



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2012
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room
7pm General Meeting

What's the Buzz About?

Solitary Bees in Our Landscapes

Julie Serences

Did you know that there are about 1500+ different species of bees other than the European honey bee in California? Come hear a presentation about the "other" bees and their place in our landscapes. You'll learn about the fascinating life cycle of solitary bees, why they are important to the ecology of our landscapes, and how we can attract them to our gardens and public spaces. We'll focus on common backyard bees with a presentation and handouts. You will come away with a basic understanding of this important pollinator group and how to help them thrive. It's all about increasing the biodiversity around us. By the way, knowing about these bees adds a whole new level of entertainment to your outdoor experiences.

Julie Serences is an educator with over twenty-five years of experience teaching pre-schoolers to adults. Her 'Audubon at Home and Native Bee Workshops' for the last six years have focused on teaching people to be land stewards of their own outdoor spaces by learning how to meet the habitat needs of the creatures around us.

Former chair of the Sacramento Audubon Education Committee 2005-2009, Julie is a Xerces Society's Citizen Science Monitor and annually presents Native Bee Workshops at the



Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012

As part of our usual field trip series, Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) is sponsoring a trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. We'll travel out the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands Marine Sanctuary. We'll be on the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The capacity of the boat is 45 people, but we will restrict the trip to the first 30 that sign up, to ensure everyone has plenty of room. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito.

This will be the 22nd year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! It's a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure lecture and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. What will we see this year? Join us and discover for yourself.

The boat departs Sausalito promptly at 8am and returns about 3:30pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30am. The trip cost is \$90; the trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up, so sign up early to reserve your spot. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the reservation form provided on page 7. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876, for further information.

CSU Chico Herbarium. Currently, she is a Xerces Partner in Pollinator Conservation, a board member of the Sacramento Valley Chapter Native Plant Society and a member of the North American Association for Environmental Education and the Sacramento Audubon Society.

For the eight years, Julie has been working on her own backyard restoration project. While researching this project, she realized how vital honeybees and native bee populations are to the life cycle of plants and other

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Field Trip Findings

Lincoln in Spring (4/15) — Leader John York reported: "First bird on this sunny day was a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest in McBean Park. Biggest surprise of the day was the two whimbrels messing around in a field with two curlews next to Brewer Road. Western Kingbirds, which just arrived in the last few days, were in evidence all day, often six to eight in view at a time. Hawk-watching was spectacular with as many Swainson's Hawks as Red-tails. We saw Red-tails in courtship flights, fights between Swainson's and Red-tails, and a Peregrine Falcon buzz and harass dowitchers off Nicolaus Road. There was also a large flock of Tricolored Blackbirds that kept us company for a good bit on Nader Road."

Pine Hill Preserve — Kanaka Valley (4/14) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "The promised sunny weather never arrived and overcast conditions with a bit of drizzle kept bird activity low. Nevertheless, 18 of us had a nice morning in sometimes soggy and muddy conditions, seeing a few of the site's rare plants as well. No migrant flocks were detected, but highlights included a Gray Flycatcher seen by a few doing its downward tail flick, a heard-only Cassin's Vireo, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, views of a singing Orange-crowned Warbler, heard-only Rufous-crowned Sparrows, views of a singing Chipping Sparrow, good views of a Lark Sparrow, several Purple Finches with some quick scope views, and a calling flyover Lawrence's Goldfinch."

Beginning Birders Field Trip (4/14) — Cathie LaZier reported: "Beginning birders spotted 47 species of birds on this morning walk at William Pond Recreation Area on the American River Parkway. Two Red-shouldered Hawks were on nests, and a pair of White-tailed Kites was active around a nest site, prompting Diana White to comment that birdwatching could become addictive! Both kites and hawks were sighted numerous times carrying rodents. Late wintering Golden-crowned, Lark, and Chipping (a nice surprise for this area) Sparrows were seen, as well as Forster's Terns, an Osprey, and newly returned Western Kingbirds. Some showily plumed Great Egrets in the heron/egret rookery offered good scope views, and all participants appreciated Muriel Parker carrying her scope on the walk. Other leaders were Valerie Phillips and Cathie LaZier."

Caswell Memorial State Park (4/7) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "Eight birders ventured south to this park on the Stanislaus River to bird a lush riparian habitat. Although the day started out chilly, it warmed to become a beautiful spring day; perfect birding weather. At our first stop we saw three Swainson's Hawks perched in a nearby tree; two of them appeared dark-phased. After a short walk we heard, then saw Wood Ducks; one drake perched in a tall cottonwood. A while later three more were seen in flight. We were treated to a variety of bird music. Seems we were never out of earshot of a House or Bewick's Wren. Spotted Towhees mewed from hidden places. One Ruby-crowned Kinglet actually sang, a welcome relief for valley birders who usually only hear them scolding. Numerous Tree Swallows also kept up a constant chatter. Not as vocal but also present were Northern Rough-winged and Cliff Swallows. Turkeys gobbled, too, and California Quail offered their distinctive calls. And who can mistake the rattling call of the Belted Kingfisher. A flyover of four American White Pelicans was observed. The woodpeckers and sparrows seemed to be the best represented families observed. Downy Woodpeckers seemed numerous; perhaps up to a dozen were seen and heard. Besides towhees, sparrows included both White and Golden-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Hermit Thrushes were seen often, and we saw Western Bluebirds and American Robins. Oak Titmouse, Bushtit and White-breasted Nuthatch worked the oaks for insects. Both American and Lesser Goldfinches added bright yellow to the trees where they foraged for insects. Warblers included just Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned. Only one species of hummingbird and flycatcher was found. Representing those families were Anna's Hummingbird and Black Phoebe. In all, the group tallied 43 species on the day."



Hummingbird sp.
Kirsten Munson

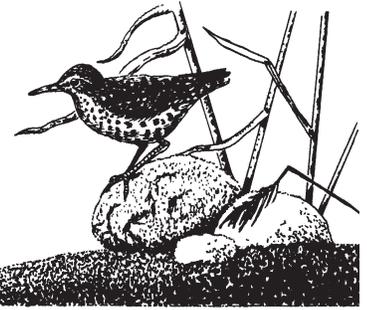
Bufferlands Birds and Blooms Tour, a Creek Week Trip (4/7) — Leader Roger Jones reported: "We got great views of White-faced Ibis, Cinnamon Teal, Wood Duck, Mallard, Gadwall, Snowy Egret and Great Blue Heron. We observed a Great Horned Owl on the nest and Tree Swallows busy preparing their tree cavity nests. We saw several raptors soaring, including Cooper's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, and Red-tailed Hawk. There weren't many flowers blooming yet, but we saw several species of native grass including Purple Needle-grass, Creeping Wildrye, Blue Wildrye and Meadow Barley."

William Pond Park (4-7) — Maureen Geiger reported: "Today, along with Cathie LaZier, John Huls and Yoshino Hatanaka, 12 Girl Scouts and their parents had a great trip to William Pond Park. Surprisingly, we did not have a high number of species. But a Red-shouldered Hawk flew by with what was probably a cotton-tail; the heron-egret rookery was in full swing; a pair of White-tailed Kites were flying about, acting matey; and we had good looks at the usual suspects such as Western Bluebirds, California Quail, and California Towhees. Ducks were gone but a nice Eared Grebe was near the shore in the pond. The girls seemed to enjoy themselves a lot and so did their parents."

Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway (4/1) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: "A chatty group of about 10 experienced birders showed up on a terrifically sunny, spring Sunday. We were treated to the spring songs of Bewick's Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White-crowned Sparrows. Birds in fine-feathered fashion included Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and Common Yellowthroat Warblers. We had especially good looks at Cooper's Hawk and Phainopepla. Tree, Northern Rough-winged, and Violet-green Swallows hunted for insects along various stretches of the river. For perhaps the last weekend, two or three Goldeneyes cruised the river and Mark Martucci noted for the appreciative group that the Canada Geese had started their valiant migration towards William Land Park. We wished them well. The trip concluded with an immaculate fly-over by a

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Field Trips



Spotted Sandpiper
Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 717-8808, for trips through May 13th. For trips from May 14th through June 22nd, contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips from June 23rd through July 1st, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@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.

Saturday, May 5, 7am **Driver's Flat, Auburn State** **Recreation Area**

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

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is Scott's favorite 'secret' birding spot. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Gray, Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end mid-day, but plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80 at 7am. NOTE: there is now a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

Sunday, May 6, 7am **Spenceville WLR** **Leader Richard Barbieri, 966-4603** **offleash56@yahoo.com**

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll

be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station. Brookfield's is behind Shell.

Wednesday, May 9, 7:30am **Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain** **Leader: Darrell Mohr, 973-9841** **mohrdd@gmail.com**

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species 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. This is a great trip for beginners.

Saturday, May 12, 8am **William Pond Park** **Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882** **empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk down to some different spots on the river, where wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area for Red-winged Blackbirds and Green Heron. California Quail, Western Bluebirds, Western Kingbirds and Ash-throated Flycatchers may be found in the park area. Trip will end before noon. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Sunday, May 13, 6am **Sand Creek Road** **Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**

spkua2@comcast.net **Mark Martucci, 833-6722** **matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take 1-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Tuesday, May 15, 8:30am **Yolo Wildlife area** **Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 634-9758** **Ishim2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene for a morning of birding in this wonderful area close to Sacramento. You could see shorebirds, hawks, owls, white-faced ibis, swallows and more. 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. If you have one, bring your spotting scope and FRS radio. Both beginners and experienced birders will enjoy this trip.

Saturday, May 19, 7:30am **Mather Field**

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Field Trips continued from page 3

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. 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; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr. then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5.00.

FAMILY FRIENDLY TRIPS

Saturday, May 19

This month's family trip will be at the Walk On The Wildside event at Stone Lakes. Please see the article on page 6.

These monthly birding and nature walks are specifically geared to and appropriate for families and children. There is a trip limit to ensure a quality experience for all. Register for trips by contacting Maureen Geiger, at mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net, or 444-0804.

Sunday, May 20, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
Offleash56@yahoo.com

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wild flowers 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. A NEW MEETING PLACE for this trip: the Safeway Shopping Center on Green Valley Road just west of El Dorado Hills Blvd. From Sacramento, take Hwy 50 east; take Exit #30B onto El Dorado Hills Boulevard and continue north about 4 miles to Green Valley Road. Turn left onto Green Valley and shortly after, turn right into the Safeway parking lot. Meet Richard near the Starbucks inside the Safeway.

Saturday May 26, 6am

Sierra Valley

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

The month of May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. This gem of the Sierras is unique in that it has characteristics of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin, yet is part of the western drainage. The Feather River flows out of the northwestern corner of Sierra Valley,

through the Sierras and into the central valley, where it joins the Sacramento River. We will stop on the way at Kyburz Flat to look for nesting Mountain Bluebirds and other montane species, and Sandhill Cranes are possible here as well. Birding will be done mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis off I-80.

Sunday, May 27, 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!



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

Wednesday, May 30, 7:30am

Discovery Park

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

Cell # for that morning only: 281-6652
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

This park at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers is a great place for a walk in any season. Join Maureen to look for migrants, spring arrivals and resident species generally found in the park such as Red-shouldered Hawks and White-tailed Kites. Other possibilities include Ash-throated Flycatchers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Western Bluebirds. Generally, there is an unlocked restroom near the beginning of the walk. This is a walking trip that will last until late morning.

To reach Discovery from I-5, drive east on the Garden Highway, turning right into the park at the first traffic light. Once in the park, you need a Sacramento County Parks Annual Pass, or you must stop at the kiosk and register, paying the \$5 entrance fee. Then turn left at your first opportunity and then left again, driving a short distance to the farthest parking lot at the archery range where we will meet.

Saturday, June 2, 7am

Crystal Basin

Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249

fgray4birds@aol.com

Limited to 10 people, contact leader prior to trip by phone or e-mail.

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. Many of the sites are at about a mile elevation and are within the area of the '92 Cleveland Fire. There will be good chances to view Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Some time will be spent pointing out and discussing bird ID features. We expect to return by about 2 or 3pm. Contact Frank to sign up for the trip and get meeting location directions.

Sunday, June 3, 6:30am

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County

Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610

conardc@gmail.com

We will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including Grouse Falls and the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds, including potential distant views of Black Swifts at Grouse Falls. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end by mid-afternoon. We will be walking about 4 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Saturday, June 9, 6am

Granite Springs Road

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207,

spskua2@comcast.net

Scott Hoppe, 835-8471,

shoppe01@surewest.net

Mark Martucci, 833-6722,

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Tim, Scott and Mark for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wrights Lake Road, a distance of about 8 miles. We should find Mountain Quail with young, and possibly Evening Grosbeaks, flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Calliope Hummingbird. Also possible are Pine Grosbeak, Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. FRS Radios are helpful. Since Granite Springs Road is dirt, we will scout its condition to determine its drivability. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot on Sunrise Blvd, located just behind the Chevron Gas Station at Zinfandel Dr.

Sunday, June 10, 7am
Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species; Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. This is a good trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Saturday and Sunday,
June 16 - 17, 8am
onsite both Saturday and Sunday
Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/Yuba Pass
Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636
Gary: calaveri.gary@gmail.com

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an over-nighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra/Antelope Valleys or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. Antelope Valley is located at the southern end of Sierra Valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks, and includes a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire. We will bird the Sierra/Antelope Valleys area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, and the Yuba Pass area on Sunday until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola, Calpine and Sierra City. U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/14. Meet Gary at the

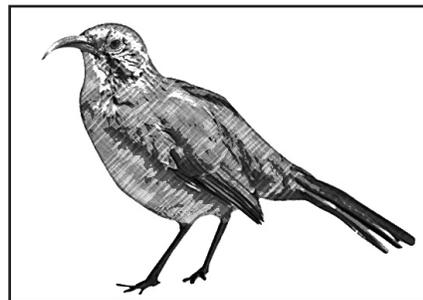
junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Car pooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Saturday, June 23, 8:15am
Purple Martins at Sutterville Road
Leaders: Dan Airola and Dan Kopp
Contact: Maureen Geiger,
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
444-0804 or 281-6652

This is a great opportunity to see and learn about purple martins. Join Dan Airola and Dan Kopp, Central Valley experts on martins, and hear them discuss their habits and status as these lovely birds fly overhead catching insects and feeding young in their nest holes. The best activity lasts about two hours, so the trip will last mid to late morning. The location is near Sacramento City College between Hwy 99 and Freepport Boulevard and under the east side of the Sutterville Overpass. From Sutterville Road, coming from either direction, turn right onto W Pacific Avenue. Park near the intersection of Pacific and Deeble Street. Contact Maureen Geiger with questions.

Sunday, June 24, 8am
BKS Preserve, north Sacramento County
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249
fgray4birds@aol.com

Join Frank for our second annual trip to this 338 plus-acre preserve in the Natomas Basin. It is open to the general public only for rare guided trips and is run by the



California Thrasher

Natomas Basin Conservancy. Properties there were converted from farmlands to marshland and upland habitats in the last decade. This provides multi-species habitat mitigation via a Federal and State-overseen Habitat Conservation plan. There will be chances to see many marshland and other bird species, as well as to learn about mitigation actions for plants and wildlife there.

Tour of the preserve will be on foot; possibly at least a mile of walking on dirt roads. Later, we expect to visit one or more birding sites in North Natomas. Locations will be determined before the trip, based upon water availability and other conditions. Heat and mosquitos and no restrooms are possible. 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 an immediate left again at the Park and Ride lot. Voluntary carpooling is encouraged. The trip will probably be over by noon or early afternoon at the latest.

Saturday, June 30, 8am
Swainson's Hawk trip
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Nesting Swainson's Hawks are the focus of this morning trip, in conjunction with "Friends of the Swainson's Hawk" (FOSH), a group organized to encourage habitat protection. Our local population of Swainson's Hawks differs from others of that species in their migration patterns and wintering grounds. Members of FOSH will be on hand to share information about these interesting birds. Wayne will also help you identify other birds in the area. Meet Wayne and Jude 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 left again into the Park and Ride lot. FRS radios and spotting scopes will be helpful, if you have them.

Sunday, July 1, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Come join Scott for this July trip. Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Birding and Nature Events

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE!, MAY 19, 10AM-4:30PM

If you'd enjoy a fun, FREE family-oriented day in the country with lively entertainment and up-close and personal views of many wildlife species, mark your calendar and plan to attend Walk on the Wildside on Saturday, May 19. Join Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and local partners in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day and local conservation successes. The free event is held from 10am to 4:30pm near the town of Freeport, California, at the Beach Lake Picnic Area. Info: 875-WILD.

Event Highlights:

- Live wild animal presentations by Wild Things, Inc.
- Live folk music by Horse Sense
- Children's puppet show by Jason Adair
- Tours of wetlands, riparian forests, and heron rookeries
- 30+ Conservation exhibitors and hands-on activities
- Children's activity center with games
- Prizes hosted by the Girl Scouts
- Food Vendors and free parking

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE: PETALUMA, CA – SEPTEMBER 26-30, 2012

Each year WFO holds a multi-day conference with scientific papers, field trips, workshops, panels, a keynote address, the annual membership meeting, and other events. The location varies each year as WFO attempts to span its region of coverage while also making its conferences accessible to the bulk of its members. This year's Annual Conference will be held close to home in Petaluma, CA Sept 26-30, 2012. Mark your calendars and start planning now. Check the WFO website for more information from time to time. Registration will open April 2012.

To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL

The 14th Annual **Spring Wings Bird Festival** takes place in **Fallon, NV** and coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. This year's festival is **May 18-20**. Check www.springwings.org for information and registration. There are many events, displays and demonstrations including a NV Dept of Wildlife biologist showing how injured birds of prey are cared for and about efforts to release them in the wild. Many of the field trips are nearly full or sold out so check online quickly!

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creatures in her garden. As she says, "they are the keystone species in our gardens." With all bee populations in trouble, Julie thinks it is important for gardeners to learn how they can create habitat that is bee friendly.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

Sally Walters, Program Chair

SCHOOLYARD HABITAT, GOOD FOR BIRDS AND STUDENTS

On April 17, 2012 the *Sacramento Bee* ran an article by Louis Sahagun of the *Los Angeles Times* concerning an urban school in the Los Angeles area which had received a grant to add habitat to their school. With this grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the help of Los Angeles Audubon the school, parents and community, replaced a paved lot with bird and insect friendly habitat, even including oak trees. First, insects showed up to partake of the new bounty, followed soon by birds. Quite a satisfying outcome, but perhaps the most gratifying part of the habitat improvement was the involvement of the students. Along with guided and pertinent curriculum, a new found interest was created in the students in many subjects from science to art and their failing test scores improved six-fold. This story was picked up by newspapers from as far away as Florida and Kentucky and we can only hope many schools and communities nationwide are inspired to implement some plans of their own.

Inspired by this story myself I did some research and found that at least one school in Sacramento, Williamson Elementary in Rancho Cordova, has worked on a similar project. This is from an online article on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife website:

"The garden has been a long time coming. Two teachers were selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoolyard Habitat Program to attend a two week RESTORE Institute workshop in July 2009. Upon their return, the teachers were eager to put their skills to work. They set up meetings to coordinate with administrators, teachers, and community members to start planning a schoolyard habitat project at Williamson. They worked with several community partners to obtain donations of materials and labor, and also received funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Schoolyard Habitat Program for plants, signs, and path materials.

Supporting national efforts on a local level, the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office (SFWO) staff provided on-site technical assistance to help create an effective, sustainable outdoor classroom and wildlife habitat on Williamson's school grounds.

On the day of planting, more than 200 students worked in 20 minute shifts. After a brief lesson in native plants, animals and

planting, students literally dug in to the work, digging holes and planting native plants.

With much excitement over the amount of worms found in the soil, and the chance to be outdoors and working on something of their own, students took great pride in their work and their responsibility within the project.

The projects goals are to provide habitat for wildlife through native plantings and to provide an outdoor study area for students. Teachers have been equipped with lessons they can do in the habitat that cover curriculum standards. The two teachers sent to the first workshop now help teach the same training in Sacramento for other area teachers, through RESTORE Sacramento.”

The bottom line seems to be that with the combination of talents and funds wonders can be created outdoors that serve to thrill students to participate in their own education. The curiosity that nature inspires leads them to all sorts of learning.

Websites I found interesting and that contain detailed information and a webinar about the Schoolyard Habitat Program are: www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/schoolyard.cfm
www.fws.gov/sacramento/ then click on Partnerships and then on Schoolyard Habitats.

Or for more information contact:
Carolyn Kolstad, Schoolyard Habitat Program Coordinator, 978-6158
Email: Carolyn_kolstad@fws.gov

YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK!

Sacramento Audubon Society Board has voted to make the following donations:

- \$200 sponsorship of the **Sacramento Chapter of California Native Plant Society's Garden Tour.**
- \$150 to **Friends of the Swainson's Hawk**, (FOSH) towards costs of the 'Return of the Swainson's Hawk' event at Sutter's Landing.
- \$500 to **Wildlife Care** towards the costs of caring for the many injured and orphaned birds, mammals and amphibians that are brought to them.
- \$500 to the **Environmental Council of Sacramento**, (ECOS), towards Southeast Connector litigation costs.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS FO 2012-2013

The slate of officers was unanimously approved at the April general meeting.

President	Don Schmoltdt
Vice President	Sally Walters
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Recording Secretary	Jonilynn Okano
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt
Directors	Tim Fitzer
	Gary Fregein
	Darrell Mohr
	Linda Pittman
	Subhash Chand

Keith Wagner will be Past-President, a board non-elective position.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 15, 2012 Registration deadline: June 15, 2012

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$90 per person

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693



Birding and Nature Events

HERON FESTIVAL

Held in Kelseyville, CA on **May 5th**, the Heron Festival is a celebration of the Great Blue Herons return to their nesting sites around Clear Lake. Clear Lake is the largest natural lake entirely within California's borders and one of the oldest lakes in North America. The festival activities are from 8am to 4pm on Saturday, May 5th. More information, including event, schedule and registration, can be found at www.heronfestival.org or call (707) 263-8030.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 11th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 15-17** so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining, but field trips extend as far south as the White Mountains where bristlecone pines are found. Besides field trips the festival offers music, art and science exhibits. Registration begins April 15th and more information can be found at birdchautauqua.org.

CALIFORNIA BURROWING OWL CONSORTIUM MEETING

September 20, 2012, 10am to 2pm
45211 County Road 32B, Davis, CA 95618

Tentative speakers and topics include:

Sandra Menzel and Jack Barclay

Study design of artificial burrow longevity and selection of artificial versus natural burrows by banded owls

Jeff Lincer

Burrowing owl status in San Diego County

Tina Bartlett, CDFG

Revised Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation

Stephanie Parsons

Burrowing Owl Relocation at Sacramento Airport

Sara Lee Chandler

Burrowing Owls on the Farallon Islands

We advise that attendees bring their lunch as folks usually like to network during the break and the meeting room is about a mile from fast food. ESA has kindly offered to provide light snacks and drinks.

Thanks to Stephanie Parsons of ESA, Jack Barclay of Albion Environmental, Ann Brice of Yolo Basin Foundation and Catherine Portman of Burrowing Owl Preservation Society and CDFG for planning, organization and sponsorships for the Consortium meeting!

There is no fee to attend the Consortium meeting, but donations are welcome. Registration is required due to limited occupancy of the meeting room.

Register for the meeting with:

Stephanie Parsons
sparsons@esassoc.com
916.564.4500

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2012 PROGRAMS

June-August Summer Break
September 20 Glen Holstein,
*Sacramento's Unique
Ecosystems*

Findings continued from page 2

large group of American White Pelicans, the traditional harbingers of Spring."

Mather Field Park (3/25) — Rained out.

Yolo Wildlife Area (3/21) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "Six people enjoyed a very warm, sunny day. We had a total of 60 species, including a Merlin and a Peregrine Falcon. We also observed a number of flocks of geese at high altitudes flying north. We saw several large flocks of Yellow-headed Blackbirds. It was a very good day for all."

Humbug and Willow Creeks, Folsom (3/18) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Eight of us braved blustery weather with occasional sprinkles, walking a near four-mile loop on the excellent trail system. Highlights included Wood Ducks, a Red-shouldered Hawk gathering nesting material, calling Soras, Common Gallinules, a Violet-green Swallow, a pair of Bushtits at a nest, two Orange-crowned Warblers, and a full assortment of the expected sparrow species."

Family Friendly Trip, Mather Lake (3/17) — Rained out.

American River between Watt and Howe (3/17) — Leader Dan Kopp reported: "Five birders joined me on this mostly cloudy and cool morning. We tallied 64 species with the highlights being a Merlin polishing off a meal from atop a tree, Swainson's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawks on nests, Violet-green, Tree and Rough-winged Swallows, my continuing White-throated Sparrow, Lark, Lincoln's and Fox Sparrows, Green Heron and Ruddy Duck. We also saw 500 flyover Greater White-fronted Geese. It was a great morning with a nice, small group."

Pete Hayes

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Jean Bradley
Arthur Hartwell
Sharon Thomson

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. No meetings are held in July and August. The next meeting will be on May 29, 2012 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Gregory Brott, Chris Conard, Gary Harbison, Scott Kenney, Alan Kilgore, Linda Moniz and Nancy Schoellkopf, to the **General Fund**.

Dan Airola, Teresa Atkinson, Chris Conard, Ed Greaves, Jim Hepler, Scott Kenney, Alan Kilgore, Linda Moniz, Susan Nishio, Nancy Schoellkopf, Craig Schriefer and Sharon Wisecarver, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Ted and Debbie Hauptert, and Linda Gardiner Moniz and Peter Charles Moniz made donations in memory of Mary Bisharat, a longtime Audubon member and a strong environmental activist.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

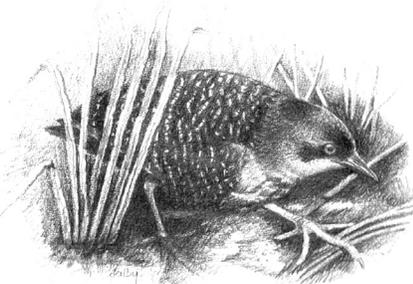
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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



Daniel Kilby

Observations continued from page 10 site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html).

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties are included. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Ben Azar, Chris Dunford, Todd Easterla, Gil Ewing, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Ron Pozzi, William Rockey, John Sterling, John Trochet, Bruce Webb, Magill Weber, and Dan Welsh.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

As winter transitioned into spring, with the mass arrival of **Swainson's Hawks**, **Western Kingbirds**, and six species of swallows, as well as the departure of **Sandhill Cranes**, most of the notable rarities were Yolo County gulls (see below).

Red-breasted Mergansers were reported from the Wildhorse Golf Course in Davis, with a male on 3/22, and William B. Pond on the American River Parkway (ARP), with a female on 3/31. Beal's Point at Folsom Lake produced three species of loons on 3/19. Along with the regularly occurring **Common Loon**, a **Pacific Loon** was in Placer County and a **Red-throated Loon** was near the Sacramento/Placer line; the latter, probably the same bird reported sporadically since December, continued on 3/24. The **Brown Pelican** first found in West Sacramento on 8/24/2011 continued through at least 3/25.

Most of the month's gull reports came from the Yolo Landfill and Davis WTP. Perhaps most striking was an apparent adult **Iceland Gull** present from 3/9 through at least 3/16; an apparent second-cycle was reported on 3/1. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was photographed on 3/9 (this and the former species are on the California Bird Records Committee review list—please submit photos and other documentation: californiabirds.org). The Landfill and WTP have been so productive in recent winters that multiple reports of adult **Western Gulls**

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Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

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and **Glaucous Gulls** this month are now expected. A first-cycle **Lesser Black-**

backed Gull was photographed on 3/30. Moving away from Yolo, an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found and photographed at Folsom Lake (Granite Bay) on 3/28 and continuing into early April.

Other notable reports include two **Snowy Plovers** at Folsom Lake (Granite Bay) on 3/30, a **Semipalmated Plover** at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 3/14-15, perhaps continuing from February (2/26). The continuing **Black-throated Sparrow** near Esparto was refound on 3/11, and the **Harris's Sparrow** in north Davis continued into April, while the **Harris's Sparrow** found on Desmond Rd at CRP was last reported on 3/3. **White-throated Sparrows** were widely reported, with three consistently found along ARP upstream of Howe Ave.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web

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

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Observations continued on page 9