



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Sacramento Audubon programs will be taking a break for the months of July and August. You can look forward to our next exciting program in September. The speaker and subject will be announced in September's *Observer*. Our Program Chair Sally Riggs has more informative programs lined up for us for the rest of the year too! One of our favorite speakers, Jessica Griffith from Ventana Wildlife Society will speak in October. In November we will host Stanford student, Tom Bonebreak, speaking about the Checkerspot Butterfly. January 2008, will feature Don Yoder from the National Bluebird Society. Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on membership and meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE

The annual book sale at our May meeting raised \$285 for the American Birding Association's Birder's Exchange program, (www.americanbirding.org/bex), which provides equipment and funds to scientists, conservationists and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many thanks to John Gin for his efforts in running the book sale. Thank you for your participation and enjoy your books!

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip

September 29 and 30, 2007

It's time again to prepare for one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting field trips! This year's 2-day coastal and pelagic trip will take place on September 29 (boat) and September 30 (shore).

Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place to visit.

Saturday's boat excursion will highlight the trip. The boat can take 45 intrepid birders! Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic avifauna and marine mammals. Several species of shearwaters are usually seen, not to mention the possibility of close-ups of marine mammals. On Sunday, we will visit the key landbird and shoreline habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Space is limited to 45 participants. Your check for \$80 per person, made out to Sacramento Audubon, will reserve your spot. This trip fills up fast, so get your reservation form and check mailed early. Twenty dollars of this fee is a donation to Sacramento Audubon, and is therefore deductible.

Special notice to campers: A group campsite (\$4.00 per person, per night) is available for Friday night (September 28) and Saturday night (September 29) at Veterans Memorial Campground. Motels and hotels are available in the Monterey area, but make reservations early. Please fill out the reservation form included below.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

September 29 & 30, 2007 • Trip price: \$80 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email (for reservation confirmation) _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Please reserve _____ space(s) for Friday night, September 28 and _____ space(s) for Saturday night, September 29 at Veterans Memorial Park Campground. The cost is \$4.00 per night per person in group site. NOTE: You will pay the camping fee separately when you arrive. For bookkeeping reasons please do not include camping fees in your check for the trip.

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

Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct., Gold River, CA 95670

Field Trip Findings

Crystal Basin, El Dorado County (6/2)
 Leader Frank Gray reported: "Sixteen birders enjoyed a great day of birding and good weather at various sites, mostly off Ice House Road. Highlights included Mountain Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Band-tailed Pigeon, and Calliope Hummingbird. Also a Black-throated Sparrow was singing and finally popped into view. Most of the sites were within the 22,000 acres burned in the 1992 Cleveland fire, where many species were found that may not be present when the coniferous forest is reestablished."

Evening Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (6/4) — As usual, leader Jack Hiehle's group saw Beaver, four of them, along with two Muskrats. Best bird was a Black-chinned Hummingbird.

Sunrise Area, American River Parkway (6/3) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: Twelve birders had 45 species of birds on a great early June morning trip. Highlights were Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Green Heron and a female Wood Duck with two chicks.

Flaming Meadow (5/27) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported on this bird and flower walk: "Twenty-one birders showed up for this walk through the pine, oak and cedar forest at the Flaming Meadow trail complex off the Emigrant Trail. Colorful Western Tanagers were seen, and Ceanothus, Hartweg's Iris, Starflower, Thimbleberry, and Indian Pinks were among the flowers blooming. Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos were present, as were Nashville, Hermit, Black-throated Gray and Yellow-rumped Warblers. We had good looks at Band-tailed Pigeons at a stop en route, and there was a nesting Western Wood Pewee in the trailhead parking lot."

Dragonfly Trip (5/26) — Tim Manolis, author of 'Dragonflies and Damselflies of California' field guide, reported: "A nice group of seven folks joined me for a dragonfly walk along the American River Parkway near Rio Americano High School. A series of marshy backwater lagoons in this stretch of the ARP are currently harboring a diverse and abundant group of dragonflies. Highlights of the trip were the Exclamation Damselfly, a distinctive damselfly species endemic to California, Arroyo Bluet, a southwest species rather scarce and local this far

north (this stretch of the ARP is the only area in Sacramento County from which the species is known), and Pacific Clubtail. Lots of Common Whitetails, Widow Skimmers, Twelve-spotted Skimmers, and Black Saddlebags put on quite an aerial show over the lagoons. Flame Skimmers, Common Green Darners, Western Pondhawks, and Blue Dashers were among the other colorful species seen. 18 species of dragonflies and damselflies "

Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake (5/19) — Highlights included Clark's Grebe, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and Western Bluebirds, leader Tim Fitzer said.

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento (5/16) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "Wonderful Purple Martins were there, although fewer in number than in the past. Also, they seemed to have moved most of their nest sites into the weep holes on the underside of the freeway to the north side of the Railroad Museum rather than on the east side as in the past. The disturbance level on the east is much greater than that on the north, so it would make sense. We also had very close looks at White-throated Swifts as they flew by, low, to reach their nest sites."

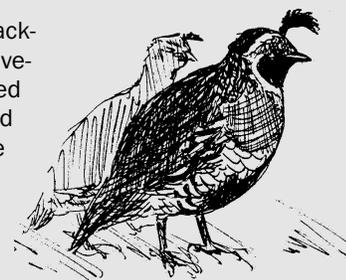
Paradise Beach (5/15) — This American River Parkway site yielded Black-chinned Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Double-crested Cormorant and California Quail, leader Jack Hiehle reported.

Pine Hill (5/12) — Phainopepla, Black-headed Grosbeak, Wild Turkey, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wrentit, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Bewick's Wren were reported by leader Jack Hiehle. His group also I.D.'d many of the rare plants found at this Bureau of Land Management preserve in El Dorado County. They included Pine Hill Flannelbush, Pine Hill Ceanothus, Red Hill Soaproot, Layne's Butterweed and Mule Ears.

South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport (5/6) — Leader Lisa Moraga reported: "We had clear skies and calm

winds. The rains earlier in the week helped to prolong the green of the foothills. Near Western Gateway Park in Penn Valley, we pulled onto a frontage road (Cattle Drive) to catch a glimpse of a Lewis's Woodpecker. There, we also viewed and heard chatty Bullock's Orioles and Western Kingbirds. A vocal Canyon Wren greeted us as we entered the State Park at Bridgeport. This loud fellow takes up residence in the park's large red barn. We had great views of the bird as it sang from an opening near the roof. Behind the Visitor's Center, we heard and saw a Yellow-breasted Chat. A brightly-colored Yellow Warbler sang nearby. Band-tailed Pigeons made continual flyovers. We headed north of the river to the Cranston property, much of which is now State-owned and publicly accessible. There, we followed Phainopeplas as they darted in and out of mistletoe-laden oaks. Wrentit and Lesser Goldfinch were calling all the while. Back at the crest of the Point Defiance trail, many Chipping Sparrows were singing. Total species: 48."

Mines Road/Del Puerto Canyon (5/5)
 Leader Gary Fregien reported: "On a windy but otherwise pleasant Saturday, the day started well with a Western Tanager, a Warbling Vireo, a chocolate-breasted Red-tailed Hawk and several Eurasian Collared-Dove at Murietta's Well. Though the number of water-associated birds was down from previous years at Lake Del Valle, we did manage Spotted Sandpiper, both Western and Clark's Grebe, Forster's Tern, and Wood Duck. We also had White-throated Swift, Northern



Kirsten Munson

Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows, and a Cooper's Hawk here. The usual stops along Mines Road produced

Violet-green Swallow, California Thrasher, Phainopepla, Western Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Nashville, Yellow,

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Field Trips



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Dan Brown for trips through July 29th, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com. For trips from July 30th through September 2nd call the scheduler Chris Conard, 362-5492, conardc@gmail.com. Mark Cudney is the scheduler for trips from September 3rd through the 18th, 987-2422.

Consider car pooling and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Sunday, July 1, 8am

Goethe Park

Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Many birds will still be active and singing this time of year. We'll look for the resident wrens, towhees, flycatchers and hummingbirds. This trip will end before lunch time, and is a good trip for beginners. Meet in the first parking lot on your right past the kiosk. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee.

Tuesday Evening, July 3

Evening Beaver Walk

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for a good look at these interesting mammals. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. In addition to the beavers, Jack will point out local birds such as herons, egrets and grebes, as well as some of the local plants. Please call Jack for the meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 7

Wright's Lake

Leaders: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on plants and Phyllis will try to locate some of the hard to find bird species. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on snow levels, so please call Jack or Phyllis in advance for further details, (meeting time, place, and possible date change.)

Sunday, July 8

Farallons Pelagic Trip

The deadline for registration for this trip was June 30. Call Ken Hashagen at

(916) 635-4435 for any last minute availability. Trip details can be found in the May-June *Observer*.

Saturday, July 14

Mt. Judah and Roller Pass

Sierran Wildflowers and Birds

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack and members of the California Native Plant Society on this hike in the Donner Summit area. He will point out the flora and fauna of the area, with plants as his specialty. This is a fairly strenuous hike at high elevation, approximately five miles, with a 1000 foot plus elevation gain, and possibly crossing some areas of ice and snow. Snow depth may cause trip to be rescheduled, so call Jack the week before to confirm the date, meeting time and place. Bring lunch, water, and clothes appropriate for changeable weather.

Saturday, July 14

River Walk Bird Count

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd, south of Twin Cities Road, for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group trip is a good way to find out what's happening at the preserve. This walk covers about four miles, and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. You must check the recorded information a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, July 15, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for a look at some of the birds that live along this section of the American River Parkway. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

Sunday, July 15

Habitat Improvement Work Day

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

Wednesday, July 18

Evening Beaver Walk

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Don't forget to bring your binoculars on this evening trip to look at beavers. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. In addition to the beavers, you will enjoy observing the birds and plants, and perhaps other mammals. Please call Jack to find the meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 21, 6:30am

Loney Meadow

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409
shoppe@earthlink.net

Come join Scott for this late July trip. Loney Meadow is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6,000 ft elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there, (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. Meet Scott at the Park & Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis at 6:30am. The meadow is about an hour's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack; don't forget hat and sunscreen.

Saturday, July 21, Sunrise!

**Tall Forest Bird Count,
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information: 684-2816**

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

Sunday, July 22, 8am

**Mather Field Park
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**

Mather Lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Wayne knows this area well. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. There is a parking fee.

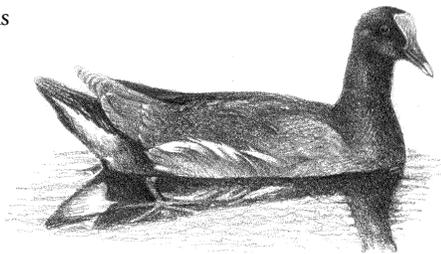
Saturday, July 28

**Carson Pass
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve habitat in this high foot traffic area, so call Jack early to reserve your space. At peak wildflower time there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety but some flowers are blooming all summer and there are always spectacular views of Sierra lakes. Usual birds include Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird and Green-tailed Towhee. Occasionally Gray-crowned Rosy Finch or Blue Grouse are found. Call Jack for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and liquids; wear sturdy shoes for the five mile hike; wear layered clothing for changeable Sierra weather.

**Sunday, July 29, 7am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for a day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, waterfowl, songbirds and raptors to see, in addition to possible shorebirds returning from their breeding grounds. Meet Dan at the Park & Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capital Ave. exit; turn left at the stoplight and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. This Park & Ride is on the north side of the freeway, NOT THE SOUTH SIDE LOT. We will LEAVE at 7am SHARP! Bring food (an option for lunch will be the Tides snack bar), water and warm clothes.



Daniel Kilby

**Tuesday, July 31
Evening Beaver Walk
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Here's another opportunity to join Jack and observe the beaver activity on the parkway. Birds active in the evening, and sometimes other mammals, may also be seen. Call Jack for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 4, 6:30am Sharp!
Granite Lake—Carson Pass, Hwy 88
Leader: Lisa Moraga, 455-4786
(cell: 671-4642)
lmoraga562@earthlink.net**

Escape the valley heat for pleasant alpine lake scenery. The loop trail to Granite Lake is 2 miles and rated "easy." However, the terrain is uneven, so wear sturdy shoes. The starting point elevation is 7,300 ft and the high point is 7,720 ft. We'll look for resident and specialty birds that include Williamson's Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cassin's Finch. Bring water, lunch, and a swimsuit if you dare to take a chilly plunge! We will meet at the North end of the Raley's parking lot off El Dorado Hills Blvd to the north of Hwy 50.

**Sunday, August 5, 7am
Sailor Bar
Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark for an early morning walk while it's still moderately cool, and find what birds stay with us through the hot summer. This walk will end by 11am, or possibly earlier depending on the heat. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. Meet Mark at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road.

**Tuesday, August 7
Beaver Walk in the Evening
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Beavers are most active in the evening and early morning, so Jack schedules these evening walks for the best viewing opportunities. If you haven't had the experience of watching a beaver swimming through the water, watching you while you watch him, and possibly even climbing out on the bank, you will have a great time on this trip. Call Jack for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 11, Before Sunrise
River Walk Trail,
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Schick
(Info: 684-2816 ext. 5)**

The River Walk Trail (formerly Willow Slough) offers a wide variety of habitat types with excellent opportunities for finding birds. You can join John on his monthly census of the trail, where many rarities have been found. This is an excellent time of year for migrant songbirds. Call the number listed above for the exact time and location. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 miles of easy to moderate walking.

**Sunday, August 12, 7am
Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley
Leader: Steve Abbott, 616-8671
steve@papasula.com**

August is a great time to view shorebirds in the Sacramento Valley on migration from their Arctic breeding grounds. Since ideal conditions change depending on water levels, we will visit areas with the best shorebird habitat. This may be in Yolo, Placer, or Sacramento County--or all three. This is a good chance to brush up on the common species and possibly find something unexpected. If you have a spotting scope, bring it, along with water and a snack. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West

Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left.

**Saturday, August 18, Before Sunrise
Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet
(Info: 684-2816 ext. 5)**

The Tall Forest is perhaps the best remaining example of riparian forest in the Central Valley. John has found excellent rarities, in addition to large numbers of migrants and resident species. This is an excellent time of year to see migrant songbirds. John's tours are the only regular public access to the Tall Forest. Call the number listed above for the exact time and location. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 3-4 miles of moderate hiking.

**Sunday, August 19, 7am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942
conardc@gmail.com**

Enjoy a full day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, raptors, and migrating songbirds. Bring lunch, water, and warm clothes. Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. exit. Turn left, and the Park & Ride will be on your immediate left.

**Sunday, August 19
Habitat Improvement Work Day
Leader: Jack Hiehle
967-0777**

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway, or get rid of invasive non-native plants. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time and place.

**Wednesday, August 22, evening
Beaver Walk on the American River
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Beavers are most active in the early evening, so join Jack to enjoy them. In addition, Jack may find herons, egrets, Black Phoebes, and other parkway inhabitants. Trip size is limited to optimize viewing. Call Jack for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 25, 7am – 11am
SRCSB Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942
conardc@gmail.com**

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands are 2,650 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove. They are not typically open to the public. Habitat types include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time of year to look for migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 2 miles of easy walking. From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the Meadowview/Pocket Rd exit (the first exit north of Laguna Blvd, and the first exit south of Florin Rd). Head east on Meadowview, then turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd. In one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stonecrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate.

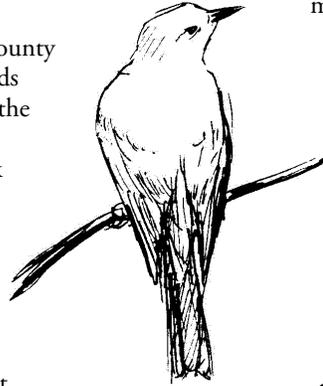
**Sunday, August 26, 7am
Bobelaine Sanctuary
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146**

Join Brian on this early morning hike through the riparian habitat of Bobelaine Sanctuary. Be prepared for a walk of two to three miles. Expect resident species along with a good chance for an influx of fall migrants. Bring water and snacks. Take I-5 north to Hwy 99 toward Yuba City. Two miles after Hwy 99 crosses the Feather River, turn right on Laurel Ave. Follow it to the end and meet at the parking area.

**Sunday, August 26, 5pm
Yolo Wildlife Area, evening
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Join Maureen and Cathie for an evening drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year; shorebird numbers will depend

on the amount of water available. In some years there are good numbers of White-faced Ibis and foraging owls may make an appearance in the late evening. To reach the Wildlife Area from Hwy 80, take Exit 78 at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. At the stop sign, turn right, pass under the freeway, then turn left onto the gravel road which tops the levee and drops down into the Wildlife Area. Meet at the first large parking lot.



Kirsten Munson

**Saturday, September 1
6:30am
Point Reyes**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942
conardc@gmail.com**

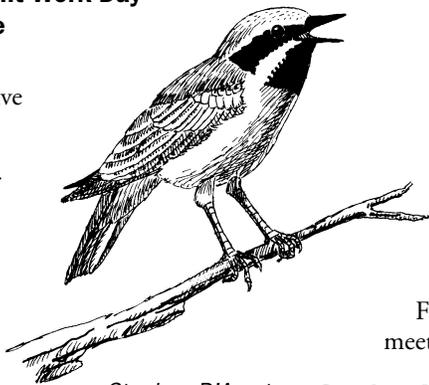
This is a great time of year for migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Rarities are always possible. Be prepared for a full day with moderate hiking and changeable weather. Bring water, a lunch, and warm clothes. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left.

**Sunday, September 2, 7am – 11am
Upper Sunrise,
American River Parkway
Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a pulse of migrants. From Hwy 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd., turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd., and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Wednesday, September 5
Beavers on the Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Cool off on a hot evening with a walk on the parkway with Jack, to view beavers busy at their work. Jack will also be looking at the birds active on the parkway. Trip is limited to 8 persons, so call Jack for meeting time and place.



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trips continued from page 5

**Saturday, September 8, early morning
River Walk Trail,
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information, 684-2816**

The River Walk Trail offers a wide variety of habitat, including woods, sloughs and open fields, so many different species of birds are possible. John Schick usually leads this monthly bird census, and at this time of year, late summer and early winter birds are both present, along with migrants passing through. Call the preserve number listed above for the exact time and meeting location. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 miles of easy to moderate walking.

**Sunday, September 9, 7am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie Lazier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on the right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk in the oak woodlands down to the river in the cool of the morning, looking for local birds as well as migrating species such as warblers and swallows. We'll look for blooming vinegar weed as well. This walk should end by 11am. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee; if you want to carpool in, meet Cathie at 6:50am behind the pizza place at the intersection of Folsom Blvd. and Rod Beaudry Drive.

**Saturday, September 15
Extremely Early
Tall Forest,
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information: 684-2816**

Meet at the Farm Center Gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME, to join this monthly bird count. Usually led by John Trochet, this foray into an area usually closed to the public is a great opportunity to bird the area with a very experienced birder, who will find any rarities present. Check the recorded information a day or so before the trip to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive early, as this trip always leaves the parking area promptly.

**Sunday, September 16
Habitat Improvement on the Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Restoration of native vegetation and elimination of non-native invasives improves the

habitat along the parkway, and Jack will tell you this morning's tasks, as well as the meeting time and place, when you phone him.

**Sunday, September 16, 5pm
Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, evening trip
Leaders: Mark Martucci, 722-6098
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com
Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

Join Mark and Cathie to check out what's on the ponds; there should be several species of wading birds as it's a great time of year for shorebirds. White-faced Ibis will be coming in overhead to roost and Marsh Wrens chattering in the tules add to the experience. Back at the main parking lot, if we wait till sunset we can watch the bats coming out from under the freeway for their nightly foraging.

**Tuesday, September 18
Evening Beaver Walk
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

This will be one of your last opportunities this year to view the beaver with Jack on this evening walk. The seasons are changing and you don't want to miss the opportunity to go on one of these trips. Give Jack a call for the meeting time and place.



Kirsten Munson

IN MEMORIAM

**SAS CHAPTER FOUNDER
WILLIE ARGANTE EIZINGER**

Willie Argante Eizinger, a Sacramento Audubon charter member and tireless environmental advocate, died April 5 in a Grass Valley nursing home at the age of 101.

"Willie's enthusiasm and commitment to promoting environmental causes were contagious," said Jo Smith, a longtime friend and an American River Natural History Association founder. "After just a few minutes in her presence you would be involved in community activities from bird counts to classes in natural history, but this infection she spread always came with kindness, good cheer and great optimism."

Willie Argante was one of 28 local nature enthusiasts who met on Sept. 23, 1950 to organize the Sacramento Audubon Society. Bruce Swinehart, also an SAS charter member and retired American River College natural history teacher, called her "one of the mainstays," along with her husband, the late Sam Argante, of the chapter's early years. They played key roles in the establishment of a National Audubon western regional office, headquartered off Fulton Avenue near Fair Oaks Boulevard in Sacramento, and successfully campaigned to bring the National Audubon convention to Sacramento in 1966.

She also was a Girl Scout leader, and helped organize the Sacramento Junior Museum, now called the Discovery Museum, Science and Space Center.

With the passing of her husband, Willie married fellow Auduboner Ben Eizinger and they lived for many years in Willits, Mendocino County. He died in 1990. Survivors include a daughter, Jonda Friel, of Tahoe City, and a son, Tod Argante, of Ft. Bragg, and two grandchildren. Jonda said remembrances may be sent to the Sacramento Audubon Society. Her daughter Jonda may be contacted at P.O. 1705, Tahoe City, CA 96145.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Bill Bianco, Gary Fregien, Sara Gillespie, Karen Griffin, Julie Haas, Peter Hayes, Alexander Kilner, Mary Lu Kost, Lucile Kramer, Jerome Morris, Laura Peterson, Valerie Phillips, Victoria Stoffers, and Peter Watkins, to **Bobelaine**.

Barbara Morse and Jorge & Catherine Usi, to the **General Fund**.

Deborah Ablin, Bill and Doris Baxter, Carolyn and Lawrence Broeren, Dan Brown and Kathy Moore, Suzanne Covington, Marilyn Evans, Gary Fregien, Julie Haas, Mark Noel, Victoria Stoffers, and Patricia Sutch, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

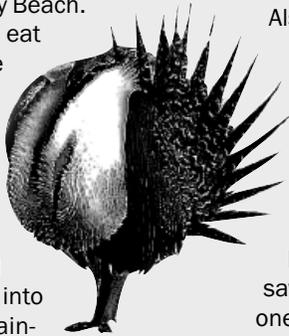
Findings continued from page 2

and Wilson's Warblers, and Common Yellowthroat. We also had the expected Lawrence's Goldfinch as well as Lesser Goldfinch. The San Antonio Road extension was reliable for Lewis's Woodpecker. We also picked up a flock of about 300 Tricolored Blackbirds, four Canada Geese and a Green Heron. Del Puerto Canyon produced several singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, Rock Wren, Greater Yellowlegs, and a Barn Owl. We tallied 81 species again this year, the same as last year's trip total."

Mono Lake (5/1-3) — Lea Landry, co-leader with Dan Tankersley, reported, "Weather was not the best part of the annual Sacramento Audubon trek to Mono Lake and environs. Tuesday and Wednesday brought overcast skies, high winds, and SNOW! At least the winds kept the No-See-'Ems away. Folks arrived in twos and fours until we had a total of 13. Forays to the Lee Vining Creek and June Lakes areas resulted in good views of Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaires, Western Tanagers and Pygmy, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches. The afternoon hike from the Visitor's Center to Lee Vining produced reduced numbers of birds because of the high winds. The anticipated Tree and Violet-green swallows were few in numbers, as were all other species—a Black-headed Grosbeak being the most colorful. We saw the Osprey nesting on the Tufa towers in Mono Lake at Navy Beach.

Just what do Osprey eat there, as the lake has no fish?! The usual evening trip to the local park and boardwalk was cancelled as I'm sure any windowing Snipe would have been blown into the nearby mountain-side to its demise.

"Up at 0330 for a scheduled 0415 departure to the Greater Sage-grouse lek revealed 13 sleepy, but warmly dressed, stalwarts. The temperature at 0415 was 17 degrees Fahrenheit under clear skies! Br-r-r-r. I had scouted the area Tuesday, including a very educational visit with a graduate student who is putting radio collars on Greater Sage Grouse hens to track them for study of their nesting habits. She had also left a reflective cone



at the side-road, so we wouldn't miss the turn-off to the lek parking areas. All arrived at the site safely with caution to minimize their "wandering" as some of the hens are nesting in the vegetation surrounding the lek. We set up our scopes and made feeble attempts to stay warm behind a handy "blind" of rocks, approximately 100 yards from the lek. We were well rewarded by the wonderful views and sounds of approximately 35 strutting and hooting male grouse, hopping to impress each other and about 20 mostly bored hens. As the full moon set and the sun rose, our viewing pleasure was enhanced by four Pronghorns grazing on the ridge above the lek.

"The trip ended with a warm and welcome cup of coffee or cocoa and hearty breakfast in Bridgeport. Most of the group drove home, but half of us drove on to Bridgeport Lake to view Common Loons, Redheads, more of the Yellow-nearly-orange-headed Blackbirds, and various other ducks, grebes and gulls—and (alas) a Great-tailed Grackle."

Phoenix Field (5/2) — Even though the rain fell steadily and the one woman who showed up was the only participant, leader Jack Hiehle went ahead with the walk. They recorded Wild Turkey, Mallards, European Starlings and American Crows. Also, Phoenix Field's usually colorful vernal pools were almost bare because of lack of seasonal rains. Jack conceded that "it was not really a good trip; But if anyone makes the effort and shows up, we'll go"

Sweetwater Creek (4/29) — "A really, really great trip," leader Richard Barbieri enthused. "Our group of 25 saw and heard five or six Chats, including one on a branch that threw back its head singing like crazy. Everybody got to see it. Also Lazuli Bunting, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Western Tanager, Wrentit, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Wilson's, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Black-throated Gray, and Hermit warblers."

Capay and Bear Valleys (April 22) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Jerry Marinovich, reported that on a sunny-overcast day, the group recorded Lawrence's Goldfinches, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Virginia



Daniel Kilby

Rail (calling), Golden Eagle (soaring), Whimbrels (migrating), Merlin, Bullock's Orioles, Wilson's Warbler and about 15 to 20 species of wild flowers in bloom. Plus, a "first" for Field Trip Findings, a big bobcat that crossed the road in front of the group. "Nice day," said Tim, "and a guest from Massachusetts got 40-plus lifers for two weekend field trips."

Bodega Bay (4/21) — Leader Dan Brown reported, "Despite the rain, our trip was a good one. Nine of us saw 70 species before cutting the trip short due to the rain. Highlights started at the rest area on Interstate 80 near the Hwy 37 interchange with three male and one female Bullock's Orioles (she was observed building a nest). Also seen at this brief stop was a male Anna's Hummingbird harassing a Bushtit!

"On to Bodega Bay. We saw about 3,000 Brant on the bay along with many Common Loons, and Eared and Horned Grebes in high breeding plumage. We also saw 2 Pigeon Guillemots in breeding plumage and three Snowy Plovers. The No. 2 bird of the day was a breeding plumaged Red-necked Grebe. But the best bird of the trip was a breeding plumaged (again) Franklin's Gull! This bird (seen at The Tides restaurant) was in perfect condition and even showed a light pink wash on its breast and belly. I am told that this pink wash is only present during spring migration for a short period and disappears during nesting."

William Pond Park (4/17) — Jack Hiehle has led trips to this American River Parkway site many times but the 54 species identified this time was the highest total ever. Jack attributed the high count to the fact several expert birders were present. They recorded a flock of White-fronted Geese that flew over, Osprey, California Quail, Cooper's Hawk and Wood Duck, among others.

Spenceville Wildliufe Area (4/15) — Windy, cold weather kept birds under cover, leader Richard Barbieri reported. But en route to Spenceville the group spotted Rough-winged Swallows, Vaux's Swift, Western Bluebirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, a pair of Rufous-crowned Sparrows and Long-billed Curlews.

Pete Hayes

New Pelagic Trip for SAS!

Saturday, October 13, 2007

This fall, Sacramento Audubon will be offering two pelagic trips out of Monterey: the usual 2-day Monterey trip September 29 and 30 (see announcement and sign-up form on the front page of this month's Observer) and a new 1-day, 12-hour trip offshore. This new trip is being offered for those SAS members and friends that have been on the 2-day trip, primarily in Monterey Bay, and want to go further offshore to look for pelagic species that would not commonly be found in the Bay or close to shore.

This trip will be limited to 20 individuals; your check reserves your spot. Cost will be \$120 per person, which includes a \$20 donation to Sacramento Audubon. The date is October 13, 2007.

The boat departs Monterey at 6am and returns about 6pm. Detailed instructions and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the registration form provided above. Contact Ken Hashagen (916) 316-8596-cell, or (916) 635-4435-home, for further information.

12 Hour Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

October 13, 2007 • Trip price: \$120 per person
Tour departs from Fisherman's Wharf Monterey, CA

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email (for reservation confirmation) _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Registration deadline is October 5, 2007

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct., Gold River, CA 95670

TEXAS ADVENTURES

On our April 2007 trip, Sacramento Audubon member, Valerie Phillips, mapped out an excellent itinerary for the 10 Sac Audubon members to see the Middle & Lower Texas Coast (up to Aransas NWR), the Edwards Plateau, then the Lower Rio Grande Valley from Laredo on down. The accommodations ranged from rustic to very nice. The food was tasty, plentiful and inexpensive—authentic Mexican to Red Lobster. And the gas was ONLY \$2.69/gal. The weather was not our friend (as human beings who were prepared for warm, dry weather), but probably provided us with birds we wouldn't have seen without a storm fall-out. It was wet, cold and foggy on the coast; hot and windy in the hill country and along the Rio Grande (birds hanging onto limbs for dear life—flying and walking sideways and backward to reach their destinations, which were probably changed as their intended landing sites seemed to grow farther away, rather than closer).

Along our nearly 2,000 miles, we had frequent sightings of Crested Caracaras in the air, on fences, on power poles, and sitting on the ground. Our first sighting of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers was a flock of about 14, arrayed in a bare shrub like ornaments on a Christmas tree. We also encountered 2 Sheriff's Deputies who were just making sure we were safe (American citizens and not Coyotes). The first was from the SF Bay area, the second from Manteca. The sur-

face streets and roads in TX were a mite rough, the road signs leave a lot to be desired, and our maps weren't faithful representations of the road features, but we made it. Thank God for cell phones and FRS radios!

We saw up-close-and-personal the ravages of the bull-dozers executing (and I do mean "executing") the Federal Government's plan to put up "illegal"-proof fences for 10-miles on either side of all bridges over the Rio Grande—and perhaps along its entire length. They have just trashed habitat critical to migrating and resident birds as the fence appears to include clearing about 40 yards on the U.S. side of the fence. This plan will surely destroy river access for wild and domestic mammals, as well as tourists and landowners. What a tragedy. I must confess that when I first heard of the concept, I thought it was so far out and expensive, it would never come to fruition. While we were in TX, a planning conference was being held in Roma (home of Red-billed Pigeons, among other rarities).

As for the birds, I had such wonderful looks at old friends. The Roseate Spoonbills had been a pink blush on the horizon, through



a scope, at Laguna Atascosa on a previous visit. This trip showed them within 30 yards—how beautiful! A Dickcissel was only 10 yards away at Estuario Llano—one of the World Birding Center facilities—where we saw huge turtles, a huge snake, and a huge alligator—OK, OK, they're not birds. I saw Nutria (which are busily eating the roots and killing trees at Paradise Pond), deer, pronghorn, javalina, emu (trophy hunting ranches are a big deal in the hill country), and a Bobcat pouncing on ground nesting birds (score: Bobcat 0; birds 3). . . And MILLIONS (10-12 M) of Mexican Free-tailed Bats—some were snatched out of the air by Swainson's Hawks and Merlins as the smoke plume of bats took about 30 minutes to exit the cave and wend their way to the agricultural fields to perform their Community Service.

We easily saw over 200 different species of birds in 12 days. Among the rarer birds members of our group saw were Fulvous Whistling Duck, Purple Gallinule, Whooping Cranes, Red-billed Pigeons, Black-capped Vireo, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Brown Jay, Tamaulipas Crow, Chihuahuan Raven, White-collared Seedeater, Painted Bunting, Seaside Sparrow, Rufous Ground Dove and a Masked Duck.

All-in-all, a great trip.

Lea Landry

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE
DOING MORE GREAT WORK!**

Our Outreach booth reached many people this season, beginning in April with a display at the Community Environment Improvement Fair at Pershing Elementary School in North Highlands. We participated in Earth Day at Cosumnes River College and at California State University, Sacramento. Finally we were at the City Zoo for International Migratory Bird Day. Many thanks to Sheila Deaner, Cheryl Johnson, Lea Landry, Marlene Ishihara, Kathy Moore, Peggy Garick, Gail Janke, and Julie Serences.

On Saturday, July 28th, we'll be at McClatchy Park for the Sacramento Tree Foundation, and on Saturday, August 5th, we'll be at the Fair Oaks Harvest Fair at the Horticultural Center in Fair Oaks Park. Come visit us there, or even better, call Cathie LaZier at 457-6882, (empid@earthlink.net), and offer to work a shift at the booth!

**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.

**Sacramento Audubon
Chapter Board Meetings**

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There is no Board Meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 28, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

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



Observations continued from page 10

at Goethe Park and a **Bonaparte's Gull** at Upper Sunrise on 4/24 (continuing from 4/18).

Other notable reports include a pair of **Osprey** found at a large nest on a high voltage transmission tower south of Meiss Rd on 4/24 and continuing through the end of May, a **Northern Goshawk** along Rayhouse Rd on 4/26, a late **Merlin** at CRP on 4/22, a **Calliope Hummingbird** at the CRP Visitor Center on 4/22 in addition to several reports from Davis and Winters, and a **Rock Wren** pair found at a nest in the gravel tailings at Upper Sunrise on 5/25 and 5/31. Uncommon species such as **Olive-sided, Hammond's, Gray, and Dusky Flycatchers** were reported more frequently than usual (Ten **Hammond's Flycatchers** from Rayhouse Rd on 4/15 was especially impressive). **Chipping Sparrows** were also widely reported, including a 4/18 report of 12-14 at Sailor Bar. A very late **Fox Sparrow** was reported at the Stone Lakes NWR HQ through 5/19, though it may have stayed so late because it was unable to fly well. A **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was very late, 5/23, at the Bufferlands. **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were widely reported, including one on 4/7 at Bushy Lake along ARP, near Cal Expo.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. Thanks to all for their reports.

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

April and May are synonymous with spring migration. April is a period of incredible diversity, with lingering waterfowl, migrating shorebirds and songbirds, local residents breeding, and a few lingering winter residents. By mid-May, the shorebird migration is pretty much over and all but the breeding waterfowl are gone, though songbirds are still coming through. This year, the full force of spring songbird migration was slow to build, and it wasn't until the first part of May that good numbers of flycatchers, warblers, and other songbird migrants were regularly recorded.

Despite some impressive numbers of common western migrants, there were relatively few real surprises. Highlights included a male **Indigo Bunting** on 4/17 along Pleasants Valley Rd near Lake Solano, and a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** from the Yolo Grasslands on 5/21. A **Summer Tanager** returned for a second year to private property near Colfax on 5/14 through at least 5/19. A **Black-chinned Sparrow** was found singing on the Blue Ridge in Solano County on 5/12 through at least 5/14, and, on 4/28, a **Black-throated Sparrow** was found at Spenceville Wildlife Area. The sighting of four **Black Swifts** was a nice surprise over the Fremont Weir on 5/14.

A **Common Nighthawk** was reported on 5/31 along Meiss Rd, about three miles

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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.

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

from Dillard Rd in eastern Sacramento County. This is the third year in a row that this species has been present there along with the expected **Lesser Nighthawks**.

Grasshopper Sparrows were regularly reported along Meiss Rd as well, but more unexpected was a **Brewer's Sparrow** on 4/29, with three to four reported on 5/4. Single **Brewer's Sparrows** were reported from the Valensin portion of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/29, and to the south of Dixon on 5/7. Rounding out the more unexpected songbirds was a **Sage Thrasher** on 4/25 at the Sacramento Reg. County Sanitation Dist. Bufferlands.

Among the hundreds of **Least Sandpipers** and thousands of **Western Sandpipers** and **Long-billed Dowitchers**, there were a few less common species. On 4/29, a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found in the Natomas East Main Drain, a **Willet** was found at the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) on 4/11, two **Marbled Godwits** were at YWA on 4/1 and 4/2, and, on 4/29, there were two **Sanderlings** in breeding plumage at CRP. Two gulls stayed late into the season along the American River Parkway (ARP): a first-cycle **Glaucous-winged Gull** on 4/1

Observations continued on page 9