



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

There will be no general meeting for the month of December. Our next meeting will be held January 18, 2007 and our speaker will be John Trochet talking about the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

Happy Holidays to all and see you next year.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair



### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Anne Adams, Dale Claypoole, Mary Howard, Clifton Rodes, Richard Soehren, Robert Turnage, Harry and Gail Janke, John Reif, Mary Schiedt, Wayne Blunk, Monte Ikemire and Keith Wagner, to the **BobElaine Sanctuary**.

Mary Howard, Clifton Rodes, Richard Soehren, Robert Turnage, Dan and Jan Tankersley, Monte Ikemire and Keith Wagner, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

### COME ON DOWN

Starting with the January meeting every person who enters our doors will receive a free raffle ticket. At the end of the meeting we'll draw three winning numbers and the first number chosen will have the first choice of the prizes available that night. January's top prize will be an Entertainment book valued at \$40. Future prizes will include a SAS membership, books, videos, emblems, pins, and who knows what else. So be sure to get a ticket and hold on to it. It may be your lucky number!

## Field Trip Findings

**Nimbus Fish Hatchery (11/12)** — Fourteen birders turned out for leader Jeff Mangum's gull clinic that produced primarily Herring Gulls, along with Glaucous-winged, California and Ring-billed species. Other highlights were Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, a Sharp-shinned Hawk that flushed a flock of Cedar Waxwings from a grape-laden tree, a perched Osprey, White-throated Swifts, Spotted Sandpiper, and a nice scope look at a Red-shouldered Hawk at about 50 feet.

**Lincoln Grasslands (11/11)** — On a rainy, cold day, leader Tim Fitzer's group managed to record Rough-legged Hawk, Varied Thrush, Rock Wren, Western and Clark's grebes, and Great Horned and Barn owls.

**Mather Field (11/5)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "In cool overcast weather, our team of 7 identified 35 species for the morning. The Great-tailed Grackles were present but the tules in all parts of the lake were filled with hundreds of male Red-winged Blackbirds. Half way down the levee, a flock of Wild Turkeys showed across Eagles Nest Road as well as a male Pheasant and a male Northern Harrier. One Bittern flew and two juvenile Black-crowned Night-Herons were spotted. Several Spotted Towhees and numerous Ruby-crowned Kinglets filled the trees along the levee. White-Crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were sighted as well as numerous Red-Shafted Flickers. A Say's Phoebe was identified in the same area as a Bewick's Wren. Families of Moorhens were numerous with one group of 11 in a short sweep of the scope. The resident flock of Bushtits were in the Cottonwoods on the shore side of the levee. The team ended the morning with three raptors, a male Kestrel, a White-tailed Kite and a

perched, probable juvenile, Red-tailed Hawk."

**Sacramento National Wildlife Area (11/2)** — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "Twelve birders enjoyed an early taste of winter birding on this off and on rainy weekday outing to the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge. At the office prior to our auto tour loop of the refuge, a game warden informed us that over 150,000 geese and many more than that number of ducks were on, or around the refuge. By our estimates, he did not exaggerate as the birds put on a wonderful show. The group enjoyed great looks at three different "blue morph" snow geese, and distant looks at two adult male Eurasian Wigeon. All in all, the group counted 60 species of birds. On the mammal front, 5 River Otters and 2 Mule Deer added additional pleasure to this fine day in the field."

**William Pond Park, American River Parkway (10/31)** — No ghosts seen, but leader Jack Hiehle reported Osprey, Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant, White-tailed Kite, Pied-billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher and Mute Swan. Jack donned his habitat restoration hat, showed the birders an example of Scarlet Wisteria or Sesbania and challenged them to pull up at least one of the invasive, non-native plants. "They all really got into it, and picked up 50 plants, a learning experience for them," Jack said.

**Snipes-Pershing Ravine (10/29)** "Nine birders had 33 species of birds with great looks at Cooper's and Red-shouldered hawks," leader Mark Martucci reported. "Also, good numbers of Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White and Golden-crowned sparrows were seen."

*Findings* continued on page 4

# Field Trips



Daniel Kilby

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, [mkgeiger@comcast.net](mailto:mkgeiger@comcast.net), for trips through December. For Christmas counts and trips from January 1 on, call the scheduler Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, [spskual@comcast.net](mailto:spskual@comcast.net).

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

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### **Saturday, December 2, Daybreak American River Natural History Association (A.R.N.H.A.) Bird Count Compiler: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack and other volunteers to assist with this annual count of birds and other creatures along the American River Parkway. Results of this count are important to future planning for the Parkway, and the goal is to have 11 teams of two or more persons each. This count differs from other Christmas Counts in that teams count species rather than total numbers of each species. Contact Jack for details, team assignments, and meeting and compilation locations.

### **Sunday, December 3, 7am Caswell Memorial State Park Leader: Gary Fregien, 451-2767 [calaveri@sbcglobal.net](mailto:calaveri@sbcglobal.net)**

Caswell Memorial State Park is located in the Central Valley near the town of Ripon, about an hour south of Sacramento. The park's position along the meandering Stanislaus River affords a combination of water and riparian vegetation. Although now merely a remnant, the park's 258 acres are mostly wild, in stark contrast to the surrounding agricultural lands, and they present a pristine example of the once extensive riparian corridor along the river. The habitat is primarily mature riparian valley oak woodland and is a magnet for a variety of resident and migrant species. This habitat also harbors the endemic riparian brush rabbit, not known to occur elsewhere. For more information about the park, go to [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov), click on "Find A Park" and use the drop-down menu to find Caswell. A March, 2006 trip produced 52 species including a White-

throated Sparrow. There may be a day-use fee to enter the park. Plan to spend several hours in the park, so bring food and water. Trails are primarily level, but may be damp. Dress appropriately. Meet Gary at the Park & Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at the Sheldon Rd. exit south of Sacramento.

### **Monday, December 4 8am-early afternoon Davis Wetlands Leader: Sami LaRocca, (530) 908-0288 [sami182@charter.net](mailto:sami182@charter.net)**

This trip is planned to take advantage of the weekday opening of the Davis Wetlands at Davis Waste Water Treatment Plant during duck season. By this time many species of ducks and other birds will have taken up winter residence at this very special wetland habitat. Join Sami in identifying as many as possible and in checking the surrounding fields for special sightings. Plan on carpooling to the wetlands from the Park and Ride lot off Mace Blvd. (north-east of I-80; behind Ikeda's fruit stand.) From Sacramento, take I-80 west across the causeway, exit on Mace Blvd. Turn right at the signal, drive downhill and make the next right at Ikeda's. Look for the green Park and Ride sign (2nd driveway after turn.) Bring water, snacks and hiking shoes. Some binoculars will be available for use by adults and children. High winds or significant rain cancels this trip.

### **Monday, December 4, 8am-Noon Nimbus Fish Hatchery, American River Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Walk with Jack down the American River to look for diving ducks, kingfisher, wintering gulls and other wildlife along the River. He will also be sharing his knowledge of

interesting archeological points relating to early Chinese gold mining. Meet in the parking lot of the Fish Hatchery off Hazel Boulevard.

### **Friday, December 8, 8am-Noon Sailor Bar Area American River Parkway Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack in exploring the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the River. Jack will share his broad expertise on the usual wintering residents of this area. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then go east on Emperor Street to the end.

### **Saturday, December 9 7am-mid-afternoon Sand Creek Road/Arbuckle Area Co-Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207 Sheila Deaner, 607-5447**

This recently discovered area covers a variety of habitats and thus a variety of bird species. Join Tim and Sheila in looking for raptors, passerines and grassland species, migrants and residents alike, in this beautiful area north of Sacramento. Roadrunners are often seen as well as possible coyotes, deer and bobcat. Bring liquids and lunch. Due to road conditions, high clearance vehicles are recommended. Call Tim for meeting place and to arrange car pooling.

### **Saturday, December 9, 8am-Noon Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour Leader: Roger Jones, 875-9174 [jonesro@saccounty.net](mailto:jonesro@saccounty.net)**

Tour one of the seasonal or permanent wetland areas within the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands in Elk Grove. The wetlands and waterfowl

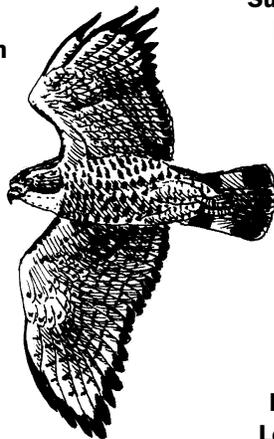
tour offers a chance to see many bird and mammal species including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, beavers and coyotes. Tour participants will enjoy a short walk guided by a Bufferlands staff wildlife biologist who will explain current management and restoration techniques. Space is limited and the meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Roger Jones during the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

**Sunday, December 10, 7:30am-noon  
Cosumnes River Preserve  
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146**

This Nature Conservancy Preserve is a rich area just 20 minutes south of Sacramento. Brian will search the ponds and fields for Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, ducks and geese and the radio tower for the often-present Peregrine Falcon. Walks along the boardwalk, bridge and trails should turn up other interesting species. Meet Brian at the visitor center parking area on Franklin Boulevard at 7:30am sharp!

**Sunday, December 10, 8am  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center  
Habitat Improvement  
Leader: Jack Hiehle  
967-0777**

Join Jack and other nature lovers to assist with habitat restoration at this lovely nature area. Possible tasks include weed removal, pond clean-up, erecting fencing around oak trees for protection and checking bird nest boxes. Please call Jack if you plan to come.



*Stephen D'Amato*

**CHRISTMAS  
COUNT DATES**

**Please call Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, or refer to the November Observer for information on dates and contact numbers for additional Christmas counts, including:**

**Saturday, December 16**

Woodfords and Auburn

**Sunday, December 17**

Stockton and Putah Creek

**Monday, December 18**

Benicia (Grizzly Island)

**Thursday, December 28**

Honey Lake

Additional dates and locations can also be found at <http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm>

**Saturday, December 23, 8am-Noon  
Bushy Lake**

**Leader: Joe Ceriani**

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

Join Joe for a look at some of the birds that live along this section of the American River Parkway. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear as it may be muddy. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

**Wednesday, December 27**

**Lincoln Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, 486-9174  
ERPfromCA@aol.com**

**Saturday, December 30**

**Sacramento Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495  
yellowhammer74@yahoo.com**

**Sunday, December 31**

**Folsom Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Chris Conard  
362-5942  
conardc@gmail.com**

This is a local count, lots of fun, and we always need your help no matter how inexperienced. It's a good way to learn. Call Chris and join the count.

**Monday, January 1, 7:30 am**

**Bobelaine Sanctuary Walk**

**Leader: Brian Gilmore  
451-9146**

Join Brian for a New Year's Day stroll through the riparian woods.

There are many birds and mammals, and Brian knows just where to find them. To reach Bobelaine, take I-5 north to Hwy 99 towards Yuba City. Two miles after it crosses the Feather River, turn right on Laurel Avenue; follow Laurel to the end and meet in the parking lot. This trip will last until late morning.

**Tuesday, January 2**

**Rio Cosumnes Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Andrew Engilis  
(530) 752-0364  
aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu**

**Tuesday, January 2, 8am-Noon**

**Goethe Park**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack for a morning walk through this beautiful park along the American River.

Jack will meet at the end of Arden Way on the north side of the River and walk across the bridge into Goethe Park. This trip is great for beginners and more experienced birders alike.

**Saturday, January 6, 7am sharp  
Post-Christmas Count**

**Coastal Birding Trip**

**Leaders: Mark Cudney, 987-2422  
mcudney@aol.com**

**Co-leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**

**spskua1@comcast.net**

This trip could be to Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay or both. Mark and Tim will be looking for the rare and vagrant birds seen on various coastal Christmas Counts. Be ready for a faster paced trip for the more experienced birder. Call or email for a time and meeting place, for the counts will determine where the trip will begin. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes and be prepared for a full day.

**Sunday, January 7, 7:30am-Noon**

**Serrano Parkway, El Dorado Hills**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804  
mkgeiger@comcast.net  
(if email problems, please call)**

Join Maureen for a leisurely walk through this riparian habitat and look for resident birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, towhees, wrens, bluebirds and marsh birds, as well as winter warblers and sparrows. River otters are a possibility. Meet for coffee at 7:30am at the Bella Bru restaurant in the Raley's shopping center on El Dorado Hills Boulevard just off Hwy 50; the group will leave for birding at 8am sharp.

**Saturday, January 13, 8am**

**Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge**

**Leader: Lisa Moraga, 455-4786  
lmoraga03@yahoo.com**

Sacramento Refuge is home to thousands of wintering ducks and geese which attract Peregrine Falcons. There is a 3.7 mile driving route with a high viewing platform that offers great looks at the many species of waterfowl. On our return, we will take County Road 16 through open raptor country, which can be spectacular. We hope to see the Hungarian Kumar sheep guard dogs on our way to Zamora. This trip will last into mid-afternoon, so bring lunch, liquids and a warm jacket. We will meet at the Jack in the Box parking lot at the Road 102 exit just off I-5 North, as you approach Woodland.

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

## Findings continued from page 1

### **Sacramento Bar/Lower Sunrise, American River Parkway (10/24)**

Several Phainopeplas, both male and female, and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were the standouts for the 10 participants, reported Cheryl Johnson, co-leader with Dee Warencia. Others among the 56 species recorded included Green Heron, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, Spotted Sandpiper, Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Fox and Lincoln's Sparrows.

### **Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (10/24)**

Five Sacramento Audubon members joined the leader, Lea Landry, and a guest, Art, a Naturalist from Great Egg Harbor National Park in New Jersey, on a walk through the various habitats along the Snowberry Creek Trail and Lake Natomas. "At first," Lea reported, "there were more birders than birds. The chilly morning air kept most of the birds snug in their roosts. The first sighting was of a gorgeous Red-shouldered Hawk on the ground with her prey. As the sun rose higher, things rapidly picked up with 35+ of the usual suspects seen in good numbers. Stars of the morning included 4 Phainopeplas at the top of a single tree, an Osprey overhead, and several Downy Woodpeckers, topped off by large groups of Bushtits and Cedar Waxwings."

**Coloma Bird Count (10/22)** – Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "This Coloma

trip was the last of a series of species counts for the American River Conservancy, which headquarters at the Marshall Gold Discovery Park. Four teams scouted four diverse areas for new birds to up the species counts and were rewarded with some special birds like Red-naped Sapsucker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Lawrence's Goldfinch and Pine Siskin in addition to the more common birds. Overall, 104 species have been found in this lovely area 40 minutes from Sacramento."

### **Calaveras Big Trees State Park (10/21)**

Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "A female Williamson's Sapsucker was an unexpected treat on this walk through the multi-hued dogwood and hazelnut understory of the Big Trees State Park. White-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Mountain and Chestnut-backed Chickadees were also seen. Another unexpected treat was our friend Pierre, who joined us while here on a business trip. The sometimes-seen Pileated Woodpecker was only heard this time, calling and drumming."

**Bannister Park (10/20)** – Leader Jack Hiehle said best birds were Black-throated Gray Warbler, Osprey, Hermit Thrush, Hutton's Vireo, Cedar Waxwing, Spotted Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher and Cooper's Hawk.

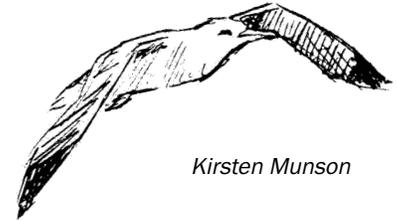
*Pete Hayes*

## Field Trips continued from page 3

### **Sunday, January 14, 8am Staten Island/Woodbridge Eisenberg Crane Preserve**

**Leader; Richard Barbieri, 966-4603  
offleash56@yahoo.com**

Join Richard in viewing thousands of ducks, geese, swans and raptors in this beautiful delta area south of Sacramento. Next, Richard will look for interesting gulls and shorebirds at the Lodi White Slough Water Treatment Plant. Lastly, he will drive to



*Kirsten Munson*

the Crane Preserve to see ducks, geese and Sandhill Cranes. This trip will last into mid-afternoon, so bring lunch, liquids and be prepared for variable weather. Meet Richard at the Sheldon Road Park and Ride on the southeast corner of Hwy 99 and Sheldon Road.

### **Monday, January 15, 7am Pt. Reyes Mammal Trip Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Gray Whales, Elephant Seals, Tule Elk and Axis Deer will be the focus of Jack's trip. He will, of course, not ignore birds, but they will be a sidelight of the trip. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes as the trip will last into the afternoon. Meet Jack on the north side of Fulton Avenue just before it intersects with Fair Oaks Boulevard.

### **Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society**

(Adopted by the Board 8/29/06)

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

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



### **Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings**

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There will not be a meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 29, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### **Entertainment Books**

Once again Sacramento Audubon is benefiting from the sale of Entertainment Books. The books offer money saving coupons for many area restaurants and reduced price coupons for area activities. They will be available for \$40 at all the General Meetings. They can also be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited, 2561 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Loehmann's Plaza next to Noah's Bagels (971-0719) or Wild Birds and Gardens, at 5339 Sunrise Blvd. (Sunrise and Madison), phone 966-5958. For further information you can call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207 (cell). All proceeds go to the Sacramento Audubon Society.

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all  
of these new members:

Carolyn Goff            Claudia Major  
Russell Huddleston    Robert Turnage  
Geraldine Klein        Nazhiyath Vijayan

### SOME UPCOMING PROGRAMS You Won't Want To Miss

**February:** Jack Laws  
Topic TBA

**March:** Allen Fish  
Identifying Perched Raptors

**April:** Orien  
Rail Program

**May** Ed Harper  
Topic TBA

### POEM

"Your husband is very lucky ...  
To have ornithology to fall back upon  
When fishing fails"

Poet Kay Ryan

I suspect a lot of Auduboners wear binocs  
around their necks when they go fishing, as  
I usually did!

Bill Dillinger

.....  
*Observations* continued from page 6

typical wintering location in the Robinson Rd  
area south of Dixon. **Barn Swallows** were  
unusually abundant well into October, and  
**Golden-crowned Kinglets** were numerous  
and widespread. Finally, there were multiple  
mountain lion reports from different areas of  
the Cosumnes River Preserve.

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

Roger Adamson, Peter Armstrong, Terry Colborn,  
Tim Fitzer, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton,  
Joan Humphrey, Dave Johnson, Jon Katz, Alan  
Krakauer, Jeri Langham, Don Marsh, Ron  
Melcer, Michael Perrone, Sarah Pitzer, Jennifer  
Rycenga, Mary Schiedt, Stefan Schlick, Don  
Schmoltdt, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Scott  
Terrill, John Trochet, Charley Walker, and Sally  
Walters.

Chris Conard

## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

Your membership supports the SAS mission of conservation, environmental  
education and protection of the region's natural ecosystems and diverse  
wildlife populations. Please include your email address if you would like to  
be added to our Action Alert List for letter/email writing on conservation  
issues.

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net      (916) 638-1141

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

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

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS, AD HOC COMMITTEES AND APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

**Last 25 Years History Book:** Pete Hayes, 485-4005, phayes99@aol.com

**Rewrite "Birding in The Sacramento Region":** Chris Conard, 362-5942,  
conardc@gmail.com

**Booths:** Vacant

**Pelagic Trips:** Ken Hashagen, (h) 635-4435

#### AD HOC COMMITTEES

**Auditing Committee:** TBA

**Nominating Committee:** TBA

**Awards Committee:** TBA

#### APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES

**Ecos Representative:** Keith Wagner, (w) 609-5000, keithw@cwnet.com

**Habitat 20/20 Delegates:** Roy Greenaway, 631-3536

Mary Bisharat, (h) 485-6455, vassar@deepwell.com

**SARA Representative:** Mary Beth Metcalf, 456-7382, mbmetcalf@ucdavis.edu

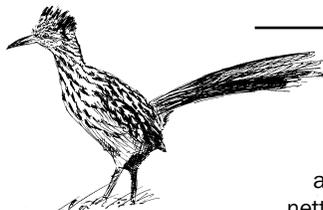
# Seasonal Observations

October 1 to October 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports  
[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

For all that our area has to recommend it as a birding mecca—abundant waterbirds, Sandhill Cranes, winter raptors, migrant songbirds through the Valley riparian forest, coastal and montane influences—it is not typical for a rarity of continental significance to turn up here; but on 10/25, that is just what happened. A **Taiga Flycatcher** was found and photographed near Winters along Putah Creek at Fishing Access #2. Not only was this a first state record, but a first for mainland North America. This Asian species, recently split from **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, was only previously known on this continent from Alaskan islands. As luck would have it, one of the finders, John Sterling, has done ornithological work in Siberia, and is familiar with the species. Folks who were able to drop everything and see the bird on 10/25 were rewarded, as the bird flew back and forth over the creek from Solano to Yolo County. Over 100 others who streamed in from all over the state and beyond the following two days were disappointed; sadly, the bird did not stick around. Nevertheless, it's a fabulous

record. Other species found during the search included **Greater Roadrunner** (the first for Putah Creek in many years), **Northern Pygmy-Owl**, **Pileated Woodpecker**, and **American Dipper**.



Kirsten Munson

Sacramento Audubon Society  
PO Box 160694  
Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Return Service Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite

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US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #2310  
Sacramento, CA

From a rarity standpoint, anything else was bound to play second fiddle. Still, a new species for Yolo County was found on 10/20 when an **American Tree Sparrow** was mist netted and banded at the Yolo Wildlife Area along the tour loop. Through at least 10/26, many were able to enjoy two of these attractive sparrows. Two **American Golden-Plovers** were reported along the tour

route on 10/24, and at least one continued for a couple of days. Other interesting Yolo County birds included a **Band-tailed Pigeon** flyover of Slide Hill Park in Davis on 10/11, an **Eastern Phoebe** near the park on 10/16, and a **Blackpoll Warbler** in north Davis on 10/6.

Cosumnes River Preserve produced a number of interesting records over the month. On 10/1, the county's first **Ovenbird** was reported along with a "**Baypoll**" **Warbler**. The latter bird was not seen well enough to determine if it was a **Blackpoll** or a **Bay-breasted Warbler**. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was found on 10/26 and continued through at least 10/28. On 10/29, a late **Wilson's Warbler** was found, along with the first **Tundra Swans** for the season. A **Peregrine Falcon** was a fairly regular early morning fixture on the microwave radio tower on Bruceville Rd.

Other interesting reports included a **Pink-sided Junco** from William B. Pond Rec. Area along the American River Parkway on 10/30, two **American Golden-Plovers** from the Lodi Sewage Ponds on 10/6, and **Common Poorwills** in eastern Sacramento County from Latrobe Rd, Michigan Bar Rd, and Howard Ranch. By 10/14, **Mountain Plover** reports were coming in from their

*Observations* continued on page 5

## 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

(916) 638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry@softcom.net](mailto:llandry@softcom.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,

Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 362-5942,

e-mail preferred, NOTE new address: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail: [sawelma@cwnet.com](mailto:sawelma@cwnet.com)

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

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