



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## *New Location for our General Meeting*

### **Meeting Place Changes to Effie Yeaw Nature Center**

A reminder that beginning in September our general meetings (3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm) will move to the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Ancil Hoffman Park. If you have a Sacramento County Parks Pass or an ARNHA membership card remember to display it when you park. If you do not, an Audubon member will be in the parking lot with temporary permits for your dashboard.

Directions to the new monthly meeting location at Effie Yeaw Nature Center (EYNC) in Carmichael, near Sacramento. Unless you are extremely familiar with the location of the EYNC please follow these directions:

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

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

You will be given a free parking pass for your car in the lot if you have not purchased an annual Regional Parks Pass. The meetings are free and open to the public. Passes are available at the Dept of Regional Parks 4040 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento or on-line at [WWW.arpf.org](http://WWW.arpf.org)

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

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*

## *Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip*

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1-2, 2011**

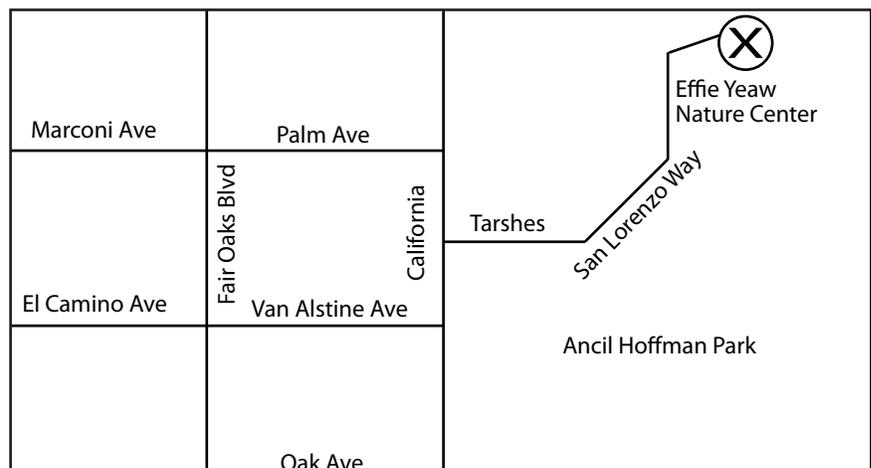
Mark Cudney will lead this year's shore and pelagic birding weekend, one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting birding trips.

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 for birding. Saturday's boat excursion will highlight the trip. Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Several species of shearwaters are usually seen, not to mention the possibility of close-ups of a variety of marine mammals. On Sunday we will visit the key land and shoreline habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Boat space is limited to 30 participants. The price this year is \$75 per person, if we fill the boat (25 people minimum). You do not need to be a member of Sacramento Audubon to participate.

Cancellation policy: In order to receive a refund you must cancel 2 weeks before the trip.

Contact Mark Cudney, email: [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com), phone: (916) 987-2422 with any questions, then clip the coupon found



## Field Trip Findings

**River Bend Park** (6/12)—Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Twelve enthusiastic birders, ranging from beginners to more experienced, joined me for a morning walk. We totaled 34 species, including Caspian Terns spotted by Sheila Junge. Grant Boice spotted a Common Merganser with 20+ babies on the river and a White-tailed Kite nest high in a conifer. Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillars were abundant and Joanne Vinton pointed out one that had attached itself to a branch in order to pupate. Elegant Clarkia, Tree Tobacco and Elderberry were among the flowering plants.”

**Bushy Lake / Cal Expo Floodplain** (6/11)—Leader Dan Brown reported: “(6 participants, 45 species). Highlights were Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, many Western Kingbirds and new for me in the area, Caspian Tern and Wild Turkey. We also found a yellow variant Male House Finch.”

**Point Reyes** (6/5)—Leader Dan Williams reported: “The small band of us that braved the Sacramento showers were rewarded with sunshine and an incredible diversity of birds on the coast. First we stopped at Giocomini Wetlands in Point Reyes Station where we were treated to a stunningly bright male Purple Finch, a gorgeous and somewhat surprising female Wilson’s Phalarope, and the grand prize; the previously reported Eastern Phoebe which sang for us atop a big white barn.

Next we birded the Earthquake Trail in Bear Valley where we enjoyed the songs of many hidden Swainson’s Thrushes, as well as good views of Wilson’s Warblers, Western Wood-Pewees, a singing Brown Creeper, and eventually after much patience a singing Pacific Wren (formerly Winter Wren—Ed.). A male Purple Martin over the valley was a nice surprise.

After arriving at Chimney Rock Trailhead for lunch, a good Samaritan birder passing through asked us if we had seen the eider. We promptly got back in the car and raced up to the Lighthouse where it didn’t take us long to find a female King Eider bobbing in the waves near shore with a group of Surf Scoters. Outstanding!

We finished the afternoon at Chimney Rock taking in the view (so clear we could see the top of the Golden Gate Bridge!) and studying the Brandt’s and Pelagic

Cormorants, Black Oystercatchers, guillemots, murrelets, and elephant seals. At least 3 Peregrine Falcons swooped in every direction for us on the hike back. In all we had 100 species on what was nearly a rained-out trip!

**Crystal Basin** (6/4)—Leader Frank Gray reported: “Unfortunately, the trip was canceled due to weather. Specifically, the areas above 5,000 feet were snowed in and rain was expected at lower elevations in the areas we would have birded.”

**Mosquito Ridge, Placer County** (5/29)—Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had a good trip to Mosquito Ridge Road despite snow on the ground at sites above 4,000 feet and getting turned back by deeper snow and increasingly bad weather (a mix of rain and snow) before we visited the Big Trees Grove. At lower elevations, we recorded a Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hammond’s and Dusky Flycatchers, Cassin’s, Hutton’s and Warbling Vireos, Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, and MacGillivray’s Warblers, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Lazuli Buntings. With this spring’s late rains and snow, the breeding birds were in many cases in mixed-species flocks, as they are in migration, rather than singing on territory.”

**Mather Field** (5/28)—Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Thanks to an excellent writeup in the Sacramento Bee, nearly 90 individuals showed up at Mather Lake to bird or learn to bird. Thanks to the veterans from Sacramento Audubon, the crowd was divided into groups and ‘a good time was had by all.’ Most got to see the Yellow-headed Blackbirds and expressed satisfaction for the experience. At least 47 species were reported, including two pairs of Mute Swans with cygnets, a juvenile American Bittern (evidence of breeding 3 out of last 4 seasons), two Townsend’s Warblers, nesting Western Kingbirds, nesting Western Bluebirds, and Great-tailed Grackles. In the mammal department, River Otters, a young raccoon, and a muskrat entertained the groups. This reporter sensed from the comments that a significant number of individuals will try birding again.”

**Yolo Wildlife Area** (5/26)—Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: “A beautiful sunny day greeted 13 participants on a morning tour of the Bypass. We made

a quick drive through the auto loop and spent some time at the Putah Creek Sink area hoping to see the reported Least Bell’s Vireo. Although we neither saw nor heard the bird, we did see other birds such as the Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Bushtits, American Goldfinches, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, American Robin and numerous Song Sparrows. Elsewhere on the auto tour, we saw Forster’s Tern, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis in breeding plumage, and numerous Marsh Wrens singing vigorously while perched on tops of the bulrushes. It was a good day.”

**Sierra Valley** (5/22)—Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Twelve birders were in attendance with sunny skies and calm winds.

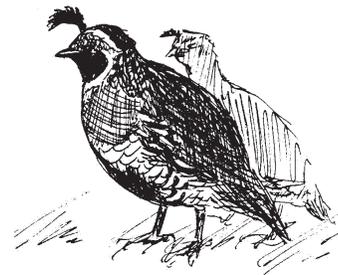
Our first stop was Kyburz Flat, about half way between Truckee and Sierra Valley. Highlights here included 2 Townsend’s Solitaires, 2 female Williamson’s Sapsuckers, Clark’s Nutcracker, both Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches and numerous Mountain Bluebirds making use of the many nest boxes placed here.

Entering Sierra Valley, we saw several Black-billed Magpies, and a Bullock’s Oriole and Red-breasted Sapsucker made brief appearances. As we made our way up the Valley, the weather started to turn a little cloudy and winds picked up. Highlights included at least 5 Redheads, (one colorful sighting was of a male Redhead, Ring-necked Duck and Yellow-headed Blackbird in one scope view), numerous bright breeding-plumaged Wilson’s Phalaropes and good views of Sage Thrasher, Brewer’s and Vesper Sparrows. We also witnessed an interesting drama as an American Bittern was being harassed by a couple of Red-winged Blackbirds defending their territory. Toward the end of the afternoon, we saw an adult Bald Eagle and a distant Golden Eagle. We tallied 77 species for the day.”

**Dragonfly Trip** (5/21)—Leader Tim Manolis reported that a reliable highlight of this walk on the American River Parkway near Rio American River High School was seeing good numbers of the Exclamation Damsel, a pretty little damselfly that is endemic to California. Others: Pacific Forktail, Western Forktail, Tule Bluet, Familiar Bluet, California Darner, Blue-eyed Darner, Common Green Darner, Twelve-spotted Skimmer,

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# Field Trips



California Quail  
Kirsten Munson

## 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, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com for trips through July 17th. For trips from July 18th through August 28th, call the scheduler Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266, jaegermaestro@yahoo.com. For trips from August 29th on, call the scheduler Scott Hoppe, 835-8471, shoppe01@surewest.net.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/ carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

**Sunday, July 3, 7:30am**  
**Point Pinole Regional Shoreline,**  
**Contra Costa County**  
**Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net;**  
**kenpoe@sbcglobal.net**

This great park, at the confluence of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, is a good place to hike in the summer due to its proximity to the Bay which tends to keep it cool. Join Maureen and Ken on a four mile, fairly level hike along the shoreline, through the eucalyptus stands and meadows, past the historical munitions areas, and onto the 1,250' fishing pier to find resident species, especially shorebirds. There is a \$3 parking fee; restroom facilities are available in several park locations. This trip will last until early afternoon; bring lunch to eat near the pier. Weather can be very different from Sacramento, so dress for the possibility of cold, windy and/or foggy weather. Meet Maureen at the West Sacramento Park and Ride by 7:30am (from Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot), or at the Safeway Market complex on Waterman Boulevard in Fairfield – call for details. To meet the group at the Park BY 9am, from Sacramento, take I-80 West to Richmond. Take Exit #20 onto the Richmond Parkway (also says to I-580) and continue on the Parkway to the Giant Highway. Turn right on the Highway and continue into the Park.

**Saturday, July 9, 6am**  
**Loney Meadow**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe@surewest.net**

Come join Scott for this July trip. Loney

Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' 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 Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

**Sunday, July 10, Farallons Pelagic Trip**  
Trip information can be found in the May June Observer or online at [www.sacramento.org](http://www.sacramento.org). Please email Linda Pittman at [pittmanl@frontiernet.net](mailto:pittmanl@frontiernet.net) to see if there are any available spaces left.

**Saturday, July 16, 7am Sharp**  
**Wright's Lake**  
**Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870- 5207**  
**spskua2@comcast.net**  
**Co-leader: TBA**

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran bird life. Tim will help you find many of the Sierran bird specialties including Pine Grosbeak, Black-backed Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker and Cassin's Finch. Bring plenty of water and lunch for a full day of birding. Bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet Tim at the Bella Bru Cafe at the south end of the Raley's parking lot in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn

right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

**Sunday, July 17, time TBD**  
**Dragonfly trip, Location: TBD**  
**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009**  
**Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners etc, but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars, water to drink and wear shoes that can get wet - just in case!

**Saturday, July 23**  
**Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca**  
**Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266**  
**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve the habitat in this high foot traffic area. Join Dan on this high elevation, 3 mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee and with luck Sooty Grouse and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time, there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Contact Dan for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and plenty of liquids; wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather.

**Sunday, July 24, 7:30am**  
**Mather Lake**

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

*Field Trips* continued from page 3

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**  
**Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com**

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. Bring water and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, July 30, 6am**  
**Truckee to Tahoe Mountain Birding**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@earthlink.net**

We will be exploring some interesting, lesser known locations between Truckee and Tahoe. Possible locations include Coldstream Canyon, Page Meadows, Lake Forest and Pomin Park. Among the possible bird species are White-headed and Black-backed Woodpeckers, several warbler species, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbills. Hiking will be up to 2 miles at a time. Bring lunch and liquids. FRS radios are helpful. Meet Scott at 6am at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, exit #110 off I-80.

**Sunday, July 31, 7am**  
**Sailor Bar**  
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**  
**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. Meet Mark at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Sunday, August 7, 7am**  
**Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@earthlink.net**

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 #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Saturday, August 13, 7:30am**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Leader: Dan Williams 714-943-1266**  
**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Join Dan for a morning of birding this crown jewel of the valley. We will spend time on the Willow Slough Trail (an easy hike) where we will hope to see Blue Grosbeaks, Lazuli Buntings, Western Kingbirds and undoubtedly lots of juvenile birds of all sorts. We will check Bruceville Road for Burrowing Owls and depending on conditions we may see some migrant shorebirds. Meet Dan at the Safeway / Starbucks at Del Paso and East Commerce in Natomas and be prepared to enjoy a picnic lunch near the Visitor Center (if it's not too hot)! Secondary meeting place will be the main parking lot at the CRP Visitor Center at about 8:15am.

**Saturday, August 20, 7am**  
**Marin County Shorebirds**  
**Leader: Dan Williams, 419-9495**  
**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Join Dan for this trip to the varied wetlands of Marin County in search of shorebirds. Possible locations include Novato Airport Ponds, Bolinas Lagoon, and/or Abbott's Lagoon at Point Reyes, depending on conditions and bird reports leading up to the trip date. Be aware, a visit to Abbott's Lagoon involves a 2.5 to 3 mile hike. Bring lunch and liquids and be prepared for a full day of birding. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Sunday, August 21, 8am**  
**Vic Fazio Wildlife Area/City of Davis Wetlands and nearby areas**  
**Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249**  
**fgray4birds@aol.com**

Join Frank for a morning of birding, exploring some sites in east Yolo County. Target bird species include Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes, Swainson's Hawks, Tricolored Blackbirds, and herons and egrets at a rookery. The trip will be car-based with only short walks anticipated. Trip will likely end by noon or soon there-

after. The leader plans to bring a scope but additional scopes are welcome.

This trip is suitable for birders of various levels, including beginners. Time will be spent discussing various bird ID features. Meet Frank at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Saturday, August 27, 7:30am**  
**Bodega Bay**  
**Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216**  
**andisalmi@yahoo.com**

Join Andi for a day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is a fun coastal birding area, with many gulls, waterfowl, songbirds and raptors to see, in addition to possible shorebirds returning from their breeding grounds. Meet Andi at the Park and Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring food, water and warm clothes.

**Sunday, August 28, 7am - 11am**  
**SRCS D Bufferlands**  
**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610**  
**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.

**Saturday, September 3, 7:30am**  
**River Bend Park**  
**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882**  
**empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland, looking for resident small woodland birds and woodpeckers as well as returning migrants.

Vinegar Weed, an interesting native plant, may be in bloom. At the river we should see herons, yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and possibly a kingfisher. Walk will end by noon, and it's a great walk for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. As it is the Labor Day weekend the entry fee may be higher.

**Sunday, September 4, 6:30am**

**Point Reyes for Vagrants**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610**

Birding the coast can be very productive this time of year, for both regular migrants and more uncommon birds. Chris is an expert birder who can sort out that confusing fall warbler. Be prepared for several miles of walking. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet Chris at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Saturday, September 10, 7am**

**Schollenberger Park/Ellis Creek, Petaluma**

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
shoppe01@surewest.net**

This area can be very productive for waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and other water-loving species. And some interesting rarities have turned up here as well. We will make

a stop on the way at the wetlands along Highway 37. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Sunday, September 11, 8am**

**Sacramento Bar American River Parkway**

**Leader: Paul Cordero, email preferred  
pkcordero@gmail.com, 454-4061**

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

**Saturday, September 17, 7:30am**

**Reichmuth Park**

**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009  
yflightfoot@aol.com**

Join Tim at the park entrance on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue at 7:30am. In the past Tim has found many uncommon in birds Reichmuth Park. The lerps on the eucalyptus trees are particularly attractive to a wide variety of birds. Tim will be looking for fall migrants including warblers, vireos and flycatchers. This is a good chance to work on identifying birds in confusing fall plumage, and Tim has the expertise to do it.

**GET YOUR ANNUAL COUNTY PARKS PASS NOW!**

Every time you access the American River Parkway you pay a \$5 vehicle fee, and it's even higher on holidays. An annual County Regional Parks Pass for vehicles is only \$50 and it pays for itself with just 10 visits—that's less than once a month! In addition you are supporting regional parks; all funds go directly towards maintaining and operating our beautiful 15,000 acre system.

**Where to purchase your pass:**

- Online through the American River Parkway Foundation @ [www.arpf.org/pass-port.shtml](http://www.arpf.org/pass-port.shtml) or at their office in William B. Pond Park, Monday through Friday 8:30am till 4pm.
- At REI stores in Sacramento, Roseville and Folsom.
- At Patriot Cycles in Fair Oaks.
- At Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park during normal business hours.
- At Regional Park offices and at park kiosks when they are open.

For further information call 916-875-6961 or put Sacramento County Regional Parks into your computer search engine.

*Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip* continued from page 1

**Monterey Bay Coastal and Pealgic Trip Reservation Form**

Saturday/Sunday, October 1-2, 2011      Trip price: \$75 per person

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address (with zip) \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Mark Cudney, 102 Feather Falls Circle, Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: (916) 987-2422

Email: [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com)



*Findings* continued from page 2

Glider. He added, "We found a nice big rattlesnake in the trail at one point!"

**Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway** (5/18)—Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Rain and cold cut this trip short, but in two hours we were able to see or hear 52 species of birds. Highlights included Wilson's, Yellow and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Warbling Vireo, Western Kingbird, Western Wood-Pewee and Bullock's Oriole."

**Sand Creek Road near Arbuckle** (5/15)—Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Mark Martucci, reported: "Six people met at 6 a.m. on a cold, windy and what looked like a rainy, stormy day. It turned out to be a day of mixed clouds and only a sprinkle of rain, with periods of sun. Highlights were Sage Sparrow, California Thrasher, Hermit Warbler, Warbling and Hutton vireos, lots of orioles and Western Kingbirds, Lazuli Buntings, Lawrence's Goldfinches, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and Western Wood-Pewee. We had 60 species. It was a fun day and I'm sure it was a lot more fun than being at home with rain and thunder in Sacramento."

**Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain** (5/14)—Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "On a very windy and cold day, the three of us took turns holding onto the scope so it wouldn't blow over. We were able to get good looks at Lesser Goldfinches in the thistle. As we approached Bushy Lake we could see large numbers of Wood Ducks, along with egrets. As we moved around the lake, Western Tanagers appeared in the trees above us. We also got a good look at a Cooper's hawk that was hanging out in the trees. Along the levee and towards the fairground there were plenty of House Finches and Red-winged Blackbirds. All told it was so windy the birds were not moving about."

**Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary** (5/13)—Leader John Huls reported: "The cool and wet spring made Bobelaine sanctuary especially lush and verdant. We were treated to Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Bluebirds along with the usual cast of characters. The stars of the outing though, were the majestic valley oaks, sycamores and cottonwoods soaring to amazing heights and creating a Sherwood Forest ambience."

**Mono Lake** (5/13-14-15)—Leader Linda Pittman reported: "I was joined by two participants from the Netherlands (Roland and Aukje) on a weekend in the Mono

Lake area that started out with sunny and warm spring weather but ended with a return to winter. We were able to total 99 species for the weekend (with an additional 11 species prior to the trip start). At our first stop north of Mono Lake, we saw many Green-tailed Towhees and enjoyed Calliope Hummingbird dives and chases as a distant thunderstorm passed by. At our next stop in Lundy Canyon, we watched a Clark's Nutcracker dig in leaf debris like a nearby Fox Sparrow and come up with a worm. Nearby a pair of Mountain Chickadees took turns feeding young in a nest just above eye level. The canyon trail was still covered with snow so we headed down to Mono Lake County Park and the boardwalk. The highlights from the viewing platform were an Osprey on a nest on tufa and 60 White-faced Ibis circling lazily overhead. The next day we worked our way out to several sites off Cemetery Road which produced Sage Thrashers, Green-tailed Towhees, and Virginia Rail. After a quick stop at the Mono Lake Visitor Center, we continued south to the June Lake burn area. We missed the Lewis's Woodpeckers (seen before the trip) and the target Black-backed Woodpecker, but saw Hairy Woodpeckers, Pygmy Nuthatches and White-breasted Nuthatches feeding young in nests. Brewer's Sparrows, Chipping Sparrows and Dark-eyed Juncos foraged near a snow bank while numerous pairs of Mountain Bluebirds were seen all over the burn area. Driving back toward Lee Vining, we stopped at South Tufa where we saw a pair of Ospreys mating on a nest on a tufa tower and then watched the male Osprey catch a fish. A quick stop up Lee Vining Canyon produced two American Dippers squabbling over a stretch of creek and singing Cassin's Finches. Snow moved in Saturday night and at the 4am departure time, cars were covered with an inch of snow. We braved the wind and cold (26 degrees), to get great scope views of over 50 Greater Sage-grouse displaying at the lek in the snowstorm. As we left the lek, Horned Larks and Sage Sparrows were starting to move about the sage. The snow slowed down a bit by Bridgeport Reservoir and on the way to the dam we spotted an immature Bald Eagle overhead."

**Sweetwater Creek** (5/10)—Leader Tim Fitzer reported: "On a beautiful day, we tallied 7 species of warblers, 4 woodpeckers, 3 vireos, Blue-gray Gnat-catchers, 3 Yellow-breasted Chats, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Carla Barbaro spotted an adult Bald Eagle

perched on a tree on the ridge. We had 60 species. It was an awesome day and a great time had by all."

**Spenceville Wildlife Refuge, Nevada County** (5/8)—Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "It was looking questionable at the start with cold temperatures and windy weather but as the day progressed things started picking up. Highlights were Black-throated Gray, Yellow, Wilson's, Nashville, Yellow-breasted Chats, and Orange-crowned warblers; Vaux's and White-throated swifts; Olive-sided and Hammond's flycatchers; Warbling Vireo, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Forster's Tern, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lazuli buntings and almost all the swallow species you would expect at this time of the year, including a rare gift of several Violet-green Swallows working low in a field catching bugs as we were walking among them. Day's total: 73 species, a good day!"

**Spring Migration at the Bufferlands** (5/8)—Leader Chris Conard reported: "We had a good tour with 8 people. A large city flood control pump was broken, so water levels were higher than they had ever been (in recent decades anyway) for this date, so access was limited in some areas. There were a lot of migrant Warbling Vireos, Yellow Warblers and Wilson's Warblers singing, but most were hard to see. Other highlights included the Great Blue Heron and Great Egret Rookery, a Peregrine Falcon (and, consequently, few shorebirds), good looks at a Spotted Sandpiper (with spots), a Vaux's Swift that allowed good views while foraging among the swallows, several Ash-throated Flycatchers, a singing Cassin's Vireo, a quick view of a Swainson's Thrush, three Orange-crowned Warblers, two Townsend's Warblers, quick views of a Hermit Warbler, a Western Tanager, and several Black-headed Grosbeaks and Blue Grosbeaks."

**Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake** (5/7)—Leader Chad Aakre reported: "A small group of us had a nice morning at the Beek's Bight area (Folsom State Recreational Area). Our walk took us through dense oak woodlands and lower foothill chaparral shrubland. We observed a total of 51 species of birds, with highlights including Hooded Oriole, Chipping Sparrow, Yellow-breasted Chat, Black-headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and numerous Black-chinned Hummingbirds. We also enjoyed a nice display of wildflowers and spectacular views of the lake."

**Cronan Ranch, Coloma** (5/4)--Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "Cronan Ranch is always a really beautiful place to hike and chase birds. There were 9 of us and we had great looks at Bullock's Orioles, Lazuli Buntings and Western Bluebirds. Heard but never saw many singing Rufous-crowned Sparrows and other grassland birds."

**Driver's Flat, Auburn State Recreation Area** (5/1)--Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "13 participants enjoyed some good weather (although a little cool early on), and some good birding in what has been a very slow spring for birds at Driver's Flat. The first part of the morning turned out to be the most productive with Hammond's Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Nashville Warbler, and good views of a Black-throated Gray Warbler. A little later in the morning, we found one Lazuli Bunting and a Gray Flycatcher, although many in the group did not get very good looks at either of these. A first-year male Bullock's Oriole was a little more cooperative. We also had some good, eye-level views of Black-headed Grosbeaks.

After lunch at the Middle Fork of the American River, we walked downstream and found numerous, stunning, male Yellow Warblers. A couple of Wrentits, normally hard to see, were very cooperative. Our hopes of finding Yellow-breasted Chat were beginning to wane when one started singing, softly and then finally popped up briefly for some stunning views."

**William Pond Park, Sorting Out the Cacophony of Spring Birdsong** (4/30)--Leader John Huls reported: "We arrived at the William Pond Park entrance to find a major Half-Marathon Special Event in progress. Hundreds of people were milling about . . . not exactly conducive to a "Spring Birdsong" Audubon outing. However we managed to hear an assortment of birdsong in between the blarings of the public address system. Highlights included the Red-necked Grebe on the big pond and a brief glimpse of a tern (too quick to ID) darting between the islands on the river. The noise may have driven away some of the expected migrants, save for the sweet song of a Black-headed Grosbeak, heard but not seen. As usual the riparian trails provided a rich texture of Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Spotted Towhee and Tree Swallow songs."

**Pine Hill Preserve Birding** (4/30)--Leader Chris Conard reported: "There were 18 of us on a very nice morning, with great views of the Sierra. Highlights included a low fly-by of an Osprey through the chaparral (!), a Swainson's Hawk (another out

of place raptor), a Lewis's Woodpecker, a Gray Flycatcher seen by a few in the party and a couple of others singing, two Pacific-slope Flycatchers, several Ash-throated Flycatchers, a mini-migration of Western Kingbirds over the high point in the chaparral, close looks at Hutton's Vireos, a Warbling Vireo, many Violet-green Swallows, an unexpected Red-breasted Nuthatch, several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, many Wrentits and Orange-crowned Warblers, great looks at a singing Hermit Warbler, several Chipping Sparrows, a few Lark Sparrows, good scope views of several Sage Sparrows, a couple of Black-headed Grosbeaks, and a couple of Purple Finches. We also saw a Bramble Hairstreak (a small green butterfly common in the chaparral)."

**Sweetwater Creek** (4/24)--Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "We were ultimately rained out, although we toughed it out for a couple of hours. No highlights."

**Mather Lake** (4/23)--Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Excellent weather, great turnout and 51 species. Tree, Northern Rough-winged, Barn and Cliff swallows were spotted. Small number of Great-tailed Grackles and large numbers of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was good news. Several American Bitterns were spotted as well as the Mute Swans with 8 small cygnets in tow. Another Mute Swan that chased a Canada Goose and returned to sit in the grass suggests another swan family. Great looks at a Great Horned Owl nest with fledglings were enjoyed by all. Several Yellow Warblers and Audubon's Warblers were spotted. Someone spotted a Burrowing Owl off the end of the Mather runway and a Swainson's Hawk towards the end of the walk capped the morning."

**Bobcat Ranch, Yolo County** (4/17)--Maureen Geiger, co-leader with Karen Velas, reported: "Rather than the usual hike through the hills, 9 of us hiked up Bray Canyon. It was really beautiful at this 7,000-acre California Audubon property and best of all, we listened to Mountain Quail call from both sides of the canyon throughout the hike. California newts in the creek and Lewis's Woodpeckers near the headquarters later combined for a wonderful day."

**Discovery Park** (4/17)--Leader Dan Williams reported: "Discovery Park was still closed from flooding earlier in the season, so we took our trip down Arden Way to William Pond Park. We tallied 62 species in 4 hours on a very nice spring morning. The newly arrived Bullock's Orioles definitely stole the show, with multiple

blazing orange males jostling for territorial position in the cottonwoods. Another clear highlight was watching a pair of Western Kingbirds assembling their nest. Aside from a single Whimbrel, some late White-fronted Geese, and a nice cloud of White Pelicans, we didn't encounter much in the way of migrants. However, resident birds made for a very pleasant morning, with Bewick's and House Wrens singing away, several gorgeous views of bright-winged flickers, herons and egrets at their rookery positions, and multiple pairs of screeching Red-shouldered Hawks. We ended the morning with some nice close-up views of Acorn Woodpeckers and Tree Swallows competing over a cavity below the bike bridge."

**Point Reyes** (4/16)--Leader John York reported: "A small group enjoyed a pretty day at Pt. Reyes, though not particularly birdy. Fog kept the lighthouse and fish docks off the agenda. We substituted with some less usual spots. Best birds were a breeding plumage male Red-breasted Merganser, tons of Black Turnstones at the Oyster Farm and several Yellowthroats at the Spit. We had a lot of fun regardless of the low species count."

**Family Friendly Trip, Maidu Park, Roseville** (4/16)--Maureen Geiger reported: "Scott Dietrich led our 5th family birding trip, this one with 9 children plus assorted adults. Mary Beth Metcalf and Pan Giarrizzo assisted. Maidu Park was beautiful and warm, and we had good looks at a Belted Kingfisher, Western Bluebirds and Western Kingbirds plus both Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpeckers. Other birds also were seen and Scott showed everyone a beaver dam that the kids particularly enjoyed. There were also some amazingly climbable logs!"

**Phoenix Field** (4-13)--Leader Jerry Towner reported: "The Vernal Pool trip started with a heavy cold rain downpour and was almost canceled because of the weather. However, five hardy birders and aspiring botanists decided to go ahead with the trip. We were able to identify 52 plant and tree species. These included, Johnny-tuck, Vernal Pool Goldfields, Hawkbit, Filarees, Dwarf Sack Clover, Cut-leaf and Doves Foot Geranium, Wavy Leaf Soap Plant, Purple Sanicle, Bedstraw, various Grasses, and a Pale Spikerush. The local bird population yielded 20 species, including Red-shouldered Hawk, Yellow-billed Magpie, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Western Bluebird. The trip ended with a light rain falling and a Red-shouldered Hawk calling! A great birding and plant trip that was enjoyed by the group."

## SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2011-2012 PROGRAMS

When we resume our General Meetings in September our first speaker will be Khara Strum. She is a Waterbird Ecologist with Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science and the title of her program will be *Farming Shorebirds in California's Rice Fields*.

Other scheduled programs are:

**October 20** John Sterling – *Bird Species Changes in Central Valley*  
**November 17** Mark Jorgensen – *Anza-Borrego's Sister Park in Mongolia*

### 2012

**January 19** Josh Hull – *Endangered Species Recovery*  
**February 16** TBD  
**March 15** David Carle – *Around the World Starting at Mono Lake*  
**April 19** TBD  
**May 17** TBD

## BIRDING PROGRAM ON TV EVERY WEEK

There's a birding program on the Versus channel (Comcast channel 65 in Sacramento) which is a sports channel. It is every Tuesday morning 9:30-10am. It is called BATV (Birding Adventures TV). You can look it up on the internet at [BirdingAdventures.com](http://BirdingAdventures.com). The host goes to a different place each week and films the birds. It is a great program and I think everyone in Sacramento Audubon would be interested.

Valerie Phillips

## AUDUBON OUTREACH

High winds were a problem at "Mother Nature's Passport to the Wetlands", a Sacramento Start program at North Laguna Creek Park in Elk Grove, but Audubon volunteers did their best. Maureen Geiger and Jerry Towner led a nature walk, and although the wind kept the birds down they had good scope looks at egrets, turtles, and a feeding family of muskrats. Karen Zumwalt did a great job using our photo quizzes at the children's table, and Cathie LaZier and Jonilynn Okano helped out as needed.

"Walk on the Wildside" at Beach Lake was a very productive family oriented event, under the Valley Oak canopy on a pleasant day. Tim Fitzer, Darrell Mohr, Jonilynn Okano, Linda Pittman, Karen Zumwalt and Cathie LaZier took turns at the outreach table.

Coming up in August is the Fair Oaks Harvest Festival, and this autumn we'll have our Outreach table at the Lodi Crane Festival and the Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton. Come by and visit our table at these events, or if you'd like to help out contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net).

### 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.

## SIERRA NEVADA BIRDS

Naturalist and author David Lukas has just released a new book entitled *Sierra Nevada Birds*. David grew up on the Oregon coast and began studying natural history at the age of five, when he launched daylong collecting "expeditions" into neighborhood swamps and forests.

These studies continued during high school through associations with the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry and Woodland Park Zoo. David started biology studies at Reed College, but left college several times to spend much of the following 10 years traveling around the world working on biological research projects. Previous books include *Sierra Nevada Natural History*, *Wild Birds of California*, and *Watchable Birds of the Great Basin*.

*Sierra Nevada Birds* is one compact volume, and is a treasure trove of information for bird experts and beginners alike.

It covers all 322 species found in the Sierra Nevada, including rare migrants. There are full-length accounts for 207 definitive species and the geographic coverage is from the foothills to the High Sierras.

This is the ultimate reference for trail, camp, or home, compactly designed for hiking and backpacking. It provides essential information that complements any of the illustrated field guides and is jam-packed with details on the life history, status, and distribution of Sierra Nevada birds.

Containing 305 pages, 4.75 x 7.5 inches, it's available for \$20 online at [lukasguides.com](http://lukasguides.com).

## YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK!

Over the last quarter your SAS Board has voted to make the following donations:

- \$76, the proceeds from the May used book sale, to The Purple Martin Project.
- \$100 to Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, towards the costs of their annual spring celebration of the "Return of the Swainson's Hawk" at Sutter's Landing on the American River.
- \$200 to the Feather River Land Trust towards the printing costs of their planned Sierra Valley Bird Checklist and Birding Guide.
- \$1000 to further the work of Wildlife Care, a local organization that rescues and rehabilitates wild birds, mammals and reptiles. (Wildlife Care, 916-965-9453, [www.wildlifecareassociation.net](http://www.wildlifecareassociation.net))

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Kristine	Candace Parsons
Donohue	Alvin Rust
Colin Grant	Elaine Safranko
Dustin Harrison	Robert Schafer
Scott Kenney	Jane Swenson
Nancy Metzger	Robert Thomas
Kristin Niemi	Jane Wheaton
Bo O'Neil	

### Please Note New Email Address

Lea Landry, our membership chair has a new email address: llandry46@earthlink.net.

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. After a summer break the next meeting will be held on September 27, at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Candy Anasoff, Cynthia Austin, Anne Bersinger, Bill Bianco, Irene Bond, Suzanne Covington, Stu Husband, Susan Oie, Laura Peterson, Louis Regenmorter, Douglas Schwilk and Peter Watkins to the **General Fund**.

Judith Bietz, Bill and Nancy Bittner, Aubrey Blue, Suzanne Covington, Gary Fregien, Colin Grant, Dustin Harrison, Yoshino Hatanaka, Stu Husband, Ranae Jarman, Mary Lu Kost, Lori Miyasato, Allan Mounts, Kristin Niemi, Susan Oie, Valerie Phillips, Victoria Stoffers, Joyce Sweeney and S. Woody Wray to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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

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

*Observations* continued from page 10

Among the uncommon flycatchers, most notable were several **Gray Flycatchers**, including one at Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake, on 5/1, CRP on 5/2, along Putah Creek between Winters and Davis on 5/11, and one at Paradise Beach (ARP) on 5/15. The **Steller's Jay** that wintered in Curtis Park continued through the end of May. A singing **Brown Creeper** was along Putah Creek downstream of Lake Solano on 4/27 and an adult was feeding a fledgling at the Lake Solano campground on 5/30. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was found at Sailor Bar (ARP) on 5/18, and the **Harris's Sparrow** found near the Gristmill access (ARP) on 1/31 was last reported on 4/17. **Evening Grosbeak** reports continued, with up to 30 along Old Davis Rd near the UCD Wildlife Health Center. They were seen at this location from 4/13 to 5/14, and breeding behavior (copulation and stick carrying) was noted on at least two occasions. Two were reported flying over Orangevale on 5/15.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html)).

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

Steve Abbott, Dan Airola, Todd Easterla, Gil Ewing, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dan Kopp, Alison Kent, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Sarah Newton, Frances Oliver, Ron Pozzi, W.L. Rockey, John Sterling, John Trochet, and Daniel Welsh.

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

*Chris Conard*

# Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

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

Somewhat surprisingly, with an unusually cool and wet spring, there were relatively few unusual finds. Of course there were a lot of birds to see and a few notable reports, but hoped for vagrant songbirds were not among them: not a single vagrant warbler was reported in the Sacramento area. Shorebirds were better represented and **Evening Grosbeaks** continued through mid-May. Perhaps the most notable birds the storms blew in were **Black Swifts**, seen over Putah Creek just downstream of Monticello Dam, on 5/15 and 5/17. The other standout report was the return of at least two singing **Bell's Vireos** to the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) just south of Parking Lot G.

A gorgeous **Red-necked Grebe** in breeding plumage at William B. Pond along the American River Parkway (ARP) on 5/5-6 was an excellent find. A **Brown Pelican** was seen flying over Sacramento near Hwy 50 and 65th St on 5/28 (on 6/2 it or another bird was found in W Sacramento). **Least Bitterns** were heard calling at Mather Lake on 5/13, with two heard on 5/14, and at Lake Solano on 5/22. A **Merlin** on 4/23 at Cosumnes River Preserve was one of the later local reports.

Among the good shorebird finds, six **Pacific Golden-Plovers** were at the Trestle Ponds northeast of Woodland on 4/18. A **Snowy Plover** was found at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/23, and one

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was present there from 5/1-3. A high of 13 **Snowy Plovers** were at YWA, first reported on 4/26, some exhibiting breeding behavior. Ultimately they abandoned

the area when the fields where they were foraging dried up. **Solitary Sandpipers** were widely reported, with an early report from a private ranch in southeastern Sacramento County on 4/3. There were multiple reports at CRP between 4/22 and 5/8, with an impressive high of five on 4/30. **Two Willets** were present at YWA on 4/27, and up to 10 **Marbled Godwits** were reported toward the end of April, but the most notable find there was a **Red Knot** in breeding plumage on 4/26.

For the second year in a row, **California Gulls** attempted to nest at the Davis WTP. A very unusual scene in the Capay Valley on 5/16 involved an adult **Western Gull** eating a road-killed raccoon. Closer to more typical haunts, an adult **Western Gull** was also reported from Sherman Island on the same day. A single **Least Tern** was found at the SRCSD Bufferlands on 5/31, where they have nested for the past three years.

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

**Internet Address:** [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry46@earthlink.net](mailto:llandry46@earthlink.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,  
Sacramento, CA 95826

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

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

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

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

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