



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 19, 2013
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room
7pm

We will start out fall programming at the September 19th meeting with a presentation by Ed Pandolfino. Until then have a wonderful summer.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters, Program Chair

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, September 28-29, 2013

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 is still just \$75 per person, if we fill the boat (25 people minimum). You do not need to be a member of Sacramento Audubon to participate. The registration form which should be mailed to Mark Cudney can be found on page 7.

Cancellation policy: In order to receive a refund you must cancel 2 weeks before the trip. Contact Mark Cudney, email: mcudney@aol.com, phone: 987-2422 with any questions.

2014 SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY CALENDAR

The first ever calendar for the Sacramento Audubon Society is set to go on sale this September. The 2014 calendar features birds of the Sacramento Valley with photos taken by SAS photographers Dan Brown, Chris Conard, Ed Harper, Linda Pittman, Dan Tankersley, Keith Wagner and Lon Yarbrough. Conceived as a fundraiser by Jonilynn Okano and Cathie LaZier, it is designed by Sharon Wisecarver and just about ready to go to the printer. The full-color calendar will be for sale on our website sacramentoaudubon.org, at all of our general meetings, and some local Wild Bird stores and booksellers. It lists many local bird festivals and highlights a different bird each month with a simple description of their appearance or habits. Proceeds from the calendar will be used to support the wildlife conservator work and education programs of the SAS. Look for the calendar in September and please don't limit yourself to just one—think of friends and family, one in every room, and gifts for the holidays.



White-tailed Kite
Cover Photo by Dan Brown

Field Trip Findings

Granite Springs Road (6/9) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Mark Martucci and Scott Hoppe, reported: “Leaving the 108-degree valley for the Sierra for a high of 80 degrees was very nice. Highlights of the day were Black-chinned Sparrows (first time), Dusky and Olive-sided Flycatchers, Nashville, MacGillivray’s and Yellow Warblers, Green-tailed Towhees, Lazuli Buntings, Cassin’s Vireos, White-headed and Lewis Woodpeckers, Western Wood Peewees and Pine Grosbeak. Total species count was 61. A fun day enjoyed by 12 birders.”

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County (6/8) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “The day was crazy hot, reaching 106 degrees in the valley and high 90s in the mountains for our trip. Highlights though were worthy with Canyon and Pacific wrens, Lazuli Buntings, Western Tanager, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive and Pacific-slope Flycatchers. There were Hermit, Nashville, MacGillivray’s, and Wilson’s warblers along with Red-headed Sapsuckers, White-headed, and Pileated woodpeckers, also Fox Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhee.”

River Bend Park (6/5) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Eight birders joined me for this morning walk where newly-fledged birds were abundant. An immature Cooper’s Hawk was calling and flying from tree to tree; House Wrens were everywhere with young; a Wild Turkey hen had a brood of just hatched young; pairs of Downy and Nuttall’s Woodpeckers were traveling with young, the Nuttalls still with the red feathering on top of the head. Two active Red-shouldered Hawk nests each had two ready-to-fledge young and we all had good scope looks thanks to Ann Burris. Wildflowers included California broom, purple and bush penstemon, and some late Clarkia. Sharon Patricia pointed out blooming Indian Tobacco, whose oily leaf actually smells like an ashtray!”

Crystal Basin (6/2) — Phyllis Wilburn, co-leader with Wendy Money, reported: “The field trip was a great success. We had beautiful weather and lots of singing birds to look for. There were 31 eager birders on the trip, and the highlights were many. Some included Pileated Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, MacGillivray’s Warbler and many other warblers and vireos.

However, logging in the area of our favorite meadow near Icehouse Store, where we usually see Calliope Hummingbird, is a concern for Audubon members.”

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain (6/1) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Ten people came out early to meet at 7am to beat the heat of the day. There were plenty of active birds. We were able to observe the color of two young White-tailed Kites. Bushy Lake is mostly closed in by vegetation. However, we were able to find enough openings in the vegetation to see the Wood Ducks plus other birds. We had a total of 35 species. And we managed to return before the heat was unbearable.”

Sierra Valley (5/26) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported “Despite windy conditions developing during the day, 10 people enjoyed a good day of birding. Highlights included Golden Eagle, 2 Bald Eagles, Sandhill Crane including one sitting on a nest, Calliope Hummingbird, Lewis’s Woodpeckers going to and from a nest hole, 3 species of Nuthatch, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend’s Solitaire, Sage Thrasher, Green-tailed Towhee and Brewer’s and Vesper Sparrows. A good time was had by all.”

Dragonfly Trip (5/25) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: “It was a nice trip as five participants (other than me) walked along the American River Parkway behind Rio Americano High School. Because most of them were brand-new to dragonfly watching, everyone learned a lot about the common, to-be-expected species, but there were few unusual highlights. We saw 14 species of odonates, with the best being the California endemic Exclamation Damsel.”

Yolo Wildlife Area (5/22) — Marlene Ishihara reported: “On this late spring day as the winds howled, we managed to see some good birds. Highlights included a Great Horned Owl sitting out in the open, a flock of American White Pelicans performing aerals, many Black-crowned Night-Herons flying over the bulrushes, and a few White-faced Ibises. A drive by agricultural fields near the Bypass, we found a single Raven, and a Cattle Egret strolling among cows.”

Sand Creek Road, Colusa County (5/19) — Mark Martucci, co-leader with Tim Fitzer, reported: “Fourteen birders saw 50 species of birds on a very windy

day along Sand Creek Road. Highlights included Bullock’s Oriole, Lark Sparrow, Rock Wren, Great Horned Owl, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Lawrence’s Goldfinch.”

Mather Lake (5/18) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Thirteen new and veteran birders enjoyed a 48-species morning. We had clear sightings of fledglings for Mute Swans, Black Phoebes, House Sparrows, Tree Swallows, Turkeys, Barn Swallows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Mallards. A female Western Kingbird was spotted on a nest, as well as a Pied-billed Grebe. Highlights were a calling Yellow-breasted Chat and a male Baltimore Oriole.

Spenceville Wildlife Area (5/12) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “Seven people join me for an early season “hot day” on our trip to Spenceville. Species highlights were Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Bunting, Wilson’s Snipe, Western Tanager, Bullock’s Oriole, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and Lawrence’s Goldfinch. Total for the day was 71 species. While at a brief stop at the old Lincoln Cemetery I caught a 3 1/2 ft. Gopher snake for our up close viewing pleasure.”

Manfred Kusch’s Putah Creek Property, Yolo Co. West of Davis (5/7) — Leader Sally Walters reported: “Ten of us visited Manfred Kusch’s property. We were treated with Hooded Oriole nests in palm fronds while the Bullock’s Oriole nests eluded us; Mourning Dove and robin-nests were on the sides of the palm trees on frond stumps; a male Black-headed Grosbeak sitting on its nest well-hidden in tall shrubs; a view of 2 downy Red-tailed Hawk chicks in a nest; and a Bushtit nest that really looked like my old wool sock! We had great views of Black-chinned and Anna’s hummingbirds at the feeders. Some other highlights were Ash-throated Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Western Tanager, Bewick’s Wren, Nuttall’s and Downy Woodpecker, Brown-headed Cowbird. Spotted Towhees were singing under cover, as were California Quail and a Belted Kingfisher. Manfred enlightened us with stories about the restoration of the property in and along this portion of Putah Creek including creating pool and riffles, planting of native oak trees and grasses, and the removal of the invasive

Findings continued on page 6

Field Trips



Hooded Merganser
Daniel Kilby

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com for trips through July 21. From July 22-August 25 contact the scheduler Dan Tankersley, 359-2829, dtankers@winfirst.com. After August 25 contact 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. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Saturday, July 6, 7am
Ice House Road and Crystal Basin area
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870- 5207
Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
Tim: spskua2@comcast.net
Richard: offleash56@yahoo.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento and is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, flycatchers, warblers and other surprises. Mountain wildflowers are a possibility so bring your flower field guides. Several stops will be made along Ice House Road and side roads for short walks. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Meet Tim and Richard at the Bella Bru Cafe at the south end of the Raley's parking 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 7, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@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 drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Saturday, July 13, 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 20, 6am
Tahoe/Truckee
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

We will be exploring some of the birding hot spots between Lake Tahoe and Truckee, with varied habitat from mountain meadow and forest to lake shore and riparian zones. Past trips have included Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed and Hairy Woodpeckers, Olive-sided, Pacific-slope and Dusky Flycatchers, several species of warbler and Evening Grosbeak in the uplands, and Virginia Rail and Spotted Sandpiper in the wetland areas. Hiking may be up to 2 miles at a time over moderate terrain. Bring lunch and liquids. Meet Scott at 6am at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Sunday, July 21, 7am Sharp!
Wright's Lake
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
Mark Martucci, 833-6722
Tim, spskua2@comcast.net, Mark
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran bird life. Tim and Mark 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 and Mark at the Bella Bru Cafe at the south end of the Raley's parking 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.

Saturday, July 27
Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca
Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com

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

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3
strenuous depending upon your physical condition.

Sunday, July 28, 7am
Radio Road, Redwood Shores
Leader: Linda Pittman
pittmanl@frontiernet.net
(email preferred), 715-1876

Beat the heat and head to the west side of the bay for waterfowl and shorebirds. Sandwiched between a wastewater treatment plant and a dog park, this location offers a variety of easily accessed habitats within a small area. Black Skimmers are regular here and usually may be seen close up. Depending on the tides and time, we may visit another nearby San Mateo County location. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride at 6:45am. From Sacramento, take Hwy 99 south to the Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104 exit (#277); turn left (east) on Twin Cities Rd, cross the freeway and turn right (south) on Stockton Blvd. The Park and Ride is just south of Twin Cities Rd. Bring lunch, liquids and layers for possible cool weather near the bay. FRS Radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. This trip will end in the early afternoon.

Saturday, August 3, 7am
Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.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.

Sunday, August 4, 7:30am
Sacramento 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. Expect to 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, August 10, 7am
Stone Lakes NWR and Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Jane Taylor, 444-0429
jtaylor@att.net

Meet at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge to fight the valley's summer bird doldrums. Take I-5 South to Hood-Franklin Rd, make a right turn and drive .8 mile to the refuge, turning left into the parking lot. We will walk the 1-mile loop to see if we can scare up a River Otter; I saw one on a visit last August. From there we will wend our way to Cosumnes River Preserve, where we will rendezvous at the northernmost parking lot. Depending on conditions, we will hike at least one of the trails and plan to walk about 3 miles and end our visit by late morning. Bring liquids and, if you wish, a snack.

Sunday, August 11, 8am
Putah Creek Riparian Reserve
Leader: Linda Pittman,
pittmanl@frontiernet.net
(email preferred), 715-1876

Join Linda for a leisurely walk along Putah Creek looking for riparian residents, birds of summer and maybe an early migrant or two. Meet in Davis at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7:45am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot near the big round water tank. This trip will end by noon.

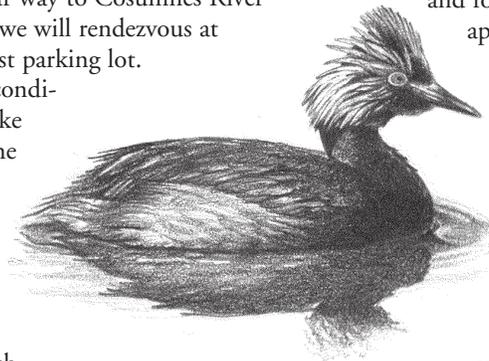
Saturday, August 17, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake and the surrounding grasslands host a variety of birds and it's one of

Wayne's favorite birding spots. Join him to explore the area on this morning trip. 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 Zinfandel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, August 18, 5pm
Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Evening Trip
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 ten 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. At sunset the parking lot is a good place to view the bats fly out from their under-the-freeway roost. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A), on your left.



Eared Grebe
Daniel Kilby

Friday, August 23, 8:30am
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758
ishim2000@comcast.net

Join Marlene for a morning of birding in this wonderful area close to Sacramento. You could see shorebirds, hawks, White-faced Ibis, a variety of swallows and more. From Sacramento take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. Bring liquids, and if you have one, bring your spotting scope and FRS radio. If habitat conditions at the bypass area are not conducive to birding, Marlene may go over to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Farm Central, or Davis Wetlands. Both beginners and experienced

birders will enjoy this trip, which will finish before noon.

**Saturday, August 24, 7am
Marin County Shorebirds and Other Surprises**

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

Plan for a 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; we'll also be flexible and follow up on interesting reports of other species in the area. 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 25, 7:30am
Bodega Bay**

**Leader: Andi Salmi, 508-7192
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 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. Bring food, water and warm clothes.

**Saturday, August 31, 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 booth. We'll walk through the oak woodland, looking for resident small woodland birds and woodpeckers as well as returning migrants. Vinegar Weed and buckwheats 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 normally required for all vehicles but as it is the

Labor Day weekend the day use entry fee will be \$8. Exact change is recommended.

Sunday, September 1, 6:30am to mid-afternoon

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

The county with the smallest human population in the state has a lot to offer in terms of birds and scenery. We'll visit a mix of habitats, including coniferous forests, lake shores, and sagebrush flats, looking for migrating and lingering songbirds, woodpeckers, raptors and waterbirds. Expect several short walks at mid-elevation. FRS radios could be especially helpful on this trip. Meet in 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. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot.

**Saturday, September 7, 7am
North Bay Hotspots**

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

The vast area to the north of San Francisco Bay, known as the "North Bay", has many great birding locations, especially during fall migration. Join Scott as he explores some of these hotspots. Possible stops include American Canyon Wetlands, the wetlands along Highway 37, Schollenberger Park and maybe a coastal location, time permitting. This will be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and liquids. 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 8, 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 a few early fall 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.

SAS OUTREACH

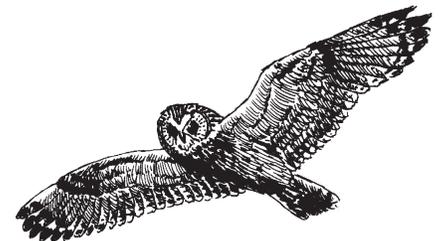
Many visitors to the Return of the Swainson's Hawk event at Sutter's Landing stopped by the Audubon Outreach table. Darrell Mohr, Jerry Towner and Joanne Vinton enjoyed the live Swainson's Hawk demonstrations and talked to many people.

Earth Day at Southside Park was a very busy event and kept volunteers Cathie LaZier, Darrell Mohr, and Joanne Vinton busy. Thanks to Sean Wirth of Sierra Club/SOS Cranes, for his assistance in managing the E-Z Up, which contrary to its name, is difficult!

Walk On The Wildside at Beach Lake was, as usual, a very nice family event with interesting programs and lots to do. There were several Sacramento Audubon members working there in various capacities. At our table, Tim Fitzer, Darrell Mohr, Cathie LaZier and Linda Pittman all managed to miss seeing a Great Horned Owl nest, with two very large young owls, and a nearby parent, only 50 feet from our table! Linda did spot a Nuttall's Woodpecker bringing food to young in a cavity.

At the California Greenfair, at midday on the Capitol Steps, Cathie LaZier and Lea Landry helped people identify their back-yard birds, such as Black Phoebe and Eurasian Collared-Dove, and encouraged them to come on local field trips to learn more about our common birds. They also made sure the many children at the Capitol on field trips learned that our State Bird is the California Quail. In turn, we learned that our State Soil is San Joaquin dirt.

We always need more volunteers; if you're interested, contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, or 457-6882. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding, and talking to people about our field trips and you would work with an experienced volunteer. It would be helpful if you could spot obvious Great Horned Owls, but managing the E-Z Up is not a requirement.



Short-eared Owl
Stephen D'Amato

Findings continued from page 2

Tamarisk plant. In all there were 44 species of birds for the morning including starling and 4 non-native Eurasian Collared-Doves."

Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky, Auburn State Recreation Area (5/5) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "Eighteen birders enjoyed a beautiful day of birding. Highlights included a flyover Bald Eagle, 1 Gray and 3 Pacific-slope Flycatchers, many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, 6 species of warbler, including at least 18 Orange-crowned, several Yellow, many Black-throated Gray, 1 Townsend's, several Wilson's and at least 4 Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Bunting, Chipping Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole and Purple Finch. We also discovered a Black-headed Grosbeak nest with an adult male sitting on it, and a Black Phoebe nest. A great time was had by all."

Spring Migration at the Bufferlands (5/4) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "We had a good group on this clear but windy day. The wind may have suppressed bird activity or the migrants just weren't coming through. We did have several singing Wilson's Warblers, but only one allowed quick views for some of the group. We also heard singing Warbling Vireos. Unfortunately, the Bell's Vireo (a first for the property) found earlier in the week did not stay for the field trip. The lack of songbird migrants was compensated for by excellent scope views of several Blue Grosbeaks (singing males and pairs), a very cooperative Black-headed Grosbeak, Semipalmated Plovers, Least and Western Sandpipers, Black-chinned Hummingbirds allowing scope views, and two flocks of Tricolored Blackbirds flying over."

Sweetwater Creek (4/28) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "Our trip had a large group of 24 people and a great bird turnout as well, with a total of 51 species. Highlights included 11 species of warblers: Yellow, Nashville, MacGillivray's, Yellow-breasted Chat to name a few, but the best was a Palm Warbler. Other noteworthy species were Lazuli Bunting, Wrentit, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Tanager, Hairy Woodpecker, Violet-green Swallows, Warbling Vireo, and Great-horned Owl."

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (4/27) — Leader Lea Landry reported: "Ten avid and accomplished birders joined Lea Landry on a beautiful day along the Snowberry Creek Trail. 42 species were

seen and/or heard with some unexpected newcomers (Brown-headed Cowbirds), missing favorites (Pied-billed Grebes), and many of the usual suspects, some of which made their appearance only after prolonged and intense searching (Phainopepla)."

Estates Drive, American River (4/23) — Leader John Huls reported: "Six participants enjoyed a leisurely walk along the north shore of the American River. Highlights included watching a flotilla of 13 Wood Duck ducklings with their mom as well as a smaller family of Mallards as they tried to keep in close to the bank to avoid nearby River Otters. Craig de Martini brought our attention to a noisy White-throated Swift flying high overhead. Ann Burris spotted a Cooper's Hawk in a Valley Oak just 30 feet over our heads. Harlan Perryman pointed out that Northern Rough-winged Swallows appear to be outnumbering Tree Swallows. Our adrenalin soared as we surprised a large and loud Rattlesnake boxed between our group and an approaching jogger. As an Arbor Day-themed outing the trees did not disappoint. We discussed the key characteristics of the pinnately compound leaf structure of many of the riparian trees. Craig pointed out the cryptic coloration of the Pipevine Swallowtail caterpillar and its chemical defense reactions. The only noteworthy migrant was a late Cassin's Vireo. Four of our group were naturalists from various local preserves and nature areas which made for great natural history anecdote-sharing."

North Table Mountain Ecological Reserve (4/21) — Leader Linda Pittman reported: "Fifteen birders enjoyed a near perfect day for a walk, sunny and warm with just a little breeze in the afternoon. We walked a bit over five miles and observed 44 species of birds, a good number for this location. Highlights included a nesting Bullock's Oriole, Rock Wrens, Swainson's Hawk, several Lawrence's Goldfinches (a life bird for Ethan, our youngest participant) and two adult Golden Eagles. Lark Sparrows were seen throughout the day. At our lunch stop at Coal Canyon Falls, we watched a huge flock of Cliff Swallows flying in and out of holes and gaps in the vertical basalt cliff face and listened to the song of a Canyon Wren echoing in the canyon. The lack of rainfall early in the year reduced the wildflowers this reserve is known for but we were still able to identify and enjoy many species including Seep Monkeyflower, Grass Pink, Purple Owl-

Clover, Kellogg's Clarkia, Bird's Eyes and Popcorn Flower. Lupine was still colorful but the Goldfields were faded. One of the three waterfalls visited was completely dry and the other two were down to just a trickle. The non-bird highlight of the day was a small horned lizard!"

Pine Hill Preserve (4/20) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Twenty of us enjoyed great weather and a wonderful location, with a mix of oak woodlands and chaparral. We had a good mix of singing migrant songbirds, though a lot of them were difficult to see. A Hermit Warbler did allow clear views for most of the group. We had cooperative Black-headed Grosbeaks, Ash-throated Flycatchers and one of the five singing Chipping Sparrows allowed scope views. The highlight for me was the great views of the Sage Sparrows singing in the chaparral."

Family Friendly Trip (4/20) — Maureen Geiger reported: "The April family field trip was led by Ann Burris with Wendy Money and Maureen Geiger assisting. Along with two families with 5 children, they walked a portion of the Clarksburg Branch Line Trail in West Sacramento. This great riparian area was full of birds that warm morning, and the kids were able to get great looks at a Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorants, American Wigeon, several species of swallow and watch a Bushtit pair popping in and out of a nest very near the trail. Almost 30 species were a nice reward for a morning walk."

Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake (4/18) — Leader Margaret Martin reported: "Eight of us first explored a trail heading south from the boat launch area, where we observed Rufous-crowned Sparrows both on the trail and singing from perches, a perched Red-shouldered Hawk, and an Anna's Hummingbird sitting on a nest, as we walked by numerous spring wildflowers including Fairy Lanterns and Chinese Houses. We then went on to Beek's Bight where we saw Rock Wrens and more Rufous-crowned Sparrows on large rocks amid spectacular fields of lupines, a distant Eared Grebe in breeding plumage, a Cooper's Hawk, and Black-headed Grosbeaks, and where we heard several Wrentits. At both locations we saw Ash-throated Flycatchers. We missed some common birds, however, so our total number of species was 34."

Pete Hayes

TOP WAYS TO COMBAT GLOBAL WARMING AND ITS IMPACT ON BIRDS

All of us have a role to play in reducing the worst impacts of global warming. As individuals and engaged citizens, we can all take steps to reduce our energy use, switch to cleaner sources of power, conserve habitat and encourage our leaders to take immediate action. To start, determine your energy profile and carbon footprint.

An energy audit assesses how much energy you consume. A carbon footprint shows how much greenhouse gas you emit into the atmosphere. These figures can help you determine steps you can take to make your home, school, or office more energy efficient. Many footprint calculators are available online, such as <http://www.coolcalifornia.org/>. You can also help reduce our collective carbon footprint by buying carbon offsets from companies such as TerraPass in San Francisco (<http://terrapass.com/>).

For more ways to combat global warming, go to <http://birdsandclimate.audubon.org/WhatUCanDo.html>.

This article was condensed from the National Audubon website and contributed by Joann Vinton.



Common Goldeneye
2013-2014 Duck Stamp winner
Artist: Robert Steiner

DUCK STAMP

Robert Steiner, an artist from San Francisco, is the winner of the 2012 Federal Duck Stamp Art Contest. The announcement was made recently by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director Rowan Gould at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. Steiner's acrylic painting of a common goldeneye will be made into the 2013-2014 Federal Duck Stamp, which will go on sale in late June 2013.

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as "Duck Stamps," are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They are not valid for postage. Originally created in 1934 as federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today.

Federal Duck Stamps are vital tools for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated by the sale of Federal Duck Stamps goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Understandably, the Federal Duck Stamp has been called one of the most successful conservation programs ever initiated and is a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources. Besides serving as a hunting license and a conservation tool, a current Federal Duck Stamp also serves as an entrance pass to national wildlife refuges for birders.

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Saturday/Sunday, September 28-29, 2013 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



Birding and Nature Events

KERN RIVER VALLEY HUMMINGBIRDS

As of press time there was no scheduled date for the annual Kern River Valley Hummingbird Celebration. However, the area is full of hummingbirds and Preserve feeders are up from March through mid-October so feel free to visit the area. Six hummingbird species are possible at the Kern River Preserve feeders in July, August, and early September with over one thousand hummingbirds present some days: Black-chinned (numbers decrease from July through early September), Anna's, Costa's (low numbers), Calliope (rarely), Rufous (peak numbers in late August and early September), and Allen's (virtually impossible to separate from Rufous, even adult males, except during banding sessions). To check for more information and perhaps a celebration date, plus photo galleries from previous years, go to kern.audubon.org/hummer_fest.htm

NINTH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

Registration is now open for the Monterey Bay Birding Festival, being held September 12-15, 2013. The Bay and its environs are home to one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America. From soaring Golden Eagles to effortlessly gliding California Condors, cheeky Bushtits to gorgeous Townsend's Warblers, scampering Snowy Plovers to wheeling flocks of thousands of Sooty Shearwaters, few places can match the diversity of habitats in and around Monterey Bay.

Featured presentations will include keynote speaker, Sophie Webb—ornithologist, artist, and author—on Saturday, September 14, at 7pm; Bob Power, with a "Field Identification of Raptors" presentation on Friday, September 13, at 7pm; and Cat Burns speaking about the Western Snowy Plover Recovery program on Thursday, September 12, at 7pm. All field trips for the festival, including pelagic and kayak tours are lead by top quality, friendly leaders. You'll be able to experience seeing seven species of owls, 200-plus species of birds including California Condors, and select from many field trips.

Registration for each birding event is offered a la carte, so you can mix and match outings according to personal interests. More information and registration can be found at montereybaybirding.org

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE: OLYMPIA, WA – AUGUST 22-25, 2013

Each year WFO holds a multi-day conference with scientific papers, field trips, workshops, panels, a keynote address, the annual membership meeting, and other events. The location varies each year as WFO attempts to span its region of coverage, while also making its conferences accessible to the bulk of its members. This year's Annual Conference will be held in Olympia, Washington from August 22-25. Mark your calendars and start planning for the many great field trips and speakers. This year there is a Bird Sound Identification Team Challenge adding to the excitement.

Check the WFO website for more information. Registration is now open. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Anne Bersinger, Bill Bianco, Bill and Nancy Bittner, Dale Blue, Bruce Bostick, Carolyn Broeren, Robin Durston, Gary Fregjen, Ed Greaves, Stu Husband, Maria Nicholas Kelly, Peggy Kraus-Kennedy, Pedro Marengo, Sylvia Mohr and Glenn Olson, to the **General Fund**.

Doris Baxter, Bill Bianco, Shirley Craine, Margaret Dettling, Peggy Gerick, Ed Greaves, Stu Husband, Jill McConnen, Randy Meyer, Kathy Moore, Kris Nieme, Susan Nishio, Peter Watkins and Sharon Wisecarver, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

The "Gardeners of the Grove" made a donation to support outdoor education for underserved school children after a birding program presented at their meeting by Subhash Chand.

Janet Kidd and Jon Lindstrom made a donation to the **Bobelaine Fund** in memory of Janet's mother, Audrey Kidd, who "loved to watch finches visit her feeder and hummingbirds sip the sugar water."

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There are no meetings in July. The next meeting will be on August 27, at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2013 PROGRAMS

September 19 Ed Pandolfino

October 17 Ron LeValley

YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK

The Sacramento Audubon Society Board has voted to make the following donations:

- \$500 to ECOS (Environmental Council of Sacramento), to help support their Earth Day activities.
- \$1000 to the Planning and Conservation League Foundation towards their defense of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Laura Collins

Teresa Licholai

Sylvia and Randy Mohr

Maria Ostendorf

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 apprecia-
tion of wild birds through commu-
nity outreach;

Provide, encourage and support envi-
ronmental educational opportuni-
ties; and

Provide proactive leadership in the
conservation of open space in the
Sacramento region.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@comcast.net

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued from page 10

A **Plumbeous Vireo** was reported at Willowbank Ditch in Davis on 5/9. **Brown Creepers** nested along Putah Creek upstream of Winters where they have in previous years and a late **Pacific Wren** was at CRP on 4/21. A **Northern Parula** was singing at the Point along the River Walk at CRP on 5/11 and a **Green-tailed Towhee** was found on 5/7 at the Sacramento Bypass. There were multiple **Brewer's Sparrows** reports, with the first at Don Nottoli Park in Elk Grove on 4/2-17 and at the surprisingly late date of 5/28; additional reports include Michigan Bar Rd on 4/6-7 and 4/24, and Meiss Rd from 4/13-23, with an impressive six on 4/23. **Vesper Sparrows** were found on Michigan Bar Rd on 4/7 and Meiss Rd on 4/13 and 4/27, with multiple **Grasshopper Sparrows** also found on Meiss Rd. A **Black-throated Sparrow** was reported in Lincoln on 5/3, **White-throated Sparrow** reports were particularly numerous, the continuing **Harris's Sparrow** in N Davis was last seen on 4/9, and two male **Lark Buntings** were reported on Yolo County Rd

38 southeast of Davis on 5/6. Both **Red-breasted Nuthatches** and **Pine Siskins** lingered well into May at multiple locations and a **Red Crossbill** was reported in Davis on 4/29.

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



Grasshopper Sparrow
Linda Pittman

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Ashley Casey, Jenner Davidson, Scott Dietrich, Chris Dunford, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Claire Gallagher, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Ron Melcer, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Linda Pittman, Jim Rowoth, John Sterling, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, Daniel Welsh, and Hillary White.

Thanks to everyone for their reports—with-
out them, this column would not be pos-
sible.

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

It is difficult to condense two of the most active months on the avian calendar, but though this spring was slim on hoped for vagrant songbirds, some regular western migrants were very well represented.

There were good numbers of uncommon **Empidonax flycatchers** and **Yellow-breasted Chats** were too numerous to list. For the third year in a row, **Hooded Mergansers** nested at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP), with a nest found in a **Wood Duck** box at Horseshoe Lake east of Hwy 99. A female with six chicks near the Valensin Forest at CRP on 5/21 may have been from that nest or could represent another breeding record. This species is now becoming established as a nesting bird in portions of the Central Valley.

Snowy Plovers were found at Folsom Lake near the Granite Bay Boat Launch on 4/6, the Woodland WTP on 4/10, and CRP on 4/28. The only **Solitary Sandpiper** reported was at CRP's Cougar Wetlands on 4/27. Single **Willetts** were found at CRP on 4/13, the Granite Bay Boat Launch on 4/17, with seven there on 5/3, and in Sutter County on 4/23 along Marcuse Rd off Hwy 99 and along W Catlett Rd. Two **Sanderlings** were at the Granite Bay Boat Launch from 5/6-8 and an adult **Franklin's Gull** was seen there on 4/13.

A migrating **Common Poorwill** was found at Yolo Grasslands Park on 5/3 and single **Calliope Hummingbirds** were

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at CRP on 4/13 and Babel Slough on 5/4. **Willow Flycatchers** are more easily found in fall migration, with spring

reports this year at Yolo Grasslands on 5/24, the Sacramento Bypass north-west of West Sacramento on 5/23-24, the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 5/28, and Folsom on 5/29. In addition to the numerous **Hammond's Flycatcher** reports, **Dusky Flycatchers** were found along the Sacramento River near Greenhaven on 4/12, at CRP on 4/21, at Yolo Grasslands Park on 4/26, in Davis on 5/9, at Paradise Beach on 5/11, and at E Portal Park in Sacramento on 5/13. **Gray Flycatchers** were at the Sacramento Bypass on 5/3 and 5/13, Paradise Beach on 5/11, and Sailor Bar on 5/16. A hatch year **Say's Phoebe** at Bobcat Ranch west of Winters on 5/17 may have come from a nest nearby.

A **Bell's Vireo** at the Bufferlands on 4/29-30 raised hopes that it might try to nest, but it was not subsequently found. A **Bell's Vireo** was found at YBWA (Putah Creek Sinks) on 5/9 where nesting was attempted in 2010 and 2011.

Observations continued on page 9

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

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