



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 19
Shepard Garden and Art Center
6:30pm Potluck Dinner
7:00pm General Meeting

Connecting with Montana

This month we have Ed Harper returning with another of his popular presentations. If you know Ed, then you certainly know of his passion for his native state of Montana. You can be sure he will share that passion with some of his favorite images taken in Montana over the years. From the mountains to the eastern plains, scenery, wildlife, and birds will provide for a most informative evening.

See page 7 for more about Ed and his presentation.

The Potluck Dinner starts at 6:30. Please bring a salad or a main dish to share. Board members will provide desserts; our local Audubon Chapter will supply beverages and utensils.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park, located at 3330 McKinley Blvd. in Sacramento. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2005

Journey west of the golden Gate to cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and the crown jewel of the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Sacramento Audubon has chartered the cruise boat, "Salty Lady," out of Sausalito for the approximately eight hour trip.

This trip has produced something different for the last 15 years! Some years bring sightings of giant Leatherback Turtles, while other years squadrons of Dall's porpoise cavort along the boat's bow wave. Almost always the Tufted Puffin makes an appearance. Often Gray, Humpback, and occasionally Blue whales, have been sighted quite close to the boat.

What will alert observers find this year? Come join us and discover for yourself.

- The boat departs Sausalito at 8am and returns about 3:30pm
- The trip cost is \$75 per person, which includes a \$20 donation to Sacramento Audubon. The trip is limited to approximately 45 persons, so reserve space as soon as possible. The deadline is June 30.
- Detailed instructions and pre-trip information will be provided once space is reserved. Please use the registration form provided below.

Contact Jeff Mangum (916) 988-2802 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 10, 2005

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$75 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

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

Jeff Mangum, 5917 Rich Hill Drive, Orangevale, CA 95662

Registration deadline: June 30, 2005

Field Trip Findings

William Pond Park (4/15) – Leader Jack Hiehle’s group enjoyed fair weather while recording 48 species. They included lots of Western Kingbirds, Bullock’s Oriole, a number of Wood Ducks, Chipping Sparrow, Cooper’s Hawk, California Quail, and Cliff, Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows.

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (4/10) – Leader Lea Landry reported: “Eighteen enthusiastic birders enjoyed a beautiful day on the Western States Trail out of the Snowberry Creek Staging Area in Orangevale. The trail was a bit muddy, so our group used the shoulder of the American River Bike Trail at times. Sightings of about 30 species included lots of Yellow-rumped Warblers (Audubon’s and Myrtles), Wilson’s Warbler, Western Bluebirds, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows. A small group went on to White Rock and Prarie Citly Roads and were rewarded with wonderful looks at Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Horned Larks and Savannahh Sparrows.”

Jepson Prairie & Yolo Bypass (4/3) “Our small but enthusiastic group enjoyed a pleasant spring day viewing wildflowers, including gold-fields, butter-and-eggs, white hyacinth and many species of grass,” leader Andi Salmi reported. “The Yolo Wildlife Area was rich with ibis, Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal and other ducks, Dunlin in early breeding plumage and very close views of several American Bitterns.”

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/2) – Leader Maureen Geiger reported a great day at Sacramento city’s backyard birding hot-spot: “Many raptors, shorebirds and ducks in addition to the usual resident birds,” she said. “A Peregrine Falcon, Swainson’s Hawks, many Green-winged Teal, a Whimbrel, and

a Marbled Godwit were highlights.”

Bannister Park (4/1) – Some 15 Snow Egrets, apparently filling up on the abundance of fingerling salmon, featured leader Jack Hiehle’s parkway walk. Other sightings included five nests of Great Blue Herons, Downy Woodpecker, Cooper’s Hawk, Wild Turkey, and California Quail.

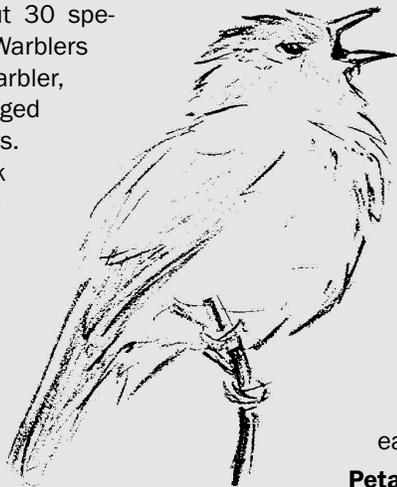
Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/20) – “Cooper’s and Red-shouldered hawks were active,” Cathie LaZier reported. “We found Bushtit and Anna’s Hummingbird nests. Hutton’s Vireos, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Purple Finches were singing, and we enjoyed some wildflowers, including Giraffe’s Heads and Tidy Tips.”

Sacramento County Bufferlands (3/27) – “Although high water limited our access and conditions were muddy, highlights included American White Pelicans, and nesting Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants,” leader Chris Conard said. “There were numbers of waterfowl, including a few Canvasbacks and approximately 600 Ring-necked Ducks. A pair of courting Swainson’s Hawks, a Great Horned Owl with nestlings, and lots of bird song made for a nice early spring day.”

Petaluma & points west (3/19) – Leader Ron Storey’s trip was rained out.

Sailor Bar (3/18) – Leader Jack Hiehle reported that Ring-necked Pheasant, American Wigeon, Barn Swallow, Green Heron and White-tailed Kite highlighted this walk on the parkway.

Pete Hayes



Kirsten Munson

West Nile Concerns



Spring is here and after our very wet winter mosquitoes will definitely be a problem. Do all you can to make sure your yard and neighborhood is not habitat friendly for them by checking for standing water areas.

What to do if you notice dead birds that look suspicious: Contact your California Department of Health Services, California West Nile Virus Surveillance Information Center at 1-877-968-2473. Checkout their web site for pictures of the affected species, an online reporting system, as well as maps and data about confirmed WNV bird deaths in California at <http://westnile.ca.gov/>

Field Trips



Stephen D'Amato

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/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198, for trips through May 22. Call the scheduler Andi Salmi, 691-7216, e-mail: andisalmi@yahoo.com for trips May 23 through June 26. For trips after June 26 call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, e-mail: naturestoc@aol.com.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. Walkie-talkies can be helpful on non-local trips. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Sunday, May 1, 7:30am **Spenceville Wildlife Area** **Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603** **offleash@sbcglobal.net**

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes and one optional 5 mile hike over uneven terrain. A short steep climb to Fairytale Falls may provide a look at a Dipper. Other possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis' Woodpecker, rails, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at Brookfield's restaurant in Roseville (NOT the Madison location). Take Eureka Road exit off I-80; go right on Eureka and then take the first left at the stoplight (Taylor Road). The restaurant is located behind the Shell gas station.

Saturday, May 7, 7:30am **Sweetwater Creek** **Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603** **offleash@sbcglobal.net**

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wildflowers in bloom and hear the song of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Richard will scout for Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds and colorful warblers. Meet Richard at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Highway 50. This will be a half-day trip.

Sunday, May 8, 7am **Beeks Bight, Folsom Lake** **Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871** **spskua@aol.com**

This is a great area for nesting hummingbirds at this time of year. Tim will also look for Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Lazuli

Buntings, California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows and possibly Yellow-breasted Chats. Wear your hiking boots for the 2 to 3 mile hike. Meet Tim in the shopping center parking lot next to the AM-PM on Douglas Blvd., just east of the intersection with Folsom-Auburn Road. Bring lunch and liquids, as this trip will continue into the early afternoon.

Friday, May 13, 8am - noon **Paradise Beach** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Meet Jack in Glen Hall Park at the end of Carlson Drive for this lovely morning hike along the American River. Jack will show his skills as an all-around naturalist by pointing out nesting birds, butterflies and wildflowers.

Saturday, May 14, 10am - 4pm **Walk on the Wildside - Rookery Tour**

Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see one of approximately four heron rookeries in Sacramento County on a Bufferlands guided tour. This rookery contains over 100 active nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants.

Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds.

The event is held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. Visit www.bufferlands.com for more info and a map to the event site, or call 875-WILD (9453). For additional information contact Kevin Cassady at 875-9196 or cassadyk@saccounty.net.

Sunday, May 15, 7am **Coloma, Straza Ranch** **Leaders: Valerie Phillips, 722-1802** **Dan Tankersley, 359-2829** **tankers@winfirst.com**

Come for a half day and explore the Straza property, a BLM area near the south fork of the American River, looking for spring migrants and raptors. Then enjoy lunch at the Marshall Gold Discovery Park in the historic area of Coloma. Meet Valerie and Dan at the far north end of the Raley's-Bella Bru parking lot on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Highway 50. Bring lunch and water.

Saturday, May 21, 5:45am **Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve** **Leader: John Trochet** **Info: 684-2816, ext. 5**

This is an opportunity to help John with his monthly bird census conducted in this beautiful riparian forest. John is known for finding excellent rarities as well as large numbers of resident species. This is a walking trip that lasts all morning. Meet at the Farm Center at Bruceville and Desmond Roads. John LEAVES at 5:45am PROMPTLY. For details and last minute updates call the info line or check the website at www.cosumnes.org.

Saturday, May 21, 7am

Point Reyes

Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
gfreg@infionline.net

Meet Gary at the West Capitol Park & Ride off I-80 for a full day of exploration. Target birds are warblers, vireos, thrushes and shore birds. Vagrants are always a possibility. Bring your lunch, water, and dress for variable weather.

Sunday, May 22, 7am

Goethe Park

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

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on the right past the entrance kiosk for this morning nature walk. We'll look for resident birds and spring migrants along the levee, in the oak woodland and down at the river. This is a good trip for beginners. Goethe Park is at the north end of Rod Beaudry Drive off Folsom Blvd. east of Bradshaw. There is a \$4 park entrance fee. If you would like to meet outside the park and carpool in, give Cathie a call.

Wednesday, May 25, 11:45am – 1pm

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento

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

Enjoy fascinating looks at Purple Martins, which nest in Old Sacramento. You will also see nesting White-throated Swifts and probably Cliff and Tree Swallows, and who knows what else! Meet Maureen on the east side of the Railroad Museum along Second Street. Beginners are welcome on this trip.

Friday, May 27, 8am – noon

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack in observing the plants, birds and other animals of this riparian corridor along the American River. Jack will share his broad expertise of the usual residents of this area. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

Saturday, May 28, 7am

Crystal Basin

Leader: Frank Gray, 966-3708
Fgray4birds@aol.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento, and is well worth the drive. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. You will likely enjoy Lazuli Bunting, Green-

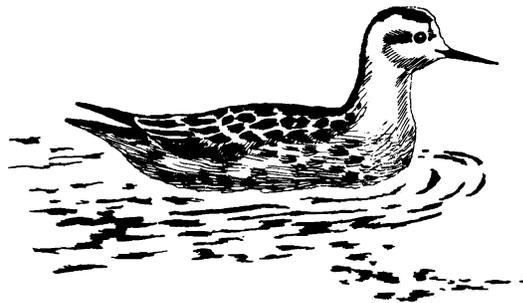
tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, several species of warblers and many other birds. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. We'll return by 2 or 3 pm. Meet Frank at the north end of Raley's parking lot, just north of Highway 50 off El Dorado Hills Blvd.

Sunday, May 29, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for resident birds and spring migrants. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.



Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, June 4, 7am

Bodega Bay

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

Join Dan for a full day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors to see, in addition to possible vagrant songbirds. Meet Dan 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. This Park & Ride lot is on the North side of the freeway, NOT THE SOUTH SIDE LOT. We will LEAVE at 7:00am SHARP. Bring food (an option for lunch will be The Tides snack bar), water and warm clothes.

Sunday, June 5, 7:30am – noon

Upper Sunrise,

American River Parkway

Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098

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 Sunrise Blvd., turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd. and then take your first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for beginners.

Friday, June 10

Evening Beaver Walk

American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years. Please call Jack to reserve a space and to find out the meeting time and place. Jack will, of course, point out the birds and plants, as well as the mammals, on this evening trip.

Saturday, June 11

River Walk,

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded information:

684-2816 or

www.cosumnes.org

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd. for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group trip is a good way to find out what's happening at the preserve. You must check the recorded information or the web site a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, June 12, 7:30am

Yolo Basin and nearby roads

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a morning drive around the Yolo Basin Wildlife area. After a couple of hours at that location, she might visit the large heron and egret rookery on Road 103 near the Davis dump. Meet in the Vic Fazio Wildlife area parking lot where the driving tour begins. To reach it, take the first exit off I-80 on the west side of the causeway; circle under the freeway and up onto the levee at the signed entrance.

Saturday, June 18, very early

Tall Forest Bird Count,

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: John Trochet

Recorded information: 684-2816 or

www.cosumnes.org

Bobelaine

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIRECT DONATIONS

Thank you so much to the following for their direct donations in support of our Bobelaine Sanctuary: Delmar Janson, Morris Lerome, Lachlan McClenahan and Sidney Hibma.

BOBELAINE NEWS

Now is the time to visit the sanctuary. Everything is green and fresh. The oaks have new leaves and the grass is lush green. Birds are singing. Enjoy a morning walk and let nature remind you of the good things. A walk at Bobelaine offers exercise, a good birding experience, peace and quiet and a place to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

Your Last Chance to Participate in the BOBELAINE BIRDATHON

Just a reminder that the month of May is the last month that has been set to do your Birdathon. Your efforts toward fundraising for Bobelaine will help keep the sanctuary in fire-safe shape and as safe as possible for visitors. While the April-May Birdathon is our primary effort to raise funds for maintenance of the sanctuary, tax free donations will be gladly accepted throughout the year. Please, do your part in helping to preserve the 435 acres of mixed riparian forest and grasslands that are a part of the five to six percent of the remaining forests that once bordered the rivers of the central valley. Your donations are tax free and allow you to get involved in preserving nature. Please make checks out to "Sacramento Audubon Society" for "Bobelaine Birdathon" and mail them to Bill Clark, 215 Ardmore Ave., Roseville, CA 95678-5101.

Bill Clark, Co-Manager
916-783-8305

Meet John at the farm Center ON TIME to join him on this monthly bird count. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting. You must check the recorded information or the web site a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, June 19, 7am
Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
dtankers@winfirst.com

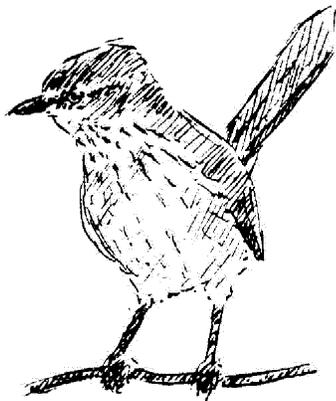
Join Dan on this all-day trip to the lovely Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass areas. Dan really enjoys visiting this area and hopes to find Wilson's snipe, yellow-headed blackbird, white-faced ibis and several species of woodpeckers. From I-80, take the Horseshoe Bar Road exit in Loomis and meet at the Park and Ride. Don't forget your lunch and water. FRS radios will also be very useful.

Wednesday, June 22
Evening Beaver Walk
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Here's another opportunity to enjoy beaver sightings along the American River Parkway. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years. Please call Jack to reserve a space and to find out the meeting time and place. As always, you will learn much about the local natural history from Jack.

Saturday, June 25, 7am
Wright's Lake
Leaders: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777
and Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierra flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on the plants, and Phyllis will try to locate some of the hard to find bird species. Meet at the north end of Raley's shopping center parking lot on El Dorado Hills Blvd. just off Highway 50.



Kirsten Munson

Sunday, June 26, 7am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier,
457-6882
empid@sbcglobal.net

Early summer weather provides an opportunity to see recently fledged young birds. Ash-throated Flycatcher, wrens, Western Bluebirds, kites and Red-shouldered Hawks are among the possibilities. We'll look for interesting plants and wildflowers as well. The trip will last approximately 3 hours and is a good choice for beginning birders. Meet in the first parking lot on the right, just

past the entrance kiosk on Rod Beaudry Drive. There is a \$4 entrance fee per car; if you want to carpool in meet Cathie on Rod Beaudry Drive just off Folsom Blvd. at 6:50am.

Saturday, July 2, 6:30am
Martis Valley and vicinity
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942
e-mail: chris.conard@comcast.net

Martis Valley near Truckee is a mix of the Sierra and the Great Basin. We'll explore sagebrush flats, open water, coniferous and riparian forests in search of the area's breeding bird species. Meet at the Park and Ride of the Hwy 80 Horseshoe Bar Rd exit in Loomis. Bring water and lunch and be prepared for several short to moderate walks.

Continued on page 6

Wednesday, July 6

**Evening Beaver Walk
American River Parkway**

Leader: Jack Hiehle 967-0777

Jack will lead us on an evening walk along the American River, looking for beavers and muskrats. This trip is limited to 8 participants, with a minimum age of 7 years. Call Jack ahead of time to arrange meeting time and place.

**Saturday, July 9, 9am
Mt Judah & 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 all of the flora and fauna of the area, with plants as his specialty. This is a fairly strenuous hike at high elevation, with a 1000 ft-plus elevation gain on the 4 1/2 to 5 mile round trip. Meet Jack at the trailhead to start the hike a 9am sharp. To reach the trailhead take I-80 east to the Soda Springs exit, then take the main road to the Summit, then follow the road to the right for about 1/4 mile. Bring lunch, water, and clothes appropriate for changeable weather.

**Saturday, July 9
Cosumnes River Preserve
River Walk Bird Count
Leader: John Schick
Cosumnes River Preserve
Info: 684-2816, ext. 5
or www.cosumnes.org**

John conducts bird census walks through this excellent habitat on a monthly basis. The walk covers about four miles and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. Meet John at the visitor center. To get there, take I-5 south to Twin Cities, and go right on Franklin Blvd. for about 1 mile. Please call the Preserve or check the website a few days prior for the meeting time and location.

**Sunday, July 10
Farralon Island boat trip**

Check the front page of this month's Observer for details. Call Jeff Mangum, 988-2802, for current availability.

The Sudden Abundance of Painted Lady Butterflies

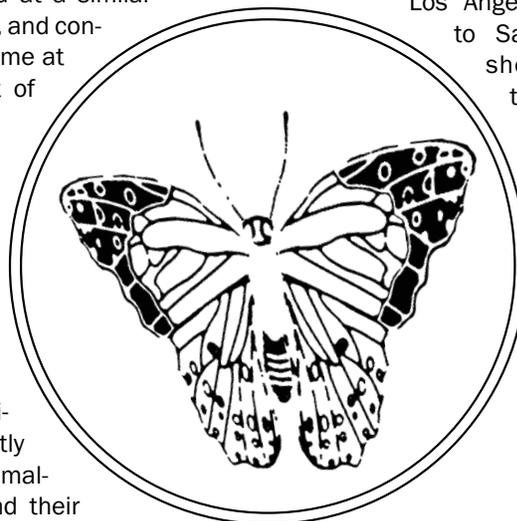
The winter rains that produced incredible wildflower displays in the southern deserts also led to a bumper crop of painted lady butterflies. First noted in exceptional numbers on Monday, 3/28, the butterflies were moving through our area in a northwestern direction at a rate of 100 or more per minute visible from a single point. They continued at a similar volume for two weeks, and continue through press-time at perhaps five percent of their peak.

While the painted lady is a fairly common butterfly locally, this is the largest mass movement through our area that most observers can remember. Interestingly, the individuals we see currently will breed locally on mallows and thistles, and their offspring will continue north. The butterflies that winter in the desert are several generations removed from the

first wave heading north, so the migration is a multigenerational affair.

With a nearly worldwide distribution, the painted lady is one of the most common butterfly species—a fact made plain by this year's spectacle. On a drive from southern California, Ed Pandolfino noted the butterflies were abundant from

Los Angeles all the way to Sacramento. The sheer numbers that account for this mass movement are difficult to comprehend, but, like the stars, must figure in the billions.



Thanks to Chris Conard for this informative article.

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 May 31 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

Mission Statement

Sacramento Audubon Society

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we will focus on conservation and environmental education to ensure that the Sacramento region's natural ecosystems and diverse bird populations are preserved, restored, and made available for study and enjoyment.

SAS Board Approved for the Fiscal Year 2005/2006

At the April general meeting the following nominations for the SAS Board were unanimously approved by the members.

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| President | Peter Watkins |
| Vice President | Bill Clark |
| Treasurer | Cathie LaZier |
| Correspondence Secretary | Dorothy Harvey |
| Recording Secretary | Lisa Seto |
| Past President | Roy Greenaway |
| Directors | Maureen Geiger
Jan Clark
Lea Landry
Sheila Deamer
Tim Fitzer |

Lend the Bufferlands a Hand

Become a Volunteer Docent

The Bufferlands, a 2,650-acre multi-use wildlife area in southern Sacramento County, is currently recruiting volunteer docents to help with our public outreach program. If you have some time available and are interested, please e-mail Roger Jones (jonesro@saccounty.net) or call him at (916) 875-9174.

- Volunteer Docent training will cover Bufferlands history, local wildlife species and ecology, the various Bufferlands habitats, and the wildlife management principles used by our natural resource management team.
- Docents will help us prepare for and conduct our public outreach events, including the "Walk on the Wildside," and work on special wildlife and habitat restoration projects.
- Docents will have an opportunity to work with a great team of natural resource management professionals, certified wildlife biologists, wetland managers and others.
- Selection and training are ongoing, so contact us for an application.
- Time commitments are flexible, but you will need to attend a series of training sessions to be scheduled soon.

To learn more about the Bufferlands, please visit www.bufferlands.com

May Program Notes

Continued from page 1

Many in Sacramento Audubon have gone on Ed's tours of Montana and the Big Sky Country. His Montana roots run deep. He first started leading tours there in 1980 for Massachusetts Audubon Society with the late Jim Lane. He also has been doing annual breeding bird surveys in Montana for the U. S. Department of the Interior since 1977. Having grown up in the Bozeman area, Ed still spends extensive time there each year. Although now retired from teaching mathematics at American River College, Ed will always be the teacher and you can expect he will be sharing some of his insights about birds and the special places they can be found in Montana. It is an evening you won't want to miss!



Daniel Kilby

Thanks to the following for their reports (the majority were taken from http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/ and http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacramento_birds/):

Roger Adamson, Vicki Boffin, Dan Brown, Ann Burris, Janice Clark, Cathy Corcoran, Art Cupples, Janet Cupples, Bruce Deuel, Andrew Engilis, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Brian Gilmore, Steve Glover, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Waldo Holt, Dave Johnson, Jon Katz, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Cathie LaZier, Laura Look, Ron Melcer, Don Metzner, Martin Meyers, Ed Pandolfino, Jim Pearce, June Persson, Don Roberson, Terry Ronneberg, Jim Rowth, Don Schmoltdt, Jim Steinert, Michele Swartout, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, Cindy Valencia, Liz West, Neil Whiting, Gary Woods, and Sylvia Wright..

Chris Conard

The Sites of Spring, 2005

I hope many of you were able to take advantage of the web camera sites and other birding information offered last spring. We have two local nesting sites that have been very popular and are fully active at press time.

One is in Benicia and features the barn owl duo, Diego and Frieda. Last year they fledged 6 youngsters! Quite a surprise to those who follow owls. Frieda has again laid 7 eggs and 4 have hatched so far (as of April 17). This web cam can be viewed at night and there are actually two cameras so you can see two different angles. The address is www.theowlcam.com.

In San Francisco a pair of Peregrine falcons has been encouraged to nest on the 33rd floor of the PG&E building. This loving pair has been named George and Gracie. Last year was the first year they nested successfully and they fledged two young. This year they have four chicks, all of which hatched the week of April 10. Also on the web site are a nesting diary and good photos of courting activity. If you have a high speed connection you can actually watch the young being fed since the images change every 2 seconds. (Your local library will have a good connection if you don't have one at home.) The web site is: www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/falconcamera.htm. This site is home to the UC Santa Cruz Birds of Prey Research Center and has other interesting information and links.

Again, thanks to Webmaster Bill Clark for maintaining our Sacramento Audubon web site www.sacramentoaudubon.org. It contains not only lots of Society information but also many interesting links to other web sites with birding resources.

Seasonal Observations

Sacramento Audubon Society
PO Box 160694
Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #2310
Sacramento, CA

March 1 to March 31 Rare and Unusual Bird Reports 783-2331

After a wet winter, many observers noted excellent floral displays, providing a great back-drop for any local outdoor adventure. During the last week of the month, an unfathomable number of painted lady butterflies migrated to and through our area from the southern deserts. By the end of the month, **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles** were well established in many of their usual haunts, and observers anxiously awaited the wave of migrating songbirds just around the corner.

March was a rather slow month with regard to rarities or out of season species. The few really notable species included the continuing **Eastern Phoebe*** from Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP), last reported on 3/15, and the continuing **Common Black-Hawk**** in north Stockton, last reported on 3/6. Surprisingly, a **Common Black-Hawk** was reported from the Marin Headlands on 3/31. Since the Stockton bird was a first for Northern California, and only the fourth confirmed for the state, it is tempting to think it was the same bird. That this southwestern desert species was reportedly heading north from the Golden Gate is another story.

Two Hammond's Flycatchers were reported from the Lake Solano campground on 3/6. It is likely that one of these is the same bird that had been reported there on 2/2. **California Thrashers** continued at an interesting location on the valley floor near Rds 2 and 86 in Yolo County. Another, quite rare in

Sacramento County, was found singing just downstream of the Sunrise Bridge on the American River Parkway from 3/24 through at least 4/1.

An early, or possibly wintering, **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was found at CRP on 3/6. Others that may have wintered locally were a **Cassin's Vireo**, a **Black-throated Gray Warbler**, and a **Western Tanager**, all found at CRP on 3/8. A locally high total of seven **Common Ravens** was unprecedented for the lower portion

of CRP on 3/6. Two were seen nearby on 3/24. This species has expanded in Yolo County, but has yet to be regular in Sacramento County aside from a few low foothills locations and, perhaps, the Delta region.

A **Pacific Golden-Plover*** was first reported at the Woodland WWTP on 3/21. Up to three were reported sporadically through 4/1. A **Marbled Godwit** was a nice find north of I-5 and just west of Sacramento International Airport on 3/17. Other highlights include two **Brown Creepers** at Bobelaine on 3/4, 10+ **Chipping Sparrows** along Putah Creek near Winters on 3/5, and up to three **Short-eared Owls** continuing along Yolo Rd 155 throughout the month. Also of interest were **Steller's Jays** carrying nesting material along Hwy 128 between Winters and Monticello Dam near mile post 1.54.

Documentation of species listed with an asterisk (*) seen in the Sacramento area should be submitted to the Sacramento Bird Records Committee. Species with a double asterisk (**) are on the California Review List.

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