

# The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



## General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Webex Meeting 7pm, See details below

Southern Ecuador: In Search of Rare, Local and New Species

Vayun Tiwari

**How to join the meeting:** September's meeting will be held online via Cisco Webex. To receive a link to join the meeting, email [meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org). There is no cost to join the meeting and you do not have to be a member to attend. There is a cap of 100 attendees. For more information visit [www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker).

Exploring the most biodiverse country in the world in search of rarities and local birds takes us to Southern Ecuador. From the dry Tumbesian woods, to the cloud forest, to the high Andean paramo, and finally Amazonian foothills. In this talk, Vayun will share experiences from his first hardcore birding trip to Ecuador, showing highlights such as the Jocotoco Antpitta (whose discovery started a new habitat conversation effort in Ecuador), Blue-throated Hillstar (a striking hummingbird discovered only in 2018 on a high Andean ridge!), Orange-throated Tanager (localized to the border region with Peru in the shadow of the remote Cordillera del Condor), Spot-winged Parrotlet (perhaps the first photographs from Ecuador), El Oro Parakeet (dis



Violet-tailed Sylph  
Vayun Tiwari

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## NEW SAS SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Voting on the slate will open on August 20th and close on September 23rd, 2020. Since our General Meetings are currently suspended, you may cast your vote in one of two ways: with an online voting link or a mail-in ballot. The link to vote online is [sacramentoaudubon.org/board-election](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/board-election) Per SAS bylaws, one must be a dues-paying SAS member to vote.

### SLATE OF SAS BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Mary Forrestal
Corresponding Secretary	Heather White
Board of Directors	Elliot Chasin Gesna Clarke Nancy Gronert Diana Hickson Jane Van Kessel

### Mail-in Ballot to Vote for the Sacramento Audubon Society Board Officers and Directors, 2020-2021

To vote, complete and mail the ballot below to:

Sacramento Audubon Society, P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816.

A 'yes' answer indicates your approval of all of the nominated board officers and directors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year of the Sacramento Audubon Society. Voting will close on September 23rd, 2020. Please vote only once. Only dues-paying members should vote. Thank you.

### Ballot

Vote

- Yes, I confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon.
- No, I do not confirm the appointment of the above slate of Board Officers for the Sacramento Audubon Society

Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Your name will be used to verify your membership.

# This Month's Suggested Birding

September, From Maureen Geiger

As most everyone knows, SAS will not be offering organized field trips until we are no longer under threat from COVID-19. And while that may seem dire (it certainly does to those of us who love to go on and lead these trips!), maybe we can see this as a new opportunity for wonderful, fulfilling birding. So, every month until regular field trips are restored, we will suggest a few ideas for places to go and birds to find. We'll confine our suggestions to places that are more or less "local" until the stay-at-home order is no longer in force. These are my ideas for September. Maureen

## Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant/North Regional Pond

Variouly known as above and also as the Woodland/Davis Clean Water Facility and on the official City website as the Woodland Water Pollution Control Facility, the main sewer ponds and North Regional Pond across the road are a wonderful site for chalking up an excellent bird list. With shorebirds and waterfowl in abundance in winter and fairly numerous in the fall, take a scope and check this place out. A Western Grebe has been over-summering in the main sewer pond, and in North Pond, large numbers of Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, White-faced Ibis, Pied-billed Grebes and ducks, blackbirds, swallows and meadowlarks are abundant. Amazingly, 16 species of waterfowl were reported in early July, and there is a good chance many of these will remain in addition to migrating and wintering species.

Heading north on I-5 from Sacramento, proceed towards Woodland and take Exit #536. Turn left over the overpass on Road 102, then .9 of a mile further, at the light at E Gibson Road, turn left/east (onto Road 24 although not clearly marked). Driving east, you will see the gravel parking lot on your right at the chain link fence and see the ponds to the left and right. Going through the chain link fence to view the sewer ponds to the east and south is acceptable M-F 9-3pm only, but the North Pond can be viewed easily



American Bittern  
Linda Pittman

from the parking area or the gravel road running along two sides.

## Effie Yeaw Nature Center, American River Parkway

Although probably better birding later in the month when there is more chance of migrants, this is always a great place to take a walk. If you head down to the banks of the beautiful American River, it is very soothing to watch the water go by, and you have a good chance of seeing Common Mergansers, Killdeer, maybe a Double-crested Cormorant fly-by, Turkey Vultures overhead, Red-shouldered Hawks –and, of course, Acorn Woodpeckers and deer and possible coyote throughout the Nature Center. EYNC is open 9-5 Tuesday through Sunday. From California Ave in Fair Oaks, take the Tarshes Drive entrance; at the stop sign turn left on San Lorenzo and follow it to the nature center parking lot on your right. For further directions see [sacnature-center.net](http://sacnature-center.net). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

## Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Except when lack of water keeps the birds away, YBWA is another excellent birding destination. In September, migrating shorebirds, raptors and swallows will be present. Last year, on a September field trip, two American Bitterns were out in the open and well seen by all participants. According to Steve Hampton, a well-known Yolo County birder, the summer shore-bird migration pond this year will be the fields NE of the Y between the two auto tour loops. Flood up began in early July. See map on Steve's website: [www.tertia.us/yolobirds/yolo.html](http://www.tertia.us/yolobirds/yolo.html). Due to on-going work at the WA, this will be the only pond this year, and it may be only a portion of this tract. Also, at some point there will be detours on the auto tour at the Y and elsewhere as work on water control structures progresses. 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.

## Reichmuth Park

This often-overlooked urban gem in south Sacramento offers wide trails, dense understory, emergent wetland and riparian and oak habitat that make this a good place to bird all year round. Fall is a great time to search for migrants. Last year on this trip, the highlight was a Great Horned Owl seen well by all birders plus Green Heron, Wood Ducks, Western Bluebirds, 3 species of woodpeckers, Spotted Towhees, Bushtits, Oak Titmice and House and Bewick's Wrens. There is ample parking in the lot on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue. From southbound I-5, drive 3.6 miles south of I-50 and exit at 43rd Ave. Turn left and continue to Gloria Drive. Turn right onto Gloria, and shortly the parking lot will be on the left. If coming up I-5 from the south, there is no 43rd Ave exit, so exit onto Florin Road, head west and turn right on Greenhaven Dr, then right onto Gloria Drive.

## Stone Lakes

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge south of Sacramento is beautifully designed for families with small children and those with mobility challenges as it offers a wide, level cement trail that loops through the Refuge. This varied habitat might produce interesting birds, especially in the fall and winter. The marsh has turned up Green Heron, Sora, Belted Kingfisher, Song Sparrow and Common Yellow-throat while in the surrounding ag and fallow fields Swainson's Hawks, Red-tails, doves and meadowlarks can be found. Driving south from Sacramento on I-5, two miles south of the Elk Grove exit, take Exit 504 at Hood-Franklin Road and drive .8 of a mile to the NWR entrance on the left. There is a large parking lot and restrooms.



Spotted Towhee  
Chris Conard

## SEPTEMBER'S NOT SO FAR AWAY

There's a song by a British indie pop group, The Field Mice, from the early '90s called "September's Not So Far Away." It starts ringing in my head every August (and sometimes in July!). Even though the local birding can be great this time of year, the promise of cooler temperatures is hard to ignore. It's also a time when in a typical year without COVID-19 concerns, many of us would be planning multiple trips to the coast, including SAS field trips. The urge to visit the coast might still be irresistible. As I write, we're in for several days around 110 degrees. September can not get here soon enough. Every year is different, but it is often the second half of September and early October that produce the most unusual birds. And then there are days with very few migrants of any description.

Among the many great coastal birding spots, Point Reyes, more specifically the "Outer Point," is the biggest draw. Perhaps it's because that's where I experienced my first really good fall migrant day, and I keep going back. I was on a well-attended SAS trip led by Pierre Delastre on October 2, 1999. The hits kept coming, with Red-throated Pipit, two Magnolia Warblers, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler, and, best of all, a Connecticut Warbler walking (may I stress walking) below the cypresses on the path to the Lighthouse. I've gone back every year since, and began leading fall trips for SAS once Pierre moved back to France and I learned a bit more. No day since has been quite as impressive as the first, but all are enjoyable in their own way (and I'm not just saying that).



Connecticut Warbler  
Chris Conard

The best days tend to be overcast with a southwest wind. Worst are clear days with wind from the north (the birds keep flying). I remember the most frustrating day, when there were no rare birds reported except for a Plumbeous Vireo at the "New Willows" (now sort of off limits because of the elephant seal viewing area). I think we saw a few Yellow Warblers and a few had brief glimpses of the vireo. But even on slow days, the scenery is great (unless it's really foggy), and the mix of birds is a nice change from Sacramento.



Blackburnian Warbler  
Chris Conard

There are too many great bird experiences to list, though I can't leave out the Golden-winged Warbler in 2002. Kimya and I were around Bodega Bay and learned that the bird had been found the previous day at the Nunes (A) Ranch on the Outer Point. We couldn't find anywhere to stay, so spent the night in the car on a wide spot next to the road near Olema. We had great looks at the bird the next morning along with a SAS group that arrived a little later. I was fortunate to find another Connecticut Warbler on a SAS trip on September 28, 2014, see over 20 species of warblers, including several beautiful Blackburnian Warblers, and watch dozens of tired Townsend's Warblers arrive in the Lighthouse trees and then at Nunes. And there's no room to mention the great times at Abbott's Lagoon, one of my favorite places. Then there was a wonderful Canada Warbler at Nunes. It was Karen Benson's first SAS trip, and I remember Harlin (those who met Harlin remember Harlin) having trouble getting a view of the bird (not sure it was then, but he used to say, "I hate warblers; they won't sit still."). Finally, we all had great views of this wonderful bird.

But the most memorable experience was actually at the end of August in 2003. We were at the Fish Docks, near the parking area to Chimney Rock. Scott Hoppe told me that he and a couple others had just seen a Least Bittern flying along the bluffs. I was a bit incredulous (thinking of the coloration, I remember asking him if it could have been a Ruddy Turnstone). He was confident and we made our way up the trail toward the New Willows and then partway downslope for a look at where Scott said it had vanished. As the group got into place, the bird flushed from where it was perched near the shore (on a rock, as I recall!) and continued flying along the shore. So bizarre to see a secretive marsh bird flying along an ocean bluff. COVID willing, we'll be back.

Chris Conard

## ONE MORE BUTTERFLY

After last month's note on local butterflies, I received a couple of messages pointing out that I missed one: the large, showy Gulf Fritillary. This species seems to be patchily distributed, but fairly widespread around Sacramento, and was reported by Ken Mateik in El Dorado Hills. Gulf Fritillaries breed on planted passion flower.

According to Art Shapiro's excellent butterfly pages ([butterfly.ucdavis.edu](http://butterfly.ucdavis.edu)), the species started showing up in Davis and then Sacramento in 2008-09. Native to the American tropics, extending into the southeastern U.S., it may have come to our area through the dubious practice of butterfly releases at public events. Despite its questionable origin, it doesn't seem to have a negative effect on native ecosystems, though it is likely unpalatable (as signaled by the bright orange coloration) as a prey item. Interestingly, Gulf Fritillaries had somehow been introduced once before, in the 1960s, but were gone by the early 1970s. Adapted to tropical environments, they are susceptible to hard freezes, such as happened here in 1990 (I remember walking on top of Putah Creek that December). Despite its uncertain long-term viability, it is an interesting and colorful addition to our local lepidofauna.

Chris Conard



Gulf Fritillary  
Ken Mateik



Gulf Fritillary  
Ken Mateik



## A Reevaluation Of John James Audubon At The National Audubon Society

While most have come to know the National Audubon Society for its conservation and policy leadership, its science and its community-based education efforts, we owe our members and others a full accounting and reckoning with John James Audubon himself. As you'll see in a piece we're publishing today by John James Audubon historian Dr. Gregory Nobles, there is a lot of John James Audubon's personal history that must be laid bare. In the strongest possible terms, we condemn the role John James Audubon played in enslaving Black people and perpetuating white supremacist culture. We're partnering with leading historians and journalists to grapple with Audubon's legacy on Audubon.org, in *Audubon* magazine, and in the physical places we steward.

This is a time when *Audubon* magazine's journalistic integrity allows us to examine our field and ourselves. We're committed to working with partners and our network through this process.

David Yarnold, President and CEO  
National Audubon Society

## LET'S KEEP BIRDS SAFE!

### FEEDERS AND BATHS

Information found at [www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/learn/feeding.php](http://www.birdwatchersdigest.com/bwdsite/learn/feeding.php). Log on to learn much more.

Disinfect feeders by scrubbing with a weak bleach solution (one part bleach to nine parts warm water) every few weeks, more often in summer or rainy periods. Rinse and allow feeders to dry before refilling. Move your feeding station when the ground beneath it becomes covered with seed hulls and droppings. Rake the old site to remove hulls and to give the grass a chance to recover.

Don't situate birdbaths under feeders or perches where droppings can fall into them. Rinse and scrub birdbaths daily in summer, or whenever they become fouled with bird droppings. Once a month, scrub out with a light bleach solution (one part bleach in nine parts water), rinse thoroughly, and refill.

### OUR BELOVED CATS

Information found at [abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/](http://abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/). Log on to learn much more.

Want the best of outdoor access while keeping your cat safe at home? Outdoor enclosures—like a catio—can give your cat the chance to move around freely outside within a sheltered and safe space. Whether you and your cat prefer a perch, a patio, or the entire backyard, enclosures can be modified to suit all situations.

Catios: A portable or permanent catio enclosure dedicates a safe and fun space for your cat to smell the fresh air and enjoy the sunshine.

Fence Conversion: Turn your existing fence into a cat-safe fence or modify existing structures to create an escape-proof kingdom for your cat to explore.

Anti-Predation Devices: Several devices can help reduce (but not eliminate) cat predation. Devices that obstruct a cat's ability to stalk, pounce, or grab prey may reduce impacts on birds and other wildlife. Several companies offer options but maybe you can start using your own DIY bib, bell or collar.

## Education and Outreach Kids' Corner

### PLANTING A SEED

Planting seeds in kids to recognize, respect and appreciate nature begins at an early age and in your own back yard. Kids are naturally curious; so, what better place than the backyard to start a conversation about birds and ways to create and maintain a healthy and safe environment for local birds who consider your yard their home or birds who drop by during seasonal migration.

Prepare a birding tool kit that includes binoculars, pencils, note and sketch pads, and birding field or activity guide to help your kids get started.

Below are a few recommended field and activity guides for kids of different ages. Each book may be found at Amazon.

- *Backyard Birding for Kids* by Fran Lee
- *Audubon Birding Adventures for Kids: activities and Ideas for Watching, Feeding and Housing our Feathered Friends* by Elissa Wolfson
- *The Young Birder's Guide to Birds of North America* (Peterson Field Guides) by Roger Tory Peterson
- *Bird Log, A Kids' Journal to Record Their Birding Experience* by De Anna Brandt

Help your kids learn to respect birds and their habitat. One example is by modeling how to quietly observe a bird's behavior from a distance, so the bird is not frightened and flies away.

Work with your kids and explore ways to support birds who live in or stopover at your backyard.

- Build a birdhouse or birdfeeder.
- Identify a corner in the yard to start a kids' native plant garden. The garden will attract more birds to the yard.
- Build a DIY water source in one or two locations in your backyard.

What other things can you and your kids do to create a bird friendly community in your own backyard? Put on your thinking cap and start planting those seeds to introduce your kids to the wonderful world of birding!

Young birders are encouraged to share ideas, suggestions, birding experiences and photos or sketches in the Kids' Corner. For more information contact [education@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:education@sacramentoaudubon.org).



Northern Flicker  
William Pond Recreation Area  
Gesna Clarke

## General Meeting

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covered in 1988 and already Endangered), the amazing Long-wattled Umbrellabird and more! The talk will also cover some time spent around Mindo, in the cloud forests west of Quito, photographing iconic species such as Toucan Barbet, Plate-billed Mountain Toucan and an array of colorful hummingbirds and tanagers.

Vayun is a rising Junior at Harker High School in San Jose. Besides bird photography, his other interests are skiing and playing the trumpet in his high school Jazz Band. While Vayun has been birding with his dad, Vivek Tiwari, for a few years, and has participated in birdathons with the Fledglings, the Santa Clara Audubon youth team, he started bird photography when he was 10 years old, during a family trip to the Florida Everglades. Since then he has also photographed in California, Panama, Peru, Belize, Hawaii, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and on his most recent trip to Ecuador. Vayun is currently working on analyzing 40 years of bird population data from his home region, connecting bird population trends to climate change, and setting up a wildlife photography club in his school. Vayun won 1st place in the



*Black and White Owl*  
Vayun Tiwari



*Toucan Barbet*  
Vayun Tiwari

youth category for the 2020 Audubon Photography Contest. Vayun uses his photographs to help raise funds for conservation, including for habitat protection of the Blue-throated Hillstar.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are now held online the third Thursday of the month. The public is welcome. Details of how the meetings will be held online can be found at the beginning of this article. Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker) for further information. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

*Anthony Asay, Program Chair*

## THE EARLY BIRDER GETS THE BIRD

It is well known in the birding community that it is often best to get an early start. This is particularly true when looking for passerines in the warmer months. The birds are most active in the morning, and seem to pretty much disappear by mid-morning and into the heat of the day. Of course, this can be beneficial for the birder as well. You can get several hours in and be back in your air conditioned home before it gets uncomfortably warm.

But this strategy can work well with the water birds, too. Recently, I spent a couple of wonderful hours at the Woodland Water Treatment Plant. What is known as the North Pond has become a magnet for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders. I arrived just as the sun crept up over the horizon. I got my scope out and walked over toward the pond. What greeted me was the thrilling sight of thousands of birds spread out across the water and surrounding shores. By far the most numerous were White-faced Ibis. Several large groups were roosting in the shallows, and groups of hundreds at a time would take flight and head south. I estimated the total number to be around 2,400. Also waking up and getting ready for the day were many egrets gathered in the near corner. There were, of course, many ducks scattered across the pond:

Mallards, Northern Shovelers, Cinnamon Teal, Ruddy Ducks. And this pond has attracted the most Pied-billed Grebes I've ever seen in one place. I put the total at 120.

Shorebirds were well represented, the most numerous species were Long-billed Dowitchers (170) and Black-necked Stilts (close to 100), with a smaller number of American Avocets and Greater Yellowlegs. Least Sandpipers lined the shore in many places, but I only found a couple of Western Sandpipers. The bird of the day, though, was a single Semipalmated Sandpiper, somewhat rare for western coastal states.

Now, it might be possible to see large gatherings like this later in the day. But all it takes is one pass by a Peregrine Falcon and most of the birds scatter. I've seen places like this go from hundreds of shorebirds to practically nothing after a Peregrine swoops through.

But the attraction, for me, wasn't just the number of birds. It was the magic of the moment. The low light, the birds rousing themselves to meet the day. There is a kind of serenity to it. In these times, we could all use a little of that.

*Scott Hoppe*

## Sacramento Valley Conservancy

### E-Waste Fundraiser

### Saturday, September 5

Drive through Camp Pollock for free and touchless drop off of your electronic waste. Pop the trunk or open the door and we will unload for you! SVC has partnered with Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (SRCC) to collect E-waste and raise funds for the Camp Pollock Native Nursery. Every pound of eligible e-waste becomes "seed funding" for the native plant project. Not all items can be accepted. Review the full list of what can and cannot be accepted at the website below. Early dropoffs can be arranged too if needed. More information can be found at [sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/ewaste-2020-09-05/](http://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/ewaste-2020-09-05/)

## SACRAMENTO VALLEY CONSERANCY

### MORE THAN HALF WAY TO A CAMP POLLOCK TINY HOUSE

On Friday, July 3rd a huge Alder tree fell at Camp Pollock causing damage to the caretaker trailer. Tim and his two yellow labs (Philbin and Luther) were inside the trailer when the tree came down, and while very shook up, thankfully they were all able to walk away. The tree pierced the roof and side of the trailer and caused damage to the inside. With insurance only covering just a fraction of the cost for a long-term replacement, SVC turned to their community for help. Thanks to the generous support of more than 200 donors, they are less than \$20,000 away from their goal of \$45,000 by August 20th!

## WEBSITE CHAIRPERSON

I want to announce that Gesna Clarke has stepped down as chairperson of the website committee. We are all very thankful for all the excellent work she has done overseeing the website committee.

Mary Forrestal has volunteered to be the website chairperson. I'm confident she can fulfill the duties responsibly and I appointed her to the position.

Bill Bianco, President  
Sacramento Audubon Society

## Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at [biancowm@yahoo.com](mailto:biancowm@yahoo.com); or 916-372-3318 to find out how the Board Meeting is being held.

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting is on September 29, and would normally be held at 7pm at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at [sacramentoaudubon.org/board-minutes](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/board-minutes).

## 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.

## Field Trip Information

Due to the continuing coronavirus threat, SAS is not offering field trips for the month of September. It is not clear when they will resume, so please check the SAS website, [sacramentoaudubon.org](http://sacramentoaudubon.org), and our Facebook page as they will reflect future field trips as soon as they are scheduled once again. A new series suggesting places to bird according to the month can be found on page 2.



## BOBELAINE CLOSURE DUE TO LEVEE CONSTRUCTION

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary will be closed August 23 through September 23, 2020 due to levee construction. Construction truck traffic will make it unsafe to walk or cross the levee to the sanctuary. Closure dates could change if the levee construction schedule changes. Changes to the schedule will be posted on the Sacramento Audubon Website at [www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bobelaine-audubon-sanctuary](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bobelaine-audubon-sanctuary)

Bobelaine Visitors: When Bobelaine opens again after the 23rd, please be aware that the gate on the private road at signs ("End" and "Not a County Road") can be temporarily closed (without notice) due to agricultural operations. It is usually reopened within a short time period. Area farmers try to provide advanced notice of gate closing. Advanced closing notices will be posted on the SAS website.



## Construction and Detours in the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area

The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area is getting an upgrade! Two new bridges are being installed that will improve drainage and lessen road flooding, creating better access for all of us! Please stay alert while in the Wildlife Area as construction is going on throughout the summer. Currently, the road south out of Parking Lot A will be closed while improvements are in progress near the South Davis Drain. The road east out of Parking Lot A will allow two-way traffic for now. Look to [yolobasin.org/directions-to-the-ybwa/](http://yolobasin.org/directions-to-the-ybwa/) for a map of the area referred to. Various closures and rerouting will likely take place through the end of September. Please follow all posted signs. We will update the Yolo Basin Foundation Facebook page with new information as it becomes available.



SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

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

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

## Seasonal Sightings

July 1 to July 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports  
[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

As is often the case in July, most of the highlights came in the form of shorebirds. By month's end, songbird migration had also picked up, with fair numbers of **Wilson's Warblers**, **Western Tanagers**, and even a few **Hermit Warblers** reported. A good collection of summering ducks was found at the Woodland WTP, including **Canvasback**, **Redhead**, **Lesser Scaup**, **Bufflehead**, and **Common Goldeneye**. A **Bufflehead** also spent the month at Sailor Bar along the American River Parkway (ARP), and a young male **Common Goldeneye** did the same downstream, below the Gristmill access. A **Red-necked Grebe** was quite a surprise at the

Woodland WTP on 7/26.

Among the good numbers of migrating shorebirds, the highlight of the month was a **Pacific Golden-Plover** at CRP on 7/26. A photographed **Snowy Plover** was a nice find at the Woodland WTP on 7/9. Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported from the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area from 7/16-29, with two on 7/24, at the Woodland WTP on 7/12, the Davis Wetlands on 7/25, and along Desmond Rd at CRP on 7/19. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) on 7/20, with likely a different bird on 7/29-30; another was found at the Sutter NWR on 7/22. Reports of single **Willetts** came from the Woodland WTP for much of the month after 7/18, SRWTP on 7/15, CRP on 7/18, as well as 7/24-25, and five were found at Beals



## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these  
new members.

Sharla Bemis

David Drabble

Regina Gandour-Edwards

Scott Harrison

Tom Sorensen

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Craig De Martini, Regina Gandour-Edwards, Susan Gearhart, Susan Goodrich, Nancy Gronert, Michael J Harris, Robin Kulakow, Sharon Lenn, Ken & Mary Lou Lentz, Eric Liskay, Mary Beth Metcalf, Jan Schori & Case Butterman, Aimee Staats, Donald Taylor and Jane Waln made donations to the **General Fund**.

Craig De Martini, Dawn Furlong, Michael J Harris, John & Ellen Huls, Robert & Anne Meagher, Joyce A Mihanovich, Deldi Reyes and Jane Waln made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Alice Bauman, Patrick And Nancy Carney, Christine Hansen, Michael J Harris, John & Ellen Huls and Mary Beth Metcalf 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.

## 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. All new members will only receive our newsletter online so be sure to include your email address and check if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List.

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

[www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

[membership@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:membership@sacramentoaudubon.org)

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Observer* Newsletter \$35 per address (1 Year) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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### *Observations* continued

Point, Folsom Lake, on 7/27. After a couple of failed nesting attempts, two pairs of **Least Terns** each raised a single chick to full size at SRWTP (under the watchful eyes of **Swainson's Hawks** and **Common Ravens**), with at least one of them seen flying strongly before departing in August. The terns at this site are the only regularly nesting pairs (one pair since 2008, with two pairs for the past two years) of the species in the Central Valley.

Over 100 **Swainson's Hawks** were reported on 7/23, attracted to ag fields east of I-5, between Lambert Rd and Twin Cities Rd. A photographed hatch-year **Hermit Thrush** was an interesting find at River Bend Park, ARP, on 7/22. The species doesn't breed in the Valley, so it likely travelled from the Sierra or points north well before this species is typically found

around Sacramento. A **Yellow-breasted Chat** continued from June until at least 7/10 at Sailor Bar, ARP. A **Black-and-White Warbler** was an excellent find at Ancil Hoffman Park, ARP, on 7/28-29 where they have been found before in recent years, and a **Summer Tanager** was quite a surprise in the Sutter Buttes on 7/28.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html](http://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-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central

Valley Bird Club listserv ([cvbirds.org](mailto:cvbirds.org)) and in eBird ([ebird.org](http://ebird.org)). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Brian Acord, Max Brodie, Lyann Comrack, Farley Cross, Todd Easterla, Maureen Geiger, Eli Gross, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Cliff Hawley, Scott Hoppe, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Mark Martucci, Michael Perrone, Zane Pickus, Ron Pozzi, Peter Sands, Steve Scott, John Toldi, 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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### ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

**September 17, 2020**

Vayun Tiwari, *Southern Ecuador: In  
Search of Rare, Local, and  
New Species*

September's meeting will be held  
online via Cisco Webex. To receive a  
link to join the meeting, email  
[meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:meetings@sacramentoaudubon.org).



*White-breasted Parakeet*  
Vayun Tiwari