



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 18, 2014
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Our General Meetings will resume again on September 18, 2014. Enjoy the rest of your summer, travel, see some birds!

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).

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2014

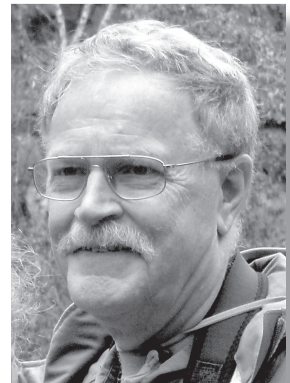
Sacramento Audubon Society's annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands is now full. Thank you to everyone who signed up as this is a good fund raiser for SAS. We hope everyone has a great time and we'll be looking forward to your reports and photos!



In Memorium

Donald Elton Schmoltdt

Don Schmoltdt, born June 30, 1944, and raised in San Jose near Alum Rock Park, the son of San Jose State Chemistry Professor Albert Schmoltdt, and grade school teacher Ella Mathiesen Schmoltdt, died on April 23, 2014, at home in Sacramento of a rare form of prostate cancer. At an early age he was interested in natural history. With his parents he camped throughout the west including Baja. His interest was honed by the Alum Rock Junior Museum—later called the Youth Science Institute (YSI). At a young age he started collecting and identifying insects, and was known as a bird expert by age 15. He was drafted and sent to Viet Nam where he served in telecommunications learning Morse Code, and tried to bird watch when on patrol. He received a BA in biology and a BS in Wildlife Management at Humboldt State University; and a MS in Natural Sciences at San Jose State University. He worked in Sequoia Kings Canyon as a ranger. As a professional wildlife biologist and raptor specialist, he assessed impacts to wildlife, habitats and endangered species throughout his career with CA State Fish and Game, WA Dept of Game, LSA Consulting in Point Richmond, and later with Caltrans. He was a well-know bird expert and naturalist who worked for Betchart Expeditions throughout the western US, Alaska and Baja California, and directed and led natural history tours for the Sutter Buttes Natural History Association. He was a favorite field trip leader for the various San Francisco Bay Area Audubon groups, and President of the Sacramento Audubon Society. He contributed to several breeding bird atlases and Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), and was both the founder and leader of the Mt. Hamilton CBC for 26 years. He is survived by the love of his life Sally Meta Walters, wife of 14 years—also a wildlife biologist, his sisters Jean Guinn and Marjorie Karpen, cousins, nieces and nephews, and many close friends. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to The Nature Conservancy, Mono Lake Committee or YSI in Santa Clara County, CA.



Donald Elton Schmoltdt
June 30, 1944 – April 23, 2014
Past President SAS

Field Trip Findings

Granite Springs Road (6/8) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Mark Martucci and Scott Hoppe, reported: “Escaping 106-degree heat, 16 participants birded the Sierra. We birded Granite Springs Rd from Ice House Rd to Wright’s Lake Rd, a distance of 11.7 miles. Highlights were a Dusky Flycatcher, Mountain Quail, MacGillivray’s, Nashville and Hermit warblers. A Warbling Vireo sitting on a little, cotton ball-like nest was spotted by Iza Davin and well-photographed. Everybody enjoyed themselves on a fun day birding.”

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain (6/1) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Seven people enjoyed a short hike. Along the way, we had an Ash-throated Flycatcher and a Black-headed Grosbeak, among other birds. Bushy Lake did not have any Wood Ducks. Also, there were White-throated Swifts and several species of swallows. Altogether we had 49 species. A good morning for everyone.”

Crystal Basin (5/31) — Wendy Warren Money, co-leader with Phyllis Wilburn, reported: “A group of 22 people were serenaded throughout the day by Fox Sparrows and Green-tailed Towhees. The stunningly clear day started out with singing vireos, warblers, and Western Tanagers. Long looks at the Lazuli Bunting delighted many birders seeing it for the first time and those toting cameras. Personnel changes at the Cleveland Corral gave us the opportunity to educate the new caretaker about the importance of hummingbird feeders. As a result, the Calliope and Anna’s Hummingbirds returned. There was frenetic activity during the day with adult birds feeding nestlings and fledglings. We found a bushtit nest on the ground, a Brown Creeper cavity being tended, and a Western Bluebird nest keeping the adults busy. We observed family groups of Red-Breasted Nuthatches and had close encounters with Hermit Warblers and Golden-crowned Kinglets. A fly-over of Band-tailed Pigeons was seen by some, and the Calliope Hummingbird in the meadow put on a dramatic show. Always dazzling were the Mountain Bluebirds. The many calling Mountain Quail kept eluding us; finally, one was spotted by some. By the end of the day we had seen eight warbler species and had a trip list of 46 species.”

Dragonfly Trip (5/24) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: “Had a nice turnout of seven folks attend the walk, which was around the backwater lagoons of the American River in the Parkway behind Rio Americano High School. We didn’t find some of the more unique and unusual species I had hoped to see, but since most of the folks attending the walk were beginners to dragonfly-watching, they were happy to get nice looks at everything we did see. This included nice comparison views of Western Pondhawks and Blue Dashers and prolonged views of mate guarding, by a male Widow Skimmer, of an egg-laying female. Male Common Green Darners, Black Saddlebags, 12-spotted Skimmers, Flame Skimmers and Common Whitetails were also seen patrolling in search of potential mates. The most interesting damselflies seen were a number of Arroyo Bluets, males examined in hand. Other things seen included River Otter and an ant-mimicking jumping spider in the genus *Peckhamia*.”

Upper Sunrise Parkway, Nimbus Fish Hatchery (5/20) — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: “A cloudy day greeted our birding group of seven. A good assortment of birds were seen including four species of swallows, a Northern Harrier, Phainopepla, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Tanager, and White-throated Swift. Several recently fledged House Wrens, White-breasted Nuthatches, Oak Titmouse, and Bushtits were seen frolicking. A treat was watching an active Black Phoebe nest. Nice morning of birding.”

Mosquito Ridge Road to French Meadows (5/18) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Twelve participants enjoyed an awesome day of birding in a beautiful Sierra area. At our first stop, we were hoping for Canyon Wren, which had been regular last year. At first we thought they would not put in an appearance, but after a while at least 2 showed up and afforded good views, singing almost incessantly. We also had great views of Black-throat-

ed Gray Warbler here. On our next stop, highlights included great scope views of a singing male Lazuli Bunting. We also had a nice male Violet-green Swallow perch nearby. Later, at Little Oak Flat, we had a good opportunity to compare Olive-sided Flycatcher and Western Wood-Pewee. We also got good views of Bullock’s Oriole here. Some of the best stuff occurred at Placer Big Trees. Here we got the highlight of the day for me. We all got great views of a male MacGillivray’s Warbler, which sat out in the open. This bird can be notoriously secretive and hard to see. Another highlight here was good views of Hermit Warbler, a life list bird for some in

the group. We also had good views of Pacific Wren and White-headed Woodpecker here, as well as Hammond’s Flycatcher and Cassin’s Vireo (with nesting material in it’s bill). At French Meadows, we got great views of Fox Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee, saw more MacGillivray’s Warblers, added Wilson’s and Yellow Warbler, plus a Dusky

Flycatcher. Other birds for the trip included Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Black-headed Grosbeak and Western Tanager. We tallied 55 species for the day.”

Mather Lake (5/17) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “At least a dozen birders enjoyed identifying 48 species on a comfortable, cool morning. Multiple singing mockingbirds and House Wrens were heard all around the lake. Families of Canada Geese, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows, Western Kingbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Brewer’s Blackbirds were observed. A spectacular male Hooded Oriole was seen by all as well as a single Hermit Thrush and a White-crowned Sparrow. The number of Great-tailed Grackles was moderate but the number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds was low.”

River Bend Park (5/14) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Six people joined me for a morning walk before the heat set in. Buckeye, elderberry, penstemon and clarkia were blooming. House Wrens with



Spotted Sandpiper
Stephen D'Amato

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Field Trips



Western Grebe
Kirsten Munson

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 20. For trips beginning July 21 through August 24, contact the scheduler Dan Tankersley, 662-1290, dtankers@winfirst.com; and after August 25, contact 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. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Saturday, July 5, 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's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Sunday, July 6, 7am

Ice House Road and Crystal Basin area

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207 and

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.

Saturday, July 12, time TBD

Dragonflytrip

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!

Sunday, July 13

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip

Contact Linda Pittman to see if there have been any cancellations

715-1876, pittman@frontiernet.net

Saturday, July 19, 7am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266

jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for this half day trip to search the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area for shorebirds! The Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area management has recently announced that two fields will be flooded specifically to attract and accom-

modate migrating shorebirds. The first field will be flooded on July 1st and by the 19th should be prime habitat for the migration of shorebirds. Dan will be leading us on a walk of approximately two miles around the pond, so wear good walking or hiking shoes and bring liquids. 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. Meet Dan at the first parking lot (Lot A) on your left, at the beginning of the auto tour. Scopes are helpful on this trip, which will end before noon.

Sunday, July 20, 6am

Hidden Falls Regional Park, near Auburn

Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682

bgraber984@gmail.com

Join Ben for this trip to one of his favorite birding spots. He has heard Yellow Breasted Chat, had several species of warblers and flycatchers and saw a whole flock of Lawrence's Goldfinches in the area this year. Be sure to wear good walking or hiking shoes and bring liquids, and maybe some snacks as this will be a half day trip. Meet Ben at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Saturday, July 26, 6:30am

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

**Leaders: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com
Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net**

Join Gary and Scott on this high elevation 3-mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Cassin's Finch and, with luck, Sooty Grouse, Black-backed Woodpecker and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Bring lunch and plenty of liquids; wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather. Carson Pass is a USFS fee area for day-use parking. This hike should be considered moderate to strenuous depending upon your physical condition. Meet at the Bella Bru 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 27, 6:30am
Ellis Road/Power Fire Area
Leader: Linda Pittman,
t715-1876
pittmanl@frontiernet.net**

This mid-elevation area is located off Hwy 88 in the El Dorado National Forest in eastern Amador County, about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. Much of this area was severely burned during the Power Fire in 2004. We'll take several short walks in various habitats looking for woodpeckers and mountain residents. High clearance/all wheel drive vehicles are recommended for the burn area. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch, snacks and liquids. Bring FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take Hwy 99 south to the Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104 exit, 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.

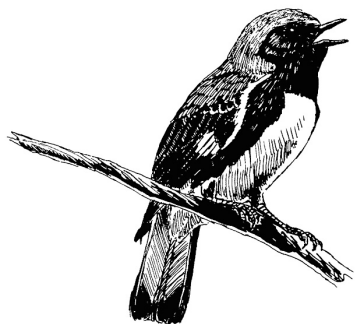
**Wednesday, July 30, 7:30am
William Pond Park
Leader: Larry Hickey, 962-0387
Larryhickey1@gmail.com**

Meet Larry along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. He'll walk down to some different spots on the river looking

for various herons, egrets and other waterbirds. California Quail, Western Bluebirds, Western Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers are possible. Trip will end by noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners

**Saturday, August 2, noon till sunset
Common Nighthawks at Sunset
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for an afternoon and evening of birding in the Sierra, ending in an area that at this time of year hosts many Common Nighthawks that can be observed feeding and calling at sunset. Dan has seen up to 50 nighthawks in the air at one time here, which can present great photo ops! This spot is about an hour away from Sacramento, We will start the



Black-throated Blue Warbler
Stephen D'Amato

day around 1:30pm birding a small private lake, looking for common Sierra birds such as Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Spotted Sandpiper, White-headed Woodpecker and possible Osprey and Bald Eagle. Also of interest at this lake are numerous species of Dragonflies that we don't see in the Valley. We will then bird our way toward the nighthawk site, stopping for a picnic dinner in the field and ending the day after sundown watching the nighthawks. We will be walking for about 2 miles total, mostly on flat terrain so wear appropriate shoes. Bring a folding chair or two and whatever you would like for our picnic dinner. Also bring water, sunscreen, a hat, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This trip is limited to 12 participants, so please contact Dan to save a spot and for meeting location/time.

**Sunday, 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.

**Wednesday, August 6, 7am
Davis Wetlands and the Yolo Bypass
Wildlife Area
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290
dtankers@winfirst.com**

We will begin our outing at the Davis Wetlands, where we will look for both resident and migrating shorebirds as well as raptors and other species that frequent wetland habitats. Later in the morning we will go over to the nearby Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area in search of species we may not see at the wetlands. We will be out of our vehicles for much of the time so be prepared for warm and sunny conditions. Plenty of liquids and wide-brimmed hats are a good idea. Please bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. This outing will end at or before 11am. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take I-80 west to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and proceed to the stop light (CR 32A), turn right (east); pass the driveway to Ikeda's Market and look for the entrance to the Park and Ride on your right. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank.

**Saturday, August 9, 7am
"North Bay" Marshes
Leader: Jane Taylor, 444-0429
jg.taylor@att.net**

The "North Bay" marshes offer many birding opportunities, and early fall migration may bring some shorebirds to the area. Possible stops include American Canyon Wetlands, the wetlands along Highway 37, Rush Creek Marsh near the Novato Airport, and Schollenberger Park or Ellis Creek Water Recycling Plant in Petaluma, as time, reports and drought conditions recommend. Low tide is predicted at about 8am so American Canyon will likely be our first stop; we should plan to walk the few miles around the marsh. This should be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and

liquids. Meet near the big water tank at the back of the Park and Ride north of I-80 in Davis at Mace Boulevard, exit #75, behind Ikeda's Market off the frontage road.

Thursday, August 14, 7:30am
Sacramento Bar
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell 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 16, 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 17, 6:30am
Granite Springs Road
Leaders: Tim Fitzer 870-5207
Mark Martucci 833-6722
Tim: spskua2@comcast.net
Mark: matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Tim and Mark for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wrights Lake Road, a distance of about 8 miles. We should find Mountain Quail with young, and possibly Evening Grosbeaks, flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Calliope Hummingbird. Around Wright's Lake we expect to find Pine Grosbeak, Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. FRS Radios are helpful. Since Granite Springs Road is dirt, we will scout its condition to determine its drivability. Meet at Bella Bru 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.

Friday, August 22, 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 23, 7am
Marin County Shorebirds
and Other Surprises
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

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 24, 7:30am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Andi Salmi, 508-7192
andisalmi@yahoo.com

Join Andi for a day of birding and 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 30, 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, August 31, 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 6, 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

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Field Trips continued from page 5

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 7, 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. A focus of the walk will be identifying our local birds by ear. 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.



Western Scrub Jay
Kirsten Munson

YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK

The Sacramento Audubon Board has voted to make the following donations

- \$325 towards travel expenses for a 16 year old student, recipient of a scholarship from the Central Valley Birding Club to the ABA Young Birders' Camp, Camp Colorado, Estes Park, Colorado.
- \$500 to Friends of the Swainson's Hawk, to further their educational and environmental work.
- \$1000 to Wildlife Care Association to support their work in rescuing and rehabilitating wildlife.
- \$500 to Habitat 2020 to support their work to develop a regional open space strategy in advancement of the California Heartland Program.
- \$500 to the Feather River Land Trust to further their work in conserving the Sierra Valley wetlands.
- \$1700 towards purchase of radiotelemetry equipment for Dave Wyatt's continuing study of home ranges and den sites of ringtails in the Sutter Buttes.

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young were abundant. Other birds of interest were a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, a Western Wood-Pewee and a Lazuli Bunting. A small, fuzzy white head was just visible in the Red-shouldered Hawk's nest."

Sand Creek Road, near Arbuckle (5/11) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Mark Martucci, reported: "Sunday was a wind-blown day. Ten birders made their way to the top of Sand Creek Rd and highlights were Lawrence's Goldfinches, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a pair of soaring Golden Eagles. We totaled 53 species, despite the wind. It was a fun day with fun people."

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (5/10) — Leader Lea Landry reported: "This year's spring walk along Shadow Glen and Lake Natoma trails on a windy day was later than usual, resulting in fewer species of birds seen—no warblers, no gulls, no grebes, no raptors and no phainopeplas. A large group of birders, many new to the sport, including a 7-year-old who can join my trips any time, were introduced to the world of Sacramento County birding by cooperative Wild Turkeys, Oak Titmouses, Western Scrub Jays, Nuttall's and Acorn

woodpeckers, Spotted and California towhees, and Lesser Goldfinches. Only 31 species were observed or heard, with good views of a Rufous-crowned Sparrow and several Ash-throated Flycatchers being the highlights."

Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-chucky, Auburn State Recreation Area (5/3) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "While birding was pretty slow over all for this location, we did find some cool birds. Good views were had of Orange-crowned, Nashville, Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Wilson's warblers, plus Black-headed Grosbeak. Yellow-breasted Chat was heard but never seen. We also had 3 species of Vireo and several species of Flycatcher. The weather was great and everyone enjoyed the beauty of the location. We had 15 participants and tallied 44 species."

Bucks Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway, El Dorado Hills (4/30) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "Nice trip this morning up in El Dorado Hills. Three of us walked the Serrano/Buck's Creek Trail on a warm, beautiful morning. We saw 44 usual suspects such as Western Bluebirds, 3 Wren species, many Western Kingbirds as well as Ash-throated Flycatchers, Nuttall's and

Acorn woodpeckers, Cal Towhees, White-breasted Nuthatches, and many others. Probably the best viewing of the morning was at several beautiful Wilson's Warblers and an unusually close look at a Green Heron that seemed perfectly OK being stared at by three humans and who did not budge from his spot. We could have counted his feathers! Nice time to be up there."

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain (4/26) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "The day started off cold, wet, and foggy. Six of us decided to go, fog or no fog. As the fog lifted, more birds became active. We did not see any Wood Ducks on Bushy Lake. A young Turkey Vulture perched on the cross bar of a power line tower allowed us to get up close, so everyone was able to get a good look at the bird. We spotted a Hooded Oriole and a Black-headed Grosbeak in the Eucalyptus trees that border Cal Expo. Our total for the trip was 45 species. A good time was had by everyone."

Earth Day on the Parkway, Estates Drive, American River Parkway (4/22) — Leader John Huls reported: "Our Earth Day trip was much quieter than last

2014-2015 DUCK STAMP NOW AVAILABLE

Over-draining of wetlands, degradation of prairie grasslands through increased mono-crop agriculture, and cycles of over-harvesting of waterfowl on ever-dwindling habitat... During the Dust Bowl of the Depression years, these events culminated in a drastic loss of waterfowl. An important step taken to address this crisis was the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp in the mid-1930s, an action that sought to strengthen a National Wildlife Refuge System in desperate need of support.

Following the creation of the Federal Duck Stamp in 1934, the Refuge System grew exponentially over the next decade. In response to the application of scientific and increasingly modern wildlife management techniques, waterfowl populations began to rebound. The Federal Duck Stamp became central to bird conservation during this vital period.

Among the birds directly benefiting from Duck Stamp revenues are waterbirds (e.g., western grebe, least bittern, yellow rail and black tern), shorebirds (e.g., black-necked stilt, American avocet, whimbrel, red knot and Wilson's phalarope), raptors (e.g., swallow-tailed kite, Swainson's hawk and golden eagle) and wetland-associated songbirds (e.g., vermilion flycatcher, sedge wren, prothonotary warbler, LeConte's sparrow and tricolored blackbird).

Many of the country's most popular birding destinations are national wildlife refuges established or aided by Federal Duck Stamp dollars. Refuge visitation is now approaching 46 million people per year, and according to recent USFWS figures, more than 80 percent of these visitors engage in wildlife watching, specifically birds. Just as importantly, these visitors are part of the millions of Americans increasingly interested in wild birds and birding.

Buying a \$15 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (commonly known as a Federal Duck Stamp) gets you free admission to any national wildlife refuge. Each stamp is valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. Both Federal Duck Stamps (\$15) and Junior Duck Stamps (\$5) are sold in many post offices across the country. You can also buy both stamps on the internet, and at many national wildlife refuges, sporting goods and outdoor stores. Visit fws.gov/duckstamps/stamps.htm to learn where you can purchase Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.

SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH

A note from a teacher in an inner city school:

"Thank you to Sacramento Audubon for allowing us to visit Effie Yeaw. Having some of the kids last year has given them a chance to go in two successive years, enabling us to go deeper with the environmental education concepts and building good stewardship of our precious resources. Being able to go on field trips gives my students, who are bound by their housing project, some hope for the future. Thank you, thank you."



Kid Birds
Wendy Money's Class

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WILDLIFE CARE

Wildlife Care's mission is to rescue, rehabilitate and release wildlife. They handle over 6000 orphaned and injured wild animals annually, and are in desperate need of funds and volunteers. Each fledgling bird, baby mammal or injured hawk requires many hours of volunteer time to achieve a successful release. Wildlife Care needs volunteers for hands-on care, and also phone volunteers, who are the first contact with the public. And of course donations of money or materials are always greatly appreciated. You can donate online at www.wildlifecareassociation.net, or read more about volunteering some of your time, and getting to know a wild animal personally. Or donate items like the following from their Wish List: cat and dog kibble, any brand, bleach, laundry and dish detergent, mealworms, Kleenex and toilet paper, animal food dishes, and check online for more items. The Sacramento Audubon Society makes an annual donation to Wildlife Care, but if everyone reading this would make a small donation, it would make a huge difference to an organization working on a shoestring budget, and volunteering your time would be invaluable. To volunteer email wcavolunteers@yahoo.com or phone 965-WILD (9453).



month's Arbor Day trip to the same stretch of river. The cacophony of many species competing for nest cavities was replaced by quieter sounds and sights of birds taking insects to nestlings. Bushtit nests were quivering from activity within. We traveled the footpaths both east and west of Estates Drive and were rewarded with several river scenes reminiscent of paintings by Bierstadt, Moran and others of the Hudson River School of 19th century American art. Male wood ducks added to the artistic flare of the scenery. One or two Ash-throated flycatchers were heard but not seen. The usual suspects were numerous, especially House and Bewick's wrens."

Pine Hill Preserve (4/20) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Eighteen of us enjoyed a beautiful morning, with good views of the mountains and Folsom Lake (including distant American White Pelicans on the shoreline) and a decent showing

of wild flowers. Bird highlights included good views of Ash-throated Flycatchers, a Hutton's Vireo, Violet-green Swallows, Phainopeplas, Chipping Sparrows, Bell's Sparrows (formerly known as Sage Sparrows), Purple Finches, and a heard-only California Thrasher. Full eBird list here: <http://ebird.org/ebird/view/checklist?subID=S17979332>."

Sweetwater Creek (4/16) — Leader Tim Fitzer reported: "Twenty-three participants enjoyed a walk down towards Lake Folsom and then up Sweetwater Creek. Highlights were Hutton's Vireo, Western Bluebirds, Rough-winged and Violet-green swallows, Townsend's, Wilson's and Yellow warblers, a Hairy Woodpecker in and out of a tree cavity and Wrentits calling. It was a large group but we all had a fun time and that's what counts."

Pete Hayes

Birding and Nature Events

10TH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

The 10th annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival will take place from **September 25-28**. From soaring golden eagles, effortlessly gliding California condors, cheeky bushtits, gorgeous Townsend's warblers, scampering snowy plovers, to thousands of sooty shearwaters streaming along the ocean's surface, few places can match the diversity of species of the Monterey Bay region.

September marks the peak of fall migration, with wintering shorebirds arriving en masse. Warblers and other passerines are doing the same, and we even start seeing the first appearances of wintering ducks and other waterfowl. Meanwhile, just a few miles offshore, jaegers, shearwaters, and alcid are present in good numbers. There's no better time to visit the Monterey Bay area to see the greatest number of species or to find a rarity.

This year's lineup of nightly speakers, will be headed by author, artist, naturalist and conservationist Kenn Kaufman. Joining Kaufman as nightly speakers will be Brian Sullivan, project leader for eBird; and local Monterey birder Don Roberson, who has been the "keeper" of the Monterey County bird list for 35 years while serving as the county editor for *North America Birds* and now eBird.

Designed for both seasoned and beginning birders, as well as outdoor lovers, the festival's field trips offer unique opportunities to learn about, explore, and appreciate world-class habitats, such as the Elkhorn Slough National Marine Estuary and Pinnacles National Park. Join a pelagic trip to experience one of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, one of the most productive regions for albatrosses, shearwaters, storm-petrels, and more. Or, take a scenic ride in Elkhorn Slough by kayak, pontoon, or silent electric boat.

There are other 'practical' workshops covering birding optics, pelagic bird ID, raptor ID, photography and sketching.

Registration for the 2014 MBBF has already opened and some field trips may already be full, so go quickly to the website montereybaybirding.org for detailed registration information.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

The 39th annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be in **San Diego, October 9-12**, at the Marriott Courtyard hotel at Liberty Station. This is a beautiful location on the San Diego Harbor, less than a mile from the San Diego airport.

Field trips will include two pelagic trips, as well as visits to a wide diversity of San Diego's many birding hot spots. In addition, the conference is offering a two-day field trip Sunday and Monday (October 12-13) to the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley area led by Guy McCaskie and Jon Dunn.

There will be workshops on field identification of warblers (Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett) and sparrows (Homer Hansen), molt (Peter Pyle), specimen preparation (Phil Unitt), and bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow). The Saturday evening banquet will feature a celebration of the rich 44-year history of WFO. Ed Harper and Nathan Pieplow will again offer their ever-popular sessions on bird ID by sight and sound.

Registration for the conference will open in mid-June. If you are NOT currently on the electronic mailing list, please send an email to erpfromca@aol.com, include your full name and city and state of residence, and you will be added.

In addition to WFO's usual general science session, the conference will include a symposium on avifaunal change in western North America to be published subsequently as a volume of WFO's monograph series *Studies of Western Birds*. The WFO welcomes and solicits contributions to this symposium and peer-reviewed publication. To inquire about participating, please contact Dave Shuford or Bob Gill.

EAST AFRICA IN 2015

Ed Harper has announced that the Tanzanian safari he and Susan Scott are leading March 6-20, 2015 is now full. Hope everyone has a great time in Africa!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Anonymous, Bill Bianco, Judith Bietz, Irene Bond, Janice Caravantes, Marc Fagan, Robert Garcia, Bud Getty, Stu Husband, Rosemary Mayfield, Susan Oie, Duane Rutledge, Jan Schori and Harry White made donations to the **General Fund**.

Dan Airola, Sonja Armour, Cynthia Austin, Bill Bianco, Judith Bietz, Bill and Nancy Bittner, Aubrey Blue, Carolyn Broeren, Laura Collins, Suzanne Covington, Margaret Crawford, Winifred Detweiler, Marilyn Evans, Gary Fregien, Yoshino Hatanaka, Candy Holland, Stu Husband, Charlotte Mast, Dan Murphy, Kristin Niemi, Susan Nishio, Mary Nuezel, Susan Oie, Maria Ostendorf, Valerie Phillips, Karen Resch, Susan Stratton, Harry White and Woody Wray made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Susan G. Porter made a donation to the **Bobelaine Fund**.

Pete Hayes made a donation in memory of **Jack Hiehle**.

Both the Woman's Thursday Club of Fair Oaks and the American Association of University Women made donations to **Sacramento Audubon** in appreciation of the *Backyard Birds of the Sacramento Area* presentation made to their meetings by Jerry Towner and the Organic Gardening Club of Sacramento County made a donation in appreciation of Subash Chand's presentation, also featuring local birds.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

[facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon)



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.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members:

Frank Goss	Kate Riley
Lynda Ives	Duane Rutledge
Shelly Lumia	Anne Soble
Charlotte Marks	Sue Wallace
Mike McCallum	William Woodward
Dan Murphy	

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. After the summer recess the next meeting will be on August 26, 2014 at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

Sacramento Audubon 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 \$ _____

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Observations continued from page 10

area of ARP on 5/12, with perhaps the same bird downstream at Larchmont Park on 5/14, and in north Davis on 5/23. Other interesting finds included a **Steller's Jay** from Rayhouse Rd in Yolo County on 4/12 and 5/18, a **Tennessee Warbler** along Putah Creek in Solano County downstream of Hwy 505 on 5/16, and a **Black-and-white Warbler** reported singing at the Sacramento Bypass in Yolo County on 5/24. Two **Brewer's Sparrows** were along Michigan Bar Rd north of the Cosumnes River on 4/20-21, single **Vesper Sparrows** were along Sand Creek Rd in Colusa County on 4/5 and Latrobe Rd in Sacramento County on 4/7, the **Swamp Sparrow** along Putah Creek downstream of Pedrick Rd continued through 4/7, a **White-throated Sparrow** was found in a Davis yard at the very late date of 5/31, and the **Harris's Sparrow** in north Davis off of Cortez Ave continued through 4/5. And finally, a male **Indigo Bunting** was found singing at the Sacramento Bypass in Yolo County on 5/25-31.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html). 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 in eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Cathy Corcoran, Chris Dunford, Andy Engilis, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Chance Hines, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Roger Muskat, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Jim Pompy, Ron Pozzi, John Sterling, Michael Strom, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, Ed Whisler, Hillary White, Sharon Wisecarver, and Gary Zamzow.

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

During a very busy two months, the obvious standout was a **Marsh Sandpiper** found along Liberty Island Rd, south of Swan Rd, in Solano County southeast of Dixon on 4/9-12. This was only the second for California and the contiguous U.S. and the first seen by multiple observers—in this case probably more than two hundred observers. The bird was also seen flying into adjacent Yolo County. The other standout shorebird of the period was a **Stilt Sandpiper** in alternate plumage on a closed portion of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/27.

Hooded Mergansers are continuing to establish themselves as breeding birds in our area. Two family groups were seen in mid-May along the American River Parkway (ARP). One was upstream of Howe Ave and the other was near the Gristmill access. The Howe family was closely tracked and the female appeared to lose her eight young in only three days. A **Red-breasted Merganser** found on the American River near the Gristmill access on 2/22 continued through 4/6. Additional shorebird highlights included a **Pacific Golden-Plover** at Sherman Island in southwestern Sacramento County on 4/27-29, and single **Snowy Plovers** at the Yolo Landfill Pond along Rd 28H on 4/23, the Granite Bay boat launch at Folsom Lake on 4/25, and the Woodland WTP on 5/2. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found at CRP on 4/17 and an impres-

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sive concentration of five or more was on a closed portion of CRP on 4/26. A **Marbled Godwit** was at the Regional San Bufferlands on 4/25. The most notable gull report was a second-cycle **Lesser**

Black-backed Gull at the Yolo County Central Landfill on 4/5.

A male **Costa's Hummingbird** visited a south Sacramento yard from 5/31 to at least mid-June, and single **Calliope Hummingbirds** were reported on 4/3 in Elk Grove, 4/5 at CRP, at another site in Elk Grove on 4/7, and along Garden Hwy near Sacramento on 4/15. **Gray Flycatchers** were slightly more conspicuous than usual, with reports from Don Nottoli Park in Elk Grove on 4/21, the Bufferlands on 5/2, two individuals near the Nimbus Hatchery on 5/13, and Slide Hill Park in Davis, also on 5/13. The latter site also had three **Hammond's Flycatchers** and a single **Dusky Flycatcher** on the same date. Single **Dusky Flycatchers** were also found near the Gristmill access on 5/14 and at CRP on 5/25. A singing **Say's Phoebe** was a surprise for the late date of 5/12 at the Woodland WTP.

Plumbeous Vireos were reported from Slide Hill Park on 4/20, the Gristmill

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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