



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, January 20
Potluck Dinner 6:30
General Meeting 7:30pm
Shepard Garden and Art Center

Shorebirds at Yolo in the Summer?

If you count yourself among the people who appreciate and frequent the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, you'll want to be sure to attend this presentation. Dave Feliz, manager with the U.S. Fish and Game Department will be sharing his knowledge of the experimentation being done with integrating agriculture into the long term management of the area. He will also discuss how they have come up with some intriguing techniques to provide shorebird habitat in the summer and attract thousands of waterfowl at the same time. Be sure to come and hear how this wonderful area is being cared for and what you can expect to see there.

A potluck is also in store. Dinner starts at 6:30, so please come with either a salad or a main dish to share. Board members will provide desert and our local chapter will supply beverages and utensils. We look forward to seeing both you and your guests.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 Mckinley Blvd., in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information.

NEW SACRAMENTO BIRDS, GROUP EMAIL LIST

We have created a new way to let others know about what bird sightings you have seen as well as a way for you to be aware of what has been seen in the general Sacramento area. The list may be used to discuss anything to do with birds or birding. It is called the "Sacramento Birds" group email list (list-serve) and is free to anyone who is interested. Please go to www.sacramentoaudubon.org and follow the instructions on the home page for the free subscription to this service.

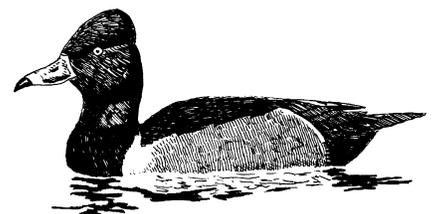
There are two ways to enjoy the service. One is a subscription for emails only and the second is to join Yahoo groups to provide access to the archived messages on the Sacramento Birds web site as well as other features.

For those of you who do not have email/Internet access you may phone in your sightings to our Central Valley Bird Box at (916) 783-2331 and report any unusual birds or listen to other sightings recorded for the past forty five days.

Bobelaine Happenings

We hope many of you will take advantage of the sanctuary during the winter months. Birds are easier to see and you can see and also hear the large numbers of geese, ducks and swans that fly over the sanctuary. They are also present on the Feather river. Don't forget our annual Bobelaine walk on New Years day that will be led by Brian Gilmore. Come join this hardy group at 7:30am in the sanctuary parking lot. Bring your holiday leftovers for a lunch at the picnic area after the walk. Sanitary facilities and drinking water are always available at the sanctuary.

Bill Clark, Co-Manager



Stephen D'Amato

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we will focus on conservation and environmental education to ensure that the Sacramento region's natural ecosystems and diverse bird populations are preserved, restored, and made available for study and enjoyment.

Field Trip Findings

Lincoln Grasslands (12/12) – Despite the fog, it was a “raptorous” day for leader Tim Fitzer’s group. He reported: Merlin, Prairie Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Barn Owl and two Great-horned Owls.

Lincoln Hills (12/11) – Highlights included a close-up view of a Barn Owl out in the open, near tules, along with a look at Downy and Nuttall’s Woodpeckers and a White-breasted Nuthatch coexisting on one tree. Leader Dave Pearson also reported: Green-winged and Cinnamon Teals, American Bittern and a bevy of sparrows including Lincoln’s, Rufous-crowned, Savannah, White-crowned, and Golden-crowned.

Sonoma/Marin Counties (12/5) Spotting a Clapper Rail is always a treat but how about six of them? They’re reported in decline in California because of red fox depredations, but leader Ron Storey’s crew found six at Corte Madera Marsh. “We saw Clapper Rail walk on the bank of a slough right out in the open; we saw Clapper Rail swim and fly,” said Ron, who was joined by his wife Phyllis, as co-leader. Other notables: several Blue-winged Teal and Thayer’s Gull at Shollenberger Park; and Green-winged Teal at Corte Madera Marsh. Also: four River Otter swimming and then crossing the trail not far in front of the group at Las Galinas Pond.

American River Parkway (12/4) – Forty observers, most of them Sacramento Auduboners, recorded 108 bird species in the 20th annual American River Natural History Association’s Winter Wildlife Count on the parkway.

Coordinator Jack Hiehle said the total was just two shy of the record. While no new birds were found, a Rough-legged Hawk was reported for only the second time, and a Bald Eagle for the fourth time. Eighty-one Wild Turkeys were found. Observers counted 11 mammals, including a three-legged deer in Ancil Hoffman Park that seemed unbothered by its limitation. Jack said it was believed to have been the same animal that was seen recently in Goethe Park and likely swam across the river. Overall, 91 deer were reported, including 48 in Ancil Hoffman Park.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery (12/4) – Leader Frank Gray provided a gull clinic for his group, which found Thayer’s, Mew, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Herring species. Also, a Spotted Sandpiper was present.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery (12/1) – A Barrow’s Goldeneye, Phainopepla, Cooper’s Hawk and Hermit Thrush topped the list of 49 species reported by leader Jack Hiehle. They also saw 14 Ring-necked Pheasants.

Woodbridge Regional Park (11/28) Alas, the Vermillion Flycatcher that has visited Turner Road Vintners for the second straight winter, failed to show up. But despite an icy wind, four intrepid birders led by Maureen Geiger found 56 other species, including Downy Woodpecker, Cooper’s Hawk and Hermit Thrush.

Central Valley Birding Symposium, Stockton (11/18-21) – Standouts included Eastern Phoebe and Swamp Sparrow at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP); Surf Scoter, Stockton Deep Water

Channel, and the Vermillion Flycatcher at Turner Road Vintners. But Kurt Mize, field trips coordinator, said the best bird was a Common Black Hawk seen in Stockton the day before the symposium but not during the event. It was a first for northern California, a third for all California. Other nice birds among 179 reported: Mew Gull, Nimbus Fish Hatchery; Blue-winged Teal, CRP; Eurasian Wigeon, Gray Lodge and Yolo County; Pacific Golden-Plover, Modesto Sewer Ponds; Thayer’s and Glaucous-winged gulls, O’Neil Forebay, and American Dipper, New Hogan Reservoir. Best Performance Award: a Merlin that rose from a fence post and nailed a passing LBJ in front of viewers in East San Joaquin County.

Special Note – Veteran Audubon trip leader Chris Conard reported watching a kit fox and badger go eyeball-to-eyeball on a recent extended weekend getaway to Carrizo Plain National Monument, grassland/desert prairie west of Buttonwillow on Highway 58. Through a scope, Chris and his wife Kimya watched one of two foxes stick its nose into a hole and moments later a badger popped out. “They had a brief standoff, then the badger proceeded to scratch and groom,” Chris said. “After several minutes it lay on its belly, staring us down.” Chris had never seen the San Joaquin Valley race of Kit Fox, which is on the U.S. Endangered Species list. “We were amazed at our good fortune,” he said.

Pete Hayes

WANTED: BANDED BURROWING OWLS

Audubon members and birders can contribute to the scientific knowledge and conservation of burrowing owls. In the summer of 2004, 6,000 burrowing owls were banded in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including California. Each owl is wearing a color metal band on one leg and an aluminum U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band on the other leg.



Every color band has an alpha-numeric code which can be difficult to read, but it is possible with a spotting scope. If you see a banded owl, please record the color of the band, the code, whether there is a line in the middle of the band, and which leg the color band is on.

Burrowing owls have been found wintering from the state of Washington to Texas and Mexico. According to Helen Trefry, a banded burrowing owl from Lubbock, Texas was found in Michoacan,

Mexico and another from Saskatchewan wintered in south Texas. Burrowing owl researchers are requesting your help in locating more of these owls. If you locate a banded owl, please contact Helen Trefry as soon as possible. Even if you are not able to read the band yourself (someone else may be able to), please report your observation to Helen. Her telephone number is (780) 951-8693. Her fax number is (780) 495-2615. Her email address is Helen.trefry@ec.gc.ca

Ed Whisler

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Tim Fitzer, 961-5871 for trips through February 6. For trips from February 12 through February 21 call the scheduler Richard Barbieri, 966-4603.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. Walkie-talkies can be helpful on non-local trips. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Saturday, January 1, 7:30 am
Bobelaine Sanctuary Walk
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146
E-mail: razorbill35@comcast.net

Join Brian for a New Year's Day stroll through the riparian woods. There are many birds and mammals and Brian knows just where to find them. Take I-5 north to Hwy 99 towards Yuba City. Two miles after it crosses the Feather River, turn right on Laurel Ave., follow it to the end, and meet in the parking lot. Bring some holiday leftovers for a lunch after the walk.

Sunday, January 2
Folsom Christmas Count
Compiler : Chris Conard, 362-5942
E-mail : chris.conard@comcast.net

This is a local count, lots of fun, and we always need your help, at any level of experience; it's a good way to learn. Call Chris and join the count.

Monday, January 3, 8am to 12pm
Goethe Park
Leader: Jack Hiehle. 967-0777

Join Jack for a morning walk through this beautiful park along the American River. Meet Jack at the end of Arden Way on the north side of the river and we will walk across the bridge into Goethe Park.

Tuesday, January 4
Rio Cosumnes Count
Compiler: Andy Engillis,
(530) 752-0364
E-mail aenglisjr@ucdavis.ed

Saturday, January 8, 7am
Post Christmas Count
Coastal Birding Trip
Leaders: Chris Conard &
Kimya Lambert, 362-5942
chris.conard@comcast.net

This trip could be to Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay or both. Chris and Kimya will be looking

for the rare and vagrant birds seen on various coastal Christmas Counts. Be ready for a faster paced trip for the more experienced birder. We will meet at the park and ride on the left hand side of the West Capitol Blvd. exit just before the causeway on I-80 west. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes and be prepared for a full day. If you have personal band radios they are great for keeping in contact with the group.

Sunday, January 9, 7:30am
Salt Springs Valley
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
spskua@aol.com
Vicki Boffin
505-1156

This area is located in western Calaveras County about an 1 1/2 hour drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake is 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 afternoon so bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. We will meet at the park and ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at the Sheldon Rd. exit. Call for an alternate meeting place. Bring scopes and personal band radios.

Friday, January 14, 7am
Pt. Reyes Mammal Trip
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Gray Whales, Elephant Seals, Tule Elk and Axis Deer will be the focus of Jack's trip. He will of course not ignore birds, but they will be a sidelight of the trip. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes as the trip will last into the afternoon. Meet Jack across the street from where the 535 Bistro once stood on Fulton Ave, between Munroe Ave. and Fair Oaks Blvd.



Stephen D'Amato

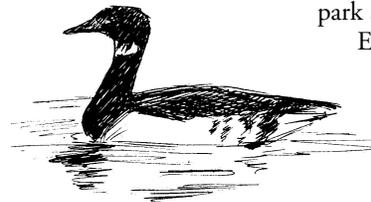
Saturday, January 15, 7:30am
Gray Lodge State Wildlife Area
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495
yellowhammer74@yahoo.com

Cliff is the Sacramento Christmas Count Compiler and an enthusiastic and excellent birder who knows the area like the back of his hand. He will take you to Gray Lodge, one of the state's prime wintering areas for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge he will take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes. This area is great for raptors and grassland birds. Bring a lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Meet in the park and ride just west of Hwy 99 on Elkhorn Blvd. Bring scopes and personal band radios.

Sunday, January 16, 8am
Sacramento National
Wildlife Refuge

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
spskua@aol.com
Vicki Boffin, 505-1156

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



Kirsten Munson

Saturday, January 22, 8:30am
Lodi Sewer Ponds, Woodbridge
Preserve, Turner Rd. & Staten Island
Leaders: Joe Ceriani, 922-0768
Richard Barbieri, 966-4603

Join Joe for a great day of birding San Joaquin county's hot spots. He will be looking for shorebirds, gulls, ducks, swans, raptors and of course Sandhill Cranes. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothes. We will meet at the Park & Ride on the west side of Hwy 99 at Sheldon Road. Call for an alternate meeting place. Bring walkie-talkies if you have them.

Sunday, January 23, 8am
Road 113, Robinson Road,
Birds Landing Area
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871;
spskua@aol.com

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, Curlews, Mountain Plovers and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes and two-way radios. We will meet at the West Capitol Ave. exit Park & Ride to carpool.

Saturday, January 29, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Lisa Moraga, 455-4786
lmoraga03@yahoo.com

Sacramento Refuge is home to thousands of wintering ducks and geese which attract Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles. There is a 3.7 mile tour route with a high viewing platform that offers great looks at the many species of waterfowl. This trip will last until mid-afternoon so bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes. Walkie-talkie radios will come in handy, so bring them if you have them. We will meet at the Jack-In-The-Box parking lot off I-5 north, Exit Road 102 on your right as you approach Woodland. On the return trip Lisa will take Road 16 looking for raptors, eagles, owls and the Hungarian Kuvás Sheep Dogs. This is a fun day you will not want to miss.

Sunday, January 30, 8:30am
East Lawn Cemetery
Leader: Mary Beth Metcalf, 456-7382

Bring a friend for a morning walk through East Lawn. This is an excellent place to find many local species and often a rarity. This trip is perfect for first-timers, is good exercise, and sure beats watching TV. Meet Mary Beth at the cemetery gate at the inter-

section of 43rd St. and Folsom Blvd. Park on 43rd St. This walk will last for about 3 hours.

Tuesday, February 1, 8am
Walk Along The American River
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack on a 4 hour walk looking at wildflowers, native plant species, mammals and birds. This is an excellent walk for beginners. You can't go wrong on a walk with Jack.

Saturday, February 5, 8am
Gray Lodge State Refuge and
Western Sutter Buttes
Leader: Harlan Perryman,
(530) 873-3039 or 961-5871

Join Harlan for a full day of action birding at this waterfowl magnet. Thousands of geese and ducks winter at Gray Lodge, including Eurasian Widgeon, Blue-winged Teal, and Ring-necked Ducks, to name a few. There are often Peregrine Falcon and



Kirsten Munson

for raptors and wintering sparrows. Bring warm clothes, lunch, liquids, and two-way radios for a full day of fun. We will meet at the Elkhorn Blvd. Park & Ride off Hwy 99 north.

Sunday, February 6, 8am
Grizzly Island - Suisun Marsh
State Wildlife Area
Leader: Joe Ferreira, 983-2120
jferreir@dfg.ca.gov

Join Joe, who was a resident biologist living on Grizzly Island at one time. He has a full knowledge of the terrain and history of the area. You will see many ducks, shorebirds, raptors, the majestic Tule Elk, and possibly otters. Bring a lunch, liquids and warm clothes for a full day of fun. Meet Joe at the Park & Ride at the West Capitol exit off I-80 just before the causeway. Call for an alternate meeting place. Bring walkie-talkies.

Saturday, February 12, 7am
Foster City/Peninsula/
Charleston Slough
Leaders: Marilyn Hemmeter
and Eileen Kay, 989-4547
e-mail: birdergirl@earthlink.net

Join Marilyn and Eileen again on this fast-paced trip to the South Bay and its local hot spots, with stopovers at Foster City, Redwood Shores, Baylands and Charleston Slough for looks at shorebirds and sea ducks. This will be an all day trip with a restaurant lunch break or you may bring your own lunch, but do bring a snack and liquids for the day. Meet at the Park and Ride on West Capitol Avenue off Hwy 80. Secondary meeting place will be Foster City in the parking lot of the Recreation Center at Leo Ryan Park at about 9am. The park is on Hillsdale Boulevard between Edgewater and Shell Boulevards.

Sunday, February 13, 7:30am
Kelton Way
Leader: Joe Ceriani (922-0768)

Join Joe on this early morning walk through the wetlands of Robla Creek drainage in southwest Rio Linda. Marsh birds such as moorhens, coots, ducks and hopefully rails are found here. From a distance you will also be able to view the heron and egret rookery. Meet at Java City Coffee House, 717 Del Paso Rd. From Hwy 80, exit at Northgate Blvd. and head north to the dead end at the intersection with Del Paso Road and Main Ave.

Friday, February 18, 8am-Noon
Parkway Walk/Estates Drive
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This early morning walk along the American River will be just up from the Watt Ave. Bridge at the end of Estates Drive in Carmichael. Join Jack on this stretch of the river as he shares with you his knowledge of plants, mammals, and birds of the area. Meet at the end of Estates Drive off Fair Oaks Boulevard.

New Book

The American River Natural History Association has published a revised, expanded edition of *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* that has details and drawings of more than 600 birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The birds section contains a number of contributions by Ed Harper, including a notable profile of the Swainson's Hawk.

The field guide, co-edited by Pete Hayes and Jo Smith, is available for \$12.95 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and local bookstores. We will also have copies available at our general meetings.

**A CALL FOR BURROWING OWL
AND SWAINSON'S HAWK
NEST LOCATIONS**

Anyone with information please send specific details on all current and historic burrow and nesting sites of Burrowing Owls and Swainson's Hawks. The focus is on Sacramento County, but locations in the greater Sacramento area would also be appreciated. I'm seeking to create a database of Special Status Species to assist with open space planning.

Send to: Chris Conard (e-mail preferred)
chris.conard@comcast.net
(Please note the corrected email address)
2405 Rio Bravo Circle, Sacramento 95826
(916) 362-5942



Daniel Kilby

Entertainment Books

Sacramento Audubon is again benefitting from the sale of Entertainment Books. The books offer money saving coupons for many area restaurants and reduced price coupons for area activities. They will be available for \$40 at all the General Meetings. They can also be found at Wild Bird stores in Folsom and at Quail Pointe and at Wild Birds Unlimited in Loehman's Plaza. For further information or store directions please call Tim Fitzer at 961-5871 or 870-5207 (cell). He can also arrange to have you pick one up if you're in the downtown area. All proceeds go to Sacramento Audubon Society.

Events & Announcements

TANZANIA IN JULY 2005

Ed Harper and Susan Scott are once again leading a safari to one of their favorite destinations. Last year's trip was a real success with six species of cat, elephants, giraffes, black rhinoceros, throngs of wildebeest and zebra, and a barrage of fantastic birds. To join them on their 10th trip to Tanzania this July, either email to calidris@surewest.net or call (916) 971-3311 for further information.

ECOS VOLUNTEER APPOINTED

The Sacramento Audubon Society Board has appointed Keith G. Wagner as our new representative to ECOS, (the Environmental Council of Sacramento).

Keith is an environmental attorney with the law firm of J. William Yeates. Through Mr. Yeates' office, Keith has represented the National Audubon Society, local Audubon chapters, and other environmental groups, in a variety of environmental actions.

We are fortunate to have Keith as a volunteer representative and liaison with ECOS. If you have any concerns about issues ECOS is dealing with, you can reach him at work at (916) 609-5000, or at home, at (916) 362-8022.

SAS BOARD DONATIONS

The SAS board has made the following donations in the name of Sacramento Audubon.

\$1000.00 to the Central Valley Birding Club Scholarship Fund, towards an annual scholarship awarded to a young club member for a purpose directly related to bird conservation.

\$500.00 to the Central Valley Birding Club to support the annual symposium.

\$100.00 to the Wildlife Care Association in support of their work caring for and rehabilitating injured birds, reptiles, and mammals.

\$5000.00 to the University of California at Berkeley towards their ongoing Black Rail foothill habitat study.

Membership Information

Please do not send checks for membership renewal to the Sacramento Audubon Society P.O. Box. For the speediest and safest renewal return the notice that is sent to you along with your check. It makes my job much easier. Thank you for your help in this.

Jan Clark, Membership Chair

**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 January 25 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

Observations continued from page 6

Thanks to the following for their reports (the majority were taken from http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/) :

- Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson, Mark Ackerman, Jennifer Albright, Bob Battagin, Dennis Braddy, Daniel Burmester, Brent Campos, Daryl Coldren, Cathy Corcoran, David Coursey, Bruce Deuel, Leo Edson, Andrew Engilis, Gil Ewing, Mike Feighner, Rob Fowler, Jim Gain, Maureen Geiger, Brian Gilmore, Helen Green, Richard Hall, David Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Clifford Hawley, Dave Johnson, Evan Jones, Nancy Jones, Jeri Langham, Michael Larkin, John Luther, Tim Manolis, Ron Melcer, Martin Meyers, Kurt Mize, Joseph Morlan, Scott Morrival, Kathy Parker, Cheri Pillsbury, Bob Power, Terry Ronneberg, Jennifer Rycenga, John Schick, James Steinert, John Sterling, Vi Strain, Ryan Terrill, Susan Torguson, John Trochet, and Neil Whiting.

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

November 1 to November 30
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
783-2331

Several of the more notable species found this month were observed during the Central Valley Birding Symposium from 11/19 through 11/21. Three of the most notable species continued to be found through press time and may winter at the sites described below. If only other rarities were so dependable.

An **Eastern Phoebe*** was a long-overdue first Sacramento County record. It was found just west of the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) visitor center, along Franklin Blvd, on 11/13 by a birder on his first visit to the Preserve! It has been seen and photographed by dozens, leaving few searchers disappointed. The first-winter male **Vermilion Flycatcher*** found last year on the Stockton CBC was refound this year during the Symposium, as a striking adult, at the Turner Rd Vintners just east of I-5. On 11/18, a **Swamp Sparrow*** was found along the River Walk at CRP just south of the junction with the visitor center bridge. It continues to be found by many observers, but not so dependably as the flycatchers. A second **Swamp Sparrow*** was reported from the Tall Forest on 11/19.

Another highlight of the Symposium, but only on 11/20, was a first-year male **Surf Scoter*** reported from the Deep Water Channel in Stockton. The returning **Common Black-Hawk**** was seen by several observers on 11/17 after a month and a half without a solid report. Unfortunately, this bird has not been reported again.

An extremely late **Ash-throated Flycatcher** (*seasonal rarity) was reported from the CSU Sacramento campus on 11/12. This species, indeed any in the genus *Myiarchus*, is very rare in Northern California in winter.

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

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Another out-of-season flycatcher report was of a "**Western**" **Flycatcher** (*seasonal rarity) from CRP on 11/23. It did not make a distinguishing vocalization, so it could not be assigned to species.

Notable waterbird reports include a late **Pectoral Sandpiper** from the auto tour loop at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 11/13, a **Least Bittern** from CRP on the same late date, and multiple **Barrow's Goldeneye** reports from Putah Creek and the American River Parkway (ARP) beginning in the first week of the month. A **Common Loon** was found at Lake Solano from 11/5 through 11/11. Another **Common Loon** was reported from CRP, off of Desmond Rd, on

11/12. **Horned Grebes** were reported from the Davis Wetlands on 11/5, the Port of Sacramento on 11/23, and Sherman Island on 11/29.

An excellent list of birds was compiled at the Howard Ranch (private property in southeastern Sacramento County) on 11/7 which included 45 **Band-tailed Pigeons**, over 70 **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, one **Hairy Woodpecker**, one **Vesper Sparrow**, three **Ferruginous Hawks** and four **Prairie Falcons**. Other interesting reports this month include a first-year **Harris's Sparrow*** at Colusa NWR on 11/26 and continuing into early December, unusually numerous reports of **Red Fox Sparrows** (the eastern race) from CRP and ARP, and a **Grasshopper Sparrow** from YBWA parking lot B on 11/10 and continuing through at least 11/22. **Bald Eagles** were reported regularly throughout the month on the upper stretches of ARP, and one was reported from CRP on 11/28. **Merlins** were widely reported from CRP, ARP, and Davis. **Pine Siskin** reports continued to be regular throughout the region, though **Red-breasted Nuthatch** reports, exceptionally numerous in early fall, were relatively infrequent in November.

Documentation of species listed with an asterisk (*) should be submitted to the Sacramento Bird Records Committee. Species with a double asterisk (**) are on the California Bird Records Committee review list.

Observations continued on page 5

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

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