



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 17, 2008 and our speaker will be Don Yoder of the National Bluebird Society will speak to us about Bluebirds!

Happy Holidays to all and see you next year.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

AUDUBON VOLUNTEER AWARD

Dorothy Harvey, a longtime Sacramento Audubon member, is the latest recipient of a Volunteer Award, which includes a \$50 gift certificate to a local nature store. Dorothy has spent many years volunteering with Sacramento Audubon, most recently as a member of the Board, and also as a representative to the Environmental Council of Sacramento. Over the many years she has been active, she's served on various committees, participated in Christmas Counts, and, as a member of the History Project committee, she contributed many colorful background facts.

Part of the success of an organization is continuity, and longtime members like Dorothy contribute greatly in this way. Dorothy has retired from the SAS Board, but remains an active member, and is also involved with the Urban Creeks Council and ECOS.

Field Trip Findings

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11/11)

Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "On the way up, driving through the thermal lands north of Lincoln, we saw flocks of Tri-colored Blackbirds mixed with Red-wings and Brewer's Blackbirds, male Hooded Merganser, 6 to 8 European Collared Doves, Say's Pheobe, and Lewis's Woodpecker. On Camp Far West Lake, Western and Eared Grebes, Canada Geese, Northern Harrier. In Spenceville, bluebirds, Lesser Goldfinch, 2 female Hooded Mergansers, Lewis's Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, and Wood Ducks."

Old Fair Oaks Bridge (11/8)

The always-welcome arrival in the fall of Common Goldeneyes on the Lower American was noted by leader Jack Hiehle's group. Other species included Double-crested Cormorant, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, and Pied-billed Grebe.

Lake Solano & Campground (11/8)

Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "Nine birders enjoyed the continuing great fall weather on an outing to Lake Solano Park. Among the total of 57 species, were our target birds Phainopepla and Common Goldeneye (only 3 goldeneye; one drake, and two hens). Included in our highlight birds were Brown Creeper, Red-breasted Sapsucker, good numbers of Hooded Mergansers, two drake Ring-necked Ducks, and a female Varied Thrush. The group also had great scope looks at an Osprey enjoying its sashimi lunch. A River Otter sighting rounded out a fun day in the field."

Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley

(11/4) — Leader Mike Savino reported: "About 22 people joined the trip to the Cosumnes River Preserve. This was a joint SOS Cranes/Audubon trip where Sandhill Cranes were the sought-after species. Mostly we saw a good variety of ducks. We did get really good looks at the cranes at the preserve's Lost Slough Wetlands Walk. We also saw a light-phase Rough-legged Hawk overhead. Mark Martucci told John Trochet about it when we saw him on Desmond Road, and John said the hawk is uncommon there. Most fortuitously, while on Desmond Road, we met and spoke with a crane researcher who was carrying a receiver and antenna to track radio-collared cranes. This is a research project funded in part by the International Crane Foundation. The lead researcher, Gary Ivey, will speak about the project at the first annual Galt Winter Bird Festival on Jan 12, 2008. We hope to have one of the researchers help lead the next joint SOS Cranes/Audubon trip on Dec 8."

Sacramento National Wildlife Area

(11/3) — Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Our group of 13 birders enjoyed a beautiful warm and sunny day at the refuge. Some highlights included a juvenile Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Wigeon, Sora, and thousands of Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese. The many species of ducks included Northern Pintail, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, and

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Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal. We also enjoyed great views of a group of River Otters."

Goethe Park (10/30) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "An Osprey carrying a fish and a roosting pair of Great Horned Owls were some highlights of the trip, as well as a squabbling pair of Ruby-crowned Kinglets, both flashing their red crowns. There were also good looks at Downy, Nuttall's, and Acorn Woodpeckers, Bewick's Wren, and Red-tailed Hawk. Participants also enjoyed a good view of a coyote crossing the bike trail."

Calaveras Big Trees State Park (10/28) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "Pileated Woodpecker was one of the first birds spotted, but was only seen by a few people. White-headed Woodpeckers were numerous, and we had one male Williamson's Sapsucker. Many Clark's Nutcrackers were feeding high in the sugar pines, and Red-breasted Nuthatches were storing yew berries in tree bark furrows. Band-tailed Pigeons did a fly-over, a Townsend's Solitaire was singing, and we had small flurries of Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Chestnut-backed Chickadees. We also saw several Winter Wrens."

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (10/27) Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "This

trip was as always a good one. About a dozen of us had a great time viewing ducks, raptors and shorebirds, and a few land birds such as Horned Larks, American Pipits and sparrows. The most interesting experience was standing in the midst of a veritable forest of scopes, all trained on a fairly insignificant female duck which at that time was believed by many to be a Garganey. All is not clear at



Stephen D'Amato

this time as to its actual species, but never mind as we enjoyed studying female ducks — how often do we do this? — and hearing what some of the more experienced birders had to say."

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (10-25) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "An enthusiastic group of birders participated in this mid-week outing to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area and enjoyed a beautiful morning in the field. The group observed 55 species including several Eared Grebe, American Pipit, Long-billed Curlew, American Bittern and Great, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets. The egrets, about 25 individuals, were massed at the edge of the water as a field was being

flooded. The hunting appeared to be easy for these opportunistic birds. While the group missed the Ruff that had been reported earlier in the week, we didn't leave disappointed as we were treated to fine looks of a lone Snow Goose, a Merlin, and a Prairie Falcon. (Thanks to Paul Cordero for finding the Snow Goose and Prairie Falcon). Waterfowl numbers are on the increase, and although a bit warm for this time of year, the species in evidence remind us that winter is on its way."

William Pond Park (10/24) — A very good day was reported by leader Jack Hiehle, as participants tallied Western Grebe, California Quail, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Hermit Thrush, Belted Kingfisher, Cedar Waxwing, and Lark Sparrow. Veteran Audubon trip leader Mark Martucci joined the group, helping to boost the total, Jack said.

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary and Sutter Basin (10/23) — Leader Sami LaRocca reported: "On a true early autumn day, nine participants spent the day in two diverse habitats. In the riparian area of Bobelaine, 57 species were found; In the Sutter Basin wetlands of flooded rice fields, 33 species were counted. Flying over the sanctuary were flocks of Greater White-fronted

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SAS EDUCATION COMMITTEE VERY ACTIVE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Eight kids ages 4-10 and accompanying adults enjoyed two lively entertaining sessions and a Saturday field trip during Sheila Green's Birding for Fun class. Watch for the spring class that will feature building bird houses and habitat.

SAS assisted The Friends of the River Banks (a neighborhood association located downtown near the Sutter's Landing Park) with their first annual Salmon Festival. Julie Serences assisted with program preparations, and Jan and Dan Tankersly helped kids with the scope. Bobbie King was also there to help out. You can find out more by viewing their YouTube video of the event at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmXOUIcpffUt>

Second graders at Woodside School in Citrus Heights were invited to be park rangers and explore their "park" playground with SAS member Julie Serences as the "head" ranger. Jan and Dan Tankersly assisted with the scope as the students

surveyed birds on the playground. (By the way, Jan and Dan found 17 species during our visit to Woodside). Highlights for the students were the urchin oak galls, animal tracks and, of course, the rock doves seen in the scope!

The California Waterfowl Association invited Sacramento Audubon to participate in their program to teach high school students how to lead elementary children on nature walks. Sheila Green and Julie Serences worked with groups of 10 high school freshmen and sophomores working on bird identification, binocular skills and group management for younger kids. An online Picassa album was prepared of birds seen during the walk to assist the high schoolers with their identification skills.

Julie Serences made a presentation for third graders at John Sloat Elementary School in the Sacramento City Unified School District on the playground birds of the school. After the presentation they went

on a nature walk using SAS binoculars and finding some of the birds from the presentation.

Julie Serences and Sheila Green went to the Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton to hear Laura Erickson, a renowned naturalist and educator. They were thrilled to go on a walk with Laura, and some new ideas for SAS Education were gleaned.

In order to do effective school presentations, the Education Committee needs volunteers to survey the area around various schools, identifying birds the students might see on a local nature walk. Moderate birding skills are needed, but this does not require interaction with students; or if you would like to accompany Julie on a classroom presentation, and help with the nature walks, please contact Julie at education@sacramentoaudubon.org.

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 Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net for all December and January trips.

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.

Saturday, December 1, Daybreak Great American River 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 sponsored by the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). 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. The 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 2, 9am-Noon Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311 calidris@surewest.net

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting birds with emphasis on tricky identification of the many gulls that winter on the River near Nimbus Dam. This trip will last until late morning. A scope is useful in addition to binoculars. Meet at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot near Highway 50 and Hazel Avenue (about 15 miles east of Sacramento).

Monday, December 3, 8am-Noon Nimbus Fish Hatchery Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This is another opportunity to explore the Nimbus/American River area. Walk with Jack and look for diving ducks, kingfishers, 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 Nimbus Fish Hatchery off Hazel Avenue.

Wednesday, December 5, 7am Caswell Memorial State Park Leader: Gary Fregien, 451-2767 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 mature Valley Oak forest and riparian vegetation understory, in stark contrast to the surrounding agricultural lands, and is a magnet for a variety of resident and migrant species. For more information about the park, go to www.parks.ca.gov, click on "Find A Park" and use the drop-down menu to find Caswell. There is 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 and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at the Sheldon Road exit south of Sacramento.

Friday, December 7, 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 east on Emperor Street to the end.

Saturday, December 8, 8am-Noon Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour II Leader: Kevin Cassady, 875-9196 cassadyk@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 2 mile 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 Kevin Cassady during the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

Saturday, December 8, Very Early River Walk Bird Count Cosumnes River Preserve Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd, south of Twin Cities Road, for this monthly birding census trip. It is a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group is a good way to find out what's happening and to hone your birding skills. This walk covers about four miles at a leisurely pace and takes approximately five hours, so bring lunch and liquids. Be sure to check the recorded information a day or two before for exact meeting time and possible updates.

Saturday, December 8 Sunset Trip, 2pm till dark Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley A "Save Our Sandhill Cranes" sponsored trip Co-ordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392 Birding Guides from Sacramento Audubon

Sandhill Cranes are the focus of this trip, but the experienced birding leaders will also help you identify the waterfowl and shorebirds that winter here. A variety of ducks and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot, where we will

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stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, then drive out along Desmond Road and Woodbridge Road searching for cranes. Optional lunch at Wimpy's afterwards with SOS Cranes board members for further discussions.

Dress for changeable weather; bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org, or the recorded info line at 684-2816. This is a great trip for beginners.

**Sunday, December 9, 8am
Solano Lake/Putah Creek
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

The Lake is a good area for wintering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers. Phainopeplas are possible, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in the area several times during the last year. A drive up Putah Creek may turn up wintering passerines as well. There is a \$5 per car fee at the Lake Solano campground.

Bring lunch and liquids and meet Mark at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento: (West Capitol Exit; turn left at the light; then left again into the lot). Plan on a trip lasting into the afternoon.

**Sunday, December 9, 8am-Noon
Habitat Improvement Day
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack and help restore and improve an area near the American River. Your efforts will help keep this area a beautiful place to be. Call Jack for details as projects vary.

**Saturday, December 15, Sunrise!
Tall Forest Bird Count
This trip has been cancelled. Please
remove it from your calendar.**

**Sunday, December 23
7:30am-late-afternoon
Palo Alto Baylands/Martin Luther
King, Jr. Regional Shoreline/
Arrowhead Marsh
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@earthlink.net**

This is a great opportunity to see rails! Scott has timed this trip to take advantage

of extreme high tides which cause rails and mammals to head for higher ground, often being visible in the process. He will stop in Alameda on the way to search for shorebirds and wintering ducks as well as possible rails there also. And rarities are always a possibility at any of these locations. Meet him at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento, (West Capitol Exit; turn left at the light, then left again into the parking lot). This trip will last well into the afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids and wear waterproof footwear for moving around near the marshes.

**Saturday, December 29, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Sheila Martignetti, 488-1768**

Tim and Sheila will be checking this Placer County area for the many hawks and water fowl that call this area home during the winter months. They will also be looking for winter rarities that flock with Horned Larks and sparrows in the Brewer Road area. Lunch at the Chamberlain Cemetery will be followed by more birding along the rural roads on the way to Camp Far West Reservoir. Bring lunch, liquids and FRS radios for a full day of birding. Meet Tim and Sheila at the Park and Ride lot on Highway 99 at Elkhorn Blvd, just north of downtown Sacramento and the I-5/99 split. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Tuesday, January 1, 8am
Bobelaine Sanctuary Walk
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146**

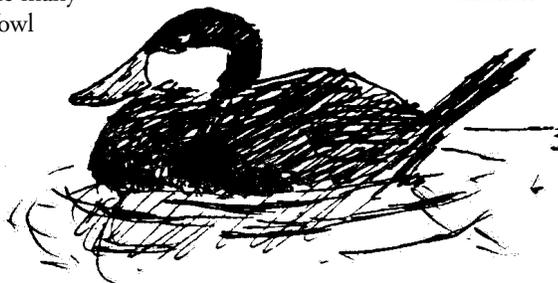
A New Year's day fresh morning walk rather than sitting around watching television! Join Brian for a stroll through this great riparian habitat. Herons, egrets, cormorants and grebes should be on the water. Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a variety of sparrows will be seen. Take Highway 99 north toward Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel Avenue to a dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot. Bring liquids and a snack.

**Wednesday, January 2, 8am to Noon
Walk Through Goethe Park
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Jack will meet people at the end of Arden Way, on the north side of the river. Walking into the William Pond area, he'll cross the bike bridge into Goethe Park. From the south side of the river you could enter Goethe Park (fee area) and park in the lot nearest the bike bridge; then meet Jack on the bridge. Jack will be looking for mammals and birds along the river and in the park, and he won't neglect the plants. This is a good trip for beginners; bring liquids and a snack.

**Saturday, January 5, 8am
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area
Leader: Doug O'Bannion, 681-0257**

Doug, who is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable birder, will lead you to Gray Lodge, one of California's best birding areas for thousands of ducks and geese. There is an observation platform and tour route for excellent viewing. After Gray



Kirsten Munson

Lodge he will return by way of the west side of the Sutter Buttes. This is a great area for wintering raptors and grassland birds.

Bring a lunch, liquids, and FRS radios. Meet at the Park and Ride lot on Hwy 99 at Elkhorn Blvd, just north of downtown Sacramento and the I-5/99 split.

**Sunday, January 6, 7am
Post Christmas Count
Coastal Birding Trip
Leaders: Mark Cudney, 987-2422
mcudney@aol.com
Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net**

This trip could be to Point Reyes, Bodega Bay or both. We 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. Bring warm clothes, lunch, liquids and FRS radios for an all day trip. We will meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol Ave exit, turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Wednesday January 9, 8am
Pleasants Valley Road
Putah Creek (Solano Co.)
Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

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Geese, White-faced Ibises and Cedar Waxwings. Belted Kingfisher and Downy Woodpecker sightings were unusual and satisfying, in the midst of the numerous Northern Flickers, American Robins and crowned sparrows. We heard only one Acorn Woodpecker in this area where in the past they had dominated. The wild grape vines covering the vegetation had turned from green to orange, yellow and red drapes throughout the woods. This hid from view some of the calling birds, most frustrating being a loud Fox Sparrow that couldn't be found. After lunch we drove through the Sutter Basin, passing rice fields not yet flooded. Here the dominant "birds" were decoys placed by hunters waiting for the waters to rise in anticipation of migrant waterfowl. In fact there were hundreds of these decoys, including ones for most species that may be expected this winter. Nearby, a foraging flock of American Pipits was spotted. We stopped at one flooded field in order to give a beginning birder a chance to i.d. American Coots. While watching from our cars we had the highlight of the day. A Northern Harrier took that moment to fly over the flock of 300+ attempting to capture her next meal. We watched in amazement as the coots moved closer together while rapidly flapping their wings. This made it impossible for the raptor to find a single target for his talons. After three minutes the harrier had to give up and go over and sit on a berm to rest. Later after locating a desired spot on the levee of the Sutter Basin National Wildlife Area, we had good looks at the newly arrived geese and ducks. We

saw great numbers of expected geese, pintails, shovelers, wigeons and teal. The only Snow Geese seen were three juveniles still smudged with gray."

Gristmill Recreation Area (10/21) Leader Mark Martucci reported, "Thirteen birders had 54 species of birds. Highlights were dozens of Yellow-rumped Warblers and Cedar Waxwings, two Wood Ducks and 10 Juncos."

Shadow Glen / Snowberry Creek (10/20) – Eight birding enthusiasts joined Lea Landry on a pleasant walk along the Snowberry Creek trail and Lake Natomas. Lea reported, "the day started off slowly, with few birds to see or hear, but activity heated up as the morning warmed up. A total of 30 species were seen or heard, including Phainopepla, Red-tailed Hawk, Turkeys flying to perch high in an oak tree, and many Bushtits, Oak Titmice, White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows, and Spotted and California Towhees. After about two hours, the birding walk came to an abrupt halt as a riderless horse galloping toward Shadow Glen Riding Stables indicated that someone might be injured. Rangers and EMTs were escorted to the accident site by group members; they "packaged" the fallen rider and carried her to a waiting ambulance. Meanwhile, we enjoyed great views of cooperative male and female Phainopeplas, a Red-tailed Hawk and a Black Phoebe at the accident site. All's Well That Ends Well."

Pete Hayes

ORNITHOLOGY CLASS AT SACRAMENTO CITY

Join us for Introduction to Ornithology, offered this coming Spring Semester at Sacramento City College. We will be meeting on Fridays, beginning on January 25, 2008. Lecture will be from 11:30am - 12:50pm, and lab from 1:30 - 4:35pm, in Lillard Hall, Room 109. There also will be several Saturday field trips during the semester, including an overnight (Saturday-Sunday) to Pt. Reyes in April.

The course description (Biology 332) can be found at the college's website: www.losrios.edu/scc/spring/Biology-BIOL.htm and registration information is at www.losrios.edu/lrc/lrc_reg.html

I hope that you'll be able to join us! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best wishes, Alexis Ackerman

Asst. Professor, Biology Department

Sacramento City College, Lillard-106

ackerma@scc.losrios.edu, 916/558-2387

Upcoming Events

1ST ANNUAL GALT WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Many migratory and resident birds call the Galt area their winter home. This 1st annual festival celebrates these birds with art, theatre, speakers and field trips to the Cosumnes River Preserve, all on Saturday, January 12, 2008.

Speakers include Gary Ivey, of the International Crane Foundation, Harry McQuillen, BLM manager of the Cosumnes River Preserve, David Yee of Stockton Audubon speaking on Birds of the Local Area, and a speaker from the California Raptor Rehabilitation Center.

A Children's Art Gallery will highlight Winter Bird artwork submitted by Galt students. The Crane Culture Theatre will present a story of farming, conservation and community. There will be informational exhibits, close up views of some of our feathered friends including live birds of prey, free children's activities and local food and art and craft vendors.

There will be both a morning and an afternoon Winter Birds Tour to the Cosumnes River Preserve. There is no charge to attend the festival, but the Winter Birds Bus Tour is \$5 per person, (children under 18 are free). Early sign ups are appreciated.

All festival activities happen at the Chabolla Center at 600 Chabolla Avenue in Galt. Get more information and activity schedule at www.ci.galt.ca.us, or call for recorded information at (209) 366-7220.

Mark Saturday, January 12, on your calendars now, and plan to attend.

DON'T FORGET THESE JANUARY EVENTS

These two festivals, mentioned previously in the *Observer*, are coming up in January so make your plans soon if you don't want to miss them.

The 12th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, is being held January 18 - 21, 2008. Their website is www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. The registration deadline is January 4, 2008.

Chico's 9th Annual Snow Goose Festival is January 25-27, 2008. Their website is www.snowgoosefestival.org or call (530) 345-1865.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Pat French	Ramona Cramer
Ken Ohleyer	Alice Bowles
Marilyn Armbruster	Sandra Lane
Jack Harrison	Cecilia Welch

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Delberta Bass, Elbert Brock, Adrienne Brown, Kenneth Head, Christine Holmstrom, Richard Soehren, to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary Fund.**

Adrienne Brown, Kenneth Head, Christine Holmstrom, Corrine Laing, Julie Serences, Richard Soehren, Jan and Dan Tankersley, Keith Wagner and Diana Hickson, to the **Conservation and Education Fund.**

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, 2008 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

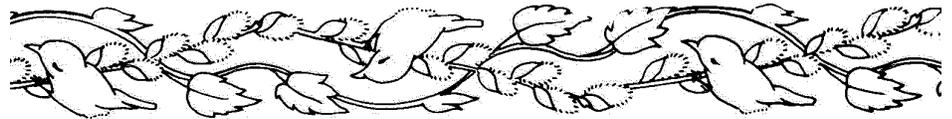
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

TANZANIA IN 2008

Ed Harper has announced there are still a few openings for the safari he and Susan Scott are leading 21 June to 4 July 2008. This safari will follow the highly productive itinerary that was used this past June. This will be Ed and Susan's 13th safari in Tanzania where they have become very familiar with the myriad of birds and mammals found in this friendly and inviting country. For more information and itinerary, contact Ed at calidris@surewest.net or call him at 916-971-3311.

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want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Brian Acord, Roger Adamson, Dan Brown, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Scott Hoppe, Joan Humphrey, David Johnson, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Shawn Petrash, Mary Schiedt, Doug Shaw, Zach Smith, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Dan Tankersley and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

October 1 to October 31
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

None of the unusual warblers and other rare passerines continued. There were still a lot of birds to look through, with waterfowl, shorebirds, and other waterbirds the most frequently reported.

Yolo County shorebirds were the highlight. Single **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were seen at the Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant on 10/5 and 10/10. On 10/9 a **Ruff** was found at the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA). The bird continued at this location until at least 10/21. On 10/19, a different bird was found at the Davis Landfill. It continued in the area through at least 10/24. A single **Ruff** was reported at the Davis Wetlands (DW) on 10/30. Two **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were found at the YWA on 10/25 through 10/26. On 10/27, a late **Wilson's Phalarope** was reported from DW and a **Franklin's Gull** was seen in front of the Davis Landfill. The **Franklin's Gull** that was first found on 7/1 was last reported on 9/9. This may have been the same individual.

A **Red-necked Grebe** was found on Lake Solano on 10/21 and continued through 10/28. Two **Glossy Ibis** were reported from YWA on 10/10, following the well-documented **Glossy Ibis** from 8/25. Excellent viewing conditions are required to separate this California Bird Records Committee review species from the common **White-faced Ibis**.

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An owling trip along Rayhouse Rd in Yolo County on 10/1 produced a **Northern Pygmy-Owl** and an intriguing report of a calling **Spotted Owl**—the latter a species

not documented in the county. Other interesting reports include a **Long-eared Owl** at the Sac. Reg. County Sanitation District Bufferlands on 10/29, a **Sage Thrasher** photographed at a shopping center parking lot on Iron Point Rd in Folsom just north of Hwy 50 on 10/2, a **California Thrasher** at Mississippi Bar near Lake Natoma (rare in Sacramento County) on 10/8, and a late **Wilson's Warbler** from the Tall Forest at Cosumnes River Preserve on 10/27. A 10/29 report of over 400 **Great-tailed Grackles** coming to roost at Laguna Creek in Elk Grove (west of Hwy 99 and east of Big Horn Rd) was by far the highest number recorded locally of a species that first arrived in our area in the mid-90s.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With nearly 150 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I

Observations continued on page 7

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