



The *OBSERVER*

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

7pm General Meeting

East Africa on Steroids

Ed Harper is very well known to the Sacramento community. Likewise, he is recognized throughout the country and has traveled the world visiting all continents. He has spoken at many birding events and presented a plethora of programs. An active member of Sacramento Audubon, he served as president in the mid 70's. He is retired from American River College where he taught mathematics for 34 years as well as a number of birding classes over the years. He and his wife, Susan Scott, have traveled extensively throughout East Africa, having made at least 15 separate visits. They will return just 2 weeks before this presentation, having led 2 East African safaris.

Ed will share some of the many highlights of his extensive travels in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda. This program will provide a heavy dose of stunning photography and informative narration. Whether you are interested in seeing Mountain Gorillas or Shoebills from Uganda, Black Rhinoceros and Grevy's Zebra from Kenya, or cat, cats, and more cats from Tanzania, this program provides! Of course there will be a plethora of birds, too.



Mountain Gorilla
Ed Harper

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010

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 20th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! It is 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! A partial list from last year: Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Brown Booby, Black-Footed Albatross, 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 8am and returns about 3:30pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30am. 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. Contact Ken Hashagen (916) 316 8596 cell or (916) 635-4435 home, for further information.

Please fill out and return the Registration Form on page 7 to Ken Hashagen.

Birds of prey, kingfishers, rollers, bee-eaters, sunbirds, weavers, and much more are part of this outstanding program. This promises to be an evening full of information and jaw-dropping imagery. Arrive early for a seat for this one!

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 and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

Lea Landry, Program Chair

Field Trip Findings

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/14)

– Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “This annual follow-up trip to the ARNHA Bird and Breakfast fundraiser was very well attended. There were several beginning birders and, fortunately, several field trip leaders, and the large group saw all the nests listed in the Bird and Breakfast write-up. They also enjoyed good scope looks at Western Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Acorn Woodpeckers. John Huls helped some people identify the Bewick’s Wren song. Tim Fitzer taught 8-year-old Seth to gobble at the tom turkeys, resulting in a very noisy group of turkeys. An aerial encounter between a Red-shouldered Hawk and a Cooper’s Hawk was seen by all, and a few people were able to see a Red-breasted Sapsucker. We all watched White-breasted Nuthatches carrying nesting materials to a cavity, and Paul Cordero pointed out a beautifully spring-plumaged Eurasian Starling.”

ARNHA Bird and Breakfast (3/13) – Sacramento Audubon field trip leaders assisted in ARNHA’s annual Bird and Breakfast fundraiser by leading guests to 54 bird species before they enjoyed a delicious breakfast at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Highlights for many were active nests of Hutton’s Vireo, Bushtits and Anna’s Hummingbirds. Other good sightings included Red-breasted Sapsucker, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and White-tailed Kite. Jack Hiehle coordinated the Audubon contingent on a crisp, sunny morning.

Highway 37 and Schollenberger Park (3/7)

– Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Ten birders had 78 species on a perfect sunny day with no wind. Highlights included Blue-winged Teal, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Clark’s Grebe, Bonaparte’s Gull, Sora, Marbled Godwit, Say’s Phoebe and Chestnut-Backed Chickadee.”

North Fork Pleasant Grove Creek (Roseville Area)–(3/6) – Leader Scott Dietrich reported: “The day turned out to be very nice with just a few clouds overhead. We had a great turnout of 22 birders all eager to see what Roseville

had to offer. We were not disappointed. We had around 50 species. The bird show was dominated by the woodpeckers and the raptors; we routinely had a number of Downy, Nuttall’s and Red-breasted Sapsuckers in the same oak tree up close. We were able to witness White-tailed Kites and Red-shouldered Hawks battling it out for nesting territory and to see a lot of mating behavior by both species. We also had a couple of Say’s Phoebes and a single Cooper’s Hawk that allowed us to get good looks. A group of Wood Ducks and a male Hooded Merganser gave us a few looks but were very shy. Overall, a beautiful day amongst the oaks and birds in Roseville.”

Northern San Joaquin County (2/28)

– Leader Chris Conard reported: “16 of us visited the Mokelumne Hatchery, Lake Camanche (south), and Flood and Waverly Roads in San Joaquin and Calaveras counties. It was a beautiful day, and a very birdy morning at the Mokelumne Hatchery. Topping the list were a White-throated Sparrow and perhaps 10 Lewis’s Woodpeckers. Perhaps the “best” bird was one that got away. It was a sapsucker, juvenile-type, brownish-washed with no hints of red. The view was too quick to make much of it as it flew across the river and out of view. At Lake Camanche there were two Bald Eagles and great views of a Red-breasted Sapsucker. Flood and Waverly roads were a little slower than usual (only two Ferruginous Hawks) in some respects, but we had two Golden Eagles and one to three Bald Eagles. A beautiful day to be out.”

Bufferlands Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour (2/27)

– Leader Kevin Cassidy reported: “Even with the rain the wetlands and waterfowl tour was a great success. Over 30 people enjoyed the two-mile walk around the Fishhead Lake area of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands. During the walk within the low-flooded portions and mudflats we saw several troops of snipe as well as Black-necked

Stilts, Long-billed Dowitchers, Killdeer and yellowlegs. Within the deeper flooded upland areas and the lake we saw pintail, gadwall, mallard, shovelers, wigeon, Cinnamon Teal and Double crested Cormorants, as well as Canada Geese, Great Egrets and 100’s of American Coot of course. A rookery of Great Blue Heron, a lone Snowy Egret, and the Barn Owl box with a single occupant were also of great interest.”

Estates Drive Area, American River Parkway (2/24)

– Leader Jack Hiehle reported a nice array of birds, including Golden-crowned Kinglet, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wood Duck, Fox and Lincoln sparrows, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, White-throated Swift, Red-shouldered Hawk, California Towhee, Oak Titmouse, House and Bewick’s wrens, Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, and Lesser Goldfinch. Also a River Otter.

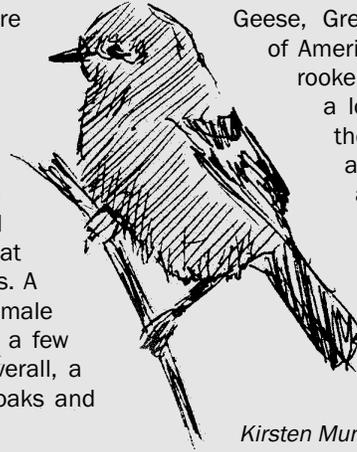
Sailor Bar, American River Parkway (2/21)

– Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Fifteen birders had 62 species on a cold overcast morning. Highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Violet-green Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Rufous-crowned Sparrow.”

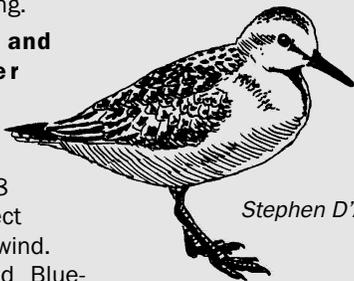
Lake Solano and Monticello Dam (2/20)

– Leader Chris Conard, subbing for Dan Williams, reported: “Ten of us had an excellent half day trip, with most of the morning at Lake Solano and ending at Monticello Dam where the weather had turned cold and blustery. In addition to at least 18 Hooded Mergansers and three river otters, we saw the continuing Bufflehead x Goldeneye hybrid (an odd duck). Most interesting to me were two Brown Creepers, with one singing repeatedly (there is at least one nesting record for this area). Five Red-breasted Sapsuckers and four or five Phainopeplas also topped the list.”

Pete Hayes



Kirsten Munson



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trips



Rosemarie Gilbert Bell

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 11th. From April 12th on call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198, cbarbaro@comcast.net.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. 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.

Wednesday, March 31, 8am

River Bend Park

**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland, looking for wrens, nuthatches and other small birds with young, also nesting Red-shouldered Hawks and possibly some other birds still in nests. We should also find some spring wildflowers and Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies. This is a good trip for beginners, and will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd., between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 per car park entrance fee.

Saturday, April 3, 8am

American River between Howe and Watt

**Leader: Dan Kopp, 213-2791
rey-ality@hotmail.com**

Join Dan on his favorite spot along the Parkway in search of our late wintering, migrant and breeding birds, and get to know an area he knows well. Although he birds this spot almost daily, he has rarely seen other birders and is eager to share his knowledge of this oasis behind his home. In the last two years this area has produced a Palm and Chestnut-sided warbler and a California Thrasher. He will work the area well to locate any goodies in hopes of finding them for the group. There are well worn trails and some that require a little more work, so depending on everyone's ability, he will decide how strenuous the walk will be in the morning. The trip will last until lunch time. From Hwy 50, take the Howe

Avenue exit and head north; from Howe, take the first exit before the bridge. To do this, you will need to be in the right-most lane. Cross La Riviera Drive and enter the Howe Avenue access to the American River. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 fee to park in the lot, or parking is available on La Riviera Drive.

Sunday, April 4, 8am

Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway

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

Join Mark for an Easter morning walk along the American River Parkway. We will see a nice variety of resident birds and hopefully some migrating songbirds. From the intersection of Sunrise and Fair Oaks Blvd, go west on Fair Oaks, then make an immediate left turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue and follow it into the park. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 parking fee. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Friday, April 9, 8am

Davis Wetlands and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

**Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
dtankers@winfirst.com**

Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take I-80 to west to Mace Blvd. (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again to the Park and Ride behind Ikeda's Market. Dan will be looking for shorebirds, Swainson's Hawk, Western Kingbird and other spring migrants. Trip will end around noon. Scopes and FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Saturday, April 10, 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 will bird the Yolo Bypass in the afternoon. Bring a lunch and liquids as this trip will last into mid-afternoon. Meet Andi at Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. 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 11, 7:30am

Mather Field Park

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
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. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 per car entrance fee. This is a great trip for beginning birders.

Wednesday, April 14, 9am – noon

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 in identifying these unusual plants. Phoenix Field is located on

Field Trips continued on page 4

Sunset Blvd just east of Hazel Ave. Don't forget your binoculars to view the resident birds.

**Saturday, April 17, 8am
American River between
Howe and Watt
Leader: Dan Kopp, 213-2791
rey_ality@hotmail.com**

Join Dan on his favorite spot along the Parkway in search of our late wintering, migrant and breeding birds, and get to know an area he knows well. Although he birds this spot almost daily, he has rarely seen other birders and is eager to share his knowledge of this oasis behind his home. In the last two years this area has produced a Palm and Chestnut-sided warbler and a California Thrasher. He will work the area well to locate any goodies in hopes of finding them for the group. There are well worn trails and some that require a little more work, so depending on everyone's ability, he will decide how strenuous the walk will be in the morning. The trip will last until lunch time, and is an excellent trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Hwy 50, take the Howe Avenue exit and head north; from Howe, take the first exit before the bridge. To do this, you will need to be in the right-most lane. Cross La Riviera Drive and enter the Howe Avenue access to the American River. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 fee to park in the lot, or parking is available on La Riviera Drive.

**Saturday, April 17, 8am
Celebrating Creek Week
and Suburban Parks
Leader: John Huls, 284-7021
johnhuls@sbcglobal.net**

Join us as we explore several parks hidden in the suburbs of Citrus Heights and Carmichael. If we can filter out the cacophony of House Wrens and Oak Titmice, we may be able to hear a migrating warbler on his way to higher elevations. We will start with the old Stock Ranch property, and after a short walk there we will go on to a couple of other riparian parks. This trip will end by noon, and is great for beginners. Meet in the southeast corner of the Wal-Mart parking lot (drive along the east side of the store, by the gardening section) at 7010 Auburn Blvd. in Citrus Heights.

**Sunday, April 18, 8am
Hansen Ranch Park Preserve
(North Natomas Area)
Leader: Jonilyn Okano, 397-1295
jonilyn@rcip.com**

If you have never been to Hansen Ranch, you are in for a treat! Join us in a leisurely walk on the dyke above the pond that overlooks the preserve's many unique qualities. The habitat is mainly marsh but also has open fields and a tree line in the distance, which hosts a heron and egret rookery in the spring. Turkey and coyote might be present strolling across the grasslands. The pond has many surprises hidden in the reeds; come join us and let us find them together! Meet at Main and the South end of Kelton Way at 8am. This trip is good for beginners and will end before noon. Bring something to view birds. (Binoculars, cameras and/or spotting scopes are very helpful.) There are no restroom facilities

**Friday, April 23, 8:30am – noon
Bobelaine, History of Natural History
Part 1**

**Leader: John Huls, 284-7021
johnhuls@sbcglobal.net
A combined Sacramento Audubon and
California Native Plants Society trip.**

As we enjoy the flora and fauna of this riparian corridor I will talk about naturalists of the 18th and 19th centuries whose names grace many of our western birds and flora; Nuttall's Woodpecker, Bewick's Wren, Townsend's Warbler, Douglas fir, Freemont cottonwood...the list is endless. This is a Walk and Plop outing. Bring a totable three-legged stool or personal groundcloth so that we can sit occasionally and enjoy the overlook at the junction of the Feather and Bear Rivers. This trip is suitable for all levels of birders, botanizers and history buffs, especially those with nimble minds but well-experienced bodies. You may want to bring water and/or snacks. Meet John at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd at 8:30am. 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. Or you can meet the group in the Bobelaine parking lot at about 9am. Take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City and about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.

**Saturday, April 24, 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 7 am. NOTE: there is now a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

**Sunday, April 25, 7:30am
Sweet Water Creek
Leader Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
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.

**Wednesday, April 28, 8am
River Bend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland, looking for wrens, nuthatches and other birds, nesting or with young. We should also find some spring wildflowers and Pipevine Swallowtail butterflies. This is a good trip for beginners, and will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 per car park entrance fee.

Saturday, May 1, 7am - 11am
Pine Hill Preserve Birding
Leader: Chris Conard and Graciela Hinshaw, Preserve Manager

Pre-registration required through Pine Hill Preserve at graciela_hinshaw@ca.blm.gov

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 Highway 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit newly acquired land in Kanaka Valley, with a combination of grasslands, open oak woodland, and areas of chaparral transition. For details and registration, contact Graciela at the e-mail address above.

Sunday, May 2, 7am
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.

Sunday, May 2, 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.

Saturday, May 8, 7am
Spenceville
Leader Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
offleash56@yahoo.com

This scenic recreational area of rolling hill-sides, 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 9, 7:30am
Cronan Ranch, Coloma
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Join Maureen for a walk in beautiful 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 last year. 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.

Sunday, May 9, 7:30am
William Pond Recreation Area
Leader: John Huls, 284-7021
johnhuls@sbcglobal.net

Where Bewick's Wrens and Song Sparrows share habitat it is easy to get their songs confused. The Bewick's employs many short buzzes and quick notes joining longer and louder trills, plus, he has many different songs. The Song Sparrow has less variety but can vary the order of his phrases which

adds to the confusion. We will key into the repertoires of these two great songsters. Bring a pencil and notebook to create your own mnemonics. The park is located at the east end of Arden Way, south of Fair Oaks Blvd. in Carmichael. We will meet at the gazebo at the very end of the park road. A County Park Pass or a \$5 parking fee is required. This trip will end before noon.

Wednesday, May 12, 9am - noon
Sailor Bar Area
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Meet Jack at the end of Emperor Street to explore the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the American River Parkway. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

Saturday, May 15, 7am
Bothe-Napa Valley State Park
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of birding the Coast Range above beautiful Napa Valley Wine Country. Bring a lunch and be prepared for a moderate hike, as we explore this park's fern-lined trails that wind through tanoak, madrone, and redwood forests. Birds we will seek out there include spring arrivals such as Allen's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Warbler. We also hope to see park residents like Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, and maybe even a snoozing Spotted Owl (definitely not a guarantee)! Please meet at the I-80 Park and Ride on West Capitol Ave by 7am. We will bird until early afternoon, so those of you who wish to can stay and do a little tasting!

Sunday, May 16, 7:30am
Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway
Leader: Mark Martucci 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark for a morning walk along the American River Parkway. We will see a nice variety of resident birds and hopefully some migrating songbirds. From the intersection of Sunrise and Fair Oaks Blvd, go west on Fair Oaks, then make an immediate left turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue and follow it into the park. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 parking fee. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Creek Week Trips

Bufferlands Birds and Blooms Tour Saturday, April 10, 1:30pm-3:30pm

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

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Roger Jones at 875-9174 or email jonesro@sacsewer.com the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Mather Vernal Pool Flower Walks Sunday, April 11, 18 and 25 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. These unique wildflowers bloom only for a brief period in the spring. For more information and to sign up, call 364-2437 or go to sacsplash.org. The tour is provided free of charge by trained CNPS docents, however donations are greatly appreciated.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION—HELP CLEAR THE AIR

Be an Active Citizen

While each individual's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions is important, we won't curb air pollution and climate change without major changes in the kinds of energy we use and an economic system that depends on a high rate of wasteful consumption. These changes will come about only if enough of us become more politically active. You can do a lot to support the work of local, state, and national governments to curb air pollution and climate change. Stay informed, write letters to your leaders, and support those candidates who promise to take the aggressive and farsighted actions necessary to curb air pollution and climate change. To get involved, go to www.audubon.org/globalwarming/SpeakOut.php.

Calculate Your Carbon Footprint

How much do your emissions add up to? You can calculate your household's greenhouse gas emissions by using a carbon calculator (for example, go to www.safeclimate.net/calculator/). Once you've calculated your impact, consider how you can cut back on your overall emissions. You'll be amazed how small steps add up to huge differences in our cumulative impact.

More tips next month but in the meantime check out: www.audubon.org/globalwarming/BePartSolution.php. There are many steps you can take to help clean the air.

Local Fish Fauna

Wednesday, April 14, 12 noon-2pm

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

The meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Steve Scott at 875-9307 or email scottst@sacsewer.com the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Steelhead Creek Beaver Pond Walk Wednesday, April 14, 6:30pm

Early evening is the best time to see beaver activity and lots of other local wildlife. Take a stroll with Mary Tappel through Wolfe Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary. Meet at the Ueda Parkway Staging area parking lot on Elkhorn Blvd. and Sorento Rd. east of Steelhead Creek. Call 925-1933 or email marye.tappel@jps.net before April 22nd for further information or directions. No need to sign up in advance. NOTE: this event will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain.

SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

Nomination Committee Chair Tim Fitzer announces the following slate of officers for the 2010-11 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2010. The slate will be presented for a vote at the April general meeting.

President	Keith Wagner
Vice President	Dan Williams
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt
Recording Secretary	Jonilynn Okano
Directors	Tim Fitzer, Lea Landry Darrell Mohr, Linda Pittman, Gary Fregien
Peter Watkins will continue as Past President	

SACRAMENTO RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEW SPRING BIRD WALKS AT THE RIVER UNITS

Join a park ranger on a walk from 8-10am to discover the diversity of bird life in these riparian habitats.

Friday, April 9 at Pine Creek

Located just south of highway 32 on the east side of the River, this unit has a mixture of native grasses, cottonwood riparian forest, and riparian scrub.

Friday, April 23 at Ord Bend

Located off of Ord Ferry Road west of the River, this unit has been restored to valley oak savanna with some mixed riparian forest and native grasslands.

Saturday, May 22 at Capay

This will be the official opening day of this new River unit. Come explore the bird life for our celebration of International Migratory Bird Day on a walk from 8-10 and then stay for an opening event.

Preregistration is needed. Please contact the Refuge to register and get more information.

Lora Haller, Visitor Services-Park Ranger
(530) 934-2801
lora_haller@fws.gov



Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 11, 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 \$ _____

Would you like to carpool? Yes _____ No _____

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct., Gold River, CA 95670

SLEWS

March 10th was our first field day with the SLEWS program at a former duck club in Denverton in the delta. SLEWS—Student and Landowner Education and Watershed Stewardship—engages high school students in habitat restoration projects that enhance classroom learning, develop leadership skills and result in real habitat restoration. Check them out at the Center for Land-Based Learning web site.

The weather held and Subhash Chand, Jan and Dan Tankersley, Mary Beth Metcalf, Scott Dietrich and myself had a wonderful opportunity to share our love of birds with a class from Dixon High School. Birds weren't spectacular, but what we did see gave the students a taste of birding and a feel for what an incredible resource the delta area is for wildlife. I hope more of you can join us, if we have the good fortune to hook up with SLEWS again. Let me know if you are interested.

It would be great if their restoration site were closer to Sacramento, but it was well worth the drive! Thanks to those who helped out.

Julie Serences
Education Committee

ARE WE WILLING TO SACRIFICE

CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT?

The California Legislature is actively considering several measures that would fundamentally undermine the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) by exempting dozens of hand-picked projects from the legal review requirements in CEQA. If any of these proposals are successful, the selected projects would be exempted from the legal review process that for decades has ensured that bad projects don't move forward. Individuals would lose the ability to hold developers accountable for negative impacts on water quality, air quality, open space and traffic congestion in their communities.

Though the Legislature recently defeated a sweeping CEQA exemption proposal, the threat is far from over and we will have to remain vigilant as the issue will certainly resurface this year. Last year, the Legislature opened the door to proposals like this by exempting a football stadium project in southern California from legal review under CEQA. The project had previously been facing legal challenges over traffic and other impacts on neighbors. This community will now have to live with the project and will have no say in how it is built or managed.

The CEQA exemption proposals are supported by manufacturers, builders, engineers, developers, business interests, and others who say that this will expedite construction of numerous but unnamed projects and will jumpstart the economy. The projects could include new energy facilities, on and off-shore oil facilities and pipelines, roads through state parks, residential subdivisions, water infrastructure projects, prisons, and more.

Developers have been taking aim at our environmental quality legislation for years, and are now using the economic downturn as an argument for this unprecedented attack on well-established laws. The idea that waiving environmental and public review will spur job growth is misguided, and cynically implies that taking care of the environment is a luxury. In fact, a thriving environment is a necessity; we cannot have a strong economy without it.

What you can do... sign up for our action alerts so that you can respond when these proposals resurface: www.ca.audubon.org.

Jordan Wellwood
Central Valley/Sierra Nevada Conservation Coordinator, Audubon California

ANNUAL MAY BOOK SALE

Our May 20th General Meeting will begin early with our annual Book Sale. 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. Look for information in next month's issue of *The Observer* about where to bring your books prior to

the sale. Hopefully John Gin will volunteer again to price the books for us.

This is always a good annual fundraiser and we donate the monies raised to a worthy organization in the birding conservation world. Thanks to all of you who participate. For any questions please call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207. See you there!

Birding Festivals

HERON FESTIVAL AND WILDFLOWER BRUNCH

Held in Kelseyville, CA on April 24 and 25, the Heron Festival is a celebration of the Great Blue Herons return to their nesting sites around Clear Lake. Clear Lake is the largest natural lake entirely within California's borders. It is one of the oldest lakes in North America. Scientists say it is at least 2.5 million years old.

The festival, created by the local Redbud Audubon Society, includes activities such as pontoon boat rides to view the heron and cormorant rookeries and guided kayak trips to view birds on Kelsey Creek. Informative and interesting nature presentations are held at Clear Lake State Park along with information booths, and children's activities. A Wildflower Brunch is held annually on Saturday morning. Guided bird walks are available. More information, including event information, schedule and registration, can be found at www.heronfestival.org or call (800) 525-3743.

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL

The twelfth 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 14-16. These internationally recognized wetlands are temporary home to over 260 species of birds, including thousands of White-faced ibis, Long-billed dowitcher, American white pelicans, Black-necked stilts, American avocets, and many other waterfowl and waterbirds. During the 2009 festival, 147 different species were logged—not quite the festival record of 2007 but still a good number of species!

In the interest of conservation they are developing an internet mailing list. If you wish to be notified when the online brochure and registration form are posted to the website, please contact the event coordinator Candy Dolan, P.O. Box 6332, Fallon, Nevada 89407. Phone: (866) 432-5566 Fax: (775) 423-8926 .

E-mail - info@springwings.org. You can also keep checking www.springwings.org for updated information.

KERN RIVER VALLEY SPRING NATURE FESTIVAL

The 16th Annual Kern River Valley Spring Nature Festival exhibits and activities will take place the weekend of May 1-2, 2010. The festival is an ongoing celebration from April 29th through May 3rd. 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!

Saturday and Sunday, Audubon-California's Kern River Preserve in Weldon, hosts numerous free events including bird walks led by Kerncrest Audubon Society volunteers, bird banding with the Southern Sierra Research Station, and information booths and exhibits located in the large, shaded front yard of Preserve Headquarters. There is no registration for or any fees for the May 1st exhibits, workshops, entertainment or walks held at Audubon's Kern River Preserve. Please do not use the online registration form unless you are registering for trips or the program. For further information including activities, trip descriptions, accommodations, and a list of the birds seen last year visit <http://kern.audubon.org/bioregion.htm>.

PREVIOUSLY INCLUDED APRIL FESTIVALS

Information on these festivals was included in last month's *Observer*. Phone numbers and web sites are included for more information.

Olympic BirdFest, Sequim, Washington April 9-11

Olympic BirdFest 2010 celebration at the Dungeness River Audubon Center, Sequim, Washington.

Get program information and registration forms online at www.olympicbirdfest.org. Contact them by phone, at 360-681-4076, email at info@olympicbirdfest.org, or write Dungeness River Audubon Center, P.O. Box 2450, Sequim, WA 98382

Godwit Days – April 15-21

15th Annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival. For further information and registration visit www.godwitdays.com or call 1-800-908-WING.

Point Reyes Birding Festival April 23-26

Don't miss the first annual Point Reyes Birding Festival. This event, at a world-renown birding area is relatively close to Sacramento.

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.

A very affordable boat trip to Cordell Bank to see pelagic birds and marine mammals will take place April 26 (weather permitting).

Go to www.eacmarin.org to learn more about this exciting event.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Bud Getty, Margaret Ann Martin, Wayne Monson, Marion Nixon, Bob Norris and Marlyn D. Wolf, to the **General Fund**.

Katie Ballinger, Cheryl Cobbs, Ed Greaves, Carlotta Maggy, Wayne Monson, Jim Moose and Kirstie Wilson, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Elizabeth Austin	Carlotta Maggy
Marshall Clark	Meghan Masuhara
Cheryl Cobbs	Marilyn
Diana Coleman	McCloskey
Mike Cruikshank	Susan Munoz
Marti Ikehara	Janet Newton
Kathlyn Lamoure	Gary and Marion Nixon
Marya Liberty	Shobhana Rishi
Roger Lindholm	

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 27, 2010 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2010

May 20 – Subhash Chand, *Birding Delhi*

September 16 – Robert Meese, *Tricolor Blackbirds*

October 21 – Ron LeValley, *A Blue Whale Adventure*

November 18 – Jess Morton, *Audubon Partnerships in Baja California*

2011

January 20 - Andy Engilis, *Birding in Chile*

February 17 - Scott Crosbie, *Yellow-billed Magpies* (Tentative Date)

March 17 - Ed Pandolfino, *Raptor Survey*

April 21 - Ben Sacks, *Central Valley Red Fox* (Tentative Date)

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 \$ _____

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

Ferruginous Hawks, 110 **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, 74 **Mountain Bluebirds**, and 8 **Purple Finches**. **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk** reports continued, including a rarer light morph on Yolo County Rd 29 near Rd 94. The first **Swainson's Hawk** of the season was seen near Davis on 2/20.

We are now featuring photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (<http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html>).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With over 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:

Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Dan Brown, Subhash Chand, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Dave Johnson, Dan Kopp, Harry Oakes, Ed Pandolfino, Linda Pittman, Dave Quady, Zack Smith, John Sterling, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

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.

Seasonal Observations

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

Southwestern Sacramento County, particularly Sherman Island, is the most remote portion of the county. It is an hour's drive from downtown Sacramento. The report of a male **Tufted Duck** on 2/16 caused a minor rush to this seldom-birded area. Since it is adjacent to Suisun Bay and only 25 miles from San Pablo Bay, one would expect a coastal influence. While the

Tufted Duck only remained through 2/17, up to

five **Surf Scoters** were present

on 2/17-18, with close to 100



Greater

Scaup (quite rare elsewhere in the county), along with dozens of **Bonaparte's Gulls** and at least ten **Mew Gulls**. Other highlights from Sherman Island included thousands of **Greater White-fronted Geese** and **Snow Geese**, with a few **blue-morph Snow Geese** and fair numbers of **Ross's Geese**. Also impressive was a flock of 500 **Yellow-headed Blackbirds**—almost all males.

It is no secret that interesting birds can be found in our urban parks and neighborhoods. A **Plumbeous Vireo** was found in Southside Park in Sacramento on 2/11 and continued into March. It was recorded on the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)

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11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

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and birders looking for it also recorded a **Black-throated Gray Warbler** and a **Western Tanager**. Following up on a GBBC

report of an unconfirmed rarity produced another excellent find: a **Red-naped Sapsucker** in south Sacramento from 2/18 through the end of the month.

Another well-studied bird was a male **Eurasian Wigeon** at Sailor Bar on the American River Parkway, first found on 2/1. It continued throughout the month and allowed close approach by photographers. There are more reports of interest than space will allow, but a brief run-down includes the apparent **Bufflehead X Goldeneye** hybrid continuing at Lake Solano, the **Red-throated Loon** found on the 1/3 Folsom CBC continuing through 2/14, the **Long-eared Owl** found on 1/16 at Yolo Grasslands Park south of Davis continuing through 2/17, and the **Hammond's Flycatcher** found in N Davis on 1/2 continuing into March. A trip to a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County produced an impressive 8

Observations continued on page 9

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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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.