



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Used Book Sale and
Potluck Dinner

Thursday, May 20

Shepard Garden and Art Center

6:00pm Used Book Sale

6:30pm Potluck Dinner

7:00pm General Meeting

Wildlife Care in the Sacramento Area

Debbie DuVall and Kathy Bernhardt

See page 7 for a description of this important presentation. Hint: there will be feathered visitors and information on how you can help in rehabilitation efforts.

The Annual Used Book Sale begins at 6pm. Your donation of books is appreciated. More information on how to donate is on page 7.

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 11, 2004

This trip produces something different every year! 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 and Humpback, and occasionally Blue whales, have been sighted quite close to the boat.

We will 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. Again, Sacramento Audubon has chartered the comfortable cruise boat, "Salty Lady," out of Sausalito for the approximately eight hour trip.

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 Cathie LaZier (916) 457-6882 for further information during May and Jeff Mangum (916) 988-2802 for further information during June and July.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 11, 2004

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:

(In MAY) Cathie LaZier, 5427 13th Ave., Sacramento, CA 95820

(In JUNE) Jeff Mangum, 5917 Rich Hill Drive, Orangevale, CA 95662

Registration deadline: June 30, 2004

Field Trip Findings

New York Creek and Serrano, El Dorado Hills (4/11)—Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “On a very nice Easter morning, about a dozen of us had lots of singing, nesting birds and great looks at Lesser and American Goldfinches, White-breasted Nuthatches and other common oak woodland species. We also had lots of wildflowers, with Mary Beth Metcalf helping us identify most of them. At the end of the morning we had a pair of Cooper’s Hawks circling overhead, along with a flock of American White Pelicans in the distance. Not often a riparian walk turns up pelicans.”

Willow Slough/Cosumnes River (4/10)—Leader John Schick’s monthly census in this area found a record 98 species, one more than the previous high mark, also reported in April, which John said is always the best month for numbers. Highlight birds on a beautiful day were Yellow-headed Blackbird, Merlin, several American White Pelicans, Whimbrel, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Hutton’s Vireo.

William Pond Park (4/8)—A Great Horned Owl and at least one nestling were coexisting along with many Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets in the rookery here. Leader Jack Hiehle said that also recorded were Bullock’s Oriole, Western Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Swainson’s Hawk, California Quail, and Merlin.

Coloma (4/4)—Many of the 17 participants who met at the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park enjoyed their first-of-the-season looks at orioles (Bullock’s), and Western Bluebirds, along with great views of two Wrentits, leader Judy Denny reported. Besides the 31 sightings, wildflowers such as Indian Pinks, Wild Iris, and Indian Paintbrush were particularly colorful. The group ended the morning with a visit to the Nature Center of the American River Conservancy where they were shown the Conservancy’s plans to acquire more land along the South Fork of the American River to complete an eight-mile trail corridor from Highway 49 near Pilot Hill to Folsom Lake.

Snipes-Pershing Ravine (4/3)—Yellow Warbler, a Cooper’s Hawk on the nest, 2 Rufous-crowned Sparrows, White-breasted Nuthatch, 2 Wild Turkeys and Western Bluebirds were counted, leader Richard Barbieri reported.

Bannister Park (4/2)—Fifty-six Snowy Egrets massed along the American River at Sacramento Bar, “the biggest such group I’ve seen,” leader Jack Hiehle said. He guessed that they were fishing for salmon fry. Other sightings: Caspian Tern, Bullock’s Oriole, Ring-necked Pheasant, and Common Goldeneye.

Jepson Prairie (3/28)—Leader Andi Salmi’s annual jaunt to the Dixon area vernal pools preserve turned up an eye-catching array of wildflowers, aquatic critters, and birds in varying degrees of breeding plumage. Showy flowers included Goldfields, Yellow Carpet and Meadowfoam, along with the solitary, ground-nesting bees that pollinate them. These tiny, dark bees emerge about the time their host plants bloom, and create a ball of pollen and nectar on which they lay an egg; larvae subsequently feed on the pollen balls. A preserve docent who had just collected Tadpole Shrimp, Copepods, and Salamander larvae from Olcott Lake gave the visitors an excellent short course on aquatic life. Birds included Swainson’s Hawk, Dunlin, Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet and Canada Goose, plus a nesting Great Horned Owl in a distant tree.

Sacramento County Bufferlands (3/21)—This trip was billed as a “Rail Tour,” and if any newbies were looking forward to a scenic train excursion they were disappointed. However, leader Chris Conard’s birders enjoyed hearing several Virginia Rails and seeing one. They also heard and saw six American Bitterns. Later, joined by others, they enjoyed watching Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and Double-crested Cormorants on nests. Other highlights included Swainson’s Hawks ranging from light to rufous to dark morphs, an early Western Kingbird, lingering waterfowl including Lesser Scaup, and 50 American White Pelicans.

San Francisco Golden Gate Park & Cliff House (3/20)—Former Sacramentan Ron Storey, now living in Petaluma, offered visitors great views in the park of Allen’s Hummingbirds, Brown Creeper, Townsend’s Warbler, Hooded Orioles, Hooded Merganser, Common Raven in acrobatic mode, and Pygmy Nuthatch emerging from a pine tree nest hole. At the Cliff House area, water birds included Wandering Tattler, Surf Bird, Black Oystercatcher, Surf Scoter, Black Turnstone and Willet.

Sailor Bar, American River (3/16)—Ring-necked Pheasant and Wood Ducks were among the sightings, leader Jack Hiehle said.

North Natomas (3/13)—Leader Carl Burke reported multiple flocks of Red-winged and Tricolored Blackbirds, plus the Red-wing’s Bicolored form, which lacks the Red-wing’s yellowish shoulder bar. Others: Swainson’s Hawk, Ring-necked Ducks, American Wigeon, Long-billed Curlew, White-throated Swifts and White-tailed Kite.

Pete Hayes

Education and Environmental Support

Believing that we should offer financial support in areas where we do not offer active volunteer support, the Sacramento Audubon Board of Directors has voted to donate \$1000 each to the following organizations.

The Cosumnes River Preserve, The Central Valley Birding Club’s scholarship fund, the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, The American River Natural History Association’s “Parkway in Peril” fund, and Habitat 2020.

McKinley Garden and Arts Sale

The Plant and Rummage sale at the Garden & Arts Center raised over \$300 for Audubon. Thanks to all who helped, working and donating, including Jan & Bill Clark, Cathie LaZier, Maureen Geiger, Tom Wirtz, Yoshino Hatanaka, Nancy Bittner, Mary Bisharat, and most especially to Jack Hiehle, who supplied a garden full of plants.

Field Trips



Kirsten Munson

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198, for trips through May 23. Call the scheduler Joe Ceriani, 922-0768, for trips May 24-June 27. For trips after June 27 call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458.

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.

Wednesday, May 5, 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 the nesting birds, butterflies and wildflowers of the parkway.

Saturday, May 8

Rayhouse Road in West Yolo County

Leaders: Tim Fitzer 961-5871,

spskua@aol.com

Dan Brown 362-2458,

naturestoc@aol.com

This trip begins at Cache Creek campground at the north end of the Capay valley, and winds up a steep dirt road (4-wheel drive recommended), for several miles before emerging into chamise chaparral habitat. Target desert birds are Sage and Black-chinned Sparrows and Lawrence's Goldfinch. Trip participation is limited and trip is dependent on road conditions. Call Tim to reserve a space and get information on meeting time and place.

Sunday, May 9, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri 966-4603

E-mail: offleash@sbcglobal.net

At this favorite spring hotspot you should find wildflowers in bloom and 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 and beginners are welcome.

Saturday, May 15, 10am - 4pm

Walk on the Wild Side Rookery Tour

Directions and information:

875-WILD (9453)

Website: www.bufferlands.com

Visit Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands for a Walk On The Wild Side, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk On The Wild Side 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 a rookery containing over 100 active nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets, and Double-crested Cormorants on a Bufferlands guided tour. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. The event will be held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. Visit www.bufferlands.com for information and a map to the event site. For additional information contact Kevin Cassidy at 875-9196 or cassadyk@saccounty.net.

Sunday, May 16, 7am

Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake

Leader: Tim Fitzer 961-5871

E-mail: spskua@aol.com

This is a great area for nesting hummingbirds this time of year. Tim will also look for 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 market 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. Beginners are welcome on this trip.

Wednesday, May 19, 8am - Noon

Sailor Bar

Leader: Jack Hiehle 967-0777

Jack will lead this nature walk exploring for migrant birds, resident mammals, and plants along this riparian corridor of the beautiful American River. You will learn something new every time you go out with Jack. Meet at the end of Emperor Way off Winding Way and Kenneth.

Wednesday, May 19, 11:45am - 1pm

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento

Leader: Maureen Geiger 444-0804

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.

Saturday, May 22, 8am

Sun City, Lincoln

Leader: Dave Pearson 408-4273

E-mail: captaindavid@2xtreme.net

Come explore with David this relatively new location for Sacramento Audubon and discover both local and migrating birds of spring. The variety should be as diverse as the habitat. Take Highway 65 north; turn right on Twelve Bridges Drive; turn left on East Lincoln; turn right on Del Webb Blvd. and follow it to the Meridian's Restaurant parking lot. This is a good beginner's trip.

Sunday, May 23, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk 876-0457

Mather Lake area 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 turkeys, and Green Herons.

Meet Wayne in the parking lot of the Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Blvd. and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day's trip. There is a parking fee. This is a wonderful trip for beginners.

Saturday, May 29, 7:30am
Bannister Park
Leader: Barbara Mohr 967-4140

Explore some interesting habitats created by old dredger tailings along the American River. Barbara will share her knowledge of both plants and birds. Meet her at the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road south of Fair Oaks Blvd, west of Sunrise Blvd.

Sunday, May 30, 7am
Foresthill Area
Leader: Chris Conard 362-5942
chris.conard@comcast.net

Chris will take you to several areas along Mosquito Ridge Road, including Grouse Falls and the Placer County grove of Sierra redwoods. Bring water and a lunch. Join Chris at the Park & Ride at the Horseshoe Bar Road exit off Highway 80 in Loomis.

Wednesday, June 2, 8am - noon
Effie Yeaw Nature Area, Carmichael
Leader: Jack Hiehle 967-0777

Jack will look for summer nesting birds and will be glad to point out the many plants of the area. Meet Jack at the Nature Center Parking Lot in Ancil Hoffman Park.

Saturday, June 5, 7am
Crystal Basin
Leader: Frank Gray 966-3708
Fgray4birds@aol.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento and is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers, etc. Spring wildflowers are a possibility. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. Bring lunch, liquids and suitable footwear for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginning and experienced birders are welcome. We'll return about 2 to 3pm. Meet Frank at the north end of Raley's parking lot, just north of Highway 50 off El Dorado Hills Boulevard.

Sunday, June 6, 7am
Rice Fields Near Airport
Leader: Carl Burke 457-2740
holbur@cwol.net

Carl will search this wet agricultural habitat for some of the birds that nest and forage

there. Some of the target species are Black Terns and Swainson's Hawks. Meet at the Park & Ride on Elkhorn Blvd., just west of Highway 99.

Saturday, 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 will likely 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 80 on the west side of the causeway; circle under the freeway and up onto the levee at the signed entrance.

Sunday, June 13,
7:30 am
Nelson Slough,
Near
Feather River
Leader:
Richard Barbieri
966-4603
offleash@sbcglobal.net

This walk along a levee has good riparian birding. Later, when you cross over to the floodplain between the slough and the river, Richard will be looking for Lazuli Bunting and Blue Grosbeak. This half day trip will end before lunch. You may want to carry water. Meet at the Park & Ride lot on Elkhorn Blvd., just west of Highway 99.

Sunday, June 13, 8:30am
Canoe/Kayak Trip
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Gary Fregien 451-2767
gfreg@parks.ca.gov

Bring your favorite paddle boat and join Gary for a leisurely cruise along the river and sloughs where the banks are lined with mature riparian vegetation that offers good opportunities to see a variety of perching birds. A stop along the shore for lunch will also provide for a short hike to look for the birds associated with the other habitats in the preserve. It is also possible to see river otter, beaver, muskrat and even mink. Bring your lunch, water, and gear required for both boating and hiking. Total trip time should be about 4-5 hours. Meet Gary at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor

Center, 13501 Franklin Blvd., south of Twin Cities Road. Attention: Gary would like a call from all interested participants prior to the trip.

Wednesday, June 16, 7:30am
Turner Road Vintners,
San Joaquin County
Leader: Joe Ceriani 922-0768

This small, but active, manmade marsh habitat should afford some good close views of marsh birds. Meet at the Park & Ride on the east side of Highway 99 at Sheldon Road.

Wednesday, June 16
Evening Beaver Walk,
American River
Leader: Jack Hiehle
967-0777

This unique trip will be limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years. Call Jack to reserve a space and find out meeting time and place. Jack will look at birds and plants, as well as mammals along the river.

Saturday, June 19, 7am
Bodega Bay, Sonoma County
Leader: Mark Cudney 987-2422
mcudney@aol.com

Join Mark to check out some of the birds that nest along this part of the coast. Enjoy the cool coast for at least a short break from the valley heat. Meet at the north Park & Ride on West Capitol Ave., just east of the causeway on Highway 80.

Saturday-Sunday, June 19-20
Pyramid Lake, Nevada and
Sierra Valley, California
Leader: Joe Ceriani 922-0768

Join Joe for his annual pilgrimage to this beautiful desert lake to view the birds and lizards of the Great Basin. Bring along a bathing suit for a refreshing swim in the lake. He will take the scenic way home and bird Sierra Valley. Call Joe for meeting time and place and information on camping.

Saturday, June 26, 7am
Wright's Lake,
El Dorado National Forest
Leaders: Jack Hiehle 967-0777 and
Phyllis Wilburn (530) 642-9942



Daniel Kilby

Bobelaine

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIRECT DONATIONS

Thank you so much to the following for their direct donations in support of our Bobelaine Sanctuary: George & Alison Burkett in memory of Charlie Soderquist and Betty Gutt.

BOBELAINE NEWS

The lake and sloughs are pleasingly full and everything is a lush green. The sanctuary is at its best for the next few months. Don't miss the opportunity to visit and enjoy this wonderful piece of nature. It is the perfect answer to the pressures of our daily lives. 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

Your participation in the once a year fund raiser is needed, either by direct donation or by doing a Birdathon by yourself or with a friend or group. (See previous months' Observers for details or call me) Many people are so busy and their free time just doesn't allow a full day of birding. For these folks, a direct donation may be the easiest option. This is a very simple way for anyone to get involved in preserving nature for the future. Either way your tax free donations will be warmly appreciated and put to good use. 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

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.

Sunday, June 27, 7:30am **Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Flood Plain** **Leader: Joe Ceriani 922-0768**

Join Joe for a look at some of the birds that nest along this section of the parkway. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. You may want to bring some water. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

Wednesday, June 30 **Evening Beaver Walk** **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 3, 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 off the Hwy 80 Horseshoe Bar Rd. exit in Loomis. Bring water and lunch and be prepared for several short to moderate walks.

Saturday, July 10, 9am **Mt Judah & Roller Pass** **Sierran Wildflowers and Birds** **Leader: Jack Hiehle 967-0777**

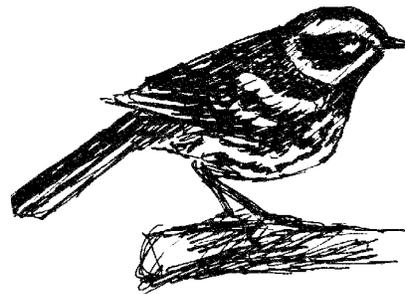
Join Jack and members of the California Native Plant Society on this hike in the Donner Summit area. He will point out all of the flora and fauna of the area, with plants as his specialty. This is a fairly strenuous hike at high elevation, with a 1000 foot-plus elevation gain on this 4 1/2-5 mile round trip hike. Meet Jack at the trailhead to start the hike at 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 10 **Cosumnes River** **Preserve** **River Walk** **Bird Count** **Leader:** **John Schick** **Cosumnes River** **Preserve** **(916) 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 to confirm the meeting time and location.



Kirsten Munson

Sunday, July 11 **Farrallon Island** **Boat Trip**

Check the front page of this month's Observer for details and the registration form.

Call Cathie LaZier
457-6882 during May and
Jeff Mangum 988-2802 during
June and July for current space
availability.

Wednesday, July 14th, 9:30am
Dragonfly Trip on the American River
Leader: Tim Manolis 485-9009
YLIGHTFOOT@AOL.COM

During the warmer sunnier hours when birds are quiet, dragon and damselflies get active. Tim, our resident expert, (and author of a field guide to California's dragon and damselflies), will be looking for colorful skimmers, meadowhawks, darners and bluets along the river. For the more experienced watcher, he'll search for the elusive Olive Clubtail. Bring binoculars, water and sun protection; it's wise to wear shoes

that can get wet. Trip will end by noon. Meet Tim at the river access at Howe and La Riviera, just north of Highway 50. There is a park entrance fee of \$4 per car; or you can park along La Riviera and walk in.

Attention: Tim would like a call from all interested participants prior to the trip.

Saturday, July 17, Sunrise
Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet
(916) 684-2816 ext #5
Or WWW.cosumnes.org

John makes a monthly census of this spectacular forested area on the Cosumnes River Preserve. A variety of birds and mammals can be expected on this morning walk.

From Sacramento, take I-5 south, exit on Twin Cities Road, go east to Bruceville Rd, then south to Desmond Rd. Meet John at the Farm Center gate, at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads. Please call the Cosumnes River Preserve number or check the website (refer to the schedules section) a few days prior to confirm the meeting time and location—in the past, the trip has been canceled due to floods.

Sunday, July 18, 7am
Rice Fields
Leaders: Tim Fitzer 961-5871
Dan Brown 362-2458

Join Tim and Dan for a morning expedition in the rice fields on a private ranch along Highway 99 North of Sacramento.

There should be plenty of nesting avocets, stilts and possibly Black Terns. Some early migrants should already be on their way back, such as dowitchers and Western Sandpipers still in breeding plumage. We will meet at the west corner of Hwy 99 and Elkhorn Blvd. at the park and ride parking lot, about eight miles north of Sacramento at 7 o'clock for this half-day trip.

Wednesday, July 21
Evening Beaver walk
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 24
Carson Pass
Leaders: Jack Hiehle
967-0777

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve the habitat in this high foot traffic area. Join Jack on this high elevation, 4 to 5 mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee and with luck Blue Grouse and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time, there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Call Jack for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and liquids, wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather.

Sunday, July 25, 8am
Mather Field Park
Leader: Wayne Blunk 876-0457

Mather Lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Wayne knows this area well. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. There is a parking fee.

Saturday, July 31, 7am
Thunder Mountain Alpine Cirque
Leader: Joe Ceriani 922-0768

Join Joe for this high Sierra hike up Thunder Mountain off Hwy 88. We'll be looking for mountain birds, wildflowers, butterflies, mammals and even interesting

trees. This is a 7.5-mile loop hike. The hike starts at about 8000 ft. elevation and climbs about 1500 ft. in approximately 3 miles and then descends for approximately 4.5 miles. We will drop off some of our vehicles at the end of the trail and then shuttle to the beginning. Meet Joe at 7am sharp at the north end corner of the Raley's parking lot at the El Dorado Hills exit on Hwy 50 for a full day of mountain birding. Bring lunch and liquids, wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather.



Kirsten Munson

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.

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 25 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento. Come and find out what they're up to!

SAS Board Approved
for the Fiscal Year 2004/2005

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

Corresponding Secretary: Dorothy Harvey

Directors of the Board:

Tim Fitzer, Roy Greenaway, Lindsley

Cross, Maureen Geiger and Jan Clark

The position of Recording Secretary is still vacant. If you're interested give Tim Fitzer a call at 961-5871. It's a good way to become involved without committing too much time and involves: attending a board meeting once a month, taking minutes, and preparing an agenda for each meeting and distributing it to board members.

May Program Notes

Debbie DuVall, Education Coordinator and Kathy Bernhardt, Wildlife Care Association President, will talk about the perils local wildlife faces and how you can help. They will share their experiences in wildlife rehabilitation and introduce and tell the personal stories of some of their Ambassadors, their rescued bird team.

Wildlife Care Association of Sacramento is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to rehabilitating and releasing orphaned and injured wildlife. Founded over 25 years ago by Effie Yeaw and MB Goodier, and licensed by both the federal and state governments, they take in over 7000 songbirds, owls, hawks, waterfowl, rabbits, raccoons, squirrels, reptiles and other local wildlife each year. Every April they open a Baby Bird Nursery to handle the thousands of orphaned songbirds brought to them, and in the fall and winter qualified rehabilitators take care of injured animals in their homes. Funded by private donations and memberships, over 80% of their annual budget is directly related to animal care. They are currently raising funds to build a permanent facility on 2 1/2 acres they own near McClellan Airbase.

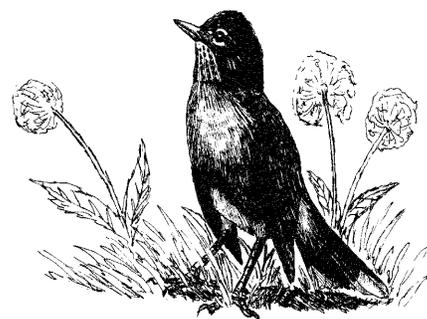
Wildlife Care offers annual classes to those wanting to learn how to become a wildlife rehabilitator and offers Public Outreach programs featuring "Ambassador" rescued birds.

Note: The Ambassador team includes a Great Horned Owl, Western Screech Owl, Turkey Vulture, Yellow Billed Magpie, and American Crow. They usually only bring three or four birds, depending on their health, attitude and mood, whether or not they are surrogating babies, their molt status and other factors.

How to Contribute

Preceding the May program the ANNUAL USED BOOK SALE begins at 6pm. Your donation of books related to natural history is appreciated, as all proceeds benefit Sacramento Audubon. Donations can be delivered to Joe Ceriani, 922-0768 (h) or to the Garden and Art Center by 6pm on the 20th.

And don't forget to bring a salad or main dish to share because after the Book Sale at 6:30pm we'll have our Annual Spring Potluck Dinner.



Steven D'Amato

Our Thanks

Sacramento Audubon would like to thank Mrs. Dorothy Tribbett of Pollock Pines for her generous donation of many years of birding magazines including *Birder's World*, *Birding*, *Bird Watcher's Digest*, *Wild Bird*, and *Birds Magazine*-a British publication. Most are in hard cover binders. These will be offered for sale at the Used Book Sale being held at our General Meeting, May 20. She also donated a copy of *The Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior* which will be raffled off to a lucky winner. Some of her magazines are from the late 80s and it's interesting to compare the many species at risk for survival then and their success or failure now.



Steven D'Amato

The Sites of Spring

Spring calls out for nesting and raising young of course and there are many wonderful internet web sites with pictures to prove it. With the advent of the "web camera" you can literally watch the nesting, brooding, and fledging habits of many bird species inside their nest boxes. Try these web sites at home or if you're not internet savvy go to your local library and ask for a librarian's help. They'll be happy to get you "hooked up" and they might enjoy seeing baby birds squawking for food too!

Start with <http://birds.cornell.edu/birdhouse> for lots of links. There are also instructions on how to conduct your own nest box monitoring and submit your results. At the top of the page is a link for Nest Box Cams. Click here for further links to at least 6 active nest boxes which at press time included bluebirds, Osprey, Barn Owls, and Kestrels.

Also try <http://www.purplemartin.org/links/WebCamLink.html> but be prepared for further links to so many sites, some even outside the United States, that you'll have trouble choosing. They feature Purple Martins of course, but also Bald Eagles, White Storks, and Northern Barred Owls to name just a few.

Also, thanks to Webmaster Bill Clark, our own Sacramento Audubon web site www.sacramentoaudubon.org contains not only lots of information but also many interesting links to web sites concerning all manner of birding resources.

Seasonal Observations

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

The middle two weeks of March were the warmest on record, with temperatures reaching the mid-80s. Early reports of **Western Kingbirds** added to the spring-like feel. The first was reported on 3/14 near the Yolo County Central Landfill and many first-of-season reports came in prior to 3/20. Several observers reported the species a week or more earlier than previous records from particular sites. Despite trees leafing out early and the high temperatures, most of the other interesting reports were of "winter" birds.

Topping the list of raptors was a **Northern Goshawk** reported from a private ranch near Winters on 3/27. A **Merlin** was reported from the same location on 3/28. Other **Merlin** reports include the continuing bird from north Davis that stayed throughout the month, one along the River Walk (formerly Willow Slough Trail) at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 3/13, a black **Merlin** on 3/20 from the Sacramento County Bufferlands, and a different bird reported from the same location on 3/21. The first **Swainson's Hawk** report for the area was of three birds on 3/4 just south of UC Davis in Solano County. A **Long-eared Owl** was a nice find at CRP north of the Tall Forest on 3/8.

A **Swamp Sparrow** in breeding plumage was reported from private land on 3/23 in the Putah Creek Sinks southeast of Davis in Yolo County. The immature **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** first seen on 12/14/03 at Mrak Hall on the UC Davis campus was last seen on 3/6 at the wastewater facility across I-80 in Solano County. A

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Townsend's Solitaire was found on Rd 53 in the Capay Valley on 3/6 and 3/8.

A **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported from Sailor Bar along the American River Parkway on 3/13 and 3/14. It was described as being in 3rd winter/early 4th spring plumage and obviously a different bird from the 1st winter bird found near the Nimbus Hatchery on 11/24/03. This would be a second record for the county if endorsed by the Sacramento Bird Records Committee and the California Bird Records Committee. 10 to 12 **Black Terns** flying over the Yolo Causeway on 3/10

were about a month earlier than typically reported.

Other interesting reports include a **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** reported from the Valensin Ranch portion of CRP on 3/30, single **Vesper Sparrows** reported from the Sacramento County Bufferlands on 3/8 and the Howard Ranch on 3/23, an early **Wilson's Warbler** from Davis on 3/3, a **Steller's Jay** in Old Town Folsom on 3/14, single **Horned Grebes** from the Davis Wetlands on 3/21 - 3/24 and CRP on 3/29. A male **Red-naped Sapsucker** was reported from the Lake Solano Campground on 3/17, while the regular **Pileated Woodpecker** was last reported from that location on 3/4. The **Snow Bunting** found at Clifton Court Forebay in Contra Costa County (northwest of Tracy) on 2/27 was reported through mid-month.

Thanks to the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Jennifer Albright, Peter Armstrong, Mary Chambers, Terry Colborn, Laura Confal, Cathy Corcoran, Phil Dunn, Andrew Engllis, Tim Fitzer, Maureen Geiger, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Karen Hochgraf, Dave Johnson, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Randy Little, John Luther, Ron Melcer, Ed Pandolfino, Ruth Partridge, Michael Perrone, Harlin Perryman, Ryan Phillips, Mary Schiedt, Frank Severson, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Gene Trapp, John Trochet, and Heath Wakelee.

Chris Conard

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