



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, April 19

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

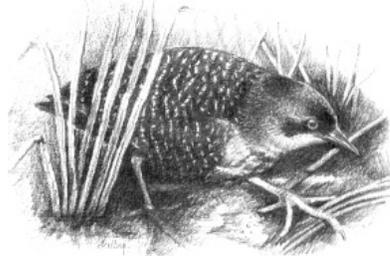
7pm General Meeting

The California Black Rail

With **Orien Richmond**

The California Black Rail is a highly secretive marsh bird, and while they occur throughout the San Francisco Bay-Delta region, populations were recently (1994) discovered in the Sierra foothills.

Orien Richmond, is a 3rd year PhD candidate at UC Berkeley in the Environmental Science, Policy and Management Department. His dissertation research is focused on species-habitat relationships and metapopulation dynamics of Black Rails in the foothills. Using cutting-edge modeling techniques and remote sensing technology, he studies the interactions between human activities and wildlife populations, and “while I have always been a casual birder, I consider myself more of an ecologist than an ornithologist...particularly interested in wetland and riparian ecosystems.”



Daniel Kilby

Hailing from Santa Cruz, Richmond received his BS and MS degrees in Earth Systems from Stanford University where he studied the impacts of forest fragmentation on riparian bird communities at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, and, after graduating, worked as a field biologist for the Point Reyes Bird Observatory on the Sacramento River near Chico.

In his presentation, Orien will provide the results of a five-year survey effort to characterize the distribution and habitat requirements of the California Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis caturniculus*), a state listed threatened subspecies.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, located at 3330 McKinley Blvd. in Sacramento. The public is always welcome. A map with directions can be found at our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org under the Membership and Meetings heading at the bottom of the page.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Birding for Bobelaine

Each Spring a Bird-a-Thon is held to raise money for the upkeep of Bobelaine Sanctuary, the riparian preserve on the Feather River, owned by National Audubon and managed by Sacramento Audubon. June Persson heads up the Bird-a-thon and would like your help. June is looking for a few birders to Bird for Bobelaine, and also sponsors, for either a fixed amount, or an amount “per bird”. Give June a call at 481-9916, to sign on as a birder and/or a sponsor.

GBBC WRAP-UP

Nationwide the Great Backyard Bird Count was a huge success! Over 80,774 checklists were submitted and 629 species were recorded. This amounted to 11,066,350 birds counted altogether.

Thanks to you, the local participation in this year’s count went up significantly from 25 checklists submitted last year to 69 submitted for the city of Sacramento alone. Other cities in our area where we “put out the word” increased similarly. Several folks went above and beyond the call to get a special species for the state list and we’d like to especially recognize Jerry Towner for participating for his 8th year in a row!

Some highlights: Sacramento (69) moved up to third place in California cities for number of checklists submitted - behind Redding (108) and San Jose (91). A total of 93 species were reported in Sacramento alone! Texas (335) beat California (330) by only 5 species. We are all looking forward to an even bigger count next year!

Julie Serences

COUNTY REJECTS GROWTH CHANGE

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors recently rejected a developer’s proposal that they consider opening up 3,400 acres of pasture along the El Dorado County line for development. It was a unanimous vote attended by more than 100 people wanting to speak on the issue. A grateful thank-you goes out to all who took the time to attend and express their opinion. It paid off!

Field Trip Findings

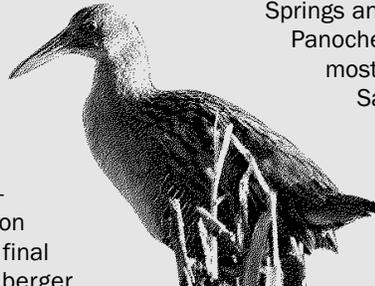
Goethe Park (3/11) — "You can't go wrong birding the American River this time of year," said leader Cathie LaZier. "There were Great Horned Owls, Anna's Hummingbird and Mourning Dove on nests; several Bushtit pairs with nests under construction; Bewick's and House Wrens singing non-stop; and Osprey, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and White-tailed Kites overhead. The Redbuds were budding and several varieties of wildflower were in bloom."

Folsom Lake, Mormon Island to Brown's Ravine (3/4) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "This morning 20 of us enjoyed a nice walk through the blue oak woodlands and chaparral along the edge of Folsom Lake. Water birds were scarce on the lake, with distant Western Grebes and a few Horned Grebes closer to shore. In the first few minutes of walking, we encountered three Rufous-crowned Sparrows. Two of them sat in the open and looked at us from close range for several minutes. We also enjoyed views of Rock Wrens, several Phainopeplas, a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers, and Violet-green Swallows overhead in difficult lighting."

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain (3/3) Leader Maureen Geiger reported "A great trip for about 18 of us with almost 65 species. Outstanding was a Great Horned Owl sitting in a nest found by Chris Conard. Other highlights included close looks at Red-shouldered Hawks and a particularly dark morph Red-tail sitting close by."

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/1) — Lesser Yellowlegs, Western Bluebird, Wood Duck, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk were reported by leader Jack Hiehle. The Wood Duck was found in the nature area pond, which too often has lacked enough water to welcome water fowl in recent years.

Corte Madera Marsh, North Bay (2/24) "We had a very nice trip despite on-and-off rain and periods of heavy winds," Chris Conard, co-leader with Cathie LaZier, reported. "Highlights included excellent looks at several Clapper Rails at Corte Madera Marsh, including two calling out in the open. We then went to Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, where we saw Vaux's Swifts (unusual in winter), a Rough-legged Hawk and a Merlin. Two members of the group had excellent looks at a Golden Eagle there, and one vehicle saw another Golden Eagle on the drive home. A final stop at Shollenberger Park was very cold and windy. There were many waterfowl (we had nice studies of Greater and Lesser Scaup) and shorebirds, and large numbers of gulls, including many Bonaparte's Gulls."



Los Banos & Panoche Valley Weekend Trip (2/17-18) — Leader Dan Brown reported: "We had a very good trip with a very small group (9). Saturday was spent in the Los Banos area. The highlights started right off the bat Saturday along Santa Fe Grade road with 40 Great-tailed Grackles and a female Merlin in the scope for everyone to see. Other highlights on Saturday were: Peregrine Falcon, immature Bald Eagle, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Barn Swallow (early?), six Great Horned Owls, thousands of Ross's Geese at Merced NWR and a Greater Roadrunner near the base of San Luis Reservoir Dam.

Sunday we traveled to Panoche Valley where highlights were 30 Long-eared Owls and 2 Barn Owls at Mercy Hot Springs and 1 Cassin's Kingbird on Panoche Rd. Late in the day after most of the group had left for Sacramento, those who remained were treated with views of a Prairie Falcon in the scope, 1 Lewis's Woodpecker, a pair of Phainopeplas and 1 Ferruginous Hawk. Kathy and I added a Swainson's Hawk to the trip list just south of Los Banos as we returned without our group. Harlin Perryman and Valerie Phillips found a Grasshopper Sparrow to make our total species count 117."

Pete Hayes

EARTH DAY AT CSUS

In honor of Earth Day, on Sunday, April 22nd, ECOS is hosting exhibits, vendors and music at Cal State, Sacramento.

The festivities are from 10am to 4pm on the Main Quad and this year for the first time, Sacramento Audubon's Outreach Committee will participate. Sheila Deaner is in charge of our information table but could use some help or just a friendly hello. There will be lots of other information, all about keeping our environment green and healthy. So come on out, enjoy the fresh air and music, and if you'd like to help Sheila give her a call at 718-4661. You only need to stay as long as convenient and in Cathie LaZier's words, "you don't need to know anything, you just need to be enthusiastic." We have several informative brochures.

SAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

You Are Invited

Mrs. Rugg's Sixth Grade at Pershing School in Orangevale and the Education Committee of the Sacramento Audubon Society invite you to attend a Community Environment Improvement Fair on Thursday, April 12, from 7pm to 8pm.

Students have been working on projects to teach people in the community how they can improve their yards to make them wildlife friendly. To get ready for their individual projects, students made field guides to

California wildlife and a class flora for the schoolyard (with help from Mary Maret of the Sacramento Chapter of the Native Plant Society). All their work will be on display and they will be ready to answer your questions about improving your backyard.

Pershing School is located at 9043 Pershing Drive in Orangevale. If you need more information please email sacaudubon@gmail.com or check our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org. Please e-mail if you plan to attend.

Field Trips

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 or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Mark Martucci, 833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com, for trips through April 15th. For trips from April 16th through May 20th call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198. For trips after May 20th call the scheduler Andi Salmi, 691-7216.

Consider car pooling and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Sunday, April 1, 8am
Upper Sunrise,
American River Parkway
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will lead you on a morning walk along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early spring migrants. From Hwy 50, drive North on Sunrise Blvd, turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. This is another great trip for beginners and for more experienced birders alike.

Wednesday, April 4, 8am to noon
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 Jack in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd., west of Sunrise Blvd.

Saturday, April 7, 8am to noon
Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
Naturestoc@aol.com

Meet Dan in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Dan will be looking for a variety of resident and early migrant species. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear as it may be muddy.

Sunday, April 8, 8am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier
457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and along the river, looking for spring wildflowers and nesting birds. Trip will end before noon. Beginners are encouraged to come on this trip. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee to the park; if you wish to carpool a short distance in, meet Cathie at 7:50am on Rod Baudry Drive, just off Folsom Blvd.

Saturday, April 14, 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 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, then left again into the lot. Bring a lunch and water as this trip will last into mid-afternoon.

Sunday, April 15, 7:30am
Spenceville Wildlife Area
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
offleash56@yahoo.com

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 parking lot in Roseville. Take Eureka Road exit off I-80; go right on Eureka and first left at the stoplight (Taylor Road). The restaurant is located behind the Shell gas station.

Sunday, April 15
Habitat Improvement Work Day
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

Tuesday, April 17, 8am to noon
William Pond Park
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for this walk to check out both the river and the small lake, as well as the developed park area. A variety of birds may be present, and Jack will point out some of the local plants and share information about their use by Native Americans. Meet him just outside the park entrance at the end of Arden Way. This trip is a great one for beginners.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Saturday, April 21, 7am

Bodega Bay

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458

Naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for a full day of birding and exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, shorebirds and waterfowl to see, in addition to possible vagrant songbirds. Meet Dan at the Park & Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capitol Avenue exit, turn left at the stop light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. This Park & Ride lot is on the North side of the freeway, NOT THE SOUTH SIDE LOT. We will leave at 7am SHARP. Bring food, (your option for lunch will be the Tides snack bar) water and warm clothes.

Sunday, April 22, 8am

Bear Valley, Wildflowers and Birds

Leaders:

Jerry Marinovich, (530) 666-0768

Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

Bear Valley is known for its scenic beauty and wildflower displays, so Jerry and Tim will be looking for a wide variety of flowers. Of course the birds will not be overlooked; there are many that nest here. Bear Valley is located off Hwy 20 east of Williams, and a portion of the road is dirt. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch and liquids. This is a fun trip for beginning birders and wildflower lovers. Meet Jerry and Tim at the Jack In The Box parking lot in Woodland; take the Road 102 exit off I-5, go right, and the parking lot is on your right. FRS radios will be helpful on this trip.

Saturday, April 28, 7am to 11:30am

Spring Migration at the SRCSD Bufferlands

Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942

conardc@gmail.com

This morning tour of the Bufferlands will focus on finding migrant songbirds, resident breeders, and lingering winter residents. The heron, egret and cormorant rookery will be in full swing, and if water levels are right, we could have excellent shorebirding conditions. The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. From Sacramento, take I-5 south. Exit at Meadowview/Pocket Rd (just south of Florin) and turn left (east) over the freeway.

Turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd (the third light). After one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stonecrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate. Be prepared for potentially muddy trails and up to 3 miles of walking.

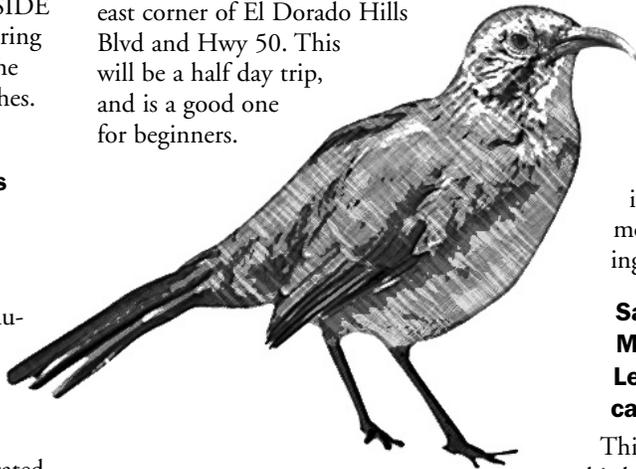
Sunday, April 29, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603

offleash56@yahoo.com

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



Wednesday,

May 2, 8am to 11am

Phoenix Field

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack at Phoenix Field (Jim David Park) for a walk around the beautiful vernal pools. This trip will feature rare plants and spring blooms in the vernal pools. Jack will lend his expertise to identifying these unusual plants. Phoenix Field is located on Sunset Blvd just east of Hazel Avenue. Don't forget your binoculars to view the resident birds.

Mono Lake, May 2 & 3

Wednesday & Thursday

Leaders: Lea Landry, 638-1141

llandry@softcom.net

Dan Tankersley, 606-6518

dtankers@winfirst.com

The highlight of this trip is the very early morning visit to the Greater Sage Grouse lek to watch the birds' courting display. Other possible areas to be birded are the South Tufa area and the County Park's boardwalk at the north end of Mono Lake, the Jeffrey Pine Forest, especially in the burn area, Lee Vining Creek and

Lundy Lake. Other birds that may be seen include Pinyon Jays, Mountain Bluebirds, Sage Thrashers, Sage Sparrows, Brewer's Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Canyon Wren, Wilson's Snipe, and lots more! The Thursday morning trip to the lek leaves the motel area VERY early, (4:15am!), to arrive at the lek before sunrise, so bring warm clothes with lots of layers. Participants should expect to be walking on steep and uneven terrain, and to be prepared for changeable weather conditions.

For those who drive up Wednesday morning, meet the leaders at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, on Hwy 395 just north of Lee Vining, at 12:30pm (having already lunched.) If you choose to drive up on

Tuesday and stay overnight, meet the leaders at 8am Wednesday at the

Mono Lake Committee Store in Lee Vining for morning birding.

The Wednesday morning group will lunch in the field. There are several good motels and restaurants in Lee Vining; contact the leaders for more information, or go to www.leevining.com.

Saturday, May 5, 7am SHARP

Mines Rd/Del Puerto Canyon

Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636

calaveri@sbcglobal.net

This full day outing is oriented toward the birder with adventure in the heart. Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon are located southeast of Livermore, about an hour and a half south of Sacramento. This is primarily a road trip, but with several stops, encompassing three counties along the birding route: Alameda, Santa Clara and Stanislaus. The trip's timing and varied habitats typical of the coastal mountains and canyons should produce numerous spring migrants as well as resident birds. Expect Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis' Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Bullock's Oriole and many more. We will visit one regional park, Lake del Valle, where there will be a day-use fee to enter the park.

Meet Gary at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol Ave. exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Car pooling is suggested, due to limited access at stops and to the distance traveled. When we DEPART the lot at 7am SHARP, we will back-track to I-5 and proceed south and west to the Livermore area. Bring along FRS radios, food and water.

Sunday, May 6, leaving at 7am

South Yuba River State Park

Covered Bridge Area

Leader: Lisa Moraga, 455-4786

lmoraga562@earthlink.net

Bridgeport and South Yuba River State Park are located on Pleasant Valley Road, eight miles north from the Intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and State Route 20 west of Grass Valley. (17660 Pleasant Valley Road, Penn Valley, CA (530) 432-2546) web link: www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com/Birding/hot_spots/bridge.html

This area is spectacular during the spring for birdlife and wildflowers. We will bird trails near the visitor center and portions of the Point Defiance Trail. We'll look for Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole and Canyon Wren. Along the river portion of the Point Defiance trail, Golden Eagle and American Dipper have been spotted. The Black Oak woodland north of the river supports a variety of woodpeckers. The trails are adorned with plenty of poison oak, so dress appropriately. This trip lasts into the afternoon. Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water for the hike. Sturdy shoes and protective clothing are essential for the trails. Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80/Horsehoe Bar Road, Exit #110. We will leave the Park & Ride promptly at 7am, so arrive a little early.

Saturday, May 12, 8:15am

Pine Hill

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Walk with Jack up to a Fire Lookout and explore till early afternoon, with a focus on the rare and endangered plants found in this special area. Jack will not ignore the birds, so bring your binoculars as well.

Meet at 8:15am at the El Dorado Park & Ride, (going east on Hwy 50, take the first El Dorado offramp; go right to the second stop sign, and left into the Park & Ride.) Alternate meeting place is at 9am at the gate at Ulenkamp and Pine Hill Roads. (Hwy 50 to Bass Lake Road; right on Green Valley Road; pass a school on your right and then turn left on Ulenkamp Road to Pine Hill Road.) This trip will last until early afternoon so bring a lunch and liquids.

Saturday, May 12, 10am-4pm

Walk On The Wildside

See the article on page 6 in this newsletter for more information.

Sunday, May 13, 7:30am

Mather Field Park

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

wayne.blunk@worldnet.att.net

Mather Lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Wayne knows this area well, and has found up to 50 species on this walk at this time of year. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Meet Wayne for this morning walk in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. There is a parking fee.

Monday, May 14, 8am to noon

Paradise Beach

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Wednesday, May 16, 11:45am to 1pm

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Enjoy wonderful, close looks at Purple Martins, where they nest in Old Sacramento. You will also see nesting White-Throated Swifts and probably Cliff and Tree Swallows. Previous years have turned up other interesting species as well. Meet Maureen on the east side of the Railroad Museum along Second Street.

Saturday, May 19, 7am

Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake

Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spskua1@comcast.net

Spring is a great time of year for nesting hummingbirds in this area. Gnatcatchers, Lazuli Buntings, California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and possibly Yellow-breasted Chats can also be found. 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 drinks as this trip will continue into the early afternoon. There is an entrance fee to Folsom Lake.

Saturday, May 19, Very Early

Tall Forest Bird Count

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the farm center gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME to join this monthly bird count in an area normally closed to the public. Usually led by John Trochet, this walk frequently produces uncommon birds. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting. You must check the recorded information a day or two previously to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

Sunday, May 20, 7:30am to noon

Cronan Ranch, Coloma Area

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Hike with Maureen in beautiful rolling, oak-studded hills off Hwy 49 near Coloma. This BLM property is intersected with many hiking trails and home to a large variety of foothill habitat birds. Several species of raptor nest here, or may be seen, such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Harrier. Last year a Black-throated Sparrow was found and Rufous-crowned Sparrows are also possible, as are woodpeckers, flycatchers, goldfinches, towhees, swallows, Western Meadowlarks, Wild Turkey, and migrating warblers. This trip will include several miles of easy hiking; trails may be muddy. This hike will be mostly treeless and can be hot, so hats and fluids are advised. Meet Maureen at 7:30am in El Dorado Hills just off Hwy 50 at Bella Bru in the south end of the Raley's shopping center. The trip concludes at noon; however, there are numerous sites in the Coloma area for a nice picnic lunch as well as a bakery where food may be purchased.

Sunday, May 20

Habitat Improvement Work Day

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.



Upcoming Events

APRIL CREEK WEEK ACTIVITIES

Bufferlands Birds and Blooms Tour: Saturday, April 21, 1:30pm–3:30pm

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

Mather Vernal Pool Flower Walk: Sunday, April 22, 10am and 1pm

Join the Mather vernal pool docents of the Sacramento Chapter of the California Native Plant Society for a 2 hour tour to explore this magic carpet of flowers. See www.sacvalleycnps.org for directions. For more information and to sign up, call (916) 737-WILD. Reservations are required.

Steelhead Creek Beaver Pond Walk: Wednesday, April 25, 6:30pm

Early evening is the best time to see beaver activity and lots of other local wildlife. Meet at the Ueda Parkway Staging area parking lot on Elkhorn Blvd. and Sorrento Rd. east of Steelhead Creek. Call 925-1933 or email mtappel@waterboards.ca.gov for further information or directions.

Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA)

Wetland Tour: Thursday, April 26, 9am–11am

Natural Resource Specialist Lizette Crosbie will lead a tour of Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary, a 60 acre wetland created by SAFCA. Meet at the Ueda Parkway staging area at Elkhorn Blvd. and Sorrento Rd. just east of Steelhead Creek. Please call (916) 874-6451 or email crosbiel@saccounty.net to sign up or for further information.

A more thorough listing of these events can be found in the March *Observer*, but for the best information call the contact telephone numbers.

DON'T FORGET THESE FESTIVALS

The **12th Annual Godwit Days** spring migration bird festival is being held April 20-22. See last month's *Observer* for further information or visit www.godwitdays.com.

The **13th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival** will take place the weekend of April 27-30. More information can be found in last month's *Observer* and for a description of activities, field trips, accomodations, and a list of the birds seen last year visit <http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>.

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE - THE BUFFERLANDS

On Saturday, May 12th from 10am to 4pm, 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 a rookery that 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. For directions and more information, visit www.bufferlands.com or call 875-9196.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Thank you to all these generous donors for keeping our Society thriving and better able to support its Mission functions.

Chris Conard & Kimya Lambert, Ed Greaves, Irma Hernandez, Julie Serences, Gerald Swafford, and Nancy Weagly, to Conservation and Education Fund.

Fred Andrews, Seth Hodges, John Peregrim, Gerald Swafford, and Nancy Weagly, to Bobelaine Sanctuary.

Carol Sughrue and, Nancy Weagly, to the General Fund.



Thank You Notes

BOBELAINE VOLUNTEER

Robert Thomas is one of the quiet volunteers who do so much of the work involved in Sacramento Audubon. You may not recognize him if you meet him, but if you've walked a trail in Bobelaine, you've benefited from his work. Robert is in charge of maintenance for the Sanctuary, and for many years has spent countless hours there every month, mowing trails, clearing debris and maintaining the equipment. The SAS Board has voted to honor him with a Certificate of Appreciation and a \$50 gift certificate to Wild Bird. If you run into Robert on the Bobelaine trails give him a big Thank You!

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Education Committee's digital photo gallery increased by several outstanding images of birds due to Samer Momani's generous donation. Thanks to Samer and our other photo contributors, the gallery now provides the photos needed for our education programs. Thank you Samer!

PUBLIC INFORMATION

SAS would also like to thank the *Sacramento Bee* for keeping the public informed about the recent crucial issue facing the County Board of Supervisors concerning county growth.

The *Bee* also included a front page report in their California Life, Home and Garden section recently about "Making your yard a haven for birds."

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Diana Calvert
Frank Rondas

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.

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, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Mark your calendar for our General Meeting, May 17. We will begin early and hold our annual Book Sale. Some additional books donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Middleton are just outstanding in their variety and John Gin will have them all priced for us. Please go through your bookshelves and consider donating items to the sale. Anything with a natural history theme is welcome, including of course, birding books, CDs, and videos. Arrive early with your donations so that John can get them priced. This is a great fundraiser for SAS and very exciting as there are always great bargains on fantastic books. Don't miss it!

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

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

Date _____ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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



NOMINATIONS FOR SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008

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

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Keith Wagner |
| Vice President | Tim Fitzer |
| Treasurer | Cathie LaZier |
| Corresponding Secretary | Jan Tankersley |
| Recording Secretary | Lisa Seto |
| Past President | Peter Watkins |
| Directors | Sheila Deaner |
| | Brian Gilmore |
| | Roy Greenaway |
| | Gail Janke |
| | Lea Landry |

Seasonal Observations

February 1 to February 28
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

One of the most intriguing reports of the month was of three adult **Emperor Geese** seen over Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 2/15. They were with a least 4,000 other geese—mostly **Snow Geese**, with at least 11 “blue” **Snow Geese**. With rare waterfowl, there are always lingering doubts regarding their wild status, since many exotic species are kept in captivity. At the Davis Wetlands, two **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** were reported on 2/16, though one showed some characteristics of **North American Green-winged Teal**. Another interesting duck was a male “**Brewer’s Duck**,” which is a hybrid between a **Mallard** and a **Gadwall**, seen and photographed at CRP on 2/17. It showed an interesting mix of characteristics from its parental species.

Yolo gull watchers struck again with some interesting finds. Two apparent **Vega Gulls** were reported from the Yolo County Landfill. One of these first winter birds was reported on 1/29, with probably the same individual found on 2/3, and a different bird found on 2/13. **Vega Gulls** were long considered a Siberian race of **Herring Gull**, but are now considered by many to be a separate species. Identifying these birds is at the frontier of gull ID, and they must be carefully documented. An immature **Glaucous Gull** was reported from the landfill on 2/16, and another was reported from Beal’s Point at Folsom Lake on the same day. Rounding out the gull reports was an adult **Western Gull** from the Gristmill Access along the American River Parkway continuing from 1/16 through at least 2/23; an adult **Western Gull** was

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also reported from Ancil Hoffman Park on 2/15.

This has been a great season for finding **Northern Saw-Whet Owls**. Up to three were reported from Ryer Island in Solano County, beginning on 2/16 and continuing into March, and were seen by many. Another was reported from private property in Fair Oaks

on 2/24. The **Snowy Owl** near Grizzly Island was refound on 2/22.

Rounding out the excellent reports for the month were a male **Costa’s Hummingbird** in a Rancho Cordova yard from 2/17 through at least 3/4 and a male **Common Grackle** from Sherman Island on 2/11. Other interesting reports include a **Sage Thrasher** along Payen Rd (2/12-13), the continuing **Ovenbird** at the Mace Ave bridge over Putah Creek, the Larchmont Park **Red-naped Sapsucker** through 2/2, and at least four **McCown’s Longspurs** and two **Lapland Longspurs** along County Line Rd in northern Yolo on 2/4. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was reported from the Solano Park Gardens at UCD on 2/4. **Eurasian Collared-Doves** were reported in southern Sacramento County as well as from Natomas.

Many of these birds were first reported on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click “Listserv” for details. Thanks to all for their reports.

Chris Conard

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Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Send all copy to the Editor. Observations must reach the Seasonal Observations Editor by the 8th of the month.

The Observer is published monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

PLEASE NOTE

The Editor’s new email address:
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