



# The *OBSERVER*

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

### Sandhill Crane Workshop to Start Off Our Fall Programs

Paul Tebbel has worked with cranes for over 30 years, including 11 years as the director of Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska. More cranes gather at this sanctuary every spring than any other location in the world. Paul will present an hour-long workshop at the September 17, 2009 General Meeting of the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Other fall topics include:

October 15, Ed Pandolfino  
Sparrow ID Workshop

November 19, Ron LeValley  
Birds of Japan

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website

[www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

*Lea Landry, Program Chair*

## BOOK SALE

We made \$257 from the Annual Book Sale in May and have donated it to Neotropical Grassland Conservancy ([www.conservegrassland.org](http://www.conservegrassland.org)) in memory of Sheila Deaner who first suggested the donation several years ago. This organization works with and provides assistance to Latin American scientists to support and enhance grassland conservation in the neotropics. Jeri Langham and his son Gary are among the founders and directors of NGC. Jeri is a longtime member of SAS and Gary is an officer in California Audubon.

## Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip

SEPTEMBER 26 AND 27, 2009

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 26 (boat) and Sunday, September 27 (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 a variety of marine mammals. On Sunday, we will visit the key land and shoreline habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Boat space is limited to 25 participants. There is a new, lower price this year of \$66/person, if we fill the boat (\$90 last year). 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. Ken Hashagen's cell phone is 916-316-8596 for any questions



## YOUR LOCAL DUES AT WORK

Where does your annual \$25 dues payment go? In SAS, our main expenses are *The Observer* newsletter, program hall rental, hospitality, speaker's fees, insurance, and supplies and postage for membership, education and outreach. We also support local environmental conservation and education projects. This fiscal year we have donated the following amounts:

\$1500 to the Central Valley Raptor Study, \$1000 to ECOS (Environmental Council of Sacramento), \$500 to the Central Valley Birding Symposium, \$250 to Cornell University Scholarship Fund, \$2000 to the Purple Martin Nesting Project, \$500 to Wildlife Care, \$500 to the Institute for Bird Populations, \$1000 to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy for land acquisition in Deer Creek Hills, \$1000 to the UC Davis Tri-colored Blackbird research project and \$1000 to the UC Berkeley Black Rail research project.

In this economy we want you to know that your dues and donations to Sacramento Audubon are very much appreciated and your SAS board gives careful consideration to how your money is spent.

# Field Trip Findings

**Mather Field (6/14)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Weather was cool and perfect for 12+ birders at Mather Regional Park. Wild Turkeys were spotted on the way into the park and the group was serenaded by a Northern Mockingbird that was still singing when we finished. Cliff, Barn and Tree swallows were seen, along with Red-shouldered and Red-tailed hawks and White-tailed Kites. Several families of Pied-billed Grebes and Bewick’s and House wrens were noted along with numerous Western Kingbird families. The group enjoyed seeing an active Marsh Wren nest, and for the second year in a row we saw two American Bittern juveniles. The Great-tailed Grackles were present but in much smaller numbers. A significant number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted in all parts of the lake. On the leg back to the start, a Caspian Tern was seen fishing the lake. A pair of Bullock’s Orioles were noted at the end of the trip. The team listed 48 species for the day.”

**Brannan and Sherman Islands (6/13)** — Leader Dan Williams reported that a view of a family of Burrowing Owls capped a windy day on the Delta. Others: Caspian Tern and White-tailed Kite.

**Riverbend Park (Formerly Goethe Park) (6/7)** — Leader Cathie Lazier reported: “Birds with young were a feature of this trip; we had immature kingfishers, kites, Cooper’s Hawks and Nuttall’s Woodpeckers, among others. Valerie Phillips helped new birder Donna Blaski spot the well-camouflaged Black-chinned Hummingbird on a nest, and Paul Cordero pointed out Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly chrysalises. California Broom (deerweed), Clarkia and Harvest Brodiaea were all in bloom.”

**River Walk Bird Count, Cosumnes River Preserve (6/6)** — Leader John Schick said this walk took place a week earlier than scheduled due to scheduling problems. “This was a very weak count,” he said. “We barely made 40 species because almost ALL the water has been removed from the preserve. I expect the water will return in a few monthss, and June is always slow. But the only interesting group of birds were a small flock of pelicans who found a drying puddle of water.”

**Mosquito Ridge, Placer County (6/6)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Despite

on and off light rain and temps in the mid-40s, we had a very nice trip with 20 participants. In the beginning, we made a quick detour to see a male Indigo Bunting that had been found the previous day on Old Foresthill Rd. On Mosquito Ridge itself we enjoyed eye-level views of Violet-green Swallows, and great views of Western Tanager, Lazuli Buntings, Cassin’s Vireos, Black-throated Gray, Hermit, and Nashville Warblers, and Black-headed Grosbeaks — all in full song. Only a few people had quick views of Black Swifts at the beautiful Grouse Falls. At Placer Big Trees we saw Brown Creepers, had quick views of Hammond’s Flycatchers, with Hermit Thrush song echoing through the woods. In addition to birds, there was an excellent floral display. As the rain picked up it looked like owling was going to be canceled, but the weather cooperated for the five of us who stayed

out until midnight. The owls were vocal, but we were not able to see the Northern Saw-whet and Flammulated Owls we heard. The owling party made a twilight walk at Placer Big Trees while waiting for it to get dark and were rewarded with excellent views of one of three to four very vocal Winter Wrens. Another highlight was bat biologist Heather Johnson joining us for owling. With her Anabat device, she was able to point out calls of three bat species: Spotted bat (audible without the Anabat), Myotis sp., and Big Brown bat.”

**Evening Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (6/3)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported his group saw three+ beaver, all out of the water, a River Otter and turtle. Bird species included Northern Mockingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Ring-necked Pheasant, California Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, and White-tailed Kite.

**Purple Martins in Old Sacramento (6/2)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “Sad news about today’s trip to Old Sac. SAS has had this lunch-time trip to look for Purple Martins for many years. Kurt Sutliff was the original leader; I took over about

15 years ago. The number of martins has steadily declined, and today eight of us saw only two adult males in Old Sac. Next year if we try a lunch-time trip, it will have to be to another location as the Old Sac martin population is essentially gone.”

**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway (5/31)** — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Nine birders had 50 species of birds. Highlights included Black-Chinned Hummingbird, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock’s Oriole and an Osprey.”

**Crystal Basin (5/30)** — Leader Frank Gray reported: “Thirteen participants had a great day visiting several areas at about a mile elevation in El Dorado County. Most were sites that burned in the Cleveland fire. Highlights included Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, Osprey, several Lazuli Buntings, and other species. We were fortunate to have Gary Fregien with his excellent naturalist skills, as well as a bird vocalization expert from the East Bay.”

**Sierra Valley (5/24)** — Leader Scott Hoppe said 15 birders saw 78 species in all, including a Swainson’s Hawk on a nest, a Sandhill Crane next to a nest containing an egg, Mountain Bluebirds at nest boxes at Kyburz Flat, Vesper and Brewer’s Sparrows, several Sage Thrashers, Lewis’s Woodpecker and Mountain and California quail.

**Dragonfly Trip (5/23)** — Leader Tim Manolis, author and illustrator of *Dragonflies and Damselflies of California*, published by UC Press, led a dragonfly trip on the American River Parkway. His group saw 14 dragonfly and damselfly species behind Rio Americano High School. “Highlights were the clubtails and snaketails,” he said, “and Exclamation Damsel is always nice to see because it is a California endemic species, but very common in this area.”

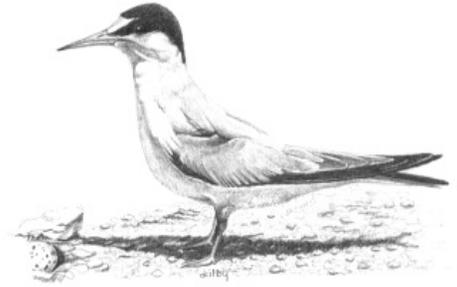
**Paradise Beach, American River Parkway (5/20)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported White-faced Ibis flying over, Swainson’s Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Osprey, White-tailed Kite, Common Merganser, Northern Flicker, Belted Kingfisher, and many Northern Mockingbirds.



Stephen D'Amato

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# Field Trips



Daniel Kilby

## 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 26th. For trips from July 27th through August 30th, call the scheduler Scott Hoppe, 835-8471, shoppe01@earthlink.net and after September 1st, call Mark Cudney, 987-2422, mcudney@aol.com.

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.

**Sunday, July 5, 7:30am**

**Point Pinole Regional Shoreline**

**Contra Costa County**

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

**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

**Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277**

**kenpoe@sbcglobal.net**

This lovely park may be new to many local birders. At the confluence of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, it is a great place to hike in the summer due to clear, stunning views and its proximity to the water which tends to keep it cool and breezy. Join Maureen and Ken on a four mile, fairly level hike along the shoreline, through the eucalyptus stands and meadows, past the historical munitions areas, and onto the 1,250foot fishing pier in search of resident birds, especially shorebirds. There is a \$3 parking fee; portable toilets are available in several locations in the park. This trip will last until late morning, with an optional lunch at the Chevy's at Hilltop Drive and I-80 in Richmond before heading home. Meet Maureen at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento by 7:30am for a prompt departure. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and left again into the Park and Ride lot, on the north side of the freeway. There is a secondary meeting place in Fairfield—call for details.

**Friday, July 10**

**Evening Beaver Walk**

**American River Parkway**

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

Here's another opportunity to view beavers along the American River. Bring your binoculars and be prepared for a real treat. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. Please call Jack to reserve

a space and to find out the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, July 11, 6am**

**Loney Meadow**

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**

**or 652-5409**

**shoppe01@earthlink.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. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, exit #110 off I-80, at 6am. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

**Sunday, July 12**

**Farallons Pelagic Trip**

Shearwaters, puffins, petrels and more, as well as marine mammals such as whales and porpoises. Don't miss this fun trip. See the front page article in last month's *Observer* or call Ken Hashagen at 316-8596 or 635-4435 for further information and availability.

**Saturday, July 18, 6am**

**Paige Meadows and Lake Tahoe Area**

**Leaders: Scott Hoppe**

**835-8471 or 652-5409,**

**hoppe01@earthlink.net**

**Richard Barbieri, 966-4603**

**offleash56@yahoo.com**

Another beautiful Sierra meadow, this one near Lake Tahoe's west shore. Among the more notable birds that have been seen here are: Northern Goshawk, Calliope Hummingbird, Black-backed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak and Red Crossbill. This is a mostly hiking trip, with distances up to 2 miles at a time. Plan on a full day. Bring suitable hiking shoes, water and lunch. Meet Scott and Richard at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, Exit #110 off I-80.

**Sunday, July 19, time TBD**

**Dragonfly trip, Location: TBD**

**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. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

**Saturday, July 25th, 7am**

**Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca**

**Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458**

**naturestoc@aol.com**

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve the habitat in this high foot traffic area. Join Dan on this high elevation, 3 mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee and with luck Blue Grouse

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and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time, there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Contact Dan for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and liquids, wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather.

**Sunday, July 26th, 7am**  
**Yolo Basin Wildlife Area**  
**Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266**  
**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Join Dan in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl as well. Raptors such as Peregrine Falcon and Swainson's Hawk are also possible. 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. Scopes are helpful on this trip, which is good for both beginners and more experienced birders.

**Sunday, August 2, 7am**  
**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark for an early morning walk while it's still moderately cool, and find what birds stay with us through the hot summer. This walk will end by 11am, or possibly earlier depending on the heat. 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.

**Wednesday, August 5**  
**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 7 years, so call him to sign up and find the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 8, 7am**  
**Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain**  
**Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458**  
**naturstoc@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 will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

**Sunday, August 9, 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 #81. Turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot, on the north side of the freeway.

**Saturday, August 15, 7am**  
**Marin County Shorebirds**  
**Leader: Dan Williams, 419-9495**  
**jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Join Dan for this trip to the varied wetlands of Marin County in search of shorebirds. Possible locations include Novato Airport Ponds, Bolinas Lagoon, and/or Abbott's Lagoon at Point Reyes, depending on conditions and bird reports leading up to the trip date. Meet at the West Capitol Park and Ride off I-80 at 7am. From Sacramento, take Exit #81; turn left at the light and left again into the Park and Ride lot on the north side of the freeway.

**Sunday, August 16, 6:30am**  
**Sierra Dragonflies and Birds**  
**Leader: Zach Smith, 619-672-0685**  
**zsgavilan@gmail.com**

Join Zach for this exciting Sierra "wild card" trip. Zach will pick the location(s)

based on local conditions and reports. Zach is knowledgeable with both birds and dragonflies, so this would be a great trip for those wishing to expand their horizons with our wildlife-on-the-wing. Bring liquids and lunch, and plan on a full day. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Rd. Park and Ride in Loomis off I-80, Exit #110.

**Friday, August 21**  
**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 7 years, so call him to reserve a space and find the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, August 22, 7am**  
**Davis Arboretum**  
**Leader: Maureen Geiger**  
**444-0804**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

Late August can be quiet in the valley for birds but the UC Davis Arboretum is always a great place for a walk on a summer morning. Join Maureen on this 2-3 mile loop trail to see what can be found along the mostly

shaded waterway. Close-up looks at residents such as Wood Ducks, Double-crested Cormorants and, often, Green Herons are rewarding, and other migrating species might be found also. Meet at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento or the south end of the Borders parking lot in downtown Davis. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot on the north side of the freeway. This walk will last several hours and end before lunch.

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

Join Frank for a trip mainly to wetlands. We can still expect some open water and resident and migratory bird species although conditions may be drier than normal this year. We will bird at the Yolo Bypass and then at the City of Davis wetlands and sewage ponds. Meet Frank at the West Sacramento Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave.



*Kirsten Munson*

Exit #81, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot on the north side of the freeway. Both beginning and more experienced birders welcome. Frank plans to bring a scope but extras will help. Trip likely will be over by noon.

**Saturday, August 29, 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 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 Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot on the north side of the freeway. Bring food, water and warm clothes.

**Sunday, August 30, 7:am – 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, 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 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, September 3  
Evening Beaver Walk**

**Leader: Jack Hiehle  
967-0777**

This will be one of your last opportunities this year to view beaver with Jack on this evening walk. The seasons are changing and you don't want to miss the opportunity to go on one of these trips. Give Jack a call for a meeting time and place.

**Saturday, September 5, 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, for this morning walk looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as early fall migrants. In the oak woodland and along the river we may see warblers, vireos or Cedar Waxwings. Vinegar weed, a very interesting plant, will be blooming. This is a good trip for beginners. There is a \$5 entrance fee to the park.

**Sunday, September 6, 5pm  
Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Evening Trip**

**Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804  
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net  
Cathie LaZier, 457-6882  
empid@earthlink.net**

Join Maureen and Cathie for an evening drive around this diverse area just ten minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year. Shorebird numbers will depend on the amount of water available. In some years there are good numbers of White-faced Ibis, and foraging owls may make an appearance in the late evening. At sunset the parking lot is a good place to view the bats fly out from their under-the-freeway roost. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A), on your left.

**Saturday, September 12, 7:30am**

**Reichmuth Park**

**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009  
y1ightfoot@aol.com**

Join Tim at the park entrance on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue at 7:30am. In the past Tim has found many uncommon birds in Reichmuth Park. On this first day of Autumn he will be looking for fall migrants, warblers, vireos and flycatchers. This is a good chance to work on identifying birds in confusing fall plumage, and Tim has the expertise to do it.

**Sunday, September 13, 7:30am  
Sailor Bar, American River Parkway  
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722  
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Mark to explore this part of the parkway. Returning winter species such as the crowned sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Common Mergansers and Goldeneye may be seen, as well as resident species. A

trip with Mark is always interesting and is appropriate for both newer and more experienced birders. 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.

**Thursday, September 17  
Last Evening Beaver Walk**

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

Join Jack for the season's last Beaver Walk. In addition to beaver, muskrats are sometimes seen. Herons and egrets make an appearance and Jack will point out other interesting birds and plants of the area. Call him for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, September 19, 7am  
Point Reyes for Vagrants**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942  
conardc@gmail.com**

There will be two trips to Pt. Reyes this fall for rare migrants. Chris is an expert birder who can sort out that confusing fall warbler. Be prepared for several miles of walking. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet Chris 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, on the north side of the freeway.

**Saturday, September 26, 7am  
Point Reyes for Vagrants**

**Leaders: Mark Cudney, 987-2422  
and Tim Steurer, 806-7071**

Join Mark and Tim on this annual trip to the coast for rare fall migrants. With fall migration in full swing, who knows what will appear? The geography of Point Reyes peninsula makes it a magnet for warblers and shorebirds migrating south. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet Mark and Tim at 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, on the north side of the freeway.

**Saturday and Sunday,  
September 26 and 27  
Monterey Bay Pelagic and  
Land Birding Trip**

**Coordinator: Ken Hashagen  
316-8596 or 635-4435**

See the article on the front page of this *Observer*.

*Findings* continued from page 2

**Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway** (5/17) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Thirteen birders had 42 species of birds on a very warm Sunday morning. We had Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Yellow Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Hutton’s Vireo and great looks at a Red-shouldered Hawk nest with three fluffy white chicks.”

**San Mateo County Coast/Half Moon Bay** (5/16) — Leader Dan Williams said participants saw the top bird of the trip from the parking lot as they prepared to head for home—an Eastern Kingbird. Dan said this “dynamite bird,” was the only one reported in the county last spring. Others: Black Oystercatcher, Pacific Loons in breeding plumage, Brant geese, Swainson’s Thrush, and singing Wilson’s Warblers.

**River Bend Park on Mother’s Day** (5/10) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Eighteen people celebrated Mother’s Day with a birding walk at River Bend Park. Fortunately, everyone helped and we found Western Bluebirds, Tree Swallows, European Starlings, Acorn Woodpeckers and House Wrens coming and going from cavity nests; Western Kingbirds and American Goldfinches building nests; a Black Phoebe feeding young in a nest; migrating Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, Warbling Vireo, and Yellow, Wilson’s, Hermit, Townsend’s (several) and Black-throated Gray warblers. A large, downy, young Great Horned Owl was a favorite, and after passing a bank of flowering Yerba Santa on the trail home, we found a large rattlesnake who took off through the grass, looking back at us and rattling as he went. We totaled 45 bird species.”

**Spenceville Wildlife Area** (5/9) — Leader Richard Barbierr reported: “Nine participants recorded 72 species, starting off with winnowing Wilson’s Snipe (courtship flight) on McCourtney Road, Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows and Spotted Sandpiper. At Camp Far West Lake we saw a Rock Wren, several Western Grebes on the lake and the large colony of Cliff Swallows at the bridge over the dam. Within the wild life area, there were Western Bluebirds, White-throated Swift, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow, Orange-crowned, Wilson’s warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats, and Audubon’s Warbler. We also saw Lazuli Bunting, Western Tanager, Bullock’s Oriole, Lawrence’s Ggoldfinch, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Western Kingbird and Western Wood-Pewee. On our return home thru the back roads of Sheriden we saw Barn Swallow,

Belted Kingfisher, Black-necked Stilts, and Black Terns.”

**Sand Creek and County Road 41, a Yolo Audubon trip** (5/7) — Leader Sami LaRocca reported: “Eight participants came on this mostly Colusa County trip. We had multiple sightings of breeding/nesting Bullock’s Orioles and Western Kingbirds. After walking into the Sand Creek dry gravel (with permission of owner) we did flush one Lesser Nighthawk that flew around before finding a new roosting spot. Mostly sub-adult Golden Eagles (5) were seen soaring at two different spots. Near Rumsey in Yolo County where the road becomes CR 41 we were treated to a couple of nestings with young at the Great Blue Heron rookery. Total species seen were 39.”

**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway** (5/5) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported many highlights among 49 listed species: Hooded and Bullock’s orioles, Wilson’s and Yellow warblers, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Downy Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Yellow-billed Magpie, Northern Mockingbird (uncommon here), Cedar Waxwing, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager, Western Kingbird, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

**Sand Creek Road Ridge** (5/3) — Leader Tim Fitzer reported: “We left rain in Woodland and headed north to Arbuckle and out of the rain. Sand Creek Road was wet, then turning to mud the last 3 miles, 4-WD was necessary. Some of the highlights were: Golden Eagle on nest, Pileated-Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, Sage Sparrow, California Thrasher, Wrentit, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Yellow, Orange-crowned, Wilson’s, Black-throated Gray, Townsend, and Hermit warblers, Lawrence’s Goldfinch and Eurasian-colored Dove. It was a fun day and a good trip for all.”

**Auburn State Recreation Area /Drivers Flat and Ruck-a-chucky** (5/2) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “The weather was not entirely in our favor; it started out overcast with showers developing. But 12 of us enjoyed some pretty decent birding. Everyone got great looks at a pair of

Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. We also found a pair of Bullock’s Orioles with a nest in progress. Black-throated Gray Warblers were also viewed by all, and many of us saw Nashville and Wilson’s Warblers. Also notable were a couple of Gray Flycatchers. The west slope of the Sierra is not considered part of their normal migration route but, given reports over the last couple of years, that may need to be reconsidered. Most of the group dropped out shortly

before noon, but five of us continued on down into the river canyon. Unfortunately for those who left, we soon found a Northern Pygmy-Owl. Thanks to Valerie Phillips, who stopped under a tree to get out of the rain and noticed the bird in a nearby Gray



Daniel Kilby

Pine. I broke out my scope, and great views were had by

all (including birding friend, Ron Pozzi, who happened to be coming up out of the canyon at the time). Down by the river, we got excellent views of a displaying Yellow-breasted Chat, and added Yellow Warbler and 3 species of swallows to the day’s list. 48 species were tallied in all.”

**Spring Migration at the Bufferlands** (4/26) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had a nice day with 26 participants. Unfortunately, the songbird migrants were few and mostly singing deep in the vegetation. The main highlight was a Snowy Plover seen by the whole group. It stayed for only a couple of minutes, then flew over us and left the property. It was only the second record for this site. Other highlights included a Western Grebe, uncommon for the location, excellent views of White-faced Ibis, a Sora peeking in and out of the vegetation, 10 Semipalmated Plovers, 500 Western Sandpipers, 20 Least Sandpipers for comparison, 20 Dunlin, 1500 Long-billed Dowitchers, several views of Ash-throated Flycatchers, singing Warbling Vireos, singing Orange-crowned Warblers, a singing Nashville Warbler, singing Wilson’s Warblers, brief views of a few Western Tanagers, singing Black-headed and Blue grosbeaks, and good views of Bullock’s Orioles.”

**Sweetwater Creek** (4/25) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “Sweetwater Creek was decent in it’s number of bird species and people; 35 and 24 respec-

tively. The Yellow-breasted Chats were present and singing but, not as many as times past. Several Orange-crowned Warblers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Ash-throated and Pacific-slope flycatchers were seen throughout the morning. We also were treated to Western Tanager, Bullock's Oriole, Wilson's Warbler, House Wren, and Hutton's Vireo."

**Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake (4/19)** — Leader Tim Fitzer reported that his group of 14 recorded 65 species, topped by a 2nd year Bald Eagle, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Western Kingbirds, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Orange-crowned Warblers, Rock Wrens, Bewick's Wrens and House Wrens. "We walked 3 1/2 miles in 90 degree heat, on a new route that worked very well," he said.

**Clarksburg Area/A Yolo Audubon Trip (4/18)** — Leader Sami LaRocca reported: "This Saturday morning's early start was brisk but gradually warmed to a

pleasant day for birding, just west of the Sacramento River in Clarksburg. The seven birders were amazed by the many sightings of Greater White-fronted Geese moving north in the early part of the trip. On my scouting trip the day before I had seen a breeding plumage Bonaparte's Gull and was anxious to relocate and show it to the trip participants. We did see numerous terns, both Forster's and Caspian, but that gull was not to be seen. Also along the river we saw Tree and Northern Rough-winged swallows and a Wood Duck pair flying into a large tree at the Boat Park. A surprise sighting of a Western Tanager was also found in the river's riparian edge. The adjacent Elk Slough provided a variety of walking venues where Bullock's Orioles and Western Kingbirds were making a lot of commotion as they settled into their new territory upon the arrival at the summer breeding spots. The most commotion of the day honors went to Belted Kingfishers. Two Pair of Belted Kingfishers repeatedly charged the tree where a Great

Horned Owl was roosting. They succeeded in making the owl move across the slough. It was a very noisy display by these four nervous breeders. This trip was timed to find migrants, however few were seen. The best in this category was a Cassin's Vireo; others were Wilson's and Orange-crowned warblers. Flycatchers were also a disappointment. Although both Pacific Slope and Ash-throated had been seen on the scouting trip none were seen on the trip. Sixty-one total species seen.

**Phoenix Field (4/14)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported minimal bird activity and high water from recent rains delayed vernal pool flowers. Highlights included Mountain Bluebird, Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Green-tailed Towhee, Osprey, several Lazuli Buntings, and other species. We were fortunate to have Gary Fregien with his excellent naturalist skills, as well as a bird vocalization expert from the East Bay."

*Pete Hayes*

## Audubon Outreach

Spring celebrations of Earth Day kept us busy. We reached a variety of people at the Earth Day celebration at Cosumnes River College, Creek Week Festival at American River College, and ECOS Earth Day Celebration at South Side Park. At the table at these functions were Judy Denney, Tim Fitzer, Frank Gray and Cathie LaZier. At South Side Park we were part of the Wildflower Wonders exhibit, and SAS members Julie Serences and Chris Conard gave presentations on Smart Plant Choices, and Birds of Our Region. Jan Tankersley's Bird Question Games were very popular with children and adults. We were able to help people identify common garden birds and learn about healthy habitat home gardening for birds, bees and butterflies. This Outreach program also encourages people to come to an evening program, attend a field trip and be more aware of the natural world that surrounds us. Upcoming fall functions include the Lodi Crane Festival, the Central Valley Birding Symposium and the Galt Winter Bird Festival. If you'd like to participate in any of these, or know of another function where the Audubon Outreach Table might be a participant, please contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), or 457-6882.

## HELP COMBAT 'EXTREME POACHING'

You may have read that California is experiencing an increase in poaching that led officials to call 2008 "The Year of Extreme Poaching." Between 2003 and 2007 the number of violations more than doubled, and the rise in extreme poaching (excessive killing of fish and wildlife or repeat offenses) matched that pace. This upswing of violence has been hardest on our waterfowl, including sensitive species of ducks and geese.

Our force of courageous and dedicated fish and game wardens cannot be held responsible for this poaching epidemic. In 2008, California had fewer than 200 active-duty fish and game wardens patrolling the state's 100 million acres. This is the lowest of any state in the nation at one per 185,000 residents, and these men and women work tirelessly to protect our natural resources.

Nor can we blame the hunting community, which has a long tradition of stewardship and conservation in California. Hunters observe bag limits to protect sustainable wildlife populations, support the protection of critical habitat, and pay taxes on ammunition and licenses that support conservation and regulation of their sport.

California's weak poaching laws and the lack of adequate law enforcement are the real causes of the poaching epidemic. Poaching is only ever considered a misdemeanor under state law, and once a hunter has paid his penalty he is once again eligible to receive a hunting license and return to poach again. San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris claims that poachers simply build the fines into the cost of doing business.

Assembly Bill 708, authored by Assemblymember Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), would take important strides toward ending this epidemic by enacting real deterrents to poachers, especially repeat offenders. It would increase fines and impose mandatory minimum fines so that violators cannot be let off the hook. Additional amendments to the bill will also better incentivize local prosecutions to make sure that violators get what they deserve.

What you can do to help: Go to [www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org) and sign up to receive our action alerts, so that you can participate in this and other important wildlife protection legislation.

Jordan Wellwood

Central Valley & Sierra Nevada Conservation Coordinator

Audubon California

[jwellwood@audubon.org](mailto:jwellwood@audubon.org)

### WHAT'S THE 'BUZZ' ABOUT?

Come hear the "buzz" about native bees and their place in the urban landscape on July 25, 2009 at 9:30am at the Hamilton Garden in the Historic City Cemetery, 1000 Broadway. Join bee expert Dr. Gordon Frankie, UCB, and his graduate student, Jaime Pawelek, to identify and learn about bees at the beautiful Hamilton Garden in the cemetery. Park across the street from the cemetery on Broadway and walk due south. There is no charge, but donations toward the beautification of the cemetery are appreciated. Call 916-455-8166 for more information.

### FUNKY NESTS IN FUNKY PLACES CONTEST

Cornell University is helping to sponsor the "Funky Nests in Funky Places" challenge, where participants may take photos, do a painting, write a story, or shoot a video showing a bird's nest built in some out-of-the-way or out-of-this-world place. Participants should be sure to avoid touching nests or disturbing the birds.

Prizes include a Leica C-LUX 3 compact camera, bird feeders, shrubs for planting, and more. Selected images and videos will be posted on the Celebrate Urban Birds website: [www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/)

How to enter:

1. Email entries to [urbanbirds@cornell.edu](mailto:urbanbirds@cornell.edu). Links are acceptable for videos.
2. Write "Funky Nests" in the subject line.
3. Include name and mailing address.
4. Explain why you submitted your entry--what's the story behind it?
5. One entry per person, please.

Deadline for entries is July 31, 2009

Visit the Celebrate Urban Birds website ([www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration/)) for more information and to read the terms of agreement regarding all entries. Click on Funky Nests in Funky Places.

### PUFFIN CAM ONLINE AGAIN FOR 2009

Project Puffin's 'Puffin Cam' is now beaming live-streaming video and sounds from Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge, eighteen miles off the coast of Rockland, Maine. The National Audubon Society started Project Puffin 36 years ago. The Puffin Cam ([www.projectpuffin.org/PuffinCam.html](http://www.projectpuffin.org/PuffinCam.html)) operates from 6AM to 9PM EDT daily. The best times to view are mornings and early afternoons, and again just before dark. Puffins and other seabirds such as razorbills and guillemots can be viewed.

### 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.

### NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Thanks to those of you who have changed your mailing address and contacted me with the change BEFORE you moved. This helps Sacramento Audubon reduce costs in sending out our newsletter, *The Observer*. We'd rather spend that money on activities which enhance our enjoyment of wildlife. Thanks again.

Last year, I sent out a survey with all renewal notices, asking whether or not the renewing member would prefer hard copy or reading *The Observer* online. Of those who responded, only a few preferred to receive their newsletter via the Internet. Currently, anyone can find information about General Meetings and Field Trips on our website at [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org). It appears that most members prefer to receive the hard copy newsletter. At this time, we're not prepared to keep 2 separate memberships to accommodate the extra emailing list. Additionally, the annual Membership Renewal Reminder offers an opportunity for members to add donations for various Sacramento Audubon Society activities (General, Conservation and Education, the Purple Martin Project), in addition to their \$25 membership fee.

*Lea Landry, Membership Chair*

### MOCKINGBIRDS AND THEIR COMPLEX TUNES

Why are some birds simple singers and others vocal virtuosos? A large-scale study of mockingbirds in diverse habitats reveals that species in more variable climates also sing more complex tunes. "As environments become more variable or unpredictable, song displays become more elaborate," said Carlos Botero, a postdoctoral researcher.

Local climate patterns are good indicators of how challenging life is in a given location, Botero said. "Survival and reproduction become more complicated when weather patterns are unpredictable because you don't know when food will be available or how long it will be around," he explains. Male mockingbirds sing primarily to impress mates. Superior singing skills are a cue that a male is a good catch.

Botero and colleagues collected and then painstakingly analyzed snippets of song and compared their patterns to a database of temperature and precipitation records. The researchers found that species subject to more variable and unpredictable climates had more elaborate song displays.

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bernadette J Behar | Joanne Hagopian    |
| E V Biggert        | Ranae Jarman       |
| Donna M Blaski     | Kevin J McConnen   |
| Bruce Bostick      | Michael Miller     |
| Patricia Breen     | John Platt         |
| Melissa Brown      | Paul Prewitt       |
| Carolyn Bush       | Patrick K Purcell  |
| Case Butterman     | Anthony Rayner     |
| Courtney Covington | Linda K Shafer     |
| Donna D'Amico      | Michael Vecchio    |
| Carole Girard      | Kathleen Ann Walsh |

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on June 30, at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

William Bianco, Gregory Brott, Suzanne Covington, Roy Greenaway, Linda Pittman, John Platt and Peter Watkins to the **General Fund**.

Robert Austin, Bill and Nancy Bittner, Aubrey Blue, Bruce Bostick, Patricia Breen, Melissa Brown, Janice Caravantes, Suzanne Covington, Winifred Detwiler, Carole Anne Elzey, Carole Girard, Phyllis Gardiner, Pete Hayes, James Hepler, Alexander Kilner, Elaine Livingston, Kevin McConnen, Valerie Phillips and Alice Westreich, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Edward and Eleanor Winnemore made a donation to the **General Fund** in memory of Sylvian Rasmussen.

William Bianco made a donation to the **Purple Martin Fund**.

## 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

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

*Observations* continued from page 10

Sutter County where Riego Rd joins the Garden Hwy on the late date of 5/21 was a real surprise. Other lingering winter birds included a **Varied Thrush** on 5/16 at CRP and **Pine Siskins** in Davis through at least 5/12. Additional notable reports were the returning **Least Terns** at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (more next month) on 5/29, a **Band-tailed Pigeon** in the River Park neighborhood of Sacramento on 5/1, good numbers of **Calliope Hummingbird** reported, with a high of three individuals along ARP downstream of the Nimbus Hatchery on 5/5. A **Brewer's Sparrow** was reported on the same day and at the same location. Rounding out the highlights, **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports were up slightly this spring, a **Vesper Sparrow** was along Scott Rd south of White Rock Rd on 4/23, and a local high-count of ten **Chipping Sparrows** was at Ancil Hoffman (ARP) on 4/9.

Beginning with January 2009, we are now featuring photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([www.sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html)).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit [www.cvbirds.org](http://www.cvbirds.org) and click "Listserv" for details. With over 200 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:

Todd Easterla, Leo Edson, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Frank Gray, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Keith Kwan, Jeri Langham, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Linda Pittman, Don Schmoltd, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, 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)

While April and May only officially cover one season, spring, there are elements of all four seasons. The last of the wintering sparrows and ducks typically leave in the first ten days of May, with shorebird migration pretty much over by then as well. Songbird migration is a more protracted affair, beginning as early as January with the influx of **Tree Swallows**, and extending into June with **Willow Flycatchers**, plus a few late **Yellow Warblers** and **Swainson's Thrushes**. Mid-May to mid-June is a good window for vagrants, and we had only one to speak of this period, though another surprise will have to wait for the next column.

The songbird highlight of the period was a young male **Summer Tanager** (about 1/3 red) in north Davis on 5/17. Many observers reported low numbers of migrants until unsettled weather in early May produced some nice mornings with good counts of warblers, Western Tanagers, flycatchers, and vireos. In late April, when things were slow in the Valley, there were reports of good movements of common western migrants in the foothills. There was a smattering of **Hammond's Flycatchers** reported locally, with the slightly rarer **Dusky Flycatcher** reported in Davis on 4/20 and Ancil Hoffman Park along the American River Parkway (ARP) on 4/28. Another was found at the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) on 4/21, where a **Gray Flycatcher** was also found. The lat-

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ter species is a spring-only migrant in the Valley and always a nice find, with others reported at Prairie City OHV Park on 4/22, Reichmuth Park on 4/28, and ARP near Howe Ave on 5/2 and 5/14.

The other highlight bird for the period was a **Stilt Sandpiper** at YWA on 4/13-14.

A **Ruddy Turnstone** was another excellent find there on 4/14 and 4/16. **Marbled Godwits** were regularly reported



from the site, with a high of 9 on 4/19. Other good shorebird finds include a **Snowy Plover** at the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 4/26, and **Solitary Sandpipers** from the same location on 4/20-22, and Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 4/24.

**Steller's Jays** were found in several Valley locations this past winter, but one in

## 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