



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, November 15
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
7pm General Meeting

Christmas Count Workshop

Join Tim Fitzer and other experienced Sacramento Audubon birders for a Christmas Bird 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. A slide presentation will 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 and gives something back to the birds as well. So join us at 7pm for coffee and snacks, 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 Art 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.

Cathy Lazier,
Fiel Trip Committee

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA HOSTING OF THE AUDUBON ASSEMBLY

Asilomar, Pacific Grove, CA

On October 7-9, 2007, Audubon California hosted the Audubon Assembly at Asilomar in Pacific Grove, California. President Keith Wagner, Membership Chair Lea Landry, and Education Chair Julie Serences attended the event on behalf of SAS. While the general theme of the Assembly was global warming, several workshops also covered many practical aspects and shared experiences regarding chapter management. Keith also directly participated in a Conservation Tools: Land Use Workshop in his professional capacity as a public interest CEQA and land use attorney. At this workshop, Keith shared recent court successes in Sacramento, and practical strategies that chapters across the state can use in their ongoing efforts to protect locally important wildlife and habitats. Keith, Julie and Lea all picked up new ideas at the Audubon Assembly that they look forward to sharing with the SAS board and membership as the year progresses.

AUDUBON CALIFORNIA AWARD TO ELMER ALDRICH

For Over Fifty Years of Outstanding Service to the American River Parkway



Elmer Aldrich (r) receiving the award from Glenn Olson, Executive Director, California Audubon

Sacramento Audubon Society congratulates long-time member and past SAS president Mr. Elmer Aldrich for being selected as an inaugural recipient of Audubon California's Chapter Volunteer Award for Outstanding Service at this year's Audubon Assembly in Pacific Grove, California. The purpose of the Award is to allow National Audubon to recognize individuals, who are active in Audubon's California Chapters, for their outstanding service to the Audubon family and the overarching Audubon mission to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Elmer was nominated for this Award by the Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors in recognition of over 50 years of ongoing dedication and effort toward establishing and protecting the American River Parkway. In a 1952 article in the Sacramento Audubon Society's newsletter, Elmer called for the creation of the American River Parkway through the public purchase of private land to form an integrated park system for public enjoyment. Waiting, he warned, would make such a parkway impossible, as residential development threatened to claim important parcels of land near the American River.

Sacramento Audubon Society joins National Audubon and Audubon California in thanking Elmer for his vision and his dedication to conserving and protecting the American River Parkway for the wildlife that calls the Parkway its home, and for the enjoyment of future generations.

Field Trip Findings

Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary (10/14) Leader Carla Barbaro reported: "It was a beautiful autumn day for birding. All the birds were skulking about in the grasses and vines. There were no surprises but we were pretty sure the Scrub Jays, a flock of 10, were following us and raining down oak balls on us. The air was filled with the sound of White-crowned Sparrows and Red-shafted Flickers. Other sightings included: Cedar Waxwings, Golden-crowned and Fox sparrows, Western Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rough-winged and Barn swallows, Acorn and Downy woodpeckers, and a kettle of about 40 Turkey Vultures. The water was very low in Lake Crandall with no birds and the slough was dry so we did not see Wood Ducks, grebes, Green Herons, or Black crowned Night-Herons. In a field north of Laurel Avenue there were many shovelers and a few Lesser Scaup.

12-Hour Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip (10/13) — Leader Ken Hashagen reported: "Seven Sacramento Audubon members joined this trip, offered cooperatively with Monterey Seabirds. It was the first time in a long time that SAS has offered a 12-hour pelagic trip. We boarded the Pt. Sur Clipper at 5:30am and returned at 5:30pm. Weather cooperated nicely but it was a bit "lumpy" wave-wise. We saw about 30 species, including a possible Streaked Shearwater (very rare in this area), a Flesh-footed Shearwater (very good bird for the area), and a Sabine's Gull. We had great looks at Southern Polar Skua and Black-footed Albatross. We saw Black, Ashy and Leach's Storm Petrels, Red Phalaropes and Red-necked Phalaropes, and Rhinoceros and Cassin's Auklets. About 10 miles offshore, we recorded a Western Meadowlark and a female Brewer's Blackbird! We had great views of Humpbacked Whales, Pacific White-sided Dolphins, Northern Right Whale Dolphins and Northern Fur Seals."

Bannister Park (10/12) — Although it was a rainy day, leader Jack Hiehle's three participants spotted a Phainopepla, which is somewhat unusual in this area of the parkway, Sharp-shinned Hawk and Yellow-billed Magpie. Jack mentioned the usually common magpies in view of its past losses due to the West Nile Virus.

Hope Valley (10-13) — Leader: Lisa Moraga reported: "Our group of seven

birders was rewarded with gorgeous weather and lovely fall color. We started out in Hope Valley where we viewed the resident and raucous Clark's Nutcracker. Numerous Townsend's Solitaire were defending their Juniper trees. We witnessed two of these birds in a midair dogfight which ended on the ground in a grappling match. We all noted the irony in this "violence" compared with the sweetness of the bird's song. Another conspicuous resident in the Valley was the Mountain Bluebird and Mountain Chickadee. Tim Miller pointed out a Golden-crowned Kinglet in the willows along the trail. In the forest, we saw both Red and White-breasted Nuthatches, Brown Creeper, Hairy Woodpecker, and, thanks to Dan (last name unavailable), a White-headed Woodpecker. After lunch, we decided to check out the birds near Woodfords. At Curtz Lake and Indian Creek Reservoir, we scoped numerous species, including: Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler, Redhead, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. We had great views of a Bald Eagle soaring overhead and then perching nearby. In Diamond Valley, we caught a quick glimpse of a Black-billed Magpie. Our final stop was the Carson River at the Woodford's junction bridge. Stephen Fischer spotted an American Dipper downstream from the bridge. This fascinating bird was very cooperative and allowed us to have close views and nice camera shots. Total trip species: 40."

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway (10/7) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: "Nineteen birders had 55 species of birds. Highlights were Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Phainopeplas and Spotted Sandpipers."

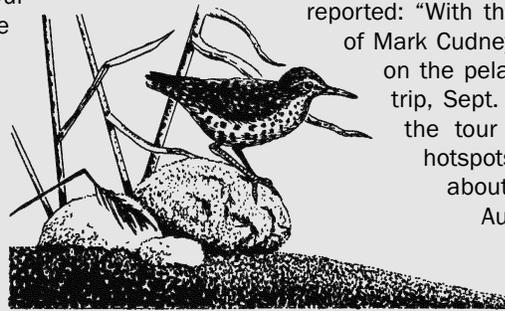
Bodega Bay (10/6) — Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Our group of 14 enjoyed a beautiful, sunny day at Bodega Bay. Highlights include a Red-necked Grebe, an Osprey carrying a fish, and a much-debated Common Murre in winter plum-

age. We also enjoyed close looks at Blue-winged Teal at Schollenberger Park in Petaluma."

Reichmuth Park (9/30) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "There were good numbers of Wood Ducks and Common Moorhens which allowed good looks, plus one Green Heron. As usual, lots of activity was focused on the lone, lerp-infested* Eucalyptus tree on the edge of the park which contained large numbers of Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Western Tanager, among other things, including a few Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers, foraging on the lerps. At one point a Cooper's Hawk popped into the Eucalyptus, apparently hoping for a warbler or tanager brunch." (* Tim says lerps are little sugary coverings that are produced by the larvae of the Red Gum Lerp Psyllid, an introduced aphid-like critter that subsists on plant juices sucked from leaves of certain Eucalyptus trees (e.g., Red Gums). Infested trees have their leaves covered with these little white cones, and birds love to eat them. He believes the word "lerps" is of Aboriginal Australian origin.)

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip (9/29-30) — Leader Ken Hashagen reported: "With the able assistance of Mark Cudney and his spotters on the pelagic portion of the trip, Sept. 29, and Mark on the tour of the Monterey hotspots the following day, about 30 Sacramento Auduboners had a great field trip.

The weather for the Saturday trip on Monterey Bay was less than great, with large swells. Despite the poor ocean conditions, we saw about 25 species, including South Polar Skua, Buller's, Sooty, and Pink-footed Shearwaters, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers, and Ashy and Black Storm Petrels. Marine mammals were represented by close-up views of Risso's and Pacific White-sided Dolphins and several Humpback Whales, one with a calf. The shore portion of the trip also produced a great number of species. Warblers were a little slow, but we ended



Stephen D'Amato

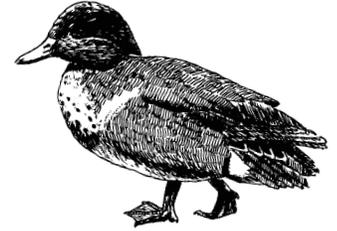
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Field Trips

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 Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, empid@earthlink.net, for trips through November 11th. Call the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net for trips from November 12th on.

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

Saturday, November 3, 8am Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216 andisalmi@yahoo.com

Andi will be looking for the early flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley or are feeding on their way further south. There is a 3.7 mile driving route, and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at Road 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot to meet Andi. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Note: the duck stamps mentioned in the newsletter write-up are available for purchase here. Now is a good time to buy them and support our environment!

Sunday, November 4, 8am Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley A "Save Our Sandhill Cranes" sponsored trip

**Co-ordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392
REMEMBER CHANGE TO STANDARD TIME!
CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.**

Sandhill Cranes are the focus of this trip, but the experienced birding leaders will also help you identify the waterfowl and shorebirds that winter here. A variety of ducks and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot, where we will stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, then drive out along Desmond Road and Woodbridge Road searching for cranes. Optional lunch at Wimpy's afterwards with SOS Cranes board members for further discussions. Dress for changeable weather; bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through

the preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org, or the recorded info line at 684-2816. This is a great trip for beginners.

Thursday, November 8, 8am - noon Old Fair Oaks Bridge Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Jack knows this area well, and always finds interesting birds and plants on this morning nature walk. Meet at the north end of the old Fair Oaks Bridge. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Sunrise, go east on Fair Oaks. When Fair Oaks turns left, continue straight ahead on Bridge Street. An excellent trip for beginners.

Thursday, November 8, 8am Lake Solano Park & Campground Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829 dtankers@winfirst.com

Bring lunch and liquids for this trip which will last into mid-afternoon. Target birds are Phainopepla and Barrow's Goldeneye, and Dan will find many other species as well. On the return to Sacramento we may drive the roads north of Davis looking for wintering raptors, or do the auto tour loop at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area to view the waterfowl. It could be muddy if we've had recent rains; wear appropriate footwear. There is a \$5 parking fee at the Lake Solano area. Meet Dan at the Park and Ride off Mace Blvd and I-80 in Davis, behind Ikeda's Market.

Saturday, November 10 River Walk Bird Count Cosumnes River Preserve Recorded Information, 684-2816

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

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

Sunday, November 11, 7:30am Spenceville Wildlife Area Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603 offleash56@yahoo.com

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. Join Richard as he searches this foothill area for wintering waterfowl, raptors and passerine species. The trip involves moderate hiking; wear appropriate footwear and layered clothing. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at Brookfield's restaurant parking lot in Roseville. Take Eureka Road exit off I-80; go right on Eureka and first left at the stoplight (Taylor Road). The restaurant is located behind the Shell gas station.

Thursday-Monday, November 15-19 Central Valley Birding Symposium Contact: Frances Oliver (209) 369-2010 hummer52@sbcglobal.net

Join birders from near and far and enjoy the company of great birders and naturalists such as Ed Harper, Laura Erickson, Jon Dunn, Alvaro Jaramillo, Joe Morlan and Keith Hansen. Field trips take birders to surrounding hot spots to celebrate the diversity of birds that winter in the Central Valley, and workshops provide excellent information on a variety of topics such as digiscoping, difficult-to-identify species, birding by ear, and an eBird primer for data submission. Check the schedule of

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field trips and programs at www.cvbs.org and register by email: registration@cvbs.org or call 209/369-2010 for information. Registration fee of \$90 includes full event or \$45 for single day attendance.

Sunday, November 18, 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. Call Jack for details.

Saturday, November 24, 7:30am **Discovery Park** **Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804** **mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This is a great, often overlooked park near downtown Sacramento. Join Maureen to look for 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/east 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 25, 8am **Goethe Park** **Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882** **empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on the right past the entrance kiosk for this morning walk. She will look for resident birds and wintering species in the oak woodland and along the river. The trip will last until late morning and is a great trip for beginners. Goethe Park is at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive, off Folsom Blvd. From Hwy. 50, take the Bradshaw exit; go north to Folsom Blvd, east to Rod Beaudry Drive, and turn left. There is a park entrance fee; if you want to carpool into the park, meet Cathie about 10 minutes earlier behind the pizza place on the northeast corner of Folsom and Rod Beaudry Drive.

Thursday, November 29, 8am-Noon **Effie Yeaw Nature Center** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Meet Jack in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park for a 4 hour walk on the trails which wind through the oak

woodland and down to the American River. This is an excellent birding area, and Jack will share his knowledge of the native and non-native plants and trees of this parkway area as well. A great trip for beginners and more experienced birders alike.

Saturday, December 1, Daybreak **Great American River 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 sponsored by the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA). 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. The 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 2, 9am-Noon **Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River** **Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311** **calidris@surewest.net**

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting birds with emphasis on tricky identification of the many gulls that winter on the River near Nimbus Dam. This trip will last until late morning. A scope is useful in addition to binoculars. Meet at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot near Highway 50 and Hazel Avenue (about 15 miles east of Sacramento).

Monday, December 3, 8am-Noon **Nimbus Fish Hatchery** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

This is another opportunity to explore the Nimbus/American River area. Walk with Jack and look for diving ducks, kingfishers, 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 Nimbus Fish Hatchery off Hazel Avenue.

Wednesday, December 5, 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 mature Valley Oak forest and riparian vegetation understory, in stark contrast to the surrounding agricultural lands, and is a magnet for a variety of resident and migrant species. 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.

There is 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

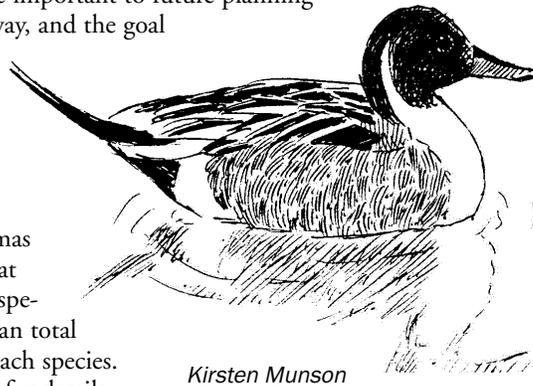
Park and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 at the Sheldon Road exit south of Sacramento.

Friday, December 7, 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 east on Emperor Street to the end.

Saturday, December 8, 8am-Noon **Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour II** **Leader: Kevin Cassidy, 875-9196** **cassadyk@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 2 mile 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,



Kirsten Munson

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up with about 70 species. The best bird was a Philadelphia Vireo, spotted by Mark at Andrew Solera State Park."

Evening Beaver Walk (9/27) — Leader Jack Hiehle's group counted four Beaver, but the main show was provided by a Great Horned Owl that landed with a flourish on a Rio American High School football field goal post from which a banner fluttered. Also: Canada Geese, Mute Swan, Killdeer and Black Phoebe.

Point Diablo Hawk Watch, Marin Headlands (9/23) — It was not a good hawk day because of rain, but leader Maureen Geiger said the group found wonderful birding around Rodeo Lagoon next to the ocean on Marin Headlands. "It was wonderful there," she said, "full of warblers and sparrows, close and in good light, and other great birds like Brown Pelicans, Common Terns, Black-bellied Turnstones, and the ubiquitous (this year anyway) Red-necked Phalaropes. So we ended up having a really nice trip."

Point Reyes for Vagrants (9/22) Leader Chris Conard reported: "Unsettled weather, often a harbinger of good migrants on the Point, did not produce the hoped-for fallout. There were fair numbers of common Western migrants—Yellow Warblers in particular

—but no Eastern vagrants. After many in the group had left for the day, Martin Meyers tracked us down at Abbott's Lagoon to tell us about a Laughing Gull at Drake's Beach. A few of us were able to see that bird. A distant view of a Pectoral Sandpiper at Abbott's Lagoon was the only other moderately uncommon species, but it was still an enjoyable trip."

Evening Beaver Walk (9/18) — Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk, Green Heron, Mute Swan and a number of the usual suspects were recorded, along with three Beavers, leader Jack Hiehle reported.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area Evening Trip (9/16) — Cathie LaZier, reporting for leader Mark Martucci, said: "Great and Snowy Egrets filled the flooded fields, along with White-faced Ibis and Great Blue Herons. A Pectoral Sandpiper was a nice find among Greater Yellowlegs and dowitchers. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted among the thousands of Red-wings, and Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks were active. The evening ended with a fly-out of Mexican Free-tailed Bats from under the freeway."

Pete Hayes

NEW WEB PAGE OF BIRDING SITES AT SACRAMENTOAUDUBON.ORG



Perhaps by now you have had a chance to look at the new Sacramento Audubon web site. Subhash Chand has agreed to volunteer for many hours working as our webmaster. Our many thanks go out to Subhash!

He has recently added a page with maps of local birding sites. It is listed under the Activities header and is called Birding Sites. You may have to wait a little for the page to load as it is an interactive Google map with about 60 sites 'flagged' on it. Pass your mouse over each flag for the location name and links for directions. The sites include most of our field trip locales plus birding sites in Yolo, Placer and San Joaquin counties.

So if you're looking for a new spot to bird or want further directions for the next field trip just visit: sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/birdingsites.html

2007-2008

SACRAMENTO

AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Field Trip Findings: Pete Hayes, 485-4005, phayes99@aol.com

Booths: Vacant

Pelagic Trips: Ken Hashagen, (h) 635-4435, (c) 316-8596, khashagen@mindspring.com

HUGE VICTORY FOR THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR! AUDUBON CALIFORNIA APPLAUDS SIGNING OF AB 821

In a major victory for Audubon California and other organizations that advocate on behalf of the endangered California Condor, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger this weekend signed landmark legislation to ban the use of lead ammunition from important habitat areas.

Your calls, letters and emails helped make this victory happen.

"This is a great day for the California Condor and the State of California," said Glenn Olson, executive director of Audubon California. "This is really an indication of how much of an impact we can have when we all work together for a common goal."

In addition to working with hunting groups and others to raise awareness about the dangers of lead ammunition, Audubon California has lobbied actively for protections at both the policy and legislative levels of state government. Members such as you have made a tremendous impact by making your voices heard

through hundreds of calls, letters and emails to Schwarzenegger and other policy makers.

Olson commended Schwarzenegger for signing the Ridley-Tree Condor Conservation Act (AB 821), but gave special thanks to Assemblyman Pedro Nava who authored the bill.

The new law will require the use of non-lead centerfire ammunition within the Department of Fish and Game's deer hunting zones within current and potential condor range in California.

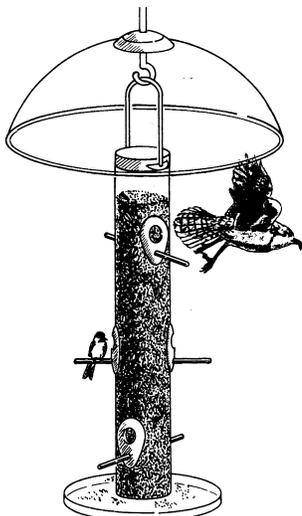
Condors frequently feed on animal carcasses left behind by hunters, and ingest dangerously high levels of lead from ammunition. This poisoning has threatened to halt the progress we have made in bringing the Condor back from extinction.

News item courtesy of
California Audubon

DISEASES AT THE BIRD FEEDER

A NOTE FROM NATIONAL AUDUBON

Several diseases are contagious between birds. If diseased birds (those with malformed bills, bulbous growths on feet or face, or swollen, reddish, or watery eyes) are frequently visiting your feeders, take down the feeder, discard seed and clean the feeder with bleach solution (nine parts water to one part bleach). Wait a week or more before reactivating the feeding station. This will cause the temporary dispersion of feeder birds and discourage revisiting by diseased birds. The same precautions should be taken if several dead birds with no sign of predator injury are found around the feeder.



Stephen D'Amato

COLOR-BANDED TRICOLORED BLACKBIRDS!

Please Report Any Observations

Nearly 1800 tricolored blackbirds were color-banded during the 2007 breeding season; your assistance in reporting observations of these color-banded birds is essential to help us to learn more about tricolors. Please report observations to: tricolored.blackbird@gmail.com.

All birds were fitted with a USGS aluminum band, a white color band (denoting the year) and an additional color band denoting county (Yolo County = green, Yuba County = blue, Colusa County = orange).

Please report the following information:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Observer name(s). | 9. Approximate number of birds in flock. |
| 2. Observer(s) email, mailing address, and phone number. | 10. Land ownership (public/private), if known. |
| 3. Observation date and time. | 11. Were birds roosting or foraging? |
| 4. County and approximate map location (USGS quad or DeLorme). | 12. Were birds on or near a dairy or other source of stored grains? (Y/N) |
| 5. Latitude (decimal degrees). | 13. Approximate distance to stored grains. |
| 6. Longitude (decimal degrees). | 14. Additional information (any additional information that you deem relevant). |
| 7. Number of color-banded birds and color combinations observed. | |
| 8. Dominant land cover type(s) where foraging or roosting flocks were observed. | |

You may obtain latitude/longitude coordinates from either Google Earth (free download from Google.com; requires high-speed internet connection) or by free utility on topozone.com.

Many thanks for your assistance!

Robert J. Meese, Ph.D.

Department of Environmental Science & Policy

University of California, Davis, CA 95616

(530) 752-1331, rjmeese@ucdavis.edu

Upcoming Events

11TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

The 11th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held November 15-18 in Stockton, at the new Sheraton Stockton. The CVBS will have sole use of the Sheraton's Convention Center.

There will be great evening programs, workshops, tutorials, an e-Bird primer, and field trips! For more information, see the field trips on page 3 of this month's *Observer*, listed for November 15, and check the website at www.cvbs.org, or contact Frances Oliver at hummer52@sbcglobal.net or (209) 369-2010.

SWAINSON'S HAWK PROGRAM

Friends of the Swainson's Hawk will present an educational program on November 29, 6:30-9pm, at the South Natomas Community Center, 2921 Truxel Road. There will be refreshments from 6:30-7pm. The panel will discuss citizen monitoring of Swainson's Hawk nests last summer from 7-8pm. Several folks who had the opportunity to view Swainson's Hawk nests locally this year will talk about their experiences and share photos. We will then hear from Swainson's Hawk biologist Michael Bradbury (a member of the Natomas Basin Conservancy Board), who will also answer questions. Please join us for an interesting evening and learn more about Swainson's Hawks in our region. Please RSVP to Jude Lamare at 447-4956 or email judelam@sbcglobal.net.

12TH ANNUAL MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

The 12th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, is being held January 18-21, 2008. Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway. At last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

For more information about the Festival, check out their website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for their 2008 brochure, or register online. The registration deadline is January 4, 2008.

9TH ANNUAL SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL

Chico's 9th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway will be held January 25-27, 2008. It draws attention to the multitudes of migrating and resident waterfowl that can be found wintering among unique habitats of the Valley through tours and informative workshops.

The Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday night will feature keynote speaker Kenn Kaufman, a world authority on birds and the author of several birding books and guides. With over 40 field trips, participants can enjoy guided tours into lush riparian forests, local foothills, grassland habitats, protected wetlands, lakes, rivers, and creeks along the Altacal Audubon's Birding Trail. Along with many free events participants can attend over a dozen workshops covering beginning birding, photography, bats and birds.

The festival weekend will also feature exhibits, vendors and several FREE events, including live animals and Junior Naturalist Activities. The main headquarters during the festival weekend is at the Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Avenue. For more information visit their website at www.snowgoosefestival.org or call (530) 345-1865.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE HARD AT WORK

SALMON FESTIVAL

Sacramento Audubon had our outreach table and displays located right on the river again, with scopes set up treating people to great views of perched Osprey, Great Egrets and Common Mergansers on the rocks, a very co-operative Spotted Sandpiper bobbing and picking at the water's edge, and the crowd favorite, a male Kestrel perched on a overhead wire and making forays to grab a preying mantis or grasshopper, then returning to the wire to consume it.

Thanks to Dan Brown, Tim Fitzer, Peggy Garick, Marlene Ishihara, Gail Janke, Heather Janke, Cathie LaZier, Louise McCullough, Darrell Mohr, Kathy Moore, Jonilynn Okano, June Persson, Dan Tankersley and Jan Tankersley, for working at the event.

FUTURE EVENTS

Our next venues will be the Central Valley Birding Symposium, November 16 through 18, the Galt Winter Bird Festival on January 12, and Walk On The Wild Side, on May 10th. We'll probably also be at the International Migratory Bird Day in May at the City Zoo and Earth Day at CSU Sacramento in April, if enough people volunteer to work at the table. If you're interested in any of these happenings, give Cathie LaZier a call at 457-6882, or email to empid@earthlink.net

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be November 27, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Alice Stivanelli
Richard and Prem Turner
Joanne Vinton
Jon Wato

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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Richard Turner to the **General Fund**.
Jon Courtway, Michael Eaton, Charlene Eberwine, Natalie Fenner, Monte Ikemire, Harry and Gail Janke, Nancy Ree Joye, Dixie Robinson, Lisa Seto and Joanne Vinton, to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary Fund**.
Michael Eaton, Charlene Eberwine, Ken Hashagen, Monte Ikemire, Marlene Ishihara, Harry and Gail Janke, Nancy Ree Joye, Shirley Velcoff and Joanne Vinton, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

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 \$ _____

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ _____

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

9/13 was a good number locally. Multiple **Hammond's** and **Dusky Flycatchers** were reported on Babel Slough Rd on 9/10. Four **Hermit Warblers** at Gristmill on 9/21 is a good number for one of the least common of the regular migrant warblers. A **Western Kingbird** at the Bufferlands on 9/13 and single **Olive-sided Flycatcher** reports—9/22 from the Sacramento Weir and 9/24 from Lower Sunrise—were on the late side. 250 **Violet-green Swallows** over the grasslands at the Valensin portion of CRP on 9/14 is of local interest. Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With nearly 150 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:

Brian Acord, Roger Adamson, Ona Alminas, Carlos Alvarado, Tanner Easterla, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Joan Humphrey, Tim Jenkins, David Johnson, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Robin Leong, John Luther, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

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

Good numbers of common Western migrants continued from August, but it was the Eastern warblers this month that really stood out. With a fairly slow fall at Point Reyes and other coastal migrant traps, the Gristmill access along the American River Parkway was one of the hotspots in Northern California. The bird of the month was a **Bay-breasted Warbler** found at Gristmill on 9/9. Unlike so many rarities that turn out to be one-day-wonders, this bird stayed put for six days. Additional Gristmill highlights included reports of a **Northern Parula** on 9/10, a **Blackburnian Warbler** on 9/13, a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on 9/21, and a **Tennessee Warbler** on 9/23.

Other regional songbird highlights included a **Northern Waterthrush** at Lagoon Lake in Solano County on 9/3, a **Red-eyed Vireo** at Babel Slough Rd in Yolo County on 9/10, a female **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** at 25th and Q Streets in Sacramento on 9/14, a **Green-tailed Towhee** at the Sacramento Reg. County Sanitation Dist. (SRCSD) Bufferlands on 9/17, a **Tennessee Warbler** at the UC Davis Arboretum on 9/19, and a **Bell's Sage Sparrow** at the Accidental Forest of the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 9/25. A **Least Flycatcher** was reported at the Yolo Grasslands Regional Park on 9/20 and stayed through 9/24.

Two Golden-Plovers were reported at the

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Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Send all copy to the Editor. Observations must reach the Seasonal Observations Editor by the 8th of the month.

The Observer is published monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant on 9/12-13—one or both were thought to be **American Golden-Plovers**. Three juvenile **Common Terns** were found at the Davis Wetlands (DW) on 9/8 and two

stayed through 9/12. The **Franklin's Gull** found at DW on 7/1 continued through at least 9/9. A **Western Gull** was reported at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant (DWTP) on 9/23.

A **Sabine's Gull** was found in Lake Berryessa on 9/23—from a jet ski!

Additional notable reports include the first **Sandhill Cranes** of the fall (two birds at CRP) on 9/6, a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** along Putah Creek at Fishing Access #1 on 9/23, and four **Marbled Godwits**

and a **Baird's Sandpiper** at DWTP on 9/17. Forty **Vaux's Swifts** at the SRCSD Bufferlands on



Kirsten Munson

Observations continued on page 9