

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 68 • NO. 6

JULY-AUGUST 2016

General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Our General Meetings will resume again on September 15, 2016. 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/SacramentoAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, Program Chair

BOBELAINE ACCESS

The Sacramento Audubon Society maintains the Bobelaine Sanctuary, a 450 acre remnant of riparian habitat. Beginning the middle of July, through the end of October, Bobelaine will be inaccessible. The levees along the Feather River will be undergoing major reconstruction.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip

SATURDAY, October 1, 2016, 7:30am

Note: This is a one day trip

Mark Cudney will lead this year's pelagic trip to Monterey Bay, one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting birding trips.

Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place for birding. Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Several species of shearwaters are usually seen, not to mention the possibility of close-ups of a variety of marine mammals.

Boat space is limited to 20 participants. The price is \$130 per person, still a bargain! Cancellation policy: In order to receive a refund you must cancel 2 weeks before the trip. Contact Mark Cudney, email: mcudney@aol.com, phone: 987-2422 with any questions.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:30am Trip price: \$130 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

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

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

Phone: (916) 987-2422

Email: mcudney@aol.com



Field Trip Findings

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County (6/5)—Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “We changed it up this trip by starting at the end (French Meadows) and working backward with just a couple short stops in the bottom of the American River Canyon where we saw Canyon Wren, Black-throated Gray Warbler, and Violet-green Swallow. At French Meadows we had Warbling Vireo, Dusky Flycatcher, Green-tailed Towhee, Hairy Woodpecker, Osprey, Chipping Sparrow, and Yellow, Wilson’s, Nashville, and MacGillivray’s warblers. At Placer Redwoods we saw Hermit Warbler, White-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Our last stop was at Little Oak Flat where we had Hammond’s Flycatcher, Bullock’s Oriole, Black-headed Grosbeak, and Pileated Woodpecker.”

Crystal Basin (6/4) — Leader Phyllis Wilburn reported: “We actually flushed two Mountain Quail at the Ice House Meadow. We also had great looks at both male and female Lazuli Buntings, and saw a male Calliope Hummingbird. The most unusual sighting was a Yellow-breasted Chat at the Cleveland Corral Rest Stop. We heard, but did not see the Pileated Woodpecker, but got good looks at White-headed and Hairy woodpeckers. At Big Hill we were shown a Mountain Bluebird nest in one of the buildings.”

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (6/1)—Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “A juvenile Scrub Jay (with no tail) explored its brand new world. A resident Black Phoebe continued with a second brood under the eaves of the Nature Center. A circling Osprey surveyed the depths of the American River. A mother Wood Duck was conscientiously attending to her last remaining duckling in an algae-covered pond. A fledgling Red-shouldered Hawk dozed off in it’s birth nest, followed by a renewed burst of energy to explore the branches above.”

Sierra Valley (5/29) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “It was a beautiful and productive day for a great group of 12 birders. Highlights included: Calliope Hummingbird, a pair of Red-breasted Sapsuckers and Mountain Bluebirds at Kyburz Flat; Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Red-necked Phalarope and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, all rare for Sierra Valley; Hairy Woodpeckers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers nesting

in the same tree, at least two Lazuli Buntings and a beautiful Yellow Warbler singing out in the open at Smithneck Creek County Park outside of Loyalton. We tallied 93 species for the day.”

Mather Lake (5/28) — Leader Sheila Green reported: “We didn’t see many exciting birds, but we saw an Osprey, a bittern in flight, and heard a Sora. A Song Sparrow was a new sight at Mather for me. What was interesting was the lack of waterbirds: few Coots and no Mallards! We concluded that the four adult Mute Swans and their dozen+ Cygnets influenced those absent sightings. There were nine of us, with two scopes, on a gorgeous Memorial Weekend morning.”

Family Nature Walk, Effie Yeaw Nature Center (5/28) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “The family nature walk at Effie Yeaw was well attended as they all seem to be. With Sue Darst and I leading the walk and Bea Pearson assisting, we spent several hours seeing about 24 species, which wasn’t bad considering we don’t start these walks until about 10:30am and it was quite warm. The 10 or so adults seemed to enjoy our fairly slow pace.”

Sailor Bar, Olive Ave. entrance (5/25) — Leader Larry Hickey reported: “Twelve of us met at the Olive Ave entrance to Sailor Bar, a little used access to the American River Parkway. Walking beneath the Fair Oaks Bluffs, we appreciated the riparian oak woodlands and the devastating remains of the Gold Rush dredgers. Deb Weston observed an adult Bald Eagle within minutes. Later in the morning she also drew our attention to one or two juvenile Bald Eagles soaring with a Red-tailed Hawk and a Red-shouldered Hawk. At the pond, a very cooperative Green Heron caught a fish for us and at the river a beautiful Song Sparrow sang for us. We enjoyed watching a family of House Wrens move through the bushes in front of us and we were entertained by a dozen or more Northern Mockingbirds.”

Dragonfly Walk (5/22) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: “Three Sacramento Audubon members joined me for a late morning search for dragonflies and damselflies at the backwater lagoons and along the American River behind Rio Americano High School on a beautiful sunny morning. We saw a total of eight dragonflies and seven damsel-

flies. Highlights included a lot of breeding activity by Western Pondhawks, a Pacific Clubtail along the river, a number of American Rubyspots, and nice looks at a California endemic species, the Exclamation Damsel. We were also treated to the aerial capture of a dragonfly by a Western Kingbird, which promptly returned to its perch and quickly swallowed its prey before we had a chance to identify it!”

Reichmuth Park and more (5/21) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “About a dozen of us walked through Reichmuth on a cool, breezy morning following rain the previous night. We were very light on birds in the park, so finished early, causing one of the birders to ask if we couldn’t go somewhere else. Seemed like a great idea, so everyone followed me to the long-time Freeport Boulevard site of a tiny colony of Burrowing Owls, where we found two adults and FOUR YOUNG! I have checked this site often over many years and have never seen four babies before. We stayed respectfully across the street but still managed to have wonderful, long looks at these fascinating birds.”

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach, American River Parkway (5/18) — Leader Sally Walters Schmoldt reported: “Ten people and 36 species. We started a 6am, ending at 10am to avoid the heat.”

Mosquito Ridge Road, Placer County (5/15) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “While seemingly a bit slow for this area overall, we did have some good birds, and several lifers for some in the group. Highlights included great views of Canyon Wren, Townsend’s Solitaire, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Lazuli Bunting and an incredibly bright, rich, orange male Bullock’s Oriole. Other highlights included good views of Olive-sided Flycatcher and Western Wood-Pewee. There were 11 participants (including a couple from Reno), and we tallied about 42 species.”

Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults, William Pond Park (5/15) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: Several beginning birders, ranging from “very first time” to some who have been birding for a while but wanted to improve their skills, joined Larry, Mary Beth and me for this morning walk. Art Garbutt spotted an

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Field Trips



Eared Grebe
Daniel Kilby

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through July 17, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 704-0951. For trips after July 18 through August 21, contact the scheduler Dan Tankersley, dtankers@winfirst.com, 662-1951. After August 22, contact the scheduler Scott Hoppe, shoppe01@surewest.net, 835-8471.

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 2, 7am **Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain** **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 species; Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 am **Estates Drive American River access** **Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300** **cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

We hope to get an early start on the day, as it could get hot. This area is a great example of established riparian habitat. The American River meanders, creating islands and ponds where we will look for Wood Ducks, herons, egrets, and kingfishers. Further inland there are several very old Valley Oaks along a trail that has been referred to as the Avenue of Giants, where we will look for towhees, wrens, kinglets, and nuthatches. From Watt Ave take American River Drive east to Estates Dr. Turn south on Estates until it dead-ends at the levee.

Saturday, July 9, 8:30am **Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley** **Leader: Dan Tankersley 662-1951** **(email preferred)** **dtankers@winfirst.com**

Though much quieter than last month at this location, the birds should still be present. We may see feeding activity and possibly some newly fledged young. At the pass, we will look for Calliope Hummingbird,

White-headed Woodpecker and Western Tanager among other montane species. After lunch, we will head down to the valley in hopes of finding Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows, Yellow-headed Blackbird and others. Meet Dan at the Yuba Pass parking area. Bring lunch and be prepared for changing weather conditions, as summer thunder storms occur here this time of year. We will be walking most of the morning at high elevation and over uneven trails at some spots. Most of the birding in the valley will be in or near our vehicles. If you have them, bring FRS radios, and scopes. There could be some fine photo opportunities. The trip is scheduled to end around 3pm, but we sometimes go extra innings. From Sacramento, it is approximately 2.5 hours to Yuba Pass. Head east on I-80 and take exit 188B at Truckee to access Highway 89. Turn left (north) on 89 and drive 25 miles to the intersection of highways 89 and 49 in Sierraville. Turn left on Highway 49 and proceed about 11 miles to Yuba Pass. Follow the signage for the Yuba Pass campground. We will meet in the large parking area to the left of the highway.

Sunday, July 10, 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 mostly level terrain, however, there is one short, fairly steep incline, and a creek crossing on stepping stones. 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.

Wednesday, July 13, 7am Sharp! **Wright's Lake** **Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207** **spskua2@comcast.net** **Ann Burris, 947-7573** **burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran bird life. Ann and Tim will help you find a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. Bring plenty of water and lunch for a full day of birding. Bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet Ann and Tim 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 16 **Dragonfly trip** **Location: TBD** **Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009** **Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners, etc., but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week

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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.

Wednesday, July 20, 6am
Calaveras Big Trees, South Grove
Leader: Bill Bianco, 889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

The South Grove of Calaveras Big Trees State Park is an ancient forest ecosystem in its primeval condition. Because it has never been logged, the forest is extremely vertical, with much of the bird activity occurring in the crowns of the trees. We hope to see MacGillivray's and Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Brown Creeper and other montane birds. A variety of wildflowers should still be in bloom. Bring your flower field guides for identifying some of the less common flowers. We'll walk the 3.5 mile loop, which has a 264' elevation gain. On our return to the parking lot we'll drive a short distance to the Beaver Creek picnic area for lunch. After lunch break we can take short trail walks at River Picnic Area and Lava Bluffs parking area, which are on the way back to the park entrance. Meet Bill at the Starbucks in the Raley's Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (between Watt and Howe), to LEAVE at 6am. Or meet in the large visitor's day parking lot at Calaveras around 8:15am. After a restroom stop there, we'll drive to the South Grove parking lot. There is a \$10 per car entrance fee to this State Park. This trip is suitable for beginners. Bring lunch, water, snacks, field guides and wear comfortable foot gear.

Saturday, July 23, 6:30am
Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca
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 and Brewer's Sparrow, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeak, Townsend's Solitaire, 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 24
FARALLONS PELAGIC TRIP

This year's trip is full, with a waiting list. Sign up early next year!.

Wednesday, July 27, 6:30am
Ellis Road/Power Fire Area
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com

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. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch, snacks and liquids. Bring FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet in front of "It's A Grind" Coffee House in the Raley's shopping center, 10420 Twin Cities Road, in Galt. From Sacramento, take Hwy 99 south to the Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104 exit, turn left (east) on Twin Cities Rd, and proceed east through two traffic circles; the shopping center will be on your right.

Saturday, July 30, 7am
Sacramento Bar
American River Parkway
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early migrants. 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.

Sunday, July 31, evening trip
Bats and Swainson's Hawks
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan along with bat expert, JoEllen Arnold to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge for their evening hunt while Swainson's Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Dan Brown for meeting time and place.

Wednesday, August 3, 7am
Riverbend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and down to the river looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as possible migrants. Vinegar Weed should be in bloom. This is a good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, August 6, 12 noon-sunset
Common Nighthawks at sunset
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
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 opportunities! This spot is about an hour away from Sacramento. We will begin about 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 sunset 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 7, 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 10, 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.

**Saturday, August 13, 6:30am
Point Reyes**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com**

Plan for a trip to the varied habitats of Point Reyes National Seashore. We should expect a good diversity of waterbirds, shorebirds, and songbirds. Depending on reports just prior to the trip, we may visit Abbott's Lagoon, which requires 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 14, 6am
Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net**

This Wildlife Area encompasses a large swath of land north of San Pablo Bay. Shorebirds should be in abundance, and we will keep our eyes open for rare, early fall migrants. The trip should end early to mid-afternoon, depending on conditions.

Bring lunch and liquids, and some layers of clothing as Bay Area weather can be cool even in August. 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.

**Tuesday, August 16, 7am
Granite Springs Road
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Join Ann and Tim for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wright's Lake. We should find a nice variety of woodpeckers and mountain residents on Granite Springs Road, and around Wright's Lake we may find Osprey and more montane species. 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.

**Saturday, August 20, 7:30am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Andi Salmi, 508-7192
andisalmi@yahoo.com**

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

**Sunday, August 21, 6:30am
Truckee/Tahoe Mountain Birding
Leader: Jane Taylor, 587-3366
jg.taylor@att.net**

We plan to explore some interesting locations around Truckee and Tahoe. Page Meadow, Ellis Creek and Martis Creek Lake are possible venues, with potential alternatives depending on conditions. Past sightings have included Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed and Black-backed Woodpecker, warbler and flycatcher spe-

cies, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, and waterfowl and shorebirds. Hiking may be up to 2 miles at a time. Please bring lunch and liquids; spotting scopes and FRS radios are helpful if you have them. Meet Jane at 6:30am at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, exit #110 off I-80 east.

**Wednesday, August 24, 7am Sharp
Wright's Lake
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Escape the valley heat and join Tim and Ann in searching for a variety of montane birds at this mountain lake. The high Sierra offers a wide variety of woodpeckers, finches, towhees, and other passerine birds, and it's a good trip for beginners, as well as more experienced birders. Bring plenty of water and lunch for a full day of birding. Bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet Ann and Tim 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, August 27, 6:30am
Alpine County
Leader: Jane Taylor, 587-3366
jg.taylor@att.net**

Plan on a series of short walks in a variety of habitats like coniferous forest, sagebrush, lake shore and riparian, which may have benefited from late spring showers. We will look for a number of bird species, both resident and migrant, including passerines, woodpeckers, water fowl and raptors. Depending on conditions, this trip may include a visit to nearby Douglas County and Mud Lake, which can be great for waterfowl and shorebirds. Please bring FRS radios if you have them and lunch and liquids, planning for a mid-afternoon wrap-up. Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center 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, August 28, 7am
Riverbend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net**

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Field Trips continued from page 5

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and down to the river looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as possible migrants. This is a good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Tuesday, August 30, 6pm

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area

Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net

Early evening is a great time to be at the Wildlife Area. Join Maureen and Cathie for a drive through this diverse area. We will drive to the end and back looking for large numbers of ibis coming in to roost for the night, summer birds still present, and depending on the amount of water, possible marsh and shorebirds. On the way back to the main parking area, barn and great horned owls are possible, and seeing the wonderful spectacle of bats flying out from under the west end of the I-80 bridge is a good possibility. This trip will end at sundown when the entry gates are closed.

Saturday, September 3, 7am

North Bay Hotspots

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

The vast area to the north of San Francisco Bay, known as the "North Bay", has many great birding locations, especially during fall migration. Join Scott as he explores some of these hotspots. Possible stops include American Canyon Wetlands, the wetlands along Highway 37, Schollenberger Park and maybe a coastal location, time permitting. This will be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and liquids. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, September 4, 8am

Sacramento Bar

American River Parkway

Leader: Paul Cordero

pkcordero@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety

of resident birds and maybe a few early migrants. Paul will focus on finding and identifying birds by ear. 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.

Wednesday, September 7, 8:30am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1951

(morning of trip only)

dtankers@winfirst.com

Join Dan for a morning of birding in this wonderful area close to Sacramento. We will look for raptors, shorebirds and other fall migrants. 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 your morning liquids and snacks. Also, if you have them, bring your spotting scope and FRS radio. This trip, which will end before noon, is a good one for beginners.

Saturday, September 10, 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, September 11, 7am-noon

SRWTP Bufferlands

Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610

conardc@gmail.com

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time of year to look for migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the new Cosumnes River Blvd exit (between the Meadowview/Pocket Road

and Laguna Blvd. exits). Go west toward Freeport Blvd and then turn left (south) toward the town of Freeport. We'll meet in the large gravel lot on the right side of Freeport Blvd at the north edge of the town. This is a new meeting location made necessary by major development north of the Bufferlands.

Wednesday, September 14, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458

naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for a look at some of the birds that live along this section of the American River Parkway. This will be about a 2 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

Saturday, September 17, 7am

Fall Migration "Wild Card"

Leaders Scott Hoppe

Scott, 835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott in pursuit of fall migrants. But this trip has a twist: the destinations will be a mystery until the day of the trip. Scott will be watching posts and checking conditions. Depending on where the birding has been best recently, the agenda will likely include coastal or Bay Area locations. So be prepared for an adventurous day in the field. Bring lunch, liquids, dress for possible cooler coastal weather and be prepared for easy to moderate hiking. Meet at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Saturday, September 17, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists from the nature center and birders from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Findings continued from page 2

active Bushtit nest; Mary Beth Metcalf showed us a Black-chinned Hummingbird constructing a nest, and we also had, on or in nests, Great Blue Herons, Red-shouldered Hawks and Tree Swallows. We had three species of flycatcher, four species of woodpeckers and five species of swallows. Our group's combined total was 48 species."

Alpine, CA and Douglas, NV counties (5/14) — Leader Jane Taylor reported the trip was canceled when no one showed up at the El Dorado Hills meeting place. (No-shows thus missed such possible past highlights as Sooty Grouse, American Dipper, White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches, and Horned and Eared grebes. — PH)

Walk on the Wild Side (5/14) — Leader John Huls reported: "On this International Migratory Bird Day twenty people joined us to walk beneath the canopy of the giant Valley Oaks. House Wrens dominated the soundscape along with Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Spotted Towhees, Oak Titmice, Robins and a White-breasted Nuthatch. Overhead we saw both Red-tailed and Swainson's Hawks, Northern Rough-winged and Tree swallows, plus a single Double-crested Cormorant and a Mallard. Among seasonal and migrant birds we heard a Western Wood-Pewee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Kingbird and Wilson's Warbler. At the parking area we added a Crow, a Great Blue Heron and a California Towhee."

Mather Regional Park (5/11) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Nine brave birders braved mid-week commuter traffic to spot 50 species of birds. Highlights included Bullock's Orioles, Western Wood-Pewee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Wilson's Warbler, Mute Swans, numerous families of Canada Geese, Spotted Sandpiper, Swainson's Hawks and a hunting Osprey. An exciting observation was evidence of the beginning of a large platform nest at the top of a telephone pole at the south end of the lake. It may have belonged to the hunting Osprey."

Spenceville (WLR) (5/8) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "The Spenceville trip was a great day with a small group of people starting with the Great Blue Heron rookery in Lincoln along with Grackles and Common Yellowthroat. Bullock's Oriole, Warbling vireo, and Say's Phoebe at the cemetery, winnowing Wilson's Snipe, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Western Kingbird, Common Merganser

with young, and White Pelican, along McCourtney Road, a pair of Osprey on a nest, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Rock Wren, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow at the lake, and finally Western Wood-Pewee, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Yellow-breasted Chat, Yellow and Wilson's warblers."

Beginning Birders Trip, William Pond Park (5/7) — Dan Tankersley, co-leader with Craig DeMartini, reported: "The trip began in a light rain and cool temperatures, but the entire class was enthusiastic and ready for what was some of the participants' very first bird walk! In all we saw 52 species which included spring migrants Black-headed Grosbeak, Wilson's Warbler, and Bullock's Oriole. Among some of the resident birds seen, the class enjoyed both Spotted and California towhees, Cedar Waxwings, Western Bluebirds and calling Red-shouldered Hawks. We had several opportunities to view new birds in the scopes which offered lots of discussion on field marks and other points of identification. At the end of the morning, all were in agreement it was a very enjoyable outing for both the participants and the leaders."

Lake Solano Regional Park (5/7) — Leader Ed Harper reported: "Twelve of us met under overcast skies that ultimately ushered in rain to dampen our jackets but not our spirits. Near Davis, sharp-eyed Pam Thompson spotted a Burrowing Owl to start off the trip on a high note. Swainson's Hawks added to our high spirits as we drove west. At Lake Solano, a couple of Green Herons and a Brown Creeper were nice finds. Western Tanager, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, and one Western Wood-Pewee were nice additions. We watched intently as an American Crow raided Cliff Swallow nests under the bridge."

Humbug Creek, Folsom (5/1) — Leader Mara Weston reported: "Four birders joined me for a nice morning walk along Humbug Creek. The highlights were great looks at Violet-green Swallows, singing Bullock's Orioles, and a nesting pair of Pied-billed Grebes."

Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky, Auburn State Recreation Area (4/30) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "Seventeen birders enjoyed an awesome day of birding this beautiful area. Highlights included Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, which seemed to be everywhere, eight species of warbler, including great views of Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat, great views of Lazuli

Buntings and good scope views of a singing Western Tanager. A single Western Grebe was a big surprise for this location, none of us had ever seen one on a mountain river before. Also of interest was a fly-by Big Brown Bat."

Sweetwater Creek (4/24) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "Highlights consisted of Yellow-breasted Chat, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's warblers, Hutton's Vireo, Wrentit, Phainopepla. Overall some good birds; however, low numbers."

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain (4/23) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "As we approached the meadow, goldfinches were everywhere. Near Bushy Lake we spotted three different woodpecker species, Acorn, Nuttall's and Downy, in the same area."

Point Reyes (4/17) — Leader John York reported: "A group of three whole birders headed out to Point Reyes Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers were easy spots and we picked up a few warblers in the trees. Black-throated Gray was probably the best. When we arrived at Five Brooks for some disappointing birding, since the pond was dry, we received a text re: the Marsh Sandpiper at the bypass. On the way home we stopped by to get that tick for our new birder just before dark."

William Pond Park (4/16) — Leader Dan Williams reported: "About a dozen of us trekked out onto the Richey Bike Bridge and took in the swarm of Cliff Swallows and screaming White-throated Swifts. Down on the river below we enjoyed a gathering of Wood Ducks under some overhanging branches on the west shore, and a few migrant shorebirds: Least and Spotted Sandpipers, and Greater Yellowlegs around Arden Bar to the south. We encountered several late flocks of Golden-crowned and White-crowned sparrows, a single singing Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a few Cedar Waxwings, while also getting to enjoy newly arrived Bullock's Orioles, Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Black-throated Gray Warbler. Tree Swallows, House Wrens, and Oak Titmice argued over cavity space. At the fishing pond we were treated to excellent views of a Green Heron, a high flyover of some late migrant Greater White-fronted Geese, and flyovers of a Swainson's Hawk and an Osprey. Also flying over a few times were commuting flocks of Tricolored Blackbirds."

Pete Hayes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE BIG DAY!

Karen Benson, Valerie Brown, Robert and Joyce Greenleaf, Norman Hill, Carolyn Lewis, Jill Pease, Julia Sheldon, Jane Steele, Jane Taylor and Liz Williamson made donations as part of the Big Day fund drive during May. Thank you all very much for your participation in this event. (Unfortunately we don't have all the names of donors for the Big Day.) There were 32 gifts in all totalling \$1,650 for SAS!

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 30, 2016 at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Teresa Atkinson, Karen Benson, William Bianco, Valerie Brown, Anne Bersinger, Irene Bond, Bruce Bostick, Daniel Lee Brown, Julie Clark, Chris Couper, Jodie Crandell, Robert Ellis, Maurice Getty, Peter Hayes, James Hepler, Elizabeth Johnson, Julie Kenney, Rosemary Mayfield, Wayne Monson, The Morehead Family, Jill Pease, and Julia Sheldon made donations to the **General Fund**.

Daniel Airola, JoEllen Arnold, Terry Atkinson, Karen Benson, William Bianco, Judith Bietz, Nancy and Bill Bittner, Aubrey Blue, Gregory Brott, Valerie Brown, Betty Cooper, Gary Freguen, Poh Lin Gillis-Paige, Gary Harbison, James Hepler, Candy Holland, Timothy and Angela Jackson, Julie Kenney, Claudio Monge, Wayne Monson, Susan Nishio, Douglas Schwillk, Donald Spiegel, Victoria Stoffers, Carol Thomas and Susan Wallace made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

William Bianco, Valerie Brown, Winifred Detwiler, Norman Hill, Carolyn Lewis, and Jane Steele, made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

SAS OUTREACH HELP WANTED!

Fall events will be coming up and we need volunteers to work our table. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding and talking to people about our field trips and SAS. You would be working with an experienced volunteer.

Your help would be appreciated at one of the following events:

NatureFest @ EYNC, October 9

Lodi Crane Festival, November 5-6

Swan Festival, Yuba City, November 12-13

If you can work a 3 or 4 hour shift on one of the above days, please contact Bill Bianco at biancowm@yahoo.com, or 372-3318.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

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

A very active two months with a lot of interesting birds included the second **Marsh Sandpiper** record for our area. Among rare waterfowl, two male **Red-breasted Mergansers** were found on Lake Natoma on 4/7. A **Glossy Ibis** was found at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) and seen by many from 4/2-8. North of our area, but still of interest were four **Brown Pelicans** soaring over the Sacramento NWR on 4/20.

An **American Golden-Plover** was an excellent find at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/24, though the bird of the period was a **Marsh Sandpiper** found at YBWA on 4/16-23, allowing most who searched for it excellent views. A **Ruff** was also in the area from 4/19-20, as were lesser notables like two **Snowy Plovers**. A **Ruff** was also found along Desmond Rd at CRP on 4/28. A **Solitary Sandpiper**

was found in north Davis on 4/17, and there were reports from YBWA on 4/4 and 4/18-23, as well as the Orr Forest at CRP on 4/23. This was an amazing spring for **Franklin's Gull** reports, with one, a probable second-winter bird, found at Colusa NWR along Abel Rd on 4/9. An adult **Franklin's Gull** at CRP's Lost Slough wetlands on 4/24 was just the second record for Sacramento County. Another was found at the Davis WTP from 4/28-5/4, and it or another was found in a field along Rd 25 near the Conaway Stock Pond on 5/16-17. Yet another **Franklin's Gull** was at Folsom Lake's Granite Bay boat launch on 5/1. On 5/23, a pair of **Least Terns** was found already on a nest at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP). This is the seventh year in the past nine that this species has nested at the site.

A **Common Nighthawk** was a nice surprise roosting along the edge of Michigan Bar Rd just before its junction with Latrobe Rd on 5/7. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was an excellent find in El Dorado Hills on

5/3. A male **Calliope Hummingbird** was seen along Putah Creek between Davis and Winters on 4/4, and at the same location on 4/30. Others were reported from Rancho Cordova on 4/9, Michigan Bar Rd on 4/12, and Mather Lake on 5/8. The **Hairy Woodpecker** continued into May along Lake Natoma near the Young Woo access. **Hammond's Flycatchers** and **Dusky Flycatchers** were reported multiple times, especially in Yolo County, and **Gray Flycatchers** were reported from the Gristmill access to the American River Parkway (ARP) on 5/1, Cache Creek Wild Wings Park on 5/3, and the Blue Ridge Trail on 5/9. A **Plumbeous Vireo** was also found at the Gristmill access on 5/1. **Common Raven** expansion continues, with nesting confirmed for the first time at both the UC Davis campus and the SRWTP Bufferlands.

A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found at the YBWA on 4/16, and on 4/19, another was found upstream of Winters along Putah Creek. A third was found on 5/1 near

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Lucinda Smith
Alex Roscha
Pohlin Gillis
Jodie L Crandell
Daphne Reimer

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.

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

Mara Weston, Membership Chair, mara_weston@yahoo.com
7708 McClintock Way, Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued

Putah Creek where it's crossed by the extension of Mace Blvd (Rd 105). On 5/5, a late singing male **Varied Thrush** was along Yolo County Rd 141 near the Bogle Winery. A singing **Northern Parula** was at CRP's Tall Forest on 5/17, and a singing male **Blackpoll Warbler** was a first for spring in Yolo County along Putah Creek near Pedrick Rd on 5/4. A **Green-tailed Towhee** was found at ARP's Ancil Hoffman Park on 5/4. On 4/2, a sparrow looking very much like a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found along Meiss Rd and apparently the same bird continued through 4/8. Many experienced birders thought the photos showed a **Clay-colored Sparrow**, but ultimately, it appears that the bird was likely a **Brewer's Sparrow**. Up to three **Brewer's Sparrows** were also reported there. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were found breeding in a closed portion of CRP near Twin Cities Rd and I-5. They were first detected on 4/18, and an adult was seen feeding a stub-tailed juvenile on 5/20. An interesting **White-crowned X Golden-**

crowned Sparrow was photographed at Mather Lake on 4/12.

A male **Summer Tanager** sang almost continuously north of the Orr Forest at CRP on 5/22, the third consecutive year singing males have been found at CRP. A female-type **Cassin's Finch** was reported along the north levee of the Sacramento Bypass on 5/13. On 4/3, 12 **Red Crossbills** were seen in a Fair Oaks backyard, and on the surprisingly late date of 5/24, **Red Crossbills** were heard and seen flying over Esparto. Five **Pine Siskins** were found in east Davis on 5/10, with one found on the late date of 5/31. **Evening Grosbeaks** were reported regularly in Davis through 4/19, and then with sporadic reports until the last report of two males on 5/8.

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

Keith Bailey, Dan Brown, Laura Davis, Lily Douglas, John Ehrenfeld, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Frank Fogarty, Brian Gilmore, Bob Greenleaf, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Doug Herr, Logan Kahle, Tony Kurz, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Tim Lenz, Tim Manolis, Mark Martucci, Frances Oliver, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, William Rockey, Jim Rowth, Sonia Santa Anna, Mark Sawyer, Mary Schiedt, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Jim Thomas, John Trochet, Ed Whisler, Dan Williams, Rick Williams, and Mike Yoshihara.

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

Chris Conard

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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

September 15, 2016
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm