



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

VOLUME 71 • NO. 7

JULY 2019

General Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2019

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

Come early to wander the grounds and bird or visit.

There are no meetings held over the summer and the next meeting will be on September 19 at 7pm. The speaker will be Tim Vendliski, a retired environmental manager for the EPA. Come hear about the hidden biological treasures within Del Paso Regional Park, learn 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.

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://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

Success!

178,500 Tricolored Blackbirds Saved

Tricolored Blackbirds just finished a phenomenal breeding season. Our team found nesting colonies in 15 different farms in 4 counties in the Central Valley. We established partnerships with 90% of farmers to delay harvests for 6 weeks until chicks could fly off the nest. Together, we protected 90% of threatened colonies and saved 178,500 birds! An incredible win.

Audubon California

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Environmental Education Program (EEP)

June 7 Field Trip: The final field trip of the cycle for Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps (SRCC) students was held June 7 at William Pond Recreation Area. Maureen Geiger and Carla Barbaro led a small group and their classroom teacher, David Rodriguez, through the area looking for birds commonly spotted there. Unfortunately few birds made an appearance. Maureen and Carla refocused their attention on the riparian trees, plants, flowers and other life forms that inhabit the area. Although few birds showed, the students enjoyed their time with Maureen and Carla, and walked away with lots of new information.

SRCC Thanks to Sacramento Audubon Society Norma Naylor, Director of Corpsmember Development and Education recently sent SAS Board President, Bill Bianco, a letter of appreciation to Sacramento Audubon Society for offering SRCC the Environmental Education Program three years ago. Below are excerpts from her comments:

"The value of the Bird Watching Classes is especially great for our students as it goes beyond the practical Environmental Science lessons. The students are being given the opportunity to experience a connection with nature through birds. It is unlikely that they would have found this avenue without the Audubon Society. This year was our best. I'm not sure what your plans are but we are definitely behind keeping the program going if possible."

Thank you EEP Volunteers; Field leaders: Maureen Geiger, Ken Poerner, Carla Barbaro, Sandra Steurer, Bill Bianco, Sue Darst, Larry Hickey, and Mark Martucci; Classroom Teacher: Sheila Green. There would be no program without your support and commitment.

Planning for the next cycle begins in September. This process examines ways to address issues and continue to improve the program. Our goal is to run the program from November 2019 to May 2020.

Nature Bowl 2020 Outreach to Begin

Outreach to local elementary schools begins now for teacher-coaches and teams to participate in Nature Bowl 2020 at Camp Pollack. Sacramento Audubon Society coordinated its first Nature Bowl semi-finals in 2018. If you have leads on any youth organizations or elementary school teachers (3rd/4th grade and 5th/6th grade) who may be interested in participating, email education@sacramentoaudubon.org. Read more about Nature Bowl at <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/2/Nature-Bowl>

Conservation Tip of the Month #2

Think Before You Buy In general, think before you buy a product—do you really need it? How did the production of this product impact the environment and what further impacts will there be with the disposal of the product (and associated packaging materials)? When you are thinking about buying something, try the 30-Day Rule—wait 30 days after the first time you decide you want a product to really make your decision. This will eliminate impulse buying.

Source: www.globalstewards.org/ecotips.htm

Did you know that in 1952 the executive board of the Sacramento Audubon Society awarded Mrs. Effie Yeaw a scholarship for the ornithology course that was being sponsored by the Society at the State College? The award was in recognition of her long and energetic work with the children of her neighborhood, and particularly with the Carmichael Audubon Society which she organized. The scholarship was made available through the generosity of Mr C E Goethe, who was also a member of the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Source: September-October 1952 *Observer*

Field Trip Findings

Estates Drive (6/12) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “An overcast sky, mild temperatures and bit of humidity greeted us at 7am. Then around 9am the sun shined through and the heat of day encroached. Shortly after we began to fade and decided to wrap it up. However, it was an altogether informative outing, with each person contributing their knowledge of the flora and fauna. The six of us tallied 37 avian species during our 3 hour, 2 mile walk.”

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass (6/8 and 6/9) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “An even dozen birders arrived Saturday morning in Sierraville for a day of birding the Sierra Valley. The weather was more or less as advertised; cool morning and warm afternoon. The trip began on W Willow Rd where we found nice passerines, including Warbling Vireo, W Wood-Pewee, Pine Siskin, Fox Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird and swallows. In Carmen Valley the highlight birds were Willow Flycatcher and Pygmy Nuthatch, along with White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch. There were also Townsend’s Solitaire, and both Western and Mountain Bluebird. Entering the valley proper at Marble Hot Springs Rd yielded our first Sage Thrasher of the day. Typically, the valley was loaded with waterfowl, including Canada Goose, Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, Redhead and Ruddy Duck. We also found Wilson’s Snipe and Wilson’s Phalarope, White-faced Ibis, Willet, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Sandhill Crane, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-headed Blackbird and a Peregrine Falcon. At Rotary Park, we had more passerines, but were disappointed by the lack of Lewis’s Woodpecker, for the first time in memory, albeit we did arrive there rather late in the afternoon. However, we were treated to a pair of Golden Eagles to relieve our angst. On Sunday our group started with 8 birders, including two new from Saturday, and grew to 11 by mid-morning. Highlights here at Yuba Pass and vicinity include Mountain Quail; heard, of course. Woodpeckers including Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hairy, White-headed and Northern Flicker. Flycatchers were well represented with both Hammond’s and Dusky present, as well as many W Wood Pewee. It was also a good day for thrushes with American Robin, Hermit and Swainson’s Thrush found. We also saw Golden-crowned Kinglet, Pine Siskin, Cassin’s Finch, Evening

Grosbeak, American Dipper, and a flyover of American White Pelican. This year’s species tally was 107; fortunately surpassing last year at “only” 99 species.”

Mather Field (6/9) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “The morning started as cool and cloudy and ended very warm and clear. The group grew to 17 participants and all helped identify 53 species. Besides the usual species, Western Wood-Pewee, White-throated Swift, and a small number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were noted. Highlight for the group was an adult Bullock’s Oriole feeding a fledgling in the nearby bushes. Inspiring group and excellent birding.”

Hagan Park, Family Friendly Walk (6/8) — Leader Sheila Green delivered on her promise of a Green Heron on every trip! This time there were 2 perched with a good view. A pair of Black Phoebes were coming and going from a probable nest site below a footbridge. Canada Geese, Common Mergansers and Wild Turkeys were all seen with young.

Bannister Park to Sacramento Bar (6/6) — Leader Stan Hunter reported: “4 intrepid birders joined me for a leisurely stroll from Bannister Park into the west end of Sacramento Bar, along the north shore of the American River in Fair Oaks. The morning started out cool (cooler than the previous morning), and gradually warmed up, but the birds did not disappoint, with 36 species being seen by some or all of the group during the three-hour-plus walk. Highlights included looks at four species of hawks (Red-shouldered, Red-tailed, Cooper’s and Swainson’s), two varieties of Oriole (Bullock’s and Hooded), plus Nuttall’s, Downy and Acorn Woodpeckers, and mating Tree Swallows. Several Hummingbirds (Anna’s and at least one Black-chinned) were seen, as well as regulars such as Oak Titmice, White-breasted Nuthatches, California and Spotted Towhees, and House and Bewick’s Wrens. While returning to Bannister Park we got a great view (and call) from a Hutton’s Vireo, calling proudly from a tree along Minnesota Creek. The birds were offering lots of good vocalizations this morning. Other highlights included butterflies (Pipevine and Tiger Swallowtails) and many dragonflies, as well as lots of blooming vetch, poppies and other flowering plants.

Crystal Basin (6/2) — Phyllis Wilburn, co-leader with Maureen Geiger, reported: “It was a great day in the Sierra Nevada

as 13 birders toured Crystal Basin. We had lots of good ears working on the bird songs and calls, which is the key to finding birds in the forest. The day was remarkable because we saw 8 species of warblers. We also had two vireos, Lazuli Bunting, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cassin’s Finch, Calliope Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, to name a few. The highlight for many was a Pileated Woodpecker, working on an old stump, which stayed for great views and photos. At Big Hill Lookout, where we missed Mountain Bluebird last year, we saw a Western Bluebird filling the spot, apparently using the bluebird box that has been there for some years (Global Warming?). A Bald Eagle flew over Big Hill while we looked at the bluebird. At the Icehouse Dam we were greeted by two Ospreys and a Bald Eagle. All in all, a very special day of birding.”

Northern California River Walks (6/1) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “A mere careful set out on what promised to be a hot day in the Sacramento Valley to explore a couple of lesser-known units of the Sacramento NWR in Glenn County. Fortunate to experience a breeze, we walked south in the Codora Unit to oxbow Packer Lake, and after lunch ventured north in the Sul Norte unit in riparian and open woodland habitat. We saw/heard and tallied for e-Bird 45 species. Our highlights included a screaming Osprey, carrying a fish, in hot pursuit of a mature Bald Eagle, several pairs of Bullock’s Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Western Wood Peewee, birds I thought would have moved up-slope by June 1. We missed Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a long shot at best, but what we thought might have been its call turned out to be that of Pied-billed Grebe. These areas offer easy walking over several miles and are worth visiting, though earlier in the year may be more productive.”

Glenn Hall Park (3/31) — Twelve people joined leader Mark Sawyer for this morning walk. Highlights were Yellow Warbler, a Western Wood-Pewee beside a Western Kingbird, and 2 Pacific Slope Flycatchers. Newer birders enjoyed good looks at Lesser Goldfinches and singing House Wrens.

Sierra Valley (5/26) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Trip canceled because of weather.”

Findings continued on page 7

Field Trips



Peregrine
Daniel Kilby

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 July 11, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 916-704-0951. For trips from July 12 through August 11, contact the scheduler Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300, cloudwalk7@icloud.com.

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, June 29, 6:15am

Kennedy Park, Napa

Leaders: Daniel and Pam Thompson
916-799-1093, keiran247@hotmail.com
Coordinator: Scott Hoppe
916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Daniel and Pam for a mild one mile walk around Kennedy Park in Napa. The park is situated on the Napa River and provides a number of different habitats for bird viewing. With the river, the pond, riparian, and swamp habitats we're likely to see a good selection of birds. In the past we've even heard Black Rail out in the swamps, but it's not a guarantee. The walk will last until about noon. So bring walking shoes/boots, snacks/lunch and lots to drink. There are two places you can meet. Scott Hoppe will be gathering the group at the West Sacramento Park and Ride at 6:15am. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. If you would prefer to meet the group in Fairfield, please contact Dan or Pam for the meeting place and time.

Sunday, June 30, 7:30am

Ancil Hoffman Park

Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for nesting and fledgling birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet Mark 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, July 6, 6am

Loney Meadow

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

Come join Scott at this beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over mostly level terrain, however, there is one short, fairly steep incline, and a creek crossing on stepping stones. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Sunday, July 7, 7:30am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$8 (holiday charge) entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Thursday, July 11, 7am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

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

Friday, July 12, Depart 7am

Cabbage Patch, Calaveras County

Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

Bill will bird the Ramsey Fire (Sept 2012) site at 6600 ft. elevation, located in eastern Calaveras County, about 2-2.5 hour drive from the meeting site. Plan on walking the fire roads, which will be downhill access and uphill return to the parking area with an elevation difference of 500 ft (moderate difficulty). Looking for woodpeckers, Western Tanagers, and other passerine birds and depending on time additional birding can be at Stanislaus River campground. Trip will last until late afternoon, so bring lunch, liquids, sunscreen, insect repellent, and bring FRS radios and scopes if you have them. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride. From Sacramento take Hwy 99 south to Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104, Exit #277; turn left (east) on Twin Cities; cross the freeway and turn right (south) on Stockton Blvd. The Park and Ride is just south of Twin Cities Road.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Saturday, July 13, 7:30am

**American River Parkway,
Spanos Court Access**

**Leader: Dan Kopp, 916-213-2791
rey_ality@hotmail.com**

Join Dan for a leisurely walk on the north side of the river across from the Paradise Beach area. This area is fairly typical of most Parkway locations, but has an overabundance of grapes and slightly less blackberry and elderberry which helps attract fruit lovers such as Western Tanager and Black-headed Grosbeak. We will likely encounter several riparian species such as Spotted Sandpiper, Killdeer, Song Sparrow, Belted Kingfisher, Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee, as well as California Quail. We will also likely encounter Purple Martins with young in tow, as this is the main spot along the lower American River where martins are known to assemble. The trip will probably end late morning before the intense heat of the day. Meet Dan in the parking area at the end of the Spanos Court cul-de-sac along the levee. Spanos Court runs west off Howe Avenue between Northrup and Sierra Blvd.

Sunday, July 14, 7:30am

William B. Pond Park

**Leader: Rachael Cowan
916-390-3420**

RachaelC@SacNatureCenter.net

This park has a great variety of habitat for birds; grassland, oak woodland, riparian, and open water pond. California Quail, Western Bluebirds, Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, wrens, towhees, herons, egrets and other water birds are all possible. Trip will end by 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 Rachael 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.

Wednesday, July 17, evening trip

Bats and Swainson's Hawks

**Leader: Dan Brown
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan, along with bat expert, JoEllen Arnold to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge for their evening hunt while Swainson's Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please email Dan Brown for meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 20, 6:30am

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca

**Leaders: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com
Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net**

Join Gary and Scott on this high elevation 3-mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous

Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping and Brewer's Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch and, with luck, Sooty Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker and Gray-crowned

Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Bring lunch and plenty of liquids; wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather. Carson Pass is a USFS fee area for day-use parking. This hike should be considered moderate to strenuous depending upon your physical condition. 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.

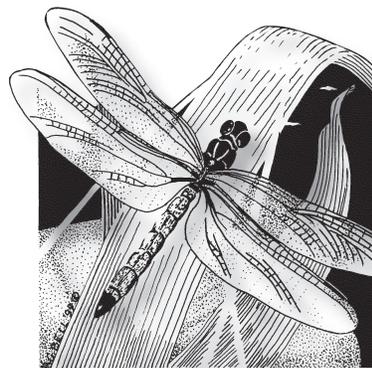
**Saturday, July 20, 4pm meeting time
Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too!
Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk**

**Leaders: Sandra Steurer
916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com
Sue Darst, 530-902-3427
sue.darst51@gmail.com**

Come look for mountain birds and the Common Nighthawks. Meet at 4pm at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit #110 off I-80. Bring a sack dinner or snacks, lots of water and comfortable shoes, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars will be available. Please RSVP to sasteurer@yahoo.com or text to 916-580-8398.

Sunday, July 21

Dragonfly Trip Location: TBD



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

**Leader: Tim Manolis, 916-485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners, etc, but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. E-mail Tim the week before the trip to get the time

and meeting place, or phone him the day before. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars, water to drink and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case.

**Tuesday, July 23, 7am
River Bend Park**

**Leader: Dan Brown
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for a walk through the oak woodland to the river, looking for our summer birds. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, take the first right after passing the kiosk and drive to the end of that parking area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, July 27, 9am (in Petaluma)
North Bay Area Birding**

**Leader: Ron Storey, 707-479-0171
ronstorey@ronstorey.com**

Join Ron Storey and bird parts of the North Bay. This trip is a good trip for beginners who would like to bird away from the Sacramento heat. The destination(s) will be determined by what is being reported and the weather. Meet at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 9am and carpool from there. For directions go here: colintalcroft.com/Sonoma_County_Bird_Watching_Spots/Shollenberger_Park,_Petaluma.html. Bring a lunch and snacks, as this is an all day trip. Be prepared for both cool and hot weather; bring clothing that will be suitable for both conditions.

**Saturday, July 28, 7am
Tells Creek, Van Vleck Meadow**

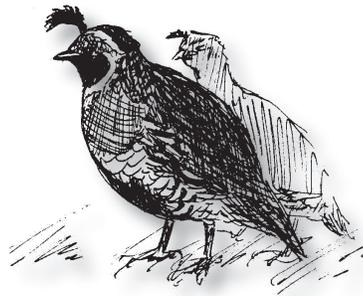
**Leader: Craig Swolgaard
530-334-3023, cswol@sbcglobal.net**

This trip will explore a little birded part of the Sierra Nevada off Ice House Road

at over 6000 feet. Tells Creek flows through Van Vleck meadow just west of the Desolation Wilderness. A trailhead for equestrians and hikers begins at the parking lot but we will follow a road that circles the meadow itself. This is a good spot to see a variety of Sierra Nevada birds including Lazuli Bunting, MacGillivray's Warbler, Purple and Cassin's Finch, Green-tailed Towhee, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Lincoln's Sparrow, Brown Creeper, and others. Five years ago an Indigo Bunting spent most of the summer there. Meet at Craig's house in Georgetown (El Dorado County) at 7AM and car pool from there. Address is 2884 Church Street, one block over from Main Street. Georgetown is about an hour from Sacramento and can be found on Google Map for directions. This trip will last into the early afternoon so bring a lunch and water. Hiking is easy and fairly level.

Tuesday, July 30, 7am
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. The variety of species and numbers of birds especially with regard to shore-birds will depend on the amount of water available. If



California Quail
 Kirsten Munson

the YBWA is too dry, we will scout alternate local Yolo County sites. 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, August 3, 5pm
Birds and Bats at the Yolo Basin
Leaders: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com
Mary Schiedt, 530-400-7094
maryolo1@netscape.net

Join Dan and Yolo Basin bat volunteer Mary Schiedt for a combination bird-and-bat field trip to Yolo Basin. This walk com-

bines the early evening appearance of Barn Owls, Great-horned Owls (and possibly Short-eared Owls and nighthawks) with the later emergence of 250,000 Mexican free-tailed bats for their evening hunt. There is also the possibility of predation by Peregrine Falcons and Swainson's Hawks. FRS radios can be helpful. Bring water, insect repellent, and a light jacket. 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.

Sunday, August 4, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Join Wayne to explore Mather Lake and the surrounding grasslands, which host a variety of birds and is one of his favorite birding spots. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Bring water and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Monday, August 5, 7:30am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leaders: Bob McCleary
916-960-3390

bobmccleary@comcast.net
Linda Melching, 916-934-3969
lmelch1122@aol.com

Bob is a docent at the Nature Center and knows the trails, and where to find the birds. On this morning walk he'll be looking for both summer and resident birds. Meet him in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park. This is a good trip for beginners as well as more experienced birders. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, August 10, 8am
Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass
Leader: John York, 530-320-4751
johnnyork157@yahoo.com

Meet at The Fork and Horn parking lot in Sierraville, corner of Lincoln St and Main. at 8am, to bird the valley floor and then

the pass. Bring snack, lunch and liquids as we have no scheduled eating stops. This trip will take most of the day. The highlights should be the young mountain birds, woodpeckers and warblers, although the valley can turn up some great birds as well. If you want to caravan from the Denny's at Newcastle, please contact John so he can meet you there. Please RSVP to John so he knows to look for you at either rendezvous point.

Sunday, August 11, 7:30am
American River Parkway:
Harrington Access
Leaders: Guy Galante, 916-995-0625
guy@create-roc.com
Mike Heacox, 916-972-1809
mikezots@gmail.com
Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

This unique field trip will encompass all-around nature observation; flora and fauna, tracking/trailing, weather observation, and using all the senses. Apply sunscreen, bring a hat and water. From Watt Avenue take American River Drive east 2.5 miles to Harrington Way, turn right and continue 1/4 mile to the river. From Fair Oaks Blvd take Arden Way east 1/4 mile, turn right on Kingsford and continue straight for one mile to the river. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Website Improvement Survey Update

Thanks to all who responded to the electronic survey or submitted a manual survey. 108 responses were tabulated. That represents about 18% of the chapter membership. Only 2 nonmembers responded. Committee members appreciate your time and attention to the survey, particularly the comments and suggestions offered to improve the website, both functionally and visually.

SAS members and website visitors will receive periodic updates as committee members continue to meet and discuss redesign options, costs, board review and the roll-out timeline, pending approvals.

Before you rescue that baby bird...

Wait! Does that chick really need help? The sight of a baby bird unattended outside the nest is bound to awaken your compassionate instinct to protect it. But that rescue may not be necessary and could be counter-productive.

Wandering from the nest is exactly what fledglings—which are just learning to fly—are supposed to do. It's a normal part of a bird's development, and though these chicks might appear abandoned, they're likely under surveillance by their parents nearby. Of course, there is a chance that they could be injured, sick, or in danger, so there are some cases where a fledgling might require assistance.

Nestlings, on the other hand, are almost always in need of rescue. Whether they fell or got pushed from their nest, they're not ready to go off into the world.

To know when you should intervene—and how you can help if needed—ask yourself the questions below.

Is the bird a nestling or fledgling?

When you come across a rogue baby, first determine its age. There's one obvious sign: feathers. While fledglings are larger and covered almost completely in down and feathers, nestlings are small and typically naked—or with just a few fluffs. In other words, one looks like an awkward young bird, and the other kind of looks like a pink little alien. You can also distinguish age by movement: fledglings can hop, whereas nestlings might simply drag themselves on the ground by their bare wings.

If you've found a healthy fledgling, just leave it. Rescuing healthy fledglings is not only unnecessary, but can be detrimental to their development.

If you've found a nestling: First, look for the baby's nest in the nearby bushes or trees; if you find it, simply put the chick back and the parents will resume care. If the nest is nowhere to be found or simply out of reach, craft one yourself. Find a small container, like a strawberry basket, and load it with a scrap of T-shirt or some straw—anything dry will do. Gently place the youngling inside, and affix the artificial nest in a tree close to where the bird was found as high up as possible. Once you've returned the bird to a nest keep an eye out for the parents. If they don't return within an hour, call a wildlife rehabilitation center.

This complete article with more information can be found at audubon.org. It's currently one of the Popular Stories under the News tab.

SHOP AT AMAZON AND SUPPORT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Sacramento Audubon every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping as at Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase price to Sacramento Audubon. You can use your current Amazon account including shopping cart, wish-list, registries, etc. It's very easy. Just remember to go to smile.amazon.com and select Sacramento Audubon Society as your favorite charity. Then add a bookmark so you return to the site whenever you shop at Amazon.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2019-2020

This slate of officers was voted on at the May General Meeting and all were approved for the Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2019-2020. Thank you to all the volunteers for these important positions.

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Heather White
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Sally Walters Schmoltdt
Directors	Gesna Clarke, Elliot Chasin, Mary Forresal, Jane VanKessel

BUFFERLANDS EVENTS TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS

Tuesday, July 16, 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.

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.

There are two remaining Twilight events which will be on Tuesday, August 13, and Wednesday, September 18.

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

Findings continued from page 2

Sacramento Bar (5/25) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Saturday was a cool cloudy day. We started at 7am and did not expect many people. A total of twenty one arrived; wow, a good turnout! Birding started out slow. The only shorebird was a Spotted Sandpiper. Our best moment was when a Red-shouldered Hawk attacked a Swainson’s Hawk as both birds flew out of the trees. Early on we had a Black-headed Grosbeak in the top of a tree singing at the top of its lungs. When we returned to the parking lot area one person spotted Wilson’s, Yellow and Townsend’s Warblers. That was a good way to end the tour. We had a total of 41 Species.”

Willow Creek Trail, Folsom (5/23) — Leader Susan Thrower reported: “The portion of the Willow Creek Trail that we birded runs from Oak Avenue to Riley Street and is mostly in woods with some open grassy fields and a marsh area. Eleven birders had great spring weather for a morning walk with 37 species of birds counted. Highlights were good looks at Olive-sided Flycatcher and Western Wood-Pewee, close enough for comparisons. Thanks to Tim and Larry; with their long camera lenses, we all could note the field marks on the birds. Two other summer species of note were Black-headed Grosbeak and Ash-throated Flycatcher.”

Del Paso Regional Park (5/19) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Predicted rain did not deter 5 birders from getting in a 40 minute walk at Del Paso Regional Park. Although we were rained out, we still managed a Townsend’s Warbler and several Orange-crowneds in addition to the usual suspects. We will revisit this great area for a longer walk this summer when it is drier.”

Mosquito Ridge Rd, Placer County (5/18) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “We were racing the weather front coming in the whole day. Rain was predicted from about noon onward. But our hardy group of 10 had good spirits. We started off with a short stop at the park in the town of Foresthill. Highlights there included Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a drumming Hairy Woodpecker, Purple Finch and a calling Great Horned Owl. On down Mosquito Ridge Rd, we had a few fairly quiet stops, unfortunately

missing the usual Canyon Wren. The gate was closed to drive into Little Oak Flat, but we walked in a ways. Got Nashville Warbler and our first Green-tailed Towhee, plus a few others. On up, we began to see snow above 4500 ft. And the road to Placer Big Trees Grove (at 5000 ft.) had snow on it. I decided to be prudent, lest someone get stuck, and decided we would hike in to the trail at Big Trees. Highlights here included great views of a Pacific Wren, Townsend’s Solitaire and Hammond’s Flycatcher. We then continued on to the area just below the dam at French Meadows Reservoir. The old road we always follow here was practically a creek, but we remained unhindered. Highlights here included Dusky Flycatcher, MacGillivray’s Warbler, Cassin’s Finch and Fox Sparrow. For our last stop, we drove up onto the dam and parked at the pullout. This proved a fortuitous stop, as we got Mountain Bluebirds, Vaux’s Swift and a Common Loon in breeding plumage out on the lake. It began sprinkling during this part of the trip, and on the way home, we had some quite heavy downpours. But the timing worked out really well. We tallied about 60 species over all.”

Beals Point, Folsom Lake, Family Friendly Trip (5/18) — Leaders Sandra Steurer and Sue Darst reported: “The rain held off for our morning walk. We had great looks at Lark Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Rock Wrens, House Wrens feeding their young, and tiny Pacific Tree Frogs hopping around. Our list consisted of 31 species in total.”

Lincoln Grasslands and More (5/16) — Leader John York reported: “Trip was rained out.”

Spenceville WLR (5/12) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “Nine of us set out into the foothills north of Lincoln to Spenceville. On our first stop we saw and heard Wilson’s Snipe winnowing over the grassy fields, next a Swainson’s Hawk and Rough-winged Swallows. After that Bald Eagle, Osprey on their nest, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Within the Wildlife area we saw Chipping and Lark Sparrows, Yellow, Townsend, and Wilson’s Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Bunting, and Western Wood-Pewee. Total for the day was 66 species.”

Cathie LaZier

CONDOR CAMS ARE BACK AND OTHERS TOO!

People across the world can get up-close-and-personal with an endangered California Condor chick in real time through live streaming video of a cliff-side nest in Pole Canyon on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge in Ventura County, California.



California Condor
Photo Illustration

California Condor chick #980 hatched on April 10. Its parents are 9-year-old female condor #563 and 19-year-old male condor #262. This is the pair’s first nesting attempt together and their

first year on the live streaming Condor Cam as a pair. This is female condor #563’s second attempt at raising a chick, and the chick’s father, condor #262, fledged one other chick in the past with a previous mate.

Followers of the California Condor Cam watched a chick hatch live in the wild for the first time in history from another cliff-side nest on Hopper Mountain NWR in 2015. Since then, live streaming video of California Condor chicks attracted hundreds of thousands of viewers from all over the world.

The 2018 nesting season was a record-breaking one, with 12 nests in the mountains of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Kern counties. Six of those nests were successful, the most ever in the Southern California flock.

Today the number one killer of California Condors is lead poisoning, the result of condors feeding on carcasses containing lead bullet fragments. Another threat specific to condor chicks is “micro trash.” Micro trash includes small coin-sized trash items such as nuts, bolts, washers, copper wire, plastic, bottle caps, glass, and spent ammunition cartridges. Condor parents collect these items and feed them to their chick which can cause serious problems with the chick’s development. While it is not completely understood why this occurs, many biologists believe that the condor parents mistake these items for pieces of bone and shell which provides a source of calcium if fed to the chick.

If you’d like to view the action go to cams.allaboutbirds.org and choose the Condors tab. As you’ll see there are quite a few other cams to choose from. Have fun!

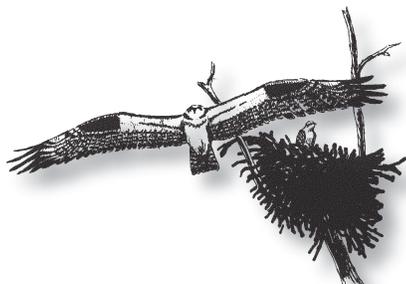
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Diana Benner, Bill Bianco, Nancy and Bill Bittner, Dale and Theresa Blue, Elizabeth Eaves, Gary O Fregien, Elizabeth Galbreath, Robert L Garcia, Frank Goss, Christine Hansen, Elizabeth Johnson, Diane Luke, Lori Miyasato, Kathy Moore and Dan Brown, Daphne Reimer, Carolyn Schilling, Emily and Kelley Shelton, and Angela Thompson made donations to the **General Fund**.

Diana Benner, Bill Bianco, Dale and Theresa Blue, D Brown and W Patterson, Robert L Garcia, Valerie Phillips, and Eric Ross made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Diana Benner, Bill Bianco, Janice Caravantes, Winifred Detwiler, Robert L Garcia, Valerie Phillips and Alta and Del Tura 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.



Osprey
Stephen D'Amato

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

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

Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, July 20, 4pm, Family Friendly Trip, Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk
Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com
Sue Darst, 530-902-3427, sue.darst51@gmail.com

Join Sandra Steurer and Sue Darst in looking for mountain birds and Common Nighthawks. Meet at 4pm at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit #110 off I-80. Bring a sack dinner or snacks, lots of water and comfortable shoes, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars will be available. Please RSVP to sasteurer@yahoo.com or text to 916-580-8398.

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.

Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

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

This spring has been notable for unsettled weather, cooler temperatures, and unprecedented rain in mid-May, leaving many low-lying areas flooded into June. **Redheads** are locally hard to find, but continued in low numbers at the Woodland WTP, one of the few places where they are locally dependable. A male **Greater Scaup** was at the same location as late as 5/12. Unsettled weather no doubt accounted for the report of a **Black Swift** near Koobs Nature Area in Carmichael on 5/21; the few Valley records of this species typically correspond with late spring storms. A male **Allen's Hummingbird** at Brannan Island SRA on 5/25 was one of few recent records for Sacramento County, though there are historic breeding records. **Calliope Hummingbird** reports included one from Citrus Heights from 4/11-14, one from Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/19, two from Rancho Cordova on 4/26, and one from Wilton on 5/4. Shorebirds made up the majority of highlights for the period. A **Snowy Plover** was found at the Davis WTP on 5/6-8. Most impressive was the appearance of multiple turnstones. **Ruddy Turnstones** were found at the Davis WTP, with one to two from 5/4-11, and one at the Woodland WTP on 5/13. Two **Black Turnstones** at the Davis WTP on 5/4 were even more unex-

pected. A **Ruff** was found at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 4/21, and at the Woodland WTP from 4/29-5/9. A **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Davis WTP on 5/6 was also an excellent find. Up to four **Baird's Sandpipers** (regular in low numbers in late summer, but very rare in spring migration) were found from 5/3-10 at the Davis WTP. **Solitary Sandpiper** reports included a single at a closed portion of the CRP on 4/17, one along the Wetlands Walk at CRP on 4/20, one to two along Yolo County Rd 32A (near YBWA) from 4/21-22, two at a closed portion of CRP on 4/26, and one on Meiss Rd on 5/4. A **Willet** was found at the Davis WTP on 5/4, with four seen there on 5/27, and a single was at the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 5/10. A **Pectoral Sandpiper** was a nice find for spring (they are much more expected in late summer and fall) at Colusa NWR on 5/6.



Least Tern
Linda Pittman

For the 10th time in the past 12 years, **Least Terns** were found nesting at the Sacramento Regional WTP, with the first detection on 5/13, and two pairs present by the end of the month. Surprisingly, there was only one report of a **Least Bittern**, from Mather Lake on 5/17, where they have been found in the past.

A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** found at a large rookery in the Pocket Area of Sacramento was a first for the county. It was seen and photographed on 5/8, with a few reports thereafter, but was very diffi-

SAS NEW MEMBERS

There were no new members this month.

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings held over the summer. The next meeting will be on August 27, 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



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

Date _____

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

Check if you would prefer to receive the Observer in PDF form by email []

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

Observations continued

cult to find among the hundreds of **Black-crowned Night-Herons**, mostly tucked away in dense redwood trees where they were nesting. A **Glossy Ibis** was found at the Woodland WTP on 5/19-20, but was not as reliably seen as the birds reported there last year.

Peregrine Falcons were confirmed nesting at the UC Davis Med Center, with four chicks photographed on a building ledge. There were impressive numbers of uncommon flycatchers, with **Olive-sided, Hammond's, Dusky, and Gray flycatcher** reports too numerous to list. With the wide adoption of eBird, far more of these species are being reported (and documented) than even a decade ago. One of the most surprising reports was of a flyby **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** in Carmichael on 4/11. A **Brewer's Sparrow** was found at Deer Creek Hills on 4/23, and a **Green-tailed Towhee** was reported at Yolo Grasslands

Regional Park on 5/28. A male **Baltimore Oriole** was a real surprise at a private yard in Wilton, and a **Northern Parula** at Grasslands Reg. Park on 5/17 was a nice find. A male **Summer Tanager** was found at West Pond in Davis on 5/8, and a male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** on 5/19 near Meridian in Sutter County was also a nice surprise.

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, Keith Bailey, Ian Baldwin, Max Brodie, Paul Buchanan, Lily Douglas, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Matt Forster, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Adrian Hinkle, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Afton Kern, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Carol Livingston, Tim Ludwick, Phil Lutz, Mark Martucci, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Linda Pittman, Jason Riggio, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Mark Stephenson, Jim Thomas, Gene Trapp, John Trochet, Bart Wickel, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

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

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1827
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

Sacramento Audubon Society



www.sacramentoaudubon.org



White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com

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

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,
Sacramento, CA 95826

916-203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, sawise7@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 19, at 7pm
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center**

The speaker will be Tim Vendliski. He will be speaking about efforts to conserve natural resources in suburban parks such as those in Rancho Del Paso.