



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, November 16
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
7pm General Meeting

Christmas Count Workshop

Join Tim Fitzer, John York, Doug O'Bannion and other area count leaders for a Christmas Count Workshop. Learn about the history of the counts and get answers to some common questions, i.e., isn't that flock of crows being counted by three different teams? Get tips on counting large flocks of birds in the sky, mixed flocks of birds on the water, and learn to distinguish some common birds that can look confusingly alike in winter plumage on a gray winter's day. Ed Harper has lent his Christmas Count slide program to provide good visual aids for some of the tricky identification problems. Remember, you do not have to be an experienced birder to go on a count; participation gives you experience. So join us at 7pm for coffee and dessert and an informal evening of Christmas Count fun; then pick your favorite count area and sign up!

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. Please note our new starting time this year is 7pm. The public is welcome. Visit our website at www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information, including directions.



CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES

Dec. 16, Saturday, Woodfords, Alpine County

Compiler: Tim Fitzer, (916) 870-5207, spskua1@comcast.net

Dec. 16, Saturday, Auburn, Placer County

Compiler: Deren Ross, (530) 885-9740

Dec. 17, Sunday, Stockton

Compiler: Jim Rowoth, (209) 956-2648, rowoth@sbcglobal.net

Dec. 17, Sunday, Putah Creek

Compiler: Steve Hampton, shampton@ospr.dfg.ca.gov

Dec. 18, Monday, Benecia, Napa/Solano (Grizzly Island)

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island), (916) 870-5207, spskua1@comcast.net
Or Compiler: Robin Leong, (707) 643-1287

Dec. 27, Wednesday, Lincoln

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, (916) 486-9174, ERPfromCA@aol.com

Dec. 28, Thursday, Honey Lake

Compiler: Tim Manolis, (916) 485-9009

Dec. 30, Saturday, Sacramento

Compiler: Cliff Hawley, (916) 300-2495, yellowhammer74@yahoo.com

Dec. 31, Sunday, Folsom

Compiler: Chris Conard, conardc@gmail.com

Jan. 2, Tuesday, Rio Cosumnes

Compiler: Andrew Engilis, (530) 752-0364, aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu

To find locations and dates for additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit www.natureali.org/cbcs.htm.

Special Field Trip for Families—Bring those Kids!

On Friday, November 24 (the day after Thanksgiving) at 9am

Goethe Turkey Walk for Families and Beginners

Leader: Sheila Green, 368-7826, raeshei@aol.com

Here is a great opportunity to walk off that turkey dinner. Join Sheila in looking for wild turkeys in this beautiful riparian area along the American River. Turkeys abound here, and she will also be exploring the oak forest for local and migratory birds. Especially geared for children, their families and beginning birders, this trip will run an hour and a half to two hours. Bring binoculars, water and snacks and be prepared for variable weather. Meet Sheila behind Papa John's pizza place at Folsom Boulevard and Rod Beaudry Drive for car pooling into the park; expect to pay a park entrance fee of \$4 per vehicle.

ALL OF CALIFORNIA WOULD APPRECIATE A YES ON PROPOSITION 84

California Audubon is supporting a yes vote on Proposition 84. The following article was recommended for all Audubon chapter newsletters. Further information may be found at www.yeson84.com.

California is facing enormous population growth in the coming years, with 25 million new residents expected by 2040. But our investment in infrastructure is not keeping pace with our population growth. Current funding for natural resources and environmental protection programs is critically low. In fact, funding for resources makes up less than 1% of the overall state budget.

Proposition 84—the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Act makes the investments needed to ensure that all Californians will have:

- Access to safe drinking water
- Better protection from floods
- Opportunities to enjoy parks, natural landscapes and our rivers, lakes, beaches, bays and coastline.

A broad coalition of interests—water districts, conservation and environmental groups, local government entities, business organizations, museum and park interests, elected officials, and civic groups—has been formed to support Proposition 84, the Clean Water, Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act.

While California and Sacramento Audubon may solicit your yes or no vote on certain issues it is always best to investigate each issue and candidate for yourself and then get out and VOTE your conscience.

Field Trip Findings

Point Diablo Hawk Watch, Marin

Headlands (10/15) — Sacramento birders led by Maureen Geiger scoped a pair of Peregrine Falcons perched on a tower catwalk of the Golden Gate Bridge. But the overcast, cool weather limited hawk activity to Red-tails and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Townsend's Warbler and Pygmy Nuthatches were observed in nearby evergreens. The group moved down to Rodeo Lagoon where they found Eared and Western Grebes. A final stop was Petaluma's Shollenberger Park where birders were rewarded with looks at two Pacific Golden Plovers in among 200 Black-bellied Plovers, along with several Blue-winged Teals, Sora, and Eared Grebes.

Hope Valley, Alpine County (10/14)

"The weather was perfect at Hope Valley," leader Lisa Moraga reported. "We enjoyed mild temperatures and clear blue skies. The quaking aspen were in peak form. The day was not too birdy. However, we did get good looks at residents such as Mountain Chickadee, Mountain Bluebird, Clark's Nutcracker, and Stellar's Jay. Another resident, Townsend's Solitaire, was constantly singing and setting up prime juniper berry/wintering territories. Other birds of note included: Red-tailed Hawk; 1 Band-tailed Pigeon (More were seen by Harlan Perryman near the gravel piles on Hwy 50); 15-20 Bushtits; Dark-eyed "Oregon" Junco; Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Red-breasted Nuthatch; and White-breasted Nuthatch. Heavy Construction is underway at Kirkwood Ski Resort. The short time we spent near the tennis courts only produced 1 Song Sparrow."

Goethe Park (10-8) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported, "It was a slow birding day, but we had good looks at a White-headed Nuthatch headed down a tree trunk, as well as Spotted Towhees and Acorn Woodpeckers. Spotted Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs and Common Mergansers were on the river, along with a few dozen salmon fisherpeople. A cooperative Red-shouldered Hawk perched quite close for great views. Vinegar Weed was in bloom, with its tiny complex flowers and pungent odor."

Monterey Pelagic Trip (9/-30-10/1)

Leader Ken Hashagen reported, "With the able assistance of Mark Cudney and his spotters on the pelagic portion of the trip and Jeff Mangum on the tour of the Monterey hotspots the following day, about 30 Sacramento Auduboners had a great field trip. The weather for the trip on Monterey Bay was great—dead flat water and overcast. No sea sickness! We saw about 24 species, including South Polar Skua, Buller's, Sooty, and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, and Ashy and Black Storm Petrels. A Humpback Whale that breached six times in a row nearby highlighted Marine mammals, along with Risso's and Pacific White-sided Dolphins, the ubiquitous sea lions, Harbor and Northern Fur Seals, and Dall's Porpoise. And sea otters, of course.



Kirsten Munson

The shore portion of the trip also produced a great number of species. Warblers were a little slow due to the cool, overcast morning, but we rounded up the usual suspects. We ended up with about 75 species, including several Peregrine Falcons, 3 Soras, a Virginia Rail, Tri-colored Blackbirds, Snowy Plovers, and Vaux's Swift. Mammal highlights were great looks at a Bobcat, a weasel with a rat, and a raft of about 30 sea otters at Moss Landing."

Evening Beaver Walk (9/26) — Besides four Beavers, leader Jack Hiehle's group recorded six Fence Lizards, two Pond Turtles, Great Blue Heron, Kingfisher and Great Egret.

Point Reyes for Vagrants (9/23) — "Birding was slow on the Outer Point at times, but a few good birds made it a good trip," leader Chris Conard said. "Best was the gorgeous Yellow-throated Warbler that had been at Nunes for the past week. Other highlights included an American Redstart, a White-winged Dove (at the Mendoza Pond), and a couple of Short-eared Owls on the trail out to Abbott's Lagoon."

Evening Beaver Walk (9/14)

Jack Hiehle's group spotted four Beavers, a Muskrat, a Green Heron, Double-crested Cormorant and Great Horned Owl.

Evening Beaver Walk (9/5) — As usual, leader Jack Hiehle found Beavers, six of them, along with two muskrats, a couple of turtles and a Mute Swan. Also, Great Blue Heron, egrets, Mallards and Pied-billed Grebes.

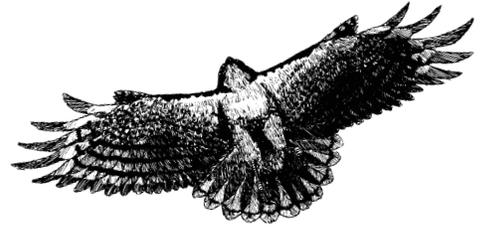
Pete Hayes

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, mkgeiger@comcast.net

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



Stephen D'Amato

Thursday, November 2, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
dtankers@winfirst.com

Early ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or are feeding on their way further south are the focus of this trip. Various hawks, falcons, and occasionally an eagle are also seen on the refuge. There is a 3.7 mile driving loop, and a great viewing platform as well. The trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids, and layered clothes. FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at Road 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot to meet Dan.

Saturday, November 4, 6:30am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409
shoppe01@earthlink.net

Join Scott for a full day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors, in addition to possible wintering vagrant songbirds. Meet Scott at the Park & Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes.

Sunday, November 5, 8am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. The lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day trip. This is a great trip for beginning birders.

Saturday, November 11, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua1@comcast.net

Tim will be checking this Placer County area for the many wintering hawks and sparrows that call this area home during the winter months. He will also be looking for winter rarities that flock with Horned Larks and sparrows in the Brewer Road area. Birding and lunch at the Chamberlain Cemetery will be followed by more birding along the rural roads on the way to Camp Far West Reservoir. Meet Tim at the Park & Ride lot on Highway 99 at Elkhorn Blvd., just north of downtown Sacramento and the I-5/99 split. This trip will last till mid-afternoon. This is a good trip for beginners.

Sunday, November 12, 9am
Nimbus Fish Hatchery - Gulls
Leader: Jeff Mangum, 988-2802
skuajm@aol.com

Meet Jeff in the Fish Hatchery parking lot, off Hazel just north of Hwy 50, for a morning trip focusing on gull identification. Bring your binoculars, bird books and scopes if you have them, and Jeff will go over the basics of sorting out the common gulls, and looking for the unusual ones. Rock Wrens are a possibility, and occasionally Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser are seen in this area.

Tuesday, November 14
8am-mid-afternoon
Lake Solano, Putah Creek
Leader: Sami LaRocca, (530) 908-0288
sami182@charter.net

Lake Solano and Putah Creek offer a wide variety of habitats in which to find numerous birds. On this outing Sami will be looking for resident birds such as Osprey, Wood Ducks and a variety of woodpeck-

ers. Wintering birds such as Hooded Mergansers, both Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, Brown Creeper and Red-headed Sapsuckers should have arrived to spend the season. Bring water, snacks and hiking shoes. Some binoculars will be available for use by adults and children. Meet at the Park and Ride lot off Mace Boulevard (northeast of I-80, behind Ikeda's fruit stand). From Sacramento, take I-80 west across the causeway, exit on Mace Road. Turn right at the signal, drive downhill and make the next right at Ikeda's. Look for the green Park and Ride sign (2nd driveway after turn). Plan to carpool to western Yolo County. Parking at the picnic area is \$5 per car (shared by all occupants). High winds or significant rain cancels this trip.

Friday, November 17, 8am-Noon
Old Fair Oaks Bridge
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Jack will lead this nature walk along the American River. Jack knows this area well and always turns up interesting finds. Meet at the north end of the Old Fair Oaks Bridge. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Sunset, go east on Fair Oaks. When Fair Oaks turns left, continue straight ahead on Bridge Street.

Sunday, November 19, 7:30am
Discovery Park
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net

This is a great, often overlooked park near downtown Sacramento. Join Maureen in finding a variety of wintering species such as sparrows, hawks, woodpeckers and bluebirds. This trip will end before noon. On I-5 from downtown, take the Garden Highway exit and turn left onto Garden Highway. Take the first left onto Natomas Park Drive, and the first right onto Capital

Park Drive. Parking is permitted on either side of the Drive.

Sunday, November 19, 8am-Noon
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Habitat Improvement
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack and other nature lovers to assist with habitat restoration at this lovely nature area. Possible tasks include weed removal, pond clean-up, erecting fencing around oak trees for protection, and checking bird nest boxes. Please call Jack if you plan to come.

Saturday, November 25, 9am
Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River
Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249
fgray4birds@aol.com

Join Frank for a short walk near the fish hatchery. Gull identification will be our main emphasis. We will be exploring the fine ID points of the several species of gulls in the area on this slow-paced trip. Other bird species in the area will be observed, as well as natural history elements of interest. The trip will last until late morning. Both beginning and experienced birders welcome, and birders with scopes are encouraged to bring them. Wear boots or other footwear suitable for walking on a dirt trail. "Pouring" rain cancels. Meet at the Nimbus Hatchery parking lot near Highway 50 and Hazel Avenue (about 15 miles east of Sacramento).

Sunday, November 26, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Area
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the parking lot of the Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park for a morning walk down to the river. This small but beautiful riparian area has surprising numbers of birds, especially when wintering species are present. This is a great trip for beginners and experienced birders alike. The trip will last until late morning.

Thursday, November 30, 8am till Noon
Effie Yeaw Nature Area
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for this walk on the winding trails of the Nature Center. Jack knows this area better than anyone else, and will share his extensive knowledge of its natural history.

Mergansers and goldeneye should be on the river, with Red-shouldered Hawks overhead, and the smaller wintering sparrows, wrens, towhees and nuthatches which abound in the riparian vegetation.

Saturday, December 2, Daybreak
American River Natural History
Association (A.R.N.H.A.) Bird Count
Compiler: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack and other volunteers to assist with this annual count of birds and other creatures along the American River Parkway. Results of this count are important to future planning for the Parkway, and the goal is to have 11 teams of two or more persons each. This count differs from other Christmas Counts in that teams count species rather than total numbers of each species. Contact Jack for details, team assignments, and meeting and compilation locations.

Sunday, December 3, 7am
Caswell Memorial
State Park
Leader: Gary Fregien
451-2767
calaveri@sbcglobal.net

Caswell Memorial State Park is located in the Central Valley near the town of Ripon, about an hour south of Sacramento. The park's position along the meandering Stanislaus River affords a combination of water and riparian vegetation. Although now merely a remnant, the park's 258 acres are mostly wild, in stark contrast to the surrounding agri-

cultural lands, and they present a pristine example of the once extensive riparian corridor along the river. The habitat is primarily mature riparian valley oak woodland and is a magnet for a variety of resident and migrant species. This habitat also harbors the endemic riparian brush rabbit, not known to occur elsewhere. For more information about the park, go to www.parks.ca.gov, click on "Find A Park" and use the drop-down menu to find Caswell. A March, 2006 trip produced 52 species including a White-throated Sparrow. There may be a day-use fee to enter the park. Plan to spend several hours in the park, so bring food and water. Trails are primarily level, but may be damp. Dress appropriately. Meet Gary at the Park & Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at the Sheldon Rd. exit south of Sacramento.



Kirsten Munson

Monday, December 4
8am-early afternoon
Davis Wetlands
Leader: Sami LaRocca, (530) 908-0288
sami182@charter.net

This trip is planned to take advantage of the weekday opening of the Davis Wetlands at Davis Waste Water Treatment Plant during duck season. By this time many species of ducks and other birds will have taken up winter residence at this very special wetland habitat. Join Sami in identifying as many as possible and in checking the surrounding fields for special sightings. Plan on car-pooling to the wetlands from the Park and Ride lot off Mace Boulevard (northeast of I-80; behind Ikeda's; see directions for the November 14th trip). Bring water, snacks and hiking shoes. Some binoculars will be available for use by adults and children. High winds or significant rain cancels this trip.

Monday, December 4, 8am-Noon
Nimbus Fish Hatchery, American River
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Walk with Jack down the American River to look for diving ducks, kingfisher, wintering gulls and other wildlife along the River. He will also be sharing his knowledge of interesting archeological points relating to early Chinese gold mining. Meet in the parking lot of the Fish Hatchery off Hazel Boulevard.

Friday, December 8, 8am-Noon
Sailor Bar Area
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack in exploring the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the River. Jack will share his broad expertise on the usual wintering residents of this area. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then go east on Emperor Street to the end.

Saturday, December 9
7am-mid-afternoon
Sand Creek Road/Arbuckle Area
Co-Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
Sheila Deaner, 607-5447

This recently discovered area covers a variety of habitats and thus a variety of bird species. Join Tim and Sheila in looking for raptors, passerines and grassland species, migrants and residents alike, in this beautiful area north of Sacramento. Roadrunners are often seen as well as possible coyotes, deer and bobcat. Bring liquids and lunch. Due to road conditions, high clearance

vehicles are recommended. Call Tim for meeting place and to arrange car pooling.

**Saturday, December 9, 8am-Noon
Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour
Leader: Roger Jones, 875-9174
jonesro@saccounty.net**

Tour one of the seasonal or permanent wetland areas within the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands in Elk Grove. The wetlands and waterfowl tour offers a chance to see many bird and mammal species including waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, beavers and coyotes. Tour participants will enjoy a short walk guided by a Bufferlands staff wildlife biologist who will explain current management and restoration techniques. Space is limited and the meeting location is weather-dependant, so please contact Roger Jones during the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

**Sunday, December 10, 7:30am-noon
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146**

This Nature Conservancy Preserve is a rich area just 20 minutes south of Sacramento. Brian will search the ponds and fields for Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, ducks and geese and the radio tower for the often-present Peregrine Falcon. Walks along the board walk, bridge and trails should turn up other interesting species. Meet Brian at the visitor center parking area on Franklin Boulevard at 7:30am sharp!

**Sunday, December 10, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Habitat Improvement
Leader: Jack Hiehle
967-0777**

Join Jack and other nature lovers to assist with habitat restoration at this lovely nature area. Possible tasks include weed removal, pond clean-up, erecting fencing around oak trees for protection and checking bird nest boxes. Please call Jack if you plan to come.

**Saturday, December 23, 8am-Noon
Bushy Lake
Leader: Joe Ceriani
Contact: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

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

Upcoming Events & Tours

10TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM THURSDAY - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH - 20TH

Join birders from near and far and enjoy the company of birding greats and naturalists such as Kevin Karlson, John Hendrickson, Ed Harper, Kimball Garrett, Joe Morlan, Keith Hansen and Andrew Engilis. Workshops and field trips celebrate the diversity of birds that winter in the Central Valley. Our own Ed Harper will give the opening address, "Sharing the Experience," on Thursday night. Friday's keynote speaker will be Kevin Karlson with an address entitled "Birds on the Wind—the Magic of Migration." Saturday's keynote speaker will be John Hendrickson with an address, "Falcons of North America." On Sunday Joe Morlan will give a talk on "Birds and Wildlife of Eastern Australia."

Friday's field trips include Bird Banding, Bufferlands/Stone Lakes NWR, Cosumnes River Preserve, Gray Lodge/District 10, Modesto Sewer Treatment Ponds/Caswell State Park, O'Neill Forebay/Merced Refuges, Orr Ranch, Raptor Run, Salt Springs Valley, San Joaquin NWR, Sutter Buttes, "Big Day" Yolo Co.

Saturday and Sunday field trips are the same each day and include Bufferlands/Stone Lakes NWR, Cosumnes River Preserve, Fish Hatchery, Flood/Waverly Rd, Lodi Lake, Lodi Sewer Ponds, Pace Preserve, Stockton Sewer Ponds, Stockton Parks, Turner Rd Vintners, Woodbridge Rd, and Woodbridge Regional Park

Day and evening "hands on" programs and vendors with birding related wares round out the experience. The Radisson Hotel in Stockton is the center for the Symposium. The registration fee of \$80 includes the full event or pay just \$35 for single day attendance. Programs and field trips fill up fast so be sure and register early! You can get more information at www.cvbirds.org, (click on Symposium) or call (209) 369-2010.

TANZANIA JUNE 16-29, 2007

This is a dream safari! Limited to just 10 lucky folks and led by Ed Harper and Susan Scott, this safari includes all the highlights. Over their past dozen trips to Tanzania, Ed and Susan have perfected the ideal route for Northern Tanzania. Whether you prefer birds, animals, or photography, their popular safaris have it all! June is an excellent time to visit Tanzania when the temperatures have cooled down from the warm months of November through April. The safari will take you to the Western Serengeti to see the migrating Wildebeest herds and pick up many specialty birds in the Lake Victoria region. There will be plenty of action with lions, leopards, and cheetahs! Enjoy comfortable lodging, great food, and the best in transportation and guiding. Trip highlights include the world renowned Serengeti, the fabulous Ngorongoro Crater plus other outstanding areas including Tarangire, Arusha, and Lake Manyara National Parks along with a visit to the celebrated Olduvai Gorge. For more information including price, itinerary and availability, contact Ed Harper at calidris@surewest.net or call (916) 971-3311.

SAS KIDS EDUCATION EVENT IN FEBRUARY 2006

This February, the Sacramento Audubon Society plans to involve as many kids as we can in the Great Backyard Bird Count! In January and February, we will be working with after-school organizations, giving brief talks to kids about the GBBC and citizen-science, as well as showing kids pictures of common birds (a script and pictures will be provided). We will need people to give the talks and/or help us distribute the poster brochures. If you know of after school organizations or teachers that might be interested in participating, or you would like to help in any way, please contact Julie Serences at 944-1505 or better yet e-mail: jpseren@pacbell.net

Other Society News

A REALLY PELAGIC TRIP! (MAYBE)

Ken Hashagen, who organized this year's trips to the Farallons and Monterey Bay, is exploring the possibility of putting together a 12-hour or 24-hour pelagic trip to get way offshore and see species that we don't see on the other two trips. If you would be interested in this type of trip, contact Ken at (916) 316-8596 (cell) or email at khashagen@mindspring.com. If there is sufficient interest (20-30 folks), Ken will explore dates, costs, and locations.

PHOTOS NEEDED FOR SAS EDUCATION

The Sacramento Audubon Society's K-8 Education program is creating a gallery of digital photos for use in the classroom, and more photos are needed. It is anticipated the gallery, when complete, will contain photos of the common birds, mammals, herps, insects and vegetation of the Sacramento Checklist Area.

The Education Committee wishes to thank Bill Grenfell for the wonderful photos he has already donated to the program. Bill's photos have our gallery off to a great start, and it is hoped other photographers will follow Bill's lead.

If you have digital photographs of the flora and fauna of the Sacramento area you would like to share for use in the Chapter's Education effort, please contact Dan Tankersley at dtankers@winfirst.com or 606-6518.

JUST ONE WAY TO HELP THE MIGRATION

Each year from August to November, 5 billion birds in North America—including song-birds, hummingbirds, raptors and others—make their way from their summer breeding grounds in northern areas to their winter homes in the south. Their migration is wrought with perils, such as storms, limited food supplies, and exhaustion. But you can help.

Many birds strike windows after being startled off a feeder, seeing escape routes mirrored in reflective glass. To avoid this, reduce reflectivity with light-colored shades, blinds, or drapes; place netting or a screen in front of the window; or stick decals closely spaced to the outside of windows. Place bird feeders either within 3 feet or more than 30 feet of windows—at 3 feet birds do not have an adequate distance to reach a high speed and are less likely to get injured. At more than 30 feet birds are more likely to recognize the window.

You will find other ways you can help at www.audubon.org. Follow the link at the bottom of the page entitled, "This Fall, Help Birds Make It Safely To Their Wintering Grounds!"

MORE IVORY-BILL SIGHTINGS?

The elusive Ivory-billed Woodpecker may be living in Florida, according to new evidence. The birds, long believed extinct, may survive along the Choctawhatchee River in the state's panhandle. Geoff Hill, a biologist at Alabama's Auburn University, and a team of researchers say they found the Florida birds on a kayak trip in May 2005.

Go to www.nationalgeographic.com and type Ivory-bill into the search field for further information. The National Audubon site, www.audubon.org, also has a link to information.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

(Adopted by the Board 8/29/06)

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.

Entertainment Books

Once again Sacramento Audubon is benefitting from the sale of Entertainment Books. The books offer money saving coupons for many area restaurants and reduced price coupons for area activities. They will be available for \$40 at all the General Meetings. They can also be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited, 2561 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Loehmann's Plaza next to Noah's Bagels (971-0719) or Wild Birds and Gardens, at 5339 Sunrise Blvd. (Sunrise and Madison), phone 966-5958. For further information you can call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207 (cell). All proceeds go to the Sacramento Audubon Society.



Kirsten Munson

SOME UPCOMING PROGRAMS You Won't Want To Miss

January: John Trochet
The Ivory-billed Woodpecker

March: Allen Fish
Identifying Perched Raptors

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 November 28 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all
of these new members:

Jorge Gaj Karla Meadows
Julie Hamlin Stephanie Parsons
Bernadette A Shirley Velcoff
Keltgen
Kathleen A Malloy

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations.

Jon J. Courtway, Christopher Jensen, Robert M. Radix, Susan Rodman, Nancy Ree Joye, Delberta Bass, Mary Bisharat, George Koch, and Phillip Silva, to the Bobelaine Sanctuary. Karen Brookhyser made a donation to the Sanctuary in honor of Bill and Jan Clark's retirement as Sanctuary co-chairs.

Bernadette Keltgen to the General Fund
Kathleen Malloy, Ken Hashagen, Marlene Ishihara, Nancy Ree Joye, Lisa Seto, to the Conservation and Education Fund.



Stephen D'Amato

SAS DONATIONS

This Fall the Sacramento Audubon Society's Board of Directors has voted to make the following donations:

- \$500 as a sponsor of the Central Valley Birding Symposium
- \$1000 to the California Native Plant Society for litigation to protect habitat
- \$500 to the Friends of the Swainson's Hawk
- \$500 to Wildlife Care

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Seasonal Observations

September 1 to September 30
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

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Return Service Requested

Of the several excellent reports this month, shorebirds and other waterbirds stole the show despite limited habitat. Many wetland areas remained dry because of West Nile Virus fears. The first **Sandhill Cranes** of the fall were not reported until after mid-month—a week or two later than usual.

The bird of the month was a

juvenile **Hudsonian**

Godwit that was well described at the Davis Wetlands (DW) on 9/1.

This species is very rare in California, with fewer than 30 records accepted

by the California Bird Records Committee, and with only one previous Central Valley record. Unfortunately, it flushed and was not re-found. A close second was a **Long-tailed Jaeger** that was carefully studied and photographed at DW on 9/15. Also at DW were two **Ruddy Turnstones** on 9/7, and a **Common Tern** that was found on 9/3. Surprisingly, five **Common Terns** were reported the following day (one adult and four juveniles). A **Golden-Plover**, thought to have been a **Pacific Golden-Plover**, was found with **Black-bellied Plovers** on 9/7 at the Davis WTP.

A **Tennessee Warbler** was reported on 9/9 and 9/10 along Putah Creek in Solano County near the Mace Blvd bridge. A female **American Redstart** was found at the same location on 9/25. A **Brewer's Sparrow**, a species that often turns up a few times in our area each spring and fall, was



reported on 9/10 at Yolo Wildlife Area, and a **Green-tailed Towhee** was found at the Lake Solano Campground on 9/30.

Among the excellent numbers of common western migrants at Cosumnes River

Preserve, a **Dusky Flycatcher** was reported on 9/1. A female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found in the Tall Forest on 9/9, and a **Solitary Sandpiper** was found along Franklin Blvd near the Lost Slough boardwalk parking area on 9/5.

Other good reports for the month include an **American Redstart** at Ambassador Park along the American River Parkway on 9/2, and a **Hairy Woodpecker** at the Willow Creek Access of Lake Natoma on 9/21.

Many of these birds were first reported on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details.

Thanks to the following for their reports:

Roger Adamson, Ona Alminas, Pat Croft, Mike Curry, Ryan DiGaudio, Tanner Easterla, Todd Easterla, Tim Fitzer, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Joan Humphrey, Dave Johnson, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Jim Lomax, Ron Melcer, Roger Muscat, Michael Perrone, Jim Roweth, Mary Schiedt, Stefan Schlick, John Sterling, Patti Sutch, Dan Tankersley, and John Trochet.

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