

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 68 • NO. 5

MAY-JUNE 2016

General Meeting

Thursday, May 19 2016
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Birds Seen in Saudi Arabia
Lou Regenmorter

A surprisingly large number of bird species can be seen in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Bird lists range from 390 to 520 depending on the source. Unfortunately, we do not often get to hear about birding in Saudi Arabia because tourist visas are not issued and very few birders live or work there.

Saudi Arabia is a very large country with an area 5 times larger than California. Habitats include sandy deserts, scrubland, rocky escarpments and plateaus, acacia savannahs, mountain juniper forests, and expansive coastal areas. Freshwater is scarce throughout most of the kingdom, with most permanent sources having been diverted for farming and water supplies. Man has created new habitats with water storage reservoirs, farming, and wastewater treatment wetlands. These various habitats support a wide range of bird species associated with the Palearctic and Afrotropic ecozones.

The birds include resident birds with at least 10 species endemic to only the Arabian Peninsula, migrants and winter visitors from Europe and Asia, and summer residents from Africa. Of particular interest, Saudi Arabia is home to: (1) large populations of resident Crab Plovers and wintering Grey Hypocolius, two birds that are the only members in their respective families; (2) a number of wintering Sociable Lapwings, a critically endangered bird; and (3) several birds living in isolated populations that have yet to be classified as endemic subspecies or separate species.

Lou Regenmorter is an environmental scientist living in Sacramento. He works for a private engineering consulting



Crab Plover
Jem Babbington
birdsofsaudi Arabia.com

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE – SATURDAY, MAY 14

Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats and it is one of the best family events in our area. This FREE family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, a live animal show by Wildthings, Inc, music by Horse Sense, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits and more! Running from 10am to 4pm, the event and the parking are both FREE. Check it out at www.wowsacramento.com. Come early (8am) and you can join Sacramento Audubon leader, John Huls, and plant expert Mike Heacox, for a 2-hour birding and botanizing walk through the forest, along Morrison Creek. After the walk you can enjoy the rest of the event.

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 forest restoration projects. Take one of the Bufferlands guided tours and enjoy a unique opportunity to see a rare heron and egret rookery—one of only four in Sacramento County. This rookery contains more than 120 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.

Directions: Exit I-5 at Pocket Road and head east. At Freeport Blvd. turn south. Continue 2 miles through the town of Freeport and past the golf course. Turn left at the signs (just opposite Cliff's Marina) and continue until you reach the Beach Lake event parking area.

BIG DAY OF GIVING, MAY 3

Donations to Sacramento Audubon

This year, SAS is joining the May 3 **Big Day of Giving** which is a fundraising effort for non-profit organizations in the Sacramento area. Over 500 non-profits participate in this annual event which is a 24 hour giving challenge that lifts up lives and makes Sacramento a better place to call home. Last year, Sacramento area residents donated over \$5 million to their favorite non-profits. The typical donation was \$25-50 and the average non-profit received \$10,000.

If you would like to help SAS, May 3rd is the day to do it, so please put it on your calendar. You can read all about the Sacramento Audubon, its mission, goals, projects and finances at: givingedge.guidestar.org/nonprofit.aspx?orgId=1135679. You will be able to donate online via this link.

This is a special request for you to involve your family and friends who have the slightest interest in birds, conservation, or SAS. The more people that talk about it, the better for birds in Sacramento. So please tell at least 10 people who share your values, that May 3 is a great day to donate to Sacramento Audubon.

General Meeting continued on page 7

Field Trip Findings

Sweetwater Creek (4/13) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Ann Burris, reported: “A cool early morning turned sunny and nice for the field trip to Sweetwater Creek. It was a little early for the migration but there was a feeling for what’s to come. Some of the highlights were Chats, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Stellar’s Jay, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, nesting Hutton’s Vireos, a calling Wilson’s Warbler, and an Evening Grosbeak seen and photographed by Dan Murphy. A great time was had by all 14 participants.”

Kanaka Valley–Pine Hill Preserve, El Dorado (4/10) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Despite rain on the drive up, we had a nice morning, with rain sometimes threatening, but never materializing on our walk. It was overcast but calm, and cleared a bit for good views of Folsom Lake and the surrounding hills, though we couldn’t see the high peaks through the clouds. As always, there was a good floral show. Bird activity was somewhat subdued by the weather, but highlights included about 8 calling Ash-throated Flycatchers, three Hutton’s Vireos, including one seen well, a Steller’s Jay calling, a close Wrentit pair, good scope views of a California Thrasher, with several more singing, Orange-crowned Warblers singing, a Nashville Warbler seen by about half the group, several Chipping Sparrows, great views of Bell’s Sparrows, singing Black-headed Grosbeaks, and several singing Purple Finches, with a female finally seen.”

Mather Regional Park (4/9) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Despite the threat of rain, four birders got good looks at 39 species. Highlights included two families of Canada Geese with goslings less than a week old; Tree, Cliff, Northern Rough-wing, and Barn swallows; American Bitterns, Orange-crowned Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Kingbirds, and Yellow-headed Blackbirds. A pair of Barn Swallows were observed in the ladies bathroom and seen carrying nesting material to the nest just inside and to the right upper corner.”

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach, American River Parkway (4/6) — Leader Sally Walters Schmoltdt reported: “Eight people and 34 species. Lots of singing birds and some interesting behavior noted in a post trip photo review by Hayley

Crews that showed “...a Tree Swallow fighting the Nuttall’s Woodpecker that entered its nesting cavity. There’s a couple of pics where the Tree Swallow is literally trying to pull the Nuttall’s out of it’s hole!”

William Pond Park (4/3) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Nineteen birders saw 59 species of birds on a beautiful spring day along the American River Parkway. Highlights included a Red-shouldered Hawk on its nest, Forster’s Tern, Spotted Sandpiper, Lark Sparrow, four species of swallows, Wood Duck, White-tailed Kite and Bullock’s Oriole.”

Putah Creek Riparian Reserve (4/2) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “A group of 14 birders enjoyed a mild spring day under the canopy searching for migrants and nesting resident species. The migrants included Swainson’s Hawk, seen soaring overhead in three plumage morphs. The other hawks included a constantly calling Red-shouldered Hawk and a soaring Red-tailed Hawk. House Wrens were quite numerous. Golden-crowned Sparrows outnumbered their White-crowned cousins. The many bird boxes in the area were alternately occupied by either Tree Swallows or Western Bluebirds. One of the more interesting observations was a foraging Cassin’s Vireo, with many good looks, making it easy to see the bold eye spectacles. Almost all of the warblers observed were Yellow-rumped, but there were also some Orange-crowned. Bullock’s Orioles are in, and a few Ruby-crowned Kinglets remain in the valley. We had good views and numbers of Yellow-billed Magpies. Noticeably absent from our count were Black Phoebe, Oak Titmouse, Spotted Towhee and Acorn Woodpecker that are usually common in this habitat. The group tallied 45 species for the day.”

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills (3/30) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “It had already started out as a gorgeous spring morning, with panoramic overviews of Folsom Lake and its peninsula between the North and South Forks of the American River. Thousands of acres of green pastureland, newly leafed oak woodland, chaparral, and the shrinking floodplains could be seen from the highest point of the trail.

Soon, both a Kestrel and a Merlin confirmed that Falcon Crest would not be

denied it’s title.

Although we were already happy with the many birds we had seen: Eared Grebe, Western and Clark’s grebes, American White Pelican, Wrentit, Phainopepla, Bullock’s Oriole. Then Larry Hickey put a cherry on top. “Bald Eagle! And there’s it’s nest!” Two Bald Eagles were intimately socializing, when one flew a short distance to a large nest near the top of a Ponderosa Pine and since the trail continued along an adjacent hillside we were soon afforded a nearly eye-level view! Thanks to assistance of the many sharp eyes and knowledgeable minds in the group, this turned out to be a very rewarding day. We topped out at 53 species (not including the California Thrasher and Common Raven that had been seen or heard on earlier scouting trips.)” Ken Stites, a photographer in our group sent us photos he posted of our walk: www.flickr.com/photos/kstites/albums. Then click on the album Falcon Crest.

Mather Regional Park (3/27) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “We started with overcast skies and ended with all sunshine and a record 64 species for this observer after leading this trip for some 15 years. The team of nine were sharp observers and keen listeners in accounting for the milestone. Highlights were numerous: American Bitterns were out in the open; a Barn Swallow returned to the ladies bathroom (A pair of Barn Swallows have raised multiple broods for the last four or five years inside the ladies bathroom.); a birth year Red-shouldered Hawk within 20 yards; nesting Western Bluebirds; FOS King Bird; heard Eurasian Collared Dove; great looks at a Common Yellowthroat; beaver sighting in the mammal department; occupied Great Horned Owl nest; and two Swainson’s Hawks, one dark-morph and one light morph in flight and in and out of nest at the NE corner of the lake. Lastly, Yellow-headed Blackbirds were present already and in good early numbers.”

South Yuba River State Park (3/26) — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: “It was a beautiful day in the foothills but, a bit early for spring migrants. We started off by visiting Traylor Ranch Bird Preserve in Penryn where we saw Tree Swallows, Western Bluebirds, and a California Thrasher. From there we went to Yuba River State Park and walked a small

Findings continued on page 6

Field Trips



Short-eared Owl
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, for trips through June 12, contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips after June 13, contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 704-0951.

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. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Sunday, May 1, 7am **Humbug Creek, Folsom** **Leader: Mara Weston, 208-3222** **Mara_weston@yahoo.com**

Meet Mara at the Cummings Family Park on the corner of Creekside Drive and Oak Avenue Parkway in Folsom. We'll follow Humbug Creek around an easy 2-3 mile paved loop. This is a good place to look for woodpeckers, sparrows, ducks, Common Gallinule and spring migrants. Sometimes River Otters are seen in the creek. This is a great trip for beginning birders. Trip will end by 11am.

Saturday, May 7, 7:30am departure **Lake Solano Regional Park** **Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311** **calidris@surewest.net**

We can expect a different set of birds today from what we find during the winter months. Although most of the waterfowl have departed, now is the time for spring migrants and summer residents. We will be looking for Western Wood-Pewee, Pacific-slope Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Western Kingbird. It is a good time of year to see migrant Swainson's Thrush, Wilson's Warbler, and Western Tanager. Adding some more color to the scene, Black-headed Grosbeak and Bullock's Oriole should delight us. En route to the area we will want to look for Swainson's Hawk and we may even pick up a Burrowing Owl. This half-day trip will conclude with lunch in Winters for those wishing to celebrate a great morning in the field. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento for a 7:30am departure. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Saturday, May 7 **Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults** **William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We explore the varied habitat at William Pond, looking at spring nesters, including those small confusing bushtits, titmice and nuthatches, some waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as raptors, herons, egrets and woodpeckers. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882. See the next column for more dates and further information.

Sunday, May 8, 7am **Spenceville WLR** **Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124** **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 Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight, past the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just after the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30am **Mather Field** **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; your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

Saturday, May 14, 6:15am **Alpine CA and Douglas NV Counties** **Leader: Jane Taylor, 587-3366** **jg.taylor@att.net**

We will be meeting our Woodfords Christmas Bird Count hosts, Bobby and George Goodspeed, at mid-morning to bird Mud Lake and check the barns for owls. Depending on conditions, reports and allowable time, other possible stops include Luther Pass, West Carson River, Dressler Ln, Diamond Valley Rd, Indian Creek Reservoir and Markleeville. Please bring lunch and liquids for birding until mid-afternoon. Meet at Bella Bru at the south end of the Raley's shopping center in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. Heavy rain/snow or high winds in the Sierra cancel.

Saturday, May 14, 8am **Walk On The Wild Side Early Bird Walk** **Leader: John Huls, 396-5261**

Come to the event early and join Audubon leader John Huls and plant expert Mike Heacox for a 2 hour birding and botanizing walk through the forest along Morrison

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Creek. After the walk you can enjoy the rest of the nature event. Directions: Exit I-5 at Pocket Road and head east. At Freeport Blvd turn south. Continue 2 miles through the town of Freeport and past the golf course. Turn left at the signs (just opposite Cliff's Marina) and continue until you reach the Beach Lake event parking area. Tell the parking attendants that you are there for the Audubon walk and they will direct you to the far southern end of the parking field.

Sunday, May 15, 6am
Mosquito Ridge Rd, Placer County
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott for this early season trip into the lower to mid-elevation Sierra. While seemingly a bit early for this area, Scott has found it very productive in this time period. Previous trips have found 6 species of woodpecker including Pileated and White-headed. Also Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific and Canyon Wrens and several warbler species. Plan for an all day trip. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be walking 1-2 miles over moderate terrain. Meet at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Sunday, May 15
Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults
William Pond Park

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We explore the varied habitat at William Pond, looking at spring nesters, including those small confusing bushtits, titmice and nuthatches, some waterfowl and shorebirds, as well as raptors, herons, egrets and woodpeckers. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), or phone 457-6882.

Wednesday, May 18, 6:30am
Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach,
American River Parkway
Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltd
710-1077, bajaowl@gmail.com

Join Sally for a morning bird walk in the park, and along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for breeding swallows, Purple Martins, and resident breeding birds such as wrens and towhees. From Highway

50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. Meet in the parking lot. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners. CAUTION: high morning temperatures of 85+ degrees may shorten or cancel this trip.

Saturday, May 21, 7:30am
Reichmuth Park
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen at the park entrance on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue. Spring migration is underway and Maureen will be looking in the woods and on the pond for a variety of resident and migrant birds. From southbound I-5, take Exit 514 and follow 43rd Ave east to Gloria Drive; turn right on Gloria and the entrance is on your left. From northbound I-5 take Exit 513 and go west on Florin Road; turn right on Greenhaven Dr, then right on Gloria and drive to the entrance at 43rd.



Pileated Woodpecker
Kirsten Munson

Sunday, May 22, 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!

Wednesday, May 25, 7:30am
Sailor Bar, Olive Ave entrance

Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
larryhickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry at the Olive Ave entrance to Sailor Bar. This is a good area to see Phainopepla and a variety of woodpeckers and resident birds. We will walk for about 3 miles along the base of the bluffs to the fish pond, then back on trails along the American River. From Winding Way, (between Fair Oaks and Chicago), go south on Toyon Ave; continue left on Natoma Ave, and at 0.4 mile turn left on Olive Avenue, down a hill and into the parking lot. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, May 28, 9am
Mather Lake
Leader: Sheila Green, 813-1470
raeshei@aol.com

Celebrate Spring at Mather Lake with Sheila. There should be a good variety of singing and nesting birds and waterfowl. This is an especially good trip for beginners, and families with children. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park. From Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd. take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here.

Saturday, May 28, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Audubon birding leaders Maureen Geiger and Sue Darst and a Nature Center docent for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and Bushtits will be active. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday May 29, 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 Sierra 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, Exit 110 off I-80.

Wednesday, June 1, 7:30am

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

**Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

Join Craig for this morning walk, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Meet in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancel Hoffman Park. This is a good trip for beginners as well as more experienced birders. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, June 4, 7am

Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn, 530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com
Darrell Mohr, 225-3999, mohrdd@gmail.com**

Phyllis and Darrell will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads.

The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers, vireos, and other birds of the area. They hope to see the beautiful Calliope hummingbird again. Mountain wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced

birders are welcome. Meet Darrell at the Bella Bru in the Raley's parking lot in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. You can also meet Phyllis at 8am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Sunday June 5, 6am

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County

**Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
offleash56@yahoo.com**

Richard will explore several productive areas outside Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end late afternoon. We will be walking about 2-3 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight past the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just after the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Wednesday, June 8, 7am

Granite Springs Road and Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, spkua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573, burris.nellieann@gmail.com
Mark Martucci, 833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Join Tim, Ann and Mark for a full day of fun and birding. We will start by driving Granite Springs Road, then head into Crystal Basin for the remainder of the trip. We hope to find flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbird. If we are lucky, we will find Mountain Quail with young. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. Please bring FRS Radios if you have them. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. We will leave promptly at 7am.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12, 8am on site both Saturday and Sunday
Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass**

**Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636
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 Valley or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. We will bird the Sierra Valley area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, including a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire located at the southern end of the valley near Loyaltan/Sierra Brooks. On Sunday we will bird the Yuba Pass area until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola 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, 6/9. 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. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Thursday, June 16, 7am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com**

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the resident birds. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, June 18, 7:30am

River Bend Park

**Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com**

Join Dan for a walk through the oak woodland to the river, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Sunday, June 19, 7:30am
Mather Lake**

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

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

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

June 21, 22 and 23 (midweek)
South Lake Tahoe

Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt,
710-1077, BajaOwl@gmail.com

Join Sally as she explores her favorite places to find birds around South Lake Tahoe. Enjoy full days of birding in the forest and along the lake shore. Space is limited. For directions and details, please email Sally.

Saturday, June 25, 7:30am
Indian Grinding Rocks State Park
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495
yellowhammerCA@gmail.com

Join Cliff for a day of birding at this State Park. The birdlife varies depending on the season, but many species are seen year round, including Turkey Vultures, Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, Wild Turkeys (non-native), and California Thrashers. In summer, the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods around the meadow. A bird list is available at the museum. Meet Cliff at the Starbucks parking area in the College Greens Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (near Florin-Perkins, between Watt and Howe) at 7:30am. Trip goes until early afternoon, so bring water and lunch. Some light to moderate walking. There is an \$8 per car charge to enter the state park.

Sunday, June 26, 6:30am
Ellis Road/Power Fire Area
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207,
spkua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris, 947-7573,
burris.nellieann@gmail.com
Mark Martucci, 833-6722,

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

This mid-elevation area is located off Hwy 88 in the El Dorado National Forest in eastern Amador County, about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. Much of this area was severely burned during the Power Fire in 2004. We'll take several short walks in various habitats looking for woodpeckers and mountain residents. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring lunch, snacks and liquids. Bring FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet at the Galt Park and Ride. From Sacramento, take Hwy 99 south to the Twin Cities Rd/Hwy 104 exit, turn left (east) on Twin Cities Rd, cross the freeway and turn right (south) on Stockton Blvd. The Park and Ride is just south of Twin Cities Rd.

Wednesday, June 29, 7:30am
William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
larryhickey1@gmail.com

This area of the American River Parkway offers a variety of habitats and can turn up some surprises. The trip will start with a walk through the native plant garden, through the park and then through the riparian habitat. This beautiful section of the parkway opens up to the backwaters of the river and a lake. We will find our beautiful resident birds and look for late spring migrants. Meet Larry just past the entrance kiosk for this half day trip. A Sac 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 a great trip for beginning birders.

Saturday, July 2, 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.

Wednesday, July 6, 7:30 am
Estates Drive American River access
Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

We hope to get an early start on the day, as it could get hot. This area is a great example of established riparian habitat. The American River meanders, creating

islands and ponds where we will look for Wood Ducks, herons, egrets, and kingfishers. Further inland there are several very old Valley Oaks along a trail that has been referred to as the Avenue of Giants, where we will look for towhees, wrens, kinglets, and nuthatches. From Watt Ave take American River Drive east to Estates Dr. Turn south on Estates until it dead-ends at the levee.

Findings continued from page 2

loop trail and saw a pair of Bald Eagles, Song Sparrow, and Wrentit. After that we returned by way of Spenceville Wildlife Area and Camp Far West Lake where we saw Lark Sparrow, and Downy and Lewis's woodpeckers, and Rock Wren."

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/22)
— Leader Cathie LaZier reported: "Several people joined me for this morning walk with emphasis on nesting birds. The Red-shouldered Hawk, Bushtits, White-breasted Nuthatches and Anna's Hummingbirds were all on or in nests. Carolyn Lyman, a new birder, noticed small bird activity in an oak, and we found a pair of Lesser Goldfinches building a nest. Rich and Mary Howard, docents at EYNC, shared more information about the resident birds and some of the plants. E-bird says 35 species."

Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway (3/20) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: "A dozen intrepid birders set out intent on learning the local bird songs. Bird calls identified included: Bewick's Wren, Oak Titmouse, Killdeer, California Towhee, Acorn and Nuttall's woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatch and Black Phoebe. Great views of sunning Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets."

Sailor Bar (3/19) — Leader Ben Graber reported: "Pretty much the usual parkway species. We did get some great looks at a White-tailed Kite. We also saw Red-shouldered Hawks, a Great Blue Heron, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Song Sparrows, Red-winged Blackbirds, and Acorn Woodpeckers. We got a real-life lesson in identifying the many sounds of the Oak Titmouse. In addition to the birds, we saw a coyote and several turtles."

Pete Hayes

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2016

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 26th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! We'll travel out the under the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We'll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. 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 Tufted Puffin, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. Will the Northern Gannet be there this year? Join us and discover for yourself!

A naturalist will give a brief pre-departure presentation and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife. We'll be on the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip presentation starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. The trip cost is \$95 per person. Sign up deadline is June 28.

Your space will be confirmed by email after the reservation form and your check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided in late June. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876 for further information. (Note: limited or no access to email or phone first two weeks of July).



Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 24, 2016 Registration deadline: June 28, 2016

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$95 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

General Meeting continued from page 1

firm. From 2012 to 2015, he worked full time in Saudi Arabia on a study to evaluate the level of flood risk throughout the kingdom. During this period, he spent most weekends exploring different parts of the Kingdom looking for birds. He ended up with 340 birds on his Saudi list. Lou's presentation will summarize the birds he has seen along with photographs taken by friends of the birds. While bird watching is pretty much nonexistent in Saudi Arabia, bird photography seems to be growing in popularity.

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. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, Program Chair

FUTURE DATES OF FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway,

Dates: Saturday, May 7
Sunday, May 15

Trips limited to 10 adult participants: Registration required

These beginner field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on where to look and what important field marks to look for.

This walk will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. Trips are limited to 10 adult participants and registration is required. Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at (916) 457-6882, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

EDUCATION CHAIR NEEDED

We need an Education Chair and volunteers to serve on our education committee. This is an important position that we need to fill. The education and communication is all about birds and our local environment and is critical to our mission. It involves mostly younger students in local schools but adults need education too, especially in the areas of bird habitat and improving their gardens and neighborhoods. If you have any interest please contact Larry Hickey: president@sacramentoaudubon.org

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



SAS OUTREACH HELP WANTED!

We just need a few more volunteers for the following event. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding, and talking to people about our field trips and you would work with an experienced volunteer.

Saturday/Sunday, July 9-10, Wildlife Art Festival

If you can work a morning or afternoon shift on one of the above days, please contact Bill Bianco at 372-3318 or 889-4849.

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

After much-needed rain early in the month, spring-like weather returned as we transitioned into April. By mid-month, some of our summer staples were returning, with many reports of **Swainson's Hawks** scouting nest sites, returning **Western Kingbirds**, and both **Hooded Orioles** and **Bullock's Orioles**. Reports of unusual species, as is often the case for March, were few, but the real standout was an **Emperor Goose** seen by many on distant (for most) Twitchell Island in southwest Sacramento County from 3/9-27.

Birding and Nature Events

ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 15th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 17-19**, so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining. Registration and more information can be found at birdchautauqua.org. Many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

MOUNTAIN BIRD FESTIVAL

The award winning Mountain Bird Festival is back, celebrating the natural wonders of southern Oregon and northern California. The 2016 Mountain Bird Festival will be held in **Ashland, Oregon, May 20-22**. Registration and more information for the Festival is available on the Klamath Bird Observatory website at klamathbird.org.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2016-2017

The new slate of officers and board members approved for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2016-2017.

President	Sally Walters Schmoltdt
Vice President	Bill Bianco
Treasurer	Marcia Ferkovich
Recording Secretary	Jane Taylor
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Larry Hickey
Directors	Grant Boice
	Karen Cadle
	Thomas Cadle
	Sue Darst
	Keith Wagner

Seasonal Observations

There are a few previous reports of this species, but this is the first in the county that was widely seen and photographed among the large flocks of **Greater White-fronted Geese** and **Aleutian Cackling Geese**. Up to four **Surf Scoters** continued on the San Joaquin River near Sherman Island, with reports on 3/12, 3/20, and 3/22.

An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was photographed at the Yolo Central Landfill Pond along Rd 28H on 3/4. A **Flammulated Owl** was reported calling in Elk Grove on 3/29 near Kloss Park. This is an intriguing report, since there are few Central Valley records and the report is about a month early, but the call

is distinctive and the observers are very experienced. At least three **Short-eared Owls** continued in the ag fields along Yolo County Rd 30 northeast of Davis through much of the month; these were the only reports of this species in the Sacramento Area in March.

A **Cassin's Vireo** at the Yolo Grassland Regional Park was a little on the early side on 3/30, as was a **Warbling Vireo** on 3/21 along Putah Creek to the west of the UC Davis campus. One-to-two **Steller's Jays** continued north of the Cosumnes River along Michigan Bar Rd into April. A **Wilson's Warbler** at the Regional San Bufferlands on 3/29 was a little early. After numerous reports in February, nine

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

No new members this month.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Chris Couper made a donation to the **General Fund**. Bill Bianco made a donation to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

Mary Ann and Dave Ramos made a donation in memory of Ted Labhard.

The Board of Directors would like your help in raising \$15,000 for Education and Conservation projects in 2015-16. Please donate generously. You may make either one-time or recurring monthly donations in any amount at sacramentoaudubon.org/payments.html.

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 on May 31, 2016 at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

Observations continued

Evening Grosbeaks continued in north Davis until at least 3/12.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.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. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

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

Mara Weston, Membership Chair, mara_weston@yahoo.com
7708 McClintock Way, Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

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.



White-faced Ibis
Kirsten Munson

Roger Adamson,

Kathy Blankenship, Lily Douglas, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Nancy Gronert, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Jeri Langham, Jim Lomax, John Luther, Ed Pandolfino, Jim Rowoth, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Jim Thomas, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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 Society
7708 McClintock Way
Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1827
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

Sacramento Audubon Society



www.sacramentoaudubon.org



White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

Correspondence: P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Mara Weston, 7708 McClintock Way,
Sacramento, CA 95828-4321
mara_weston@yahoo.com

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,
Sacramento, CA 95826
203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, 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.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM

May 19, 2016

Lou Regenmorter:

Birds Seen in Saudi Arabia

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm



Lou Regenmorter