



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 15

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

6:30pm Book Sale

7pm General Meeting

California Birds, California Audubon

Gary Langham, CA Audubon

Gary will address three recent issues in which California Audubon has played a vital role.

Oil Spills in the Bay – Recently 58,000 gallons of heavy fuel oil spilled into the Bay. Richardson Bay Sanctuary, run by Audubon for 49 years, played a big role in monitoring the effects on birds and the politics surrounding the spill.

Condors and Lead Ammunition Ban – Condors have suffered lead poisoning since their re-release in the mid-90s. With the recent passage of AB 821, lead ammunition is banned in condor country. He'll tell us about the backstory, the surprise victory over the powerful NRA, and the role of science and activism by Audubon.

California Birds and Climate Change – Audubon

California is modeling the impacts of climate change on 541 bird species west of the Rockies. They are using several cutting-edge modeling techniques (MaxEnt, Domain, BIOCLIM) to predict



shifts in species distribution based on climate, making full use of the wealth of bird survey data collected by citizen scientists. Gary will explain how this tool will provide invaluable information

General Meeting continued on page 8

ANNUAL MAY BOOK SALE

Don't forget to bring your books to the Book Sale which begins at 6:30pm, before our general meeting. John Ginn will again be pricing the books for us so arrive early to give him a head start. The sale includes books, CDs, videos, and maybe even some artwork.

This is always a good fundraiser and we annually donate the monies raised to a worthy organization in the birding

conservation world. Thanks to all of you who participate. For any questions please call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207.

We are also selling Knit Sport Shirts with the SAS logo on them at our monthly meetings. They come in four colors, are 100% cotton and a "must-have." They are available to order for \$20 and will be shipped directly to you. Look for the order form at our Properties table.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2008

As part of our usual field trip series, Sacramento Audubon Society (SAS) is sponsoring a trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. We'll travel out the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Point Reyes-Farallon Islands Marine Sanctuary. We'll be on the "Salty Lady", the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The capacity of the boat is 45 people, but we will restrict the trip to the first 35 that sign up, to ensure everyone has plenty of room. The trip will be approximately 8 hours long, departing out of Sausalito.

This will be the 18th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! We have seen giant Leatherback Turtles some years; other years 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 only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! We almost always see Tufted Puffin and frequently 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 promptly at 8am and returns about 3:30pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30am. The trip cost is \$90; the trip is limited to the first 35 people that sign up, so sign up early to reserve your spot. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Detailed instructions and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Contact Ken Hashagen (916) 316 8596 cell or (916) 635-4435 home, for further information.

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

Field Trip Findings

Phoenix Field (4/15) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported Yellow-billed Magpie, Wild Turkey, Western Bluebird, Lesser and American Goldfinches, Canada Goose, and Anna's Hummingbird. Vernal pools weren't as colorful as usual because of a dry March.

Cosumnes River Preserve (4/13) — Leader Brian Gilmore reported: "Nice weather prevailed for our CRP trip and I was joined by about eight participants. The best bird of the day was a male Calliope Hummingbird seen by all at the feeders at the Visitor Center. A Black-chinned Hummingbird was also seen along with the Anna's. Also of note were a pair of Western Kingbirds, Ash-throated Flycatchers, and a Bullocks Oriole. Several Swainson's Hawks gave us a very vocal aerial courtship display."

Jepson Prairie and Yolo Bypass (4/12) — Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Our group of 7 enjoyed a lovely, sunny day viewing the wildflowers at the Jepson Prairie Preserve. Flowers observed included goldfields, yellow carpet, blow wives, Brodiaeas and, a special treat, several patches of Downingias. Western Meadowlarks filled the air with song; other birds observed at the Prairie included Canada geese, American Avocets in breeding plumage, dowitchers, Greater Yellowlegs, Great Egrets, and Great Blue Herons."

Mather Field Park (4/6) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "The group recorded 48 species, including: Western Kingbird, Tree, Cliff and Barn swallows, Lincoln, Savannah, Song, White-crowned and Golden-crowned sparrows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds that were spread out more widely than in the past, two American Bitterns, two pair of Downy Woodpeckers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrush, baby Coots, Meadowlarks, and Great-tailed Grackles."

Caswell Memorial State Park (4/5) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "On a mild spring day, five birders spent the morning and some of the afternoon hiking through the lush riparian growth along the Stanislaus River on the San Joaquin County side. As usual, Swainson's Hawks provided the best show, with their varied cries, calls, mating rituals and aerobatics. We think there were at least 3 pairs. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered hawks were also seen.

We also watched Tree and Northern Rough-winged swallows, many Downy Woodpeckers, as well as Acorn, Nuttall's, and Northern Flicker. Bewick's and espe-

cially House Wrens were in abundance, as were Yellow-rumped Warblers and an Orange-crowned. The sparrow group included Spotted Towhee, Song and Fox Sparrow, and White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows. We also had a fly-over of 12 White-faced Ibises. We tallied 44 species for the day."

Bannister Park (4/2) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported an unusual sighting of Common Ravens flying over. Also: Swainson's Hawk, Osprey, Violet-green and Tree swallows, White-crowned Sparrows, Downy Woodpecker, Song Sparrow, Common Goldeneye, and Wood Duck.

Lincoln Grasslands (3/30) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Fourteen Birders had 73 species. Highlights were two Bald Eagles and dozens of Clark's and Western Grebes at Camp Far West, Tricolored Blackbirds, Western Kingbirds and a Lewis's Woodpecker on Manzanita Road. We also had Great-tailed Grackle, Wood Duck and Wilson's Snipe.

Davis Wetlands (3/29) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "Seventeen bird-



Stephen D'Amato

Findings continued on page 6

EDUCATION OUTREACH EVENTS AND NEWS

It's been a busy spring for the Education Committee. March began with a Family bird walk in Gibbons Park on the 8th. Building bluebird boxes was another popular activity. Using precut kits, we built boxes with foster children and the staff of the Turning Point, an organization supporting foster families. Additional boxes were made at Sheila Green's workshop, Birding for Fun, at the Rancho Cordova Park and Recreation District. A huge thanks to Ross Little who cut out kits for making 30 bluebird boxes!

Members of SAS also helped in the mentoring program sponsored by the California Waterfowl Association. This is our second year working with Jennifer Tollman and her staff. While Jen focuses her instruction on wetland habitat and ducks in particular, we teach the high school students how to use binoculars, give them some ideas about what might keep the interest of the third grade students they will be working with on a nature walk and look for and ID birds in the area. Hopefully, they will come away knowing at least 5 birds and feeling comfortable teaching younger students. April 2's trip was to Cache Creek Nature Reserve near Woodland and the April 16 trip was to Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge.

Thanks so much to everyone who helped out with this very worthwhile program: Jan Tankersley, Dan Tankersley, Gail Janke, Heather Janke, Ken Hashagen and Lia Robertson.

April 15, Julie Serences represented SAS at the local Nature Bowl competition held at the Fish Hatchery at Lake Natomas. Seven teams of third and fourth grade students completed stations testing their knowledge of natural science. It's a fun way for students to work cooperatively to compete tasks and a great way to reward students who excel in this area. Check it out at [http://www.crec.org/region3/stories/storyReader\\$135](http://www.crec.org/region3/stories/storyReader$135). Every year volunteers are needed to help with the stations.

May looks to be just as busy - with another CWA session May 13, several classroom presentations and helping some Girl Scouts build bluebird boxes. If you would like to help or have ideas for the education committee as we plan for next year, please e-mail Julie Serences at education@sacramentoaudubon.org.

Thanks to all who have helped out and everybody else come join us and share in the fun of education.

Julie Serences, Education Committee

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 or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Carla Barbaro, 717-8808, cbarbaro@comcast.net for trips through May 18. From May 19th through June 21st call the scheduler Andi Salmi, 691-7216, andisalmi@yahoo.com. From June 22nd on call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com.

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



Kirsten Munson

Saturday, May 3, 7am
Auburn State Recreation Area/Drivers
Flat and Ruck-a-Chucky
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
Shope01@earthlink.net

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is Scott's favorite 'secret' birding spot. Among the great birds to be found are Calliope Hummingbird, Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and numerous warblers such as Nashville, Yellow, Townsend's, Black-throated Gray and Yellow-breasted Chat. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. This trip will end mid-day, but plan to lunch on the banks of the river. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis off I-80 at 7am.

Sunday, May 4, 7:30am-noon
Cronan Ranch, Coloma Area
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Come on a hike with Maureen through beautiful rolling, oak-studded hills off Hwy 49 near Coloma. This 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 include Rufous-crowned Sparrows and other sparrows, woodpeckers, flycatchers, goldfinches, towhees, swallows, meadowlarks, wild turkey and migrating warblers. This trip will include several miles of easy hiking; trails may be muddy. Meet Maureen at 7:30 in El Dorado Hills at El Dorado Hills Blvd and Hwy 50. at the Bella Bru Coffee Shop in

the Raley's shopping center parking lot. The trip concludes at noon; however, there are numerous sites in the Coloma area to enjoy a picnic lunch.

Tuesday, May 6, 8am-noon
Sailor Bar Area
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Meet Jack at the end of Emperor Street to explore the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the American River Parkway. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

Wednesday, May 7, 7:30am
Sacramento Old City Cemetery
Broadway and Riverside Blvd
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Discover the variety of birds that live in and migrate through this historic city cemetery near the heart of downtown Sacramento. This walking tour is perfect for beginning birders. Meet Maureen at the cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street. Visitors may park in the lot across from the 10th Street gate and meet inside the cemetery entrance. This will be a short walk, 1-2 hours. The tour is a public service of the Old City Cemetery Committee and is offered under the auspices of the Division of History and Science of the City of Sacramento. Call Maureen or email if you have questions.

Saturday, May 10, 5:30am or earlier
River Walk Bird Count
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd south of Twin Cities Road, for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the

group trip is a good way to find out what's happening at the preserve. This walk covers about four miles, and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. You must check the recorded information a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Saturday, May 10, 7am
Sweetwater Creek
Leader: Carla Barbaro, 717-8808
cbarbaro@comcast.net

This is a wonderful area for spring birding. Bring water for a half day exploration of the trails looking for migrants, wild flowers and nesting birds. Past favorites are goldfinches, orioles, bluebirds, Yellow-breasted Chats, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Lazuli Buntings. Meet at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. This is a fun trip for all levels of birders.

Sunday, May 11, 7:30am
Spenceville Wildlife Area
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
Offleash56@yahoo.com

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes and one optional 5 mile hike over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, rails, warblers, and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at Brookfield's restaurant in Roseville (NOT Madison location). Take Eureka Road exit off I-80; go right on Eureka and first left at the stoplight (Taylor Road). The restaurant is located behind the Shell gas station.

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Field Trips continued from page 3

Wednesday, May 14, 11:45am – 1pm
Purple Martins in Old Sacramento
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

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

Saturday, May 17, 5:30am or earlier
Tall Forest Bird Count
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information, 684-2816

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

Saturday, May 17, 7:30am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Some young birds may still be in the nest; others traveling with parents begging for food, and some wildflowers will still be blooming. We'll walk the oak woodlands to the river and see what we find. This is a good trip for novice birders. There is a park entrance fee of \$5 per car; if you want to carpool in, meet Cathie at 7:20 on Rod Beaudry Drive just off Folsom Blvd. This trip will end by noon.

Sunday, May 18, 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 at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day trip. There is a \$5 fee per car. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Sunday, May 18
Habitat Improvement Work Day
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Wednesday, May 21, 8am – noon
Paradise Beach
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, May 24,
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!

Sunday, May 25, 6am
Kyburz Flat and Sierra Valley
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@earthlink.net

May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. 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 mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis off I-80.

Saturday, May 31, 7am
Crystal Basin
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249
fgray4birds@aol.com

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. Many of the areas are at about a mile elevation and are within the area of the '92 Cleveland Fire. There will likely be good chances to view Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, several species of warblers and other birds of the area. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Some time will be spent birding by ear and pointing out bird ID features on this slow-paced trip. We expect to return

by 2 or 3pm. Carpooling encouraged. Meet Frank at the north end of Raley's parking lot, just north of Highway 50, off El Dorado Hills Blvd.

Sunday, June 1
7:30 am – noon
Sunrise area,
American River
Parkway
Leader: Mark
Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe some surprises. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd, turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders.

Tuesday, June 3
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 7, 7:30am
Goethe Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Join Cathie 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



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. There is a \$5 per car park entrance fee; if you want to carpool in meet Cathie at 7:25 on Rod Beaudry Drive just off Folsom Blvd.

Sunday, June 8

Habitat Improvement Workday

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Sunday, June 8, 7:30am – noon

Michigan Bar/Latrobe Roads

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Join Maureen in this foothill area as she looks for Lawrence's Goldfinches, Horned Larks, Western Bluebirds, turkeys, raptors and possible Grasshopper Sparrows. These rolling grasslands are scattered with stands of native oaks and are also home to White-breasted Nuthatches and other oak woodland birds. The roads are mostly deeply rutted dirt and if there has been rain they will be muddy and difficult with occasional pools. Meet in the Raley's shopping center at 8391 Folsom Blvd (between Howe Avenue and Watt Avenue). Park on the south side of the Raley's lot facing Folsom Blvd near the Carl's Junior and the Starbucks.

Saturday, June 14, 5:25am

River Walk Bird Count,

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded information, 684-2816 or
www.cosumnes.org

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

Saturday and Sunday, June 14-15

8:30am onsite Saturday

8am onsite Sunday

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

Leaders: Gary Fregien, 708-0636
calaveri@sbcglobal.net
Dan Tankersley, 606-6518
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 located at the southern end of Sierra Valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks, and includes a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire. We will bird the Sierra/Antelope Valleys area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, and the Yuba Pass area on Sunday until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola, Calpine and Sierra City. U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to be at the Yuba Pass campground on Friday the 13th. Meet Dan and Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Car pooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Friday, June 20

Evening Beaver Walk

American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Don't forget to bring your binoculars on this first day of summer's 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 21, 5:25am

Tall Forest Bird Count,

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: John Trochet

Recorded information: 684-2816 or
www.cosumnes.org

Meet John at the Farm Center ON TIME to join him on this monthly bird count. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting. You must check the recorded information or the web site a day or two in advance to verify the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Saturday, June 21, 6:30am

Martis Valley and Vicinity

Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942

conardc@gmail.com

Martis Valley near Truckee is a mix of the Sierra and the Great Basin. We'll explore

sagebrush flats, open water, and coniferous and riparian forests in search of the area's breeding bird species. We'll plan to end the day with spectacular views from the Martis Peak fire lookout. Meet at the Park and Ride off the Hwy 80 Horseshoe Bar Road exit in Loomis. Bring water and lunch and be prepared for several short to moderate walks.

Sunday, June 22, 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.

Sunday, June 22, 7:30am

Purple Martins in Old Sacramento

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

This is a special, second visit to the Purple Martins of Old Sacramento this year. Come and listen to Dan Airola, California's expert on Purple Martins, discuss these wonderful birds. We will have the opportunity to see adults feeding young, watch them in flight and hear their calls near the Railroad Museum where they nest. Meet Dan and Maureen on the east side of the Railroad Museum along Second Street. This trip will last until the martin activity diminishes, probably a couple of hours.

Saturday, June 28, 7:30am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458

naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for a look at some of the birds that live along this section of the American River Parkway. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

Sunday, June 29,

Farallons Pelagic trip

Co-ordinator: Ken Hashagen

316-8596 or 635-4435

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

Join Sacramento Audubon members for this great boat trip to see puffins, whales, and more! See the write up on the front page.

Sunday, June 29, 8am

Swainson's Hawk Trip

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Nesting Swainson's Hawks are the focus of this morning trip, in conjunction with "Friends of the Swainson's Hawk" (FOSH), a group organized to encourage habitat protection. Our local population of Swainson's Hawks differs from other Swainson's Hawks in their migration patterns and wintering grounds. Members of FOSH will be on hand to share information about these interesting birds. Mark will also be looking for other valley nesting birds. Meet Mark at the West Sacramento Park and Ride; take the West Capitol exit off I-80; turn left at the light and left again into the Park and Ride. FRS radios and spotting scopes will be helpful, if you have them.

Monday, June 30

Evening Beaver Walk

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. In addition to the beavers, you will enjoy observing the birds and

plants, and perhaps other mammals. Please call Jack for the meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 5

Wright's Lake

Leaders: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran flora and fauna. Jack will concentrate on the blooming Sierran plants, many just a few feet from where you park your car! He'll be using the common names, so this is a great trip for the novice who wants to learn Sierran plants. Phyllis will help you find many of the Sierran bird specialties; she can help you learn many of the calls and songs of the local birds as well. This trip may need to be rescheduled depending on snow levels, so please call Jack or Phyllis in advance for further details, (meeting time, place, and possible date change.)

Sunday, July 6, 7:30am

Goethe Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net

Many birds will still be active and singing this time of year. We'll look for the resident wrens, towhees, flycatchers and hummingbirds. This trip will end before lunch time, and is a good trip for beginners. Goethe Park is located at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive off Folsom Blvd. Meet in the first

parking lot on your right past the kiosk. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee.

Tuesday, July 8

Evening Beaver Walk

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for another fun evening looking at beavers and other residents of the American River Parkway. This trip is limited to 8 people to ensure optimum viewing conditions. Call Jack for more information, including meeting time and place.

Saturday, July 12

Mt. Judah and Roller Pass

Sierran Wildflowers and Birds

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Sunday, July 13, 7:30am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

Findings continued from page 2

ers braved overcast skies and a chilly north wind to record 64 species on this half day trip to the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. The morning began with a large number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a few Tricolored Blackbirds and four Blue-winged Teal. The outing ended with great looks at three Eurasian Wigeon, one drake and two hens. In between, we saw several Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin in high alternate plumage, Caspian and Forster's Terns, and good numbers of Long-billed Curlew, White-faced Ibis, and Greater White-fronted Geese. We also had very good scope views of the Great Blue Heron rookery (approximately 36 nests) on the far eastern side of the bypass."

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

(3/23) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Nineteen birders had 61 species of birds on a beautiful Easter morning walk. Highlights included two dozen Great and Snowy Egrets feeding on the salmon fry

along the river bank. Others: Forster's Tern, Wood Duck, Thayer's Gull, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, and White-tailed Kite."

Lynch Canyon, Solano County (3/22)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "It was an incredibly beautiful day and 27 of us had a lovely 3-hour hike and saw 58 species of birds, including 3 Golden Eagles. We will definitely lead trips there again!"

Sailor Bar (3/18) — Leader Jack Hiehle's group tallied a pair of Hooded Mergansers, Osprey, Lark Sparrow, Ring-necked Pheasant, Spotted Sandpiper, Phainopepla and Common Goldeneye.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (3/16) — Leader Carla Barbaro reported: "It was a great spring day for birding. We saw lots of nesting activity — Anna's Hummingbirds on nests, Bushtits nests, and Lesser Goldfinches building nests. Also Turkey Vulture, tons of Wild Turkeys, American

Goldfinches, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, bluebirds, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Flicker, Acorn, Downy and Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Red-shouldered, Red-tailed and Cooper's hawks, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Goldeneye, Common Merganser, Canada Geese, Mallards, California and Spotted Towhees, White-crowned, Golden-crowned and Fox sparrows, Hermit Thrush, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Mourning Doves, Western Scrub-Jays, European Starlings, American Crows, and Black Phoebe."

Bird and Breakfast Fundraiser (3/15)

Jack Hiehle was coordinator of a group of Sacramento Audubon field trip leaders who once again donated their time and talents to help the American River Natural History Association present its annual fundraiser. One of the high points was seeing an Anna's Hummingbird feeding young in a nest, Cathie LaZier said.

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe some surprises. From Highway 50, drive north on Hazel Ave. left on Winding Way and left on Illinois Ave. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders.

**Monday, July 14
Evening Beaver Walk**

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. In addition to the beavers, you will enjoy observing the birds and plants, and perhaps other mammals. Please call Jack for the meeting time and place.

**Saturday, July 19, 6am
Loney Meadow**

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409

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

**Sunday, July 20
Habitat Improvement Work Day**

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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



Birding Festivals and Trips

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL

The eleventh Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival takes place in Fallon, NV and coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. This year's festival is May 9-11. These internationally recognized wetlands are temporary home to over 260 species of birds, including thousands of White-faced Ibis, Long-billed Dowitcher, American White Pelicans, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, and many other waterfowl and waterbirds. During the 2007 festival, 164 different species were logged - a new festival record! For more information go to www.springwings.org and register soon.

MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 7th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will be held June 20-22. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, Rush Creek Delta and Mono Basin. There are several workshops including two for drawing birds led by Jack Muir Laws who has been a frequent speaker at our general meetings. There are many popular field trips throughout the region but several are full already so register soon. Special events include a kayak tour of Mono Lake. The website for more information and registration is www.birdchautauqua.org.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE MONTEREY PELAGIC TRIP!

Each year Sacramento Audubon offers a two-day trip to the Monterey area. The dates for this year's trip will be September 27th and 28th. The pelagic portion of the trip will be on Saturday, the 27th, where we will be aboard a boat and will bird Monterey Bay and nearshore areas. Cost for this portion of the trip will be \$95. The second day we will visit hotspots around the Monterey area. There is no cost for this day. For more information, please call Ken Hashagen, (916) 316-8596 or email khashagen@mindspring.com, with Monterey Trip in the subject line.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, June 29, 2008 Registration deadline: June 15, 2008

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

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

Other Events

SAS STUDENT WINS BIRDING SCHOLARSHIP

One of Sheila Green's students, Thomas Garcia, was awarded a birding scholarship this summer. The Central Valley Bird Club recently announced their youth scholarship awards for 7 kids and Thomas, along with three other students (all 11 year-olds) will be attending the Sierra Nevada Field Station's class on the Birds of the Sierra Nevada, taught by the incomparable David Shuford. John Sterling, CVBC President says, "I know that all of these young birders will have memories and new friendships that will last a lifetime in their respective experiences this summer. Let's give them a hearty congratulations! And, please don't hesitate to donate to the Youth Scholarship Fund so that we can send more young birders to camps in 2009! Good birding." The Central Valley Bird Club can be found at www.CVBirds.org.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS (WFO) ANNUAL MEETING

When: October 9-12, 2008

Location: San Mateo Marriot, San Mateo, CA

More info: <http://www.wfo-cbrc.org/>

If you are interested in birds and birding and would like a chance to interact with some of North America's most respected experts, this is the meeting for you. WFO is a unique organization that seamlessly blends birding with ornithology. WFO meetings are only occasionally held in Northern California. So, if your interest in birds goes beyond just adding another tic to your list, don't miss this one.

There will be field trips visiting most of the San Francisco Bay Area's hotspots. Workshops will cover topics like sketching birds and using GPS in the field. Al Jaramillo will lead an ecological transect of the San Mateo Peninsula. Scientific sessions will give you a glimpse into the most current ornithological research and expert ID panels will educate and amaze.

To learn more and to register for the meeting, visit the WFO web site: www.wfo-cbrc.org/

General Meeting continued from page 1

about where restoration dollars are best spent over the next 60 years and how to best save the birds of California.

Gary Langham, Director of Bird Conservation, joined Audubon California in February 2007 to serve as the lead scientist for Audubon California. Gary grew up in Sacramento in a family closely associated with Audubon (his dad was President of Sacramento Audubon), and Gary has been an active birder since his early childhood. Over a twenty-year period Gary has lead more than 100 birding and natural history tours for Victor Emanuel Nature Tours in the Americas. In 2003 Gary received his Ph.D. from Cornell University having completed a dissertation under Drs. John Fitzpatrick and David Winkler on the role that avian foraging behavior played in the maintenance and evolution of Heliconius

butterfly mimicry in Venezuela, Peru and Bolivia. He recently completed a postdoctoral NSF fellowship in Australia working on climate change. He also taught ornithology as a lecturer at U.C. Berkeley. In 2000, Gary was the founding president of a volunteer non-profit called the Neotropical Grassland Conservancy and has a fine appreciation for the power of citizen science in advancing conservation goals

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. Don't forget to come early for the Annual Book Sale. It starts at 6:30pm.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Gregory Brott, Suzanne Brown, Marilyn Evans, Jeff and Marian Mangum, Karen Resch, Carol Thomas, Louis Regenmorter and Alice Westreich to **Conservation and Education**.

Anonymous, and Seth Hodges, to the **General Fund**.

Jack and Phyllis Wilburn made a donation to the **Education Committee** in memory of Bill Grenfell.

John Reif to **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

THANKS SO MUCH TO TWO OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Program Chairs

Our 'headhunting' search is finally over and we are most fortunate that Lea Landry has volunteered to apply her many skills to being our new Program Chair. She will also continue to be our Membership Chair. Please give her a big "Thank you" at our next meeting. She will begin her duties arranging a great Program for us in September. If you have any ideas for her concerning programs I'm sure she would be happy to hear them.

While we're thanking Lea we must also really thank Sally Riggs for arranging our Programs for the past several years. Sally did an outstanding job as we all know and really elevated the level of programs we were able to enjoy and learn from, and for at least the last year Sally has not even lived in our area. We wish Sally the best in all her new endeavors.

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 27, 2008 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Judy and Ralph Kelly Hall
Caccamo Angie Hernandez
Kimberly Crawford Barbara Todd
Phoenix Ewing
Sheri Grimes

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.

Observations continued from page 10

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With over 100 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson, Dan Brown, Paul Buchanan, Subhash Chand, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Cliff Hawley, Scott Hoppe, David Johnson, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Robin Leong, John Luther, Karla Meadows, Ed Pandolfino, Deren Ross, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Dan Tankersley, John Trochet and Liz West.

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

Chris Conard

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 \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

THE NEWLY ELECTED SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009

The nominations were unanimously approved
at the April general meeting.

President	Keith Wagner
Vice President	Tim Fitzer
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary	Jan Tankersley
Recording Secretary	Lisa Seto
Past President	Peter Watkins
Directors	Sheila Deaner
	Roy Greenaway
	Ken Hashagen
	Lea Landry
	Darrell Mohr
	(Incorrectly spelled in the last Observer)



Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

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

Each March when the spring-like weather arrives, there's a sense of anticipation—if not impatience—for the spring migrants to appear. We search in vain through flocks of singing and brightly colored **Yellow-rumped Warblers** for the first of the Neotropical migrants, but it is not until April that good numbers of migrants move through the area. For the time we must be satisfied with **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles**, which arrive in the second half of March. Yet, nearly every month there is a surprise or two. For the third year in a row, a gorgeous male **Summer Tanager** was found in March in El Dorado Hills along New York Creek. This year, it was first reported on 3/15 and continued for at least 10 days. The first **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** of the season was reported from that location on 3/25. A singing male **Western Tanager** in fine plumage was a bit early (or perhaps it wintered) on 3/27 at CSU, Sacramento. Similarly, a **Hermit Warbler** found on 3/29 was either an early migrant or had spent the winter in the Campus Commons neighborhood across the American River from CSU.

The two **Ruff** (a male and a female), first found at the Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) on 2/27, continued through at least 3/17—though both were not always found throughout the period. A **Marbled Godwit** was found there on 3/15. An adult **Western Gull** and two **Glaucous Gulls** (one adult and one first cycle) were found

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on 3/4 at the Davis Wetlands. A **Horned Grebe** was also present. This species is rare in our area away from reservoirs in the foothills. The fortunate observer will spot them coming into breeding plumage just before they leave our area. On 3/31, three **Horned Grebes** were reported in breeding plumage at Lake Natoma.

Other interesting reports include at least one **Northern Saw-whet Owl** found on

private land at Ryer Island for the second year in a row. This year one was first reported on 2/18 and it continued through at least 3/13. On 3/29, a **Vaux's Swift** and a

Bank Swallow at

Cosumnes River Preserve accounted for the first reports of the season for our area. The first **Purple Martins** in Sacramento were reported on 3/10. After a good season for **Rough-legged Hawks** in our area, the last bird was reported at YWA on 3/20 and 3/27. Another fairly late **Rough-legged Hawk** was found at Lynch Canyon in Solano County on 3/22. An adult **Mew Gull** was found at the Lone Sewage Ponds on 3/2. It continued through at least 3/4. Possibly the same bird was found at Lake Comanche on 3/5 in addition to a **Red-throated Loon**.



Photo: Ed Harper

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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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.

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