



The *OBSERVER*

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Shepard Garden and Arts Center

6:30 Book Sale

7pm General Meeting

Behavior of East African Mammals and Birds

Doug Cheeseman

Doug Cheeseman taught four years of high school biology and 31 years of college zoology, ecology and molecular biology at De Anza College in Cupertino for biology majors. Doug is a fanatical teacher who loves to get his students wired. Doug and his wife, Gail, have led 60 Safaris to Africa starting in 1978 and East Africa is one of their favorite locations to study and enjoy wildlife. They really enjoy showing the great animal behavior to others. Antarctica is another of their favorite locations.



Leopard, Nakuru National Park, Kenya
Doug Cheeseman

Doug will have an energetic program discussing social and survival behavior in African birds and mammals, using his personal images from his annual safaris to East Africa. He and his family own Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris, www.cheesemans.com. Doug and Gail Cheeseman have been leading African wildlife safaris since 1978, but in 1998 Doug went into leading safaris full time after retiring from 35 years of teaching. Doug has been presenting slide shows for Audubon chapters for many, many years. His images can be seen on the following web site: www.peterarnold.com. He will have a very fast paced program with about 120 images focusing on wildlife behavior that he will explain, including mating and feeding strategies. He will have many action photos from his most recent safaris this February and last August. Doug will emphasize bird families, as well as exciting mammals, as he illustrates competition and breeding success, including in some cases cooperation in raising young.

DONATION TO ARNHA IN HONOR OF PETE HAYES

In recognition of Pete Hayes' many years of environmental activism in our area, the Sacramento Audubon Society was pleased to donate \$1000 to the American River Natural History Association in Pete's honor. The award was presented at the March general meeting, and while it was a surprise to Pete, many of his friends, family and fellow ARNHA members were able to attend.

Pete is the author of *An American River Almanac*, *An American River Journal*, and an editor of the invaluable *Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region*. In addition he contributes the popular column "Field Trip Findings" to our newsletter, *The Observer*. In addition to donating many hours to our chapter, Pete is a long time volunteer for ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. His dedication is very much appreciated by all of us who enjoy our natural world.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 10, 2011

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 30 that sign up, to ensure everyone has plenty of room. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito.

This will be the 21st SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! It's 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! Highlights from previous trips include Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets,

Farallon Islands Boat Trip continued on page 7

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.

Sally Walters, Program Chair

Field Trip Findings

Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway (4/10) — Leader Paul Cordero reported: “A great mix of beginning to experienced birders was able to get some final looks of the season at some of our wintering birds such as Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American Pipit and Hermit Thrush. The last of the common sparrows were also seen including the best find of the day by Mark Martucci, a Savannah Sparrow, which is usually not seen in the area. Raptors abounded including Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, and several nesting Red-Shouldered Hawks. Of the five or so original nesting Great Blue Herons, only two nests remained. Great to see so many birds singing and in alternate plumage.”

Beginning Field Trip for Adults (4/9) — Co-leader Maureen Geiger reported: “This morning, cool and sunny, we had our adult beginner trip at William Pond. We had 10 adults and about 45 species of birds. People particularly seemed to enjoy good looks at the Common Mergansers and Wood Ducks on the River as well as the Western Kingbirds and stunning Western Bluebirds elsewhere. Other leaders were Mary Beth Metcalf, Valerie Phillips and Muriel Parker, who valiantly carried the scope for all of us.”

Caswell Memorial State Park (4/9) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Six birders departed Sacramento on a pleasant spring morning to journey south into the San Joaquin Valley. Shortly after arriving in the park along the Stanislaus River, we encountered a Cooper’s Hawk hunting starlings, we hoped, as there were so many of them in the park. California Quail, Hermit Thrushes, Spotted Towhees, Fox and crowned sparrows occupied the roads when traffic was not present. House Wrens were abundant in the scrubs and bushes. A Brown Creeper was seen. Drawn first by their calls, we were able to find a pair of Wood Ducks high in a cottonwood. We also caught a glimpse of the tail and wing of a nesting Red-tailed Hawk. As the day warmed, we started seeing Swainson’s Hawks circling high above. Wrentits called from secluded haunts and a pair of Common Ravens passed over. American Crows were actually the common corvid we observed. Black Phoebe was our only flycatcher, and Yellow-rumped the only warbler, while Western Bluebird accounted for our second species of thrush. The

chatter of a Bullock’s Oriole was heard, but the bird was not seen. We had both American and Lesser Goldfinches. Tree Swallows were plentiful and busy around the cottonwoods, while Northern rough-winged Swallows found cavities in the riverbanks to their liking. We had four species of woodpeckers, all familiar riparian dwellers, making our daily tally 45 bird species.”

Bufferlands Birds and Blooms Creek Week Tour (4/9) — Leader Roger Jones reported: “We visited the south side of the Fishhead Lake wetland, where flocks of shorebirds were moving back and forth. We saw several large flocks (>200) of Long-billed Dowitcher and smaller numbers of Black-necked

Stilt, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Great Egret, Great Blue heron, Snowy Egret and Greater Yellowlegs.

Many Great-tailed Grackles were seen and heard. Three juvenile Great Horned Owls were seen sitting on a branch near their nest. A pair of dark Swainson’s Hawks were soaring in the area, as well as Northern Harriers, Red-tailed Hawks, Cooper’s Hawks and White-tailed Kites. Flowers were rather rare, as the spring bloom has just begun. However we did manage to find a few Ithuriel’s Spear, Tidy Tips, Purple Owl’s Clover, and Monkey Flower.”

Yolo Wildlife Area (4/6) — The Yolo Bypass was closed due to flooding.

Sailor Bar (4/3) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Twenty birders saw 64 species of birds on a cool and windy early April morning. Highlights included Cassin’s Vireo, Rock Wren, Wood Duck, Phainopepla, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Green Heron, Barrow’s Goldeneye and Spotted Sandpiper.”

Mitchell Ravine (Carnegie State Vehicular Recreation Area) (4/2) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Eleven Sacramento Audubon birders joined two park staff hosts on a trip to Carnegie

SVRA-Mitchell Ravine, overlapping contiguous parts of San Joaquin and Alameda Counties. The day started off overcast and windy, unseasonably cooler than the norm for this location. We started the day with a pair of Cassin’s Kingbirds, one of the target species. The walk up Mitchell Ravine was slower than usual, birdwise, but not without excitement. Cooper’s Hawk was seen more than once, and singing birds included Bewick’s Wren, Wrentit, California Thrasher, Spotted Towhee, Western Meadowlark and Lesser Goldfinch. We also saw White-throated Swift, Anna’s and Rufous Hummingbird and Say’s Phoebe. After lunch, we ascended an old

ranch road to the ridgetop, where we had views of both the Coast Range mountains and the Central Valley. We picked up Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, Yellow-billed Magpie, N. Rough-winged Swallow, Phainopepla, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and American Goldfinch, among others. Common Ravens were indeed common. Of special interest to the group was a sunning rattlesnake, likely a 3-4 footer. A Golden Eagle was sighted just before concluding the trip. We tallied 51 species for the day.”

Cosumnes River Preserve (3/27)

— Leader Brian Gilmore reported: “Flooding prevented access to the trails but we were able to find about 55 bird species along Desmond and Bruceville roads, the cement sidewalks leading to the boardwalk (also flooded) and the Visitor Center. Highlights were high numbers of Violet-green Swallows in the area. Also Cliff, Tree, and Barn Swallows were seen. One-hundred or so Dunlin were sighted (in transition to breeding plumage) along Bruceville Road. Long-billed Dowitchers and Least Sandpipers were also in the same area. Three species of wrens, House, Bewick’s and Marsh, were seen. Four species of sparrows, Song, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, and Lincoln’s, seen. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks are making a nest in the microwave tower along Bruceville road. Valerie Phillips saw a female Western Tanager behind the visitor center.”

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (3/26) — Rained out.



Bewick’s Wren
Kirsten Munson

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Field Trips



Sage Grouse

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 15th. For trips from May 16th through June 19th, email Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips from June 20th through July 10th call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.

Sunday, May 1, 7am
Driver's Flat, Auburn State
Recreation Area
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
Shophe01@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. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Gray, Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. 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, Exit 110 off I-80 at 7am. NOTE: there is now a \$10 per car parking fee at Driver's Flat.

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

Join Maureen for a walk in beautiful open grasslands and oak woodlands off Hwy 49 near Coloma. The Cronan Ranch is home to a large variety of foothill birds including raptor species such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Other species may include area specialties such as Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings (which nest on the ranch) and resident and migrating passerines. Grasshopper Sparrows were found in recent years. This hike is 3.7 miles long; trails are uneven and can be muddy. There are portable toilets in the

Ranch parking lot and at several locations along the way. Meet in El Dorado Hills just off Hwy 50 in the coffee shop inside the Raley's Supermarket. From Hwy 50 east, take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd, and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Saturday, May 7, 7am - noonish
Beek's Bight, Folsom Lake
Leader: Chad Aakre, 275-1681
c.aakre@restoration-resources.net

Some target birds on this trip will be Canyon and Rock Wrens, Hutton's Vireo, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, Yellow, Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers, Wrentit, Violet-green Swallow, Rufous Crowned Sparrow and maybe some good flycatchers. Wildflowers should be really nice and we can expect some good butterflies as well. Conditions are a little rugged so sturdy shoes are recommended, and long pants are helpful as the area is pretty brushy and there is plenty of poison oak to avoid. Meet Chad in the free parking area at the end of Twin Rocks Road (where it turns north and becomes Boulder Road), to hike into the park. Snacks and water are also recommended.

Sunday, May 8, 7am
Spenceville
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 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 the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817

Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station. Brookfield's is behind Shell.

Sunday, May 8, 7am - 11am
Spring Migration at the Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610,
conardc@gmail.com

This morning tour of the Bufferlands will focus on finding migrant songbirds, resident breeders, and lingering winter residents. The heron, egret and cormorant rookery will be in full swing, and if water levels are right, we could have excellent shorebirding conditions. The Sac Reg. County Sanitation District Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. From Sacramento, take I-5 south. Exit at Meadowview/Pocket Rd (just south of Florin Rd) and turn left (east) over the freeway. Turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd (the third light). After one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stonecrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate. Be prepared for potentially muddy trails and up to 3 miles of walking.

Tuesday, May 10, 7am
Sweetwater Creek
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spkua2@comcast.net
Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark and Tim to look for singing Yellow-breasted Chats, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet

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them at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. This will be a half day trip and is a good one for beginners.

Friday, May 13th, 8:30

**Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary
(9 till noon)**

“History Meets Natural History”

**A Walk and Plop trip with California
Native Plant Society**

Leader: John Huls, 284-7021

johnhuls@sbcglobal.net

As we explore the birds and flora of Bobelaine we will stop occasionally and talk about the European obsession with natural history during the 18th and 19th centuries, including brief biographies of Thomas Nuttall and Thomas Bewick. Bring a folding stool or a small ground cloth to sit on. Our leisurely walk will begin at 9am, but you are encouraged to meet at 8:35 at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd for optional car pooling. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Alternate meeting place is the Bobelaine parking lot at 9am. Take Hwy 99 north towards Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue and follow it till it dead ends in the Bobelaine parking lot. This is a joint trip with the local California Native Plant Society. Water and snacks are recommended. This walk is over mostly level terrain and is good for all levels of birder/botanizers, history of science buffs and those who need to sit a spell while enjoying the outdoors.

**Saturday and Sunday, (and optional
Friday) May 13-14-15**

Mono Lake

Leader: Linda Pittman, 715-1876

pittmanl@frontiernet.net

(email preferred)

Please mark your calendars and join Linda for 2 or 3 days of birding on the east side of the Sierra. On Saturday, we will be birding some new and old spots near Mono Lake, looking for Eared Grebes in breeding plumage, waterfowl, Osprey, Sage Thrashers and Sage Sparrows, and also a burn area, where there's a chance for several woodpeckers including Black-backed Woodpecker. On Sunday we'll leave very very early, (about

4am!) for a short hike to a lek viewing site and set up before sunrise in hopes of seeing displaying Greater Sage-Grouse as the sun comes up. 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 toward Sacramento, with an optional stop at Bridgeport Reservoir.

There are two meeting places for the trip. If you drive up early on Friday, May 13, then you can meet Linda at 12:30pm at the Mono Lake Committee Store for birding near Lee Vining, or if driving up later on Friday, meet at 8am Saturday at the store for morning birding. For those who drive up Saturday morning, May 14, meet at the Mono Basin Visitor Center, on Highway 395, just north of Lee Vining, at 12:30pm, (having already lunched). Bring FRS radios, flashlights, scopes and dress in layers for cold weather. Please contact Linda for further details, list of accommodations and to RSVP.

Saturday, May 14, 7am

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 973-9841

mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident species and Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen. This is a great trip for beginners.

Sunday, May 15, 6am

Sand Creek Road

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spkua2@comcast.net

Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Black-chinned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Wednesday, May 18, 8am

Sacramento Bar,

American River Parkway

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for a nice variety of resident birds along the American River Parkway. This is a great trip for birders of all skill levels. To reach Sacramento Bar, exit Hwy 50 at Sunrise Blvd North, turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd. and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sacramento County Park pass or \$5 entry fee is required for each vehicle.

Saturday, May 21, 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!



Rosemary Gilbert Bell

Sunday, May 22, 6am

Sierra Valley

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

The month of May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. This gem of the Sierras is unique in that it has characteristics of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin, yet is part of the western drainage. The Feather River flows out of the northwestern corner of Sierra Valley, through the Sierras and into the central valley, where it joins the Sacramento River. We will stop on the way at Kyburz Flat to look

for nesting Mountain Bluebirds and other montane species, and Sandhill Cranes are possible here as well. Birding will be done mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Thursday, May 26, 8:30am

Yolo Wildlife area

Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 634-9758
ishim2000@comcast.net

Join Marlene for a morning of birding in this wonderful area close to Sacramento. You could see shorebirds, hawks, owls, white-faced ibis, swallows and more. From Sacramento take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. If you have one, bring your spotting scope and FRS radio. Both beginners and experienced birders will enjoy this trip.

Saturday, May 28, 7:30am

Mather Field

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

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, May 29, 6:30am

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County

Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

We will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including Grouse Falls and the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds, including potential distant views of Black Swifts at Grouse Falls. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end by mid-afternoon. We will be walking about 4 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Saturday, June 4, 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 warbler, 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 pointing out bird ID features on this slow-paced trip. We expect to return by 2 or 3pm.

Meet Frank in the Raley's parking lot in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot.

Sunday, June 5, 7am

Pt. Reyes

Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

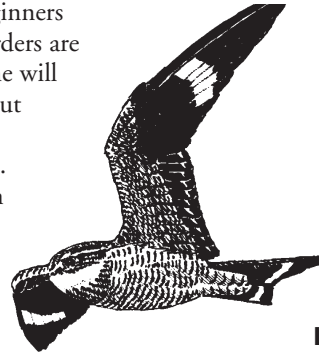
Dan will lead you on a full day of birding at all the usual locations at Pt Reyes National Seashore. A wide variety of species are possible – land birds, water birds, shorebirds, raptors – so join Dan for a great day of birding. Bring your lunch, drinks and your spotting scope, if you have one. Meet at the West Sacramento Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Saturday, June 11, 7am

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Meet Dan in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Dan will be looking for a variety of resident species; Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike



Nighthawk
Stephen D'Amato

that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

Sunday, June 12, 7:30am

Riverbend 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 may still be blooming. Bushtits, wrens, Ash-throated Flycatchers and Oak Titmouses (mice?) should all be active. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon. The park is at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive, north off Folsom Blvd, between Mather Field Road and Bradshaw. Meet in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, June 18, 8:15am

Purple Martins at Sutterville Rd.

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
(281-6652 the morning of the trip)
Co-leader: Dan Airola
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

This is a great opportunity to see and learn about purple martins. Join Maureen and Dan Airola, the Central Valley expert on martins, and hear him discuss their habits and status as these lovely birds fly overhead catching insects and feeding young in their nest holes. The best activity lasts about two hours. This trip will last until late morning. The location is near Sacramento City College between Hwy 99 and Freeport Boulevard and under the east side of the Sutterville Overpass. From Sutterville Road, coming from either direction, turn right onto W Pacific Avenue. Park near the intersection of Pacific and Deeble Street. Call Maureen's cell at 281-6652 if there are difficulties finding the meeting site.

Saturday and Sunday, June 18 - 19, 8am, onsite, both Saturday and Sunday
Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/ Yuba Pass

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

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra/Antelope Valleys or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. Antelope Valley is located at the southern end of Sierra Valley near

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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 travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/16. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Car pooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

**Saturday, June 25, 7am SHARP
Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com**

We'll take a leisurely walk on the one mile loop trail through the North Grove of Giant Sequoias. Hoped-for birds include White-headed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Stellar's Jays are a certainty. Afterwards we'll picnic, so bring a lunch and liquids. Meet Dan at the Starbucks in the Raley's Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (between Watt and Howe), to LEAVE at 7am SHARP. There is an entrance fee to the park.

**Sunday, June 26, 8am
Swainson's Hawk Trip
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249
Fgray4birds@aol.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 others of that species in their migration patterns and wintering grounds. Members of FOSH will be on hand to share information about these interesting birds. Meet Frank and Jude at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the

West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and left again into the Park and Ride lot. FRS radios and spotting scopes will be helpful, if you have them.

**Sunday, July 3, 7:30am
Point Pinole Regional Shoreline,
Contra Costa County
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net;
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net**

This great park, at the confluence of the San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, is a good place to hike in the summer due to its proximity to the Bay which tends to keep it cool. Join Maureen and Ken on a four mile, fairly level hike along the shoreline, through the eucalyptus stands and meadows, past the historical munitions areas, and onto the 1,250' fishing pier to find resident species, especially shorebirds. There is a \$3 parking



Great Blue Heron Rookery
Stephen D'Amato

fee; restroom facilities are available in several park locations. This trip will last until early afternoon; bring lunch to eat near the pier. Weather can be very different from Sacramento, so dress for the possibility of cold, windy and/or foggy weather. Meet Maureen at the West Sacramento Park and Ride by 7:30am (from Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot), or at the Safeway Market complex on Waterman Boulevard in Fairfield – call for details. To meet the group at the Park BY 9am, from Sacramento, take I-80 West to Richmond. Take Exit #20 onto the Richmond Parkway (also says to I-580) and continue on the Parkway to the Giant Highway. Turn right on the Highway and continue into the Park.

**Saturday, July 9, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe@surewest.net**

Come join Scott for this 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. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

**Sunday, July 10
Farallons Pelagic Trip**

See the details on the following page.

ANNUAL MAY BOOK SALE

The May General Meeting will feature on sale many birding field guides and books of nature. If you need books, then this is a sale you will not want to miss. The prices are pennies on the dollar and all monies are donated. There will be field guides for birds from all over the world. Come and see the books and I guarantee there will be many you will want to add to your library.

Don't forget to bring your donated books to the Book Sale which begins at 6:30pm. 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.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip continued from page 1

Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. 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 8 am and returns about 3:30 pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30 am. The trip cost is \$90; the trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up, so sign up early to reserve your spot. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the reservation form provided below.

Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876, for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 10, 2011 Registration deadline: June 15, 2011

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693



AUDUBON OUTREACH

The “Return of the Swainson’s Hawk” event at Sutter’s Landing on the American River found the returning Swainson’s Hawks surprised by a Great Horned Owl pair who had appropriated their nest. However the Swainson’s Hawks nested nearby, and participants had great views of the owls, hawks and White-tailed Kites. Darrell Mohr, Karen Zumwalt and Jerry Towner were at the Audubon Outreach table.

Other events included Earth Day at Cosumnes River College, where Cathie LaZier and Tim Fitzer talked with students.

Upcoming events include a neighborhood event at Laguna Creek in Elk Grove put on by the Sacramento Start Program on May 7th, and “Walk on the Wildside” at Beach Lake on May 21st. Come by and visit our table at these events, or if you’d like to help out contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net.



Karen Zumwalt and Darrell Mohr at the SAS outreach table during the Swainson’s Hawk event.

Birding and Nature Events

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL

The 13th 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 13-15**. Check www.springwings.org for information and registration. Many field trips are nearly full or sold out so check online quickly!

MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 10th Annual **Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua** will be held June 17-19. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, Rush Creek Delta and Mono Basin. There is also a kayaking trip, a bird vocalization workshop, wildflower walk and even animal tracking. Registration opened the middle of April so check their website www.birdchautauqua.org for more information.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE: SIERRA VISTA, AZ – AUGUST 17-21, 2011

If you've never been to southeast Arizona during the late summer season (or even if you have), this is an opportunity you won't want to miss. Besides a program of speakers and workshops, we will offer field trips to all the southeast Arizona hotspots looking for local specialties like Scaled and Montezuma quail, Gray, Short-tailed, and Zone-tailed hawks, a dazzling variety of hummingbirds and flycatchers, Elegant Trogon, Red-faced Warbler, Cassin's, Botteri's, Rufous-winged, and Five-striped sparrows and much more. To register and see full details go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page. You will probably want to download the Conference Details document and review before you begin registration.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Gregory Brott, Illa Collin, Bud Getty, James Hepler, Carol Livingston, Ed Pandolfino, Nancy Schoellkopf, Zach Smith and Arthur Watkins, to the **General Fund**.

Dan Airola, Terry Atkinson, David Compton, Ed Greaves, Jeff Mangum, Susan Nishio, Alan Wade, Peter Watkins and Sharon Wisecarver to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Findings continued from page 2

River Bend Park (3/23) – Canceled due to weather.

Mather Lake (3/20) – Rained out.

Family Friendly Trip, Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova (3/19) – Maureen Geiger reported: "Our trip was cold and threatening but the rain held off until we were about done. We had 5 families show up anyway and had great birds, including a Green Heron and Belted Kingfisher, which flapped around and showed the kids good looks several times. Also, a couple of very cooperative Snowy Egrets. Probably best sighting was the large number (at least 30) of Yellow-billed Magpies that were everywhere building nests, mating, trotting around, and generally being their usual selves. Really nice to see so many!" Sheila Green was trip leader, and Maureen, Wendy Money, and Subhash Chand assisted with the children.

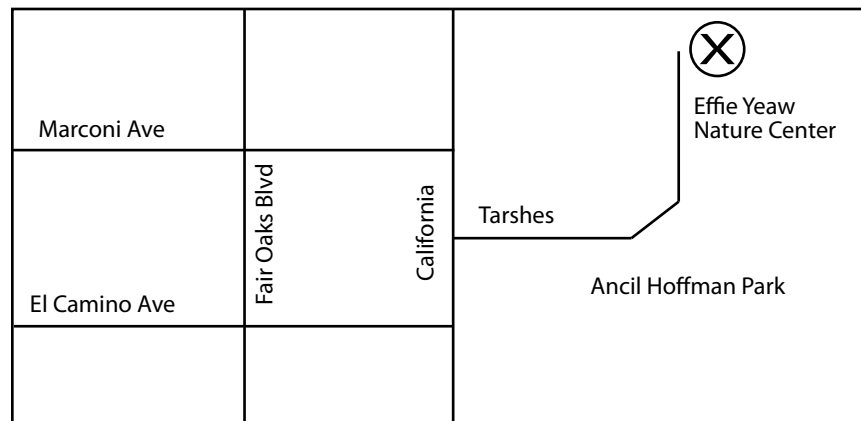
Pete Hayes

OUR MEETING PLACE WILL BE CHANGING

Beginning next September, the Sacramento Audubon Society General Meetings will be held at the **Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Building, in Ancil Hoffman Park**. The Nature Center is excited to have us and we all hope that our partnership can blossom into a mutually beneficial collaboration. Meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm. There will be further reminders in the newsletter and on our website, and there is a map as shown here.

Reminder: The May general meeting will be at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center at McKinley Park as usual.

Directions for Effie Yeaw
(Not to scale)



SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Gesna Clarke | Kevin Petrik |
| Illa M Collin | Craig Schriefer |
| Eugene Masuda | Nancy Tronaas |
| Allan Mounts | Harry White |

Please Note New Email Address

Lea Landry, our membership chair has a new email address: llandry46@earthlink.net.

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 held on May 31, at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

SAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012

The slate of officers was unanimously approved at the April general meeting.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| President | Don Schmoltdt |
| Vice President | Sally Walters |
| Treasurer | Cathie LaZier |
| Recording Secretary | Jonilynn Okano |
| Corresponding Secretary | Karen Zumwalt |
| Directors | Tim Fitzer |
| | Gary Fregein |
| | Darrell Mohr |
| | Linda Pittman |
| | Dan Williams |

Keith Wagner will be Past-President, a board non-elective position.

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

Stockton backyard was last reported by her on 3/14. Cheri, a long-time birder and organizer of the Central Valley Birding Symposium, died suddenly on 3/18.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve. Visit cvbirds.org and click "Listserve" for details. With nearly 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:

Dan Airola, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Jim Holmes, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Don Marsh, Cheri Pillsbury, John Sterling, John Trochet, and Bruce Webb.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

After a couple of months with outstanding new records for the region, things were bound to slow down. This March received nearly twice the average rainfall total and many low-lying riparian areas were flooded and inaccessible, so it is understandable the bird reports were somewhat reduced. Harbingers of spring, **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles** were first recorded on the last day of the month—about a week late for the kingbird.

A gorgeous male **Tufted Duck** was present at a pond with other diving ducks in West Sacramento from 3/11-3/13. This pond, just one of many potentially productive drainage ponds in the area, is along Stonegate Ave to the south of Linden Rd. A few **Redheads** and a **Barrow's Goldeneye**, among other divers, have also been reported there. A male **Greater Scaup** at the lone Sewage Ponds and two male **Eurasian Wigeons** along Sutter Creek-lone Rd on 3/25 were very nice finds for Amador County. A **Pacific Golden-Plover**, molting into breeding plumage on the latter date, was found at the Sac Reg. WTP on 3/8 and 3/22.

Once again, the Yolo gull reports were excellent. The most notable was a second-cycle **Slaty-backed Gull** reported on 3/9 at the Davis WTP. Two or more **Glaucous Gulls** were regular, along with numerous Thayer's and **Glaucous-winged Gulls**, and two adult **Western Gulls** were reported on 3/25. The Granite Bay access to Folsom

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Lake also had some excellent reports, with an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (with different bill features from the Nimbus Hatchery bird of a month earlier) on 3/8, along with a first-cycle **Glaucous**

Gull. The following day, a second-cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was reported, and, on 3/14, the two birds from 3/8 were reported along with a **Kumlien's (Iceland) Gull**. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (the Nimbus bird?) was found along the American River at Ancil Hoffman on 3/12, and two adult **Western Gulls** were reported from the Gristmill access to the American River Parkway (ARP) on 3/10, with one still present on 3/13.

Other interesting reports include the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, found on 2/26 at Serrano and Silva Valley Parkways in El Dorado Hills, continuing through at least 3/12; a **Red Fox Sparrow** at Cosumnes River Preserve's River Walk on 3/13; the **Harris's Sparrow** found near the Gristmill access to the ARP on 1/31, continuing into mid-April along with one (then two) **Slate-colored Fox Sparrow(s)**; and regular **Evening Grosbeak** reports in the Village Homes area of west Davis. The Central Valley's first **Painted Bunting**, found on 2/1 by Cheri Pillsbury in her

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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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.

Observations continued on page 9