



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, April 21

General Meeting 7:30pm

Shepard Garden and Art Center

In Depth Look Into Costa Rica

Join host and guide, Patrick Dunn of Serengeti Photo Safaris as he shares with us his spectacular collection of photographs culled from his numerous trips to the beautiful Costa Rica. The presentation covers much of the country in cross sections, north to south, through numerous life zones, with many microclimates in between. Costa Rica boasts some 850+ species of bird, more than the US and Canada combined.

According to Dunn the selection of photos will include resident reptiles, all six species of sea turtles, and a glimpse into his personal farm. "While hummingbirds are my favorite (56 species) the insects are great too," jokes Dunn.

Since 1983, Dunn has been guiding bird watching trips to various parts of the world and enjoys a life list of birds which now totals over 3,400 species. He was a member of the Kauai film commission for 10 years and supplied bird, animal and other natural history props to the industry for use in videos, television commercials and motion pictures.

We look forward to seeing both you and your guests for this exciting and enlightening program.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in McKinley Park. The program is followed by a social time and the public is welcome. For further information please visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org.



Sacramento Audubon will sorely miss one of its long time members, Joe Ceriani, who is moving to northern California. Joe has been an active member since 1976 and served several years as a Board Member. On the Field Activities Committee for more than 20 years, Joe's led over 100 field trips. He's also been our delegate to Habitat 20/20 since its inception. We all wish him the best of luck.

Bobelaine Birdathon Fund Raiser

As we mentioned last month, we work at raising the necessary funds to keep Bobelaine Sanctuary open and safe for visitors just once a year. In past years this has been done through a Birdathon where money is pledged, usually by the number of species seen, to an individual or teams of birders. These volunteers then pick a day and bird their favorite area for up to a 24 hour period. Monies are collected and turned in to Sacramento Audubon. This year we will continue with the Birdathon as well as an all out effort for direct donations for the sanctuary. We know many people are very busy and don't have the time to get pledges and then collect monies afterward.

It takes about \$2000 a year to manage the sanctuary properly and these funds must be raised by our membership.

Fuel costs (a large part of our annual budget) have gone up while donations have dropped. This includes fuel for all equipment, maintenance and repair of all power tools, signage and fence and gate repair.

As many of you know, all the trails and fire breaks are

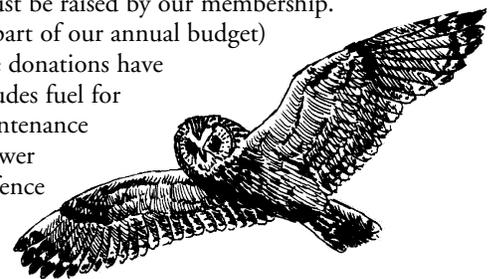
covered with grass which must be

routinely mowed during the spring, summer and fall to provide safe, walkable trails as well as keeping the main north-south roads wide enough for fire truck access.

Checks of any size are welcomed and will be used for sanctuary operation and maintenance only. They should be made out to "Sacramento Audubon Society" and marked for "Bobelaine Sanctuary". No budgeted monies are used from the Sacramento Audubon Society's General Funds. Management and funding of the sanctuary was contracted with National Audubon in 1975, by this chapter, at the time the sanctuary property was first donated to the National Audubon Society.

Please help us reach our budget for this year by contributing what you can.

Bill Clark, Co-Manager



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Findings

Bodega Bay (3/13) – Red-necked Grebes, Pigeon Guillemots in breeding plumage and many Brants were recorded, leader Dan Brown reported.

ARNHA Bird & Breakfast (3/12) – Birds provided a grand “open house” welcome for guests, displaying at least seven active nests at the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. Six Sacramento Audubon experts again led by Jack Hiehle guided 79 participants to nests occupied by three hummingbird families, four different Bushtits, a White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, and an aggressive Lesser Goldfinch that continually raided the Bushtit nest for construction material. A Black Phoebe nest was found, but its occupant had died. Wild Turkeys were out in full force on a sunny day for this popular family event made possible by collaboration of Sacramento Audubon with American River Natural History Association.



Kirsten Munson

New York Creek/Bass Lake/Eldorado Hills (3/6)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported: 19 birders saw 43 species; highlights along New York Creek were two hummingbirds, presumably Anna’s, each on a nest. They also saw two Hutton’s Vireos. On the Serrano walk along Silva Valley Parkway, a male and two female Hooded Mergansers offered nice views on the second pond in excellent light on this sunny day.

Bobelaine Sanctuary (3/5) – “Perfect weather made for a good day of birding as we walked the Oak Trail and the South Forty Trail to the southern boundary of the preserve,” leader Brian Gilmore reported. “Along the way we tallied 49 species including a Northern Rough-winged Swallow, 30 or more Greater Yellowlegs, and two Forster’s Terns on the Feather River. Wood Ducks were plentiful in the trees and sloughs. Sparrows were well represented with sightings of Lincoln’s, Lark, White-

crowned and Golden-crowned. Two Downy Woodpeckers were seen along Ringtail Slough and the last bird of the day was a Swainson’s Hawk flying high over Lake Crandall.”

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/4) Leader Jack Hiehle said a flock of Bushtits was a bit unusual since they’ve usually broken up at this time of the year. The group also saw a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest, Cooper’s Hawk and Snowy Egret. And as they watched, a deer rubbing its antlers on a tree branch broke off one of them.

Solano Lake/Putah Creek (2/27) It’s a mile or so west of Winters on Highway 128, first bend in the road, orchard on the left. They call it Vesper Sparrow Corner and it lived up to its name for leader Cliff Hawley’s birders, who counted six or seven of the hard-to-find sparrows. At Lake Solano, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, Phainopepla and Tree Swallows were found. Also, a Harris’s Hawk with a jess or short strap on its leg indicating it had escaped from a falconer. A Peregrine Falcon was seen near Monticello Dam and an Osprey near Solano on the trip back.

Los Banos & Panoche Valley Area (2/19-21) – Thirteen Long-eared Owls in one tree! That was the show-stopping look enjoyed by birders who joined leader Dan Brown for the Presidents Birthday weekend trip. Altogether there were up to 19 of the owls at Mercey Hot Springs where members paid a \$5 entrance fee that included the use of restrooms and picnic tables. Other nice sightings included four Great-tailed Grackles, a Merlin and many duck species along Santa Fe Grade Road. On the way into Panoche Valley birders saw two Roadrunners and another Merlin. A flock of about 40 Mountain Bluebirds were found in Panoche Valley, and two Cassin’s Kingbirds near the Panoche Inn.

Estates Drive, Parkway (2/18) Cooper’s Hawk, Wood Duck, Green Heron and California Quail were spotted, along with another one of those 18-inch long Horsehair Worms that leader Jack Hiehle reported last time.

Foster City/Peninsula/Charleston Slough (2/12) – Two or three Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Common Moorhen, Blue-winged Teal and Horned Grebe highlighted this trip to the Bay Area, leader Fritz Steurer reported.

Pete Hayes

NOMINATIONS FOR SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006

The nominations committee presents the following slate of officers to be voted on at the April general meeting.

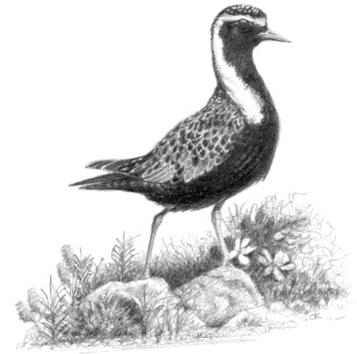
President	Peter Watkins
Vice President	Bill Clark
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Correspondence Secretary	Dorothy Harvey
Recording Secretary	Lisa Seto
Past President	Roy Greenaway
Directors	Maureen Geiger Jan Clark Lea Landry Sheila Deamer Tim Fitzer

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we will focus on conservation and environmental education to ensure that the Sacramento region’s natural ecosystems and diverse bird populations are preserved, restored, and made available for study and enjoyment.

Sacramento Audubon would like to thank Carl Burke for his donation of several handy birding items to our properties sale. Look for them at our next meeting. Hint: they’re not our usual books.

Field Trips



Daniel Kilby

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, empid@sbcglobal.net for trips through April 17th. For trips from April 18th through May 22nd call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198. Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. Walkie-talkies can be helpful on non-local trips. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Friday, April 1, 8am

Bannister Park

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Explore another beautiful area along the American River with Jack. As always, you can share in his knowledge of the natural history of the parkway. Meet him in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road south off Fair Oaks Blvd. west of Sunrise Blvd.

Saturday, April 2, 7:30am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a driving tour around this local wildlife area. From sparrows and raptors in the drier areas, to Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-crowned Night Herons and White-faced Ibis in the wetland areas, there's always something to look at. From Sacramento take I-80 across the Yolo Causeway and turn right on the frontage road just past the causeway. Turn right at the stop sign and circle under the freeway; then make a left up onto the levee and meet Maureen at the first parking lot inside the area. Trip will end before lunch time.

Sunday, April 3, 8am

Jepson Prairie and Yolo Bypass

Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216
andisalmi@yahoo.com

Jepson Prairie is an unusual area of bunch grass prairie and vernal pool habitats, harboring some fascinating native plant species. Wildflowers will be the main focus of the morning and we'll bird the Yolo Bypass in the afternoon. Meet Andi at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento at 8am. From Sacramento take the West Capitol exit; turn left and then left again into the lot. Bring a lunch and water. The trip will last into mid-afternoon.

Wednesday, April 6, Noon - 2pm

Creek Week - Local Fish Fauna

What lurks in the murky depths of Sacramento's urban creeks? Join SRCSD Bufferlands staff for an introduction to the local fish fauna. We will demonstrate fish sampling techniques in a local lake, practice hands-on (for those that aren't too squeamish) fish identification, and discuss the natural history of California's diverse fish communities. In addition, we will be able to view one of the direct consumers of the local fish populations as we spy on a large heron and egret rookery. This tour includes a short, 1/2 mile walk and an opportunity to see some of the Bufferlands riparian and wetland habitat restoration projects.

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Steve Scott at (916) 875-9307 or e-mail scottss@saccounty.net the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Saturday, April 9

River Walk, Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded information: 684-2816 or
[check www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org)

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd. for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group trip is a good way to find out what's happening at the preserve. You must check the recorded info or the website a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Saturday, April 9, 1:30pm - 3:30pm

Creek Week Wetland and Wildflower Tour, SRCSD Bufferlands

The Fishhead Lake mitigation wetland is a nice example of wetlands created as mitigation for earlier wetland losses. The wetland has both a permanent and seasonal

component as well as a surrounding upland buffer. Thousands of waterfowl winter at the wetland and many remain year-round to nest and raise young. Much of the area is planted to native wildflowers that bloom in early spring. California poppies, lupines, owl's clover, baby blue-eyes and many others can be seen spreading about the uplands and wetland edges. Visitors will receive a packet of native flower seeds to start their own native garden.

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or e-mail jonesro@saccounty.net the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Sunday, April 10, 8am - Noon

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek

Leader: Lea Landry, 638-1141
llandry@softcom.net

Meet Lea in the parking lot of the Snowberry Creek Equestrian Staging Area (please leave your horse at home) where Main and Sunset Avenues meet in Orangevale, for a morning walk which will include some riparian habitat, some ridge trails, and a good view of Lake Natoma. Possible sightings include Cooper's Hawks, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and an assortment of waterfowl and warblers. There may be some short steep climbs on trails, so wear comfortable hiking footwear. Bring liquids and snacks, binoculars, a scope if you wish, and clothing appropriate for the day's weather conditions.

Friday, April 15, 8am

William B. Pond Park

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for this morning walk along the American River. Jack will help you find a variety of migrating and nesting birds, as well as interesting plants, as you explore the

river and the pond. This is a great trip for both beginning and experienced birders. Meet Jack outside the park at the east end of Arden Way. Trip ends at noon.

Saturday, April 16, 7am - noon
Pine Hill Preserve, Cameron Park Unit
Birds and Wildflowers
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942

Set aside to protect a unique plant community, Pine Hill Preserve (www.pinehillpreserve.org) is great for chaparral bird species, including California Thrasher. Horned lizards are sometimes found here, and we'll see several rare plant species, some that occur nowhere else in the world. Group size is limited. For details and to sign up, contact Barbara Williams at (916) 985-4474 or Barbara_Williams@ca.blm.gov

Saturday, April 16, very early
Tall Forest Bird Count
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet
Recorded information: 684-2816
or check www.cosumnes.org

Meet John at the Farm Center ON TIME to join him on this monthly bird count. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting, whether it's a sighting of an elusive otter, a warbler in migration or just some insights into the resident birds and mammals of the area. You must check the recorded info or the website a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, April 17, 8am
Snipes Pershing Ravine
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603;
offleash@sbcglobal.net

Richard will lead you on a half day trip into this interesting area near Lake Natoma. A part of the State Park system along the American River Parkway, this watershed with its deep ravines offers conducive habitat for a variety of bird species. Richard will be on the lookout for the Rufous-Crowned Sparrow, which has a preference for the type of steep terrain found here. Meet at the corner of Twin Lakes Avenue and Snipes Blvd. off Main Ave. in Orangevale. Wear sturdy footwear and be prepared for narrow paths and uneven terrain.

Saturday, April 23 7am - 3pm
Bufferlands Big Day

Would you enjoy a fast-paced day in the

field, searching diverse habitat types for a wide variety of bird species? If so, join members of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District's (SRCSD) Bufferlands staff for a day in search of 100 species, or more. Expect to see heron, egret and cormorant rookeries, many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, migrating songbirds, and lingering winter residents. The SRCSD's Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of seasonal and permanent wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. Group size is limited, so be sure to reserve a place in advance.

For more information, call 875-9309 ext. 1, or e-mail Chris Conard at conardc@saccounty.net.



Kirsten Munson

Sunday, April 24, 7:30am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for resident birds and spring migrants. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Monday, April 25, 8am - 11am
Phoenix Field
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack at Phoenix Field (Jim David Park) for a beautiful walk around the vernal pools. This trip will feature rare plants and spring blooms in the vernal pools. Jack will lend his expertise in identifying these rare plants. Phoenix Field is located on Sunset just east of Hazel Ave. Do not forget your binoculars for viewing resident birds.

Saturday, April 30
Rayhouse Road in West Yolo County
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
spskua@aol.com
Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Rayhouse Road is located in the Capay Valley; it winds up a steep dirt road (4-wheel drive recommended) for several miles before emerging into chamise chaparral habitat. Target desert birds are Sage and Black-chinned Sparrows and Lawrence's Goldfinches. Trip size is limited; we will start very early, and trip is dependent on road conditions. Call Tim to reserve a space and get information on meeting time and place.

Sunday, May 1, 7:30am
Spenceville Wildlife Area
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603,
offleash@sbcglobal.net

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes and one optional 5 mile hike over uneven terrain. A short steep climb to Fairytale Falls may provide a look at a Dipper. Other possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis' Woodpecker, rails, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at Brookfield's restaurant in Roseville (NOT the Madison location). Take Eureka Road exit off I-80; go right on Eureka and then take the first left at the stoplight (Taylor Road). The restaurant is located behind the Shell gas station.

Saturday, May 7, 7:30am
Sweetwater Creek
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603,
offleash@sbcglobal.net

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wildflowers in bloom and hear the song of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Richard will scout for Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds and colorful warblers. Meet Richard at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Highway 50. This will be a half-day trip.

Sunday, May 8, 7am
Beeks Bight, Folsom Lake
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871,
spskua@aol.com

This is a great area for nesting hummingbirds at this time of year. Tim will also look for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Lazuli Buntings, California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows and possibly Yellow-breasted Chats. Wear your hiking boots for the 2 to 3 mile hike. Meet Tim in the shopping center parking lot next to the AM-PM

on Douglas Blvd., just east of the intersection with Folsom-Auburn Road. Bring lunch and liquids, as this trip will continue into the early afternoon.

Friday, May 13, 8am - noon
Paradise Beach
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Meet Jack in Glen Hall Park at the end of Carlson Drive for this lovely morning hike along the American River. Jack will show his skills as an all-around naturalist by pointing out nesting birds, butterflies and wildflowers.

Saturday, May 14, 10am - 4pm
Walk on the Wildside - Rookery Tour

Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-

on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian

forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see one of approximately four heron rookeries in Sacramento County on a Bufferlands guided tour. This rookery contains over 100 active nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds.

The event is held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. Visit www.bufferlands.com for more info and a map to the event site, or call 875-WILD (9453). For additional information contact Kevin Cassidy at 875-9196 or cassadyk@sacounty.net.



Stephen D'Amato

Events & Announcements

BIRDING MONTANA AND THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Ed Harper will be offering his popular Montana tours this summer during the height of the region's peak birding activity, June 11-26. This year both the Yellowstone Loop and the Glacier Loop are being offered. Participants may choose either loop or both since each segment provides unique viewing opportunities. Tour size is being kept small to simplify logistics and to maximize the outdoor experience. For the full itinerary and price, contact Sandpiper Journeys via calidris@surewest.net or call Ed at (916) 971-3311.

10TH ANNUAL GODWIT DAYS

Did you know that Humboldt County has a bird list of 460 species? This is more than 40 states and while you may not see them all you'll be treated to many species not found here in Sacramento. Their 10th Annual Godwit Days take place April 15-17 in Arcata and you can obtain more information by calling 1-800-908-9464 or logging on to www.godwitdays.com. Nearly 100 field trips and workshops are offered and they are designed to highlight bird species and their habitats on the scenic Redwood Coast.

CREEK WEEK ACTIVITIES

Refer to the March Observer for Creek Week activities during April and keep a watch on your local news stations and newspapers for more information regarding the annual Creek Week program. Volunteers are always needed to help clean our local creeks and there are many other events planned. Check the web site of the Arcade Creek Recreation District at www.arcadecreekrecreation.com for ways to volunteer and for other activities. The web site for our Urban Creeks Council is www.sacto-ucc.org.

Sunday, May 15, 7am
Coloma, Straza Ranch
Leaders: Valerie Phillips, 722-1802
Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
tankers@winfirst.com

Come for a half day and explore the Straza property, a BLM area near the south fork of the American River, looking for spring migrants and raptors. Then enjoy lunch at the Marshall Gold Discovery Park in the historic area of Coloma. Meet Valerie and Dan at the far north end of the Raley's-Bella Bru parking lot on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Highway 50. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, May 21, 5:45am
Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet
(Info: 684-2816, ext. 5)

This is an opportunity to help John with his monthly bird census conducted in this beautiful riparian forest. John is known for finding excellent rarities as well as large numbers of resident species. This is a walking trip that lasts all morning. Meet at the Farm Center at Bruceville and Desmond Roads. John LEAVES at 5:45am PROMPTLY. For details and last minute

updates call the info line or check the website at www.cosumnes.org.

Sunday, May 22, 7am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier 457-6882,
empid@sbcglobal.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on the right past the entrance kiosk for this morning nature walk. We'll look for resident birds and spring migrants along the levee, in the oak woodland and down at the river. This is a good trip for beginners. Goethe Park is at the north end of Rod Beaudry Drive off Folsom Blvd. east of Bradshaw. There is a park entrance fee. If you would like to meet outside the park and carpool in, give Cathie a call.

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 April 26 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

Seasonal Observations

February 1 to February 28
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
783-2331

February begins fully as winter, but as the **Sandhill Cranes** depart, spring is in the air. The first of the spring arrivals come in the form of swallows. Good numbers of **Tree Swallows** spend the winter locally, but in February they are singing and scouting nest sites. While a few individuals of each species were found in December and January this season, by the end of the month **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** were arriving in numbers. **Cliff Swallows**, the first arriving in the end of January, were present at regular nest sites by mid-month, somewhat earlier than in a typical year.

The first **Swainson's Hawk** for the month was reported on 2/20 in Yolo County at Rds 38A and 104. A **Rough-legged Hawk** and a **Merlin** were also reported from the same location. One to three **Short-eared Owls** were reported in the area of Rd 155 throughout the month. There were several **Merlin** reports along the upper American River Parkway, including one from Ancil Hoffman Park on 2/12. An adult **Bald Eagle** and an adult **Golden Eagle** were seen soaring over the same site.

Mountain Plovers continued south of Dixon into the first week of the month. 200 were reported on 2/6 from Canright Rd between Flannery and McCormack Rds. **Ferruginous** and **Rough-legged Hawks** were also regularly reported from this location. The continuing **Common Black-Hawk**** in north Stockton was reported irregularly into the first week of March.

An adult male **Allen's Hummingbird*** was found dead in a yard in Rancho Cordova on 2/7. This is the earliest date for this rare species in the Central Valley. The status of

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this species in the Central Valley is poorly understood due to the difficulty in separating it from **Rufous Hummingbird**. The earliest **Rufous Hummingbird** reported this season was from Davis on 2/12.

Other highlights include a **Red-necked Grebe***, first found on 1/28 along Rd 29 just east of Rd 102 and continuing through 2/21. A first-year **Western Gull*** was reported from the Nimbus Hatchery on 2/9. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was a nice winter report from the Lake Solano campground on 2/2. The **Eastern Phoebe*** at Cosumnes River Preserve continued through press time. At least two **California Thrashers** were found at an interesting location on the valley floor

near Rds 2 and 86 in Yolo County. Several **Vesper Sparrows** were reported south of this location in Bird Valley on 2/6. The **Green-tailed Towhee***, found mid-January at Lincoln Hills in Placer County, continued through at least 2/1. One of relatively few **White-throated Sparrow** reports from the area continued from 12/15 through press time in a Rosemont backyard. And from January, a first-winter **Glaucous Gull*** was reported at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant on 1/15.

Documentation of species listed with an asterisk (*) should be submitted to the Sacramento Bird Records Committee. Species with a double asterisk (**) are on the California Review List.

Thanks to the following for their reports (the majority were taken from http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/ and http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacramento_birds/):

Roger Adamson, Bob Battagin, John Blue, Vicki Boffin, Dan Brown, Brent Campos, Mary Chambers, David Coursey, Bruce Deuel, Andrew Engilis, Mike Feighner, Tim Fitzer, Jonathan Freer, Brian Gilmore, Steve Glover, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Jim Holmes, Waldo Holt, Dave Johnson, Jon Katz, Jon King, Cindy Lieurance, Leslie Lieurance, Jim Lomax, Calvin Lou, Ron Melcer, Martin Meyers, Kurt Mize, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Sarah Pitzer, Bob Power, Ron Pozzi, Terry Ronneberg, Jim Rowoth, Don Schmoltd, Jim Steinert, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Stella Taylor, John Trochet, Dave Wagner, and David Yee.

Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 362-5942

e-mail preferred: chris.conard@comcast.net

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, (916) 399-1660, e-mail: sawelma@cwnet.com

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 monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.