



# *The OBSERVER*

Sacramento Audubon Society

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## *General Meeting*

Sacramento Audubon programs will be taking a break for the months of July and August. You can look forward to our next exciting program in September. Our new Program Chair, Lea Landry, will start the year off right with some good speakers for us. In September, Ron LeValley will talk about The Farallons. This will be a summary of his first trip to the Farallon Islands in 1968, his two years as a biologist there in 1977-78 and a 2 week trip to the Farallones this summer. Ron was living in Sacramento when he started his journey. Visit Ron's website at [www.levalleyphoto.com](http://www.levalleyphoto.com). In October, Ed Pandolfino will help us with Raptor ID. Tim Fitzer will lead the November workshop to help everyone prepare for the Christmas Bird Counts. Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on membership and meetings for further information, including a map and directions.

## **SUCCESSFUL BOOK SALE**

The used book sale at the May general meeting raised \$124, which was donated to the American Birding Association's Birder's Exchange, a program that provides binoculars, scopes, field guides and related materials to local biologists in Central and South America. Thanks to all who donated materials, and a special thanks to John Gin, who organized, priced the books, and conducted the sale.

## *Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip*

**September 27 and 28, 2008**

It's time again to prepare for one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting field trips! This year's 2-day coastal and pelagic trip will take place on Saturday, September 27 (boat) and Sunday, September 28 (shore).

Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place for birding.

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

Space is limited to 45 participants. Once again, Sacramento Audubon will be joining with Monterey Seabirds to offer this trip. To sign up, call Monterey Seabirds (831-375 4658), identify yourself as a Sacramento Audubon participant, and give them a credit card number or mail them a check. You may also sign up online at: [www.montereyseabirds.com](http://www.montereyseabirds.com).

**Cancellation Policy:** In order to receive a full refund, you must cancel 2 weeks before the trip.

**Special notice to campers:** A group campsite (\$4.00 per person, per night) is available for Friday night (September 26) and Saturday night (September 27) at Veterans Memorial Campground in Monterey. Motels and hotels are available in the Monterey area, but make reservations early.

Please fill out the reservation form for the trip found on page 7. Reservations must be made by August 28th.

## **AUDUBON CHAPTERS RECEIVE GRANTS**

Congratulations to San Diego Audubon, Los Angeles Audubon, Golden Gate Audubon, Morro Coast Audubon, and the Audubon Center at Richardson Bay for receiving Toyota Together Green Volunteer Days grants in the first year of funding. The total grants awarded were 41 from 63 applications from Audubon chapters, centers and IBA programs. Grants total \$ 7,000/each for volunteer and outreach centers.

## Field Trip Findings

**Michigan Bar/Latrobe Roads (6/8)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Twelve of us made the Michigan Bar/Latrobe Road loop. We saw many fewer birds and species than in years past as it was terribly dry. It would have been a better trip a month ago. But we still had a great time with good looks at Ash-throated Flycatchers and many Western Kingbirds and Horned Larks. Several Lark Sparrows and Western Bluebirds were seen also. We watched a kingbird nest for a long time. It was in an oak with an adult sitting in it and was almost completely covered on the outside with what looked like cotton batting, probably cottonwood fuzz. Really neat!”

**Goethe Park (6/7)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Gusty north winds kept some birds down, but 11 birders did have good looks at Ash-throated Flycatchers by their nest hole and young Red-shouldered Hawks in a couple of different nests. We also had close up looks at a calling Pacific-slope (Western) Flycatcher. Spotted and California Towhees, Nuttall’s, Downy and Acorn Woodpeckers, and a Common Merganser with young chicks were among the resident birds spotted.”

**Evening Beaver Walk (6/3)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported that—no surprise—beaver were spotted, four of them, along with a coyote. Birds sighted included Western Bluebirds, Belted Kingfisher and the resident Mute Swan.

**Sunrise Area, American River Parkway (6/1)** — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Twelve birders had 43 species on a very nice June morning. Highlights included Bullock’s Orioles feeding young in a nest, Western Kingbirds, Green Heron, Wilson’s Warbler and a Western Wood-Pewee.”

**Crystal Basin (5/31)** — Leader Frank Gray reported: “Our group of 13 birders enjoyed a great day of birding and good weather, including areas adjacent to Ice House Road and within areas burned by the 1992 Cleveland Fire. Bird species seen included California Thrasher, Golden Eagle, Mountain Quail, Calliope Hummingbird, and White-headed Woodpecker. The species total was 48. Our day finished at the Big Hill Lookout Station with a great view of Crystal Basin and close-up views of Mountain Bluebirds.”

**Kyburz Flat and Sierra Valley (5/25)** — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Five of us braved overcast skies and the possibility of rain to experience what turned out to be a great birding day. Highlights included a Gray Flycatcher at Kyburz Flat; numerous pairs of Sandhill Cranes—one pair with 2 very young chicks; a pair of Swainson’s Hawks—one sitting on a nest

and one nearby on a utility pole; several Sage Thrashers in one relatively small area; and Lewis’s Woodpeckers along Antelope Valley Road. All this in addition to many Willet, Wilson’s Snipe and Wilson’s Phalarope, and lots of waterfowl. I tallied 73 species for the day.”

**Paradise Beach, American River Parkway (5/21)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported that high winds virtually shut down the day’s birding.

**Mather Field (5/18)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Excellent morning of birding, total of 50 species. Nine of us enjoyed a breathtaking fly-by of a mature Golden Eagle, first sighting for me in over 10 years. Black-headed Grosbeaks were heard and spotted at both ends of the walk, an Olive-sided Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock’s Oriole, and numerous Kingbirds. The Mute Swan that has been spotted in the past was not alone. Trailing her were 8 young cygnets and she was soon joined by her mate. Sighting of Yellow-headed Blackbirds in tules at both ends of the lake and in the middle was special



Stephen D’Amato

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## EDUCATION OUTREACH EVENTS ROUNDUP AND NEWS FOR 2007-2008

It’s been a busy year for the Education Committee. A welcome trend throughout the year was the increased participation by more Sacramento Audubon members in our many and varied projects.

With the help of Dan Tankersley, SAS Education purchased a scope and tripod to use in all our programs. It has been very useful in helping kids to see critters close up. Nothing like a scope on a Rock Pigeon to impress a second grader!

Of course, we continued to promote the Great Backyard Bird Count. This year we focused on introductory talks given at 4 area library branches. The presentations given by Julie Serences, with the much appreciated help of Subhash Chand, Maureen Geiger, and Cathie LaZier, helped us reach a total of 83 “new to birding” people. Natalie Fenner and her sons gave a presentation at the Rancho Cordova Branch for families that wished to participate in the GBBC. In addition, SAS led a group of 20 folks from The Friends of the River Banks in a “newbie” GBBC Count at Sutter’s Landing Park in downtown Sacramento. This year GBBC participation totals rose in all areas surrounding Sacramento. The city of Sacramento went from 69 participants and 93 species in 2007 to 159 participants and 100 species in 2008.

Sheila Green offered her well received intergenerational “Birding for Fun” class for kids ages 6-16. This year we had two sessions at the Rancho Cordova Park and Recreation District facilities. One in October focused on Bird Biology and the one in April on bird habitat. We built 8 bluebird houses—thanks to Ross Little, who graciously cut the wood for us. By the way, we counted 41 species on our one hour field trip at Mather Lake with 8 kids, ages 4-12, and 7 adults. Highlights included great looks at a Black-throated Gray Warbler and a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Please don’t tell Sheila that you can’t see birds with kids around!

Classroom presentations, by request, included students from grades 2, 3, 4, and 6 and focused on birds that the kids really see at their schools—Woodside in the North area, John Sloat in the Meadowview area, Butler in Elk Grove, and Franklin in Loomis. A total of 292 student participated in these programs. Thanks to Jan and Dan Tankersley who scoped out birds for the 2nd grade Woodside naturalists to check out and to Sandra Bessler for helping with bird spotting at Franklin. Bird highlight of the school

**EDUCATION** continued on page 8

# Field Trips



Kirsten Munson

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com for trips through July 27. From July 28th through August 31st call the scheduler Scott Hoppe, shoppe01@earthlink.net, 835-8471. For September trips call the scheduler Mark Cudney, 987-2422.

Consider car pooling 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.

### Saturday, July 5

#### Wright's Lake

**Leaders: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**  
**Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942**

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on the blooming Sierran plants, many just a few feet from where you park your car! He'll be using the common names, so this is a great trip for the novice who wants to learn Sierran plants. Phyllis will help you find many of the Sierran bird specialties; she can help you learn many of the calls and songs of the local birds as well. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on snow levels, so please call Jack or Phyllis in advance for further details, (meeting time, place, and possible date change.)

### Sunday, July 6, 7:30am

#### Goethe Park

**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882**  
**empid@earthlink.net**

Many birds will still be active and singing this time of year. We'll look for the resident wrens, towhees, flycatchers and hummingbirds. This trip will end before lunch time, and is a good trip for beginners. Goethe Park is located at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive off Folsom Blvd. Meet in the first parking lot on your right past the kiosk. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee.

### Tuesday, July 8

#### Evening Beaver Walk

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack for another fun evening looking at beavers and other residents of the American River Parkway. This trip is limited to 8 people to ensure optimum viewing conditions. Call Jack for more information, including meeting time and place.

### Saturday, July 12

#### Mt. Judah and Roller Pass

**Sierran Wildflowers and Birds**  
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack and members of the California Native Plant Society on this hike in the Donner Summit area. He will point out the flora and fauna of the area, with plants as his specialty. This is a great opportunity to learn the common names of a variety of Sierran plants and shrubs. This is a fairly strenuous hike at high elevation, approximately 5 miles, with a 1000 foot plus elevation gain, and possibly crossing some areas of ice and snow. Snow depth may cause the trip to be rescheduled, so call Jack the week before to confirm the date, meeting time and place. Bring lunch, water, and clothes appropriate for changeable weather.

### Sunday, July 13, 7:30am

#### Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe some surprises. From Highway 50, drive north on Hazel Ave. left on Winding Way and left on Illinois Ave. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders.

### Monday, July 14

#### Evening Beaver Walk

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Don't forget to bring your binoculars on this evening trip to look for beavers. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. In addition to the beavers, you will enjoy observing the birds and plants, and perhaps other mammals. Please call Jack for the meeting time and place.

### Saturday, July 19, 6am

#### Loney Meadow

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409**

Come join Scott for this late 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. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis at 6am. The meadow is about an hour's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

### Sunday, July 20

#### Habitat Improvement Work Day

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

### Sunday, July 20

#### Dragonfly Trip

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

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, Tim will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. It's likely to be a pond in the Sierra. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he

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will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

**Saturday, July 26**

**Carson Pass**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve habitat in this high foot traffic area, so call Jack early to reserve your space. At peak wildflower time, there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety, and spectacular views of Sierra lakes. This is a great introduction to the wildflowers of the Sierra, and Jack will make it easy for you to learn the common names of these plants. Usual birds include Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, and Green-tailed Towhee. Occasionally Gray-crowned Rosy Finch or Blue Grouse are found. Call Jack for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and liquids; wear sturdy shoes for the five mile hike; wear layered clothing for changeable Sierra weather.

**Sunday, July 27, 7am**

**Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain**

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

Meet Dan 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. Dan will be looking for a variety of resident species and Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This 3 to 4 mile hike will end before lunch. Bring water and sunscreen.

**Tuesday, July 29**

**Evening Beaver Walk**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

A summer evening is the perfect time to join Jack at the river and watch the beaver's evening activities. There is usually some interesting bird action as well, and Jack always points out some of the interesting riparian plants. Trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 8 years, so call him to sign up and find the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 2, 7:30am**

**Discovery Park**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This little known park is a great place for a mid-summer walk. Join Maureen in looking for possible Blue Grosbeaks and Lazuli Buntings plus more common birds which nest in the park such as Red-shouldered

Hawks and White-tailed Kites. To reach the meeting place, exit I-5 at Garden Highway and drive east to Natomas Park Drive. Turn left onto Natomas Park, then take the first right onto Capital Park. Park along Capital Park. This will be a walking trip and will last until mid-morning. There are no restroom facilities along the way.

**Saturday, August 2**

**Guided Nature Walk,**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Info: 684-2816 ext. 5**

Learn about the plants and animals of the Cosumnes River Preserve. This is a general nature walk, not specific to birding. For more information and meeting time/place, call the number above.

**Sunday, August 3, 7am**

**Sailor Bar**

**Leader:**

**Mark Martucci, 722-6098**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark for an early morning walk while it's still moderately cool, and find out what birds stay with us through the hot summer. This walk will end by 11am, or possibly earlier depending on the heat. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee. Meet Mark at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road.

**Monday, August 4**

**Evening Beaver Walk**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack for this summer's evening walk to an area where beavers are active. Occasionally an otter or muskrat is seen as well, and Black Phoebe, herons and egrets may also be seen. As always, Jack will share his knowledge of the local plants to round out the evening. Trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 8 years, so call him to sign up and find the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 9, Very Early**  
**River Walk Trail,**

**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Info: 684-2816 ext. 5**

The River Walk Trail (formerly Willow Slough) offers a wide variety of habitat types with excellent opportunities for finding birds. You can join this monthly census of the trail, where many rarities have been found. This is an excellent time of year

for migrant songbirds. Call the number listed above for the exact time and location. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 miles of easy to moderate walking.

**Saturday, August 9, 7am**

**Carson Pass**

**Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636**  
**calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

Escape the valley heat for this beautiful alpine hike. We'll look for resident and specialty birds that include Williamson's

Sapsucker, Clark's Nutcracker,

Rufous Hummingbird,

Green-tailed Towhee

and Cassin's Finch.

Occasionally Gray-

crowned Rosy-Finch or

Sooty Grouse are found.

Bring lunch and liquids;

wear sturdy shoes for the

five mile hike; wear layered

clothing for changeable

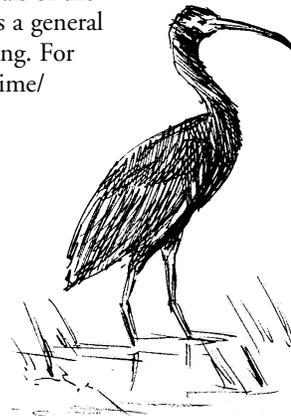
Sierra weather. Meet Gary at

the north end of the Raley's

parking lot just north of

Highway 50 off of El Dorado

Hills Blvd, (Exit 30B).



*Kirsten Munson*

**Sunday, August 10, 7am**

**Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley**

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

August is a great time to view shorebirds in the Sacramento Valley on migration from their Arctic breeding grounds. Since ideal conditions change depending on water levels, we will visit areas with the best shorebird habitat. This may be in Yolo, Placer, or Sacramento County—or all three. This is a good chance to brush up on the common species and possibly find something unexpected. If you have a spotting scope, bring it, along with water and a snack. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left.

**Tuesday, August 12**

**Evening Beaver Walk**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Here's another chance to watch the interesting evening activities along the river. In addition to the beaver, other mammals, birds and riparian plants are there to be enjoyed, and Jack will share his extensive knowledge of the parkway riparian life. Trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age

of 8 years, so call him to sign up and find the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 16, Very Early  
Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve  
Info: 684-2816 ext. 5**

The Tall Forest is perhaps the best remaining example of riparian forest in the Central Valley. Excellent rarities are sometimes found here, in addition to large numbers of migrants and resident species. This is an excellent time of year to see migrant songbirds. These tours are the only regular public access to the Tall Forest. Call the number listed above for the exact time and meeting place. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 3-4 miles of moderate hiking.

**Sunday, August 17  
Habitat Improvement Work Day  
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

**Saturday, August 23, 7:30am  
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area/Davis  
Wetlands  
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249  
fgray4birds@aol.com**

Join Frank Gray for a trip to the Yolo Bypass and Davis Wetlands. Conditions will be drier than normal this year but we can still anticipate the presence of some open water areas and water-associated birds. We will be birding at the Yolo Bypass and then at the City of Davis wetlands and sewage ponds. Meet Frank at the West Sacramento Park and Ride in West Sacramento by 7:30 am. To get there, take the West Capitol Avenue exit off I-80. Turn left at the light and left again into the Park and Ride lot. We will car pool from there. Frank will bring a spotting scope, but additional scopes will be useful. Both beginning and experienced birders are welcome. It is anticipated that the trip will be over by noon.

**Sunday, August 24, 7am-11am  
SRCSD Bufferlands  
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942  
conardc@gmail.com**

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands are 2,650 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove. They are not typically open to the public. Habitat types include riparian forest, sea-

sonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time of year to look for migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 2 miles of easy walking. From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the Meadowview/Pocket Rd exit (the first exit north of Laguna Blvd, and the first exit south of Florin Rd). Head east on Meadowview, then turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd. In one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stonecrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate.

**Thursday, August 28  
Evening Beaver Walk  
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Summer is coming to an end and there won't be many more beaver trips this year, so if you haven't had the opportunity to watch the evening's activities with Jack, now's the time.

As always, Jack will share his knowledge of all the plant, bird and animal life of the river.

Trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 8 years, so call him to sign up and find the meeting time and place.

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

Join Andi for a day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, waterfowl, songbirds and raptors to see, in addition to possible shorebirds returning from their breeding grounds. Meet at the Park and Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capital Ave exit; turn left at the stoplight and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring food, water, and warm clothes.

**Sunday, August 31, 5pm  
Yolo Wildlife Area, evening trip  
Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098  
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark for an evening drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year; shore-

bird numbers will depend on the amount of water available. In some years there are good numbers of White-faced Ibis; foraging owls may make an appearance in the late evening, and at sunset the parking lot is a good place to view bats flying out from their under-the-freeway roost. To reach the Wildlife Area from Hwy 80, take Exit 78 at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. At the stop sign, turn right, pass under the freeway, then turn left onto the gravel road which tops the levee and drops down into the Wildlife Area. Meet at the first large parking lot.

**Saturday, September 6, 7am  
Bodega Bay  
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409**

Enjoy a full day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, raptors, and migrating songbirds. Bring lunch, water, and warm clothes. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left.

**Sunday, September 7, 7am-11am  
Upper Sunrise,  
American River Parkway  
Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098  
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a pulse of migrants. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd, turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Tuesday, September 9  
Beavers on the Parkway  
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Cool off on a hot evening with a walk on the parkway with Jack, to view beavers busy at their work. Jack has been doing these evening walks for many years, and always sees beaver, so don't miss this opportunity. Jack will also be looking at the birds active on the parkway. Trip is limited to eight persons, so call Jack for meeting time and place.



Stephen D'Amato

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to note with only 2-3 Great-tailed Grackles sighted. “

**Goethe Park (5/17)** — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “It was very warm, but 8 people showed up. We had fairly good looks at a Swainson’s Hawk circling overhead, also a Wilson’s Warbler and Cedar Waxwings. We watched baby (all white feathers and a big beaked head) Red-shouldered Hawks in a nest; an Empidonax Flycatcher which stubbornly refused to call, so we could not identify it as to species; and Black Phobes, House Wrens, Titmouses (mice?), and White-breasted Nuthatches, all feeding young. We also saw Canada Geese with young and a couple of hen turkeys with young, and a Mourning Dove building a nest, We looked at Clarkia and Elderberry and Buckeye flowers, Thanks to Mary Beth Metcalf and Paul Cordero who helped with both plant and bird identifications.”

**Purple Martins in Old Sacramento (5/14)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Twenty-one people showed up on a hot, windy day to see martins. We did see a few, but a very small number compared to past years. Many White-throated Swifts put on their usual wonderful show, of course, and everyone also saw the Mexican Free-tailed bats that roost under the overpass. An Anna’s hummer, Yellow-billed Magpie, and a beautiful female Kestrel were other good sightings.”

**Spenceville Wildlife Area (5/11)** — Leader Richard Barbieri reported “Another awesome day! Started off with great winnowing flight displays from Common Snipe along McCourtney road north of Lincoln (Best ever!) We also saw a Common Moorhen, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Cliff, Barn and Rough-winged swallows, orioles. In the heart of Spenceville we saw Western Tanager, Yellow-breasted Chats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Wood-Pewee, Wilson’s, Orange-crowned, and

Yellow warblers, Lazuli Buntings, Chipping and Lark sparrows. On our return, Western Grebes, Black-necked Stilts and an American Avocet. Total for the day was 64 species. Not bad!”

**Sweetwater Creek (5/10)** — Leader Carla Barbaro reported: “It was a good day and warm. We saw the Yellow-breasted Chat right away and heard it continuously. Also: Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Wood Duck, Western Bluebird, Mourning Dove, Anna’s and Black-chinned hummingbirds, Wrentit, Bewick’s Wren, Bushtits, White-breasted Nuthatches, Belted Kingfisher, Western Kingbird, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, Violet-green and Northern Rough-winged swallows, Oak Titmouse, Cassin’s and Hutton’s vireos, Yellow, Wilson’s, Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned, and Townsend’s warblers, Lazuli Bunting, Black-headed Grosbeak, Western Tanager, Spotted and Brown Towhees, Lesser Goldfinch, Northern Oriole, Lark, White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows, Nuttall’s and Acorn woodpeckers, Northern Flicker, Western Scrub-Jay, American Robin, Cedar Waxwings, Brown-headed Cowbird.”

**River Walk Bird Count, Cosumnes River Preserve (5/10)** — John Trochet’s report to the Central Valley Birds report listed the following: Western Wood-Pewee 2, Pacific-slope Flycatcher 1, Cassin’s Vireo 1, Warbling Vireo 6, Swainson’s Thrush 15, Orange-crowned Warbler 3, Nashville Warbler 1, Yellow Warbler 10, Audubon’s Warbler 3, Black-throated Gray Warbler 1, Townsend’s Warbler 8, Hermit Warbler 1, MacGillivray’s Warbler 1, Common Yellowthroat 15. Wilson’s Warbler 15, Western Tanager 12, Black-headed Grosbeak 15, Blue Grosbeak 1, and Bullock’s Oriole 12.

**Sacramento Old City Cemetery, Broadway and Riverside Blvd (5/7)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Twelve

of us enjoyed a nice morning walk admiring the beautiful gardens as well as the birds. A Fox Sparrow was a new addition to the cemetery bird list and everyone was impressed by the fly-over White-faced Ibis so close to downtown Sacramento.”

**Sailor Bar Area (5/6)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported his group spotted Wood Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, and Double-crested Cormorant.

**Cronan Ranch, Coloma Area (5/4)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “There were 11 of us, and we saw about 50 species on our almost four-mile hike. Best birds were the half a dozen Lazuli Buntings, several Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, and White-tailed Kites doing mating displays above the hills. A very nice day.”

**Auburn State Recreation Area, Auburn Flat, and Ruck-a-chucky (5/3)** — Leader Stewart Hoppe reported: “Nine people enjoyed a beautiful spring day and recorded 48 species. Highlights included a Hammond’s and a Gray Flycatcher; Warbling, Hutton’s and Cassin’s Vireos; Blue-gray Gnatcatchers; 7 species of warblers; and all enjoyed great scope views of an adult male Bullock’s Oriole and a first year male Bullock’s. We ate lunch at a wonderful picnic site on the Middle Fork of the American River while being serenaded by Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Yellow Warblers and the hoots and chatters of Yellow-breasted Chats.”

**Spring Migration at the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands (4/27)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Highlights included close flyover views of four Black Terns (only the fourth sighting of this species for the property) and the discovery of a new Swainson’s Hawk nest during the tour. We had great views of Black-headed Grosbeaks, with a decent view of a Blue

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

A few volunteers are needed for the upcoming Salmon Festival at Nimbus Fish Hatchery, October 11th and 12th. We always have a table right on the river, with spotting scopes set up to give festival goers good views of egrets, gulls, hawks, etc. This festival is a busy one, and we need at least three people there at all times. Call or email Cathie to sign up for Saturday or Sunday, morning or afternoon. 457-6882, or [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net).

The Outreach group was very active this spring and summer: at Wildflower Weekend for the Cal. Native Plant Society, Maureen Geiger, Barbara Mohr, June Persson, and Dan and Jan Tankersley; at the Creek Week celebration, Gail Janke, Jonilyn Okano and

Barbara Todd; at the City Zoo in May, Marlene Ishihara, Cathie LaZier and Lea Landry; at Walk On The Wild Side at Beach Lake, Maureen Geiger, Gail Janke, Cathie LaZier, Louise McCullough, and Jan Tankersley.

Thanks to all these volunteers, and notice how it’s the same names over and over? We need more volunteers, and that means you! It’s actually fun to spend a few hours talking to people and networking with other environmental group representatives. You’ll be working with volunteers who’ve done it before, so call Cathie ([empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), 457-6882), and give it a try.

Grosbeak. There was a decent showing of migrants, but most refused to show themselves for the whole group: Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting. Shorebird numbers were on the low side, but we had Semipalmated Plovers, Western Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, and a few hundred Long-billed Dowitchers. All in all, it was a nice day."

**Mines Rd. / Del Puerto Canyon (4/27)** — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "Five members of SAS made the trek to Mines Rd/Del Puerto Canyon on a sunny, warm spring day in search of migrants and nesters. Our first stop at Murrietta's Well near Livermore provided a nice look at a Great Horned Owl's nest, containing one adult and at least one downy owlet. This area now is also flush with Eurasian Collared-Doves. In addition, there were Bullock's Oriole, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow and Common Raven, Northern Mockingbird, a Wilson's Warbler and Wild Turkey. Lake Del Valle was good for four swallow species, including numerous Cliffs gathering mud from the shoreline, Northern Rough-winged, Tree and Barn swallow, and both Western and Clark's Grebe. The Mines Road portion of the trip gave us Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Thrasher, Ash-throated Flycatcher and Western Kingbird, House and Bewick's Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, White-throated Swift, Violet-green Swallow, Tri-colored Blackbird, Cedar Waxwing and, finally, Western Bluebird at the Junction.

But no Lawrence's Goldfinch this year. San Antonio Valley Road was a favorite stop due to the nesting Lewis's Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Tri-colored Blackbird and our first Black Phoebe. Del Puerto Canyon produced Belted Kingfisher, Green Heron, and another trip favorite, the pair of Canyon Wrens. Say's Phoebe and Black-chinned Hummingbird were also nice additions to the trip in the canyon. Once again, we observed Tri-colored Blackbird, making it a species seen in all three counties during the trip. We tallied 71 species this year."

**Pine Hill (4/26)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported that his group saw Hermit Warbler, Western Bluebird, Hutton's Vireo, Black-headed Grosbeak, Wild Turkey, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Acorn Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Violet-green Swallow, and Anna's Hummingbird.

**Sweetwater Creek (4/26)** — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "It was another good day, with a smaller group than last year. The Yellow-breasted Chats were singing and giving us good views most of the trip. A banner day for warblers: Orange-crowned, Yellow, Wilson's, Black-throated Grey, Hermit, and Townsend's. Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Western Wood-Pewee, along with Warbling and Cassin's vireo. We also saw Black-headed Grosbeaks, Western Tanagers, Northern Orioles, and Lazuli Bunting. There were many others as well, a very strong day!"

**Sailor Bar (4/23)** — Participant Dale Blue, for leader Valerie Phillips, reported: "There were 6 of us and we had a great outing.

The weather was beautiful. Theresa and I counted 49 species. Probably the most enjoyable sightings were the Bonaparte's Gull, Forster's Tern, Greater Yellowlegs and Spotted Sandpiper. The yellowlegs and the sandpiper were in breeding plumage, and a nesting pair of doves on the bank of the little lake were fun to see also."

**Gibson Ranch (4/20)** — Leader Brian Gilmore reported: "I was joined by about seven people, including some visitors from Vermont. We saw two baby Killdeer, which were very cute, a pair of Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Savannah Sparrow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, nice views of a Greater Yellowlegs, California Quail, Belted Kingfisher, Acorn Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Swainson's Hawk."

**Bushy Lake / Cal Expo Floodplain (4/19)** — Leader Dan Brown reported: "I had a small group, a windy day and not many birds. Highlights were heard —Ash-throated Flycatcher and Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Saw several Western Kingbirds and one Bullock's Oriole. The biggest surprise, IMO, was 6 sightings of Swainson's Hawk! Probably not 6 individuals, but I think there is a nesting pair in the area of the lake."

*Pete Hayes*



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Bill Bianco, Bill and Nancy Bittner, Carolyn Broeren, Margaret Dettling, Phyllis Gardiner, Alexander Kilner and Peter Watkins to the **General Fund**.

Sonja Armour, Karen Burke, Robert Cornwell, Suzanne Covington, Gary Fregien, Phyllis Gardiner, Peter Hayes, Mary Lu Kost, Valerie Phillips and Victoria Stoffers, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Sara Gillespie, Susan and Gordon King and David Masche to **Bobelaine**.

The Antelope Greens Women's Golf Club, Ed Harper and Susan Scott, and Randy Ubry made a donation to **Sacramento Audubon** in memory of Bill Grenfell. Eleanor Grenfell made a donation in memory of Richard Lindquist.

**Monterey Bay Camp Site Reservation Form  
September 26th and 27th**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_ space(s) for Friday night (September 26th and \_\_\_ space(s) for Saturday night (September 27th ) at Veterans Memorial Park Campground. Cost is \$4.00/night per person in the group site. NOTE: You will pay the camping fee separately when you arrive.

Return this form to:

Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct., Gold River, CA 95670

Cell phone: 916-316-8596 for questions

Ken will collect camping fees before or during the trip.

## Events

### SACRAMENTO SPLASH PRESENTS A NATURE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY EVENT

Nature Detectives – Find the Wildlife Signs Left Behind

When: Saturday, July 12, 6:30 – 9pm

Where: Splash Education Center, 4426 Excelsior Road, Mather, CA 95655

Prices: \$10/adult, \$5/child (5-18), Free/under 5

Hone your skills as a nature detective and learn how to identify the area's wildlife residents by the signs they leave behind. We'll search for animal signs, such as tracks, scat (scientific term for "poop"), pellets, trails, diggings, feathers, hair, and more. Then we'll piece together the clues to tell a story about how the critters spent their day. It'll be like CSI Mather! As we wander through natural areas, we often don't see the wildlife that lives there. Their senses are much more acute than ours so they know we're coming long before we can see them. Additionally, many of the animals are nocturnal so we normally don't see them during our daytime activities.

Wear good walking shoes for this program. Reservations are strongly recommended. Please visit [www.sacsplash.org](http://www.sacsplash.org) or call (916) 364-2437.

### WELCOMING NATURE TO YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Less water, less pollution from lawn mowers, more bird habitat...

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society Invites you to a special presentation and hands-on workshop. Highlights will be a 45 minute Audubon at Home presentation covering the basics followed by a 45 minute optional native plant Propagation Class given by Jennifer Hogan of the SVCNPS.

Learn which native plants are best for our area, how to buy and plant them, and why planting natives is good for everyone! Bird populations are in decline as suitable habitat continues to be lost to development, forestry, agricultural, and other land uses. With 2.1 million acres converted to residential use each year, how you landscape and maintain your yard can make a difference for bird conservation and environmental health. You and your family can enhance your enjoyment of your property by making it a more welcoming place for birds and a more balanced part of the natural community. Audubon At Home is about taking individual conservation action that can sustain birds, other wildlife, and healthy habitats in our yards and neighborhoods.

The hands-on Propagation Class following the Audubon at Home Presentation will demonstrate how to propagate natives that attract birds and other wildlife from cuttings and you will go home with several natives for your garden!

For more information contact: Sacramento Audubon Society at [education@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:education@sacramentoaudubon.org) or 548-0618

Presentations will be given on the following dates at a location near you, so please join us:

**August 9**, Saturday – 1:00pm  
Arden-Dimick Library, 891 Watt Ave, Sacramento 95821

**August 16**, Saturday – 11:30am  
Sylvan Oaks Library, 6700 Auburn Blvd, Citrus Heights 95621

**August 23**, Saturday – 10:00am  
Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Ancil Hoffman Park, Carmichael 95608

**September 6**, Saturday – 1:30pm  
Rancho Cordova Library, 9845 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento 95827

**September 13**, Saturday – 1:30pm  
Orangevale Library, 8820 Greenback Lane, Orangevale 95662

**EDUCATION** continued from page 2

presentation was the Western Kingbird nest that we discovered together with the kids at Franklin School!

Eighteen folks were lucky enough to attend Maureen Geiger's Beginning Birding Class at the Learning Exchange in March. Chris Conard helped with the field trip. Look for more this Fall and spread the word.

On March 9, 6 folks attended as SAS led a "family" bird walk in Gibbons Park. We also led "family" walks for several families at Laguna Creek Park in Elk Grove. We have helped Robert Sewell and The Friends of the River Banks with their Saturday nature walks at Sutter's Landing by lending binoculars and our SAS education scope until they could purchase their own. If you live downtown, Robert leads a walk for families on the Second Saturday at 9am. Contact Laurie Litman for more info.

Our second year with the California Waterfowl Association was expanded to help with instruction on 3 field trips for their High School mentor program. 93 students participated. SAS volunteers—Ken Hashagen, Maureen Geiger, Dan and Jan Tankersley, Gail Janke, Lia Robertson and Julie Serences—helped students with binoculars and bird identification. On our last outing, Robert Sewell, from Friends of the River Banks, took some wonderful photos. If you haven't been on one of these trips, try it you might have a pleasant surprise waiting for you! Nothing like being with a young person as they see a bird for the first time!

We continue to see the results of the SAS participation in the February 7, Richard Louv event. The author of *Last Child in the Woods* brought together a wonderful assortment of folks who continue to contact us about various projects. One such contact led to the building of bluebird boxes one afternoon at Turning Point, a support agency for foster care families. We built 10 boxes with staff and kids, having lot of fun in the process.

We always welcome new ideas and participation in any of SAS Education programs. Please contact Julie Serences at [education@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:education@sacramentoaudubon.org).

Julie Serences  
Education Committee

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

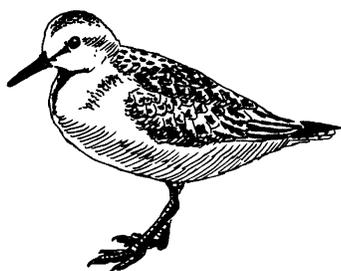
Welcome to these  
new members:

Richard and Louise Einspahr  
Stuart Husband  
David Masche  
Keri Miner  
Linda Pittman  
Doyle Rice

### 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.



Stephen D'Amato

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. There is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be August 26th, 2008 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

## JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Observations* continued from page 10

Other interesting reports included two **Brown Creepers** taking food to a nest along Putah Creek in Solano County on 5/18, a **Calliope Hummingbird** in Olivehurst on 4/21, another along Putah Creek on 4/24, and a **Sage Thrasher** on 5/14 along Thornton Rd to the south of the Lodi WTP. There was an amazing report of over 300 **Swainson's Hawks** south of Tracy along I-5 on 5/29. A very late (possibly injured) **Rough-legged Hawk** was found in Placer County near Dowd and Waltz Rds from 4/24 through at least 4/26. A report of 70 **Common Yellowthroats** at CRP on 4/12 was impressive. A **Hooded Merganser** with 11-12 young was reported on 5/5 from Sun City Lincoln Hills where this species has now bred for several years.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit

www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With over 150 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Ryan Abe, Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson, Dan Brown, Subhash Chand, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Irene Engilis, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Scott Hoppe, David Johnson, Jon Katz, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Jim Laughlin, Cin-Ty Lee, Tim Manolis, Ed Pandolfino, Andy Pfeffer, Deren Ross, Kathryn Sanderson, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, John Trochet, Charley Walker, Dee Warenycia, Brian Williams, and Dan Williams

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

Chris Conard

# Seasonal Observations

April 1 to May 31

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

For many, April through May is the highlight of the birding year. Common Western songbird passage peaks from mid-April to mid-May, though the end of May into early June is a good time to look for Eastern vagrants. Shorebirds tend to peak earlier, with the bulk of the birds having moved on by the second week of May. In addition to the expected species, there were a few surprises this season. A **Black-and-white Warbler** was found along Putah Creek near Stevenson's Bridge on 4/17. Another **Black-and-white Warbler** was seen on 5/24 along with a "fall out" of common Western species at the UC Davis Riparian Reserve. On 5/16, a gorgeous singing male **Hooded Warbler** spent the day at the Gristmill Rec. Area of the American River Parkway (ARP).

Additional highlights for the period included a **Red-necked Grebe** in breeding plumage at the Lincoln WTP on 5/5 and a breeding plumage **Franklin's Gull** photographed on 4/5 at the Davis Wetlands. A **Snowy Plover** at Beal AFB on 4/29 was a first for Yuba County and a **Red Knot** in breeding plumage near Dingville (south of Yuba City) on 5/13 was an excellent find. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found on 4/3 at Sailor Bar, ARP, in addition to one at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/12, and another at North Davis Farms on 5/8. On 4/18 at CRP, a **Willet** and four **Short-billed Dowitchers** were reported. Twenty-

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four **Marbled Godwits** at Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) on 5/1 was the high count for the spring.

It was an excellent spring for **Gray Flycatchers**, with two from Davis, and single birds from Sacramento, CRP, and ARP between 4/19 and 5/3. At least five

were found in the Auburn State Rec. Area on 4/29. To the south of our typical area of coverage came a report of 62 **Gray Flycatchers** in the foothills of Madera County on 4/25. Typically thought of as a rare spring migrant west of the Sierra crest, this is an outstanding report. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was reported at North Davis Farms on 4/14. On 4/27, two **Hammond's Flycatchers** and one **Dusky Flycatcher** were found at CRP.

The **Green-tailed Towhee** first found on 11/25 in a Rancho Cordova backyard continued through at least 5/9. Another **Green-tailed Towhee** was seen in a Carmichael yard on 4/18. On 4/26, a **Brewer's Sparrow** was found north of the Cosumnes River on Michigan Bar Rd. On 4/27, two **Grasshopper Sparrows** were reported along Meiss Rd. A **Harris's Sparrow** was found on private property along the Mokelumne River near Lodi on 4/29. A very late **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was at the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 5/27.

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

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

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry@softcom.net](mailto:llandry@softcom.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,

Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 362-5942,

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

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

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

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*Observations* continued on page 9