

# The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



## General Meeting

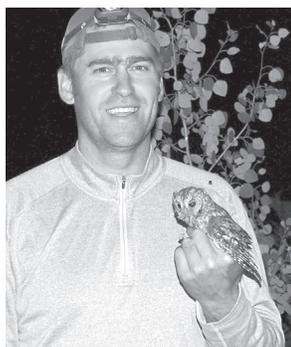
Thursday, January 15, 2015  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center  
Assembly Room, 7pm

The Ventriloquist Owls of Lake Davis  
David Arsenault

David Arsenault has studied the ventriloquist Flammulated Owls around Lake Davis for the past three years. He'll discuss this secretive, Neotropical migrant which eats only insects and nests in tree cavities. The Lake Davis owl population is the largest known in the Sierra Nevada, with over 50 territories in 20 square kilometers. The goal of the study is to determine how forest thinning projects, known as Defensive Fuel Profile Zones, affect owls. He is also collaborating with the Global Owl Project to study Flammulated Owl migration using geolocators.

David Arsenault, based in Quincy, CA for the last 10 years, is a career wildlife biologist, and has studied wildlife, with a focus on birds, throughout the western U.S. and the Americas for more than 20 years. He worked as Plumas Audubon's field trip coordinator and then served as chapter president for 5 years. Now, as Executive Director, David is helping to develop Plumas Audubon's science-based conservation and education programs.

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](http://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://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).



David Arsenault  
with Flow

## DON'T FORGET THE 4TH ANNUAL SAS KIDS AND YOUNG ADULTS CBC!

Saturday, January 10 is just a few days away and it's the date for the Fourth Annual Sacramento Area Kids/Young Adults' Christmas Bird Count. A great event for an exciting opportunity to get kids and young adults outside looking at birds and nature! Join the Sacramento Audubon Society's Fourth Annual Kids' Christmas Bird Count. Families can join citizen scientists all over the world and practice finding, identifying and counting all the birds they see followed by a companionable lunch with other birder families. **Mark your calendars for the morning of January 10, 2015** at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Interested families and young adults can register on-line on the EYNC website, [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net).

## 30TH ANNUAL ARNHA WILDLIFE COUNT NETS 122 BIRD SPECIES

Participants caught a break in the rainy weather systems and had a great day birding and counting wildlife December 6 in the ARNHA Wildlife Count. Count Coordinator William E. Avery said 19,756 birds in 122 species were recorded which compared to 19,166 birds in 111 species last year. Eleven teams with a total of 69 people participated, compared to 53 last year. A few team highlights: Team 12, the Otters, dedicated their survey to the memory of lost birder Don Schmoltdt. Paddlers in one of the two canoes of Team 11, the Beavers, discovered an impassable wall of rocks and minor rapids in the middle of the American River but happily were rescued by paddlers in the other canoe. Team 10 was amazed by abundant Canvasbacks and fortunate to see a Clark's Grebe at the Discovery Park Quarry Pond. Team 8 was excited by Soras and abundant Wood Ducks at Bushy Lake. Team 1, the Hawks, which was Ed Harper, spotted a Virginia Rail in the Hazel area.

Five new taxa were reported this year including: Egyptian Goose, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead x Common Goldeneye hybrid, Dunlin, and Eurasian Collared Dove.

Notable differences comparing this year and last: Apparent declines (less than half) in numbers of Common Mergansers, all gull species, Black-crowned Night Herons, Turkey Vultures, Killdeer, Brewers Blackbirds. Apparent increases included goose flyovers (Ross's, Greater White-fronted, Snow), Wood Ducks, Pintails, Canvasbacks. Increases were also noted in Starlings and Red-winged Blackbirds.

Notable absences included Mew Gull, Northern Harrier, and Common Gallinules. Nobody spotted either a Common Loon or a Bald Eagle this year.

In addition to birds, participants counted deer, ground squirrels, Western Gray squirrels, Eastern Gray and fox squirrels, coyotes, river otters, jackrabbits and beavers. Overabundant feral cats were seen—mostly at Discovery Park. More turtles were observed this year (41—up from 1 in 2013) and more Pacific Tree Frog (21—up from 1 in 2013).

## Field Trip Findings

**Discovery Park (12/14)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Good trip for five intrepid birders in the cold fog. We had almost 40 species including Varied Thrush, the usual over-the-top numbers of Hermit Thrushes and five species of sparrows. Best was the sight of three normally solitary Fox Sparrows feeding on the ground together in a tight little group, acting like a flock.”

**Robinson Road, Solano County (12/13)** — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Ann Burris, reported: “It was so nice to see the parched fields green again after the rains. Many birds foraging; highlights were Golden Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, 8 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Burrowing Owls, 10 Loggerhead Shrikes, 9 Say’s Phoebes. and a flyover of 60 Mountain Plovers. Morning fog lifted and 16 birders had a fun time, life is good!”

**William Pond Park (12/10)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “On this chilly pre-storm day we found Varied Thrush, Hooded Merganser, Fox Sparrow and Cooper’s Hawk among other birds. Many good birders on the walk made spotting birds easy, as Craig, Valerie, Larry and John made sure everyone got a good look at the birds. The two Marks, (Martucci and Sawyer), alerted us to a possible Greater Scaup, and helped us find a nice White-throated Sparrow. We watched some interesting Osprey behavior, as two individuals interacted, calling and circling, one with legs extended. We saw telegraph weed and coyote bush in bloom and the group totaled 53 bird species.”

**Nimbus Fish Hatchery (12/7)** — Leader Ed Harper reported: “We started our field trip at the leisurely hour of 9:30am since the California International Marathon had roads pretty well blocked earlier in the morning. Those able to arrive early were treated to the adult Peregrine Falcon on the cable wire, a perch it has utilized the past several years. Later arrivals had to settle for an Osprey also perched on the same cable as it had been for the past week. Although gulls were the chief objective, most had moved a half-mile farther downriver. Very few were near the hatchery but we also migrated downstream where Herring, California, Ring-billed, Glaucous-winged, and Thayer’s Gulls in that order of abundance awaited us. Good, prolonged studies were obtained of gulls of various age classes while

adding to the scene were large numbers of Common Goldeneye and at least 15 Barrow’s Goldeneye. With Phainopepla, Hermit Thrush, Red-shouldered Hawks, and more we ended up with over 50 species in delightful weather.”

**Lincoln Grasslands (11/29)** — Richard Barbieri, co-leader with Tim Fitzer, reported: “Our grassland trip started off a little iffy with the weather forecast but, the seven who attended went after it. We had a quest to tally as many species as we could to try and outdo the trip that would follow the next day. Highlights for the day were Clark’s Grebe, pair of Hooded Mergansers, 3 Bald Eagles, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and 3 Sandhill Cranes. Total for the day was 93 species unfortunately one less than our friendly competitors.”

**Sacramento Wildlife Refuge (11/23)** — Leader Andi Salmi reported: “Our group of seven enjoyed a chilly day at Colusa and Sacramento Wildlife Refuges. The first stop was the observation deck at Colusa where we found and enjoyed watching the Falcated Duck, a life bird for many in the group. A Eurasian Wigeon was also sighted. We then headed to Sacramento Wildlife Refuge where we observed a diverse number of ducks and thousands of Ross’s, Snow and White-fronted geese, including a stunning dark-phase Ross’s goose. Many raptors were also seen including a Bald Eagle.”

**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley, Sponsored by Save Our Sandhill Cranes (11//22-23-29-30)** — Coordinator Mike Savino reported: “Because November had five weekends, four crane tours were scheduled. The weather, however, had its way with us so that some days had fewer participants than usual around the holidays.

“On November 22, 14 visitors braved the cold, rainy weather. After a short talk at the Visitor Center at the Cosumnes River Preserve we drove to Woodbridge Road and saw a fairly nice crane fly-in with a bonus of a few dozen Tundra Swans. Krystal Pulsipher helped.

“The next day, November 23, about 45 visitors squeezed into the Visitor Center. The clearer weather not only increased the number of visitors it also brought us a breathtaking sunset, lots of cranes close by, swans, lots of flyovers of geese and very happy guests. Afton Kern and Lynn

Klousner helped at Woodbridge. Afton identified Tundra Swans, Snow/Ross’s Geese, an excellent diversity of sandpipers, a few species of ducks and waterfowl including a Eurasian Wigeon drake.

“November 29: About 25 people joined us in the Visitor Center for a discussion about the cranes, but only about 15 drove down to Woodbridge for the field trip. They were not disappointed. Although it was very cloudy, which reduced the light level, there was a good flyin with about 200 cranes close enough to see very well. When we first arrived there were lots of Tundra Swans; however, most of them left by the time the sun set while the number of cranes flying in continued to increase. Large flyovers of geese and swans provided added wonder for many of our guests.

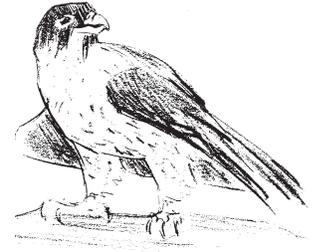
“On our last tour of the month, November 30, Sean Wirth and Mike Savino followed the usual routine of a talk at the Visitor Center with a trip down to Woodbridge, but with an added stopover on Franklin Blvd. to find what we could of visiting waterfowl. Thousands of snow geese were airborne and arriving in the roost pond. We saw flyovers of Tundra Swans, Greater White-fronted Geese, Cackling Geese, some Northern Shovelers and assorted ducks.

“A few general observations: Most of our guests did not have binoculars so we assume they were first-timers. Few of the visitors showed any real interest in other birds. They seemed to only be interested in cranes. As usually happens, the value of bringing spotting scopes to share with visitors was again demonstrated as people lined up to look at the cranes via a scope. Once they saw even just one crane in close-up via a scope, their reaction was very positive.”

**Sutter’s Landing Regional Park (11/22)** — Leader Ben Graber reported: “The weather was kind of stormy, and as a result, only I and two others attended this trip. It wasn’t the birdiest day, but some of the highlights were Common Goldeneye, Great Blue Heron, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Red-winged Blackbird, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, and Northern Flicker. The favorite was a very cooperative Sharp-shinned Hawk that perched right in front of us,

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# Field Trips



*Peregrine Falcon*  
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 Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net) for trips through January 25. For trips from January 31 contact the scheduler Richard Barbieri, [offleash56@yahoo.com](mailto:offleash56@yahoo.com), 761-1124.

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.

### **Thursday, January 1, 9am** **Cosumnes River Preserve** **Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207** **[Spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:Spskua2@comcast.net)**

Start the New Year off right; go birding! Wintering Sandhill Cranes, Greater White-fronted Geese and a wide variety of duck species frequent the preserve. Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible. Tim will walk the CRP boardwalk loop first; then drive along Desmond Road for more views of waterfowl. Meet at the CRP Visitor Center parking lot. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. This is an enjoyable trip for everyone. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org).

### **Saturday, January 3, 8am** **Tonzi Road and** **Western Amador County** **Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636** **[Calaveri.gary@gmail.com](mailto:Calaveri.gary@gmail.com)**

Join Gary on a road trip to the Sierra foothills in Amador County. The focus of the trip will be the waters and back-country roads in western Amador County. There is a surprising variety and number of passerines and raptors in this area, with a possibility of Lewis's Woodpecker, Hermit and Varied Thrush, sparrows and perhaps Ferruginous Hawks. This trip also includes stops for waterfowl and shorebirds at ponds near Sutter Creek and Ione. We may also stop at Lake Comanche, where a day-use fee is charged. There will be minimal hiking, but

dress for winter conditions. Bring along hand held radios, food and water. Meet Gary at the Local Bean Cafe in the Rancho Murieta shopping center. Turn right at the 1st traffic light; junction of Hwy 16 (Jackson Rd) and Murieta Drive, and right again just past the fire station.

### **Saturday, January 3, 9am** **Nature and Birding Walk** **Cosumnes River Preserve**

Not an Audubon trip, but a great walk for beginning birders, this monthly First Saturday morning walk at the CRP is led by docents who will share information about the preserve, and help you identify the various birds and plant life. This time of year waterfowl are abundant, cranes are frequently overhead, and there's a chance to see snipe, yellowlegs, and stilts. Meet at the Visitor Center. Further directions and maps are available at [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org).

### **Sunday, January 4** **Folsom Christmas Count** **Contact: Chris Conard, 203-1610** **[conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)**

### **Monday, January 5, 8am** **Colusa National Wildlife Refuge** **Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290** **[dtankers@winfirst.com](mailto:dtankers@winfirst.com)**

The Colusa NWR is another great location in the Central Valley to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be many duck species and plenty of Snow, Ross's, Greater White-fronted and possibly a few Cackling Geese as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here as well, and we can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. We will spend a good amount of time on the viewing platform, and then

take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will then take the short auto tour to finish our outing to this wonderful NWR. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. 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 in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon.

### **Wednesday, January 7, 8am** **Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge** **Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300** **[Cloudwalk7@aol.com](mailto:Cloudwalk7@aol.com)**

A weekday trip to this popular refuge should be less crowded. Craig will stop first at Colusa Wildlife Refuge, checking out the viewing platform, (restrooms available), and then on to SNWR where he'll be looking for the blue phase of the Snow Goose, Ross's Geese, Eurasian Wigeon among the Americans, and the frequently seen eagles or Peregrine Falcon, as well as the huge numbers of waterfowl in the flooded areas. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothes for changeable weather. There is a fee for each vehicle at the refuge: either \$6 for a day pass or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass. Or for \$3 more purchase a Duck Stamp and support all national wildlife refuges. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Meet at the Bel Air shopping

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*Field Trips* continued from page 3

center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.

**Saturday, January 10, 8am**

**Salt Springs Valley**

**Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266**

**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

This area is located in western Calaveras County about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake are home to many wintering ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and grassland birds. The trip will last into the late afternoon so bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Meet in the parking lot immediately west of the Union 76 gas station in the Wal-Mart shopping center located on the west side of Hwy 99 at the Elk Grove Blvd exit.

**Sunday, January 11**

**Beginning Birding Field Trip**

**William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We explore the varied habitat at William Pond, looking at wintering sparrows, some waterfowl and shorebirds at the river, and those small confusing bushtits, titmice and kinglets. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), 457-6882.

**Sunday, January 11, 8am**

**Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge**

**Leader: John York, 409-9276**

**Johnyork157@yahoo.com**

First stop will be Colusa Wildlife Refuge, checking out the viewing platform, (restrooms available), and then on to SNWR. John will be looking for the great flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley. Peregrine Falcons and Bald Eagles are sometimes seen, as well as herons, egrets and bitterns. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. Please note there is a fee for each vehicle at the refuge: either \$6 for a day pass or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd,

go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.

**Thursday, January 15, 8am**

**Bushy Lake**

**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999**

**mohrdd@gmail.com**

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident and wintering species. After the summer fires, and with most leaves fallen from the trees, there will be better views of the lake, and Wood Ducks are a good possibility. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. You may want to bring water. This is a good trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

**Saturday, January 17, 8am**

**Robinson Road, Road 113 and**

**Bird's Landing**

**Leader: Jenner Junghans, 425-9405**

**writingbug@yahoo.com**

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes, and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. Meet Jenner at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. 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 in the row nearest the big round water tank. Heavy rain or high winds cancel the trip.

**Saturday, January 17, 10:30am**

**Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk**

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see [sacnaturecenter.net](http://sacnaturecenter.net).

**Sunday, January 18**

**Beginning Birders' Walk**

**Cosumnes River Preserve**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of bird-

ing. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. This trip will focus on wintering waterfowl, sorting out the different duck species, and looking at some other wetland birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), 457-6882.

**Sunday, January 18, 7:30am sharp!**

**Flood and Waverly Roads**

**Leaders: Linda Pittman, 715-1876**

**pittmanl@frontiernet.net**

**Mark Martucci, 833-6722**

**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

The Flood/Waverly rolling grasslands in eastern San Joaquin County are excellent for wintering raptors. We'll be looking for eagles, Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks, falcons and other open country birds. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride. 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 liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible.

**Tuesday, January 20, 8:30am**

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area**

**Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758**

**Ishim2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl as well as raptors. 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, at the beginning of the auto tour. FRS radios and scopes are helpful on this trip, which is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Trip will end before noon. If the bypass is closed due to flooding, the trip is canceled.

**Saturday, January 24, 8am**

**Gray Lodge SWR and Colusa NWR**

**Leaders: Pam and Dan Thompson**

**359-3777, keiran@surewest.net**

Join Pam and Dan for a tour of this prime wintering area for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge, they'll take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes,

looking for Sandhill Cranes, raptors and grassland birds, and then stop at the Colusa NWR viewing platform. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. FRS radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. Meet in the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. There is a \$4.32 per person charge at Gray Lodge, and it's wise to bring the exact amount for the Iron Ranger.

**Saturday, January 24, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**  
**Sponsored by Save Our Sandhill Cranes**  
**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

Meet at the Visitor Center at the Cosumnes River Preserve for this opportunity to view the Sandhill Cranes, as well as the many other waterfowl and wetland birds that abound here. After exploring the walking trail by the flooded ponds, the group will drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars. Scopes are helpful. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org). This is a great trip for beginners.

**Sunday, January 25, 8am**  
**Lincoln Grasslands/West Placer Co**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**Shopper01@surewest.net**

Western Placer County can often rival the great wildlife refuges in numbers and diversity of waterfowl, and it is also known for large concentrations of raptors. Besides the expected species, Eurasian Wigeon, Bald Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, and Lewis's Woodpecker are all possible. Join Scott for a full day of exploring this diverse area and bring liquids, lunch and FRS radios if you have them. Meet 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.

**Sunday, January 25, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**

Please see the information for the January 24th trip.

**Saturday, January 31, 7am**  
**Yolo/Solano Big Day**  
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**  
**shoppe01@surewest.net**

Get set for a full day of birding "hot spots" of Yolo and Solano Counties to see how many species we can tally. Last year's trip totaled 121 species. We will begin at Lake Solano Park and Putah Creek for unique passerines and waterfowl, then head down Highway 113 to the Robinson Road area for raptors and possibly Mountain Plover; then to the Yolo Bypass, the Davis Landfill and WWTP for more waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. The itinerary can change depending on conditions and reports. For those interested, Scott would like to have a casual dinner nearby to tally up species and talk about what was seen. Scopes and FRS radios are helpful. Bring lunch, snacks, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right at the light, then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance, a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Rain cancels.

**Saturday, January 31, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**  
**Save Our Sandhill Cranes and Sacramento Audubon**  
**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

This is the prime time to see our Sandhill Cranes, as well as a variety of ducks, swans, geese, and shorebirds feeding in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, with hawks patrolling overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center deck at 3:30pm to hear a brief talk about Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll follow the trail at Lost Slough Wetlands, for views of the cranes, waterfowl and shorebirds. Afterwards, we'll drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars. Scopes are helpful. For directions please see the information for the January 24th trip.

**Sunday, February 1, 8am**  
**Birding the Best Places**  
**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009**  
**ylightfoot@aol.com**

Tim is going to take you birding where the best birds are. Meet him at the Natomas Fish Hatchery to bird along the American River and perhaps look for other birds of interest recently reported in the vicinity. This will be a half day trip, and should be of interest to experienced as well as beginning birders. From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Avenue; turn left on Gold Country Blvd and the hatchery is on your right.

**Tuesday, February 3, 12pm**  
**Colusa National Wildlife Refuge**  
**Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290**  
**dtankers@winfirst.com**

Join Dan for an afternoon of birding at this wonderful NWR. This time of year the majority of white geese are Ross's, and the afternoon "fly-in" can be spectacular if the weather cooperates. There will be many duck species as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here and we can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. Birding will include the viewing platform, driving around the tour route, and an easy walk on the riparian trail. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take I-80 west to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again to the Park and Ride behind Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. You may want to bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end around 4pm.

**Wednesday, February 4, 8am**  
**William Pond Park**  
**Leader: Larry Hickey, 962-0387**  
**Larryhickey1@gmail.com**

Meet Larry along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk for this morning walk looking for wintering and resident birds. Along the river mergansers, goldeneye, herons and egrets can be found in the backwaters. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area and various raptors may be spotted. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of

*Field Trips* continued on page 6

*Field Trips* continued from page 5

Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**Saturday, February 7, 7:30am**

**Mather Lake**

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**

**Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd. take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

**Sunday, February 8, 7:30am**

**Yuba County Wetlands**

**Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603**

**offleash56@yahoo.com**

Streams and rivers draining from the foothills to the valley and farmers' irrigation help to create these wetlands and winter habitat on surrounding properties. Join Richard on a trip to one of his favorite places to bird while he looks for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Meet Richard 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. Bring lunch, layered clothes, and scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

**February 13 through 16**  
**Great Backyard Bird Count**  
**www.birdsource.org/gbbc**

Count birds for 15 minutes or more in your backyard or other favorite birding locale; then post your results online and see what's happening in your area and across the country. It's fun for all ages and skill levels. Check the website for more information, or join one of the field trips and the leader will

input the group's checklist.

**Friday, February 13, 8am**

**William Pond Park**

**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882**

**empid@earthlink.net**

Let's count birds for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Cathie will post our results on the GBBC website. Meet her at the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. We'll check out different spots on the river, where mergansers and goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area for Red-winged Blackbirds and Green Heron. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or a \$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, February 14, 8am**

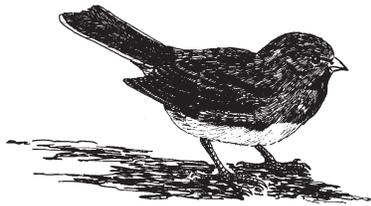
**Discovery Park**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**

**Or 281-6652**

**mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Join Maureen for another chance to count birds for the GBBC. This park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento



*Junco species*  
Steven D'Amato

Rivers is a great place for a walk in any season with open lawns, revegetated sections and dense riparian stands. Maureen will be looking for resident species such as Red-shouldered

Hawks, White-tailed Kites and Yellow-billed Magpies

plus still wintering sparrows. Woodpeckers and White-breasted Nuthatches are also possibilities, and Hermit Thrushes can be common. This is an easy walking trip for beginners and experienced birders and will last until late morning. To reach Discovery from I-5, drive east on the Garden Highway, turning right into the park at the first traffic light. Past the kiosk turn left at your first opportunity and then left again, driving a short distance to the farthest parking lot at the archery range. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**February 14, 15 and 16,**  
**President's Day Weekend**  
**Eureka/Arcata/Crescent City area**

**Leaders, Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**

**spskua2@comcast.net**

**Joe Ceriani, 707-476-9127**

**joeceriani@usmessage.net**

Join Tim and Joe for 3 days of birding along California's North coast, visiting some of the traditional spots in the Eureka, Arcata and Crescent City areas and possibly some of Joe's new favorite spots. Please contact Tim or Joe for further details.

**Wednesday, February 18, 8am-11am**

**Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach**

**American River Parkway**

**Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt**

**710-1077, bajaowl@surewest.net**

Join Sally for a morning bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for wintering sparrows and waterfowl, plus the resident wrens, towhees, and other small passerine birds. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**WEEKEND TRIP, February 21 and 22**

**Merced County Refuges and**

**Grasslands**

**Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951**

**naturestoc@aol.com**

**Co-leader: Dale Azavedo**

Join Dan and Dale for a full weekend of birding the wetlands and grasslands around the Merced area. We will start Saturday morning birding several private duck club properties. Duck season is over in mid-February and these duck clubs can really be packed with birds! We will check out the area prior to the field trip for best birding and access, as muddy roads can be a problem and are not recommended for low clearance vehicles. After we have had our fill of the private areas, we will spend the rest of the day birding the National Wildlife Areas nearby. We will overnight in Merced for an early start Sunday morning to bird the grasslands and foothills of Eastern Merced County. This area is known for big numbers of raptors, including all the winter species (Ferruginous, Rough-legged, Prairie Falcon, Merlin). On a trip to the area last year, we had 10 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks and numerous indi-

viduals of both eagle species! Because we will be visiting private lands, this trip will be limited to 15 participants. Please contact Dan Brown for information on meeting place and time on Saturday morning and lodging in Merced on Saturday night with an option of lodging on Friday night to be closer to the meeting place in the morning.

**Saturday, February 21, 7am until noon Michigan Bar and vicinity**  
**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610 conardc@gmail.com**

We will focus on Michigan Bar Rd and may visit portions of Latrobe and Meiss Rds, though access will be partially dependent on road conditions and recent weather. Vast areas of open grassland and blue oak woodland interspersed with rocky outcrops and the Cosumnes River provide habitat for winter raptors, resident and winter songbirds, Lewis's Woodpeckers and perhaps a surprise or two. We'll have a mix of car birding (bring FRS radios if you have them) and short to moderate walks. Meet at the Park and Ride on Hwy 16 (Jackson Hwy) just west of Sunrise Blvd and the Folsom South Canal (7 miles east of Watt Ave). Steady rain cancels.

### **DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES**

This is a great outing for families, youth groups and beginning birders so don't forget to stop by the Cosumnes River Preserve and check out **Ducks In Scopes** where preserve docents have a row of scopes set up, some set lower to accommodate children. They'll focus on giving you good views of the many colorful ducks and geese, as well as some of the more interesting shorebirds such as Black-necked Stilts and Common Snipe.

A table display features "Duck Soup," dishes of water dipped from the pond full of sand fleas, dragonfly nymphs, and other squiggly things that provide the protein the birds are feeding on. A microscope and hand lens provide close-up looks.

The Preserve is a quick drive from Sacramento-south on I-5 to Twin Cities Road; left (east) on Twin Cities for 1 mile; then right (south) on Franklin Blvd. The viewing area is in the first parking lot on your right as you drive into the preserve. Come any time between 10am and 2pm, on the following dates.

**January:** Thursday, January 1,  
Saturdays, 1/3, 1/17, 1/24,  
1/31 and Sundays, 1/11

**February:** Saturdays, 2/7, 2/21,  
2/28 and Sunday 2/15

### **FUTURE DATES OF FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS**

**Location:** William Pond Park, American River Parkway, **February 22 and March 8**

**Location:** Cosumnes River Preserve, (focusing on wintering waterfowl and wetland birds)  
**February 15**

**Trips limited to 10 adult participants: Registration required**

These outings are geared toward people who aren't entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders.

Register via email to Cathie at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 457-6882, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

## *Birding and Nature Events*

### **19TH ANNUAL MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL**

Morro Bay's 19th Annual Winter Bird Festival will be held **January 16-19**. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is located halfway between Los Angeles and San Francisco on the Pacific Flyway. The area offers pristine beaches, beautiful state parks, an excellent natural history museum, panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean and, best of all, thousands of birds.

Field trips cover a multitude of habitats found in the Morro Bay area. Included are the Carrizo Plains, area ranches and state parks, valleys, creeks and canyons and the great Morro Bay, coast and wetlands. Bay cruises for birding and photography are offered as is owling, pelagic trips and wildlife care. Field trips fill up fast so hurry to the Festival site at [morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://morrobaybirdfestival.org) or call 805-234-1170.

### **8TH ANNUAL WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL**

The City of **Galt** in collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary School District are pleased to bring you the 8th Annual Winter Bird Festival, **Saturday, February 7**. Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. Guided tours offer an exciting opportunity to see the birds that spend their winters in the Central Valley! Wetlands, songbird and sandhill crane tours, led by Cosumnes River Preserve managers and biologists are included so sign up and have your binoculars ready! There will be three tours for photographers and one kayak tour of the waterways at Cosumnes River Preserve. The birding tour at Heritage Oak Winery includes wine tasting and lunch, and is again led by David Yee. Google 'Galt Birding Festival' for more detailed information. Registration for the 8th annual festival is already open so check online or call so you don't miss any of your favorite tours. If you have any questions please call 209-366-7115.

### **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY**

The 16th Annual Snow Goose Festival will be held in **Chico** on **January 21-25**. Special Guest and Keynote Speaker at Saturday night's Gathering of Wings Banquet and Silent Auction will be Scott Weidensaul. Renowned naturalist and author, Scott Weidensaul, will explore the wonder and mechanics of bird migration and share his research, experiences, insights and the simple, effective ways we can preserve our feathered friends.

There are currently over 60 different field trips, workshops and presentations planned. There are also lots of free activities and exciting events planned for youth and families. Something for everyone!

Registration information can be found at [snowgoosefestival.org](http://snowgoosefestival.org) or by email at [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org) and phone 530-345-1865.

## THE 18TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT! FEBRUARY 13-16, 2015

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up next month from February 13-16. This will be the 18th year of the count and the third event since the GBBC went global in 2013. It's one of the best opportunities for citizen science to contribute to our knowledge of bird species' survival and population. Plus, it's a great opportunity for some healthy city, county, and state competition in compiling those checklists. For all the information you need go to [gbbc.birdcount.org/about/](http://gbbc.birdcount.org/about/)

Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Your participation can really improve the quality of their results.

The GBBC website is quite interactive and there's a photo contest every year too. Let's get everyone out counting this year and add to Sacramento's birdy reputation! Also, at [ebird.org](http://ebird.org) are some tips for posting your CBC counts as well as those from the GBBC and Birdlogs for mobile devices. [gbbc.birdcount.org/birding-apps/](http://gbbc.birdcount.org/birding-apps/) suggests some helpful apps.

Participation in the GBBC has continued to grow in number of participants and number of checklists submitted. More than 144,000 bird lists were submitted online last year, a new record!



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## Seasonal Observations

November 1 to November 30  
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports  
[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

After two months with an amazing number of unusual birds, things quieted down a little in November, but there were still plenty of notable reports. The **Falcated Duck** first reported from Colusa NWR on 10/30 continued into December, though some days it was absent from the pond near the observation deck. A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** (or "Common Teal") was reported at the Davis Wetlands on 11/9, and it or another was photographed at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on 11/14. Two female **Greater Scaup** were found on the American River near Sailor Bar on 11/17. A flyover **Marbled Godwit** along the River Walk at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 11/3 was very unusual for the date. A **Franklin's Gull** was found just west of I-5 at Turner Rd, north of Lodi, on 11/22; two were seen the morning of 11/23 in addition to a few **Mew Gulls**. On 11/21, a second-cycle **Glaucous Gull** was found at the Davis WTP.

**Band-tailed Pigeons** continued throughout the month in many Valley locations, with some totals approaching 100 birds. A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** photographed in a Natomas neighborhood was a nice surprise on 11/4 (two were reported from Lower Sunrise along the American River Parkway on 10/20). The two male **Costa's Hummingbirds** (one along Putah Creek

between Davis and Winters and the other in South Sacramento) continued throughout the month. **Lewis's Woodpeckers** were widespread, but along Latrobe Rd in eastern Sacramento County (Deer Creek Hills) several observers noted concentrations greater than they had ever recorded. A **Red-breasted Sapsucker** at Fishing Access #1 along Putah Creek west of Winters appeared to be of the northern subspecies *ruber*. On 11/29, a female **Williamson's Sapsucker** was found in the Tall Forest at CRP for a first Sacramento County record. A "**Western**" (presumably **Pacific-slope**) **Flycatcher** was found nearby the same day. **Steller's Jays** were widely reported around Folsom and the eastern portion of Sacramento County, along the American River downstream to the Gristmill access, with one along the River Walk at CRP on 11/2, regularly in the Putah Creek Canyon west of Winters, and in Davis on 11/27.

Late **Yellow Warblers** were reported from North Pond in Davis on 11/1 and Lost Slough at CRP on 11/2. A **Prothonotary Warbler** was reported from Colusa NWR on 11/26, but it apparently was not refound. Single **Vesper Sparrows** were found along Meiss Rd from 11/1-19 as well as north of the Cosumnes River at Michigan Bar on 11/11. A **Red Fox Sparrow** was found 11/4-7 and photographed in a Folsom yard and the **Harris's Sparrow** continued in North Davis. **Western Tanager**s appear to be wintering again (2-4 individuals) in

## CITY OF SACRAMENTO PROPOSED CHANGES TO GENERAL PLAN

The City of Sacramento is considering changes to the General Plan that would include reductions in the size of city parks. Currently the plan calls for 5 acres of parks/open space for every 1,000 residents. The revised plan would reduce park acreage to 3.5 acres for each 1,000 residents outside of the Central City and 1.75 acres for each 1,000 residents within the Central City. A significant side effect of the proposed change would be a reduction in the fees developers pay to the City for parks.

As you know parks contribute significantly to the quality of life within the city and are important for many resident and migrating birds. Environmental groups and neighborhood associations have voiced opposition to the proposed plan. We will continue to monitor the proposal as it is considered by the City. If you have any questions contact Larry Hickey at [larryhickey1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhickey1@gmail.com).

Land Park. **Pine Siskins** were widespread, but most notable was a report of over 100 on 11/28 from the Willow Creek East neighborhood of Folsom. **Evening Grosbeaks** reports included 20 at the Folsom Rodeo Grounds on 11/1, one over the River Walk at CRP on 11/3, six from Fair Oaks on 11/4, and four in William Land Park on 11/23.

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

Steve Abbott, Elizabeth Bredberg, Lyann Comrack, Jann Dorothy, Chris Dunford, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Phil Lutz, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Alison Sheehy, Steve Stump, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, Amy Welsh, Dan Welsh, Deb Weston, and Dan Williams.

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

Chris Conard

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

P Bethany

Robert and Maureen Burness

Eric Liskay

Karen Nemetz

Charles and Debra Real



*Barrow's Goldeneye*  
Linda Pittman

*Findings* continued from page 2

not a few seconds before we were about to get into our cars to head home."

**Mather Lake** (11/19) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: Rained out.

**Beginning Birding Field Trip, William Pond Park** (11/16) — Cathie LaZier reported: "Larry Hickey and Darrell Mohr joined me in leading a Beginning Birders' Walk at William Pond Park. Birding was a little slow and several common species were missed, but we began the morning with flocks of Cedar Waxwings and ended up at the river scoping Hooded Merganser, Bufflehead, Common Mergansers and Goldeneye. We also had good looks at Lark Sparrows and Red-shouldered Hawks. A confusing lump in a tree on the pond island caused disagreement among leaders—Green Heron?—Black-crowned Night Heron? Beginner Connie Gehrt suggested a scrunched down Great Blue Heron, and we conceded that she might well be correct. We totaled 48 species for the morning."

Coordinated by Pete Hayes

## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair, llandry46@comcast.net  
11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

### WFO MEETING IN MONTANA FOR JUNE 10-14, 2015

The 40th annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be held in Montana, marking the first time for the state. Field trips will visit a variety of habitats from the high mountains (Black Rosy-Finch) to the grasslands (Sprague's Pipits). One can see courting McCown's and Chestnut-collared Longspurs in their finest plumage, along with Upland Sandpipers and Lark Buntings. History buffs will delight in viewing the Little Bighorn Battlefield where Custer saw his last Sharp-tailed Grouse.

There will be workshops on field identification of sparrows (Jon Dunn) and flycatchers (Dan Casey), natural history of owls (Denver Holt), bird sound identification (Nathan Pieplow), raptors (Steve Hoffman), and more. Friday and Saturday afternoon science sessions will update you on the most current avian research from the region.

Registration for the conference will open in February. If you are NOT currently on their electronic mailing list, please send an email to erpfromca@aol.com, include your full name along with city and state of residence, and they'll put you on. WFO members are able to register for their conferences at a reduced rate and have early access to registration. If you are not currently a WFO member, you can join at (<https://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php>).

### 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.

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*White-tailed Kite* Dan Brown

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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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### ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

**January 15, 2015** with David Arsenault:  
*The Ventriloquist Owls of Lake Davis*  
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm



*Flammulated Owls*