

### South Sacramento

This tour of urban parks begins in William Land Park and continues south. From Interstate 5, exit at Sutterville Road. At the east side of the overpass, go right at the sign for Riverside Boulevard and north (right) to William Land Park. Continue the tour south to the other urban parks.

#### William Land Park and Riverside Trails

Although most of the area south of William Land Park has been taken over as a residential area, the birding is surprisingly good in the few remaining natural spots. Probably the best is the “panhandle” along Riverside Boulevard between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenues.

**Birding the site:** Large conifers, berry-laden shrubs and trees attract winter flocks of American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and American Goldfinch. Red-breasted Sapsucker is usually present and Red-naped and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers have been seen in the area. Hutton’s Vireo can usually be found in the evergreen oaks. This is as good a place as any in Sacramento to look for wintering Varied Thrush (under the redwoods), Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Townsend’s Warbler, Purple Finch and Pine Siskin.

The riverside trails in winter may reveal a Mew Gull flying over the river or a Winter Wren calling from a blackberry thicket. A spring hike will produce migrating warblers, grosbeaks and tanagers. Breeding birds in this area include Wood Duck, White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered and Swainson’s Hawks, American Kestrel, Great Horned Owl and Western Screech-Owl, Nuttall’s and Downy Woodpeckers, Belted Kingfisher and Tree Swallow.

**Directions:** From downtown Sacramento, take Interstate 5 for 2.0 miles south of Highway 50 and exit at Sutterville Road. Turn left, then veer right for Riverside Boulevard and head north. From March through the summer, Northern Rough-winged Swallows nest in drain holes where Riverside Boulevard, Seamas, 35<sup>th</sup> and 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenues pass under Interstate 5. For the riverside trails, head south on Riverside Boulevard from Sutterville Road, and park by the levee 0.1 mile south of 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Climb over the levee and follow informal trails upstream through a one-mile stretch of riparian habitat. Be alert for occasional homeless camps.

