



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, February 21, 2013
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room
7pm

eBird—Global Tools for Birders

Brian Sullivan

What is eBird? And what can it do for you as a birder? eBird (www.ebird.org) is a free online checklist program that allows you to record bird observations, keep track of your bird lists, and explore information about birds found in the Central Valley, United States, or anywhere around the world. You can share your observations with the birding community, as well as with the science community, which now uses eBird data as the foundation for gaining a better understanding of bird distribution and abundance. Find out about the great set of tools eBird has developed to make your birding better and easier. Watch fascinating visualizations of continent-scale bird migration based on your data. Learn more about this powerful birding tool, how you can take part, and how scientists are using your observations to better conserve birds and biodiversity.

Brian Sullivan is eBird Project Leader at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, photo editor for Birds of North America Online and the American Birding Association's journal *North American Birds*, and a coauthor on the upcoming *Princeton Guide to North American Birds*.

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 and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters, Program Chair

SECOND ANNUAL SAS KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS CBC!!

The Second Annual Sacramento Area Kids' Christmas Bird Count was a smashing success! Attended by 18 children and youth, their associated family and friends, 14 leaders and 11 other volunteers, everyone had a great time.

This year's count was a partnership with Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and the Nature Center turned out to be a perfect venue for the count. Kids formed four teams in cold but bright, clear weather and set off into different areas of the park.

When the teams returned, the Official Compilation began in the Nature Center with results projected on the big screen, outlined by team, species and numbers of birds, giving everyone the chance to see what all teams had observed. During this compilation, children came forward to collect a prize with each child given the opportunity to choose what she or he most wanted. Wild Birds Unlimited in Loehman's Plaza was a generous donor of several gifts. Refreshments were served, lunches eaten and lots of great bird talk enjoyed.

About 40 species were seen including more than 400 individual birds. Best birds were probably the Merlin which perched in a tree long enough to accommodate sightings by many birders and the beautiful Red-shouldered Hawk which also posed for everyone next to the Nature Center.

The entire count was captured with photos of everyone in action from pre-registration chaos to tired but satisfied departures. The images are pure magic and will be found on www.sacramentoaudubon.org in a month or so.

Maureen Geiger, Count Organizer

BIRD AND BREAKFAST AT EFFIE YEAW, MARCH 23–24

The American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and Sacramento Audubon are teaming up again this year to offer a special weekend of morning birding trips coupled with wonderful breakfast fare. Known as "Bird & Breakfast," this event combines some of our best local bird guides pointing out nests and local rarities together with wonderful food, good coffee and other fun to help raise money for the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. No extensive birding experience is necessary—this event caters to all levels. This year will be truly special as it is both Saturday and Sunday. Saturday will be a longer bird walk; the traditional breakfast buffet featuring gourmet casseroles—and all tickets are \$35. Sunday is more family friendly and the breakfast fare will feature pancakes done by the Carmichael Kiwanis plus other breakfast fare. Tickets for Sunday are \$25 for 12 and older, \$10 for ages 6-11. Both mornings start at 8am. As an added treat, Jim and Marilyn from the Mendocino-based Discount Binoculars will be here both days so you can try out their wide range of binoculars and spotting scopes—and they know what birders like!

We encourage you to participate on one of these mornings as the birding and the food are fabulous, plus you'll get to spend the best part of the day with your fellow birders. To make a reservation and set up your method of payment, please call the Nature Center at 489-4918 between the hours of 9am–4pm from Tuesday through Sunday. This event almost always sells out so please make your reservation soon.

Field Trip Findings

Colusa NWR (1/14) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Our group of 14 birders enjoyed this clear and sunny, but windy and very cold winter’s day at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Our species count of 60 included thousands of white geese, the majority of which were Ross’s but there were many Snow Geese as well. Two Bald Eagles would periodically fly over the masses of waterfowl, causing the many ducks and geese to rise in unison. A spectacular sight enjoyed by all!”

Salt Springs Valley (1/13) — Mark Martucci, co-leader with Paul Cordero, reported: “Seventeen birders saw 69 species of birds on a very cold clear day in Calaveras County. Highlights included 6 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Rough-Legged Hawks, 5 Bald Eagles, Rock Wren, Clarks’s Grebe, Redhead, Hooded Merganser, Lewis’s Woodpecker and Burrowing Owl.”

Beginning Birders Field Trip, William Pond Recreation Area (1/13) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Three intrepid beginning birders joined Darrell Mohr and me for this morning walk. Although the temperature was in the mid-20s and frost covered the ground, American Pipits were already active. We found many goldeneye and Bufflehead on the river, and had good scope views of Red-shouldered and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Great Blue Herons were already checking out

the rookery, and bluebirds, meadowlarks and Lark Sparrows were feeding in the grass. We totaled 46 species on this cold morning.”

Beal’s Point, Folsom Lake (1/12) — Leader Margaret Martin reported: “Eleven people joined me on a frosty but beautiful day. We were surprised at the beginning of our walk by the sound of a Common Loon, and at the end of our walk by the realization that we had missed Canada Goose. In between, we viewed the loon, Common Goldeneyes, a Northern Pintail, an Osprey, a Say’s Phoebe, a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and a Hermit Thrush. Western Bluebirds posed on signs and posts right in front of us at eye level, as a flock of Western Meadowlarks moved on the ground just beyond them. A Downy Woodpecker lingered in full view at eye level just off our trail. We saw about 34 species in all.”

Cosumnes River Preserve Boardwalk and Woodbridge Road (1/9) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Five people joined me for this weekday trip on a very gray and overcast day. Swans, geese and 11 species of ducks, including a Blue-winged Teal, were the most common birds, and we also had snipe, dowitchers and peeps. Roger from Oakland found some very co-operative male Common Yellowthroats and we had the usual four common raptors. Sandhill Cranes were spotted only on entering and on leaving

the preserve. We totaled 46 species for the morning.”

Tonzi Road (Amador County) (1/5) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Another very pleasant January day, considering it’s winter, was enjoyed by 14 birders. The group covered areas of Western Amador Co and Eastern San Joaquin Co. We “enjoyed” numerous Turkey Vultures scavenging a cow carcass, as well as other more esthetically pleasing bird encounters. Tonzi Road again provided a variety of species, including White-breasted Nuthatch, W Bluebird (30+), Phainopepla, crowned sparrows, juncos and towhees. The lone sewer ponds produced several duck species, the most numerous being Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye. Amongst the Goldeneye, at least one Barrow’s was present. We also found a Lesser Scaup and a Green Heron here. At the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery, in San Joaquin Co, we added more passerines and one Osprey. On our return to Amador Co we found Say’s Phoebe on the way into the North Shore of Camanche Reservoir. Along the shores and on the water were Lewis’s Woodpecker, Canada Goose, American White Pelican, Horned Grebe, Western and Clark’s Grebe, and Common Loon. The Barrow’s Goldeneye and Lewis’s Woodpecker were lifers for a couple in the group. As a farewell finale, upon exiting the reservoir area we briefly

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2012-2013 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS BY AREA

Folsom, December 30

Compiler Chris Conard reported: “On December 30, we had nearly ideal weather aside from afternoon wind in exposed areas and 72 participants in 31 field parties. There were several good finds, though many parties reported fairly slow activity among songbirds. We also missed a few regular waterfowl species, so our count total was above average, but not record breaking: 139 species in an historic range of 123 to 146.

“We struggled with geese, missing Greater White-fronted, Snow, and Ross’s. A distant flock of “white geese” was reported, but they were too far away to identify to species. Tundra Swan was also missed.

Among the ducks rare for this count, we had Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback, and Lesser Scaup (one of each). In addition to Common Loons, the Red-throated Loon that has been present since October was seen from Beal’s Point.

“American Bittern was an especially good find for this count (usually missed) and Black-crowned Night-Herons are getting more regular, found this year by a few parties. Raptors were very well represented, with both eagles, several Ferruginous Hawks, and an impressive four Rough-legged Hawks (Payen Rd and on private land), all four expected falcons, and at least two Burrowing Owls. Western Screech-Owl was a frustrating miss, with at least four parties searching.

“Shorebirds were as always hard to come by, and we missed species like Long-billed Dowitcher and Dunlin that are common on the Valley floor. The adult Lesser Black-backed Gull was not found on count day; nor did a Mew Gull show up.

“Five Lewis’s Woodpeckers were a nice surprise since this species is surprisingly sparse this winter in the area. A couple of parties reported Hairy Woodpecker (Peninsula of Folsom SRA and near Brown’s Ravine). Tree Swallow was missed, but one Violet-green Swallow was found among the White-throated Swifts near the Hazel Ave colony. Three Red-breasted Nuthatches were not a surprise for this invasion year, but are often missed; Brown Creeper and Golden-crowned Kinglet were missed, as

was Common Yellowthroat. Three Red Crossbills at Upper Sunrise are just the fifth record for this species on the count since it began in 1978. Pine Siskins, often missed, were reported by many parties this year.

“The total numbers of individual birds had not been completely tallied by presstime, but many species, including sparrows, waterfowl, and gulls were a bit below average.

“Thanks to all the participants, but especially to the area leaders and sub-area leaders.”

Sacramento, December 23

Compiler Mark Cudney reported:

“Horizontal rain and hurricane force winds are not conducive to a high Christmas count total; however, the troops persevered. Although not topping our record total of 166 species in 2010, we did remarkably well observing 152 species.

“Good birds observed but not seen every count included one Greater Scaup, two Lesser Yellowlegs, two Eurasian Wigeon, eight Blue-Winged Teal, two Barrow’s Goldeneye, one Horned Grebe, one Golden Eagle, one Pacific Golden Plover, 18 American Avocets, 29 Western Sandpipers, two Marbled Godwits, one Red-breasted Nuthatch, four Western Gulls, one Pacific Wren, four Golden-crowned Kinglets, two Townsend’s Warblers, one Vesper Sparrow, one White-throated Sparrow, 266 Tricolored Blackbirds, and 13 Pine Siskins.

“Bad misses included Redhead, Clark’s Grebe, Ferruginous Hawk, Virginia Rail, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover, White-throated Swift, and Rock Wren.

“Christmas count data has limited utility, especially when terrible weather conditions prohibit accurate counting. For example, I would bet that there are more than the 12 California Towhees we observed in the entire Christmas count area. Last year we counted 210,615 individual birds and this year only 170,8238.”

Stockton, December 18

Compiler Jim Rowoth reported: “The Stockton CBC was held on Sunday, December 16 under mostly overcast skies and chilly temperatures. Fortunately, no rain and relatively light breezes, a much welcomed change from last year!

“There were 51 counters on 15 teams, who counted over 113,000 individual birds on foot, by car, and even by golfcart. Highlights included: 68 American White Pelicans, 21 Cattle Egrets, 5 Redheads,

1 Osprey, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, 4 Peregrine Falcons, 1 Black Rail (heard only), 1 Lesser Yellowlegs, 2 Western Sandpipers, 1 Hutton’s Vireo, 4 Common Ravens, 1 Brown Creeper, 2 Pacific Wrens, 12 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 2 Varied Thrushes, 2 Townsend’s Warblers, 1 Western Tanager, 1 Yellow-headed Blackbird, 14 Pine Siskins.

“The biggest surprise was ZERO Red-breasted Nuthatches, during this widely observed invasionary year for this species. Other notable misses include Ring-necked Duck, Eurasian Wigeon, American Avocet (no shorebird habitat at Lodi Sewage Ponds, their usual haunt), pink-legged gulls (other than Herring), Burrowing Owl.

“Thanks again to all who came out to help make this year’s Stockton count a success.”

Woodfords, December 15

Dan Brown reported: “We added four new species to the count list: Canvasback, Eurasian Wigeon, Red-breasted Merganser and Wild Turkey. We will need a write-up for the Red-breasted Mergansers; two were seen. Also, during count week, a report of a Northern Shrike along Emigrant Trail will require a write-up. Other highlights were 240 Pinyon Jays, 15 Rough-legged Hawks, 8 Golden Eagles, 39 Pygmy Nuthatches, 18 Red Crossbills, 15 Evening Grosbeaks and 1 Pine Grosbeak. Big missed species were: Hooded Mergansers, Pygmy Owls, Cedar Waxwings, Cassin’s Finches and Northern Goshawks. Total species, with the two write-ups pending, is 91, which is a record high!”

Lincoln, December 27

Compiler Ed Pandolfino reported: “On December 27, 75 birders enjoyed one of our best weather days ever for this count (this was our 11th year). Our species total of 139 was well over our average (135). The more than 137,000 individuals counted was our second highest total. We added one species, Northern Shrike, to our list and came close to adding a second with a continuing hybrid Red-naped X Red-breasted Sapsucker in Lincoln.

“We set new highs for 15 different species: White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, Cooper’s Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, American Coot, Killdeer, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Merlin, Common Raven, Rock Wren, Bewick’s Wren, Wrentit, American Robin, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Purple Finch. Many of these (the ibis, Cooper’s Hawk, RS Hawk, Merlin, raven) show significant, long-term increases all through the Central

Valley. Others, such as Turkey Vultures and Wrentit, tend to be easier to detect in good weather. Another fair weather bird, White-throated Swift, was present in small groups throughout the circle. Though we have found this species in 7 of the 11 counts, they are normally in just one area of the circle. On this day they were found at 5 widely scattered locations.

“Dunlin numbers in the rice field can vary dramatically day-to-day. This year our total of 4,400 Dunlin was good, but we have tallied more than 10,000 on two prior counts. Among the birds we often miss on this count, we found Eurasian Wigeon (5th time of the 11 years Lincoln has been run), Horned Grebe (2nd), Sandhill Crane (3rd), Lesser Yellowlegs (3rd), Purple Finch (4th), Pine Siskin (2nd), and Lawrence’s Goldfinch (2nd). Our only Varied Thrush this year crashed into a window in Lincoln and survived just long enough to be a Count Week species for us.

“Big misses were Black-bellied Plover (first time we have missed that one) and Canvasback (2nd time we missed). We were not able to detect any Black Rails this year (last year was the first) and the Blue-winged Teal present well into December at Sun City Lincoln Hills refused to show during Count Week. We also set a new low for Black-crowned Night-Heron (only 3), where we sometimes record hundreds. The key is finding a large day-roost, and that didn’t happen this year.

“My thanks to all participants and especially to the extraordinary set of area leaders we have for this count.”

Benicia-Napa, December 17

Compiler Robin Leong reported: “Our preliminary species count was 169. Best bird of the count was probably a Harris’s Sparrow. We also had 12 Cattle Egrets, and this year had more Rough-legged hawks than usual. We were low on Black Rails with 3 in contrast to our usual 12-15 because our expert on finding them, former Fazio Wildlife Refuge Manager David Feliz had a foot injury and couldn’t participate.”

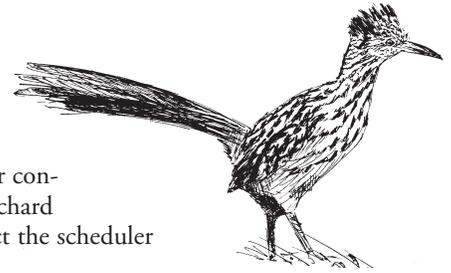
Putah Creek, December 16

Compiler Steve Hampton reported: “The count by 77 participants took place under calm overcast skies before an approaching storm front.

“We found a respectable 142 species, one shy of the high over the past decade. We added a remarkable three new species to the count: the continuing “Eastern” Winter

CBC Results continued on page 7

Field Trips



Roadrunner
Kirsten Munson

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, contact the scheduler Richard Barbieri, 761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.com for trips through March 3. After March 4th contact the scheduler Mark Martucci, 833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com.

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. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Saturday, February 2, 7am Yolo/Solano Big Day Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471 shoppe01@surewest.net

Get set for a full day of birding "hot spots" of Yolo and Solano Counties to see how many species we can tally. We will begin at Lake Solano Park and Putah Creek for unique passerines and waterfowl, then head down Highway 113 to the Robinson Road area for raptors and possibly Mountain Plover. From there, we will proceed to the Yolo Bypass and the Davis Landfill and WWTP for more waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. The itinerary can change depending on conditions and reports. For those interested, Scott would like to have a casual dinner nearby to tally up species and talk about what was seen. Scopes and FRS radios are helpful. Bring lunch, snacks, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right at the light, then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance, a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Rain cancels.

Sunday, February 3, 7:30am Lincoln Grasslands Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci Tim, 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net Mark, 833-6722 matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

We will search the back roads of western Placer County for raptors, waterfowl, Tricolored Blackbirds and Lewis' Woodpeckers. This area is known for high concentrations of wintering raptors (up to 12 species can be seen in a day), and is also a magnet for wintering ducks and geese. We'll also look 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 scopes and FRS radios if you have them, and be prepared for a full day of birding. Meet at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station. Brookfield's is behind Shell.

Tuesday, February 5, 8am Colusa NWR 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, Greater White-fronted and possibly a few Cackling Geese as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here and though it's late in the season, there is a chance the Falcated Duck will still be present. 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 take 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. 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.

Saturday, February 9, 8am Sacramento Bar American River Parkway Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999 mohrdd@gmail.com

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

Sunday, February 10, 7:30am Yuba County Wetlands Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603 offleash56@yahoo.com

Streams and rivers draining from the foothills to the valley and farmers' irrigation help to create these wetlands and winter habitat on surrounding properties. Join Richard on a trip to one of his favorite places to bird while he looks for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Meet Richard at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road exit (105A) and follow straight through the first stop light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Brookfield's will be on your left behind the Shell gas station. Bring lunch, layered clothes, and scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

Sunday, February 10
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 adults 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.

February 15 through 18
Great Backyard Bird Count
www.birdcount.org

It's not just for backyards! Count birds for 15 minutes or more in your backyard or other favorite birding locale; then post your results online and see what's happening in your area and across the country. It's fun for all ages and skill levels. See the write-up on page 8 and check the website for more information.

Saturday, February 16, 8am
River Bend Park, 8am
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland, looking for small woodland birds and woodpeckers. We sometimes have good looks at Red-shouldered Hawks or Great Horned Owls. At the river we should see mergansers, goldeneye, herons, yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and possibly a kingfisher. Walk will end by noon, and it's a great walk for beginners. Our trip list will be posted on the Great Backyard Bird Count website. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, February 17, 8am to Noon
Upper Lake Natoma
Chris Conard 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

Be prepared for up to four miles of walking along the upper end of Lake Natoma in Folsom. We'll look for birds characteristic of the site such as Hutton's Vireo, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Purple Finch. On the lake, waterfowl, grebes and the occasional loon will be our targets. Should time and interest allow, we may visit Folsom Lake at the Mormon Island access, where Phainopepla is a near certainty and potential waterbirds are always worth a look. We'll meet at the Folsom

City Park near the Zoo. From Highway 50 east of Hazel Ave, take the Folsom Blvd exit. Turn left and stay on Folsom Blvd for 2.7 miles, and then turn right on Natoma Street. After one mile, turn left at Stafford Street, and then turn right at the library and park in the lot in front of the city park. If there is steady rain we will cancel the trip.

February 16, 17 and 18,
President's Day Weekend
Eureka/Arcata area
Leaders, Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Joe Ceriani, 707-476-9127
joeceriani@usmessage.net

Please mark your calendars and join Tim and Joe for 3 days of birding along California's North coast. We will be birding some of the traditional spots in the Eureka and Arcata areas and possibly some of Joe's new favorite spots. Please contact Tim or Joe for further details.

Tuesday, February 19, 9am
Yolo Wildlife Area
Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758
IshiM2000@comcast.net

Join Marlene in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl and possible raptors such as Peregrine Falcon. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) 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. Scopes and FRS radios are helpful on this trip which is good for both beginners and more experienced birders. Note: trip will be canceled if bypass is closed due to flooding.

Saturday, February 23, 8am
Sutter Buttes and Gray Lodge WLR
Leaders: Don Schmoltdt and Sally Walters
739-6465, cell 710-1077
bajaowl@gmail.com

We will drive around the edge of Sutter Buttes, along Pass Road, and West and North Buttes Roads; then to Gray Lodge State WLR. We will focus on wintering raptors in the Sutter Buttes area (and hopefully Mountain Bluebird and Rock Wren, among other species); and wintering waterfowl at Gray Lodge (and hopefully Bald Eagle). We will have lunch at Gray Lodge and then

walk some of the visitor access trails. Bring lunch, water, spotting scope, and warm clothes. Please note that the only reliable restrooms will be at Gray Lodge. Trip will end late afternoon. Beginning birders welcome! Rain or heavy fog cancels.

Meet at 8am at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride for voluntary car-pooling. From Sacramento drive west towards Davis on I-80, then right (north) onto Mace Blvd; then right again at first signal light, to the Park and Ride, a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of lot, in the row nearest the large round tanks. From the Park and Ride we will drive north on Hwy 113 past Woodland and Knight's Landing; and then left (north) onto George Washington Blvd and continue about 10 miles to Hwy 20. Then left (west) on Hwy 20 about 3 miles to Acacia Road, then right (north) on Acacia. There is a small store/gas station at the corner of Acacia and Hwy 20, where we will regroup before starting the trip around the Buttes. There is a Port-a-potty here, but not always clean, so beware.

DFG (now California Department of Fish and Wildlife) requires a Land Pass for Gray Lodge (\$4.32/person). It may or may not be available at Gray Lodge. Land Passes should also be available at Walmart or CVS stores. Check DFG's web site at www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/landpass for Land Pass information.

Saturday, February 23, 3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

This is the last weekend of the Sandhill Crane trips, before they begin their migration. 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

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Field Trips continued from page 5

your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org. This is a great trip for beginners.

Sunday, February 24

7am-mid afternoon

Northern San Joaquin County

Leader: Linda Pittman, 715-1876

pittmanl@frontiernet.net

Join Linda for a visit to diverse habitats in northern San Joaquin County. The Mokelumne River Day Use area and fish hatchery below Camanche Dam is a mix of oak woodland, riverine, and riparian habitat. This area has recently hosted Bald Eagle, Lewis's Woodpeckers and Rock Wren. Flood and Waverly Roads are excellent for raptors and other open country birds. Be prepared for about a mile of walking. Bring lunch, layered clothes, and scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Meet at the Raley's Shopping Center on Twin Cities Road just east of Hwy 99 in Galt near the It's A Grind Coffee Shop (10420 Twin Cities Rd). This trip is good for both beginners and more experienced birders.

Sunday, February 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

This is the last Sandhill Crane trip of the season, so if you haven't been to see them this year, be sure to join this trip. See details for February 23rd.

Thursday, February 28, 8am

William Pond Park, 8am

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk down to some different spots on the river, where mergansers and goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area for Red-winged Blackbirds and Green Heron. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, March 2, 8am

Laguna Creek Wetlands, Elk Grove

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Cell that day only: 281-6652

Join Maureen for a leisurely walk on a paved trail along the Laguna Creek wetlands. Although sandwiched between housing on the north and south, this trail meanders along the creek and marshy areas and is bordered by urban plantings including many oaks. The diversity hosts a nice variety of birds such as ducks, herons, passerines, sparrows in winter, and unexpected species always a possibility. This is a good walk for beginners and is handicapped accessible. This trip will last into late morning. Meet Maureen at the Sheldon Road Park and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 (Exit 288) south of Sacramento to carpool to the Park or 10-15 minutes later at Jack Hill Park. From Hwy 99 south, exit at Elk Grove Boulevard; pass Elk Grove-Florin Road, and less than a mile later turn left onto Porto Rosa Drive. Follow to Jack Hill Park and the parking area. Restrooms are available in the parking lot.

Sunday, March 3, 7am

Highway 37 and Ellis Creek, Petaluma

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

From the West Sacramento Park and Ride, Mark will lead the group towards Petaluma, with various birding stops along Hwy 37. Moving on to Ellis Creek (near Schollenberger Park), he'll look for Blue-winged Teal and a variety of other waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, Common Yellowthroat and the occasional rail and possibly a Peregrine Falcon. Bring lunch and liquids and layered clothing. Meet Mark at 7am 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 is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders.

Tuesday, March 5, 8am-11am

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach

American River Parkway

Leaders: Sally Walters and Don

Schmoltdt, 739-6465

dschmoltdt25@gmail.com

Join us for a morning bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. We hope to see wintering sparrows and waterfowl, and resident birds including wrens, towhees, yellow-billed magpies and kinglets. It's an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, March 9, 8am

Lake Solano/Putah Creek

Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spskua2@comcast.net

This is a great area to find Pileated Woodpecker, Phainopepla, Brown Creeper, Barrow's Goldeneye and many other late wintering birds.

Meet Tim 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.

Sunday, March 10, 8am

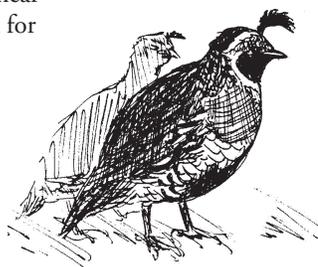
Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark at this Nature Conservancy area 20 minutes south of Sacramento. He will search the ponds and fields on Desmond and Franklin Roads for waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. Walks along the boardwalk, bridge and trail areas should turn up other interesting species in this rich riparian area.

Meet Mark at the Visitor Center parking lot on Franklin Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road, (Exit #498); go left (east) about 1 mile 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.



California Quail
Kirsten Munson

observed a Ferruginous Hawk, bringing our tally for the day to 76 species. This is considerably more species than seen on last year's trip and, considered by the group to rival counts of wintering species at valley refuges."

Bushy Lake (1/2) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "Five people showed up on a very frosty morning for the Bushy Lake Tour. We walked the meadow and the area around Bushy Lake. Hummingbirds entertained us while we made our way through the meadow. Along the edge of Bushy Lake we encountered a Hermit Thrush. Farther along and in the water, we came upon Wood Ducks. As the temperature increased, more birds appeared. In all we had a total of 35 species."

Save our Sandhill Crane tours in December — Coordinator Mike Savino reported: "The SOSOC group did the last four Sandhill Crane tours of the year on December 22, 23, 29, and 30. December 22 and 23 brought the heaviest rains of the year so no one showed up to take the tour. The two tour leaders, however, took the opportunity to explore in the rain. Cranes were hard to find either at the Cosumnes River Preserve or Staten Island or the country roads between them. On the 29th the weather was clear and about 23 people came to the Visitor Center at the Cosumnes River Preserve. After the intro talk, about 15 of them then joined the hike on the one-mile Wetlands Walk and then drove to Desmond Road where they were able to see a couple of dozen cranes, but about a third of a mile north of the road. You really needed a scope to see them well. A highlight of the tour was the hundreds of ducks and geese flying overhead at sunset. During the hike they saw low numbers of a variety of ducks, geese and shorebirds in the Lost Slough Wetland on the west side of Franklin Blvd. The good weather on the 30th brought out one of the biggest groups we have ever had at a crane tour. There were about 40 people packing the Visitor Center and listening to Paul Tebbel's introductory talk. Almost all of them then drove to Woodbridge Road where they waited for a fly-in. The number of cranes, a bit over 100, was higher than the previous day on Desmond Road and they were close enough to see well with binoculars. Most cranes were on the north side of the road just west of the silos near the west end of the road. Again there

were impressive fly-overs of hundreds of ducks and geese. Also on the south side of the road there were hundreds of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans.

The recent rains have provided the cranes more choices of places to forage and roost. Also, some of the usual places we find them have too much water. This dispersal of the cranes makes it harder to find them, but it is probably better for their health and survival."

Road 113, Robinson Road and Bird's Landing (12/29) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: "Eleven birders, including a couple from snowed-in Hayfork, braved cold breezes in the grasslands south of Dixon in search of wintering birds. Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and Loggerhead Shrikes were common. Other visiting raptor sightings included Rough-legged Hawks (3) and distant Ferruginous Hawks (2). Burrowing Owls were seen in 3 locations. One White-tailed Kite and several Say's Phoebes were seen. American Crows and Common Ravens were frequent distractions. In the grasses, flocks of Western Meadowlarks, Horned Larks, House Finches, Lark Sparrows, Savannah Sparrows, Great Egrets, Brewer's Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds and European Starlings were spotted. A small group of Long-billed Curlews flew in. Greater Yellowlegs and Killdeer gathered at a couple of seasonal pools, and a few Great Blue Herons were seen. We had several Tri-colored Blackbirds at the sheep nursery outside of Bird's Landing along with many Eurasian Collared Doves. Areas of trees and shrubs yielded our usual winter passerines, such as Yellow-rumped Warblers and crowned sparrows. Despite our searches, no Mountain Plovers or Prairie Falcons were sighted; nor was the Merlin, reported to frequent the day-use area near Collinsville, though a Snowy Egret was seen there."

Miners Ravine/Roseville (12/22) — Leader Scott Dietrich reported the trip was canceled because of bad weather.

East Lawn Cemetery (12/16) — Leader Mary Beth Metcalf reported: "Highlights included 2 Red-breasted Sapsuckers, several Red-breasted Nuthatches, Red-tailed Hawk and Northern Flicker."

Pete Hayes

Wren (split from the "Western" Pacific Wren), Grasshopper Sparrow, and Wilson's Phalarope.

"Record high counts were set for 8 species: Red-shouldered Hawk (for the 5th time in 10 years), Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Collared-Dove (for the 8th year in a row, but the total of 487 represents a significant slowing of the growth rate), Short-eared Owl (just a 3rd count record), Common Raven (275, smashing the old record of 184 set last year), Bushtit, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Phainopepla (for the 6th time in the last 10 years). Record high counts were tied for 4 other species: Cackling Goose, Greater Scaup (1, 2nd count record), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1, 3rd count record), and Black-throated Gray Warbler (1, 8th count record). Acorn Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Northern Mockingbird just missed record highs set last year.

"Low records were set for Loggerhead Shrike and Western Meadowlark. Yellow-billed Magpie numbers continue to hover at the level they fell to after the arrival of West Nile Virus in 2005, suggesting no recovery.

"The count will perhaps be remembered as the day of the passing of Rich Stallcup, one of California's birding legends and well-known naturalists. He was one of Yolo County's first active birders back in the early days. As the news trickled out to the teams in the field, we realized how much we will miss him.

"Thanks to all the area leaders, potluck organizers, and others who helped make this a great CBC."

Angwin, Napa County, January 1

Compiler Murray Berner reported: "In perfect weather. the count recorded its first Green-tailed Towhee and second-ever Red-naped Sapsucker. Other highlights: Phainopepla, Western Tanager, 28 Red Crossbills, the first since 1992; a record count of Red-breasted Nuthatches. Total species: 136. Everyone remarked on the scarcity of waterfowl and unresponsive owls."

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2013

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sunday, February 10, Sunday, March 17

Each Trip: Limited to 10 **adult** 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.

The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on where to look and what important field marks to look for. This walk will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. An optional brief session at a picnic table afterwards will cover field guides, smart phone applications and optical equipment.

Register via email to Cathie at 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.

THE NEW SPEAKER'S BUREAU ALREADY AT WORK!

The speaker's bureau has been busy and we need more folks to make presentations. With SAS's support, an **Audubon at Home** presentation was given to about 20 folks at the Lodi Crane festival in November. This is our first Birding Festival and folks seemed to enjoy learning about building habitat in their backyards. On January 3, 60 gardeners from the Folsom Garden Club heard a presentation on **Sacramento Backyard Birds** presented by Julie Serences assisted by Judy Mathews. It was a very receptive group and they had lots of great questions afterwards. Hopefully, we will see some of them on our beginner's bird walks.

Volunteers needed: If you would like to help in getting more people enthused about birding by either making presentations or helping schedule presentations to kids or adult groups, please call Subhash Chand at subhashc@aol.com. SAS has presentations available and can provide training in making presentations.

In Memoriam - Rich Stallcup

Point Reyes Bird Observatory co-founder Rich Stallcup, 68, who died from leukemia December 15, was remembered for having inspired thousands of people about the beauty and magic of birds and nature.

"Rich was a champion of nature and all things wild," said Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science President and CEO. "He was also an incredibly loving, kind and generous human being. We can celebrate his remarkable life because his legacy lives on in so many of us."

As a teenager almost 48 years ago, he shared a vision that resulted in establishing the country's first bird observatory, a nonprofit that advocates for the conservation of birds and other wildlife. As a PRBO naturalist, he led more than 1,000 trips, bird walks and ocean nature tours over the decades. He was owner and tour leader of WINGs birding tours. He co-discovered the spring and fall "vagrant" bird phenomenon on outer Point Reyes and other "migrant traps" along the coast. He published many scientific papers, wrote four books on birds and 60 "Focus" articles for the PRBO newsletter, the Observer. He served as president of Western Field Ornithologists and was regional editor for American Birds. In 2002, the American Birding Association presented him the Ludlow Griscom Award for outstanding contributions to American Ornithology.

"Rich's style of leading (an) outing wasn't just, or even, primarily about bird identification," wrote David Loeb, publisher of Baynature magazine. He would get you to look at the whole habitat from a bird's perspective and think about what sources were available and what sort of bird might exploit them and how." Marin birder Nancy Hanson was another person who appreciated his expertise. She wrote in an online remembrance, "Rich taught me to keep watching the bird until it flies off. I see so much more when I look longer."

For many more remembrances, Stallcup Memorial Fund information, and his selected Observer columns, visit the PRBO website, PRBO.org, where the information and quotes for this article were found.



THE 16TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT! FEBRUARY 15-18, 2013!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up soon, from February 15-18. It's one of the best opportunities for citizen science to contribute to our knowledge of bird species' survival and population. Plus, it's a great opportunity for some healthy competition in compiling those checklists.

Last year California was 2nd nationwide in submitting the most checklists and 1st in the number of species (333) reported! These are both improvements from 2011. The snow goose was last year's most numerous species in California with coots coming in second. Sacramento was #1 in California with 204 checklists—over 75 more than in 2011—but tied for 6th in the state species lists with 109.

The object of the GBBC is to count all the birds you see in your backyard (or chosen location) in 15 minutes. You can do this any time during the 4 days or once each day. You then record it at the GBBC website. Pretty easy and pretty fun, especially since the results are almost live and you can track results throughout the weekend. The GBBC website is quite interactive and found at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/. There's a photo contest every year too. Let's get everyone out counting this year and add to Sacramento's birdy reputation! Also, at ebird.org are some tips for posting your CBC counts as well as those from the GBBC, and also Birdlogs for mobile devices.

**SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION
ON FACEBOOK**

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



EXTENDED DEADLINE FOR CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDS YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

The Central Valley Bird Club is once again offering scholarships for young birders to attend birding camps or classes. Camp opportunities include the Sierra Nevada Field Campus near Yuba Pass sponsored by San Francisco State University, Victor Emanuel Nature Tours Camp Chiracahua in Southeast Arizona, Seattle Audubon Cascades Bird Banding Camp and many others.

For further information on this scholarship and the particular camps, please check the website: www.cvbirds.org/Scholarship.htm

- Application deadline is extended to February 15, 2013
- Essay and recommendation are required
- Available to ages 10-18 (be sure to check specific camp age requirements)

In addition, Sacramento Audubon may contribute up to \$500 towards travel expenses for scholarship winners in need of financial assistance.

For questions, contact:

John Sterling, CV Birds
530-908-3836
jsterling@wavecable.com

Maureen Geiger,
Sacramento Audubon
916-444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.com

Carolyn Woodruff, Sacramento
Audubon 916-484-1688
dewoodruff@comcast.net



FEBRUARY DATES FOR DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES AT CRP

During the waterfowl season the Cosumnes River Preserve hosts a wide variety of birds, including some of the most colorful ducks such as Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, and Bufflehead, as well as geese, swans, herons and egrets, and Sandhill Cranes. On various dates docents from the preserve will have a row of scopes set up near the boardwalk, some set lower to accommodate children, and they'll focus on giving you good views of these birds. In addition there are often hawks overhead, and some of the more interesting shorebirds such as Black-necked Stilts and Common Snipe are often seen. On one recent day there was a Bald Eagle, on another a Sora. A table display features "Duck Soup", dishes of water dipped from the pond full of sand fleas, dragonfly nymphs, and other squiggly things that provide the protein the birds are feeding on. A microscope and hand lens provide close-up looks.

The Preserve is a quick drive from Sacramento—south on I-5 to Twin Cities Road; left (east) on Twin Cities for 1 mile; then right (south) on Franklin Blvd; the viewing area is in the first parking lot on your right as you drive into the preserve.

The time is always 11am to 2pm, and it's a great day trip for families. Scheduled dates are:

- Sunday, February 3
- Saturday, February 9
- Sunday, February 17
- Saturday, February 24

NEW YOUNG BIRDERS NETWORK AIMS TO FLEDGE TEEN BIRDERS

Online info hub connects young birders with peers and resources across country

Teen birders now have a place to go online to connect with peers and drill down into a wealth of birding resources, as well as explore college and career opportunities. The Young Birders Network (www.youngbirdersnetwork.net), launched by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Ohio's Black Swamp Bird Observatory, serves as a hub for the many young birding clubs sprouting up across the country, while providing an online community for teens to share information and learn more about birding.

"Teen birders are often unsure of how to turn their hobby into a meaningful career," said Cornell University biology junior Hope Batcheller, who is also a Young Birders Network coordinator. "This site answers many of their frequently asked questions."

The Young Birders Network aggregates everything a teen needs to plug into their local birding scene, meet their birding peers, and delve deeper into the world of birding:

- A directory of young birding clubs, blogs and Facebook groups, events, and conferences across the country
- Articles and links to resources about the many ways a passion for birding can turn into a college major and career, from ornithology and conservation biology to art and computer science

- A custom eBird portal for easy online management of birding checklists and access to all the birding tools eBird offers.

Articles on the Young Birders Network home page are written by a mix of middle school and high school students, Cornell University students, and eBird and Black Swamp Observatory professionals, creating a forum for teens to interact with college and adult birders. And for teens who don't find a birding club near them, the Young Birders Network offers a toolkit for starting their own club.

"Since Black Swamp Bird Observatory launched the Ohio Young Birders Club in 2006, much of our efforts have focused on providing information and assistance to other groups interested in starting a similar program for youth," said Kimberly Kaufman, executive director of the Black Swamp Bird Observatory. "The opportunity to work with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology on the Young Birders Network (YBN) is a dream come true. Our combined knowledge, enthusiasm, and additional resources will allow us to encourage, educate, and empower more young people than we could have ever reached on our own. These are exciting times for anyone with an interest in getting more young people outside and connected with birds!"

Birding and Nature Events

2013 KLAMATH FALLS WINTER WINGS FESTIVAL EXPANDS TO FOUR DAYS! FEBRUARY 14-17

The 34th Annual Winter Wings Festival will be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The 2013 festival, their 34th, is once again loaded with birding and nature photography talent. With the program expanded to include four full days, they've lined up three topnotch keynote speakers. One is George Lepp, world renowned photographer. The second is our west coast phenom and ID author, Alvaro Jaramillo and the third is shorebird expert Kevin Karlson.

There are numerous photography workshops and field trips including some especially for youth; many raptor and owling trips, an eBird workshop; drawing workshop and Bald Eagle flyouts. Registration is required for all activities with an associated fee, including field trips, workshops, mini-sessions, receptions, and keynotes. Some free events also require registration. Register early to ensure your place; the field trips and photography workshops fill rapidly. Registrations will be processed in the order in which they are received and can be done online or by mail. The website with the complete schedule and registration information and forms is at: winterwingsfest.org. Further information is available at 877-541-BIRD (2473).

GODWIT DAYS, ARCATA

The 18th annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival is being held **April 18-24** in Arcata, CA. Godwit Days is a week long, spring migration bird festival celebrating California's North Coast. The northern coast of California offers towering redwoods, rocky ocean coasts, wild river valleys, expansive mudflats on Humboldt Bay, and the world-renowned Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, where 271 species of birds have been sighted. Held at the peak of spring migration, shorebirds abound and special opportunities are planned to see many other species, including Marbled Murrelet, Spotted Owl, and Snowy Plover and even whale watching. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Gary Langham, who was named Audubon's Chief Scientist in June, 2011, after four years as Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon California. At Audubon California, Dr. Langham led a team that developed a model that identifies specific habitat areas and species at risk from climate change. Audubon is now expanding this groundbreaking approach to encompass 600 bird species across North America. He also pioneered many successful conservation solutions benefiting diverse bird species, including the endangered California Condor and threatened Western Snowy Plover.

The selection of over 100 small group field trips, lectures, workshops, boating excursions, and community activities are led by experienced local guides. For further information and registration visit www.godwitdays.com or call 1-800-908-WING.

DON'T MISS THE 4TH ANNUAL POINT REYES BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL!

Save the dates of **April 26-28th** for the Bay Area's best birding and nature extravaganza! Enjoy birding at the height of spring migration with some of the best naturalists around. The Festival will once again be headquartered in Point Reyes Station and will include field trips in and around the Point Reyes National Seashore. Jeff Gordon, president of the American Birding Association, will deliver the keynote address at the Saturday evening banquet.

For more information, visit www.pointreyesbirdingfestival.org. Tickets go on sale in late February, and all proceeds benefit the habitat conservation work of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

TABLES FOR BOBELAINE

Wanted: 2 sturdy picnic tables for Audubon's Bobelaine Preserve. This would be a great project for a scout, a class or group to earn the money to buy tables or get donated wood and build them, and deliver them.

Contact: Bajaowl@gmail.com

Subject: PICNIC TABLES for BOBELAINE PRESERVE (all caps)

OBSERVER OUTREACH

As always, we are in need of additional people to help at the Outreach table at various events. If you are interested, contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, or phone 457-6882. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding, and you would work with an experienced volunteer.

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.

NATURE/BIRDING MAGAZINE EXCHANGE

At the next general meeting take time to check out the birding and nature magazines on offer on the magazine counter. Browse and take home any of interest to you.

Finished with your birding and nature related magazines, but hate to throw them away? Bring them to our general meeting and leave on our magazine counter for others to enjoy.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

De Brewer
Larry Hickey
Linda Sabraw
Lynn Tweten

NEW Email Address—Please NOTE

Lea Landry, our membership chair has a new email address. Please change it in your address book.

llandry46@comcast.net

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on February 26, at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2013 PROGRAMS

March 21 Ed Harper, *Birding Montana*
April 18 Linda Pitman, *Pelagic Birds*
May 16 Debbie Miller, *Arctic Summer*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Julia Andrews, Jon Beck, Joan Clark, Jeanne Conry, Peggy Cranston, Pablo Garza, Carole Gerard, Wayne Monson and Sue Vroman to the **General Fund**.

Richard Begley, Alice Corley, Peggy Cranston, John Davidson, Carole Gerard, Tom Graham, Larry Hickey, Barbara Klocek, Rita Marowitz, Wendy Money, Patricia Moses, Shirley Poirier, Noreen Rademacher, Denyse Serrano, Sonja Sorbo, Dee Warencia, Carolyn Woodruff and Flora Yen to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

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@comcast.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued from page 12

Access #3 on the same date. The north Davis **Harris's Sparrow** continued into January, and another was found in Fairfield on 12/17, near Business Center Dr and Green Valley Rd, also continuing into the new year.

One of the year's highlights was a male **Common Redpoll** coming to a feeder on 12/31. Just the fourth Central Valley record, it was seen by many for one more day before moving on. **Pine Siskins** were widely reported in high numbers. **Red Crossbills** were found at the Gristmill access of ARP on 12/1, with three at Upper Sunrise (ARP) on 12/30, and a high of seven at the Odd Fellows/Old City Cemetery from 12/10 into January. **Evening Grosbeak** reports continued from last month, with one at the Sacramento City Cemetery on 12/8, two in Davis on 12/9, 12 in Folsom on 12/12, and 15 in Folsom on 12/16.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html). The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Steve Abbott, Ben Abramowitz, Dan Airola, Mark Cudney, Al DeMartini, Chris Dunford, Jon Dunn, Todd Easterla, Leo Edson, Tim Fitzer, Claire Gallagher, Cory Gregory, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Cliff Hawley, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Jim Laughlin, Don Marsh, Ed Pandolfino, Linda Pittman, Jim Rowoth, Don Schmoltd, Ken Schneider, Susan Schneider, John Sterling, Michael Strom, Dan Tankersley, John Trochet, Bobby Walsh, Bruce Webb, Ed Whisler, and John York.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

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

Nearly six inches of rain fell on Sacramento (170% of average), so it's appropriate that many of the interesting records were waterfowl. Last winter's **Falcated Duck** returned to the Colusa NWR on 12/2, but was last reported there on 12/19; it was apparently at the Sacramento NWR on 12/30. A male **Surf Scoter** was on the San Joaquin River near Sherman Island on 12/1. A female **Long-tailed Duck** was at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 12/14-15. Female **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found among large flocks of **Common Mergansers** at Laguna West on 12/24 and Greenhaven Lake on 12/30, with at least one of the latter continuing into January, along with up to 1,200 **Common Mergansers**.

The **Red-throated Loon** near Beal's Point since October continued into January. Rare away from large reservoirs, three **Horned Grebes** were at the Lincoln WTP from 12/4-27, and one was in Sutter County at Marcum Rd and Hwy 70 from 12/23 into January. The hatch-year **Brown Pelican** at Riverlake in the Pocket Area of South Sacramento continued through at least 12/12. A **Rough-legged Hawk** was just east of Rancho Seco on Hwy 104 on 12/7, and four were south of Payen Road on 12/30.

A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was along Rd 104, near the Yolo Landfill, on 12/25-per-

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

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Sacramento, CA

haps the same bird found on the 12/23 Sacramento CBC. **Mountain Plovers** were regularly reported from Robinson Rd south of Dixon, with a high of 90.

Two **Marbled Godwits** were found on the 12/23 Sacramento CBC, and a **Wilson's Phalarope**, very rare in winter, was on private land during the 12/16 Putah Creek CBC. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was near the Yolo Landfill on 12/8 and continued throughout the month; another was at Beal's Point, Folsom Lake, on 12/28. One-two **Glaucous Gulls** were near the Yolo Landfill throughout the month.

A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was found along Quail Canyon Rd, off Pleasants Valley Rd, on 12/16. A **Western Kingbird** along Yolo Rd 105 near Rd 30 on 12/7 had apparently been seen there for a few days. A juvenile **Northern Shrike** was found in Sutter County off Pacific Ave near Striplin Rd on 12/27, with sporadic reports into the new year. The **Winter Wren** near Lake Solano and Las Positas Rd continued into January. A **Grasshopper Sparrow**, rare in winter, was found at the top of Las Positas Rd on 12/16, and a **Red Fox Sparrow** was nearby at Fishing

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