



The **OBSE**RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, January 19, 2006
Shepard Garden and Art Center
6:30pm Potluck Dinner
7:30pm General Meeting

CALIFORNIA GRIZZLY BEAR

There have always been bear stories, as long as there have been campfires and shadows in the night, and as long as humans have shared the earth with their fellow predators...

“Part of humankind’s enduring fascination and connection with bears lies in the similarity between us and them. They stand upright, are intelligent and independent, possessed of distinct personalities. They exemplify maternal care, discipline, and teaching, and can use their claw like a finger. They can travel fast and lose their tempers. They are omnivorous, and can kill and eat us, as we can kill and eat them. Resilient, brave, and defiant, the California grizzly did not go quietly.”

Susan Snyder, from *Bear in Mind*

Bear in Mind is the story of the California grizzly bear. Once arguably the most powerful and terrifying animal in the California landscape, he now lives in the imagination, a disembodied symbol of the romantic West. And *Bear in Mind* is also a portal into one of California’s great resources, the Bancroft Library of the University of California, Berkeley. More than 150 images from the library’s archives and collections – newspaper illustrations from the gold rush, paintings from early scientific expeditions, photo albums, sheet music, settlers’ diaries, fruit-crate labels, and more – accompany the bear stories of Indians, explorers, vascueros, forty-niners, and naturalists, among others.

As with her book, Susan’s presentation will give us a window into the world of this magnificent animal and the uniquely compelling natural history in which it existed.

Susan Snyder grew up in the valleys and foothills along California’s Highway 99. She worked as a teacher, illustrator, artist, and Japanese interpreter before her association began at the Bancroft Library in 1994. As head of Public Services, she has spent ten years exploring the library’s stacks, attics, and moats and is currently completing a pictorial history of camping, entitled *Past Tents: Camping Out in the West*. She lives in Point Richmond, California.

Sally Riggs
Program Chair

The Potluck Dinner starts at 6:30. Please bring a salad or a main dish to share. Desserts and beverages will be provided. Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park, located at 3330 McKinley Blvd. in Sacramento.

The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information.

Bobelaine Happenings

Hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Winter has arrived at the sanctuary, the leaves have fallen making bird finding a bit easier. The grape and Poison Oak leaves have turned beautiful shades of red and gold and the mornings are crisp. If you need a restful couple of hours to unwind from the holiday hustle and bustle consider a trip to Bobelaine to refresh your perspective on life and your world. Getting back to nature is better and cheaper than tranquilizers any day. Check out the Bobelaine field trip on January 8th.

Bobelaine Management

BIRDATHON

It is time to start making plans for the 2006 Birdathon. This is our once a year effort to raise funding to support the maintenance of Bobelaine Sanctuary. As many of you know, Bobelaine is not funded from the General Fund of the Sacramento Audubon Society but is obligated to raise it’s own monies to maintain the sanctuary in a safe & functional manner. This years Birdathon is set for any 24 hour period during April or May. The idea is to gather pledges from friends/colleagues for the number of bird species identified by you and or your team in a twenty four hour period. You set the day that you want to bird and collect the pledged money afterward. It takes about \$1700 to \$2,000 to maintain the sanctuary for a year. We would like you to consider birding for Bobelaine on your own or heading up a small team. You will receive more information in the following months.

Field Trip Findings

Lincoln Grasslands (12/11) — A Bald Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Clark's Grebes, and Rock Wren, were reported by leader Tim Fitzer.

Sun City, Lincoln (12/10) — Highlights were a Great-horned Owl in the open on a branch 5-6 feet from the ground, Ring-necked Ducks, a Common Snipe in the open, a Downy Woodpecker, and two unexpected Tree Swallows. Leader Dave Pearson also cited Bewick's and Marsh Wrens, and five species of hawks among the overall 56 species. Mammal of the day was a handsome coyote in the open on the marsh.

Sailor Bar, American River (12/6) Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Cooper's Hawk, Double-crested Cormorant, Belted Kingfisher, Lark Sparrow, and Red-shouldered Hawk were recorded by leader Jack Hiehle.

Cosumnes River Preserve (12/4) — A flyover of noisy Cackling Geese was a highlight for leader Brian Gilmore's small group on a chilly, sunny day with little wind. The "small Canada Goose" was pointed out by veteran Audubon trip leader Chris Conard in a chance meeting with the group. "Tundra Swans and Sandhill Cranes also afforded us beautiful views," Brian said. "Lincoln's, Golden, and White-crowned Sparrows were easily seen in the brush along the

trails. We tallied about 60 species for the day, including a Swainson's hawk".

Nimbus Fish Hatchery, American River (11/27) — Spawned-out salmon made for a productive gull identification day, attracting a half dozen of the scavenging species. Tim Fitzer and co-leader Dan Brown, who were subbing for Frank Gray, reported that Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, Mew, Herring, California and Ring-billed gulls were recorded. Others: White-throated Swift, Spotted Sandpiper, Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, and Double-crested Cormorant.

Woodbridge Regional Park (11/26) This trip turned into the Lodi Lake trip because the park was closed, reportedly because of bank erosion due to flooding. Once there, cold, clear and windy weather slowed bird activity, but leader Maureen Geiger singled out a crisp, adult White-throated Sparrow that was white-striped and not tan. Also, a handful of Fox Sparrows, both Taiga and Sooty, and several Downy Woodpeckers.

Old Fair Oaks Bridge/Lower Sunrise (11/22) — Leader Jack Hiehle's American River walk yielded Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes, Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, and Double-crested Cormorant. Separately, Jack reported observing a battle of truculent turkeys

at the Effie Yeaw Nature Area in Ancil Hoffman Park: "A couple of male gobblers grabbed each other by the wattle (throat appendage) and held on for about 15 minutes until one finally let go."

Cosumnes River Preserve, River Walk Trail (11/12) — The highlight was a Least Bittern heard by John Trochet, leader John Schick reported. "Also, we saw six Swainson's Hawks and a short time later Tundra Swans flew over. How often do you see these two species in a span of half an hour at the same place and time?" A total of 84 species were seen. A friendly raccoon family was also seen.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge (11/6) — Much of the refuge was in the process of being filled with water, but there was a good representation of birds, including a Eurasian Wigeon and, according to a ranger's estimate, at least 200,000 Northern Pintails on the Sacramento and 400,000 on the overall refuge system. John Davidson, reporting for leader Andi Salmi, said other waterfowl included Greater White-fronted and Snow geese with at least one Ross's Goose, Ring-necked Ducks, and Green-winged and Cinnamon teals. Others: Barn Owl and Merlin.

Pete Hayes

THE RESULTS FROM THE 21ST ANNUAL ARHNA AMERICAN RIVER COUNT

Forty-six observers recorded 103 bird species, 12 mammals and four other animals in the American River Natural History Association's 21st annual wildlife count on the American River Parkway from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park on a crisp, sunny Saturday.

A Lewis's Woodpecker and Ross's Gull were seen for only the second time in the count, Coordinator Jack Hiehle reported. Previous bird totals mostly ranged between 101 and 110 species, with a 21-year total of 169.

On foot and in canoes, the observers, mostly Sacramento Audubon Society members, checked off 72 deer,

14 Ground Squirrels, 46 Gray Squirrels, 126 Fox Squirrels, 5 coyotes, 2 River Otters, 10 Black-tailed Hares (jackrabbits), 2 Cotton Tail Rabbits, 2 beaver (plus some heard within a beaver lodge), a Striped Skunk and 8 house cats. The skunk and rat were firsts in the 13 years that non-bird species have been counted.

Andi Salmi, leading an all-female team, won the contest among the 11 leaders of assigned sections to determine who tallied the highest percentage increase of bird species over the average of the three previous years. Her team, assigned to the south side of the Parkway across

the river from

Ancil Hoffman County Park, listed 64 species, an increase of 11.5 percent.

Hiehle said the purpose of the yearly event, held on the first Saturday of December, is to try to keep track of wildlife trends along the 4,600-acre parkway. For instance, Wild Turkeys that once lived in the foothills have worked their way as far downstream as Watt Avenue, and Fox Squirrels, originally introduced in Capitol Park, are now found above Nimbus Dam.

Pete Hayes

Events & Announcements

NEST MONITORS NEEDED

Citizen Science is in need of volunteers! The California Department of Parks and Recreation will be conducting a monitoring program of colonial nesting waterbirds during the 2006 nesting season. The purpose of the program is to estimate each species reproductive success, and investigate the effects of human disturbance on the colonies. Volunteers are needed to make this effort a success.

There are four colonies located within the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area that will be the subject of the monitoring program. The nesting species include Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Double-crested Cormorant. Volunteers will be asked to visit their assigned colony or colonies two days per month, with each visit lasting 1 to 2 hours. Volunteers may work alone or in pairs, so this is a great opportunity to team up with a friend and have a good time while performing a valuable service.

The breeding season lasts approximately from the first week of March until the last week of June. Volunteers will be asked to commit for this entire three month period. Persons, who wish to extend their commitment, will have the opportunity to monitor nests remaining active from the end of June to early August. An orientation meeting will take place at Lake Natoma the last weekend of January.

If you are interested in volunteering to assist in this very important program, please contact the monitoring program coordinator, Craig Swolgaard at (916) 653-6656.



Stephen D'Amato

BIRDING THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

Ed Harper will be offering his popular Montana tour this summer during the height of the region's birding activity. Two segments are offered, the first including Yellowstone NP (June 10-17) and the second including Glacier NP (June 18-25), or opt for the entire package since some very different areas will be covered. The Yellowstone portion will provide the best viewing of mammals with wolves being a good possibility, but the bigger bird list will be generated on the Glacier portion. Tour size is being kept small (7 or 8) so that it will offer more viewing and learning opportunities for the participants. For a full itinerary and price, contact Sandpiper Journeys via calidris@surewest.net or call Ed at 916-971-3311.

10TH ANNUAL SAN DIEGO BIRD FESTIVAL

The San Diego Festival will be held February 9 through 12, 2006 at the Marina Village Conference Center in Mission Bay.

The San Diego Audubon Society is sponsoring the 10th annual Festival. They have planned many field trips, classes, discussions and vendor product displays. Programs for children have been planned. The banquet keynote speaker will be Pete Dunne, author of many books and articles and active with New Jersey Audubon.

Further information and registration can be found at www.sandiegoaudubon.org/birdfest.htm

10th ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN MORRO BAY

You'll have to hurry for the 10th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 13-16, 2006. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

Further information and registration can be found at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org

SALTON SEA INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL

The dates for this festival are February 17-20, 2006. The featured speaker is Denny Olson. Denny encourages children and adults to think about how nature and people are connected with his alter-ego "Crittman." The festival offers four types of guided tours: Core Tours visiting the top birding destinations on the Salton Sea and in the Imperial Valley; Target Tours focusing on area specialties; Specialty Tours with specialty topics; and Sunset Tours to some of the spectacular roosting and evening flight areas of the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley.

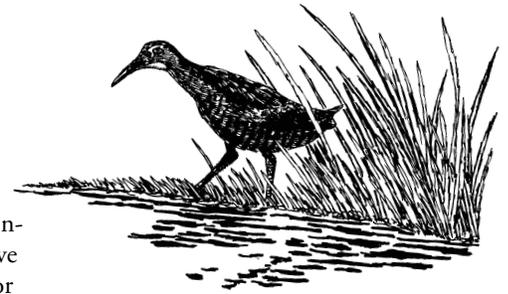
Further information and registration can be found at www.newriverwetlands.com/saltonsea.html

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, spskua@aol.com. for trips through February 5. Call the scheduler Richard Barbieri, 966-4603 for trips from February 11 on.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on non-local 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.



Stephen D'Amato

Sunday, January 1, 2006

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 no matter how inexperienced. It's a good way to learn. Call Chris and join the count.

Tuesday, January 3, 2006

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 3, 2006

Rio Cosumnes Count

Compiler: Andy Engilis

(530) 752-0364

E-mail aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu

Saturday, January 7, 7am

Post Christmas Count Coastal Birding Trip Leaders:

Mark Cudney, 987-2422,

mcudney@aol.com

Tim Fitzer, 961-5871

spskua@aol.com

This trip could be to Pt. Reyes, Bodega Bay or both. Mark and Tim will be looking for the rare and vagrant birds seen on various coastal Christmas Counts. Be ready for a faster paced trip for the more experienced birder. We will meet at the Park & 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 8, 7:30am

Bobelaine Sanctuary Walk

Leader: June Persson, 481-9916

Join June for a New Years Day stroll through the riparian woods. There are many birds and mammals and June 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.

Friday, January 13, 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.

Saturday

January 14, 8am

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Leaders:

Lisa Moraga, 455-4786

lmoraga03@yahoo.com

Brian Gilmore, 451-9146

b2gilmore71@comcast.net

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 offer 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 communication with each other, so bring them along. Scopes will be helpful. This is a fun trip you will not want to miss.

Sunday, January 15, 7:30am

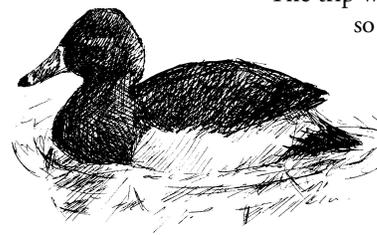
Salt Springs Valley

Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871

spskua@aol.com

This area is located in western Calaveras County about an 1-1/2 hour drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake are home to many wintering ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and grassland birds. This is a unique area you will not want to miss.

The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. We will meet at the Park & 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.



Kirsten Munson

Saturday, January 21, 8:30am

Lodi Sewer Ponds,

Eisenberg Preserve, Turner Road

Vintners, Peltier Rd & Staten Island.

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603

Join Richard for a trip to San Joaquin County for a day of great birding. 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. Meet at the Park & Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at Sheldon Road. Call for alternate meeting place. Bring 2-way radios if you have them.

Sunday, January 22, 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 2-way radios. We will meet at the West Capitol Ave. exit Park & Ride to carpool.

Saturday, January 28, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leaders:
Doug O'Bannion, 681-0257
herbs4life@comcast.net
John York, 371-2239
sunofyork@earthlink.net

Sacramento Refuge is home to thousands of wintering ducks and geese which attract Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles. There is a 3.7 mile auto 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 clothing. If you have 2-way radios they will come in handy. Meet at the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot, on your right as you exit on Road 102 in Woodland off I-5 north. The return trip will be on Road 16, looking for sparrows, longspurs, (Doug's specialty), raptors, eagles, owls and the Hungarian Kuvas Sheep dogs. This is a fun day which you will not want to miss.

Sunday, January 29, 8:30am
Nimbus Fish Hatchery & Payen Road
Leader: Jeff Mangum, 988-2802

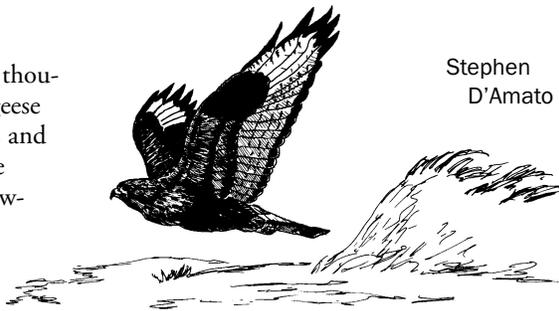
Meet Jeff at the Fish Hatchery parking lot for a morning of birding along the American River, looking for six species of gulls, Barrows and Common Goldeneye, mergansers and sandpipers. Jeff will point out the things to look for in gull identification. Afterwards, he will take you to Payen Road, a wintering area for many raptors. This trip will last till midmorning. Dress warmly and bring liquids, snacks and personal band radios.

Wednesday, February 1, 8am
Walk along the American River
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack on a 4-hour walk looking at native and non-native plant species, mammals, and birds. This walk is great for beginning and more experienced nature lovers. Dress warmly and bring a snack and liquid, if desired. Meet Jack at the end of Jacob Lane, off Fair Oaks Blvd.

Saturday, February 4, 8am
Gray Lodge State Wildlife Refuge & Western Sutter Buttes
Leader: Harlan Perryman
(530) 873-3039 or (916) 961-5871

Join Harlan for a full action day of birding at this waterfowl magnet. Thousands of geese and ducks winter at Gray Lodge, including Eurasian Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal and Ring-necked Ducks to name a few. There are often Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles. On the return trip, Harlan will take the west Sutter Butte route looking for raptors and wintering sparrows.



Stephen
D'Amato

Bring warm clothes, liquids & lunch, and 2-way radios for a full day of fun. Meet at the Elkhorn Blvd. Park & Ride off Hwy 99 north.

Sunday, February 5, 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 wintering species, and sometimes a rarity. This trip is perfect for beginning birders, is a fun morning walk, and sure beats watching TV. Meet Mary Beth at the gate to the cemetery at the intersection of 43rd Street and Folsom Blvd. Park on 43rd Street. This walk will last for about 3 hours.

Saturday, February 11, 8am
Yolo Wildlife Area
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603

Join Richard on this trip to a wonderful area just minutes from downtown Sacramento. This marshland offers up a variety of birds, from sparrows and

raptors to many ducks and several species of shorebirds. Given enough time Richard may drive over to the Davis Waste Water Treatment Plant for a view of what may be there. From Sacramento take I-80 across the Yolo Causeway and turn right onto the frontage road just past the causeway. Turn right at the stop sign and circle under the freeway; then make a left up onto the levee and meet Richard at the first parking lot inside the wildlife area. Bring a lunch, water, and wpersonal band radios if you have them.

Sunday, February 12, 8am
Grizzly Island/Suisun Marsh
State Wildlife Area
Leader: Joe Ferreira, 983-2120

Joe, a former resident biologist for many years on Grizzly Island, has extensive knowledge of this exceptional marsh land along with its history. The area is home to many ducks and shorebirds during the wintering months. There may even be a possibility of seeing River Otter and the majestic Tule Elk. Bring a lunch, liquids and warm clothing for a full day of adventure. 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 along personal band radios if you have them.

Thursday, February 16, 8am
Parkway Walk/Estates Drive
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This early morning walk along the American River Parkway will be in an area 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'll share with you his knowledge of plants, mammals, and of course birds in this area. Meet at the end of Estates Drive off of Fair Oaks Boulevard.

February 18 - 20, Weekend Trip
Eureka/Arcata area
Leaders:

Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Joe Ceriani
joeceriani@usmessage.net

Please mark your calendars and join Dan 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 Dan or Joe any time after January 15th, 2006, for further details.

THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT NINTH SEASON BEGINS FEBRUARY 17-20, 2006

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a joint project of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, a child, a scout troop, a class, or a co-worker - opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent.

During the count, bird watchers can tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and local parks, as well as from their own backyards. Participants enter their numbers online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc and can explore sightings maps, lists, and charts as the count progresses. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts.

For more information contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at cornellbirds@cornell.edu or (800) 843-2473.



Stephen D'Amato

Donations by Sacramento Audubon Society

NESTING SITE RESTORATION

High Island and other sanctuaries, managed by the Houston Audubon Society (HAS), were adversely impacted by Hurricane Rita, which left many downed and damaged trees and a lot of debris. Dan Tankersley, of Sacramento Audubon, found information on HAS's website about the clean up efforts and their plans to construct nesting platforms to replace nesting sites destroyed by the hurricane. He proposed that Sacramento Audubon make a donation to HAS to assist with the clean up and restoration effort. Subsequently, the Sacramento Audubon Board, unanimously passed a motion to donate \$5,000 for this effort. The donation was made, and we have received a letter of appreciation from HAS thanking us for our support. You can read about some of their projects at www.houston-audubon.org.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR YOUNG BIRDERS

Members of Sacramento Audubon, who attended this year's Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, were cheered by the number of young men and women who are actively involved in research, classes, field trips, Christmas Counts, and other birding activities. These young birders are middle school, high school, and college age, and some have been recipients of previous scholarships from the Central Valley Bird Club (CVBC). The scholarships send the recipients to various birding workshops and conferences. In support of this fantastic educational program, the Sacramento Audubon Society has again made a donation of \$1,000 to the CVBC Scholarship Fund. We will continue to support this program as well as develop and promote other educational opportunities for birders of all ages.

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.

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 31, 2006 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

CONSERVATION FUNDING BOND ON NOV. 2006 BALLOT

Audubon and other conservation groups have submitted bond language to the California Attorney General to qualify a \$5.4 billion conservation and water quality funding bond for the November 2006 ballot. The bond contains substantial funding for most of Audubon's conservation priorities, including \$47 million for Salton Sea restoration, \$108 million for San Francisco Bay, \$45 million for working landscapes, \$135 million for the Wildlife Conservation board, \$135 for the Coastal Conservancy, and much, much more. You can view the full breakdown of funding categories, as well as the actual bond language, by clicking on the links below. Audubon is also continuing to work on legislation, SB 153 (Chesbro - D, Arcata) which would provide legislative authorization for a second or substitute bond for the November 2006 ballot, depending on what the final terms are in SB 153. Either or both conservation funding bonds will require organizing public support to ensure their passage next November.

**THANK YOU JAN CLARK &
OUR NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIR LEA LANDRY**

Jan Clark has resigned as our Membership Chair after many years of dedicated service-not an easy task as Sacramento Audubon now has over 500 members, A huge "thank you" goes out to Jan for all her hard work on our behalf. Fortunately, Lea Landry, one of our new board members, has stepped forward to take over this Chair.

With this changing of the guard perhaps it's a good time to mention all the benefits of membership in the Sacramento Audubon Society.

There are of course our many field trips. We average over 130 trips per year for both beginning and advanced birders. The programs at our general meetings almost always include a slide or video presentation by a guest speaker on relevant conservation issues, trips taken to birding hot spots or other aspects of interest to birders and naturalists.

While the general public is warmly welcomed to both the field trips and our general meetings *The Observer* newsletter is sent only to members. It keeps members advised of future field trips, current local and regional events and meetings, and other chapter activities.

The membership fee is \$25, all of which goes to Sacramento Audubon Society.

In order to help update our membership list please look at your *Observer's* last page and note whether or not your address is complete and correct. If you wish to make changes, please send an e-mail to Lea at llandry@softcom.net. Note "SAS Membership" in the Subject.

There are also some households receiving more than one copy of *The Observer*. If you can get along with just one copy, please let Lea know at the above e-mail address. If you don't have e-mail, please call Lea at 916-638-1141. Please include your phone number in any phone messages, in case there are questions about your membership information.

Lea is going to start including the month your SAS membership expires on *The Observer* address so you can anticipate when membership renewal in the Sacramento Chapter will be required. Please send any membership related comments or suggestions to the above e-mail address.

**Sacramento Audubon Society
Membership Form**

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

E-mail _____

Is this a Gift Membership? _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Are you interested in volunteering? YES/NO _____

If yes, any particular areas of interest _____

Comments _____

Return this form and your check made out to
Sacramento Audubon Society to:

Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

SAS BOARD AND OFFICERS

President	Peter Watkins
Vice President	Dan Tankersly
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Correspondence Secretary	Dorothy Harvey
Recording Secretary	Lisa Seto
Membership	Lea Landry
Field Activities	Andi Salmi
Programs	Sally Riggs
Webmaster	Bill Clark
Editor	Sharon Wisecarver
Past President	Roy Greenaway
ECOS Representative	Keith Wagner
Directors	Maureen Geiger Lea Landry Sheila Deamer Tim Fitzer Jan Tankersly

Seasonal Observations

Continued from page 8

reported that day include two **Peregrine Falcons**, an adult **Bald Eagle**, and a calling **Mountain Quail**. Nearby, but easier to access, was an **American Dipper** at its traditional site near the Hwy 128 bridge.

Other interesting reports include a **Swamp Sparrow** at the Cache Creek Settling Basin on 11/4, a **Snowy Plover** from the Davis WTP on 11/11, and a **Pacific Golden-Plover** from the same location on 11/27. The report of a calling **Trumpeter Swan** flying over Sacramento with **Tundra Swans** on 11/13 is intriguing. Cosumnes River Preserve produced reports of calling **Least Bitterns** throughout the month, three separate **Wilson's Warblers** toward the end of the month, and an adult **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawk** on 11/1.

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

Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson, Peter Armstrong, John Bokenko, Dennis Braddy, Brent Campos, Daryl Coldren, Jim Dunn, Todd Easterla, Andrew Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Brian Gilmore, Steve Glover, Kevin Guse, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Karen Hochgraf, Jim Holmes, Waldo Holt, Marcel Holyoak, Joan Humphrey, Dave Johnson, Jon Katz, Alison Kent, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Robin Leong, Erica Lindgren, Mike Mammoser, Ron Melcer, Joseph Morlan, Mel Nadler, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Don Roberson, Mary Schiedt, Stefan Schlick, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, Craig Swolgaard, Dan Tankersley, John Trochet, Bruce Webb, Enas Wilson, and Sylvia Wright.

Chris Conard

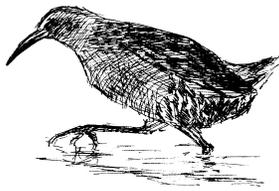
Seasonal Observations

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

This past November was marked by a high number of excellent rarity reports for the Sacramento Area. The **Sharp-tailed Sandpiper**, first found on 10/31, at the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) was seen by many. Two juvenile **Sharp-tailed Sandpipers** were reported on 11/1, and reports continued through 11/12. The additional observers lured to YWA by these birds produced late seasonal reports of a **Marbled Godwit** and a **Semipalmated Plover**, both on 11/3, and a **Wilson's Phalarope**, first found on 11/5 and continuing throughout the month. Rails were especially cooperative at this location, with **Virginia Rails**

and **Soras** in the open allowing extended study. Most intriguing was the report of a **Clapper Rail**

among the others on 11/29. This latter species has been found at Grizzly Island, but is unprecedented this far inland. Further efforts to confirm the bird's presence were unsuccessful.



Kirsten Munson

Hundreds of people gathered in Stockton for the Central Valley Birding Symposium, from 11/17 to 11/20, and participated in field trips to many Central Valley locations. Aside from the excellent programs, the highlight for many was a **Harlequin Duck** found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds on 11/20. The bird continues through press time, and subsequent molting appears to show it to be

an immature male. If it remains through the winter, it may look strikingly different than it did when first discovered.

The songbird report of the month was an **Ovenbird** photographed on 11/5 along Putah Creek to the east of Mace Blvd in Yolo County. It was not relocated until surely the same bird was found near the Mace

Blvd bridge on 12/15. It was seen by many through press time, mostly on the west, Solano County, side of the bridge. Another excellent find was a **Mountain Chickadee** at Slide Hill Park in Davis. Like the **Ovenbird**, this was only the second record for the county. It was seen through 11/27. A single **Western Tanager** was also reported from that location throughout the month.

Chestnut-backed Chickadees continued to be reported along Putah Creek from Davis to Winters.

The American River Parkway produced several excellent reports, including a **Red-naped Sapsucker** that was found at Goethe Park on 11/30 and was last reported on 12/6. This bird was photographed, and unlike so many that at first appear to be **Red-naped Sapsuckers**, showed no signs of being a hybrid Red-breasted X Red-naped Sapsucker. A **Black-and-White Warbler** was reported from Lower Sunrise on 11/9, and a late **Swainson's Hawk** was reported over Upper Sunrise on 11/22.

A **Green-tailed Towhee** was reported from the Putah Creek State Wildlife Area on 11/9. This site is in the hills south of Hwy 128 and west of Monticello Dam, in Solano County. Access to this area requires crossing Putah Creek in waders or by boat. Other birds

Observations continued on page 7

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

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #2310
Sacramento, CA

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

Correspondence: P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
(916) 638-1141
e-mail preferred: llandry@softcom.net

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle
Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 362-5942
e-mail preferred: chris.conard@comcast.net

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail: sawelma@cwnet.com

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

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