



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 18

Shepard Garden and Art Center

6:30 BOOK SALE with Dessert and Coffee

7:30pm General Meeting

The Ivory-billed Woodpecker John Trochet

On 28 April, 2005, simultaneously in Washington, D.C. and in Little Rock, Arkansas, officials of The Nature Conservancy-Arkansas, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, and Department of Agriculture confirmed the internet rumors that began the night of April 26th and circulated explosively 24 hours later: A living Ivory-billed Woodpecker had been discovered in eastern Arkansas.

John Trochet's own explorations of swamps in the historical range of ivory-billed woodpecker goes back to 1974 and a visit to the Big Cypress area of southern Florida. Between now and then he has looked for the woodpecker elsewhere in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina (most recently in March, 2006), Mississippi, Louisiana, and in eastern Texas. "These were all great trips to wonderful country, but I didn't find the bird I sought most. But eight days before that public announcement, my canoe mates and I saw a living ivory-billed woodpecker fly by us on Bayou de View. It was a 30+ year-old dream come true."

Program Notes

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Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2006

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 16th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! Some years bring sightings of giant Leatherback Turtles, while other years will have schools of Dall's Porpoise riding the bow waves. It is a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We should see many species that are usually seen only offshore or as a very tiny speck in your scope from the shore! We almost always see Tufted Puffin and often see Gray, and Humpback whales. Occasionally, Blue whales have been seen very close to the boat. A naturalist will give a brief, pre-departure lecture and will be with us all day to answer questions and provide information on the Islands and the wildlife.

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

- The boat departs Sausalito 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 45 people, so reserve a space as soon as possible. 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 Hashagen (916) 316-8596-cell or (916) 635-4435-home for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 9, 2006 Registration deadline: June 30, 2006

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$80 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

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

Field Trip Findings

Beale Air Force Base (4/15) – “The highlight was undoubtedly a Red-necked Grebe, a likely first Yuba County record, in Miller Lake,” said Ed Pandolfino, co-leader with Deren Ross and Cliff Hawley. “We also got good looks at two Burrowing Owls and found one lingering Ferruginous Hawk, a Swainson’s Hawk kiting into the wind and a Peregrine Falcon flying by with prey in its talons. A Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen soaring and patrolling up and down the creek. We had lots of singing House Wrens. Belted Kingfishers displayed overhead, a couple of Bullock’s Orioles and an Ash-throated Flycatcher called. Yellow-rumped Warblers were plentiful and singing with at least one of the ‘Myrtle’ race. There were a few Orange-crowned Warblers, one Wilson’s and one Nashville. Western Kingbirds and Loggerhead Shrikes were working the grassland area. We found all five of the ‘expected’ swallow species. Caspian Terns were foraging over a couple of the ponds and a Barn Owl was visible in a hole in the face of a rocky cliff.” The more than 40 participants recorded 82 species.

Mather Lake (4/15) – Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted at both ends of the lake, Great-tailed Grackles were present in the tules and throughout the hike, and a nearby American Bittern flushed, giving excellent looks for all, leader Wayne Blunk reported. Others among the 41 species counted on an overcast day included a large flock of turkeys on the west side of Eagle’s Nest Road across from the park; a dark-morph Swainson’s Hawk fly-over, Northern Harrier, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Black-necked Stilts, Western Kingbirds, Tree and Barn Swallows, Northern Shoveler, Cinnamon Teal, Song Sparrow, many Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (4/15) – Canceled, too much water.

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (4/9) Defying the forecast of scattered showers, nine birders joined leader Lea Landry at the Equestrian Staging Area in Orangevale and went on to record 48 species as the day remained overcast, with flat light. “A new member of Sacramento Audubon was along, so we all learned new things as everyone gave the new birder tips on finding and identifying birds,” Lea said. “Among outstanding sightings were a

ménage a trois of Nuttall’s Woodpeckers with avid courting behavior, Bushtits building their elaborate hanging nest, five Bullock’s Orioles near each other in a single tree; a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Horned Grebes in colorful alternate plumage; and a Red-shouldered Hawk sitting on her nest in the parking lot. Thanks to all for finding those wonderful birds.”

Bannister Park (4/5) – Rained out.

Goethe Park (4/2) – “Although it was a dreary overcast day, the group still found nesting Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk and Anna’s Hummingbirds,” leader Cathie LaZier reported. “White-tailed Kites were doing a courting display and House Wrens were madly singing. Wood Ducks appeared to be nesting at the river’s edge, and Tree and Violet-green Swallows were active. There was a nice variety of spring plants and wildflowers.”

Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary (4/1) Nineteen birders enjoyed a break from the rain, recording 47 species at this new site, a 60-acre wetland in north Sacramento created by the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. Leader Mark Martucci said highlights included Cliff, Barn, Tree and Violet-green swallows, a pair of Great-tailed Grackles and three Common Yellowthroats.

Caswell Memorial State Park (3/26) Early in the walk led by Gary Fregien, birders discovered a bright-plumaged, adult White-throated Sparrow, white-striped morph, foraging with a small flock of Golden-crowned Sparrows. Other highlights: A Great Horned Owl in a nest in a tall cottonwood; the opportunity to distinguish between the Northern Rough-winged and Bank swallows that were foraging over the Stanislaus River, and California Thrasher, seen once and heard several times in the lush, multi-layered tree and scrub riparian habitat. Wrentits also were heard. Total 48 species.

Golden Gate Park, S.F. (3/25) – With only two sign-ups amid a stormy-weather forecast, leader Ron Storey canceled before anyone left Sacramento.

Old City Cemetery, Riverside Blvd. and Broadway (3/22) – “Nine of us had a very nice walk and found owl pellets (although no owls) and many of the usual birds we find in Sacramento this time of year,” leader Maureen Geiger reported. They included a Cooper’s Hawk, American

Kestrel, Ruby-crowned Kinglets and White-crowned Sparrows.

Sailor Bar, American River (3-16) Leader Jack Hiehle reported these sightings: Osprey, Barrow’s and Common Goldeneyes, Red-bellied Sapsucker, Great Bluer Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Wood Duck and Double-crested Cormorant.

Tall Forest Bird Count, Cosumnes River Preserve (3/12) – “The river was well out of its banks, the weather spitting rain, and we walked in from the Farm Center,” leader John Trochet said. “The two brave souls who joined me were likewise in hip boots. These were still inadequate to keep dry even on the abbreviated route we waded. Nevertheless, we recorded 94 species. Better finds included Peregrine Falcon, Black-bellied Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Violet-green Swallow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and White-throated Sparrow. The best find was two (heard only) Varied Thrushes, the first notice of this species on the preserve since last November.”

North Natomas Area (3/12) – Leader Carl Burke’s group tallied 73 bird species from 8am to noon, plus three River Otters at the Elkhorn Pumping Station on the Garden Highway just north of Teal Bend Golf Course. Birds included Hooded Merganser, Say’s Phoebe, Violet-green Swallow and Long-billed Curlew.

Pete Hayes

MAGPIE STUDY

You may recall that the SAS Board voted to donate \$5,000 to the Magpie Monitoring Research Fund recently. The MMRF’s goal is to fund a PHD position at UC Davis to focus on the impact of West Nile virus on magpies. The next few years are critical years to collect data on magpies. They now have a total of 65 community scientists in the field making observations, mostly in the Davis-Sacramento area. They also need help distributing and posting flyers and brochures about Magpie Monitors and you can email them at magpie-mail@magpiemonitor.org if you would like to help.

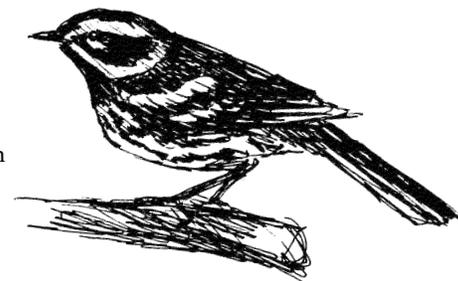
Their informative web site is www.magpiemonitor.org. Log-on to find out further information on the dangers the magpie is now facing from West Nile Virus and learn some of the ways you can help.

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 717-8818, for trips through May 21. For trips from May 22 through June 25 please call the scheduler Andi Salmi, 691-7216, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips for the month of July please call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, Naturestoc@aol.com.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on non-local 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.



Kirsten Munson

Tuesday, May 2, 8 - 11am

Phoenix Field

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, May 6, 7:30am

Sweetwater Creek

Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603

Offleash56@yahoo.com

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

Sunday, May 7, 7:30am - noon

Cronan Ranch, Coloma Area

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458

naturestoc@aol.com

Hike with Dan in beautiful rolling, oak-studded hills off Hwy 49 near Coloma. This recently acquired BLM property is intersected with many hiking trails and is 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. Other specialties may include Rufous-crowned Sparrows and other sparrows, 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. Meet Dan at 7:30 in El Dorado Hills at the north end of the Raley's shopping center parking lot on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Hwy 50. The trip concludes at noon; however, there are numerous sites in the Coloma area for a nice picnic lunch.

Mono Lake, May 10 & 11

Wednesday & Thursday

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829

dtankers@winfirst.com

Co-leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net (high spam alert, just type in Field Trip and I'll get right back to you).

There are two meeting places for the trip. If you drive up Wednesday morning, meet at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, on Highway 395, just north of Lee Vining, at 12:30pm, (having already lunched). If you choose to drive up on Tuesday, 5/9, and stay overnight, then you can meet Dan at 8am Wednesday at the Mono Lake Committee Store for morning birding. Birding will include a walk along Lee Vining Creek, and a stop in town for Wednesday arrivals to check in at their motels. We'll go on to Navy Beach, (park entrance fee), looking for Eared Grebes in breeding plumage, nesting Osprey, Sage Thrashers and Sage Sparrows, then further up the road to a burn area, where there's a chance of Black-backed Woodpecker and Pinyon Jays. After an early dinner in town, we'll bird the city park at the north end of town, where we should see winnowing Common Snipe from the boardwalk, as well as waterfowl and possibly rails. On Thursday we'll leave very very early, (about 4am!) to arrive at the lek before sunrise. It's a short hike into the lek area, where we

will set up scopes, and view the displaying Sage Grouse as the sun comes up. Dress in lots of layers; it's cold! After leaving the lek, we'll bird a spot on the way out where we have a good chance of Canyon Wren. Then it's back to Sacramento, with an optional stop in Bridgeport for a late breakfast. There are several good motels and restaurants in Lee Vining. Call or email Cathie for a current list.

Saturday, May 13, 7am SHARP

Mines Road/Del Puerto Canyon

Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636

calaveri@sbcglobal.net

This full day outing is a new trip offering for Sacramento Audubon, and is oriented toward the birder with adventure in their 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's 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 strongly advised, due to limited access at stops and 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 hand held radios, food and water.

Sunday, May 14, 8am

Goethe Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net (high spam alert, just type in Field Trip and I'll get right back to you)

Birds are active and singing this time of year as nesting gets underway. We'll look for the resident wrens, towhees and hummingbirds, returning nesters such as Ash-throated Flycatcher, and possibly some migrating warblers. Some wildflowers should be blooming. This trip will end before lunch time, and is a good trip for beginners.

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right past the kiosk. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. If you wish to carpool to meet Cathie at 7:50am on Rod Beaudry Drive, just north of Folsom Blvd.

Tuesday, May 16, 8am – 12pm

Paradise Beach

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Wednesday, May 17, 11:45am – 1pm

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento

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

Thursday, May 18, 7:30am

Vic Fazio Wetlands/Yolo Wildlife Area

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
dtankers@winfirst.com

Join Dan on the first of what is planned to be quarterly trips to the VFWA to observe how the avifauna and flora change with the seasons. Bring a picnic breakfast/snack and drink to start this half day trip. Dan will lead both a driving tour and short walks through this abundant wetland. Birds to be found include spring shorebirds, nesting Black-necked Stilts, Black-crowned Night Herons, Swainson's Hawks and other raptors. Meet in Parking Lot C at the wetlands. From Sacramento take I-80 across the Yolo Causeway; turn right onto the frontage road just past the causeway. Turn right at

the stop sign; circle under the freeway; then make a left up onto the levee. FRS radios would be helpful.

Saturday, May 20, 8am

Sun City in Lincoln

Leader: Dave Pearson, 408-4273
captaindavid@gmail.com

Come explore with David this relatively new location for Sacramento Audubon to discover both local and migrating birds of spring. The variety should be as diverse as the habitat. From Hwy 80, take Hwy 65 north, turn right on Twelve Bridges Drive, left on east Lincoln. Next, turn right on Del Webb Blvd., and follow to the Meridian's restaurant parking lot.

Saturday May 20, 10am – 4pm

Walk on the Wildside

Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore central valley habitats.

This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see a large rookery with over 100 active nests of Great Blue Herons, Great Egrets and Double-crested Cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. The event is held at Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. Visit www.bufferlands.com for a map of the event site. For more information contact Kevin Cassidy at 875-9196 or cassadyk@sacounty.net

Saturday, May 20, 8am

Yolo Wildlife Area

Leader: Dave Feliz

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

After being flooded out for this trip in April, we are trying again. This is a great opportunity to explore the south end of the Yolo Wildlife Area with Dave Feliz who manages this huge, complicated and evolving area so well. The Tule Ranch, acquired in 2001 and not generally open to the public, consists of grasslands and native forb communities with vernal pools which will be in bloom if the timing is right. In addition to shorebirds and the many resident species to be found there, Grasshopper Sparrows and Burrowing Owls are a good possibility. Meet Dave and Maureen at the Wildlife Area headquarters at 45211 Chiles Road, (officially known as County Road 32B). The headquarters is about half way between the entrance to the Wildlife Area and Mace Blvd., on the south side of I-80. Call Maureen for additional directions if needed. This trip will last till about noon.

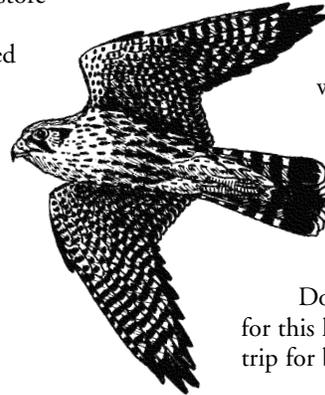
Sunday, May 21, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

Mather Lake area is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for resident birds and spring migrants. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey, and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park (fee area) at the corner of

Douglas Road and Eagles Nest road for this half day trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.



Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, May 27

Meet at 9:15am for trip at 10am

Pine Hill

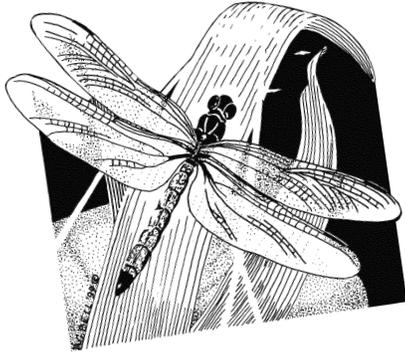
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Walk up with Jack to a Fire Lookout and explore into the early afternoon, looking for endangered plants and resident birds. This is an interesting area, and Jack will share information about the area and the special plants that are found here. Meet at 9:15am at the El Dorado Park & Ride, (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 10am at Ulenkamp and Pine Hill Road. (Hwy 50 to Bass Lake Road; right on Green Valley Road; past 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.

Sunday, May 28

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



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

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!

Friday, June 2

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, June 3, 7am

Crystal Basin
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249
Fgray4birds@aol.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento, and is well worth the drive. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. You will likely enjoy Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, several species of warblers and other birds. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. We will do some birding by ear, and both beginning and experienced birders are welcome. We should return by 2 or 3 pm. Meet Frank at the

north end of Raley's parking lot, just north of Highway 50 off El Dorado Hills Blvd.

Sunday, June 4, 7:30am
Bobelaine Sanctuary
Leader: Carla Barbaro, 717-8808

Enjoy a leisurely stroll through this lovely riparian sanctuary along the Feather River. The trees will provide cool shade for this morning walk as you observe a variety of the area's resident birds. Don't forget to bring snacks and water. Take I-5 north to Hwy 99 toward Yuba City. Two miles after Hwy 99 crosses the Feather River, turn right on Laurel Ave. Follow the road to the end and meet in the parking area.

Wednesday, June 7, 8am

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

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right (just past the kiosk), for a morning walk through this oak woodland area. Red-shouldered Hawks should be active, and we may see Western Bluebirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Anna's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, among other local nesters. Some wildflowers should still be in bloom. Trip will end before noon. This is a good beginner's trip.

Saturday, June 10

River Walk, Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded information: 684-2816
or www.cosumnes.org

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

Sunday, June 11, 7:30am

Yolo Wildlife area and nearby roads
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net

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

Friday, June 16

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 17, 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 before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Sunday, June 18, 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 Nest Road for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Saturday & Sunday, June 24 and 25

Meet at 8:30am onsite each day

Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley

Antelope Valley

Leaders:

Gary Fregien and Dan Tankersley

Gary, 708-0636

calaveri@sbcglobal.net

Dan, 359-2829

dtankers@winfirst.com

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 a new addition to this annual trip, and is located at the southern end of Sierra Valley near Layton.

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Tentatively, we will bird the Sierra/Antelope Valleys area on Saturday, and the Yuba Pass area on Sunday, but that order may be reversed.

Call Gary or Dan at least a week in advance for particulars about daily locations and overnight accommodations. Both camping and lodging are available in the vicinity. Meet Gary and Dan at the junction of Hwys 89 & 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot on Sunday. Car pooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for success.

Friday, June 30
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, July 1, 7am
Ice House Road and Crystal Basin Area
Co-Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
spskua@aol.com
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 2, 7:30am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right, (just past the kiosk), for a morning walk. White-tailed Kites, Red-shouldered Hawks, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Western Bluebirds should be easily found, along with various wrens, hummingbirds, towhees and woodpeckers. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. We'll probably finish about 10:30am, or when it gets too hot. This is a very good trip for beginners.

Wednesday, July 5
Evening Beaver walk
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, July 8, 7am
Wright's Lake
Co-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 Sierra flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on the plants and Phyllis will try to locate some of the hard to find bird species. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on how much snow is still present in the Wright's Lake area the week prior to July 8th, so please call



Jack or Phyllis in advance for further details (i.e. meeting time, place and possible rescheduling).

Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, July 8, 6am
Martis Valley and vicinity
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942
chris.conard@comcast.net

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

Saturday, July 8
Cosumnes River Preserve
River Walk Bird Count
Leader: John Schick
Cosumnes River Preserve
(916) 684-2816, ext #5
or www.cosumnes.org

John conducts bird census walks through this excellent habitat on a monthly basis. The walk covers about four miles and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately

five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. Meet John at the visitor center. To get there, take I-5 south to Twin Cities, and go right on Franklin Blvd. for about 1 mile. Please call the Preserve or check the web site a few days prior to confirm the meeting time and location.

Sunday, July 9, 7:30am
Farrallon Island Boat Trip

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

Call Ken Hashagen (916) 316-8596 for current availability.
khashagen@mindspring.com

Saturday, July 15
Mt Judah & Roller Pass
Sierran Wildflowers and Birds
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack and members of the California Native Plant Society on this hike in the Donner Summit area. He will point out all of the flora and fauna of the area, with plants as his specialty. This is a fairly strenuous hike at high elevation, with a 1000ft-plus elevation gain on this 4 1/2 – 5 mile round trip hike. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on how much snow is still present in the area the week prior to July 15th.

So please call Jack in advance for further details (i.e. meeting time, place and possible rescheduling). Bring lunch, water, and clothes appropriate for changeable weather.

Saturday, July 15
Sunrise Tall Forest
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet
(916) 684-2816, ext #5
or www.cosumnes.org

John makes a monthly census of this spectacular forested area on the Cosumnes River Preserve. A variety of birds and mammals can be expected on this morning walk. From Sacramento, take I-5 south, exit on Twin Cities Road, go east to Bruceville Rd, then south to Desmond Rd. Meet John at the Farm Center gate, at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads. Please call the Cosumnes River Preserve number or check the web site (refer to the schedules section) a few days prior to confirm the meeting time and location – in the past, the trip has been canceled due to floods

Sunday, July 16, 7am
Yolo Wildlife Area
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
spskua@aol.com

Join Tim for an early morning tour of the wildlife area. This should be a great time for the resident nesting birds of the area and maybe some early shorebird migrants. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, then take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, take a left onto the levee road, and down into the first parking lot on your left in the Wildlife Area.

Wednesday, July 19
Evening Beaver walk
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

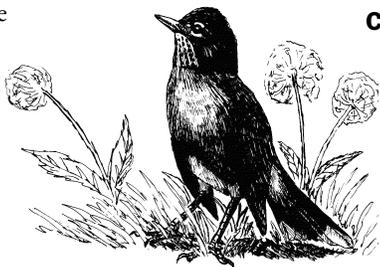
Jack will lead us on an evening walk along the American River, looking for beavers and muskrats. This trip is limited to 8 participants, with a minimum age of 7 years. Call Jack ahead of time to arrange meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 22, 6:30am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409
shoppe01@earthlink.net

Come join Scott for this late July trip. Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000ft elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Williamson's Sapsucker and Black-backed); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and last year's trip produced 2 Bald Eagles. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis at 6:30am. The meadow is about an hour and a half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Sunday, July 23
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. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the



Stephen D'Amato

corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road. There is a parking fee.

Saturday, July 29
Carson Pass
Leader: Jack Hiehle
967-0777

This trip is limited to 10 participants to help preserve the habitat in this high foot traffic area. Join Jack on this high elevation, 4 to 5 mile hike in search of Clark's Nutcracker, Rufous

Hummingbird, Green-tailed Towhee and with luck Blue Grouse and Gray-crowned Rosy Finch. At peak wildflower time, there are fields of flowers in dazzling variety. Call Jack for reservations, meeting time and place. Bring lunch and liquids, wear sturdy shoes and be prepared for changeable Sierra weather.

Bobelaine Sanctuary

BOBELAINE HAPPENINGS

As those of you who have tried to enjoy the sanctuary recently found out, it has been flooded for most of the past four months. This flooding of course has prevented normal spring mowing and trail maintenance from being done. When the water goes down and the sanctuary dries up enough to get equipment in, it will take us several weeks to get the sanctuary back to the condition that we normally maintain for public enjoyment and safety. Please check out our web site at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bobelaine.htm for current conditions or feel free to email us at bobelaine@sacramentoaudubon.org. Those without access to email or internet may call us at (916) 783-8305 for sanctuary status.

DID YOU FORGET THE BOBELAINE BIRDATHON?

Don't panic! - you have all of May to spend a day on your own or with your team birding your favorite spots and collecting your pledges. Please remember, these are the funds that keep Bobelaine safely 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 or the sanctuary please don't hesitate to email us at bobelaine@sacramentoaudubon.org or call us at (916) 783-8305

Bobelaine Management
Bill Clark, Co-Manager
Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE BOBELAINE SANCTUARY:

Lachlan & Joyce McClenahan, Morris & Dorothy Jerome, Clifton Rodes, Gregory & Mernie Brott, Gordon & Jean Gervin, Gary Harbison, Douglas Schwilk and Marilyn Evans.

Sunday, July 30, 5:30pm
Yolo Wildlife Area Evening Trip
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net
Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Join Maureen and Cathie for this popular sunset tour of the wildlife area and witness the spectacle of White-faced Ibis flocks coming in to roost. This is also a great time of year for resident birds, shorebirds and other early migrants. As the sun goes down, foraging owls are a possibility. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, then take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, take a left onto the levee road, and down into the first parking lot on your left in the Wildlife Area.

Evelyn Smith

Sacramento trip leader

Evelyn Smith, 89, who with her late husband, Cecil, were popular Sacramento Audubon field trip leaders for many years, died April 4 after having broken her hip and having a hip replacement in February.

"Evelyn was a strong supporter of the environment and put a lot of her energies, time and monies into the cause," said Truman Holtzclaw, an old friend who informed many other Auduboners of her passing so they could attend a "Celebration of Evelyn's life" at the Roseville home of her son, Brian and his wife, Ann, April 8. Any memorials can be sent in her name to Sacramento Audubon, the California Native Plant Society, the Sierra Camera Club of Sacramento or others of the donor's choice.

Birding Events

TWO BIRDING FESTIVALS IN MAY AND JUNE

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

The 9th Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival in Fallon, Nevada, will be held May 12-14. The Spring Wings Bird Festival coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. Speakers, displays and birding tours will be taking place. For more information or to reserve you space go to www.springwings.org.

The 5th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will be held June 16-18. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, and June Lake. There are several workshops including two for drawing birds led by Jack Muir Laws who spoke at our general meeting last fall. John Dunn will speak on warblers of the eastern Sierra. 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.

THIS IS THE MONTH FOR THE 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, and videos.

This year's 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. Used binoculars and scopes in good working order can also be brought for donation to Birder's Exchange. For any questions please call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207.

Mission Statement

Sacramento Audubon Society

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

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA CHAPTER ASSEMBLY 2006 SAVING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

On March 19-21, 2006, President Peter Watkins, and ECOS representative Keith Wagner, attended Audubon California's Chapter Assembly at the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove. Nearly 200 chapter leaders, volunteers, and fellow birders gathered for two days of workshops, birding, and an evening at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. The Assembly's workshops and plenary sessions featured renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of conserving California's endangered species and their habitat.

A series of workshops was offered on the Endangered Species Act's outstanding successes at recovering our nation's imperiled species, and the most recent proposals by

some members of Congress to "fix" the Act by gutting its most effective, safety-net provisions.

Workshops on chapter building, policy, education, and conservation science were also offered. Chapter leaders from across the state shared their success stories and strategies for recruiting new members, fundraising, and broadening and diversifying chapter membership. Local chapters also shared their experiences on how to affect local land use policy, funding habitat acquisitions through conservation bonds, and developing science-based education programs for young people. Other workshops included a forum on avian flu, a discussion of challenges facing the Salton Sea,

and mitigating the effects of wind power facilities, such as the infamous Altamont Pass wind facility, on raptors and migratory birds.

A detailed review of the Assembly and materials is available at California Audubon's website: http://ca.audubon.org/audubon_assembly.htm. For more information, you can also contact Peter or Keith by sending a message through the Sacramento Audubon website.

Given the number of varied topics covered and the quality of this year's Chapter Assembly, Sacramento Audubon members should consider marking their calendar now for next year's Assembly.

Keith Wagner

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all
of these new members:

Paul Carlson Phyllis Gardiner
Greg R. Davis Judy Johnson
Charles A. Eubanks, MD Mary McGrath

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

VOLUNTEER REQUESTED

Billy Brown, a ranger with the US Forest Service in the El Dorado National Forest has requested our help with providing a speaker for any of several Saturday evening campfire talks. They are held at either Silver Lake or Pipi campgrounds throughout the summer. Both of these campgrounds are along Highway 88. The Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association is making the presentations possible and will also be providing a small stipend to cover the costs such as gasoline etc.

Some of the other speakers that will be attending this summer include The California Native Bats Conservancy, The El Dorado County Search and Rescue team, and Arvada Fisher, a local Native American who will be speaking about edible plants, and natural medicine.

If you're interested or for more information please contact:

Billy Brown
USFS Amador Ranger District
(209) 295-5900
williamabrown@fs.fed.us

A Note from Mary Bisharat

Dear Auduboners, Once again I am going to participate in the Human Race, Saturday, May 6 at Maidu Regional Park, 1550 Maidu Drive, Roseville. It is a fundraising event to benefit local non-profit organizations. I will be raising money for Audubon to support Habitat 2020, which is doing so much to preserve habitat for birds and critters in Sacramento County.

Please support me by sending your check made out to Sacramento Audubon, put H2020 in the lower left hand corner, and mail to me, 2110 Boyer Drive, Carmichael, CA 95608-5522. Any questions? 485-6455

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 _____

SAS BOARD APPROVED FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2006/2007

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

President	Keith Wagner
Vice President	Tim Fitzer
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary	Jan Tankersley
Recording Secretary	Lisa Seto
Past President	Peter Watkins
Directors	Maureen Geiger Roy Greenaway Dorothy Harvey Lea Landry Sheila Deaner

We'll introduce our new President in the July-August Observer. Many thanks to outgoing President, Peter Watkins!

Program Notes

continued from page 1

Having lived in Sacramento since 1981, and married to Glennah Trochet, well known here as the County Health Officer, John has been a birder for nearly 40 years. He is a retired physician who returned to school in ornithology after leaving medicine. "I am a long-time volunteer at the Cosumnes River Preserve, where I lead the monthly Tall Forest bird surveys. I work part time now for the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology at U.C. Davis. My home away from home is Zuni, New Mexico, where I have a long term interest in the avifauna of the southeastern Colorado Plateau."

Please feel free to invite guests, friends, and family members to our Thursday evening speaking events at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd, across the street from McKinley Park in Sacramento. Map details can be found on our web site (www.sacramentoaudubon.org) under general meeting information.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
783-2331
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

What an odd month it was: with 20 days of rain, it's no surprise that the number of reports was down; the rivers were up; most of the regions bottomland forests were inaccessible; and the Yolo Bypass resembled an inland sea. Some winter residents, such as **Say's Phoebes**, stuck around up to two weeks longer than usual, as if waiting for spring to come. Still, despite the weather, many birds responded to the advancing season, with **Cliff Swallows** and **Barn Swallows** arriving at the first of the month, and the last **Sandhill Cranes** leaving by mid-month.

Two of the highlight birds from the past winter, the **Ovenbird** and the **Mountain Chickadee**, continued through much of March. The **Ovenbird** was not reported at all in February, but was found again in March through at least 3/26 where Mace Blvd crosses Putah Creek. The **Mountain Chickadee** was reported at Slide Hill Park in Davis through at least 3/25.

The report of a **Sabine's Gull** flying over a north Davis home on 3/23 was one of the few surprising reports of the month. An **Evening Grosbeak** was found from 3/14 through the rest of the month in the neighborhood adjacent to Slide Hill Park in Davis, rounding out the short list of true rarities. The unsettled weather surely resulted in the impressive showing of **Violet-green Swallows**. This species is typically seen in migration in very low numbers over the valley floor, but during many days this March, there were 100-200 individuals reported.

Other reports worth noting include an early

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report of a **Warbling Vireo** on 3/26 near Folsom Lake; two **Black-throated Gray Warblers** and three **Townsend's Warblers** at Sac State, also on 3/26 (it is likely that the warblers overwintered); a **Eurasian Wigeon** near Sutter Creek in Amador County from 3/4 through 3/12; a **Eurasian Wigeon** seen periodically in the first half of the month at Cosumnes River Preserve; a male

Redhead at the same location on 3/4; also at Cosumnes, a **Red Fox Sparrow** on 3/4; and a single **Pacific Golden-Plover** continued from last month at the Lodi Sewage Ponds. There was a late report of a **Greater Scaup** from William B. Pond on the American River Parkway at the end of February. Another late report was the remarkable find of a **Violet-crowned Hummingbird** on 2/8 in Grass Valley. This bird was seen only one day, but was captured on video visiting a feeder. There are only five accepted records of this species for the state.

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

Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Terry Colborn, Daryl Coldren, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Tim Fitzer, Maureen Geiger, Brian Gilmore, Steve Hampton, Marcel Holyoak, Joan Humphrey, Cheryl Johnson, Dave Johnson, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Jim Lomax, Don Marsh, Ron Melcer, Mary Beth Metcalf, Bill Miller, Lisa Moraga, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Jim Rowth, Stefan Schlick, Don Schmoldt, Steve Scott, Doug Shaw, John Sterling, Jim Steinert, Craig Swolgaard, Dan Tankersley, John Trochet, Sally Walters, and Neil Whiting.

Chris Conard

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(916) 362-5942, e-mail preferred: chris.conard@comcast.net

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail: sawelma@cwnet.com

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

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