



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

There will be no general meeting in the month of December. Our next meeting will be held January 19, 2012 with a presentation by Josh Hull on Great Grey Owls. Two other programs have been confirmed for 2012. They are February's presentation by Garry George, titled *Audubon California and Renewable Energy*, and May's presentation by Julie Serences, titled *Native Bees in Our Yards*. A complete list of 2012's programs can be found on page 9. See you next year!

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

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*

### DON'T MISS THESE TWO GREAT COUNTS

The ARNHA Wildlife Count was originally organized as a fund-raising Bird-a-thon in 1985. Jack Hiehle provided the impetus and organization to get it going. He was the driving force behind the count until 2010, when he served as a mentor while Lea Landry took over the coordination of the 26th Annual Count. The count is utilized by the Staff of Effie Yeaw and ARNHA to follow the population trends of various species of wildlife in the American River Parkway as well as their effect on other aspects of the Parkway. This is a wildlife and species count and not just a bird count so come on out if that interests you. Have a great day, help out and enjoy one of the nicest areas in our region. Complete write-up and information can be found on page 3, for December 3rd.

The other count is a bird count. It's our first annual KIDS CBC. That's kids counting birds, which has been highly successful in Sonoma and Davis. If you've got kids, know kids or if you are a kid come on out and have some fun. This count will have the same structure as the adult CBCs. Count the birds, tally the counts and get together and compile it all while enjoying refreshments. You'll contribute to science too. All info for the Kids CBC can be found on page 8. It takes place January 7, 2012.

### SACRAMENTO AUDUBON-SPONSORED CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES FOR 2011-2012

#### Saturday, December 17, Woodfords Christmas Count

Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, e-mail: [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)  
Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216, e-mail: [andisalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:andisalmi@yahoo.com)

#### Monday, December 26, Folsom Christmas Count

Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610, e-mail: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

#### Saturday, December 31, Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 987-2422, e-mail: [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com)

#### Other Christmas Counts:

#### Saturday, December 3, American River Natural History Association Wildlife Count

Coordinator: Lea Landry, (916) 638-1141, [llandry46@earthlink.net](mailto:llandry46@earthlink.net)

#### Other Christmas Bird Counts:

#### Saturday, December 17, Auburn Christmas Count

Compiler: Deren Ross, (530) 885-9740, [derenross@sbcglobal.net](mailto:derenross@sbcglobal.net)

#### Sunday, December 18, Putah Creek Christmas Count

Compiler: Steve Hampton, [stevehampton@gmail.com](mailto:stevehampton@gmail.com)

#### Sunday, December 18, Stockton Christmas Count

Compiler: Jim Roworth, (209) 956-2648, [roworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roworth@sbcglobal.net)

#### Monday, December 19, Benecia-Napa Christmas Count

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island), 870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net) or  
Compiler: Robin Leong, (707) 643-1287, [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

#### Wednesday, December 28, Lincoln Christmas Count

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, [ERPfromCA@aol.com](mailto:ERPfromCA@aol.com)

#### Friday, December 30, Sonoma Valley Christmas Count

Compilers: Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie  
(707) 939-8007, [www.SonomaBirding.org](http://www.SonomaBirding.org)

#### Saturday, January 1, Angwin Christmas Count

Contact: Louise Vicencio, (707) 224-9386, [jlvicen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlvicen@sbcglobal.net)  
Compiler: Murray Berner, (707) 224-5897, [vireocity@hotmail.com](mailto:vireocity@hotmail.com)

For locations and dates of additional Christmas Bird Counts,  
visit <http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm>

# Field Trip Findings

**Eastern Sacramento County Foothills (11/13)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We visited three remote gravel roads in eastern Sacramento County: Latrobe, Michigan Bar, and Meiss. The weather was great, the roads were in relatively good shape (easily passable for the assembled vehicles), and the surroundings very scenic for the 17 participants. Highlights included an adult Bald Eagle at the Michigan Bar Bridge, a Ferruginous Hawk, three Prairie Falcons well seen plus a few of other distant falcons (one Prairie caught and ate a meadowlark as we watched), several Lewis’s Woodpeckers, two Mountain Bluebirds and a Slate-colored Junco. We heard but did not see a Phainopepla, Varied Thrush, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and saw four coyotes.”

**Beginning Birder Field Trip (11/13)** — Cathie Lazier, Dan Tankersley and Darrell Mohr led this beginning birders’ trip to the Cosumnes River Preserve. Cathie reported: “Ten different species of ducks kept the participants busy sorting out dabblers from divers, and we were able to observe the varied feeding habits of Great, Snowy and Cattle egrets. On Bruceville Road we found Northern Harriers, Peregrine Falcon, American Kestrels and a cooperative Cooper’s Hawk. We totaled 43 species for the day.”

**Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway (11/12)** — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “We saw several woodpecker species including Red-breasted Sapsucker and a Hairy Woodpecker. Also seen were great looks at House Wren, Hermit Thrush, and Lincoln’s Sparrow, and we saw American Pipits and Phainopeplas.”

**Beginning Birder Field Trip (11/12)** — Maureen Geiger, co-leader with Cathie Lazier, reported: “This morning Cathie and I had a beginner adult class at William Pond Park with assistance by Jim and Nancy Joye. It began cold and foggy but cleared up before we finished with lots of good light to see birds. We had about 40 species and 9 new birders with us. Probably the best thing we saw was a beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk vigorously tearing up a snake on a branch in front of us. We also had long looks at bluebirds, a Green Heron, two Spotted Sandpipers, and Turkey Vultures cleaning up one of the Great Blue Heron nests, seemingly chowing down.”

**Bobelaine (11/6)** — Leader Carla Barbaro reported: “Although the day started with a threatening sky, this was a great fall walk in the woods as the day became crisp and sunny. Huge, vocalizing flocks of Greater White-fronted and Canada geese, and swans flew overhead. Long-billed Curlews were reported in fields next to Bobelaine. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were everywhere. A Great Horned Owl was found spying on us in a tree across the slough. Other sightings included Cooper’s Hawk, Downy, Nuttall’s and Acorn woodpeckers, Cedar Waxwings, and California and Spotted towhees.

When leaving through flooded fields adjacent to Bobelaine and the levee, at least 400 White faced Ibises were seen with many flocks of Tundra Swans. What a killer surprise!”

**Mather Lake (11/5)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Five brave souls enjoyed a chilly 2 hours of birding, covering both the northwest and southwest shores of Mather Lake. A total of 38 species were tallied. Large groups of American Coots covered various areas of the lake. Five raptors were sighted, American Kestrel, Red-shouldered Hawks, White-tailed Kites, Sharp-shinned Hawk and what we concluded as not one but two dark-morphed Red-tailed Hawks. Common Gadwalls and Pintails were counted. Marsh and House wrens were spotted within yards of each other. Several Kingfishers were noticed in different areas of the lake. The two families of Mute Swans were present. Nuttall’s Woodpeckers, several Northern Flickers and at least one Downy Woodpecker were noted. Additional good sightings included a Black-crowned Night-Heron, several flocks of Bushtits, several Rudy-crowned Kinglets, 5-6 tom Turkeys and three California Towhees.”

**Colusa NWR (11/1)** — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “A group of eight participants braved a sunny but cool and

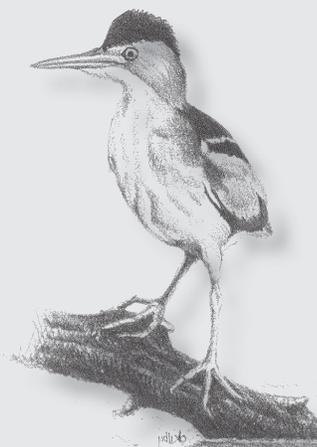
very windy morning at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Still very early in the season, we detected a low count of waterfowl species. Small numbers of most of the expected dabblers were found, but we did not detect any divers except for one female Lesser Scaup. The only geese present were Greater White-fronted Geese. Don Schmoltz and Sally Walters found the best bird of the day, which was suggested to be an American Wigeon X

Eurasian Wigeon hybrid. The bird had the head of an adult male Eurasian, but a very warm rufous body and wings. A most beautiful bird.”

**Spenceville Wildlife Area, Nevada-Yuba counties (10/30)** — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “Highlights included Common Loon, Western Grebes, Rock Wren, Lewis’s Woodpecker, and Prairie Falcon.”

**Bodega Bay (10/29)** — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Eleven participants enjoyed nearly perfect weather, with sunny skies, fairly calm winds throughout most of the day (even out on The Head), and mild temps. Like Tim and Mark’s trip in September, many of the shorebirds were not viewed

until the tide went out in the afternoon. However, good birds were found throughout the day. A couple of Ruddy Turnstones were found first thing at The Tides, and Black Turnstones were seen at various locations. Everyone got good looks at a Cooper’s Hawk at Campbell Cove. Several of the highlight birds were viewed from The Head, including a Rhinoceros Auklet, a Red-necked Grebe, many Common Murres and Pigeon Guillemots, and several Black Oystercatchers. Perhaps the bird (or should I say birds) of the day were 2 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers not far from Owl Canyon. Other good birds along the west side of the harbor included a couple of Brants (the only ones seen that day), lots of Mew Gulls, a Common Yellowthroat, a Purple Finch, 2 Hermit Thrushes and a Virginia Rail that was heard near the Rail Ponds. We finished up the day at Doran County Park where, out in the bay near the jetty, we found another Red-necked Grebe and a Horned Grebe. The Horned Grebe gave us all 5 grebe species for the day. On the harbor side with the



Least Bittern  
Daniel Kilby

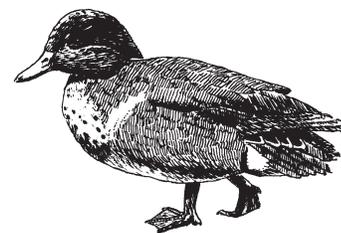
*Findings* continued on page 6

# Field Trips

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check 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@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net) for trips through December 18th. For trips December 19, 2011 through January 29, 2012, call the scheduler Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@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.



Green-winged Teal  
Stephen D'Amato

### **Saturday, December 3, American River Natural History Association Annual Animal and Bird Count**

**Compiler: Lea Landry, 638-1411  
or [llandry46@earthlink.net](mailto:llandry46@earthlink.net) (preferred)**

Join Lea 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. This is a great warm-up for the CBCs to follow. Contact Lea for details, team assignments, and meeting and compilation locations.

### **Sunday, December 4, 9am – noon Gulls at Nimbus Fish Hatchery Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311 [calidris@surewest.net](mailto:calidris@surewest.net)**

Sharpen your identification skills as this is a gathering place for a variety of gulls. Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Spotting scopes will be very useful, and be sure to bring your field guides for this intensive study. Meet Ed in the Fish Hatchery parking lot off Hazel Avenue north of Hwy 50.

### **Thursday, December 8, 7:45am Colusa National Wildlife Refuge Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290 [dtankers@winfirst.com](mailto:dtankers@winfirst.com)**

The Colusa NWR is another great location in the Central Valley to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be many

duck species and plenty of Snow, Ross's, Greater White-fronted and possibly a few Cackling Geese as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here as well, and we can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. We will spend a good amount of time on the main viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will then follow the short auto tour and finish our outing with a return visit to the platform. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7:45am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon. We will leave the meeting area at 8am SHARP.

### **Saturday, December 10, 7am San Francisco Bay Birding Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471 [shoppe01@surewest.net](mailto:shoppe01@surewest.net)**

Join Scott for a full day of birding the San Francisco Bay area, looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and other wintering birds. Clapper Rails are always a possibility on this trip, as well as unexpected rarities. Possible stops include Arrowhead Marsh, Hayward Shoreline, Palo Alto Baylands and Lake Merritt. Bring lunch and wear layered clothing. Scopes and FRS radios

are a help. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capital Ave exit; turn left at the stoplight and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

### **Saturday, December 10, 7am 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.

### **Sunday, December 11, 7:30am King Ranch/Lynch Canyon/American Canyon Wetlands Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804 Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277 [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net) [kenpoe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenpoe@sbcglobal.net)**

Solano County has wonderful birding in a variety of habitats. Join Ken and Maureen while we drive through the King Ranch looking for eagles and other raptors and burrowing owls; Lynch Canyon for a short hike into the valley looking for species similar to those at King but also including riparian species along the creek and ducks and grebes at the reservoir pond; then west to the American Canyon Wetlands where there will be myriad shorebirds,

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

*Field Trips* continued from page 3

ducks and a few raptors as well which, depending on the tide, may be close enough for very good looks. This trip will last to mid-afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. FRS radios will be useful. Meet Maureen at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left; the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left. Secondary meeting place in front of the Safeway just west of the Waterman exit in Fairfield BY 8am.

**Saturday, December 17**  
**Woodfords Christmas Count**  
**Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**  
**spskua2@comcast.net; or**  
**Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216**  
**andisalmi@yahoo.com**

**Saturday, December 17, 6:30am**  
**Tall Forest Bird Count**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Recorded Information: 684-2816**

Meet at the Farm Center Gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME, to join this monthly bird count. Usually led by John Trochet, this area is normally closed to the public, so this is your opportunity to bird there. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always informative. You must check the recorded information a day or two ahead to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

**Sunday, December 18, 9am**  
**East Lawn Cemetery**  
**Leader: Mary Beth Metcalf, 456-7382**

Join Mary Beth for a 2-3 hour slow-paced walk through East Lawn cemetery where one can spot many of the common wintering species. Sometimes there will be less common finds such as red-breasted sapsuckers or golden-crowned kinglets, and some years there have been red-breasted nuthatches, as well. Meet Mary Beth at the entrance gate at 43rd Street and Folsom Boulevard. There is street parking on 42nd and 43rd streets.

**Monday, December 19**  
**Benicia-Napa Christmas Count**  
**Contact: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**  
**spskua2@comcast.net**

**Saturday, December 24, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**

**A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**  
Come out on Christmas Eve and watch the Sandhill Cranes come in to roost. They are the focus of this trip but ducks, swans and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, and hawks patrol overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center deck at 3:30pm to hear a brief presentation of Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, enjoying views of the cranes, wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Afterwards, we'll drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars. Scopes are helpful. 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](http://www.cosumnes.org). This is a great trip for beginners and families.

**Sunday, December 25, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**  
**A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**  
After Santa and stockings come outdoors for a breath of fresh air. See details above.

**Monday, December 26**  
**Folsom Christmas Count**  
**Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610**  
**conardc@gmail.com**

**Wednesday, December 28**  
**Lincoln Christmas Count**  
**Compiler: Ed Pandolfino**  
**ERPfromCA@aol.com**

**Thursday, December 29, 9am**  
**Yolo Wildlife Area**  
**Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758**  
**ishiM2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene in this great area just 10 minutes from downtown. On the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl and possible raptors such as Peregrine Falcon. White-faced Ibis and Northern Harriers may be seen overhead, and Savannah Sparrows and Horned Larks are visible on the road. This is a good

trip for both beginners and experienced birders. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78, E. Chiles/Rd. 32A) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A), on your left. If the bypass is closed due to flooding, the trip is canceled.

**Saturday, December 31**  
**Sacramento Christmas Count**  
**Compiler, Mark Cudney, 987-2422**  
**mcudney@aol.com**

**Sunday, January 1, 9am**  
**Lincoln Grand Canyon**  
**Leader: Dave Pearson, 408-4273**  
**Firesparkbird@yahoo.com**

Start the New Year off right! Go birding! Explore the varied habitat of Lincoln Hills with Dave who knows this area well. He will be checking the ponds and other nearby sites for ducks and shorebirds, as well as the Grand Canyon of Lincoln Hills, otherwise known as the Canyon Oaks Trail, for sparrows and other winter residents and raptors. From I-80 in Roseville, take Hwy 65 north to the Twelve Bridges Rd (exit #313); turn right on Twelve Bridges Road; left on East Lincoln Pkwy; right on Del Webb Boulevard, and follow to the Meridians Restaurant. Meet Dave in front of the lodge in the parking lot. This trip will end late morning.

**Wednesday, January 4, 8am**  
**Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Cathie LaZier**  
**Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net**  
**Cathie: 457-6882**  
**empid@earthlink.net**

Join Tim and Cathie to look for the great flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley. There is a 3.7 mile driving route through the refuge and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. We'll return through the Dunnigan Hills, a good area for raptors, Burrowing Owls and wintering sparrows. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. 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. This is a good

trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Please note that at the refuge there is a fee for each vehicle: either \$3 for a day pass, or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass.

**Saturday, January 7**  
**1st Annual Kid's Christmas Bird Count**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Contact: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

Registration is limited, so contact Maureen for more information.

**Saturday, January 7, 8am**  
**Western Amador County**  
**Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636**  
**calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

Join Gary on a road trip to the Sierra foothills in Amador County, along Highway's 16, 124 and 49. The focus of the trip will be the rivers, ponds, reservoirs and back-country roads in the western Amador County area. Travel along this route will include some stops and walking short distances. There are an interesting and surprising variety and number of passerines and raptors in this area. There is a possibility of Red-naped and Red-breasted Sapsucker, Western Bluebird, Hermit and Varied Thrush, American, Lesser and Lawrence's Goldfinch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo and a variety of flycatchers, sparrows and raptors that may be observed here. This trip also includes stops for waterfowl at ponds near Sutter Creek and Ione. We may also stop at Lake Camanche, where a day-use fee is charged. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for winter conditions. Bring along hand held radios, food and water. Meet Gary at the College Greens/ Raley's Shopping Center lot at 8391 Folsom Blvd. Park near the Starbuck's. This Folsom Blvd Raley's is between Howe Ave and Watt Avenue.

**Sunday, January 8, 8am**  
**Salt Springs Valley**  
**Leader: Linda Pittman, 715-1876**  
**pittmanl@frontiernet.net**

This area is located in western Calaveras County about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake are home to many wintering ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and grassland birds. This is a unique area you will not want to miss. The trip will last into the late afternoon so bring lunch, liquids, warm clothing and FRS radios. Meet in the parking lot immediately west of the Union 76 gas station in the Wal-Mart shopping center

located on the west side of Hwy 99 at the Elk Grove Blvd exit.

**Wednesday, January 11, 8:30am**  
**Beal's Point, Folsom Lake**  
**Leader: Margaret Martin, 599-0181**  
**Martinmargaret@hotmail.com**

Join Margaret for a 1 to 2 mile morning walk at Beal's Point. A variety of oak woodland birds and wintering sparrows should be seen, and grebes, goldeneyes and mergansers will be on the lake. Phainopeplas and Rufous-crowned Sparrows are possibilities. Meet Margaret at the Raley's shopping center parking lot on the northwest corner of Douglas and Auburn-Folsom roads, in the area near the Animal Hospital and Goodwill, for voluntary carpooling into the park. Or you can meet the group at the Beal's Point parking lot (fee required). This is a great trip for beginning birders.

**Saturday, January 14, 8am**  
**Gray Lodge Wildlife Area**  
**Leader: John York, 409-9276**  
**sonofyork@att.net**

Join John for a tour of this prime wintering area for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge, we'll take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes. This area is great for raptors and grassland birds including wintering sparrows. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. FRS radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. Meet in the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. 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. There is a \$4.00 per person charge at the wildlife area.

**Saturday, January 14**  
**Beginning Birder Field Trip**  
**William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 people per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882.

**Sunday, January 15, 8am**  
**Road 113, Robinson Road and Birds**  
**Landing Area**  
**Leaders: Carla Barbaro and Tim Fitzer**  
**Carla: 717-8808**  
**Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net**

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes, and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. Meet at the 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. This trip will last into the afternoon.

**Wednesday, January 18, 8am**  
**Discovery Park**  
**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers is a great place for a winter walk. Join Maureen to look for wintering birds and resident species generally found in the park such as Red-shouldered Hawks and White-tailed Kites. Other possibilities include sparrows, woodpeckers and bluebirds. This will be a walking trip and end before noon. There are no restroom facilities along the way. On I-5 from downtown, take the Garden Highway exit and turn left/east onto Garden Highway. Take the first left onto Natomas Park Drive, and the first right onto Capital Park Drive. Parking is permitted on either side of the street, and we'll walk into the park. This is a great trip for beginners.

**Family Friendly Trip**  
**Jan 21 or Jan 22**  
**Contact: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This month's family friendly trip does not have a firm schedule as of printing deadline, so contact Maureen Geiger to register and to find out the exact date and place.

**Saturday, January 21, 8am**  
**Colusa National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290**  
**dtankers@winfirst.com**

The Colusa NWR is another great location in the Central Valley to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be many duck species and plenty of Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese as well as other wetland birds. This refuge often provides an opportunity to view the elgasi race of the Greater White-fronted Goose. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here as well. We can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. We will spend a good amount of

*Field Trips* continued on page 7

*Findings* continued from page 2

tide finally going out, we found several Snowy Plovers and Semipalmated Plovers in with the many other shorebirds that were now becoming active. A Peregrine Falcon perched nearby making them all a little nervous. We tallied about 73 species and a great time was had by all."

**Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (10/27)** — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: "The group of nine had an enjoyable morning at the Bypass. The best bird of the day was the Prairie Falcon spotted by Frank Gray. While sitting on a utility poll, the falcon gave us very good scope views of its back and facial features. Later it slowly flew over our group and gave us diagnostic views of its underside wings and body. What a cooperative bird! Other birds of note were the fly-overs of Greater White-fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, White-faced Ibis, and White-tailed Kites. Also, a single American Bittern made an appearance, to our delight. Substantial numbers of Greater Yellowlegs were also seen. Bob and Farley Cross spotted a single Yellow-headed Blackbird among the blackbird flocks. All in all, it was a good morning of birding."

**Bobcat Ranch, Yolo County (10/23)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "The Bobcat Ranch hike was a really nice walk on an easy trail. There were 20 of us, and we saw about 30 species of birds. Best probably were the Golden Eagle

and the Prairie Falcon. Other common oak savannah birds were present too, including great looks at Western Bluebird and Nuttall's Woodpecker, and many White-breasted Nuthatches heard."

**Hope Valley, Alpine County (10/22)** —

Leader Dan Brown reported: "Six of us had a great day up in Hope Valley and the Markleeville area. The weather was perfect and we saw 37 species for the day, which ain't bad for that area in the fall! Highlights included many, many Clark's Nutcrackers. These guys were literally at every stop, either seen or heard, way more than I've ever seen there; it was a good year for the species. We also saw Williamson's Sapsucker, Varied Thrush, Canyon Wren, Cassin's Finch, Eurasian Collared Dove, and two Common Loons at Indian Creek Reservoir. The Aspens were just a little past their prime for fall display but still AWESOME!"

**Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain (10/19)** — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "Five people enjoyed a cool, damp morning in the Bushy Lake area. We had a total of 37 species, the highlight being Northern Flickers everywhere. In addition, we had a yellow-shafted Flicker. and watched a kestrel and a Red-tailed Hawk dueling

overhead. At Bushy Lake there was a large number of Wood Ducks. It was a good day."

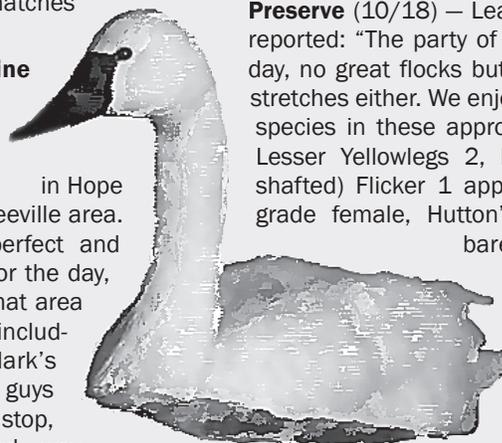
**Tall Forest Bird Survey, Cosumnes River Preserve (10/18)** —

Leader John Trochet reported: "The party of six had a decent day, no great flocks but no long birdless stretches either. We enjoyed the following species in these approximate numbers: Lesser Yellowlegs 2, Northern (yellow-shafted) Flicker 1 apparently non-intergrade female, Hutton's Vireo 9 (we'd barely scraped one for our bird-a-thon the previous weekend), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2 or 3, Orange-crowned Warbler 10, Yellow Warbler 8, Audubon's Warbler 12, Black-throated Gray warbler 12, Townsend's Warbler 8, Common Yellowthroat 3, Wilson's Warbler 1, Western Tanager 4, Purple Finch 1."

**Family Friendly Trip, Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve, Penryn (10/15)** —

Leader Sandra Beseler reported that the kids had a great time with great weather, and the group saw about 25 species. They included: Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's and Acorn woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks, California and Spotted towhees, and Cedar Waxwings.

*Pete Hayes*

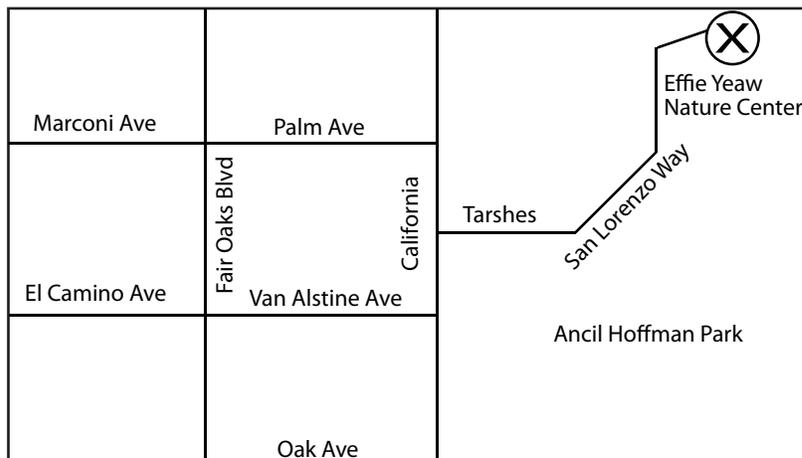


## New Location for our General Meetings

Our General Meetings are now in our new location at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Ancil Hoffman Park. If you have a Sacramento County Parks Pass or an ARNHA membership card remember to display it. If you do not, an Audubon member will be in the parking lot with temporary permits for your dashboard. Passes are available at the Dept of Regional Parks, 4040 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento or on-line at [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org)

The Center is nearer to Hwy 50 than to Hwy 80. Depending on where you are coming from get onto Fair Oaks Blvd. From Watt Ave you will go East onto Fair Oaks Blvd and from Sunrise Blvd you will go West onto Fair Oaks Blvd.

Once on Fair Oaks Blvd, go east onto Van Alstine Ave (or Oak Ave); left onto California St; and right onto Tarshes, then left onto San Lorenzo, then right into the first parking lot. Walk the short trail to the center. (Please note that Palm Ave only allows vehicles to exit the park onto Palm Ave.)



## FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2012

**Location: William Pond Park on the American River**

**Dates, (all Saturdays): January 14, February 11 and March 10**

**Time: 8am, ending by noon**

**Each Trip Limited to 10 participants: Registration required.**

These outings are geared toward people who aren't entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. A brief parking lot talk will focus on choice and use of binoculars and a brief overview of birding etiquette and ethics. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the costs of hand-out materials. (If you're a repeat participant and already have the materials no donation is requested.) You do not need to be a member of Audubon to participate.

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

## FAMILY FRIENDLY TRIPS

**Saturday or Sunday, January 21 or 22**

These monthly birding and nature walks are specifically geared to and appropriate for families and children. There is a trip limit to ensure a quality experience for all. Register for trips by contacting Maureen Geiger, at [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net), or 444-0804.



*Field Trips* continued from page 5

time on the main viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through a riparian forest next to the main viewing pond. We will then take the short auto tour to finish our outing. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. 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. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon.

**Sunday, January 22, 8am  
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge  
Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216  
[andisalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:andisalmi@yahoo.com)**

Andi will be looking for the great flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way further south. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. 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. Please note there is a fee for each vehicle at the refuge: either \$3 for a day pass, or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass.

**Tuesday, January 24, 9am  
Yolo Wildlife Area  
Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758  
[ishiM2000@comcast.net](mailto:ishiM2000@comcast.net)**

A variety of duck species and shorebirds, as well as White-faced Ibis, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and American Bitterns are possible on this trip. Join Marlene in this great area just 10 minutes from downtown. Peregrine Falcon and Northern Harriers may be seen overhead, and Savannah Sparrows and Horned Larks are visible on the road. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From

Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78, E Chiles/Rd 32A) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A), on your left. If the bypass is closed due to flooding, the trip is canceled.

**Saturday, January 28, 8am until about noon**

**Nimbus Fish Hatchery  
Leader: Dan Kopp, 213-2791  
[rey\\_ality@hotmail.com](mailto:rey_ality@hotmail.com)**

Sharpen your gull identification skills as this is a gathering place for a variety of gulls. Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Then we'll walk downstream looking for Hooded and Common Mergansers, Osprey and other raptors, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Spotted Sandpipers, White-throated Swifts, and a variety of the smaller woodland birds. Meet Dan in the Fish Hatchery parking lot off Hazel Avenue, north of Hwy 50. Scopes are helpful on this trip.

**Sunday January 29, 8am  
Western Placer County  
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
Email: [shoppe01@earthlink.net](mailto:shoppe01@earthlink.net)**

Western Placer County can often rival the great Wildlife Refuges in numbers and diversity of waterfowl, and it is also known for large concentrations of raptors. Besides the expected species, Eurasian Widgeon, Bald Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Lewis's Woodpecker and Lapland Longspur are all possible. Join Scott for a full day of exploring this diverse area and bring liquids, lunch and FRS radios. Meet at 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, January 29, 3:30pm  
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley  
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip  
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

All information is the same as for the December 24th trip.

## Birding and Nature Events

### 16TH ANNUAL MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Morro Bay's 16th Annual Winter Bird Festival will be held **January 13-16, 2012**. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an area recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified! To register and for more information about the Festival, check their website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org).

### 5TH ANNUAL WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

The City of Galt in Collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary School District are pleased to bring you the 5th Annual Winter Bird Festival, Saturday, **January 28, 2012**. Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. Guided tours offer an exciting opportunity to see the winter birds that call the Central Valley home! Wetlands, songbird and sand-hill crane tours are included so hop on a bus and have your binoculars ready! Questions! Call 209-366-7115 or google Galt Birding Festival for more detailed information.

### SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY

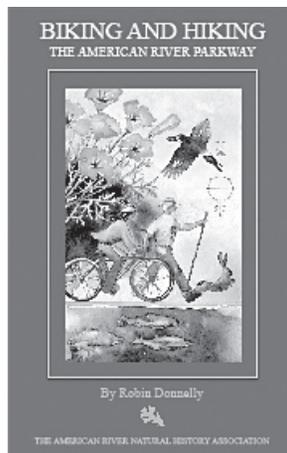
The 13th Annual Snow Goose Festival will be held in Chico on **January 26-29, 2012**. This year's festival offers over 65 fieldtrips and workshops including fun, FREE kids activities. It also hosts a Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit and Saturday night's banquet keynote speaker will be Greg Miller, famed birder portrayed by Jack Black in the newly released movie, *The Big Year*. Registration and further information can be found at [snowgoosefestival.org](http://snowgoosefestival.org) or by email at [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org) and phone (530) 345-1865

### NEW BOOK FROM ARNHA

One of the American River Parkway Partners for cyclists and hikers, The American River Natural History Association has released a new edition of *Biking and Hiking the American River Parkway*, a mile-by-mile narrative of the natural and cultural history along the Jedediah Smith Memorial Bicycle Trail from Discovery Park to Beal's Point, Folsom Lake. The 140-page volume, by Robin Donnelly, guides the cyclist and hiker with more than a dozen maps showing access points, parking areas, restrooms, picnic tables, drinking fountains and side trips

There are numerous new features, including equestrian staging areas, the Two Rivers Trail on the south side of the American River from Jibboom Street (Tiscornia Park) at the mouth to Highway 160 (12th Street), and such newly named features as River Bend Park (formerly Goethe Park). The volume includes many historical photos, including one of a Southern Pacific locomotive that broke through an old trestle into the river. It also includes descriptions of the plants and animals found on the parkway.

This new 4th edition from ARNHA Press sells for \$14.95 and is available at the Discovery Shop inside the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, at bicycle shops, and other stores, and [ARNHA.org](http://ARNHA.org) and will be available at our general meetings.



### DON'T FORGET FIRST ANNUAL SAS KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!!!

Our First Annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count is coming up on Saturday, January 7, 2012. Kids and young adults who sign up can be citizen scientists just like the adults who count birds! Currently, SAS sponsors three CBC's for adults: Sacramento, Woodfords and Folsom. Information gathered at these counts is used by scientists and others who study birds all over the world.

This Christmas bird count season, SAS is planning its first count for children and youth on January 7, 2012 at Cosumnes River Preserve. Sacramento area kids ages 6 to 16 can join the first group of children to participate in this exciting event. Volunteers are needed to help this event be a success, and reservations are a must for all children. To reserve space or to volunteer, contact Maureen Geiger at 444-0804 or [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net).

### SAS OUTREACH

Well over a thousand people attended the first annual NatureFest at Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Darrell Mohr and Dan and Jan Tankersley worked at our Outreach table, and Julie Serences joined us (dressed as a Ladybug!) with information about native bees and other insects. Frank Gray led 16 beginners on a bird walk in the morning, and Cathie LaZier and Jonilynn Okano led a smaller group on an afternoon birding walk, where Acorn Woodpeckers were cooperative and scope views of Killdeer provided a life bird for the new birders.

A Swainson's Hawk program at REI was our next outreach event, with Lea Landry and Cathie LaZier at the Audubon table. Our Outreach table was also featured at the Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton.

Several Sacramento Audubon members stopped by our Outreach table to say hello at the two-day Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. Working shifts at the table were Cathie LaZier, Linda Pittman, Karen Zumwalt, Darrell Mohr, Rosalind Becker, Don Schmoldt and Sally Walters. Leading field trips for the festival were Tim Manolis, Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci.

Upcoming events include the Galt Winter Bird Festival in January as well as some Earth Day events in spring. If you'd like to come and help us, contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net).

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to this  
new member:

Carole Girard

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Wayne Blunk and Jon Courtway to the **General Fund**.

Karen Benson, Jean Bonar, Carole Girard, Muriel and Bob Parker, Julie Serences, Dan and Jan Tankersley, Richard Turner and Dan Williams to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Tim Fitzer made a donation to the **Education Fund** in memory of George Waldie.



Merlin  
Stephen D'Amato

## SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2012 PROGRAMS

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>January 19</b>  | Josh Hull,<br><i>Great Grey Owls</i>                            |
| <b>February 16</b> | Garry George,<br><i>Audubon California and Renewable Energy</i> |
| <b>March 15</b>    | David Carle,<br><i>Around the World Starting at Mono Lake</i>   |
| <b>April 19</b>    | TBD   |
| <b>May 17</b>      | Julie Serences, <i>Native Bees in Our Yards</i>                 |

## Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There is no meeting held in December. The next meeting will be on January 31, 2012 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

llandry46@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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

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

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

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Observations* continued from page 10

Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html)).

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

Brent Campos, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Alison Kent, Dan Kopp, John Luther, Michael Perrone, John Sterling, Michael Strom, John Trochet, Magill Weber, 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

October 1 to October 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

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

After several months where shorebirds took top billing, this October produced some nice songbird records. Two of these occurred at the same location: Putah Creek near the end of Hopkins Rd. Both birds were found on 10/1 and continued on 10/2. A **Tennessee Warbler** was detected first and other observers, looking for it, found a **Clay-colored Sparrow**. The latter was seen on both the Yolo and Solano sides of the creek. The songbird of the month was a **Black-throated Sparrow** southwest of Esparto on 10/21. It was seen into November, associating with **Lark Sparrows** in a young orchard along Rd 22, a little north of Rd 23. Apparently this is only the second Yolo County record. Female **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported on 10/6 on the Yolo side of Lake Solano and on 10/7 in west Davis.

There were two other excellent finds for the month. A first year **Common Tern** was seen at Sherman Island on 10/14. Surprisingly, this is one of very few reports for Sacramento County. They are more regular at other sites in the Central Valley, but this may reflect a paucity of good roosting and foraging sites with birder access in the county. On 10/6, two **Chimney Swifts** were found among several small flocks of **Vaux's Swifts** flying at near eye level in stormy weather. The **Chimney Swifts** were noted as larger, longer-winged, and darker overall, with a more direct flight style consisting of fewer

Sacramento Audubon Society  
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wing beats and more gliding than the "fluttery" **Vaux's Swifts**.

The **Brown Pelican** first found at the Bridgeway Island Pond in West Sacramento on 8/24 continued in the vicinity throughout the month. On both 10/1 and 10/30, a **Band-tailed Pigeon** was found in Davis. On 10/2 a **Band-tailed Pigeon** was found at the SRCSD Bufferlands (a first for this location), and a male **Yellow-shafted (Northern) Flicker** was found at Cosumnes River Preserve on 10/8. Also on 10/8, a **Townsend's Solitaire** was seen on the ridge above Cold Canyon Campground along Putah Creek; downstream of this site, an unusually large flock of 25-30 **Band-tailed Pigeons** and calling **Chestnut-backed Chickadees** were detected. A **Vesper Sparrow** on Sherman Island Levee Rd on 10/10 adds to the list of recent finds from Sherman Island.

We feature photos of some of the high-light birds on the Sacramento Audubon

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, [sawise7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sawise7@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

*Observations* continued on page 9