



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Shepard Garden and Arts Center
6:30pm Book Sale
7pm General Meeting

Birding in Delhi, India

Subhash Chand, known to some of us as our very wonderful Web Master, and to others as a good birding companion, will share his excellent pictures and informative narration of birding near his family home in Delhi, India.

Subhash claims that he is neither a biologist nor an ornithologist but has long had an interest in nature, and has done a lot of hiking and backpacking. His partner, Marty, has had an interest in birding for over 40 years and pointed out some of the birds they saw on the hikes. About 7 years ago, Subhash finally became interested in birding. A trip to Sri Lanka further piqued his interest—to the extent that he started going on Sacramento Audubon Society's Field Trips about 5 years ago. In addition to birding in California, he has travelled to Costa Rica and Africa on birding trips. After his retirement from State service in 2005, he became much more active in birding. In 2007, he was asked to redesign the website for SAS. His interest in photographing birds has also grown with time—and the investment in a better camera and lenses. Additionally, he recently converted parts of his front and back yards in Fair Oaks to native plants in order to attract more birds.

Since his retirement, Subhash has been visiting his elderly mother in New Delhi about every 3 months. He carries his binoculars and camera with him on his morning walks

SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

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

President	Keith Wagner
Vice President	Dan Williams
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt
Recording Secretary	Jonilynn Okano
Directors	Tim Fitzer, Lea Landry Darrell Mohr, Linda Pittman, Gary Fregien
Peter Watkins will continue as Past President	

ANNUAL MAY BOOK SALE

The May General Meeting will feature on sale many birding field guides and books of nature. If you need books (and I know you do, because everybody does) 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.

Tim Fitzer
Book Sale Coordinator



Red-wattled Lapwing
Subhash Chand

to various parks around his family home in Delhi. He also joined with Delhi Bird Club on their Sunday birding trips around Delhi. In this presentation, he will give you a flavor of birding in Delhi. He will compare

Sacramento with Delhi in terms of urban density, birding areas and common birds, as well as the enthusiasm of birders. While many of the bird families are similar to the ones found here, the species are often different. Some of the colorful birds you will see are the Brahminy Mynah, Red-

whiskered Bulbul, Coppersmith Barbet, Painted Stork, Indian Roller, Bluethroat, and Red Munia. You will hear the unusual calls of some birds, too. A few scenes from around the city of Delhi are also included among the photos of the exotic birds.

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.

Lea Landry, Program Chair

Field Trip Findings

Bodega Bay (3/21) — Leader Brian Gilmore reported: "There were only six or seven people on the trip. A low tide kept most of the birds at a distance. Highlights included a Bat-ray (shown to us by a man from the Madrone Audubon group of Sonoma County) at the Inn At The Tides. Lots of Brants and a few Brown Pelicans, also at Inn At The Tides. At Bodega Head were several Whimbrels, Black Turnstones, and Black Oystercatchers. We had a side-by-side comparison of Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants at Bodega Head as well. Of course there were large numbers of Marbled Godwits and Willets. Sami LaRocca believed she saw a Pacific Loon and took a picture of it."

Phoenix Field (4/14) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported it was a week or two early for vernal pool flowers to appear, but the group saw two Sharp-shinned Hawks, one of which was chased off by European Starlings; Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkeys displaying, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Mather Field Park (4/11) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Five intrepid birders took a chance at birding before the pending storm and were rewarded with 39 species. Western Kingbirds had arrived and the White-crowned Sparrows had not departed. Multiple House Wrens were singing and several were spotted. An initial glance suggested a Brown Creeper but turned into a Bewick's Wren hopping straight up a tree trunk. Some Great-tailed Grackles were present and a large number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were heard and sighted. A great look at a flying American Bittern helped in identifying a first year Black-crowned Night-Heron that flew later. A Marsh Wren was heard and Audubon's Warbler, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnat-catcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler were spotted. The Mute Swans were on the lake, though in separate areas. In the mammal area, we got great looks at 3 River Otters. On the return hike, there were fresh signs of beaver having worked on one of the trees. This was interesting in that beaver have not been spotted in over 10 years of birding Mather."

Jepson Prairie and Yolo Bypass (4/10) — Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Our group of 6 enjoyed a blustery yet mild day viewing a spring wildflower display at Jepson Prairie, including nice patches of Goldfields, Meadowfoam and Golden Violets, among others. Birds included snipe, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt and Canada Goose. At Vic Fazio (Yolo Bypass), we enjoyed breeding plumaged Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin, White Pelicans, White-faced Ibis, as well as Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, and Mallard ducks."

Davis Wetlands and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/9) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "Despite a cold and strong north wind, 14 participants enjoyed a full morning of birding. With a good variety of ducks and other waterbirds to enjoy, our time at the Davis Wetlands went fast. From there we stopped by the old "Hawk and Owl Preserve" in hopes of finding Burrowing Owl. We managed to find one nestled in among thistle growing on the side of the mound that houses their burrows. We then moved to the Yolo Bypass WA where we saw close to 100 American White Pelicans and many Greater Yellowlegs. One Lesser Yellowlegs made an appearance at Parking Lot C, and provided the group with an opportunity to compare the two species side by side. Some group members also got great looks at a Virginia Rail at this location. The total Swainson's Hawk count for the day was 30, with at least 20 seen in a kettle just over the west levee of the refuge. As we exited the wildlife area, several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen across from the entrance on Chiles Road."

Sacramento Bar (4/4) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Seventeen birders had 58 species of birds on a cold and windy Easter morning. Highlights included Green Heron, Hooded Mergansers, Bullock's Oriole, Phainopepla, Northern Rough-winged Swallow and Spotted Sandpiper."

American River between Howe and Watt (4/3) — Leader Dan Kopp reported: "We had a nice group of 15 participants, although it was an overcast, gray sky most of the trip. We all had looks at a white-striped White-throated Sparrow I have been feeding since 12/08/2009! It's a bit of a trick sparrow ;) There were many Orange-crowned Warblers along the

way and we even found one dead along a trail; I was able to show the doubters the orange crown. We had the five most common swallow species: Tree, Cliff, Rough-winged, Barn and Violet-green. A pair of Swainson's Hawks perched near last year's nest. We also had flyover Cattle Egrets. We tallied 64 species."

River Bend Park (3/31) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported "On this cool, damp morning, Dan Brown joined me, with his camera, for a morning walk. Cooper's Hawks and White-tailed Kites were active; wrens and Orange-crowned Warblers were singing; a Great Horned Owl was sitting on a nest. We heard a Pacific-slope Flycatcher and there were 5 different species of swallows in a feeding swarm over the river. The redbud was in bloom and it was a pleasant morning's walk."

Lincoln Grasslands (3/28) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Twelve birders had 94 species of birds and perfect weather for a late March field trip. Highlights included Hooded Merganser, Cackling Goose, Swainson's Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Lewis's Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Rock Wren, Tri-Colored Blackbird and Bullock's Oriole."

Caswell State Park (3/27) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "Ten of us traveled to this park on the Stanislaus River to bird a lush riparian habitat. Although the day started out chilly, it warmed to become a beautiful spring day; perfect birding weather. Upon arrival at the park, a duck in a tree turned out to be a Wood Duck, of course. We were treated to a variety of bird music. Seems we were never out of earshot of a House or Bewick's Wren. Spotted Towhees mewed from hidden places, only occasionally showing themselves. Ruby-crowned Kinglets scolded as they flittered about. Oak Titmouse, Bushtit and White-breasted Nuthatch worked the oaks for insects. A lone Northern Mockingbird sang from a distance. Numerous Tree Swallows also kept up a constant chatter. Not as vocal but also present were Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Turkeys gobbled, too, and California Quail offered their distinctive calls. And who can mistake the rattling call of the Belted Kingfisher. Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks called back and forth. Swainson's Hawks called from high above. A flyover of about a dozen White-faced Ibis was a treat. The woodpeckers

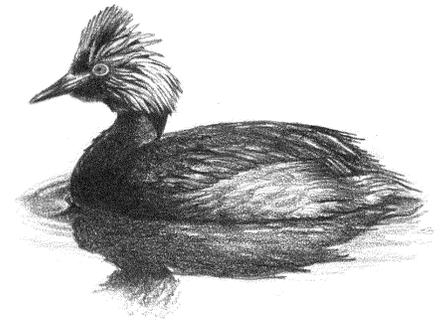
Findings continued on page 6

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 Andi Salmi, 691-7216, andisalmi@yahoo.com, for trips through June 20th. After June 20th, 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.



Daniel Kilby

Saturday, May 1, 7am - 11am

Pine Hill Preserve Birding

Leader: Chris Conard and Graciela Hinshaw, Preserve Manager

Pre-registration required through Pine Hill Preserve at graciela_hinshaw@ca.blm.gov

The Preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on gabbro soils. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Highway 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit newly acquired land in Kanaka Valley, with a combination of grasslands, open oak woodland, and areas of chaparral transition. For details and registration, contact Graciela at the e-mail address above.

Sunday, May 2, 7am

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 1-5 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.

Sunday, May 2, 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.

Saturday, 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 9, 7:30am

Cronan Ranch, Coloma

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

Join Maureen for a walk in beautiful 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 last year. 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.

Sunday, May 9, 7:30am

William Pond Recreation Area

**Leader: John Huls, 284-7021
johnhuls@sbcglobal.net**

Where Bewick's Wrens and Song Sparrows share habitat it is easy to get their songs confused. The Bewick's employs many short buzzes and quick notes joining longer and louder trills, plus, he has many different songs. The Song Sparrow has less variety but can vary the order of his phrases which adds to the confusion. We will key into the

Field Trips continued on page 4

repertoires of these two great songsters. Bring a pencil and notebook to create your own mnemonics. The park is located at the east end of Arden Way, south of Fair Oaks Blvd in Carmichael. We will meet at the gazebo at the very end of the park road. A County Park Pass or a \$5 parking fee is required. This trip will end before noon.

**Wednesday, May 12, 9am – 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.

**Saturday, May 15, 7am
Bothe-Napa Valley State Park**

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

Join Dan for a full day of birding the Coast Range above beautiful Napa Valley Wine Country. Bring a lunch and be prepared for a moderate hike, as we explore this park's fern-lined trails that wind through tanoak, madrone, and redwood forests. Birds we will seek out there include spring arrivals such as Allen's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Warbler. We also hope to see park residents like Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, and maybe even a snoozing Spotted Owl (definitely not a guarantee)! Please meet at the I-80 Park and Ride on West Capitol Ave by 7am. We will bird until early afternoon, so those of you who wish to can stay and do a little tasting!

Sunday, May 16, 7:30am

**Sacramento Bar,
American River Parkway**

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

Join Mark for a morning walk along the American River Parkway. We will see a nice variety of resident birds and hopefully some migrating songbirds. From the intersection of Sunrise and Fair Oaks Blvd, go west on Fair Oaks, then make an immediate left turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue and follow it into the park. Without a County Park Pass there is a \$5 parking fee. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, May 22, Dragonfly Trip

Time and 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 23, 6am

Sierra Valley

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@earthlink.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.

Saturday, May 29, 7:30am

Riverbend Park (formerly 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 should still be blooming. 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. There is a \$5 entrance fee per car if you don't have a County Parks Pass.

Sunday, May 30, 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.

Tuesday, June 1, TBA

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 birds and plants, as well as mammals, on this evening trip.

Saturday June 5, 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. There is a \$5 entrance fee per car if you do not have a County Parks Pass. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders

Sunday, June 6th, 6am

**Granite Springs Road and
Wright's Lake**

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207

spskua2@comcast.net
Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Tim and Mark for a full day of fun and birding. Granite Springs Road runs from Crystal Basin Road to Wrights Lake Road, a distance of about 8 miles. We should find Mountain Quail with young, and possibly Evening Grosbeaks, flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, and Calliope Hummingbird. Around Wright's Lake we expect to find Pine Grosbeak, Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers, vireos and warblers. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. FRS Radios are helpful. Since Granite Springs Road is dirt, we will scout its condition to determine its drivability. Meet at the K-Mart parking lot on Sunrise Blvd, located just behind the Chevron Gas Station at Zinfandel Drive.

Saturday, June 12, 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 12, 5:30am
River Walk Bird Count, Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded information, 684-2816 or
www.cosumnes.org; check the
Activity Schedule

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises; 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.

Sunday June 13, 7am
Grover Hot Springs (and other

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

Plan for a full day of birding the mountain meadows and sage flats of Alpine County with Dan. Bring a lunch, liquids, and be prepared for moderate hiking as we search for such



Kirsten Munson

Alpine species as Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, and maybe even a Goshawk! We will spend the afternoon in the sage scrub near the Nevada border looking for Great Basin specialties such as Pinyon Jay, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow. It may be a good idea to bring hiking boots and insect repellent! Meet Dan at the Bella Bru in the Raley's shopping center 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.

Wednesday, June 16, TBA
Evening Beaver Walk
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

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

Saturday, June 19, 8:15am
Purple Martins at Sutterville Road
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
(281-6652 the morning of the trip)
Co-leader: Dan Airola

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 less than two hours, so there will be an optional trek into nearby Land Park for additional birding. This trip will last until late morning. The location is near Sacramento City College between Hwy 99 and Freepport 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 19-20
8am onsite, both Saturday and 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 overnigher 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 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. Both Gary and Dan plan to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, they will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/17. Meet Gary and Dan 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. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

Saturday, June 26, 7:00 am, Sharp!
Wright's Lake
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the Desolation Wilderness offers a good sample of high Sierran bird life. Tim and Phyllis will help you find many of the Sierran bird specialties including Pine Grosbeak, Black-backed Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker and Cassin's Finch. Bring water and lunch for a full day of birding; bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet Tim and Phyllis at the Bella Bru Cafe at

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

the south end of the Raley's parking lot just north of Highway 50 off of El Dorado Hills Blvd, (Exit 30B).

Sunday, June 27, 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 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.

Tuesday, June 29, TBA

Evening Beaver Walk

American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

If you missed an earlier trip to see beavers, now is the time to go. 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, a great all-around naturalist, will point out other animals as well as plants on this short, evening walk.

Saturday, July 3, 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 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.

Saturday, July 10, 6am

Loney Meadow

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@earthlink.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 the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80, at 6am. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Sunday, July 11

Farallons Pelagic Trip

See opposite page for information and registration.

FIELD TRIP FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Date: Saturday, May 22nd

Time: 8am till noon

Location: William Pond Park on the American River

Limited to 10 participants:

Registration required.

Note: This is the last Beginning Birder class of the season; they will resume in September.

This outing will be geared toward people who aren't entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. A brief parking lot talk will focus on choice and use of binoculars and a brief overview of birding etiquette and ethics. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the costs of hand-out materials.

The field trip will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats and will be led by experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders, Maureen Geiger, Cathie LaZier and Mary Beth Metcalf. Trip is limited to 10 participants; please check with Cathie or Maureen for anyone under 14 years of age. Register via email to either Cathie (empid@earthlink.net) or Maureen, (mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net), giving your name, phone number and email address, or by calling Cathie at (916) 457-6882 and leaving your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

Findings continued from page 2

and sparrows seemed to be the best represented families observed. We saw Acorn, Nuttall's and Downy Woodpeckers, along with Northern Flicker. Sparrows included Spotted Towhee and Song Sparrow, and both White- and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Hermit Thrushes were seen often, a pair of Western Bluebirds and occasionally an American Robin. Only one species of hummingbird, flycatcher or warbler could be found. Representing those families were Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe and Yellow-rumped Warbler; the male being very showy this time of year, but it could not outdo the Lesser Goldfinch for color and brightness. In all, the group tallied 42 species on the day."

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (3/24) — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: "Seven participants enjoyed a fruitful morning of birding at the Bypass. Many of the usual birds were seen. Highlights included a few Dunlins in breeding plumage, a single Marbled Godwit flew in to feed with the Green-winged Teals, a pair of Horned Larks took a vigorous dust bath on the return loop road, a very large flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds greeted us as we started our auto loop tour, and finally we were treated with the appearance of a Peregrine Falcon enjoying breakfast perched on a snag. Also, the birding group included a visitor from Southern California and a visitor who is a member of Napa Solano Audubon. Nice to share the tour experience with the company of birders from other areas."

Golden Gate park, San Francisco (3/20) — Coordinator Cathie Lazier, reporting for leader Ron Storey: "We started at Stowe Lake, climbed the hill on the island and found Chestnut-backed Chickadees, Pygmy Nuthatches, Allen's Hummingbirds, Hermit Thrush and Fox Sparrow. We also found Townsend's and Hermit Warblers. We lunched at the picnic tables in the park, then birded some of the smaller lakes in the park, picking up Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers before going to Sutro Baths, where Ron picked a Black Scoter out of a raft of Surf Scoters. We were pleased that Harlin Perryman was able to join us after his recent successful surgery."

Pete Hayes



Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 11, 2010 Registration deadline: June 15, 2010
Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$90 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Would you like to carpool? Yes _____ No _____

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

LEAD SHOT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK IN STATE WILDLIFE AREAS (NOT JUST FOR CONDORS ANYMORE)

In an effort to remove a loophole in the law that creates a dangerous environment for birds and other wildlife, Audubon California is sponsoring Assembly Bill 2223 (Nava), which would ban the use of lead shot in state wildlife areas. We have also requested that the California Fish and Game Commission consider implementing the restriction administratively.

There is widespread consensus among conservationists, hunters, public agencies, and land managers that the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting poses a real danger to bird populations in wetland environments. Research now shows that both wetland and upland birds will ingest spent lead shot, and that this creates the potential for devastating effects on these bird populations. Lead poisoning has been observed in 37 species of birds beyond waterfowl, and impacts on Mourning Doves appear to be especially acute.

The federal government banned the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in 1991, but left available the option to use lead to hunt upland species in the same environment. This omission frequently results in lead introduction to wetlands and has led 25 states to enact further restrictions on lead shot. State wildlife areas are islands of habitat that serve as magnets to birds and they should be maintained in accordance with the highest standards of wildlife management.

Past restrictions on the use of lead shot have not reduced hunting opportunities, and this measure will not either. We hope the hunting community will embrace this effort to help bird populations thrive.

What you can do... visit our website (www.ca.audubon.org) and sign up for action alerts so that you can support the measure as it moves through the Legislature.

Jordan Wellwood
Central Valley/Sierra Nevada Conservation Coordinator
Audubon California

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010

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 20th year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! 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! A partial list from last year: Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Tufted Puffin, Brown Booby, Black-Footed Albatross, 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 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 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. Contact Ken Hashagen (916) 316 8596 cell or (916) 635-4435 home, for further information. Please fill out and return the Registration Form to Ken Hashagen.

Birding Festivals

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL

The twelfth 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 14-16. See last month's *Observer* for more information or contact Candy Dolan, P.O. Box 6332, Fallon, Nevada 89407. Phone: (866) 432-5566 Fax: (775) 423-8926. E-mail - info@springwings.org. You can also check their website, www.springwings.org for updated information.

MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 9th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will be held June 18-20. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, Rush Creek Delta and Mono Basin. See last month's *Observer* for more information or check out the website www.birdchautauqua.org.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE EVENT

On April 23, Bonnie Breeze will be leading the SAS birding field trip station at the Silva Elementary School in El Dorado Hills. This is the second year that the Education Committee has participated in this very special No Child Left Inside Field Day. Over 230 students will be going on a 50 minute bird walk through a very birdy area. Leaders, besides Bonnie, for these mini-field trips are Tim Fitzer, Cathie LaZier, and Maureen Geiger. How lucky can these kids get! Thanks to all our volunteers.

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER 2010 CAPITAL RIVER AWARDS

Friends of the River is hosting the 2010 Capital River awards honoring Illa Collin and Ron Stork on Thursday, May 13, 5:30-8PM at the home of Deborah Baron, 421 Crocker Road in Sacramento.

SAS is co-sponsoring this event, and inviting everyone to contact Friends of the River or go to their website at friendsoftheriver.org/capitalriver to buy tickets/sponsorships for the event. For more information, please contact Paul Tebbel, Executive Director, Friends of the River at paul@friendsoftheriver.org, or by phone at (916) 442-3155, x212.

AUDUBON OUTREACH

Returning Swainson's Hawks were the focus of an event at Sutter's Landing, where Darrell Mohr and Bonnie Breeze met and talked to many families enjoying the guided river walk led by "Friends of the Riverbanks" volunteers, and a live presentation of Swainson's Hawks by the California Raptor Center.

"Animal House" was the focus of art displayed at the Sacramento Arts Center, where Cathie LaZier represented Sac Audubon, using the new freestanding support for our photo display board, which was designed and constructed by Darrell Mohr.

The Creek Week Clean Up Celebration in Grant Park, Carmichael, also used Darrell's new display board support. Tim Fitzer and Jonilynn Okano used the birding quiz photos designed by Jan Tankersley as part of Creek Week's Treasure Hunt Nature Passport game.

And finally, Cathie LaZier celebrated Earth Day at Cosumnes River College's Earth Week 2010, encouraging students to think about their environment.

As you can see, our Outreach committee is very active. Periodically I send out a list of upcoming events so interested people can volunteer for a particular event. If you'd like to be on that list send an email to me, Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, with Outreach in the subject line.

Darrell Mohr and Bonnie Breeze at the river walk.

SACRAMENTO RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE NEW SPRING BIRD WALKS AT THE RIVER UNITS

Saturday, May 22 at Capay

This will be the official opening day of this new River unit. Come explore the bird life for our celebration of International Migratory Bird Day on a walk from 8-10 and then stay for an opening event.

Preregistration is needed. Please contact the Refuge to register and get more information.

Lora Haller, Visitor Services-Park Ranger
(530) 934-2801, lora_haller@fws.gov

SPEAKERS AND PROGRAMS FOR 2010

September 16 – Robert Meese, *Tricolor Blackbirds*

October 21 – Ron LeValley, *A Blue Whale Adventure*

November 18 – Jess Morton, *Audubon Partnerships in Baja California*

2011

January 20 - Andy Engilis, *Birding in Chile*

February 17 - Scott Crosbie, *Yellow-billed Magpies* (Tentative Date)

March 17 - Ed Pandolfino, *Raptor Survey*

April 21 - Ben Sacks, *Central Valley Red Fox* (Tentative Date)



SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Steve Ball	Susie Nishio
C K Hagerty	Eugene Reames
Karen Huie	Carl Scheuerman
Elaine Light	Patricia Snyder
Bronwyn Moffett	Lisa Zeller

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 25, 2010 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.



Kirsten Munson

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Gregory Brott, Chris Conard, Christine Hansen, Jeff and Marian Mangum, Susan Nishio, Louis Regenmorter, Gerald Swafford, Arthur Watkins to the **General Fund**.

Chris Conard, Patrick Fitzgerald, Gary Harbison, Jim Hepler, Bronwyn Moffett, Karen Resch, Peter Watkins and Sharon Wisecarver to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Lynne Gaffikin made a donation to the **General Fund** in memory of Patricia M. Habel.

Chris and Jadine Nielsen made a donation to the **Endowment Fund** in memory of Roy Greenaway.

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

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

Observations continued from page 10

Mokelumne Fish Hatchery on 3/13, where there had been sporadic reports earlier in the season. A **Hermit Warbler** was at the Sacramento City Cemetery at Broadway and Riverside on 3/13 and 3/20. It probably wintered there. A **Chipping Sparrow** was at the same location on 3/20.

We are now featuring photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (<http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html>).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" 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:

Chad Aakre, Dan Airola, Dan Brown, Steve Hampton, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Don Marsh, Linda Pittman, Zack Smith, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, Liz West, and Ed Whisler.

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

Chris Conard

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

Not quite winter and not quite spring, March is a month of waiting. Waiting for the migrants to arrive. Sure, the swallows are here and the end of the month produces **Western Kingbirds** and **Bullock's Orioles**, but the floodgates have yet to open. The **Yellow-rumped Warblers** are singing, in their hundreds, and in amazing colors, but most of the others have yet to arrive. Early migrants, foreshadowing April, included a **Warbling Vireo** in N Davis on 3/22, a **Cassin's Vireo** at Cosumnes River Preserve's (CRP) Orr Forest on 3/28, and a **Wilson's Warbler** at CRP on 3/27. The first **Purple Martin** detected in Sacramento was on 3/18. A **Marbled Godwit** at Yolo Wildlife Area on 3/31 was a nice find; shorebird migration is building too.

A visit to the Putah Creek Canyon between Winters and Lake Berryessa produced two **Northern Pygmy-Owls** and a **Winter Wren** on 3/5. A mountain biking trip up Rayhouse Rd in Yolo County on 3/19, now perhaps permanently closed to vehicles, produced a **Pine Siskin** (one of the few reports of this irruptive species for the region this winter), a **Hairy Woodpecker**, and a **Sage Sparrow**. The Tall Forest survey at CRP on 3/20 recorded a **Merlin**, two **Peregrine Falcons**, an impressive 9 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, a **Western Tanager** (which probably wintered locally), and three **Purple Finches**. A male **Brewer's Duck** (a Mallard X Gadwall hybrid) was found at CRP on 3/14.

Sacramento Audubon Society
11054 Autumnwind Lane
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

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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.

Interesting gull reports were way down from last year, which had regional firsts and record numbers for rare species.

Among the few reports this month was a **Mew Gull** at the lone WTP on 3/8, where there are few reports of this species in Amador County, an adult **Western Gull** at the Gristmill access to American River Parkway (ARP) on 3/20, the only one reported for Sacramento County this winter, and an adult **Glaucous Gull** near Jepson Prairie on 3/3. Other interesting reports include two **Eurasian Wigeons** at Lincoln WTP on 3/1, plus the continuing bird at Sailor Bar (ARP). Two **Short-eared Owls** off Yolo Rd 29 on 3/10 stand out among few reports of this erratic species this winter. Also of note was a **Yellow-shafted [Northern] Flicker** at ARP at Upper Sunrise on 3/2, the **Hammond's Flycatcher** found in N Davis on 1/2 continuing through at least mid-March, and the **Plumbeous Vireo** at Southside Park continuing through at least 3/6. A **Townsend's Solitaire** was found at the

Observations continued on page 9