



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room
7pm

On Arctic Ground

Debbie S. Miller

An Alaskan wilderness reserve that's America's largest tract of virtually undisturbed public land will be toured in a multi-media presentation at our May meeting. Speaker Debbie S. Miller is known for delighting audiences with personal stories of her years of traveling through Alaska's wild lands and exploring this 23-million acre stretch of wilderness in the far northwest corner of Alaska. She has written several books on Alaska, and received the 1999 Refuge Hero award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for her writing, education, and conservation work.



National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

The reserve is home to grizzly bears, a variety of nesting birds, and America's largest caribou herd, as well as the world's largest bed of Arctic dinosaur bones. Officially it's the "National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska," having been designated a Naval Petroleum

General Meeting continued on page 6

SAS AWARD FOR BILL DILLENGER

Bill Dillinger, who began birding as a Boy Scout and has held most Sacramento Audubon board positions, including president, was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the April 18 general meeting. In addition to presenting a framed certificate to Bill, President Don Schmoltdt handed a check for \$1,000 in his honor to Effie Yeaw Nature Center Executive Director Paul Tebbel for the Urban Nature Project to fund field trips for underserved schools to the nature center.

Pete Hayes, longtime friend of Bill's and fellow Audubon member, recounted how he injected a sprightly sense of humor and general knowledge of natural history into the many field trips he led. He has been a familiar character at Christmas Count compilations, sometimes arriving pushing a child's quacking duck toy, or wearing dark glasses and tapping his white cane. Around campfires at McKerricher State Park or Pyramid Lake, his deep bass voice enlivened campfire singalongs. His renditions of "Dangerous Dam McGrew" and other campfire poetry enthralled the group.

Bill served as Chief of Public Information at both the California Fish and Game Department, and later with the State Parks and Recreation Department. He was a contributor to the Audubon publications *Areas of Critical Concern* and the *Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary Guide*. For State Parks he authored a biography of gold discoverer James W. Marshall and he has contributed nature articles to the *Audubon Magazine*, *National Wildlife Magazine*, the *Sacramento Bee*, *Sacramento Union*, and the American River Natural History Association newsletter, *The Acorn*. He also is the author of a revision of ARNHA's *History of the Lower American River*.

Over the years, the Sacramento Audubon Board has always turned to Bill when there was a need for clear, concise writing, and as current Publicity Chair he is still delivering. With all of his other contributions it was inevitable that he would be nominated, by Program Chair Sally Walters, for Sacramento Audubon's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip

SAVE THIS DATE! SUNDAY, JULY 14, 2013

Sacramento Audubon Society is sponsoring our annual pelagic trip off the coast of San Francisco to the Farallon Islands. This will be the 23rd year SAS has sponsored this trip, and every year is different! We'll travel out the Golden Gate and cruise around Southeast Farallon Island, one of San Francisco's "desert islands" and part of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

This a great trip to see new birds to add to your life list. We'll have several experts on board to help spot and identify birds. We should see many species that are usually only seen offshore or as a tiny speck in your scope from the shore! Highlights from previous trips include Tufted Puffin, Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets, Pigeon Guillemot, Black-Footed Albatross, Brown Booby, Sooty Shearwater, three species of cormorants, and Northern Fulmar. What will we see this year? Join us and discover for yourself!

Farallon Islands continued on page 7

Field Trip Findings

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain (4/14)

— Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Nine people walked the area behind Cal Expo and around Bushy Lake. Unfortunately, the Lake area is almost completely obscured now by vegetation. Waterfowl and other birds on or near the water were not visible. A total of 40 bird species were observed. The highlight was a mother duck with 10 ducklings. Also we were able to view Tree Swallows and Rough-winged Swallows almost side by side.”

Buck’s Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway, El

Dorado Hills (4/13) — Co-leader Maureen Geiger reported: “For this hike, 16 of us walked the Buck’s Creek Trail from the Silva Valley-Serrano intersection to Hwy. 50, then up the hill. Our morning was greatly enhanced by the presence of Cliff Hawley, whose great skills at finding and identifying birds went way beyond co-leading! Lots of bird activity although surprisingly, just under 50 species total. From Western Bluebirds carrying nesting materials into a refurbished nestbox to a pair of American Kestrels mating repeatedly, we had lots of magical experiences. Bullock’s Orioles were back, Wilson’s and Yellow-rumps were in full color, Warbling Vireos were singing, and White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows were still present. Marsh birds were not missed either as Common Gallinules were on every pond.”

Lincoln in Spring (4/7) — Leader John York reported: “We had 14 people to trek around Lincoln and surrounding grasslands. Although shy on hawk numbers, we did see a Swainson’s Hawk, Red-tails, Red-shoulders and Harriers. Owls were good, two Great Horned and two Barn. Western Kingbirds were back and plentiful along Brewer Road. Highlight of the day was all four blackbirds at the dairy on Catlett Road. Photographers got good shots of a Yellow-headed Blackbird playing around. It was a nice enjoyable trip, though the wind kept many birds down.”

Beginning Birding Trip for Adults,

William Pond Park (4/7) — Cathie LaZier reported: “Ten beginning birders joined Darrell Mohr, Mary Beth Metcalf and me for this morning walk. Singing House

Wrens were a challenge for the group to spot, but we were rewarded with views of a pair checking out a tree cavity. A Red-shouldered Hawk showed only its tail over the edge of its nest, and the male White-tailed Kite was constantly present near its nest hidden in mistletoe. Rather scruffy Golden-crowned Sparrows joined colorful Lesser Goldfinches in the weedy areas and we also had good views of a pair of Nuttall’s Woodpeckers near a tree cavity. We totaled 37 species for the morning.”

Caswell Memorial State Park (4/6)

— Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Ten birders spent a delightful day, even with an overcast sky, along the Stanislaus River to bird a lush riparian habitat. This day had as much to do with hearing birds, as seeing them. The most often heard and seen bird was Downy Woodpecker; thus, the group has renamed the park “Downyville”! Other species seemingly in constant song included House and Bewick’s wrens, Tree Swallow and Spotted Towhee. We also heard Wrentit and Bullock’s Oriole. A flyover of three American White Pelicans was seen. Raptors were the best represented group this year, with Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s, Red-shouldered, Swainson’s and Red-tailed Hawk all making an appearance. Wood Ducks were seen again this year. By the end of the trip, the group had tallied 43 species in the park, equaling last year’s total.”

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

(3/31) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Sixty-five species of birds were seen on an Easter morning that started out with heavy rain and ended up with plenty of sunshine. Highlights included Swainson’s Hawk, Common Gallinule, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Orange-crowned Warbler, Bullock’s Oriole and Northern Rough-winged Swallow.”

Yolo Wildlife Area (3/26)

— Marlene Ishihara reported: “Spring has arrived; bird species and activities have changed. Our group was treated to a Swainson’s Hawk, that soared and circled overhead, giving us good views for identifying field

marks. We sorted through a large flock of blackbirds gathering among the bulrushes to identify Tricolored, Yellow-headed, Red-winged, Brewer’s, and Cowbirds. Lesser Yellowlegs were seen along with Greater Yellowlegs. A lone Barn Owl was enjoying the morning sunshine. And, a pair of Common Ravens were seen flying and circling in tandem. In the mammal department, a few people saw a swimming muskrat from Parking Lot C. As usual, a good morning at the Bypass.”

Cosumnes River Preserve (3/21)

— Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Our group of seven birders covered nearly four miles on a cold, overcast and somewhat breezy morning at this beautiful preserve in southern Sacramento County. We counted 67 species, many of which were courting, singing, and/or carrying nesting material. Our highlight observation was an American Bittern performing a portion of that species’ elaborate courtship display. The American Bittern display is not often seen, so we were very pleased to have witnessed this behavior.”

Eastern Sacramento County Foothills

(3/20) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had an excellent day in Eastern Sacramento with the Central Valley Bird Club/Sacramento Audubon trip to Latrobe Rd, walks to normally closed portions of the adjacent Deer Creek Hills, as well as Michigan Bar and Meiss Rds. Highlights included an Osprey, a Bald Eagle, a Ferruginous Hawk, three-four Rough-legged Hawks, incredible views of a Virginia Rail calling in plain sight, two calling Common Poorwills (in a pre-dawn visit with only two other members of the group), 15 Common Ravens, three Rock Wrens, side by side bright male Myrtle and Audubon’s warblers, and a Chipping Sparrow. At this late date we weren’t expecting to do all that well with winter raptors, but a Rough-legged Hawk along Latrobe Rd shortly before reaching Michigan Bar was a nice surprise. A less pleasant discovery was a flat tire on one of our vehicles, but while changing the tire someone spotted a Ferruginous Hawk. Then on to Michigan Bar, which had a lot of activity, especially from Cliff

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Field Trips



Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Kirsten Munson

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 707-8808 for trips through May 12. From May 13-June 16 contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com, 691-7216. From June 17 on contact Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com

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

Saturday, May 4, 7am-11:30am **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 (there is scheduled road construction at Stonecrest, but we have been assured that the road will be open: if a sign says "Authorized Vehicles Only," you may proceed). Be prepared for three miles of walking.

Sunday, May 5, 7am **Driver's Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky** **Auburn State Recreation Area** **Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471** **shoppe01@surewest.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.

Tuesday, May 7, 8am - 11am **Manfred Kusch's Putah Creek Property** **Yolo Co. west of Davis** **Leader: Sally Walters, 739-6465**

You've read his reports on CVBirds; here's a chance to explore this bird oasis and popular research site. Join Manfred in his 21 acre bird garden along Putah Creek.

TRIP LIMITED TO 10 PEOPLE. To register and get meeting time and place, email dschmoldt25@gmail.com SUBJECT: Kusch Property. Be sure to put your name and phone number in the message.

Saturday, May 11, 7am **Point Reyes National Seashore** **Leader: John York, 409-9276** **sunofyork@att.net**

John plans to bird the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks, Lighthouse and Abbott's Lagoon if the weather is good. If it's too foggy at the coastal spots, he'll bird the onshore locations. Meet John at 7am 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 then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring fluids and dress for changeable weather. John is planning to stop for lunch in Inverness.

Sunday, May 12, 7am **Spenceville WLR** **Leader Richard Barbieri, 761-1124** **offleash56@yahoo.com**

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at the 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.

Saturday, May 18, 7:30am **Mather Field** **Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457** **wayne.blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr. Then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5.

Sunday, May 19, 6am **Sand Creek Road** **Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci** **Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net** **Mark: 833-6722** **matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Sage Sparrow, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Wood pecker, 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 22, 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. Marlene may also visit the Davis Wetlands or the Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant to include a variety of other birds for the day's bird list. 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 25, time TBD

Dragonfly trip Location: TBD

Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, Tim will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

Sunday May 26, 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 Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Saturday, June 1, 7am

Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain

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

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

Sunday, June 2, 7am

Crystal Basin

Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn and Wendy Money

Phyllis: 530-642-9942
abirder@aol.com,
Wendy: 205-3194,
wendydougmsn@msn.com

Phyllis and Wendy will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Wendy at the Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit#30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway

to the shopping center on your right. You can also meet Phyllis at 8 am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd. (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30am

River Bend 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. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park, (formerly called Goethe Park). A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday June 8, 6:30am

Mosquito Ridge, Placer County

Leader: Richard Barbieri,
761-1124

offleash56@yahoo.com

Richard will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds.

There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The

trip will end by mid-afternoon. We will be walking about 2-3 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet at 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.

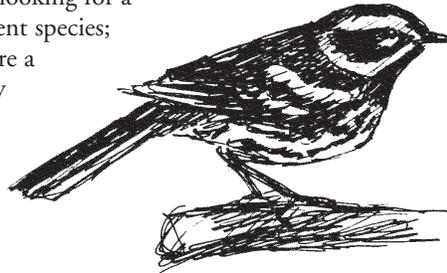
Sunday, June 9, 6am

Granite Springs Road

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, Mark Martucci and Scott Hoppe

Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net,
Mark: 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com,
Scott: 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net



Townsend's Warbler
Kirsten Munson

Join Tim, Mark and Scott 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 and Sunday, June 15-16,
8AM onsite both Saturday and Sunday
Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/Yuba
Pass
Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an over-nighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra/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. 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, 6/13. 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, 22, 7:30am
Indian Grinding Rocks State Park
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495
yellowhammerCA@gmail.com**

Join Cliff for a day birding at this State Park. The birdlife varies depending on the season, but many species are seen

year round, including Turkey Vultures, Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, wild turkeys (non-native), and California Thrashers. In summer, the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods around the meadow. A bird list is available at the museum.

Meet Cliff at the Starbucks parking area in the Raley's Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (between Watt and Howe) at 7:30am. Trip goes till 2 or 3 pm so bring water and lunch. Some light to moderate walking.

**Sunday, June 23, 7:30am
Lynch Canyon, Solano County
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
Ken Poerner, 707-330-3869
Maureen's cell that morning only:
281-6652
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net**

This beautiful, 1,039-acre park just off I-80 in Solano County consists of rolling hills with stands of native oak, buckeye and bay trees, small riparian corridors, panoramic vistas and, of course, wildflowers in June. Maureen and Ken will look for summer swallows, bluebirds and other song birds as well as resident raptors, woodpeckers and quail, and shorebirds at the reservoir. Golden Eagles are regular visitors here. This trip involves walking several miles on an easy trail and will end mid-day with an optional picnic lunch at tables near the park entrance. There is a \$5 parking fee. Meet in the West Sacramento Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento at 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 meet at Lynch Canyon Park at about 8:30.

**Friday, June 28 (overnight)
Flammulated Owl Banding in Plumas
County
Leader: Linda Pittman, email preferred
pittmanl@frontiernet.net 715-1876
Participants must RSVP
The trip is limited to 10.**

The Lake Davis area in the northern Sierra Nevada hosts a large breeding population of Flammulated Owls, a US Fish and Wildlife Bird of Conservation Concern and a sensitive species that is the subject of a multi-year study. Banding these owls at their nest sites furthers understanding of site and mate fidelity, life-span, dispersal and migra-

tion. This educational trip is an opportunity to increase awareness and concern for the species and join the banding team for an evening of up close owl study. Participants may also join Linda for optional birding in Sierra Valley prior to the owl banding.

**Saturday, June 29, 7:30pm SHARP!
FRIENDS OF THE SWAINSON'S HAWK
EVENING TRIP**

**Bats and Swainson's Hawks
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
with Friends of the Swainson's Hawk
bat and hawk experts**

Join Maureen to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed Bats emerge while Swainson's Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Maureen for meeting time and place.

**Sunday, June 30, 7:30am
Mather Lake
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, Blackheaded Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr. Then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5.

**Saturday, July 6, 7am
Ice House Road and Crystal Basin area
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870- 5207
Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
Tim: spskua2@comcast.net
Richard: offleash56@yahoo.com**

This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento and is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, flycatchers, warblers and other surprises. Mountain wildflowers are a possibility so bring your flower field guides. Several stops will be made along Ice House Road and side roads for short walks. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Meet Tim and Richard at the Bella Bru Cafe at the south end of the Raley's parking 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.

Field Trips continued on page 6

**SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS 2013-2014**

The nominated slate of Officers and Board Members for the Sacramento Audubon Society was unanimously approved by the membership at the April meeting.

President	Linda Pittman
Vice President	Subhash Chand
Treasurer	Cathie LaZier
Recording Secretary	Keith Wagner
Corresponding Secretary	Karen Zumwalt
Directors	Tim Fitzer
	Gary Fregein
	Darrell Mohr
	Margaret Martin
	Jonilynn Okano

Don Schmoltdt will be Past-President, a board non-elective position.

Field Trips continued from page 5

Sunday, July 7, 6am

Loney Meadow

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@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 drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Saturday, July 13, time TBD

Dragonfly trip, Location: TBD

**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009
Ylightfoot@aol.com**

Most likely Tim will try Bear Creek for Giant Darners etc, but since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species he 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, water to drink and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case!

General Meeting

continued from page 1

Reserve in the 1920s. About half of it is still open to oil and gas development under a plan announced in February by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, though little work has actually been done there.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters, Program Chair

Findings continued from page 2

Swallows, but Meiss Rd was more of a surprise. We had two or three more Rough-legged Hawks, four Swainson's Hawks, a single fly-over Sandhill Crane, and some Dunlin, Dowitchers, and a few ducks (and many coots) at the pond just east of Dillard Rd on Meiss."

American River Between Watt and Howe (3/17) — Leader Dan Kopp reported: "Approximately 13 participants joined me on this gorgeous mostly sunny and calm morning. We walked from Watt Ave most of the way to Howe and back. Highlights included a continuing pair of Hooded Mergansers and cavity-exploring Wood Ducks. We had a fairly decent raptor day with a Red-shouldered Hawk on a nest across the river; also saw a Red-tailed, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks. We discovered a female Anna's Hummingbird on a nest, my second of the year. One of my White-throated Sparrows came to the seed I threw out. We also found Pine Siskins, Lark Sparrows, Lincoln Sparrows, a Hermit Thrush and an Orange-crowned Warbler. We noted three species copulate this morning: Red-shouldered Hawks, Belted Kingfishers and Nuttall's Woodpeckers. We tallied 65 species for the morning, one of our last additions being nine American White Pelicans circling east of Watt as we returned at noon."

Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults, William Pond Park (3/17) — Cathie LaZier reported: "We started this morn-

ing walk with Lark Sparrows and a great look at a Merlin found by Craig DeMartini. There were good scope views of Red-shouldered Hawks and White-tailed Kites exhibiting courtship and nesting behaviors. Downy Woodpeckers and Tree Swallows were also ready to nest and the heron/egret rookery was active. We ended the walk with looks at Western Bluebirds and a California Towhee spotted by Maria Ostendorf. Valerie Phillips, Muriel Parker and Darrell Mohr helped beginners with field guides and spotting scopes, and we totaled 52 species for the 3 hour walk."

Mather Field Park (3/16) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Outstanding weather and an outstanding group of 22 had a record count for a Mather outing. We reported a total to eBird of 59 species for the morning. Highlights include a Greater Yellowlegs, 4 Black-crowned Night-Herons, and an Osprey that overflew the lake, caught a fish, then perched and ate it on the north-east corner of the lake. We had great looks at 200+ migrating Snow Geese and witnessed a food fight between a River Otter and a Great Blue Heron. Everyone got great looks at 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds, hopefully early arrivals. There was a large presence of Great-tailed Grackles that compete with the Yellow-heads. Another treat for all was an American Bittern."

Pete Hayes

Farallon Islands Boat Trip continued from page 1

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. We'll be on the same boat we've chartered many times in the past. The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip lecture starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 30 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. The trip cost is \$90 per person. Sign up deadline is June 15.

Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space with the reservation form. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 715-1876 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 14, 2013 Registration deadline: June 15, 2013

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

Name _____

Telephone _____ Cell Phone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

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

ARNHA BIRD AND BREAKFAST A BIG SUCCESS!

This year's ARNHA Bird and Breakfast fundraiser was a two day event and helped raise much needed funding for Effie Yeaw Nature Center. We had 18 volunteers from Sacramento Audubon helping guide participants through the nature preserve, some of them working both days. On the family day, Sunday, Kiwanis prepared a pancake breakfast. One group of Boy Scouts was working on a badge. Spotting scopes were setup at several locations along the trails to observe nesting birds. Among them viewers watched a Red-shouldered Hawk pair actively construction a nest. Other scopes saw Wood Ducks in a tree, and the pair of Cooper's Hawks that Dan Brown photographed, and an Anna's Hummingbird on nest was also in a scope. Some of the best birds were a Phainopepla and an Osprey but as a couple of different leaders said, participants favorites were turkeys, deer and Acorn Woodpeckers.



Cooper's Hawk at Effie Yeaw
Dan Brown

BUILDING BACKYARD HABITAT

Xerces and Audubon at Home - a Perfect Fit

On April 13 the Smart Gardening Fair sponsored by the Master Gardeners of Monterey County was held in Carmel. About 200 people attended to find out more about appropriate plantings for their backyards.

The Xerces booth was busy answering questions and a lot of good information was exchanged. Julie Serences gave a 45 minute talk about native bees and building native bee habitat in your backyard. It was well received with many good questions afterwards. Sacramento Audubon's Audubon at Home brochure modeled on San Diego Audubon's brochure was a hit and the supply was soon depleted.

Thank you to both organizations for your continued support in reaching out to gardeners and home owners.

Julie Serences
Audubon at Home Coordinator,
Sacramento Audubon Society
Xerces Partner in Pollinator Conservation
Board Member Sacramento Valley CNPS

HUMMINGBIRDS AT HOME HAS FLEDGED!

National Audubon's first all-digital, mobile citizen science program will build a continent-wide network of citizen scientists to help uncover how hummingbirds are affected by climate change. Using a mobile-optimized web portal and smart-phone apps, people from across the U.S. can report their hummingbird sightings. The data collected will guide Audubon in devising actions to help hummingbirds thrive despite climate change and other threats. Please visit www.hummingbird-sathome.org for more information and to start logging your sightings!

LIVE EXCITEMENT

It's nest cam time again. Follow nest building, bird sex!, egg laying, hatching and fledging at some of these web cams: www.calacademy.org/webcams/farallones/ for all the activity at the Farallones. cams.allaboutbirds.org/live-cams/ which currently features Ospreys in Montana and Great Blue Heron and Red-tail Hawk in Ithaca, New York. For Atlantic Puffins, Razorbills and Common Terns from Seal Island, Maine go to explore.org and click on the Live Cams tab.

Birding and Nature Events

HERON FESTIVAL

Held in Kelseyville, CA on **May 4-5**, the Heron Festival is a celebration of the Great Blue Herons return to their nesting sites around Clear Lake. This year's festival event will be pontoon boat tours visiting the heron rookeries. Each boat will have an experienced Audubon guide to point out the birds being seen on the tours and explain their behaviors. Besides several species of nesting herons and egrets, tour guests are likely to see nesting osprey and cormorants, yellow-headed blackbirds, and Western and Clark's grebes in courtship displays where they "dance" in pairs across the lake surface. More information and registration, can be found at www.heronfestival.org.

WILD AND SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL ON TOUR

Join Save Our Sandhill Cranes for their 4th hosting of the Festival at the beautiful Crest Theater on Friday, May 10th. The reception is at 5pm and the films are from 6:30 to 9:30pm. This is a benefit for the California Heartland Project which is a regional conservation vision of Habitat2020, the Conservation Committee of ECOS. Tickets are \$10 for the films and \$15 for the films and reception.

The reception brings together a number of great local green businesses and organizations, and includes great, free local food. Wine and Sierra Nevada beer will also be for sale. And just as always, there will be a silent auction, and a raffle of great prizes...everyone gets a raffle ticket!

Sacramento Wild and Scenic On Tour is a customized selection of films from the annual festival begun in Nevada City, CA in 2003. In addition to habitat conservation, water conservation, and local food and agriculture, sport and adventure will be themes of this year's Sacramento Festival.

WALK ON THE WILDSIDE!, MAY 18, 10AM-4PM

Join the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Bufferlands and the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge for a Walk on the Wildside, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This free, family-oriented event includes tours, presentations, live animals, music, hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more. Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian restoration projects. Enjoy a unique opportunity to see one of approximately four heron rookeries in Sacramento County on a Bufferlands guided tour. This rookery contains 67 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets, and double crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds. For more info contact Kevin Cassady at 875-9196 or cassadyk@sacsewer.com

TWELFTH ANNUAL MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA

The 12th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will take place this year from **June 14-16** so make your plans now to attend. Held every year in the unique Mono Basin, festival headquarters are in Lee Vining, but field trips extend as far south as the White Mountains where bristlecone pines are found. Several surrounding lakes are visited, the ghost town of Bodie and neighboring wetlands, and an owling trip is planned. Besides field trips the festival offers music, art and science exhibits. Registration begins April 15th and more information can be found at birdchautauqua.org. Many field trips fill up quickly, so register as soon as possible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Gregory Brott, Jeanne Conry, Jean Gervin, Jim Hepler, Robert and Anne Meagher, Kent Milton, Nancy Schoellkopf, Douglas Schwilk and Arthur Watkins, to the **General Fund**

Dan Airola, Bob and Cindy Austin, Jim Hepler, Shelley Lawson, Jeff Mangum, Eugene Masuda, Anne Monge, Mary Nuezel, Andrea Salmi, Susan Solarz and Alan Wade, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**

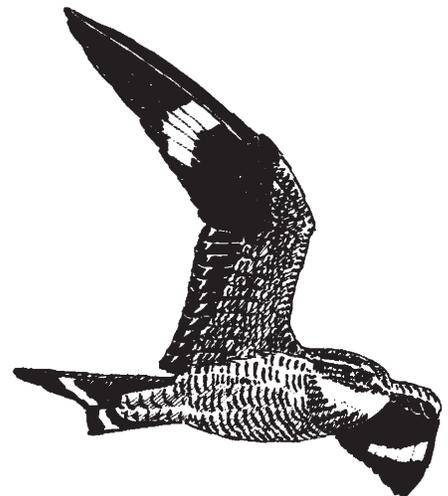
Karen Sturnick and Elizabeth Andrews made a donation in memory of Audrey Kidd, "who so enjoyed watching birds visit her feeder." Donations in Audrey's memory were also made by Howard and Donna Ross, and the Gold River Villagers Association.

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on May 28, at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2013 PROGRAMS

September 19 Ed Pandolfino
October 17 Ron LeValley



Common Nighthawk
Daniel Kilby

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Barbara Banholzer

Suzanne Day

Anne and Claudio Monge

Patricia Nuezel

YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS AT WORK

The Sacramento Audubon Society Board has voted to make the following donations:

- \$1000 to **Wildlife Care** to further their rescue work.
- \$1000 to the **Urban Nature Project**, to fund field trips to **Effie Yeaw Nature Center** for underserved schools; the donation was made in honor of Bill Dillinger's services to Sacramento Audubon.

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

Start planning now. The thirty-eighth Annual Meeting of Western Field Ornithologists will take place at **Olympia, Washington, August 22-25, 2013**. More details will be posted as they become available. Registration will open in early May. For details and the conference flyer go to www.westernfieldornithologists.org and click on the 'Annual Conference' banner in the middle of the page.

This conference will feature:

Workshops to enhance your field skills

- Fall Warblers: Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett (includes both classroom and field sessions)
- Sapsuckers-ID challenges and research update: Steve Shunk
- Gull Identification: Mike Donahue
- Dragonflies: Dennis Paulson (includes both classroom and field sessions)
- Wilderness First Aid: Heath Wakelee
- Making full use of eBird: Brian Sullivan

Keynote talk by John Marzluff on those amazing Corvids

Two sessions of talks on recent research in the region with a plenary talk by Dennis Paulson

A full set of field trips (including Pelagics)
Photo and Bird Sounds ID sessions

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@comcast.net

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

of the month, but it did turn up again in April. Four **Red Crossbills** at McKinley Park on 3/7 continued this excellent season for the species around Sacramento. On 3/11, four **Evening Grosbeaks** were found in Orangevale, with two continuing on 3/19.

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

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and eBird.

It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Ben Abramovitz, Kari Bauer, Dan Brown, Chris Dunford, Gil Ewing, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Cliff Hawley, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Steve Scott, Craig Swolgaard, John Trochet, and David Yee.

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

This was another atypically dry month, but with some excellent waterfowl reports. A **Tule** (also known as **Taiga**) **Greater White-fronted Goose** was among a group of the expected **Pacific Greater White-fronted Geese** along Woodbridge Rd on 3/22.

This distinctive sub-species is rarely seen away from the Sacramento NWR complex. The male **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** reported at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 2/27 continued through at least 3/4. More than 350 **Greater Scaup** on the San Joaquin River near Sherman Island on 3/10 exceeds last month's impressive totals. One male and two female **Surf Scoters** were found on the Sacramento River upstream of Sherman Island on 3/9; seven males were on the San Joaquin River from Sherman Island Levee Rd on 3/10, with four continuing on 3/12.

An adult **Northern Goshawk** flying low and calling over Davis near Covell and F St on 3/24 was an exceptional observation on the flats of the Valley. The good season for **Rough-legged Hawks** continued with one at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 3/27 and with 3/30 producing one on Latrobe Rd and two or three on Meiss Rd.

The most notable shorebird report of the month was a **Snowy Plover** found at the Woodland WTP on 3/14. An early **Whimbrel** was at the Sacramento Reg WTP on 3/7 and continued for several

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days among **Long-billed Curlews**. An impressive 72 **Mew Gulls** were found at Sherman Island on 3/10. An adult

Western Gull was near the Gristmill access to the American River Parkway (ARP) on 3/17. This species is regular at Sherman Island, but six there on 3/10 was an unexpectedly high total. Two adult **Glaucous Gulls** were at YBWA on 3/2, with a single adult on 3/4.

Two **Common Poorwills** calling at the lower end of Latrobe Rd in Sacramento County near Stone House Rd were detected on the early date of 3/30. The **Red-naped Sapsucker** found along Hwy 128 from 2/13-20, just east of the Hwy 128 bridge below Monticello Dam, was seen again on 3/11. A **Townsend's Solitaire** in a backyard across the American River from Gristmill on 3/24 might be the same bird that was detected at Gristmill from 2/2-13. A **Chestnut-collared Longspur** at CRP on 3/23 accounted for the only longspur report in the area. The continuing **Harris's Sparrow** in N Davis was seen on 3/10, though not again for the rest

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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.

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Observations continued on page 9