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Field Trips



Greater Yellowlegs
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached for trips through September 11, contact the scheduler Scott Hoppe, shoppe01@surewest.net, 916 835 8471. For trips from September 12 through October 11, contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@comcast.net, 916-281-6652.

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. 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.

NOTE: Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.

Saturday, September 1, 6:30am Alpine County/Douglas Counties Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366 1jgtaylor@att.net

Plan on a series of short walks in coniferous forest, sagebrush, lakeshore and riparian habitats. We will look for a number of bird species, both resident and migrant, including passerines, woodpeckers, waterfowl and raptors. A visit to nearby Douglas County and Mud Lake usually promises waterfowl, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Please bring your FRS radios and lunch and liquids, planning for a mid-afternoon wrap-up. Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Sunday, September 2, 7am Local Fall Migration Wild Card Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471 shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott for this exciting local trip seeking fall migrants. But, there is a twist. The locations will be unknown until you arrive at the meeting place. Scott will be checking conditions and posts to see where activity has been best. The trip could include some riparian areas for passerines and some wetlands for water birds. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Thursday, September 6, 7:30am Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Leader: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652 mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a morning drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year; shorebird numbers will depend on the amount of water available. Spotting scopes and FRS radios are useful. From Sacramento on I-80 west, take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway, East Chiles/Rd, 32A, Exit #78. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. This trip will end before noon.

Saturday, September 8, 6:30am Point Reyes Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610 conardc@gmail.com

Birding Point Reyes can be very productive this time of year, for both regular migrants and more uncommon birds. Chris is an expert birder who can sort out that confusing fall warbler. Be prepared for several miles of walking. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, September 9, 8am Sacramento Bar Leader: Paul Cordero pkcordero@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early migrants. Paul will focus on finding and identifying birds by ear. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise

Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania and follow it into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Family Friendly Trip/Beginning Birders Sunday, September 9, 9am Point Reyes Leaders: Sandra Steurer 916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com Wendy Money, 916-205-3194 wendydoug@msn.com

Sandra and Wendy will steer you in the direction of birds and beaches on this full day trip. We will drive to Point Reyes via Hwy 37—it is very birdy through the salt marshes, so keep those binoculars handy to watch for ducks and waders. In the Point Reyes National Seashore area, beginning at the visitor's center, we will learn about this area—its flora, fauna, geology and human impact, then take a short hike nearby looking for wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and other coastal forest birds and reptiles. After working up an appetite we will head to the beach for lunch and some shoreline birding. We might even have time to make a sandcastle! As we drive we will search for grazing Tule Elk herds and Barn Owls who often make themselves obvious near the historic farmyards. Meet the leaders at the Park and Ride off of I-80 at Mace Blvd in Davis. From Sacramento, take the Mace Blvd exit #75, turn right onto Mace Blvd, and right again into the Park and Ride, near Ikeda's Market. The leaders will have scopes to zoom in on those shorebirds and binoculars and FSR radios to loan. Birders bring sack lunches, snacks, water, sunscreen, hats, shoes suitable for hiking in sand, and dress in layers. We will conclude late in the afternoon and folks are on their

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

own to stay in the area for dinner, or head on back to the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. Please RSVP to Wendy for details.

Thursday, September 13, 7am
Ancil Hoffman Park Fall Migration
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for fall migrants, as well as returning wintering birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave. in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, September 15, 7:30 am
Del Paso Regional Park
Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

This large, little known park is tucked into the confluence of I-80, Bus 80, and the Auburn Boulevard exit. Its lush riparian habitat along Arcade Creek is definitely worth exploring, so join Dan for a morning walk and see which species are present this time of year. Besides the plentiful resident Acorn Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpies, turkeys and peacocks, there should be plenty of fall migrants to be found in this overlooked urban oasis. This will be an easy, 2-mile walk ending mid-morning. Parking is on Norris Avenue south of Auburn Boulevard. From the intersection of Watt Avenue and Auburn Boulevard, go east on Auburn and park on Norris Avenue.

Saturday, September 15, 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 from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Family Friendly Trip
Sunday, September 16, 7am
Putah Creek Preserve
Leader: Ben Graber, 916-844-8682
Bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk along Putah Creek in search of late migrants and wintering riparian birds. If the participants so desire, we may also visit Solano Lake or Monticello Dam. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This is a good trip for experienced birders, beginners and younger birders alike. Loaner binoculars are available.

Wednesday, September 19, 8am
Teal Bend

Leader: Richard Barbieri
916-761-1124
offleash56@yahoo.com

Join Richard to explore the rich habitat at Teal Bend Golf Course. He will explore a variety of habitats, including wooded and riparian areas, and hopes to see a variety of fall migrants and resident birds. Meet at the Raley's Shopping Center on Arena Blvd at 8am. 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.

Family Friendly Trip
Saturday, September 22, 9am
Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova
Leader: Sheila Green, 916-813-1470
raeshei@aol.com

Join Sheila at the duck pond at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova for a bird walk geared towards children, families and beginners. Bring water and snacks and dress in layers for variable weather. We will see birds in urban, park and riparian (river) habitats. Hagan Park, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, near Hwy 50 and the Mather exit. There is free parking in the lot on the right just before you enter the park, near the duck pond.



Dowitcher Species
Kirsten Munson

Sunday, September 23, 7am
Putah Creek Preserve
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for fall migrants that often pass through this remnant riparian area. Warblers, buntings, flycatchers and orioles are often seen during this time of year. This will likely be a two to four-hour trip. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Wednesday, September 26, 8am
William Pond Park
Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809
mikezots@gmail.com

Meet Mike along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. This park has varied habitats and Mike knows them well. Mike will be looking for fall migrants such as crowned sparrows and warblers, in addition to our resident wrens, towhees and other small passerines. He'll check out the river and the pond area. 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.

Saturday, September 29, 7am
North Bay Hot Spots
Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
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. We may go as far as Point Reyes or Bodega Bay, depending on reports and weather conditions. 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 30, 7:30am/9am
Point Pinole Regional Shoreline,
Contra Costa County
Leaders: Maureen Geiger
916-281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This large park, at the confluence of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, includes a long shoreline as well as a 1,250' fishing

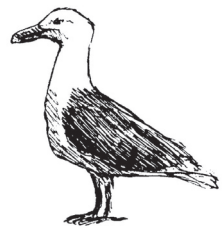
Join Maureen and Ken on a two mile (one way), fairly level hike through eucalyptus stands and meadows, past the historical munitions areas, and to the northern shoreline and pier. They will look for resident species as well as shorebirds. Return to the parking area may be via the county-provided shuttle or on foot. Restroom facilities are available in several park locations. This trip will last until late morning. Weather can be very different from Sacramento, so dress for the possibility of cold, windy and/or foggy weather. Scopes are useful. Meet Maureen and Ken at the Safeway Market in Fairfield. From I-80W take Exit #47B onto Waterman Road, bear right, then turn left into the Safeway Market parking lot. To meet at the Park BY 9am, from Sacramento, take I-80 West to Richmond. Take Exit #20 onto the Richmond Parkway (also says to I-580) and continue on the Parkway to the Giant Highway. Turn right on the Highway and into the Park. There is a \$3 parking fee.

Tuesday, October 2, 8am
Woodland/Davis Clean
Water Agency ponds
Leader: Craig DeMartini
916-599-3300
Cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Join Craig and search the settling ponds of this water treatment facility for a variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, raptors, and passerines. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. The trip should end around noon. FRS radios are useful while birding from the vehicles.

Saturday, October 6, 7am
Point Reyes for Fall Vagrants
Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of birding at Point Reyes. Bring lunch and plenty of water and be prepared for a full day of chasing rare birds, wherever they might be! Fall at the Point is always exciting, and Dan will let the most recent rare bird reports dictate the day's itinerary. Every fall is different



Gull Species
 Kirsten Munson

and of course there are no guarantees in birding, but this trip in the past has turned up such goodies as Broad-winged Hawk,

Buff-breasted Sandpiper, White-winged Dove, Least Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo, and just about every warbler imaginable! 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.

Sunday, October 7, 7:30am
Lincoln Area
Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
ljgtaylor@att.net

While others enjoy lots of water on this weekend's Monterey pelagic trip, we will be looking for it around Lincoln, where water assures very good birding in the late fall and winter. October is a little early, but we will explore parks and other sites to find riparian, oak, and grassland habitats and their seasonal birds. Meet 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-Sunday, October 6-7
Monterey Pelagic trip
Saturday: Coastal Land Birding
Sunday: Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip
Co-ordinator for both days: Linda
Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net

As of our Press deadline there are still places available.

Thursday, October 11, 8am
Humbug Creek, Folsom
Leader: Maureen Geiger,
916-281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Meet Maureen at the Cummings Family Park on the corner of Creekside Drive and Oak Avenue Parkway in Folsom. You'll follow Humbug Creek around an easy 2-3 mile paved trail. Depending on how dry it is, this can be a good place to look for a variety of woodpeckers, ducks, Common Gallinule and returning wintering sparrows and kinglets. Sometimes River Otters are seen in the creek. This is a great trip for beginning birders. Trip will end by late morning. To reach the Park, exit Hwy. 50 at East Bidwell Street, Exit #27, north on Bidwell, then right onto Oak Avenue Parkway. Shortly after, turn left on Creekside Drive and right into the Park.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sundays, October 21 and November 18

*Trips limited to 10 adult participants, and require a minimum of 3 participants: Registration required.

These outings are geared toward people who aren't yet entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. It is not necessary to be an Audubon member to participate. The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. This walk, covering about a mile and a half, will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. You can sign up for just one session, or for more than one.

Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

TWILIGHT ON THE
BUFFERLANDS

Thursday September 20, 6:30pm-9pm

Don't miss this unique opportunity to explore some of the Great Central Valley habitats at dusk on the Bufferlands. During the tour, participants may have a chance to see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more. This will be the last Twilight event of the year.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair. Please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

No Pets, Please! For all Bufferlands events, we respectfully request that you please leave your dogs and other pets at home.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
CONTACT INFORMATION FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD, 2018-2019

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morning was 34 species. Very good for a hot day."

Spanos Court, ARP (7/22) — Leader Dan Kopp reported: "Seven participants joined me for a walk around this area, first visited by me on July 27, 2013 as I was trying to get closer to a post-breeding group of Purple Martins I first noted across the river in 2011. It was a typical late July morning with raggedy residents, hatch year birds and Western Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers tending to young. This area has an abundant supply of Northern Mockingbirds and we tallied at least nine with at least one hatch year bird noted; their high-pitched call is diagnostic. We had brief flyby looks at Black-headed Grosbeaks, enjoyed several young California Quail, found our targeted Western Bluebirds at the Campus Commons Golf Course, saw a flyby Cooper's Hawk and eventually enjoyed a relatively small group of seven Purple Martins atop the usual overhead powerlines, with a few vocal hatch year birds being fed by an adult purple male. We tallied a very modest 41 species, which is rather abundant for this area at this time of the year."

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca (7/21) — Leaders Gary Fregien and Scott Hoppe reported: "Eight eager birder-hikers hit the trail from Carson Pass, and were pleasantly surprised that the skies were less smoky, from the fire near Yosemite, and the weather more mild than anticipated. But the story really begins on the trip to Carson Pass, via Mormon Emigrant Trail. It started when we saw three Sooty Grouse on the road, literally. We stopped and pulled off the road at the location, and before we got back in the vehicles we had a dozen species, also including White-headed Woodpecker, Golden-

crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire and Green-tailed Towhee. Back on the Carson Pass to Winnemucca Lake trail, we tallied 35 species, most new from the first stop. Of particular interest, we were able to locate five Gray-crowned Rosy-Finches again this year, as well as Common Merganser, Osprey, many Rufous Hummingbirds in the spectacular floral display, Clark's Nutcracker, Northern Rough-winged, Violet-green and Cliff Swallows, Mountain Bluebird and Hermit Thrush, Nashville, Yellow-rumped and Hermit Warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch and Pine Siskin. Special thanks to Ed Harper for the ebird lists."

Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk Family Trip (7/21) — Leaders Sandra Steurer and Wendy Money reported: "Eight birders, with 3 generations represented, enjoyed the late afternoon and early evening summer weather, skies, wildflowers, lizards and birds. Having this field trip one month later than last year, we noted the seasonal changes in plant and animal ecology. There were more fledgling birds, less bird song, and more Nighthawks! We had scope looks at many Western Tanagers, Olive-sided Flycatchers, and warblers. After dark, we enjoyed viewing Jupiter with three moons, Venus, and Mars. A Northern Pygmy-Owl called in the distance. 36 birds for this trip topped last year's total!"

Tells Creek, Van Vleck Meadow (7/17) — Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: "Six of us drove up from Georgetown to the Tells Creek trailhead area at 6500 feet, where there are trails leading up to Desolation Wilderness past mountain meadows and fir forests. The trailhead parking where we started is 6 miles up a narrow paved road from Ice House Road (look for the wooden sign: Cheese Camp Road) and is adjacent to a National Forest campground for equestrians. Our hike lead along the edge

of a large meadow where the Van Vleck bunkhouse is located. In four hours we were able to tally over 25 species; highlights included a Williamson's Sapsucker pair with young (we watched the male come in to feed them), Cassin's Vireo, Green-tailed Towhee, Song, Fox, and Lincoln's Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, and Rufous Hummingbird. We also stopped at a large pond off the entry road and saw Bufflehead, Ring-necked Duck (unusual this time of year), and Red-shouldered Hawk. Although off the beaten track, this area provides lots of birding options, with lots of trails, some excellent red fir forest and riparian strands in addition to wet meadows."

Dragonfly Trip (7/15) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "Only two folks showed up, Eric and Angela Laws, a nice couple, apparently new to the area. We went to Bear Creek/Wilbur Springs, in Colusa County, as usual. We were there from around 9-12 in the morning. It was sunny with a light breeze and heating up rapidly. We saw 23 species of odonates, which is about average. Highlights were nice looks at Giant Darners, Gray Sanddragons, White-belted Ringtails, Pale-faced Clubskimmers, Sooty Dancers, Black-fronted Forktails and Desert Firetails, as well as a host of other species."

Cabbage Patch, Calaveras County (7/12) — Leader Bill Bianco reported: "With good weather, two of us had a total count of 12 species. A few of our sightings were Western Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Missed seeing woodpeckers, except for Northern Flickers. Was an enjoyable day in the mountains."

Cathie LaZier

Birding and Nature Events

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM 2018

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 22nd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 15-18, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley! Come meet the board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones!

The CVBS kicks off with a scrumptious hors d'oeuvres buffet and no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer, birder, and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program entitled *Northern Delights*.

Friday night's keynote program *Bird Migration: The More We Learn, The Less We Know* will be presented by Ed Pandolfino. Saturday night's keynote program, *The Trade Off* will be presented by John Kricher. In this lively and thought-provoking presentation, he will contrast the lives, ecology, and natural history of long-distance migrant passerine birds with bird species that are permanent residents of lowland tropical forests.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *History of Field Identification* with Joe Morlan, *eBird, Bird Identification, and Alternative Facts: eGads!* by Kimball Garrett, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Digiscoping (Clay Taylor), Image Editing (Bob Steele), Bird Sketching (Keith Hansen), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/. Registration begins August 24, 2018.

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS

OPEN TRAIL DAY

Saturday, October 13

Come enjoy the Upper Beach Lake wildlife area at your own pace. Trails will be marked and open to stroll around the wetlands, lakes, and riparian forests in this beautiful part of the Sacramento area. Bring a camera or binoculars, as there are always plenty of birds to see this time of year, including nesting herons, egrets, and cormorants. The endangered Swainson's hawks and other raptors are typically soaring in the area, as well. Mammal sightings could range from jack rabbits and deer to beavers and river otters. In addition, the riparian trees and wetland plants are in full foliage and beauty.

Each person will be required to sign in with a Bufferlands biologist on arrival to receive maps and other information. Please check back at www.regionalsan.com/bufferlands-calendar-events) for time and details. For more information, please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or preferably via email at jonesro@sacsewer.com.

No Pets, Please! For all Bufferlands events, we respectfully request that you please leave your dogs and other pets at home.



Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip

continued from page 1

birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place for birding. On Sunday's pelagic trip, we'll look for shearwaters, albatrosses and other pelagic birds as well as marine mammals. Experts will be on board to spot and identify the pelagic birds and other wildlife we encounter.

The boat will depart Fisherman's Wharf promptly at 7:30am and return about 3:30pm. The boat trip is limited to 25 participants to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation form and check early to reserve your spot.

Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. This trip fills up quickly! You do not need to be a Sacramento Audubon Society member to participate.

Your space will be confirmed by email after the reservation form and your check is received. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 916-715-1876 for further information.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, October 7, 2018 Registration deadline: September 15, 2018

Tour departs from Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey. Trip price: \$100 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



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Craig De Martini, Susan Fregien, Gary
and Cary S Hart, Cheryl Kraywinkel, Leslie
Dean Marshall, Rosemary Mayfield, Mary
Beth Metcalf, Joyce A Mihanovich, The
Morehead Family, Eric Ross, and Susan
Scott and Ed Harper made donations to
the **General Fund**.

Valerie Brown, Georganna Griffin,
John and Ellen Huls, and Susan Scott
and Ed Harper made donations to the
Conservation and Education Fund.

Mercedes R Gay and Susan Scott and Ed
Harper made donations to **Bobelaine**.

Thank you for your continued support of
Sacramento Audubon and its work in the
community. Donations to the Bobelaine
Sanctuary are encouraged to help defray
the cost of continuing restoration.

**SOLUTIONS TO PREVENT
WINDOW STRIKES**

The American Bird Conservancy estimates
up to one one billion birds die each year in
the United States when they hit glass win-
dows, walls, and other structures, making
this threat one of the most costly to bird
populations.

But it's also a relatively easy problem to
solve. ABC has made it even easier by
evaluating and rounding up a list of prod-
ucts shown to reduce collisions on glass.
Have a look at their options for hom-
eowners and architects on their website
at [abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-
glass/#1](http://abcbirds.org/get-involved/bird-smart-glass/#1).

Please take a minute to look at the prod-
ucts they've reviewed and see which
one might be best as a solution for your
windows. Also, don't hesitate to suggest
something for the windows where you
work, since large office windows are a
major problem.

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Sunday September 9, 9am
Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Loaner Binoculars Always Available
Point Reyes

Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 916-205-3194 wendydougmsn.com

We will learn about this area—its flora, fauna, geology and human impact, then take a
short hike nearby looking for coastal forest birds and reptiles. Then we'll head to the
beach for lunch and some shoreline birding.

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks

Saturday, September 15, 10:30am. Future dates are October 20 and November 17
Effie Yeaw Nature Walk

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special
guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels wel-
comed. No registration is necessary but you might want to arrive a little early.

Sunday, September 16, 7am

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Loaner Binoculars Always Available
Putah Creek Preserve

Leader: Ben Graber, 916-844-8682, bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk along Putah Creek in search of late migrants and winter-
ing riparian birds. We may also visit Lake Solano or Monticello Dam.

Saturday, September 22, 9am

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too! Loaner Binoculars Always Available
Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova

Leader: Sheila Green, 916-813-1470, raeshei@aol.com

Join Sheila at the duck pond at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova for a bird walk geared
towards children, families and beginners. We will see birds in urban, park and riparian
(river) habitats.

Meeting location and other information for all trips is available in our Field Trips col-
umn, beginning on page 3, or at sacramentoaudubon.org under Field Trips.

**Mission Statement Sacramento
Audubon Society**

The mission of the Sacramento
Audubon Society is to:

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

*Seasonal
Observations*

June 1 to July 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

June and July can feel like the doldrums
for birding around Sacramento, but it is a
critical period for many of our local nest-
ing species. By the end of June, shore-
birds begin returning and early songbird
migrants arrive a month later. Up to three
Least Bitterns were reported throughout
July from the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
(YBWA) and the **Glossy Ibis** continued at
a nest from May through at least 7/19 at
the Woodland WTP.

Among the shorebird highlights, YBWA
hosted a **Pacific Golden-Plover** from
7/12-13 and a **Snowy Plover** on 7/18.
Marbled Godwits are rare elsewhere in
the Central Valley, but are fairly regular in
Yolo County. They were reported through-
out the period, with a high of 21 at YBWA

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Kat Anderson
Kathy Kayner
Sharon Lenn
Benjamin Sher
Mary Starkey
Virginia Vonasek
Emily Wells

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 25, at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Your membership supports the SAS mission of conservation, environmental education and protection of the region's natural ecosystems and diverse wildlife populations. 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

sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com

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

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued

on 7/7. Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found among large flocks of peeps at YBWA on 7/25, White's Slough (Lodi) WTP on 7/30, Woodland WTP on 7/28, and Abel Rd at Colusa NWR on 7/29. The only **Solitary Sandpipers** reported were singles at the Anatolia Vernal Pool Preserve on Sunrise Blvd from 7/27-28 and the Arbuckle WTP on 7/29. A **Franklin's Gull** was seen and photographed by many at the Woodland WTP from 6/26-29. Four **Least Terns** were found at the Sacramento Regional WTP on 7/3. One pair stayed to nest along with a single adult that was regularly seen.

As has become expected, **Allen's Hummingbirds** turned up on private property along Putah Creek between Davis and Winters in late June to early July; one was a green-backed male. Indicating a possible breeding season range expansion, in addition to the Yolo and San Joaquin County records mentioned in the previous column, two **Say's Phoebes** were found in Elk Grove near Bilby Rd, not far from the small town of Franklin on 7/15. A single **Say's Phoebe** was also found on

7/28 near Rancho Cordova along the dirt portion of Kiefer Blvd. A "**Solitary Vireo**" (**Cassin's** or **Plumbeous**) was reported on 7/18 at the South Fork Putah Creek Preserve off of Mace Blvd. A juvenile **Steller's Jay** in Davis on 7/8 was a real surprise and likely wondered down from the Coast Range. A **Gray Catbird** on 6/19 was a late vagrant downstream from Stevenson's Bridge near Winters, and an adult male **Chestnut-sided Warbler** along Putah Creek downstream from Pedrick Rd was a surprisingly early vagrant on 7/31, continuing into August. Also downstream of Pedrick Rd were a surprisingly early immature **Golden-crowned Sparrow** on 7/22 and a male **Indigo Bunting** from 7/26 into August. The male **Summer Tanager** continued from May through at least late July at the Orr Ranch portion of Cosumnes River Preserve, but despite much singing, did not appear to have attracted a mate.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.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 (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Stuart Angerer, Keith Bailey, Mario Balitbit, Kathy Blankenship, Holly Coates, Ore Carmi, Dan Cook, Lily Douglas, Andy Engillis, Stephen Fettig, Robert Furrow, Douglas Hall, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Terry Hodapp, Joan Humphrey, Stanton Hunter, Logan Kahle, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Calvin Lou, Tim Ludwick, Mark Martucci, Bruce Mast, Michael Perrone, Steve Scott, Dan Singer, Shannon Skalos, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Jim Thomas, John Trochet, and Liz West.

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

Chris Conard

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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Sacramento, CA 95826

203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, wisew7@sbcglobal.net

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

The Observer is published by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December, except June and August, when we publish abbreviated editions.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

Thursday, September 20

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Susan Maxwell Skinner:

Nature—Alive on the American River

