



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2011  
Shepard Garden and Arts Center  
7pm General Meeting

### The Sacramento Valley Red Fox Ben Sacks

Ben Sacks received his MS in Wildlife Biology at UC Berkeley in 1996 and his PhD in Ecology at UC Davis in 2002, both with research concerning coyotes. He has been a Professor of Biology at Sac State and is currently Adjunct Professor at UC Davis in the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory and Director of the Canid Diversity and Conservation Group.

Four years ago, Sacks began analyzing California red fox DNA collected from scat, hair and saliva from live animals, and skin and bones from museum specimens. Until then, the expert consensus was that any red fox in the Central Valley and coastal regions of the state was a descendant of Eastern red foxes (*V.v. fulva*) brought here in the 1860s for hunting and fur farms.

Sacks and his colleagues have confirmed that red fox populations in coastal lowlands, the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California were indeed introduced from the eastern United States (and Alaska). But they have also shown that: 1. There are native California red foxes still living in the Sierra Nevada and 2. The native red foxes in the Sacramento Valley (*V.v. patwin*) are a subspecies genetically distinct from those in the Sierra.

The two native California subspecies, along with Rocky Mountain and Cascade red foxes (*V.v. macroura* and *V. v. cascadenis*), formed a single large western population until the end of the last ice age, when the three mountain subspecies followed receding glaciers up to mountaintops, leaving the Sacramento Valley red fox isolated at low elevation.

Sacks' extensive research program focuses on canids, especially red foxes (evolution, ecology and conservation) and dogs (genetics,

*General Meeting* continued on page 6



Ben Sacks and Red Fox

### AUDUBON CALIFORNIA AWARD TO TIM FITZER FOR OVER FORTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE FOR SAS

Sacramento Audubon Society congratulates long-time member and past SAS president Mr. Tim Fitzer for being selected as one of six recipients of Audubon California's Chapter Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service at this year's Audubon Assembly in San Diego, California. The purpose of the Award is to allow National Audubon to recognize individuals who are active in Audubon's California Chapters for their outstanding service to the Audubon family and the overarching Audubon mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Tim was unanimously nominated for this Award by the Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors in recognition of his more than 40 years of ongoing dedication and outstanding service to the chapter. Tim, in many ways, is the "heart" of Sacramento Audubon Society. The chapter's success over the years can be directly traced not only to Tim's countless personal efforts on behalf of the chapter, but his Tom Sawyer like charm and ability to inspire and motivate the chapter's members to joyfully engage in countless, important projects and activities that have made Sacramento Audubon Society a leader in the Sacramento conservation community.

For decades, Tim has been the chapter's key leadership organizer, role model, and is a central figure and source in SAS' consistency and sustainability in terms of its membership, programs and advocacy. One point the entire Board agreed upon in nominating Tim is that none of us know or can remember every specific contribution that Tim has made to the Chapter's success.



Tim Fitzer receiving his award from Graham Chisholm, Executive Director, Audubon California

**Tim Fitzer Award** continued on page 8

# Field Trip Findings

**ARNHA Bird and Breakfast Fundraiser (3/12)** — A rare Lesser Black-backed Gull spotted by Ed Harper was the highlight bird recorded at this annual event in which Sacramento Audubon trip leaders help raise funds for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Ed had brought his group of donors down to the river in the EYNC nature area to view the ducks and gulls, and saw the Lesser Black-backed foraging with a few other gulls along the river's edge. He said it was possibly the same bird that was at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery earlier in the season. Coordinator Jack Hiehle reported that 55 species were counted, including Osprey, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, White-tailed Kite, four active Anna's Hummingbird nests, Western Bluebird, and Spotted Sandpiper.

**Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults (3/12)** — Maureen Geiger reported: "Our beginner trip went well today. We had 7 participants and 4 leaders and saw more than 50 species of birds. Spring was definitely the theme, and birds were very active. For most of us, the Swainson's Hawk was first of season and we also saw 4 other raptor species, golden eyes and mergansers, a spotted sandpiper and at one point, 3 species of gull lined up on a log!"

**Highway 37 and Ellis Creek, Petaluma (3/6)** — Rained out.

**North Fork Pleasant Grove Creek (Roseville Area) (3/5)** — Leader Scott Dietrich reported: "The day was a little overcast, but we avoided the rain and our group of 16 knew it was spring when we heard White-breasted Nuthatches and Bewick's Wren singing and Western Bluebirds calling. Total count on birds was 45 species. Highlights included 4 Wood Ducks that everybody viewed along the creek. We had a few good nesting birds such as Yellow-billed Magpies working on their massive domed clay stick nests and nesting Red-shouldered Hawks performing their mating flight displays over the open fields. Other raptors included soaring Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, as well as White-tailed Kites perched in a big oak. We also had a good showing of winter birds such as Song, Lincoln's, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned sparrows, Dark-eyed Juncos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, American Pipit and a few Northern Flickers. Tree Swallows and Western Meadowlark were also treats for

those who don't get to see these native birds. Overall it was a great birding day in Roseville."

**Yolo Wildlife Area (3/3)** — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: "A nice sunny morning greeted five participants during the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area tour. Since most of the ponds were filled with water, the birds were widely dispersed. And, we had good views of many species including White-tailed Kite, Common Moorhens, Ring-necked Ducks, Horned Larks, Tree Swallows, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Common Mergansers, and Buffleheads. Fly-overs of Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese indicate the start of migration for these species. In a pretour drive through to the eastern extension loop we found that gulls have taken over the ponds and part of the road. All for now. My next trip will be April 6."

**Upper Lake Natoma and Folsom Lake (2/27)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: "This beautiful morning trip had two mammal sightings as its highlights. First was a bobcat sunning itself on the hillside above Lake Natoma. We watched it in two stretches over 20 minutes as it sat, watched us back, and occasionally groomed. Then a coyote was hunting. It would listen intently to the grass, swing its tail back and forth, then pounce — over and over. A quick chomp and head thrown back signaled success, but the hunt continued. On to the birds, we had several good looks at singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows at Lake Natoma, five Common Loons on Folsom Lake, along with Eared and Horned Grebes, a pair of Phainopeplas in view, and a few Rock Wrens near the shore."

**Serrano Parkway, El Dorado Hills (2/26)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "The trip to the Buck's Creek Trail (aka Serrano) in El Dorado Hills was wonderful in spite of the very cold temperature. We had a good crowd and spent the morning finding the birds that frequent that riparian trail. The best bird by far was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. This bird was quite a ways away and very, very good at staying in shadow, so it took us about half an hour to be sure what it was. (Later, Chris Conard and Dan Kopp refound the bird and photographed it, confirming the sighting). We also had the usual great looks at Red-shouldered Hawks, Western Bluebirds, and many calling Common Moorhens."

**William Pond Park (2/24)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "Five birders joined me for a cold morning walk. Wisconsin visitors Larry and Rosie added several birds to their life lists, including California Towhee, Lark Sparrows, and Western Bluebirds. Grant Boice spotted a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks, one sitting on the nest. Everyone enjoyed Hooded Mergansers, good looks at a coyote, and brief looks at a couple of otters. Total bird count was 55 species."

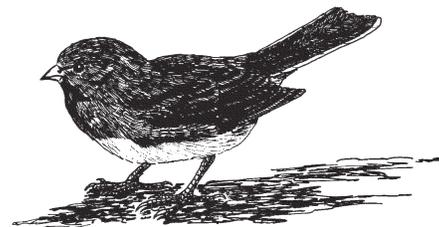
**Eureka/Arcata area (2/19-21)** — Leader Dan Brown reported: "Our group of 19 birders had a GREAT trip on the President's Day weekend trip to the north coast! The weather was great despite traveling through mucho snow in the Clear Lake area (more than I have ever seen!). The trip started off at Fields Landing with 2 or 3 Long-tailed Ducks and 6 Black-legged Kittiwakes along with 100's of scoters and Black Brants! The next stop was at King Salmon and Humboldt Bay where we saw more Kittiwakes, Red-necked Grebes, Red-breasted Mergansers and a surprise group of Western Sandpipers in with a flock of mixed shorebirds. After lunch we headed off to Clam Beach and took the long walk down to easily see the Brown Shrike, spotted first by Terry Atkinson, and a lifer for many. Other birds at this stop were Ring-necked Ducks and Myrtle Warblers. We finished our birding day at Arcata Marsh with 2 Palm Warblers in the pines and 5 Short-eared Owls hunting over the fields northwest of Klopp Lake! To top off our day we had a great Italian dinner at Babetta's Italian restaurant served by Terry's daughter.

Sunday started at the Trinidad Harbor with thousands of Common Murres offshore on the big rocks, Surfbirds in the harbor and more Kittiwakes. A great start! We headed for Crescent City, arriving at the harbor where we saw hundreds of Surf Scoters and White-winged Scoters. Mixed in with this flock were 2 Long-tailed Ducks, 2 Harlequin Ducks and 2 Black Scoters. Our attempt to find the Crested Caracara up near Fort Dick was unsuccessful but we did see a Bald Eagle and a first year Glaucous Gull.

We finished our trip on Monday by walking the North Jetty in Arcata where we missed Rock Sandpiper for the first time that I can remember. But we had more

*Findings* continued on page 6

# Field Trips



Oregon Junco  
Stephen D'Amato

## 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 10th. For trips from April 11th through May 15th, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 717-8808, cbarbaro@comcast.net.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/car-pools. 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. 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.

**Saturday, April 2, 6:30am**  
**Mitchell Ravine (Carnegie SVRA)**  
**(Alameda and San Joaquin Cos.)**  
**Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636**  
**calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

This new trip is a special accommodation to Sacramento Audubon and an invitation to visit an area normally off limits to the public. Participation is limited to 10 people, and an RSVP is required, not later than March 28, 2011. We will be guided by park environmental staff on this trip to the Coast Range between Tracy and Livermore. Although this park is dedicated to off-highway vehicle recreation, Mitchell Ravine is a non-riding area isolated from the rest of the park, and is characterized by steep, rugged canyons, rolling wooded, grassy and brush covered hills, and dry rocky washes, offering habitats suited to a wide variety of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. Cassin's Kingbird nests within the park, as do more common birds including Western Kingbird, Common Raven, Loggerhead Shrike, California Thrasher, and Greater Roadrunner. Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Sage and Rufous-crowned Sparrow and several species of hummingbirds are among the approximately 138 bird species recorded in the park. Tule Elk, Coyote and Bobcat are also frequently seen. We will hike easy-to-moderate trails. Meet Gary at the Park and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 near Sheldon Rd. Take Hwy 99 south from Sacramento to the Sheldon Road exit. The new off ramp here cloverleaf's and then crosses over the freeway. After crossing proceed to the second signal light; turn right on East Stockton Blvd and proceed about a ¼ mile to the lot. Travel time to the park is about 1½ hours. Bring food and water.

**Sunday, April 3, 8am**  
**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark for a morning walk checking out the resident birds, and looking for early nesters and spring migrants. Meet Mark 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. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Wednesday, April 6, 8:30am**  
**Yolo Wildlife Area**  
**Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758**  
**IshiM2000@comcast.net**

Meet Marlene in the first parking lot on your left (Lot A) as you enter the Wildlife area. Depending on the extent of the flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds, American Avocets and Black-necked Stilts. Tricolored Blackbirds and Yellow-headed Blackbirds are also possible. This is a good trip for both beginning and experienced birders. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78, E. Chiles/Rd 32A) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area.

**Saturday, April 9**  
**Beginning Birding Field Trip for adults**  
**William Pond Park**  
**Limited to 10 people; registration required**

This field trip is for people who aren't entirely comfortable joining field trips as

well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. A brief parking lot talk will focus on choice and use of binoculars and a brief overview of birding etiquette and ethics. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the costs of hand-out materials.

The field trip will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats and will be led by two or more experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. Each trip is limited to 10 participants. Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), giving your name, phone number and email address, or by calling Cathie at (916) 457-6882 and leaving your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

**Saturday, April 9, 7am**  
**Caswell Memorial State Park**  
**Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636**  
**calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

Caswell Memorial State Park near Ripon in the Central Valley is located along the meandering Stanislaus River and affords a combination of water, mature cottonwood riparian and valley oak woodland vegetation. Its multi-level tall tree canopy, low scrubs and vines provide lush cover, nesting and foraging habitat, and is a magnet for a variety of resident and migrant bird species. Passerines, including several species of swallows, sparrows, woodpeckers and warblers are park specialties in spring and summer, and Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, and Great Horned Owls nest here. The park is surrounded by ag lands, so Swainson's Hawks are seen regularly. California Thrasher and Wrenit, not that

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

## *Field Trips* continued from page 3

common on the valley floor except in riparian areas, are also here. Trails are generally level, but the paths and vegetation along them may be damp. Dress appropriately, and bring food and water as the trip will last into afternoon. Meet at the Park and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 near Sheldon Rd. Take Hwy 99 south from Sacramento to the Sheldon Road exit. The new off ramp here cloverleaf's and then crosses over the freeway. After crossing proceed to the second signal light; turn right on East Stockton Blvd and proceed about a ¼ mile to the lot. Caswell is about an hour south of Sacramento and there is a day-use fee. For more information about the park go to [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov).

### **Saturday, April 9, 1:30pm – 3:30pm Bufferlands Birds and Blooms Tour A Creek Week Trip**

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 (preferably via email [jonesro@sacsewer.com](mailto:jonesro@sacsewer.com)), or 875-9174, the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

### **Sunday, April 10, 8am Sacramento Bar American River Parkway Leader: Paul Cordero, email preferred [pkcordero@gmail.com](mailto:pkcordero@gmail.com), 454-4061**

Paul will lead you on a morning walk along the American River. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early spring migrants. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

### **Wednesday, April 13, 9am – noon Phoenix Field**

### **Leader: Jerry Towner, 773-5396 [jtownerj@aol.com](mailto:jtownerj@aol.com)**

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

### **Family Friendly Trip!!! Saturday, April 16, 9 – 11am Maidu Park, Roseville Leader: Scott Dietrich, 208-4976 [Sed25@csus.edu](mailto:Sed25@csus.edu)**

Maidu Park has many different habitats for birds, and the bird diversity is fantastic. Join Scott as he walks through the Oak woodlands and grassland areas finding birds for everyone to see. Reservations are required and space is limited! To reserve a spot for you and your child, please contact Maureen Geiger at 444-0804 or [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net).

### **Saturday, April 16, 7am Point Reyes Leader: John York, 409-9276 [sunofyork@att.net](mailto:sunofyork@att.net)**

We will hit the usual Point Reyes birding spots in the morning to check for vagrants and in the afternoon we will definitely hike around Abbott's Lagoon to view shorebirds and terns. A variety of songbirds can be found in the scrub on the hike in. This will be a full day of birding, but we will stop for a picnic lunch by the bay about midday. Bring lunch and fluids and dress for variable weather. Gather at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento at 7am for voluntary carpooling. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

### **Sunday, April 17, 8am Discovery Park Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266 [jaegermaestro@yahoo.com](mailto:jaegermaestro@yahoo.com)**

Meet Dan at the Discovery Park entrance kiosk on Natomas Park Drive for this morning walk along the west end of the American River Parkway. We will search the cottonwood groves, berry thickets and river confluence for recently returned warblers, vireos, tanagers, grosbeaks and whatever else we can turn up. This is a great trip for both beginners and more experienced birders.

From I-5 go east on the Garden Highway, then south on Natomas Park Drive into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

### **Sunday, April 17, 7:30am Bobcat Ranch, Yolo County Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804 [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net) Co-Leader: Karen Velas, 530-510-0399 [kvelas@audubon.org](mailto:kvelas@audubon.org)**

This wonderful 7,000-acre property owned by Audubon California is currently open to the public solely for docent-led trips. Join Maureen and Karen Velas, Wildlife Specialist for Audubon's Landowner Stewardship Program, for our third visit to this area. We will hike along Bray Canyon through mixed oak and riparian vegetation transitioning into chaparral looking for local, late wintering, and migrating bird species. Lewis' Woodpeckers are a possibility. We should have blooming wildflowers and fabulous views of the valley. This outing will involve hiking on ranch roads with occasional moderate elevation gain; there is a very good chance that areas of the trail will be wet and muddy; good boots are advised. The hike should last until about lunch time; lunch can be eaten at the Ranch, or you may leave at that point. Meet at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento no later than 7:30am. Alternate meeting place is in Winters at Steady Eddy's, 5 E. Main Street, next to the parking lot at the intersection of Main and Railroad by 8am sharp. To reach the Park and Ride, from I-80, take the West Capitol Avenue exit, turn left at the light and left into the lot.

### **Saturday, April 23, 7:30am Mather Field Park Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457 [wayne.blunk@gmail.com](mailto:wayne.blunk@gmail.com)**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. The lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Great-tailed Grackle and Yellow-headed Blackbirds both nest at the lake. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a great trip for beginning birders.

### **Sunday, April 24, 7:30 am Sweetwater Creek Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603 [offleash56@yahoo.com](mailto:offleash56@yahoo.com)**

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wild flowers 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 and is a good one for beginners.

**Saturday, April 30, 9am – 11am**  
**William Pond Park**  
**Sorting Out the Cacophony of**  
**Spring Birdsong**

**Leader: John Huls, 284-7021**  
**johnhuls@sbcglobal.net**

This area of the parkway gives us a good opportunity to sort out the songs of common spring nesters. We should expect to hear a cacophony of Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Oak Titmouse, House Finch, Western Kingbird, Song Sparrow and Spotted and California Towhees, plus the possibility of migrants in transit to higher elevations. This is a good trip for beginners and anyone interested in bird song. William Pond Park is at the east end of Arden Way in the Carmichael area. We will meet in the large parking lot at the very end of the road. A County Park Pass or a \$5 parking fee is required.

**Saturday, April 30, 7am – 11:30am**  
**Pine Hill Preserve Birding**  
**Leader: Chris Conard**  
**Pre-registration is required through**  
**Pine Hill Preserve**  
**contact Julie Wynia [jwynia@blm.gov](mailto:jwynia@blm.gov)**  
**[www.pinehillpreserve.org](http://www.pinehillpreserve.org)**

The preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on gabbro soils. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Hwy 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit newly acquired land in Kanaka Valley, with a mix of oak woodland and chaparral. Last year we saw California Thrashers, Sage Sparrows, migrating warblers, and great views of the Sierra. Be prepared for 2-3 miles of moderate walking.

**Sunday, May 1, 7am**  
**Driver's Flat, Auburn State**  
**Recreation Area**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**Shoppe01@earthlink.net**

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds.

This is Scott's favorite 'secret' birding spot. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Gray, Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end mid-day, but plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80 at 7am. NOTE: there is now a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

**Wednesday, May 4, 7:30am**  
**Cronan Ranch, Coloma**  
**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

Join Maureen for a walk in beautiful open grasslands and oak woodlands off Hwy 49 near Coloma. The Cronan Ranch is home to a large variety of foothill birds including raptor species such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Other species may include area specialties such as Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings (which nest on the ranch) and resident and migrating passerines. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in recent years. This hike is 3.7 miles long; trails are uneven and can be muddy. There are portable toilets in the Ranch parking lot and at several locations along the way. Meet in El Dorado Hills just off Hwy 50 in the coffee shop inside the Raley's Supermarket. 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, May 7, 7am – noonish**  
**Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake**  
**Leader: Chad Aakre, 275-1681**  
**c.aakre@restoration-resources.net**

Some target birds on this trip will be Canyon and Rock Wrens, Hutton's Vireo, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, Yellow, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Wrenit, Violet-green Swallow, Rufous Crowned Sparrow and maybe some good flycatchers. Wildflowers should be really nice and we can expect some good butterflies as well. Conditions are a little rugged so sturdy shoes are recommended, and long pants are helpful as the area is pretty brushy and there is plenty of poison oak to avoid. Meet Chad in the free parking area at the end of Twin Rocks Road (where it turns north and becomes Boulder Road), to hike into the park. Snacks and water are also recommended.

**Sunday, May 8, 7am**  
**Spenceville**  
**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 over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, rails, warblers, and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station. Brookfield's is behind Shell.

**Sunday, May 8, 7am – 11am**  
**Spring Migration at the Bufferlands**  
**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610,**  
**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 Sac Reg. 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 Rd) 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.

**Tuesday, May 10, 7am**  
**Sweetwater Creek**  
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**  
**spkua2@comcast.net**  
**Mark Martucci, 833-6722**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark and Tim to look for singing Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet them 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 and is a good one for beginners.

*Field Trips* continued on page 6

*Field Trips* continued from page 5

**Friday, May 13th, 8:30**

**Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary  
(9 till noon)**

**“History Meets Natural History”**

**A Walk and Plop trip with California  
Native Plant Society**

**Leader: John Huls, 284-7021**

**johnhuls@sbcglobal.net**

As we explore the birds and flora of Bobelaine we will stop occasionally and talk about the European obsession with natural history during the 18th and 19th centuries, including brief biographies of Thomas Nuttall and Thomas Bewick. Bring a folding stool or a small ground cloth to sit on. Our leisurely walk will begin at 9am, but you are encouraged to meet at 8:35 at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd for optional car pooling. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Alternate meeting place is the Bobelaine parking lot at 9am. Take Hwy 99 north towards Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue and follow it till it dead ends in the Bobelaine parking lot. This is a joint trip with the local California Native Plant Society. Water and snacks are recommended. This walk is over mostly level terrain and is good for all levels of birder/botanizers, history of science buffs and those who need to sit a spell while enjoying the outdoors.

**Saturday and Sunday, (and optional  
Friday) May 13-14-15**

**Mono Lake**

**Leader: Linda Pittman, 715-1876**

**pittmanl@frontiernet.net**

**(email preferred)**

Please mark your calendars and join Linda for 2 or 3 days of birding on the east side of the Sierra. On Saturday, we will be birding some new and old spots near Mono Lake, looking for Eared Grebes in breeding plumage, waterfowl, Osprey, Sage Thrashers and Sage Sparrows, and also a burn area, where there's a chance for several woodpeckers including Black-backed Woodpecker. On Sunday we'll leave very very early, (about 4am!) for a short hike to a lek viewing site and set up before sunrise in hopes of seeing displaying Greater Sage-Grouse as the sun comes up. After leaving the lek, we'll bird a

spot on the way out where we have a good chance of Canyon Wren. Then it's back toward Sacramento, with an optional stop at Bridgeport Reservoir.

There are two meeting places for the trip. If you drive up early on Friday, May 13, then you can meet Linda at 12:30pm at the Mono Lake Committee Store for birding near Lee Vining, or if driving up later on Friday, meet at 8am Saturday at the store for morning birding. For those who drive up Saturday morning, May 14, meet at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, on Highway 395, just north of Lee Vining, at 12:30pm, (having already lunched). Bring FRS radios, flashlights, scopes and dress in layers for cold weather. Please contact Linda for further details, list of accommodations and to RSVP.

**Saturday, May 14, 7am**

**Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain**

**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 973-9841**

**mohrdd@gmail.com**

Meet Darrell 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. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species and Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. This is a great trip for beginners.

**Sunday, May 15, 6am**

**Sand Creek Road**

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**

**spkua2@comcast.net**

**Mark Martucci, 833-6722**

**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Black-chinned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

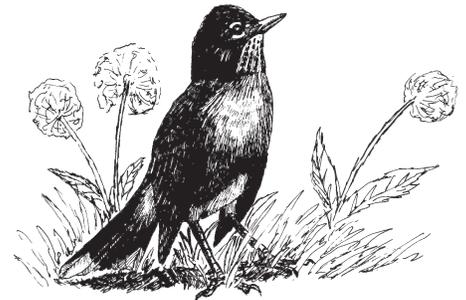
*General Meeting*

continued from page 1

geographic origins, spread and evolution). He and his students also are working on other carnivores, including disease ecology and interactions among fishers, bobcats, coyotes and gray foxes, and population genetics of ringtails and coyotes.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*



American Robin  
*Stephen D'Amato*

*Findings* continued from page 2

Kittiwakes and saw two Pomarine Jaegers harassing them. What a show!" We had no rain for the three days and ended up seeing 106 species!"

**Nimbus Fish Hatchery (1/29)** — Leader Dan Kopp reported: "Had a nice turnout of about 12 participants on this overcast day. Highlights were the continuing Peregrine Falcon, but there were no swifts seen as it was a bit cold and we didn't see it pursue any other birds. We missed the Lesser Black-backed Gull but it was seen a short while after we left the hatchery area; we did see several Glaucous-winged Gulls and one Herring along with many California and Ring-billeds. A nice surprise was the two pelicans that flew low overhead. We also saw several Barrow's Goldeneyes in with the Commons, and many Common Mergansers and one Bufflehead. We noted the usual Green Heron trying to gain access to the small fish enclosure. We saw a few Phainopeplas, many bluebirds and other common woodland birds and tallied 50 species for the morning."

*Pete Hayes*

## RETURN OF THE SWAINSON'S HAWK EVENT

On April 9th, beginning at 9am at Sutter's Landing Park there will be a presentation on Swainson's Hawk with live Swainson's Hawks present. The presentation is given by the California Raptor Center and starts at 9am sharp. The event is free and there are refreshment and information booths. This is an event for the whole family and there will be guided nature walks on the American River Parkway to see Swainson's in the wild.

Sutter's Landing is at 20 28th Street, Sacramento (28th and C Streets, next to skate board park) The event is hosted by Friends of the Swainson's Hawk and co-sponsored by Sacramento Audubon Society, Friends of the River Bank, and Save the American River Association. RSVP to 447-4956 (not required).

Directions: heading north on 28th Street from J Street, cross C and then the railroad tracks. Continue through the parking lots to the last parking lot where the park abuts the American River Parkway.



## Farallon Islands Boat Trip

**SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2011**

As part of our usual field trip series, Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) is sponsoring a trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. We'll travel out the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands Marine Sanctuary. We'll be on the "Salty Lady", the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The capacity of the boat is 45 people, but we will restrict the trip to the first 30 that sign up, to ensure everyone has plenty of room. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito.

This will be the 21st year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! It's a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure lecture and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. What will we see this year? Join us and discover for yourself.

The boat departs Sausalito promptly at 8 am and returns about 3:30 pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30 am. The trip cost is \$90; the trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up, so sign up early to reserve your spot. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the reservation form provided below.

Contact Linda Pittman, [pittmanl@frontiernet.net](mailto:pittmanl@frontiernet.net), (email preferred) or phone 715-1876, for further information.

### Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 10, 2010 Registration deadline: June 15, 2010

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$90 per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (with zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:  
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693

## AUDUBON OUTREACH

March found the Audubon Outreach Table at the Animal House Art Show, chaired by Audubon member Richard Turner, at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center. Working at the table were Cathie LaZier and Vicki Stoffers. Vicki was also an exhibitor at the show, with a photograph of a Great Blue Heron.

Upcoming events include "Return of the Swainson's Hawk" at Sutter's Landing on the American River, April 9th, Earth Day at Cosumnes River College, April 14th, and a neighborhood event at Laguna Creek in Elk Grove by the Sacramento Start Program on May 7th. Come by and visit our table at these events, or if you'd like to help out contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net).

## WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE:

**SIERRA VISTA, AZ - AUGUST 17-21, 2011**

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. To register and see full details go to [www.westernfieldornithologists.org](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org) and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

## Birding and Nature Events

### UPCOMING FESTIVALS

The 16th annual **Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival** is being held **April 15-17** in **Arcata, CA**. For further information and registration visit [www.godwitdays.com](http://www.godwitdays.com) or call 1-800-908-WING. Registration is now open.

The 17th Annual **Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival** exhibits and activities will take place the weekend of **April 23-24, 2011**. The Kern River Valley is one of nature's most diverse homes: 350 bird species (c. 233 species per Nature Fest and over 200 nesting species!), Spring bird migration creates an exciting time for birders visiting the Kern Valley Spring Nature Festival. The last five festivals have averaged 233 bird species! For further information including activities, trip descriptions, accommodations, and a list of the birds seen last year visit <http://kern.audubon.org/KRVSNF.htm>.

Held in **Kelseyville, CA** on **April 30-May 1**, the **Heron Festival and Wildflower Brunch** is a celebration of the Great Blue Herons return to their nesting sites around Clear Lake. More information, including event information, schedule and registration, can be found at [www.heronfestival.org](http://www.heronfestival.org) or call (800) 525-3743.

The 13th Annual **Spring Wings Bird Festival** takes place in **Fallon, NV** and coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. This year's festival is **May 13-15**. Check [www.springwings.org](http://www.springwings.org) for information and registration.

### SECOND ANNUAL POINT REYES BIRDING FESTIVAL

Plan now to attend the second annual Point Reyes Birding Festival, April 29-May 2, 2011. Last year's event was highly successful and is sponsored by the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

Point Reyes and the West Marin area are home to one of the most diverse bird populations in North America. April is a great time to see and hear breeding birds, and to admire shore birds and waterfowl (and many other species) on their way north. Go to [www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org/site](http://www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org/site) to learn more about this exciting event. Tickets can be purchased online and they're going fast so register soon.

### Tim Fitzer Award continued from page 1

Just some of the ways that Tim has consistently and tirelessly served Sacramento Audubon Society include: his Chapter Presidency, compiling various Christmas counts, field activities scheduler and leader, meeting facilitator and helping wherever needed.

Tim also served on a committee years ago that assembled a report on "Areas of Critical Concern" for the Sacramento area. As noted by Glenn Olson recently, that report served as an early prototype and model for Audubon California's important and highly successful statewide "Important Bird Area" program.

Tim was also instrumental in the formation of Habitat 20/20, a coalition of local conservation and habitat protection organizations, which most recently, published its "Heartland" map of Sacramento County, which is now being presented to local governments as an alternative vision to the "business as usual" sprawl development scenario that threatens Sacramento County's precious habitats and open spaces.

Sacramento Audubon Society joins National Audubon and Audubon California in thanking Tim for his service and inspiration to the Chapter and its members, and for his lifetime of dedication to conserving and protecting the Sacramento Area's open spaces and other natural places for the wildlife that depend on them, and for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Jeanne Conry, Dell Richards and Keith Wagner to the **General Fund**.

Alice Bauman, Peggy Cranston, Margaret Martin, Robert Norris, Dell Richards, Andrea Salmi, Brenda Terry, Carol Thomas, Kirstie Wilson and Ruth Younger to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Bonnie and Ronald Garcia made a contribution to Sacramento Audubon in honor of Kathryn Cagle.

Dan and Jan Tankersley made a contribution to the **General Fund** in honor of Tim Fitzer, in recognition of his receipt of Audubon California's "Chapter Volunteer" award.

### YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK!

The Sac Audubon Board recently donated funds for this inner city school to make a trip to Effie Yeaw Nature Center, (including the school bus, the most expensive part of the trip). We've received this note from the teacher.

"Thank you, Audubon, for taking us to this wonderful place for my class of Kindergartners. I wish I could have recorded all the things they commented on, but I can tell you that they were jabbering all the time, full of excitement about what they were seeing. For kids that only see concrete, slab housing projects, and privet trees, this was a wondrous, miraculous place. I heard non-stop talking: Look at the tree! Look at the woodpecker! Look at the mountains (the rise above Effie Yeaw!), Look at the vines like monkeys swing on!, Look at the deer! We saw about a dozen deer, a turkey, lots of woodpeckers, Red-Shouldered Hawks, etc. The day was perfect for weather and the kids declared it the best day ever. (Not just the best field trip ever.) I wish I could take them there every week it was so meaningful. I am hopeful that some lives may be permanently affected by this trip. The docent staff was excellent. Every student touched the Gopher Snake! We have been watching a Barn Owl Nest Cam in class and for them to see a real Barn Owl was amazing to them. Thanks for making all this possible for us."

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Chuck Dotson Gary Sackett  
Daniel Kennedy Janet Smith

### Please Note New Email Address

Lea Landry, our membership chair has a new email address: llandry46@earthlink.net.

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

### SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2011

**May 19** - Doug Cheeseman, *Survival in East African Birds and Mammals*

### 2011-12 SAS PROPOSED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nomination Committee Chair Tim Fitzer announces the following slate of officers for the 2011-12 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2011. The slate will be presented for a vote at the April general meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor, with the permission of the person nominated.

President	Don Schmoltdt	
Vice President	Sally Walters	
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier	
Recording Secretary	Jonilynn Okano	
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt	
Directors	Tim Fitzer	Gary Fregein
	Darrell Mohr	Linda Pittman
	Dan Williams	

Keith Wagner will be Past-President, a board non-elective position.

### 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 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

llandry46@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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

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

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.

*Observations* continued from page 10

Larchmont Park and ARP on 2/21, and numerous **Evening Grosbeaks** in Davis. We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html)).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit [cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org) and click "Listserve" for details. With nearly 100 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Dan Airola, Dan Brown, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Don Marsh, Sarah Newton, Cheri Pillsbury, Linda Pittman, Jim Pompy, John Sterling, John Trochet, and Bruce Webb.

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

*Chris Conard*

# Seasonal Observations

February 1 to February 28

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

Following closely on the Central Valley's first **Zone-tailed Hawk** (last reported in south Sacramento on 2/7), assuming that report is accepted by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC, [californiabirds.org](http://californiabirds.org)), a **Painted Bunting** was found coming to a feeder in Stockton on 2/1. While just south of the area typically covered by this column, its status as a first for the Valley earns it top billing here. A female or young male, it continued through press time, being seen and photographed by multiple visiting birders at a private backyard. Another great backyard bird was a **Harris's Sparrow** found near the Gristmill access to the American River Parkway (ARP) on 1/31, continuing through press time and seen by dozens of visitors.

The adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** found at the Nimbus Hatchery on 1/9 continued to at least 2/5, and two **Western Gulls** were at Ancil Hoffman on 2/26. An adult **Glaucous Gull** was photographed flying over Rosemont (east of Sacramento) on 2/1. Impressive Yolo County gulls reports from the Davis Landfill and nearby sewer ponds included up to three **Glaucous Gulls** and two **Western Gulls**. Always on the cutting edge of gull ID, Yolo gull watchers reported a second-cycle **Slaty-backed Gull** on 2/19 (a CBRC review species), a **Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull** on 2/17, and a possible glaucoides **Iceland Gull** on 2/19 (Iceland Gulls are CBRC review species).

Sacramento Audubon Society  
11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #2840  
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found on 2/26 and continuing into mid-March at Serrano and Silva Valley Parkways in El Dorado Hills appears to be a first record for El Dorado County. The annual bird count at UC Davis, run this year on 2/6, produced some good local winter finds. To

the west of campus along Putah Creek, highlights included a **Short-eared Owl** at a restored grassland site near Stevenson's Bridge (one of few reports this winter), a **Hairy Woodpecker** (rare that far into the Valley), and a wintering **Yellow Warbler**. Eleven **Red-breasted Nuthatches** on the UCD campus was also impressive.

A light morph **Harlan's (Red-tailed) Hawk** was photographed along I-5 between Elk Grove Blvd and Hood-Franklin Rd on 2/13, and dark morphs included the returning wintering bird at Thornton and Peltier Rds in San Joaquin County and one at Cosumnes River Preserve on 2/12. Rounding out a short but busy month was a **Red-throated Loon** on Folsom Lake, Folsom Point, on 2/11, a **Pacific Loon** and a **Red-necked Grebe** at Lake Camanche on 2/28, a **Long-eared Owl** at Grasslands Regional Park at archery range on 2/19, a wintering **Wilson's Warbler** at the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 2/19 and into March, the continuing Curtis Park **Steller's Jay** through at least 2/27, a **Mountain Chickadee** at

*Observations* continued on page 9

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

**Internet Address:** [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry46@earthlink.net](mailto:llandry46@earthlink.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
203 1610, e-mail preferred: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, [sawise7@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.