

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 71 • NO. 9

SEPTEMBER 2019

General Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

Challenges and Opportunities with Conserving Suburban Natural Areas—the Case of Rancho Del Paso

Tim Vendliski

Arcade Creek is a relatively large tributary in the “American River Basin” with two branches that cross multiple jurisdictions. The watershed encompasses roughly 19,000 acres and flows about 16 miles before reaching the constructed drainage canal that is known today as Steelhead Creek.

The creek’s history is intertwined with American milestones and continues to support ecologically valuable natural resources, yet its local, national, and international significance is largely ignored or dismissed by both surrounding residents and municipalities. The waterway flows through what was once the heart of the 44,000-acre Rancho del Paso.

Thousands of years of human occupation have been documented along the creek, and the remains of dwellings of the indigenous Nisenan Maidu Tribe were evident as recently as 1922.

Aside from patches of conserved lands within the American River Parkway to the south, and Magpie and Dry creeks to the north; the natural areas within Del Paso Regional Park—both protected and vulnerable—represent the last vestiges of the once vast Rancho. A rich mosaic of oak woodlands, vernal pool prairies, and riparian forests have been almost completely obliterated by suburban sprawl; and what remains is gravely threatened.

Come hear about the hidden biological treasures within Del Paso Regional Park, learn *General Meeting* continued on page 7



KEN POERNER USES HIS SKILLS IN RETIREMENT

Ken Poerner retired as a land steward from Solano Land Trust in 2016. Since then he has volunteered numerous hours to help maintain the property and trails at Bobelaine Sanctuary.

Bobelaine Sanctuary is a 430 acre gift to the National Audubon Society, under stewardship of Sacramento Audubon Society. The land was donated to the society in 1975 by Yuba City residents, Bob and Elaine Crandall.

Ken recalls that his interest in helping at Bobelaine all started on one of our hikes. He refers to hikes with SAS member,

KEN POERNER continued on page 5

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Sacramento Audubon Society Represented at Biennial National Conference

Gesna Clarke attended the National Audubon Society Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from July 26-29. This was the third biennial convention under President David Yarnold’s 10 year term as president. President Yarnold celebrated Audubon’s success in fundraising, legislative action, conservation issues, advocacy, and diversity.

A key focus now, and continuing into the future, is aggressive outreach to youth. Chapter leaders are challenged to mentor and assist youth, and help them form their own Audubon clubs (K-12, college and university). This is part of a strategic plan to groom them for leadership roles in the local Audubon Chapters. Conference attendees had an opportunity to see examples of where and how this works well. You can go to the link below and view the short video to see what Strawberry Plains (Mississippi) Audubon Society is doing to foster youth involvement in local conservation efforts. www.audubon.org/node/358058?site=strawberryplains&nid=4131&site=strawberryplains&nid=4131

Gesna’s major take away from the conference was learning about:

1. The common issues local chapters experience regardless of geography.
2. The amazing work chapters are doing to promote and strengthen Audubon’s community relationships around conservation initiatives, which are spearheaded by youth taking the lead.
3. The support Audubon National provides local chapters (via regional offices and on-line resources).

The 2021 biennial conference will be held in Tacoma, Washington.

SAS Education Committee

Contact education@sacramentoaudubon.org if you want to work with the Education Committee on projects to generate youth interest in Sacramento Audubon Society. Success is dependent upon collaborative efforts and strengthening the society’s partnership with community organizations, academic institutions and local community agencies.

CONSERVATION TIP

Try shortening your shower by just a minute. You could save 150 gallons of water per month! And it’s not just water your shower uses. Running your shower for just 5 minutes is the energy equivalent of leaving a light on for 14 straight hours

SAS HISTORY

The first joint meeting of Sacramento Audubon Society with that of the Sierra Club’s Mother Lode Chapter was February 1959.

Field Trip Findings

UC Davis Arboretum (8/13) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “This morning, 6 of us walked about a mile and a half in the Davis Arboretum. It was quite warm but shady most of the way and, although not many birds, we did really enjoy working on plant identification along the trail. Construction closed the western end of the trail, so we couldn’t make the entire loop, but by 10am it was heating up, so this was not a problem.”

American River Parkway: Harrington Access (8/11) — Summary from Craig DeMartini, Mike Heacox and Guy Galante: The outing’s goal was to use all the senses and to encompass as much of the natural world as possible; piecing together the interlocking parts of our local ecology. We followed tracks, trails, and spoor of opossum, deer, coyote, cottontail, jack rabbit, numerous bird and insect species and one of the most numerous, western toad tracks. Coyote scat was comprised of mostly blackberries and also bits of green walnut shell. Bird calls were part of the experience, and we heard California Scrub Jays, California Quail, Spotted Towhee and Red-shouldered Hawk and a sizable flock of Bushtits. Sightings included Osprey, Cooper’s Hawk, and Yellow, MacGillivray’s and Wilson’s Warblers. Plants included pungent native mugwort, wild roses with hips, elderberry, poison oak, rushes, willows, cottonwoods, oaks, buttonbush. On the non-native side, we found St. John’s wort, yellow star thistle, horehound and others. There were some interesting insects, too: most notably a horde of indigo blue willow leaf beetles (Chrysomelidae) devouring a willow bush. These beetles are apparently recent arrivals here, being native to northern Europe. They stripped the leaves down to threads! Another potential threat to our ecosystem. Other insects included Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies, various species of dragonflies, an interesting syrphid fly that looked just like a yellowjacket, and honeybees in wet zones by the river. A follow-up program on the native Blue Elderberry by Guy included music from flute and clapper sticks fabricated from “the music tree”, and refreshments of elderberry muffins and blackberry muffins, with an elderberry, cinnamon, and clove beverage.

Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass (8/10) — Leader John York reported: “8 birders including some friends from the bay area set out with stout hearts and warm cars

to bird Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley. Within ten minutes, we had flushed two Sooty Grouse, seen a Wilson’s Warbler feeding young and being harassed by a Hermit Warbler. It got a bit slower after that, but the trip included three Sage Thrashers, half a dozen Brewer’s Sparrows and Vesper Sparrows. The water was not particularly low and we had several young grebes, coots and teal, including eclipse Cinnamon Teal. Four cranes and two very close cooperative Horned Larks rounded out the day. We also saw and heard two Virginia Rails which generated an e-bird write-up. Don’t know why. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were abundant. Long-billed Curlew, a Bittern and Black-crowned Night-Herons were the odder long-legged types. Great birding day with beautiful weather and a very handsome leader.”

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (8/5) — Leaders Bob McCleary and Linda Melching, reported: “7 people saw 31 species of birds on a clear warm morning. Great views of Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Cooper’s Hawk, Spotted Sandpipers, Common Merganser, Spotted Towhee and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Best of all though was the viewing of Pacific-Slope Flycatcher, Bullock’s Oriole, Western Tanagers and Black-Headed Grosbeak. All in all very exciting successful morning.”

Mather Lake (8/4) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Clear skies and soft breeze greeted 10 birders. The theme for the morning turned out to be raptors and fledglings that compensated for a low total number of species of 38. Raptors included Swainson’s Hawks, Red-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Northern Kestrel, and Cooper’s Hawk. We saw fledglings of Barn Swallows, Cooper’s Hawk, Mute Swans, Green Heron, Common Gallinule, Pied-billed Grebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher and California Scrub Jay. Very pleasant morning of birding.”

Birds and Bats at the Yolo Basin (8/3) — Dan Williams, co-leader with Mary Schiedt, reported: “About 20 of us had a lovely evening at the bypass under Mary’s excellent leadership. In the hours before sunset, Mary led us around the auto tour loop and to some areas beyond where we are not usually allowed access. East of the tour loop, we were treated to excellent views of a dark morph Swainson’s Hawk, an immature Peregrine Falcon, Black-crowned Night-Herons, American White Pelicans, and Caspian Terns. In

the newly watered fields east of Parking Lot C, we were able to enjoy scope views of a Black-bellied Plover, several Least Sandpipers, and another Peregrine. A few recently fledged Ring-necked Pheasants dashing back and forth between rice fields were entertaining. We arrived back at Parking Lot A, and shortly after that the Mexican Free-tailed Bats began their incredible mass exodus from under I-80, filling the sky like smoke. It is really something to see up close!”

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (7/30) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “The planned Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area trip morphed into an East Yolo hotspot trip due to lack of water at YBWA. From Burrowing Owls, kingbirds, Blue Grosbeaks, kestrels and kites on Road 104/30B to Great and Snowy Egrets and Black-crowned Night Herons at the Rd 103 rookery to more than 200 Swainson’s Hawks in the alfalfa fields on both sides of Rd 103 north of the rookery, this was a wonderful trip for the 5 of us who enjoyed it. What seemed like millions of Orange Sulphur butterflies were so numerous the very surface of the fields seemed to shimmer with intense life, obviously providing a huge feast for the hawks, egrets, ravens and other creatures enjoying them. All in all a very rewarding morning!”

Tells Creek, Van Vleck Meadow (7/28) — Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: “8 birders joined me to bird around Van Vleck Meadow, located about an hour uphill from Georgetown, off of Ice House Road. Late July is an interesting time to bird in the Sierra Nevada, as most species are finishing up with breeding and some are starting to migrate. We saw a total of 27 species. On the way up to the meadow we stopped by a large pond off Tells Creek Road and were treated to some waterfowl: a pair of Ring-necked Ducks, about half a dozen Buffleheads, and a couple Mallards. A nice surprise was seeing a Common Nighthawk hunting over the pond, possibly an early migrant. On the way back we saw a Red-shouldered Hawk hunting along the edge of the pond. The meadow was fairly active, though it slowed down as we approached noon. We were treated to views of Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Dark-eyed Junco, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Rufous Hummingbird, White-crowned, Song and Lincoln’s Sparrow, Orange-

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Field Trips



Wren Species
Kirsten Munson

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. 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, August 31, 6:30am

Alpine County

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 may have promise. 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 1, 7am

Fall Migration Wild Card

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott for this exciting trip seeking fall migrants. But, there is a twist. The locations will be unknown until you arrive at the meeting place, and may include something local or something a little farther afield. 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. Bring lunch and/or snacks and liquids. 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 5, 7am

Riverbend Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid77@gmail.com

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 possible migrants. This is a good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. Meet in the first parking lot on your right as you enter the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, September 7, 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, 916-454-4061
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.

Wednesday, September 11, 7:30am

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 14, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Gibbe Parsons, 916-802-8674
ghparsons@ucdavis.edu

This park has a great variety of habitat for birds; grassland, oak woodland, riparian and open water pond with many species possible. Residents such as California Quail, Western Bluebirds, wrens, towhees, herons, egrets and other water birds are all possible, plus arriving winter residents and migrants. Trip will end before noon. This is an excellent trip for beginners. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Going past the entrance kiosk take the first left turn into the large parking area with the restroom and drinking fountain at the end. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

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Field Trips continued from page 3

**Sunday, September 15, 7am–noon
SRWTP Bufferlands**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610
conardc@gmail.com**

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats 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. New directions: Take I-5 ten miles south from Sacramento and exit at Laguna Blvd. Drive east to Franklin Blvd and turn left. Go past the stoplight at Bighorn Blvd and turn left at the next block (Sims Rd—no stoplight) with poplar trees and a brick planter. Drive 0.6 mile and turn right on Laguna Station Rd. Drive 0.5 mile and make the first possible left at Glacier Way (if you reach the guard station, you've gone too far). Drive 0.25 mile to the end of Glacier Way and veer left to the Bufferlands office entrance. A large gate will be open and the front glass doors will be unlocked.



American Robin
Stephen DAmato

**Tuesday, September 17, 8am
Reichmuth Park**

**Leader: Dan Airola, 916-494-1283
d.airola@sbcglobal.net**

Visit this urban gem in search of fall migrants and resident birds. In addition to the typical turf, this park has an emergent wetland, riparian and oak habitat, which attracts abundant warblers, vireos, and other migrants. Bring your clippers, pruners, and gloves for an optional short session afterwards to clear invasive English Ivy that is doing its best to strangle the native oaks. Meet at the parking lot on Gloria Dr south of 43rd Ave. Trip will finish by 10am or so.

**Saturday, September 21, 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 Maureen Geiger and Sue Darst from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, September 21, 8am
Putah Creek Riparian Reserve
Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com**

This UC Davis Reserve along the banks of the Putah Creek can be a wonderful place to find migrants this time of year as well as wintering passerines and resident species. Join Bill for a leisurely morning walk on this easy trail west of UC Davis. This trip is good for beginners and those already familiar with the excellent birding on the creek and will end before lunch. From I-80 near Davis, take Hwy 113 north and exit on Hutchison Drive, exit 27. Turn left. At the first round-about, stay right, passing new student housing, and at the second round-about go west onto Hutchison Drive. At about 1 mile, turn left onto Hopkins Road.

About 1 mile south, Hopkins deadends. Turn left onto Levee Road and immediately park on your left. You will see one of the entrances to the Reserve.

**Sunday, September 22, 7:30am
Bobcat Ranch, near Winters,
Yolo County
Leader: Stan Hunter, 530-902-8462
Stanton.hunter@gmail.com**

This wonderful 7,000-acre property owned by Audubon California is currently open to the public solely for docent-led trips. Join Stan for a rare opportunity to visit this special area. Resident and migrating bird species should be present along with fabulous views of the valley. This outing will involve moderate hiking on fairly level ground and should last until between noon and 1 pm. Bring liquids and snacks. Participants are limited to 20. Please contact Stan via email if you wish to be included. Upon registration, Stan will send specific information about how the morning will proceed.

**Monday, September 23, 6:30am
Point Reyes
Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661
MarkSawyer3383@yahoo.com**

Birding Point Reyes can be very productive this time of year, for both regular migrants and more uncommon birds. Join Mark in sorting out those confusing fall warblers. 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.

**Family Friendly Trip!!
Saturday, September 28, 10am
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Maureen Geiger
916-281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Join Maureen for an easy walk of about a mile and a half viewing the wintering waterfowl such as ducks, egrets, herons and shorebirds in the flooded wetland ponds. Fall sparrows and resident wrens and towhees may be found in the oak woodland area. The paved trail makes this an excellent walk for families; beginning birders are also welcome. Walk will finish by noon. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. Meet at the first parking lot on your right before you arrive at the left turn to the Visitors Center. Directions available at www.cosumnes.org. Loaner binoculars are available.

**Sunday, September 29, 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.

**Thursday, October 3, 7:30am
Lincoln Wastewater Treatment
Plant, etc.
Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net**

Join Jane for a morning outing to the Lincoln Wastewater Treatment Plant for possible ducks and to seek out a couple of other watery/marshy/grassy sites in the area.

This trip should end before noon, so bring snacks and liquids as appropriate. Heavy rain or high winds cancel. 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.

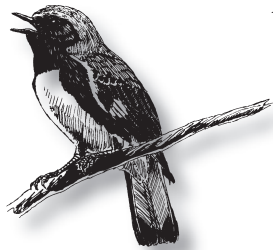
Saturday, October 5, 7am

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.



Black-throated Blue Warbler
Stephen DAMato

Every fall is different 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 6, 7:30am

William Pond Park

**Leader: Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809
mikezots@gmail.com**

This park has a great variety of habitat for birds; grassland, oak woodland, riparian, and open water pond with many species possible. Residents such as California Quail, Western Bluebirds, wrens, towhees, herons, egrets and other water birds are all possible plus arriving winter residents and migrants. Trip will end before noon. This is an excellent trip for beginners. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac

County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Thursday, October 10, 8am

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills

**Leader: Craig DeMartini
916-599-3300, cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

We will be scouting the oak woodlands of a peninsula on the south side of Folsom Lake. We'll keep our eyes open for eagles and osprey as well as the smaller passerines, woodpeckers, and water birds on the lake. We'll scan the mouth of Sweetwater Creek where a pair of Rock Wrens can usually be found. From Hwy 50 east towards Placerville, take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway; continue on El Dorado Hills Blvd. north for approximately 4.5 miles. Cross Green Valley Road where El Dorado Hills Blvd becomes Salmon Falls Road. Continue on Salmon Falls for 3 miles to a large dirt parking lot on the left with a large wooden sign that reads "Falcon Crest". Use caution when turning across oncoming traffic. This trip may last into early afternoon; you may want to bring snacks and water. There are no bathrooms.

KEN POERNER continued from page 1

Maureen Geiger. Ken goes on to say, "I noticed the trails needed mowing; so I mentioned that if SAS needed help with mowing, I could help." Ken assumes that Maureen talked to someone at SAS after that. "Next thing I know I'm getting handed the keys. The timing couldn't have been more perfect because the person who had maintained the trails in prior years was no longer able to continue the work. Sacramento Audubon Board President Bill Bianco worked with Ken on one of his projects at Bobelaine. He comments that Ken is low key, but he sure gets things done. He is a great asset for SAS. Past Board President Larry Hickey notes that we are very fortunate that Ken has assumed caretaking responsibilities for this rare and important remnant of riparian land. There are not many places like Bobelaine left in California. Ken is keeping it open for us!

Ken reflects on his volunteer work at the Sanctuary: "What I do at Bobelaine is not especially hard work, most of the time. It's a good use of my skills in retirement. Skills like working with tractors, chainsaws, weed control, building and repairing benches signs, gates, trail work and planting. I enjoy being outside taking care of a wild area. I also enjoy seeing people on the land that I have a part in maintaining."

Ken's professional experience as a land steward makes his volunteer work at Bobelaine Sanctuary a natural fit. It engages him with like minded nature lovers who appreciate his help in keeping the paths and trails clear and safe so they and others may enjoy their visits to the site.



2019-2020 DUCK STAMP NOW AVAILABLE

The new 2019-2020 federal duck stamp goes on sale Friday, June 28th, 2019. The stamps, which cost \$25, are valid from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

Purchased by millions of waterfowl hunters, wildlife enthusiasts and stamp collectors every year, duck stamps purchases provide critical funding to purchase and protect wetlands and associated habitat for ducks, geese and other wildlife species.

"Duck stamps are a great way for hunters, conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts to invest in wetland and waterfowl conservation," said DU CEO Adam Putnam. "Whether you hunt or not, buy one or more duck stamps every year to help conserve our wetlands. The federal duck stamp program raises millions of dollars used to purchase and protect wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. These habitats benefit waterfowl and hundreds of additional species of wildlife."

The theme of this year's 80th annual Federal Duck Stamp is "Celebrating Our Waterfowl Hunting Heritage" and features a Wood duck and a decoy created by Scot Storm.

Duck stamps are sold at post offices nationwide and at many NWRs and sporting goods stores. Electronic versions of the duck stamp can also be purchased online: visit www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/e-stamp.php for more information.

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crowned, Nashville, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Unfortunately, the Goshawk I heard while scouting there a few days earlier was gone.”

North Bay Area Birding (7/27) — Leader Ron Storey reported: “Five people met me at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma. From Shollenberger Park we drove to Doran Park in Bodega Bay where we saw Snowy Plovers and our first Heermann’s Gull of the day. From Doran we drove directly to Bodega Head where we saw Pigeon Guillemots and nesting Pelagic Cormorants on the cliff sides. On the rocks below we saw a Wandering Tattler, Black Turnstones, Oyster Catchers, and Brandt’s Cormorants, and on the water we saw Common Murres. We ate lunch at Campbell Cove where we saw Common Loon and a Great-Horned Owl across Hole-in-the-Head perched in the Willows. Shortly after lunch and birding Hole-in-the-Head four of the group left to head back to Petaluma, the other two of us proceeded north to look for Peregrine but missed finding it. Over all it was a good day with life listers seen by some of the participants. The weather was cool but Bodega Bay was becoming crowded, fortunately we had no issues finding parking places at all our stops.”

River Bend Park (7/23) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “9 of us enjoyed a short 3 hour walk along the river at River Bend Park this morning. We beat the heat by starting early and staying near the water. 34 species were observed. The best sightings were a family of Black Phoebes feasting on the insects that seem to be attracted to the parking lot dumpster, a group of 12 or so young Common Mergansers and good looks at an Ash-throated Flycatcher.”

Dragonfly Trip (7/21) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: “There were 5 participants besides myself. By my tally we saw 21 species (a couple of these were brief sightings by me alone that did not stick around to be seen by all, but they were not rare or unusually interesting species). The key thing is we saw well all the target species we were looking for! Last year we saw more species (23), but we missed a number of the target spe-

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CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM 2019

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 23rd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 21-24, 2019, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. 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!

The CVBS kicks off with a delicious 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, *Simply in Awe of Birds*.

Friday night’s keynote program *The Language of Birds* will be presented by Nathan Pieplow, author of the *Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds*.

Saturday night’s keynote program, *The Genius of Birds* will be presented by acclaimed science and nature writer, Jennifer Ackerman. Learn how birds make and use their own sophisticated tools, teach one another new skills, exercise astonishing feats of memory, create works of art, navigate, communicate in ways that resemble language, and even pass along cultural traditions.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: *Subspecies for Birders* with Joe Morlan, *I Know It When I See It* by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Nature/Wildlife Photography and Photo Editing (Ben Knoot), Bird Sketching (René Reyes), 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 September 6, 2019.
CVBS Steering Committee
www.cvbirds.org

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS

Wednesday, September 18, 6:30pm–9pm

Don’t miss this year’s last 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.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair. Also, don’t forget mosquito repellent. 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.

OPEN TRAIL DAY

Saturday, October 19, 7am–5pm

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. Access will be the same as for Walk on the Wildside, via Freeport Boulevard into Beach Lake Park. 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

General Meeting continued from page 1

what the Sacramento Audubon Society has already done to advance the conservation of bird populations and natural resources, and find out what you can do to secure the future of this small but remarkable piece of the Sacramento Valley.

Tim Vendlinski began his career as an environmental advocate when he was 10-years-old. Leading a band of fellow elementary students, they stopped a construction crew from cutting down a forest of oak trees next to the school, all to the horror of the principal and teachers.

Tim was raised in Sacramento, attended American River College, graduated from UC Davis, and resides with his wife and daughter in Oakland. He served as EPA's Bay Delta Program Manager; and also worked under the auspices of the San Francisco Estuary Project to set standards that underpinned the Bay Delta Accord. In 2007, EPA sent Tim on a unique four-year detail to the non-

profit Sustainable Conservation where he directed their Restoration on Private Lands Program. Previously, he supervised the Wetlands Regulatory Program for EPA's Pacific Southwest Region; he later collaborated with agencies, landowners, and NGOs under the Interagency Vernal Pool Stewardship Initiative to protect rangelands, untilled landscapes, and oak woodlands across California.

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).

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

Findings continued from page 6

cies (Western River Cruiser, Red Rock Skimmer, Desert Forktail), all of which were quite conspicuous this time. The species we saw last year that we missed this year were mostly common widespread species, and I was a bit surprised we missed them. But getting all the target species—Sooty Dancer, Desert Forktail, Giant Darner, White-belted Ringtail, Gray Sanddragon, Western River Cruiser, Pale-faced Clubskimmer, and Red Rock Skimmer—made up for it! Several species were netted and examined in the hand. And little jumping spiders on the boulder and rocks were *Habronattus ballatoris*, a pretty little jumper endemic to northern California streams bordered with rocky cobblestones.”

Yuba Gap Family Evening Bird Walk (7/20) — Sandra Steurer, co-leader with Sue Darst, reported: “The evening started slowly but then picked up. We got looks at Orange-crowned Warbler, Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, female Buffleheads, Red-breasted Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpeckers, Common Ravens, Turkey Vultures, unidentified accipiter species, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black Phoebe, Band-tailed Pigeons, Black-headed Grosbeak, Northern Flicker, Stellar's Jay, Lesser Goldfinch, and of course the Common Nighthawks. We also saw a gorgeous Washington Lily off the path which is not a common find. We even got a great picture.”

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca (7/20) — Gary Fregien, co-leader with Scott Hoppe, reported: “16 birders hit the trail from Carson Pass under very mild weather conditions; tee-shirts appropriate. The highlights can be summed up by

focusing on family groups. Best represented were thrushes and sparrows. We had Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, both Swainson's and Hermit Thrush, and American Robin. Sparrows included Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping, Fox and White-crowned Sparrow, and Dark-eyed Junco. Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker and Common Raven represent their family. Next are the woodpeckers. We saw Williamson's Sapsucker, both sexes, Hairy Woodpecker and Northern Flicker. Also three flycatchers, represented



Ash-throated Flycatcher
Linda Pittman

by W Wood Pewee, and Hammond's and Dusky Flycatcher. The species most often seen was Mountain Chickadee. Group favorites included the beautifully singing and looking Lazuli Bunting, and let's not forget the Red Crossbill, rarely seen and maybe for the first time on this trip. Special thanks to Mark Martucci and Melissa Gates for the e-bird lists.”

Bats and Swainson's Hawks (7/17) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “13 of us enjoyed a warm evening listening to JoEllen Arnold's great presentation about bats, which included two live bats (Mexican Freetail and a Red Bat pup) that she is caring for! It was fun to watch her feed them meal worms and listen to them chatter though Joellen's electronic bat detector. At sunset the thousands of Mexican Freetail Bats did not disap-

point. A huge amount flew east, out into the forest then looped around and appeared heading west into the sunset. Another huge group followed the bridge to the river and then hugged the tree line up river and then headed south. Both of these groups were pursued by 5 or 6 Swainson's Hawks that tried their best to catch them in mid air! Some were successful! No other predators were observed. After the flyout we were surprised at an Opossum that ambled through our group as we stood in the parking area, actually stepping on some of our feet! A fun evening!”

William B Pond Park (7/14) — Leader Rachael Cowan reported: “5 birders were treated to an epic summer morning of 48 species observations and generous light breezes. After passing a large group of scavenging Yellow-billed Magpies, we headed to the fishing pier to find Pied-billed Grebes with young, before we passed along a ravine with two pairs of American Quail adults with their young, and a few Western Kingbirds. We found all typical woodpeckers, including a Downy pecking away at an oak gall, and we got to see all the expected heron and egret species, including two Great Blue Heron nestlings. We spotted a Western Tanager, confirmed with a “pit-er-ick” call, two Black-headed Grosbeaks, and we were delighted to find both the Bullock's Oriole and the Hooded Oriole active with many other species among a shady patch of riparian forest. Thrushes were the cherry on top upon returning to the area where we began.”

Cathie LaZier

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Roger Dunstan, Mercedes R Gay, Bud Getty, Michael J Harris, John and Ellen Huls, Barbara Jeffus, Barbara Klide, Sharon Lenn, Florence Luna, Bea Pearson, Deldi Reyes, Janet Sandlin and Beverly J Spencer made donations to the **General Fund**.

Gesna Clarke, Mercedes R Gay, Michael J Harris, Barbara Klide, Sharon Lenn, Florence Luna, Mary Beth Metcalf, Joyce A Mihanovich and Robin B Thompson made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Mercedes R Gay, Michael J Harris, John and Ellen Huls, Sharon Lenn, Florence Luna and Mary Beth Metcalfs made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

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



Wild Turkey
See it on the Family Friendly
Nature Walk

CREATE SOME HABITAT AT HOME!

Every year the Sacramento Chapter of the California Native Plant Society holds two Native Plant sales. This year's fall sale is this month on September 28 and 29. Each day's sale is from 10am until 3pm, and the event is held at the Shepherd Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park at 3330 McKinley Blvd. You can find more details on their website at SacValleyCNPS.org. You might want to do some research before you go because they have so much available—you'll want everything. Don't miss it!

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, September 21, 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 birders Maureen Geiger and Sue Darst from Audubon and naturalists from the nature center. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walks are held the third Saturday of most months. Future dates are October 19, and November 16. In 2020 the dates are January 18, February 15, April 18 and May 16. Reservations are not needed; families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with Nature Center docents and leaders from Sacramento Audubon.

Saturday, September 28, 10am, Family Friendly Trip, Cosumnes River Preserve Leader: Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for an easy walk of about a mile and a half viewing the wintering waterfowl such as ducks, egrets, herons and shorebirds in the flooded wetland ponds. Fall sparrows and resident wrens and towhees may be found in the oak woodland area. The paved trail makes this an excellent walk for families; beginning birders are also welcome. Walk will finish by noon. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. Meet at the first parking lot on your right before you arrive at the left turn to the Visitors Center. Directions available at www.cosumnes.org. Loaner binoculars are available.

NOTE: Meeting location and other information for all trips is available in our Field Trips column, 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 be slow months for birding in the Valley. While there are fewer species to see, it is a very important time for our local breeding birds. The hoped-for rare songbirds in late spring were not found, but a good showing of shorebirds added interest to the period, and a few common songbird species began to trickle in along their post-breeding migrations by late July. Summer records of **Redheads** continued, with a high of 12 at the Woodland WTP, and one to two at Bridgeway Island Pond. A calling **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported along the American River upstream of Watt Ave on 7/27; unfortunately, it wasn't seen.

Shorebird reports dominated the period, with some excellent finds. **Marbled Godwits** are fairly regular in Yolo County during the period, where there were many reports, but four at Beals Point, Folsom Lake, on 7/30 were much less expected. A **Red Knot** was an excellent find at the Woodland WTP on 7/21-22. A **Semipalmated Sandpiper** and a **Solitary Sandpiper** were nice reports from 7/15 at the Anatolia Vernal Pool Preserve off of Sunrise Blvd. A **Dunlin** at the Davis Wetlands on 7/1 was very early for this species, which is typically one of the later-arriving shorebirds. A single **Willet** was found at the Lincoln WTP on 7/10, while there were multiple July reports from regular Yolo shorebird sites. Up to three **Western Gulls** were reported in July from Sherman Island.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these
new members .

Kathleen Galas Judy Lyle
Susan Gearhart Deldi Reyes
Susan Goodrich Donald Taylor
Heidi Guttschuss Chris Weideman
Lynda Hughes

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 24, 2019, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at a **new** location, Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento CA. 95816.

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

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

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

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook



Observations continued

Two pairs of **Least Terns** nested at the Sacramento Regional WTP, and while a total of five chicks were hatched, none persisted for more than a week. No predation was observed, but likely culprits included a family group of five **Common Ravens** (which have begun nesting locally), **Red-tailed** and **Swainson's** hawks, and two **Peregrine Falcons** that were observed several times near the nest sites. There were multiple **Least Bittern** reports throughout the period from Davis Wetlands, the Yolo Bypass, and the Putah Creek Sinks. A **Brown Pelican** seen along Hwy 160 south of Rio Vista on 7/28 was a nice surprise. Unusual songbirds were not reported during this period, though a high of 87 **Bank Swallows** among a congregation of post-breeding swallows

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

www.sacramentoaudubon.org
sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

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The Observer Newsletter \$25 per address (1 Year) _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

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

on Sherman Island in the last half of July was a nice report for Sacramento County. While regular in Yolo County in migration, this species is often missed in Sacramento County, even in migration, since they ceased breeding near Rossmoor Bar along the American River more than 15 years ago. Perhaps they are regular at Sherman Island in July, but few people have looked in recent years.

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:

Dan Airola, Max Brodie, Brant Brumbeloe, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Afton Kern, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Ron Melcer, Gary Mele, Michael Perrone, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Jim Thomas, and John Trochet.

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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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 19, at 7pm
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center**

Tim Vendliski, *Challenges and
Opportunities with Conserving
Suburban Natural Areas*