



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 17

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

6:30pm **BOOK SALE** with dessert and coffee

7pm General Meeting

The Birds and Beauty of Bhutan

With Ed Harper and Susan Scott

Our 2006-7 Sacramento Audubon program series ends on a high note with a program that captures the spellbinding awe of Bhutan with its remarkable birdlife, spectacular scenery, and robust Buddhist culture. As they have so ably done before, Ed Harper and his wife, Susan Scott, will team up for this program.

Recounting their recent visit in 2006, they will share their insights of this seldom visited mountain kingdom. A backdrop of the lofty Himalayas highlights the rhododendron clad forests, home to spectacular birds. From clear flowing rivers where the rare Ibisbill might be found, to stunning vistas of Buddhist dzongs and hilltops adorned with Buddhist prayer flags, this program is both engaging, informative, and visually appealing.

Bhutan is bordered in part by the Assam region of India. Here Ed and Susan visited Kaziranga National Park where, from elephant back, they photographed Indian one-horned rhinoceros along with a dazzling array of birds. Whether you plan to visit this part of the world or simply want

Program Notes

Continued on page 6

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2007

Once again, the 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 "Salty Lady", the boat we've chartered many times before. The capacity of the boat is 45 people; the trip will be approximately 8 hours long.

This will be the 17th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! It is a great trip to add birds to your life list. In 2006, we saw 3 species of cormorant, 3 species of tern, Sooty and Pink-footed Shearwaters, 2 species of Jaeger, 2 species of Auklet, Black-footed Albatross, and Tufted Puffin, to name just some of the birds. Marine mammals (5 species seen last year) add to the enjoyment of the trip. 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. Sacramento Audubon experts will be on board to help with bird identification.

What will we see this year? Join us and discover for yourself.

- The boat departs Sausalito at 8am and returns about 3:30pm. The pre-trip talk will start promptly at 7:30am.
- The trip cost is \$80 per person, which includes a \$20 donation to Sacramento Audubon. The trip is limited to 35 people, so reserve a space as soon as possible. Your check reserves your spot. The deadline to sign up is June 30.
- Detailed instructions and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the registration form provided below.
- Contact Ken Hashhagen (916) 316-8596-cell or (916) 635-4435-home for further information.

Please fill out and return the Registration Form on page 7 to Ken Hashhagen.

MAY ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Don't forget to bring your books to our Book Sale in May which begins at 6:30pm, before our general meeting. John Ginn will arrive early to price all the books so come a little early if you can. The sale includes books, CDs, videos, and maybe even some artwork.

As we did last year, proceeds will be donated to the Birder's Exchange (www.americanbirding.org/bex), a group

administered by the American Birding Association to provide equipment and funds to scientists, conservationists and educators in Latin America and the Caribbean. We would also like to send used optics, so please check for any good, working binoculars or scopes you may have which can also be brought for donation. For any questions please call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207.

Field Trip Findings

Fazio Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/14)

Leader Andi Salmi's scheduled trip to Jepson Prairie was switched to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area because of a lack of flowers and water in the vernal pools. Andi reported: "Our small group of three birders spent about 2 1/2 hours at the Wildlife area. We enjoyed observing many nesting Yellow-headed Blackbirds, White-faced Ibis coming into breeding plumage, large flocks of Black-necked Stilts, close looks at American Bitterns and Common Moorhens, as well as a variety of ducks, swallows, and a mating pair of Killdeer."

Goethe Park (4/8) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "Three fuzzy young Great-horned Owls in a nest were the highlight of this trip, with good looks at the father perched nearby. We also had nesting Bushtits, Anna's Hummingbird, and Red-shouldered Hawk. A pair of kestrels, probably nesting in an adjacent tree, put on quite a show driving off the male Red-shouldered when he perched on 'their' side of the trail. A serious disagreement between Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers gave us unusually good views of both species. Singing wrens and towhees were omnipresent. At the urging of a trip participant, the group spent five minutes cleaning up extensive litter at a picnic site. Thanks Betty, for reminding us that it's 'our' parkway."

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain (4/7)
"Thirteen of us saw 58 species, with the

highlights being two Swainson's Hawks passing overhead, one Hooded Oriole, and one Lawrence's Goldfinch," leader Dan Brown reported.

Upper Sunrise, American River Parkway (4/1) — "Thirty-two birders had great weather for this walk along the American River," leader Mark Martucci said. "Forty-eight species of birds were seen. We had nice views of an Osprey and two pairs of Wood Ducks. We had dozens of Tree Swallows, Cliff Swallows and four Northern Rough-Winged Swallows."

Caswell Memorial State Park (3/31)
Leader Gary Fregien reported, "A dozen birders gathered for a very pleasant spring walk through much of Caswell Memorial State Park, logging 47 species. One birder among us was a guest from Golden Gate Audubon, one was an avid photographer, and one a biologist who had spent the previous night in the park. She and her companion reported seeing/hearing two owls, a Barn Owl and a Great-horned owl; both not entered on our 'official' list. We saw five species of woodpeckers, numerous nesting Tree Swallows and several Swainson's Hawks. The aerobatics and interactions of the hawks were the highlight of the trip."



Kirsten Munson

Orangevale Park (3/26) — "Thirty birders came out to Orangevale Park on a cool, cloudy and windy day," Mark Martucci, co-leader with Paul Cordero said. "Thirty-nine species of birds were seen, with great looks at a female Cooper's Hawk. Dozen's of Yellow-rumped Warblers were singing and we found three active Bushtit nests."

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (3/24)
Nine birders—including a surprise visit by former Sacramentan Ron Storey and his son, Brian—joined for a beautiful morning of enjoying nature along Lake Natomas Equestrian Staging Area, leader Lea Landry reported. "In addition to lovely wild (and feral) flowers, we saw and/or heard 45 species of birds, including Horned Grebe, Kingfisher, California Quail, Cedar Waxwings, Black-throated Gray Warblers, and Cooper's Hawks. 3 Bewick's Wrens engaged in a spirited display of territorial defense, joined by a very animated Ruby-crowned Kinglet."

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/18)
"A singing Orange-crowned Warbler, an Anna's Hummingbird on a nest and great looks at a River Otter were enjoyed by participants on this trip," leader Cathie LaZier reported.

PALE MALE OF THE WEST?

This is a brief report about finding the "Pale Male of the West" and his yet to be named partner.

As of this week, April 9, 2007, "Pale Male of the West" was seen perched at his usual spot, a tall redwood, facing the nest where his partner is dutifully sitting on the nest.

I have been birding in Capitol Park for two years. I am an amateur birder (a member of SAS) and I work near the park. In fact, I have taken coworkers interested in birding and exercise on tours of Capitol Parks. Two initial tours were led by Maureen Geiger, SAS, who graciously accepted my invitation. On March 28th, I took a group of coworkers to see the Red-Tail Hawk nest that I had been continuously observing since winter. With luck, we not only saw the nest but were able to see "Pale Male" and his partner. More so, with a spotting scope (borrowed from Mike Savino of Save Our Sandhill Cranes), we observed "Pale Male" on the nest. Yes, he replaced his partner on the nest, while she took off to soar in the sky.

The nest is located high in a tree tagged as Tree

Tour #123,

a Tulip Tree, on

the east side of the Capitol,

halfway between the east steps and L

Street. The tree is right next to the main

concrete path. The nest is located high on a branch (40 feet off the ground), not far off the center of the tree. Viewing is difficult due to tree leaves. Once you find the tree, the best views of the nest are from L Street or between a palm tree and black bench northeast of the nest near an asphalt pathway.



Stephen D'Amato

Don Lee

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 or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 486-1198 for trips through May 20th. For trips from May 26th through June 24, call the scheduler Andi Salmi, 691-7216, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips from June 25 through July 14, call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com.

Consider car pooling and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Wednesday, May 2, 8am to 11am Phoenix Field

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack at Phoenix Field (Jim David Park) for a walk around the beautiful vernal pools. This trip will feature rare plants and spring blooms in the vernal pools. Jack will lend his expertise to identifying these unusual plants. Phoenix Field is located on Sunset Blvd just east of Hazel Avenue. Don't forget your binoculars to view the resident birds.

Mono Lake, May 2 & 3

Wednesday & Thursday

Leaders: Lea Landry, 638-1141

llandry@softcom.net

Dan Tankersley, 606-6518

dtankers@winfirst.com

The highlight of this trip is the very early morning visit to the Greater Sage Grouse lek to watch the birds' courting display. Other possible areas to be birded are the South Tufa area and the County Park's boardwalk at the north end of Mono Lake, the Jeffrey Pine Forest, especially in the burn area, Lee Vining Creek and Lundy Lake. Other birds that may be seen include Pinyon Jays, Mountain Bluebirds, Sage Thrashers, Sage Sparrows, Brewer's Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees, Canyon Wren, Wilson's Snipe, and lots more! The Thursday morning trip to the lek leaves the motel area VERY early, (4:15am!), to arrive at the lek before sunrise, so bring warm clothes with lots of layers. Participants should expect to be walking on steep and uneven terrain, and to be prepared for changeable weather conditions.

For those who drive up Wednesday morning, meet the leaders at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, on Hwy 395 just north of

Lee Vining, at 12:30pm (having already lunched.) If you choose to drive up on Tuesday and stay overnight, meet the leaders at 8am Wednesday at the Mono Lake Committee Store in Lee Vining for morning birding. The Wednesday morning group will lunch in the field. There are several good motels and restaurants in Lee Vining; contact the leaders for more information, or go to www.leevining.com.

Saturday, May 5, 7am SHARP

Mines Rd/Del Puerto Canyon

Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636

calaveri@sbcglobal.net

This full day outing is oriented toward the birder with adventure in the heart. Mines Road and Del Puerto Canyon are located southeast of Livermore, about an hour and a half south of Sacramento. This is primarily a road trip, but with several stops, encompassing three counties along the birding route: Alameda, Santa Clara and Stanislaus. The trip's timing and varied habitats typical of the coastal mountains and canyons should produce numerous spring migrants as well as resident birds. Expect Phainopepla, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Lewis' Woodpecker, Bald Eagle, Bullock's Oriole and many more. We will visit one regional park, Lake del Valle, where there will be a day-use fee to enter the park.

Meet Gary at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol Ave. exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Car pooling is suggested, due to limited access at stops and to the distance traveled. When we DEPART the lot at 7am SHARP, we will back-track to I-5 and proceed south and west to the Livermore area. Bring along FRS radios, food and water.

Sunday, May 6, leaving at 7am South Yuba River State Park

Covered Bridge Area

Leader: Lisa Moraga, 455-4786

lmoraga562@earthlink.net

Bridgeport and South Yuba River State Park are located on Pleasant Valley Road, eight miles north from the Intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and State Route 20 west of Grass Valley. (17660 Pleasant Valley Road, Penn Valley, CA (530) 432-2546) web link: www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com/Birding/hot_spots/bridge.html

This area is spectacular during the spring for birdlife and wildflowers. We will bird trails near the visitor center and portions of the Point Defiance Trail. We'll look for Yellow-breasted Chat, Bullock's Oriole and Canyon Wren. Along the river portion of the Point Defiance trail, Golden Eagle and American Dipper have been spotted. The Black Oak woodland north of the river supports a variety of woodpeckers. The trails are adorned with plenty of poison oak, so dress appropriately. This trip lasts into the afternoon. Pack a lunch and bring plenty of water for the hike. Sturdy shoes and protective clothing are essential for the trails. Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80/Horseshoe Bar Road, Exit #110. We will leave the Park & Ride promptly at 7am, so arrive a little early.

Saturday, May 12, 8:15am

Pine Hill

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Walk with Jack up to a Fire Lookout and explore till early afternoon, with a focus on the rare and endangered plants found in this special area. Jack will not ignore the

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

birds, so bring your binoculars as well.

Meet at 8:15am at the El Dorado Park & Ride, (going east on Hwy 50, take the first El Dorado offramp; go right to the second stop sign, and left into the Park & Ride.) Alternate meeting place is at 9am at the gate at Ulenkamp and Pine Hill Roads. (Hwy 50 to Bass Lake Road; right on Green Valley Road; pass a school on your right and then turn left on Ulenkamp Road to Pine Hill Road.) This trip will last until early afternoon so bring a lunch and liquids.

Saturday, May 12, 10am-4pm Walk On The Wildside

See the article on page 8 in this newsletter for more information.

Sunday, May 13, 7:30am Mather Field Park

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
wayne.blunk@worldnet.att.net**

Mather Lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Wayne knows this area well, and has found up to 50 species on this walk at this time of year. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Meet Wayne for this morning walk in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. There is a parking fee.

Monday, May 14, 8am to noon Paradise Beach

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Wednesday, May 16, 11:45am to 1pm Purple Martins in Old Sacramento Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804 mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Enjoy wonderful, close looks at Purple Martins where they nest in Old Sacramento. You will also see nesting White-Throated Swifts and probably Cliff and Tree Swallows. Previous years have turned up other interesting species as well. Meet Maureen on the east side of the Railroad Museum along Second Street.

Saturday, May 19, 7am Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207 spskua1@comcast.net

Spring is a great time of year for nesting hummingbirds in this area. Gnatcatchers, Lazuli Buntings, California Thrashers, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and possibly Yellow-breasted Chats can also be found. 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 drinks as this trip will continue into the early afternoon. There is an entrance fee to Folsom Lake.

Saturday, May 19, Very Early Tall Forest Bird Count Cosumnes River Preserve Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the farm center gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME to join this monthly bird count in an area normally closed to the public. Usually led by John Trochet, this walk frequently produces uncommon birds. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting. You must check the recorded information a day or two previously to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

Sunday, May 20, 7:30am to noon Cronan Ranch, Coloma Area Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804 mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Hike with Maureen in beautiful rolling, oak-studded hills off Hwy 49 near Coloma. This BLM property is intersected with many hiking trails and home to a large variety of foothill habitat birds. Several species of raptor nest here, or may be seen, such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk and Northern Harrier. Last year a Black-throated Sparrow was found and Rufous-crowned Sparrows are also possible, as are woodpeckers, flycatchers, goldfinches, towhees, swallows, Western Meadowlarks, Wild Turkey, and migrating warblers. This trip will include several miles of easy hiking; trails may be muddy. This hike will be mostly treeless and can be hot, so hats and fluids are advised. Meet

Maureen at 7:30am in El Dorado Hills just off Hwy 50 at Bella Bru in the south end of the Raley's shopping center. The trip concludes at noon; however, there are numerous sites in the Coloma area for a nice picnic lunch as well as a bakery where food may be purchased.

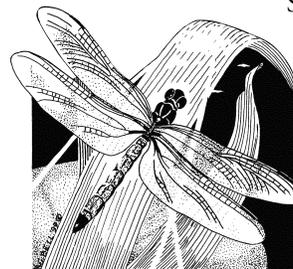
Sunday, May 20 Habitat Improvement Work Day Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, May 26, time TBD Dragonfly trip

Location: TBD

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



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

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!

Sunday, May 27, 7am to noon Fleming Meadow Bird & Flower Walk Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882 empid@earthlink.net

Where have our juncos gone? Upslope to nest. We can find them in the low montane (3700') area of the Fleming Meadow/Ferrari Mill trail system off Mormon Emigrant Trail. Also in this area we may find Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Chipping Sparrows, Band-tailed Pigeons, Red-breasted Nuthatches, Hairy Woodpeckers, and Stellar's Jays, among others. Dogwood and ceanothus should be in bloom, along with a nice variety of wildflowers including starflowers, wild iris, violets, and star tulips, so bring your wildflower books. This is a fine trip for beginners. This slow paced trip will cover about 4 miles with a 200 to 300 foot elevation gain.

Meet at 7am at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills for optional carpooling. Call for alternate meeting place. Bring water and snacks and layered clothes. Trails may be muddy or dusty. Trip will end by noon. Very heavy rain cancels.

Saturday, June 2, 7am

Crystal Basin

Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249

fgray4birds@aol.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. There will likely be good chances to view Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, several species of warblers 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 birding by ear and pointing out bird ID features on this slow-paced trip. We expect to return by 2 or 3 pm. Car pooling encouraged. Meet Frank at the north end of Raley's parking lot, just north of Highway 50 off El Dorado Hills Blvd.

Sunday, June 3, 7:30am to noon

Sunrise area, American River Parkway

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe some surprises. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd, turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders.

Monday, June 4

Evening Beaver Walk

American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This is a great trip if you've never seen a beaver, because Jack reports a 100% success rate! This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. Please call Jack to reserve a space and to find out the meeting time and place. Jack will, of course, point out the birds and plants, as well as the mammals, on this evening trip.

Saturday & Sunday, June 9-10, 8am onsite each day*

**Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/
Yuba Pass**

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

*This trip requires an RSVP no later than Thursday, June 7, 2007.

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Yuba Pass area or Sierra/Antelope Valleys 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. Call Gary at least a week in advance for particulars about daily locations and overnight accommodations. Both camping and lodging are available in the vicinity. Gary plans to be at the Yuba Pass campground on Friday the 8th. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 & 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 success.



Kirsten Munson

Saturday, June 9

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 a 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 in advance to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, June 10

Habitat Improvement Workday

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Friday, June 15

Evening Beaver Walk

American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, June 16, 7:30am to noon

Michigan Bar/Latrobe Roads

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Join Maureen in this foothill area as she looks for Lawrence's Goldfinches, Horned Larks, Western Bluebirds, turkeys, raptors and possible Grasshopper Sparrows. These rolling grasslands are scattered with stands of native oaks and are also home to White-breasted Nuthatches and other oak woodland birds. The roads are not good, and 4-wheel drive is recommended. Meet in the Raley's shopping center at 8391 Folsom Boulevard (between Howe Avenue and Watt Avenue). Park on the south side of the Raley's lot facing Folsom Boulevard near the Carl's Junior.

Saturday June 16, very early

Tall Forest Bird Count,

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: John Trochet

Recorded information: 684-2816 or

www.cosumnes.org

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 in advance to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, June 17, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

wayne.blunk@worldnet.att.net

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 at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's

Field Trips continued on page 6

Nest Road for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Saturday, June 23, 7am

Goethe Park

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

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk for this walk in the oak woodland area of the parkway. Many local birds are still feeding young and a few interesting plants should be blooming. This is a very good walk for beginners.

Sunday, July 24, 6:30am

Martis Valley and vicinity

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

Martis Valley near Truckee is a mix of the Sierra and the Great Basin. We'll explore sagebrush flats, open water, and coniferous and riparian forests in search of the area's breeding bird species. Meet at the Park & Ride off the Hwy 80, Horseshoe Bar Road exit in Loomis (Exit #110). Bring water and lunch and be prepared for several short to moderate walks.

Friday, June 29

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 old. 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 30, 7am

Ice House Road and Crystal Basin area

Co-leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spskua1@comcast.net

Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento and is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, flycatchers and warblers. Spring wildflowers are a possibility. Several stops will be made along Ice House Road and side roads for short walks. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Meet Tim at the north end of the Raley's shopping center parking lot on El Dorado Hills Blvd, just off Highway 50.

Sunday, July 1, 8am

Goethe Park

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

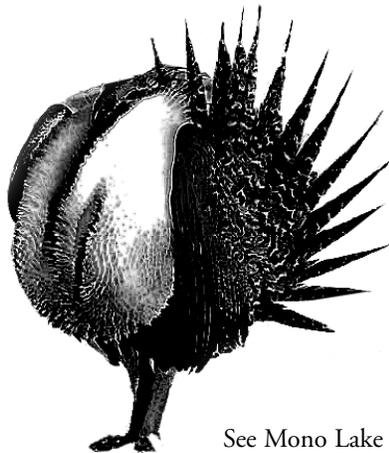
Many birds will still be active and singing this time of year. We'll look for the resident wrens, towhees, flycatchers and hummingbirds. This trip will end before lunch time, and is a good trip for beginners. Meet in the first parking lot on your right past the kiosk. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee.

Tuesday Evening, July 3

Evening Beaver Walk

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for a good look at these interesting mammals. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. In addition to the beavers, Jack will point out local birds such as herons, egrets and grebes, as well as some of the local plants. Please call Jack for the meeting time and place.



See Mono Lake Trip info on page 3.

Saturday, July 7

Wright's Lake

Leaders: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on plants and Phyllis will try to locate some of the hard to find bird species. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on snow levels, so please call Jack or Phyllis in advance for further details, (meeting time, place, and possible date change.)

Sunday, July 8

Farallons Pelagic Trip

See the article on page 1 and send in your reservation on the form which can be found on the next page, for an exciting ocean birding trip!

Saturday, July 14

Mt. Judah and Roller Pass

Sierran Wildflowers and Birds

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, July 14

River Walk Bird Count

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd, south of Twin Cities Road, 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. This walk covers about four miles, and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. You must check the recorded information a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Program Notes

Continued from page 1

to know more of the wonders of the natural world and distant cultures, this program promises to be a delight.

Susan Scott teaches biology at Cosumnes River College. Ed Harper, as most Sacramento Audubon members know, recently retired from American River College where he taught mathematics and classes in field ornithology

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park, located at 3330 McKinley Blvd. in Sacramento. The public is always welcome. A map with directions can be found at our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org under the Membership and Meetings heading at the bottom of the page.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

THE PLUMAGE OF PLUMAS

What You'll See

Eastern Plumas County, with accessible and uncrowded valleys, creeks, and coniferous forests, is filled with many great opportunities to view over 100 plus bird species in a spectacular setting. For example, Sierra Valley, nationally recognized by Audubon Society, is one of Sierra Nevada's largest and most diverse sub-alpine valleys. The valley offers plenty of great bird watching, as well as over 200 species of wildflowers. This is just one of eight wildlife-viewing areas in this region described in a new nature recreation brochure, centering on Portola as the gateway.

Some bird and mammal species that you may encounter in various locations described in the brochure are bald and

golden eagle, osprey, goshawk, rough-legged hawk, ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, various owl species including the long-eared owl, mountain quail, blue grouse, yellow-headed blackbird, red crossbill, western tanager, pine grosbeak, black-crowned night heron, various woodpeckers such as the pileated woodpecker, shrike, white pelican, eared grebe, avocet, white-faced ibis, stilt, common loon, snipe, phalarope, white-fronted geese, tundra swan, sandhill crane, black bear, beaver, marmot, and antelope!

How To Get Information

For planning your birding adventure to the wild side of Sierra Nevada away from congestion and heavy tourism, you'll want to have a copy of the *Portola Gateway to*

the Northern Sierra Nevada. This brochure also provides information about scenic drives, kayaking, canoeing, fishing, hiking, wildflower viewing, campgrounds, events, and local attractions, near the town of Portola.

To receive the brochure or find out more detailed information about the Portola region call: the Portola Visitor Center (530) 832-0671 or go to www.portolavisitorscenter.com, the Plumas County Visitors Bureau (800) 326-2247 or (530) 283-6345, or the Eastern Plumas Chamber of Commerce (800) 995-6057 or (530) 836-6811. You can also directly locate the brochure online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike/docs/plumas-recreation.pdf>.

SAS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT FAIR

The Sacramento Audubon Society's Environment Improvement Fair at Pershing School was very successful. On April 12, members of the Orangevale community had an opportunity to see some wonderful displays about improving backyards to make them friendly to birds, bats and other helpful creatures. Using the Audubon at Home materials as a starting point, displays by Mrs. Rugg's sixth grade class provided information about water features, companion planting, and beneficial insects. As part of this three month long project, students developed field guides for plants and animals in the area, and with the help of the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, students made a flora of the schoolyard plants. (Check out these field guides and the flora at our next general meeting.)

Julie Serences, the Sacramento Audubon Society's K-8 Education Coordinator, first purposed the project last fall and supported Mrs. Rugg in many ways during the course of the

project. Julie arranged class field trips, taught students about their schoolyard plants, ensured experts were available for the students during the course of their research, built bird houses, taught display design, and consulted with each student on her/his project. She also arranged for the publishing of the field guide and flora, worked with students to publicize the event, and of course, provided "Specialist" name tags for all of Mrs. Rugg's students on the night of the event.

The purpose of this collaboration was to develop a classroom model based on Audubon at Home. It is the Sacramento Audubon's Education Committee's intent that this model will be used at other schools. We were very fortunate this year to have had the opportunity to work with such a fine and thoughtful teacher as Mrs. Rugg, and such great kids who demonstrated a sincere interest in nature, and in improving their environment. The Education Committee is looking forward to building on this experience next year in other classrooms.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 8, 2007 Registration deadline: June 30, 2007
Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$80 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct., Gold River, CA 95670



Upcoming Events

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE - THE BUFFERLANDS

On Saturday, May 12th from 10am to 4pm, join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCS) 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 a rookery that 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. For directions and more information, visit www.bufferlands.com or call 875-9196.

DID YOU FORGET THE BOBELAINE BIRDATHON?

Hope you had some time to get out and bird for the Bobelaine Birdathon. However, you can still contribute either a fixed amount or an amount per bird until the end of May. Please remember, these are the funds that keep Bobelaine open to the public for an enjoyable birding experience. Please, send your pledges and/or any direct donations to Treasurer, Sacramento Audubon Society, 5427 13th Avenue, Sacramento, CA 95820-2319, marked for "Bobelaine Birdathon." If you have any questions regarding the Birdathon give June Persson a call at 481-9916.

TWO BIRDING FESTIVALS IN MAY AND JUNE

Two very interesting festivals are coming up so mark your calendar.

The 10th Annual **Spring Wings Bird Festival** in Fallon, Nevada, will be held May 11-13. The Spring Wings Bird Festival coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. During the 2006 festival, 155 different species were logged. Speakers, displays and birding tours will be taking place. For more information or to reserve you space go to www.springwings.org.

The 6th Annual **Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua** will be held June 15-17. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, Rush Creek Delta and Mono Basin. There are several workshops including two for drawing birds led by Jack Muir Laws who has been a frequent speaker at our general meetings. John Dunn and Rich Stallcup will both be leading field trips but several are full already so register soon. Special events include a kayak tour of Mono Lake. The website for more information and registration is www.birdchautauqua.org.

AUDUBON LISTING FOR BIRD AND FESTIVALS

Audubon California has a wonderful web page, listing by month, birding and nature festivals. The site is http://ca.audubon.org/california_nature_festivals.htm Bookmark your browser.

SAS BOARD DONATION CONSERVATION FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The Sacramento Audubon Society Board has voted to donate \$1500 to the continued Tri-colored Blackbird monitoring program by Dr. Bob Meese at the University of California, Davis, and \$5000 to the continuing Black Rail research by Professor Steve Beissinger at the University of California, Berkeley.



CALIFORNIA AUDUBON

At our April general meeting, Glenn Olson, Vice President and Executive Director of CA Audubon spoke to SAS. He outlined some of the on-going programs that SAS has contributed to. Here are some highlights from his comments:

We are developing a conservation plan for the Tri-colored Blackbird-with a global population of 250,000-300,000 birds almost exclusively in CA. We are doing this plan in concert with the dairy industry and farm bureau because the birds nest in large colonies predominantly in farmers fields just prior to when the farmers want to harvest their crop. We have ended up buying the crop and delaying the harvest of the crop until the birds fledge their young. This year we have a colony of 50,000+ birds nesting in a farmer's field in Kern County right now. (The price to delay harvest is \$55,000). Last year we purchased a crop in the San Jacinto area and protected the largest nesting colony in southern CA. We are grateful to the Sacramento Audubon Society for their financial investments in the Tri-Colored Blackbird Conservation.

Audubon has a long-standing interest and involvement in CA Condor conservation. We are 1) commissioning an American Ornithologists Union panel of scientists to review the 25 year history of the recovery effort, 2) taking action banning lead from ammunition in the condor's range through legislation or by the Fish and Game Commission, 3) working with other conservation groups and California's largest private ranch, vital to the condors' recovery, and 4) beginning to work with other large ranches in CA to protect the bird's critical habitat.

Much more information can be found at www.ca.audubon.org about the important work CA Audubon is doing with the help of local chapters throughout the state.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Dan Aireola Richard Dana
Ron Clark Zenaida Gutierrez
Richard Curtis Tobias McBride

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Thank you to all these generous donors for keeping our Society thriving and better able to support its Mission functions.

Anne Bersinger, Gordon Gervin, Jeff Mangum, Judith Runstrom, Douglas Schwilk, Arthur Watkins and Peter Watkins for donations to Bobelaine.

Ron Clark to the General Fund.

Phyllis Gardiner, Jeff Mangum, Judith Runstrom and Peter Watkins to the Conservation and Education Fund.

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.

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 29, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ _____

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.

THE NEWLY ELECTED SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008

These nominations were unanimously approved
at the April general meeting.

President	Keith Wagner
Vice President	Tim Fitzer
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary	Jan Tankersley
Recording Secretary	Lisa Seto
Past President	Peter Watkins
Directors	Sheila Deaner
	Brian Gilmore
	Roy Greenaway
	Gail Janke
	Lea Landry



Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

March is often a month of waiting—waiting for spring to come. As is often the case in our area, spring-like days make it seem as though the trees should be alive with Neotropical migrants, but most of them are a month away. Still, a few show up early. The first **Western Kingbirds** arrive mid-month with **Bullock's Orioles** about a week later. It is also the month when **Swainson's Hawks** arrive, looking for nest sites, and shorebird numbers start to build.

Owls were again at the top of the list this month. The **Northern Saw-whet Owl** first reported from private property in Fair Oaks on 2/24 returned on 3/26. It was absent the next day, but returned on 3/28. While it was not seen again, a fresh pellet was found on 3/31. Up to three **Northern Saw-whet Owls** continued to be reported from Ryer Island in Solano County, continuing to at least 3/11. A little outside of our area, a **Great Gray Owl** was seen by several observers from late March to early April in Yuba County between North San Juan and Camptonville. It has been reported in recent years from this uncharacteristic location.

There was an intriguing report on 3/29 of a **White Ibis** flying over west Davis—unfortunately, it was not seen again. There are three accepted records from Southern California, but once the identification is established, one must consider if it might have escaped from captivity. A male **Summer Tanager** was seen and photographed in El Dorado Hills on 3/13—apparently it had been at the same location along New York Creek the previous winter.

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

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e-mail preferred, NOTE new address: conardc@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, NOTE new address: sawise7@sbcglobal.net

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

The Observer is published monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Other interesting reports include a **Eurasian Wigeon** from Howard Ranch on 3/1, and another **Eurasian Wigeon** along with the

continuing **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** at Davis Wetlands (DW) on 3/4. Four **Whimbrels** flying over Cosumnes River Preserve on 3/2 were early, as were two **Marbled Godwits** at Yolo Wildlife Area on 3/27. After a long absence, the **Ruff** at Sherman Island was reported again on 3/5. An adult **Glaucous Gull** was reported from DW from 3/4 to 3/12, with another from Jepson Prairie on 3/5, and the adult **Western Gull** from the Gristmill Access along the American River Parkway continued from 1/16 through at least 3/19. A **Band-tailed Pigeon** was seen over Davis on 3/5, the male **Costa's Hummingbird** in a Rancho Cordova yard continued from 2/17 through 3/9, a **Yellow-shafted Northern Flicker** was reported from Elk Grove on 3/24, and there were two out-of-season **Yellow Warblers** in Davis (3/14 and 3/18).

Many of these birds were first reported on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. Thanks to all for their reports.

Chris Conard