



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 7:30pm
Shepard Garden and Art Center

The Simply Superb Dragonflies of the Pacific Southwest

Join twice published author and dragonfly enthusiast Kathy Biggs as she shares her delight and insights into the world of the simply superb dragonflies of the Pacific Southwest (CA, NV, AZ, NM, UT & CO).

Her newest guide, *Common Dragonflies of the Southwest*, was published just this spring and the author promises to share with us the amazingly beautiful desert species which come complete with "striped eyes, fluorescent colors, and sexy lifestyles."

An avid lover of nature, it wasn't until she and husband Dave built their wildlife garden pond using mostly native plants that the dragonflies literally swooped into her life and became her passion. Be sure to check out Kathy's first publication, *Dragonflies of CA*, and her CA and SW Websites <http://www.sonic.net/dragonfly/> Both titles will be available for your purchase as well as a dragonfly book especially suited for children.

So mark your calendars for this special event as Kathy, enthusiastic about these bugs, the Odonata, assures us they'll be "bigger than life" on screen, displaying behaviors you may never have dreamed of!

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information.

Bobelaine Happenings

The weather is thinking about cooling off and the leaves are beginning to turn to fall colors. Our wild grape, poison oak and some of our trees are turning to those reds and yellow colors that we love to observe. I would like to invite those of you who have never been to Bobelaine as well as those who have not been for sometime, to come out and enjoy the sanctuary during the fall season.

Bill Clark, Co-Manager

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we will focus on conservation and environmental education to ensure that the Sacramento region's natural ecosystems and diverse bird populations are preserved, restored, and made available for study and enjoyment.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES

Saturday, December 18

Woodfords Christmas Count

Co-Compilers: Tim Fitzer, 916/961-5871
e-mail: spskua@aol.com; or
Dan Brown, 916/362-2458
e-mail: naturestoc@aol.com

Saturday, December 18

Auburn Christmas Count

Compiler: Deren Ross, 530/885-9740
e-mail: derenross@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 19

Stockton Christmas Count

Compiler: Jim Roworth, 209/956-2648
e-mail: roworth@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 19

Putah Creek Christmas Count

Compiler: Steve Hampton
e-mail: hamptons@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 26

Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Cliff Hawley, 916/300-2495
e-mail: yellowhammer74@yahoo.com

Monday, December 27

Napa/Solano (Grizzly Island) Christmas Count

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island)

916/961-5871

e-mail: spskua@aol.com ; or

Compiler: Robin Leong, 707/643-1287

Wednesday, December 29

Lincoln Christmas Count

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, 916/486-9174
e-mail: ERPfromCA@aol.com

Sunday, January 2

Folsom Christmas Count

Compiler: Sally Riggs, 916/489-5200
e-mail: riggs.sally@comcast.net

Tuesday January 4

Rio Cosumnes Christmas Count

Compiler: Andrew Engilis Jr., 530/752-0364
e-mail: aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu

To find locations and dates for additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit <http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm> .

Field Trip Findings

Goethe Park (9/12)—Leader Cathie LaZier reported: End of summer birding at Goethe was fairly quiet, but we had quick looks at Western Tanagers and Yellow Warblers, and great looks at a very cooperative male Wilson's Warbler.

Bannister Park (10/14) – Smoke from Sierra fires left the sun looking like a rosy moon in the hazy skies, but it didn't hurt the birding for leader Jack Hiehle's group. Birders recorded 48 species, including a humungous flock of Cedar Waxwings – Jack estimated 500 – that whirled over the parkway. Bird of the trip was a Glaucous-winged Gull. Other sightings: 3 Phainopeplas, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Fox and Lincoln's Sparrow.

Coastal Trip (10/10) – Although the Point Reyes National Seashore was the destination, standout bird of the trip was a Common Grackle mixed with blackbirds at the rest stop on I-80 near the Highway 37 turnoff, leader Tim Fitzer said. This bird is smaller than the increasing Great-tailed Grackle, and has a brownish back, bluish head and yellow eye. At Point Reyes, birders saw a Ferruginous Hawk en route to the fish docks. There they recorded Palm Warbler, Varied Thrushes, Western Wood-Pewee, Great Horned Owl, Barn Owl. Say's Phoebe appeared at the light-house.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip (10/2-3) In one of the smoothest trips yet, Auduboners led by Mark Cudney saw Killer Whales and Humpbacked Whales, including one Humpback that flipped out of the water and landed with a tremendous splash. Also: Northern Right, Pacific White-sided and Whale Dolphins, and Dall's Porpoise. A Black-footed Albatross flew close to the boat. Other birds: Black and Ash Storm Petrels; Flesh-footed, Buller's, Pink-footed and Sooty Shearwaters; Cassin's Auklet, Tufted Puffin, Red-necked and Red Phalaropes and a misguided Palm Warbler that landed on the boat, took off and disappeared. On the Saturday land-birding trip led by Jeff Mangum, a Rose-breasted Grosbeak that is usually found on the East coast was seen at Moonglow Dairy, along with Pectoral Sandpipers. A good

number of Red Knots were found at the Jetty Road. Snowy Plovers were on the beach, and Warbling and Hutton's Vireos, and Yellow, Orange-crowned, Townsend's and Yellow-rumped Warblers were found at the Carmel River.

Goethe Park (10/3) – Leader Cathie LaZier reported: Participants enjoyed all the autumn birds, the crowned sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, a Hermit Thrush, and some remaining migrants, including good looks at Black-throated Gray adult and immature warblers. An Osprey flew overhead and the group had a possible Red-naped Sapsucker in the oaks.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center (10/1) – You usually see Ospreys flying alone but leader Jack Hiehle's group spotted a pair flying together at this American River site. Also recorded were Spotted Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, California Quail, Green Heron, and one Mitred Parakeet. Originally a flock of the parakeets, probably escapees, occupied trees near the golf course clubhouse, but Jack said he recently has seen just one and wondered if they were dying out. He asked that if anyone has seen flocks of them lately to call him at 967-0777. The species is native to the southern Andes.

Putah Creek, Solano Lake & Monticello Dam (9/27) – Leader Craig DeMartini reported: "We had a great day, with great weather. We saw 64 species, including an Osprey on a telephone wire(!), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a fly-catching Yellow Warbler, Rock and Canyon Wrens, and a Common Yellowthroat. A family of seven River Otters were playing and feeding in Solano lake."

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (9/26) – On Maureen Geiger's fourth and final Yolo trip of the year, the group saw a big pond full of Least Sandpipers with a few Western Sandpipers, the first Savannah Sparrows, five Wilson's Snipes, Yellow-headed Blackbirds and large numbers of Common Moorhens. "There was a nice fly-out of bats from under the west

end of the causeway bridge as we drove out," Maureen said.

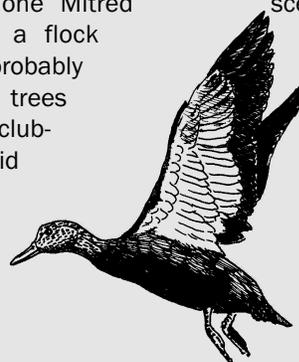
Point Reyes for Vagrants (9/25) – The day began wet and wild, and songbird migrants were very slow, but shorebirds and waterbirds saved the day, leader Chris Conard reported. "We found an American Redstart, several Barn Owls and a Great Horned Owl at the New Willows," he said. "At Drake's Beach we found a male White-winged Scoter. Abbott's Lagoon provided most of the highlights, including about 12 each of Baird's and Pectoral Sandpipers. Also: hundreds of Red-necked Phalaropes, several Snowy Plovers, both dowitcher and yellowlegs species, a Peregrine Falcon, and three-Blue-winged Teal."

Ahjumawl Lava Springs State Park (9/25-26) – Two Bald Eagles and an Osprey were among highlights of an overnight canoeing/camping trip to this scenic northeastern Shasta County site. Leader Gary Fregien said other sightings included American White Pelican, American Bittern, Wood Duck, Common Nighthawk, the usual numerous Lewis's Woodpeckers and a Spotted Owl. Also a "mystery bird" – a leucistic or nearly all white owl that was apparently a Spotted Owl. The group counted 81 species, a trip record.

Evening Beaver Walk (9/24) Leader Jack Hiehle reported: Three-plus Beaver, Wood Duck, White-tailed Kite, Double-crested Cormorant, California Quail Western Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Great Horned Owl.

Point Diablo Hawk Watch (9/19) – Good looks at Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks featured this annual journey to Marin County to witness the migration of raptors and others across the Golden Gate. Leader Joe Ceriani said the group also had an up close view of a sharpie shown by a Point Reyes Bird Observatory team. Other bonuses on a sunny day included the view of the San Francisco skyline and a vist to the Point Diablo Lighthouse.

Trip Observations
continued on page 5



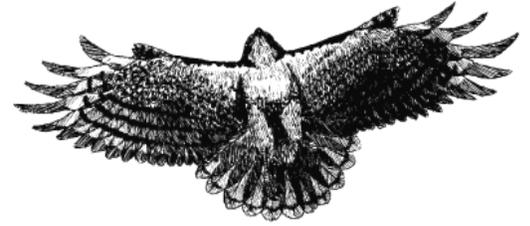
Stephen D'Amato

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 Joe Ceriani, 922-0768, for trips through November 14. For trips from November 15 through December 12 call the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, or e-mail mkgeiger@comcast.net.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. Walkie-talkies can be helpful on non-local trips. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.



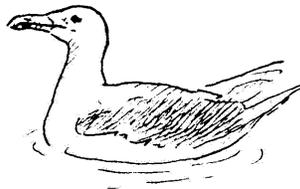
Stephen D'Amato

Monday, November 1, 8am-noon
William Pond, American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Jack is very knowledgeable about the wildlife and plants of the American River Parkway, so expect to see many different species and learn a great deal on this morning walk. Meet Jack at the east end of Arden Way. Trip will end at noon.

Saturday, November 6, 7am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan 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 and waterfowl to see, in addition to possible over-wintering vagrant songbirds. Meet Dan at the Park & Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capital Avenue exit, turn left at the stop light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. We will leave at 7:00am SHARP. Bring a lunch, water and warm clothes.



Kirsten Munson

Sunday, November 7, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216
andisalmi@yahoo.com

We hope to view early flocks of ducks and geese that will 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.

Saturday, November 13, 7:30am
Cal-Expo Floodplain-Bushy Lake
Leader: Joe Ceriani, 922-0768

By this time in the mid-fall season most of the wintering birds should be present in this grassland and riparian habitat. Many sparrows, ducks and hawks along with the resident birds will make this a pleasant morning walk. Be prepared to walk about 4 miles. The trip will end before lunch. Meet Joe in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, near Hurley Way.

Sunday, November 14, 8am
Latrobe And Scott Roads
Leader: Bruce Swinehart, 487-2525

Since this is a premier area for winter raptors, this trip has become one that many birders eagerly look forward to. Join

Bruce as he searches for Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Golden and Bald Eagles, Lewis' Woodpeckers and more. Take Highway 50 east from Sacramento to the Latrobe Road exit in El Dorado Hills; stay right and look for the McDonald's on

your left. Meet in the parking lot. Bring your lunch and drinks.

Tuesday, November 16, 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.

Thursday-Monday, November 18-22
Central Valley Birding Symposium

Join birders from near and far and enjoy the company of birding greats and naturalists such as John Acorn, Sophie Webb, Graham Chisholm, Ed Harper and Jon Dunn. Workshops and field trips celebrate the diversity of birds that winter in the Central Valley. Check the schedule of field trips and programs at www.cvbc.org <http://www.cvbc.org/> or register by email: registration@cvbs.org or call 209/369-2010 for information. Registration fee of \$80 includes full event or \$35 for single day attendance.

Saturday, November 27, 7:30am Sharp
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146
e-mail razorbill35@comcast.net

Join Brian at this Nature Conservancy area 20 minutes south of Sacramento. He will search the ponds and fields on Desmond Road for Sandhill Cranes, shorebirds, ducks and geese, and the radio tower for the often-present Peregrine Falcon. Walks along the board walk, bridge and trail areas should turn up other interesting species in this rich riparian area. This trip will last until late morning. Meet Brian at the visitor center parking area on Franklin Blvd. at 7:30 SHARP!

Sunday, November 28, 7:30-noon
Woodbridge Regional Park
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
e-mail: mkgeiger@comcast.net

This park is located on the Mokelumne River and is a great place for wintering riparian species. Maureen will be looking for possible Varied Thrushes and Winter Wren as well as more common woodpeckers, nuthatches, sparrows and any reported rarities. Time permitting, we may also visit Lodi Lake. This trip involves walking dirt trails which may be muddy. Take Hwy. 99

south towards Elk Grove and meet at the Park & Ride on the southeast corner of Hwy. 99 and Sheldon Road.

**Wednesday, December 1, 8am-noon
Nimbus Fish Hatchery
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. Meet in the parking lot of the Fish Hatchery off Hazel Boulevard.

**Saturday, December 4, Daybreak
A.R.N.H.A. (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. 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. Contact Jack for details, team assignments and meeting and compilation locations.

**Saturday, December 4, 9am
Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River
Leader: Frank Gray, 966-3708
e-mail: Fgray4birds@aol.com**

Join Frank for a short walk near the fish hatchery. Gull identification will be the main emphasis. We will be exploring fine ID points and seasonal abundance of several species of gulls of this area. Other birds will be noted, as well as natural history elements of interest. Frank will bring a scope but additional scopes are welcome, as are beginning and experienced birders. Wear boots or other footwear suitable for walking on dirt trails. "Pouring" rain cancels. Meet at the entrance to the Nimbus Hatchery parking lot near Highway 50 and Hazel (about 15 miles east of Sacramento). The trip will last until late morning.



Daniel Kilby

**Sunday, December 5
Sonoma/Marin Counties
7am @ West Capitol Park and Ride
or 9am at Shollenberger Park
Leader: Ron Storey, 707/762-5276
e-mail: ronstorey@ronstorey.com
Co-Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
e-mail mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Meet Maureen at the Park and Ride at

West Capitol exit off Hwy. 80, at 7am for optional car pooling and maps, or meet Ron at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 9am.

Ron knows these North Bay areas well and will stop first at Shollenberger Park in search of Blue-Wing Teal, Sora, Virginia Rails and American Bitterns. Peregrine Falcons and Golden Eagles have also been seen. Later Ron will visit Las Gallinas sewer ponds in San Rafael. Tufted Duck, Eurasian Widgeon, Palm Warbler and other rarities have been found. Bring lunch and liquids. Directions to Schollenberger Park can be found at <http://www.petalumawetlandspark.org> To see pictures of Northern California birds, visit Ron's website at www.ronstorey.com.

**Tuesday, 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 of the usual wintering residents of this area. From Winding Way turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

**Saturday, December 11, 8am-noon
Sun City, Lincoln
Leader: Dave Pearson, 408-4273
e-mail: captaindavid@2xtreme.net**

Dave knows this area well and will explore the ponds and other nearby sites for ducks, shorebirds, sparrows and raptors. Take Hwy. 65 north, turn right on Twelve Bridges Drive, then left on East Lincoln. Turn right on Del Webb Blvd., and follow to the Meridians Restaurant parking lot. Meet Dave there at 8:00 or call him if you want to have breakfast at the restaurant first. This trip will end late morning.

**Sunday, December 12, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 961-5871
e-mail: spskua@aol.com**

Meet Tim across from 535 Fulton Ave., for optional carpooling to this Placer County location. The group is sure to see wintering hawks near the north end of Watt Ave. and then look 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. This trip will last until mid-afternoon.

New Book

The American River Natural History Association has published a revised, expanded edition of *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* that has details and drawings of more than 600 birds, plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The birds section contains a number of contributions by Ed Harper, including a notable profile of the Swainson's Hawk. The field guide, co-edited by Pete Hayes and Jo Smith, is available for \$12.95 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center and local bookstores. We will also have copies available at our general meetings.

Entertainment Books

Sacramento Audubon is again 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 found at Wild Bird stores in Folsom and at Quail Pointe and at Wild Birds Unlimited in Loehman's Plaza. For further informatin or store directions please call Tim Fitzer at 961-5871 or 870-5207 (cell). He can also arrange to have you pick one up if you're in the downtown area. All proceeds go to Sacramento Audubon Society.

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

Membership Information

Please do not send checks for membership renewal to the Sacramento Audubon Society P.O. Box. For the speediest and safest renewal return the notice that is sent to you along with your check. It makes my job much easier. Thank you for your help in this.

Jan Clark, Membership Chair

A CALL FOR BURROWING OWL AND SWAINSON'S HAWK NEST LOCATIONS

Anyone with information please send specific details on all current and historic burrow and nesting sites of Burrowing Owls and Swainson's Hawks. The focus is on Sacramento County, but locations in the greater Sacramento area would also be appreciated. I'm seeking to create a database of Special Status Species to assist with open space planning.

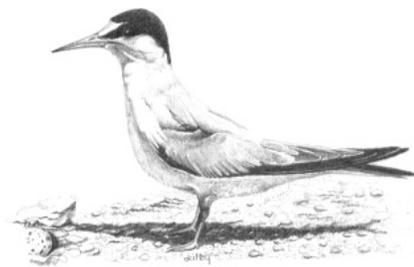
Send to: Chris Conard (e-mail preferred)
chris.conard@comcast.net
(Please note the corrected email address)
2405 Rio Bravo Circle, Sacramento 95826
(916) 362-5942

Trip Observations

continued from page 2

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (9/18) – Aside from low numbers of the region's regular migrants, the monthly Tall Forest Bird Survey recorded 38 Greater White-fronted geese, a Peregrine Falcon, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and three Golden-crowned Sparrows (first of the fall at the preserve,) leader John Trochet reported.

Pete Hayes



Daniel Kilby

Observations continued from page 6

Engilis, Mike Feighner, Dave Feliz, Maureen Geiger, Steve Glover, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dave Johnson, Joanne Katanic, Alison Kent, Larry Kent, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Jim Lomax, John Luther, Tim Manolis, Kurt Mize, Scott Morrical, Frances Oliver, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Andy Pfeffer, Ryan Phillips, Terry Ronneberg, Jim Rowoth, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Ian Taylor, and John Trochet.

Chris Conard

Coming Events

TANZANIA IN JULY 2005

Ed Harper and Susan Scott are once again leading a safari to one of their favorite destinations. Last year's trip was a real success with six species of cat, elephants, giraffes, black rhinoceros, throngs of wildebeest and zebra, and a barrage of fantastic birds. To join them on their 10th trip to Tanzania next July, either email to calidris@surewest.net or call 916-971-3311 for further information.

DON'T FORGET THESE!

Complete information on these events can be found in last month's Observer.

The 8th annual **Central Valley Birding Symposium** will be held this year in Stockton at the Radisson Hotel, November 18-21.

The **Audubon Assembly** will be meeting at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton on Wednesday, November 17th and Thursday the 18th.

The Sacramento Garden & Arts Center is holding its first **Arts & Crafts Fair** at the Center on November 20-21.

BIRDING EVENT FOR KIDS, NOVEMBER 13, 9AM-3PM, \$12

**Birding with Brian, Migration, Beaks and Feathers
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, Willows, Glenn County.**

Fly into this class and enjoy a unique birding experience with everyone's favorite scientist.

Why do birds migrate? Are all beaks created equal? What are the facts on feathers? Flap your wings and discover the magical world of birds.

Recommended for youth 10 and older with parents encouraged to participate. Register on line at: www.dfg.ca.gov/yo/index.html or call Lesa Johnston at (916) 653-7748 or email: ljohnsto@dfg.ca.gov

DELEGATE TO ECOS NEEDED – VOLUNTEER NOW!

ECOS (the Environmental Council of Sacramento) is a wide ranging coalition of environmental and civic groups with a mission of protecting and preserving environmental integrity and resources in the Sacramento region.

Sacramento Audubon's delegate, Dorothy Harvey, is retiring after many years as our ECOS representative, (Thanks, Dorothy!), and we are looking for a new delegate. ECOS meetings are at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Wednesday of every month in the downtown area.

The primary duty would be to attend the meetings, representing Sacramento Audubon, take some notes, and make the information available to various Audubon members. Depending on the information, this could usually be done by e-mail, phone, or occasionally a report to the SAS Board or at the general meeting.

You can get an idea of what ECOS is involved in by checking out their website at www.ecosacramento.net. Some of the current issues involve air quality, land use, and transportation.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact Roy Greenaway at 631-3536 or Tim Fitzer at 961-5871.

Seasonal Observations

September 1 to September 30
Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
783-2331

September is considered the quintessential month of fall migration. While this idea has much going for it, it ignores the fact that "fall" songbird migration starts in earnest during the last week or so of July and extends well into October. If shorebirds are taken into account "fall" migration begins during the last week or so of June. Nonetheless, it is often September that produces the highest proportion of rarities among the expected Western migrants. As more folks search the Sacramento Area, they find many birds that are normally thought of as occurring only at coastal vagrant traps like Point Reyes.

A flurry of rarity reports came in both at the beginning and end of the month. The reports came from a single location that drew dozens of observers to a rare bird. Then additional rarities were found. The first hotspot was Lagoon Valley Regional Park near Vacaville. The bird that drew everyone in was a **Least Flycatcher** first reported on 9/3. A 9/9 report probably involved the same bird. In rapid succession, a male **Pileated Woodpecker** was found at the nearby Peña Adobe Regional Park on 9/4, a **Long-tailed Jaeger** was found at Lagoon Valley Reservoir on 9/5 and continued through 9/11, a **Clay-colored Sparrow** was found on 9/9, and a **Northern Waterthrush** was found and photographed on 9/10.

The second hotspot was the Gristmill Access along the American River Parkway. On 9/27, a **Blackpoll Warbler** was found among over 100 **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. It continued on 9/28 along with a **Red-eyed Vireo** and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler**. The **Chestnut-sided Warbler** continued through 10/2, and a **Black-and-White Warbler** was found

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on 9/29. A **Black-and-White Warbler** was also reported among an exceptional number of Western migrants at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 9/19. A **Kentucky Warbler** was an outstanding report from the UC Davis Arboretum on 9/30, and a female/immature **American Redstart** was reported along the Mokelumne River to the east of Woodbridge on 9/7. Also on 9/7, a **Least Flycatcher** was reported from North Davis Farms. Write-ups and other documentation of rarities will be gladly received by the Sacramento Bird Records Committee c/o Tim Manolis, 808 El Encino Way, Sacramento, CA 95864.

Other excellent songbird reports include a

Green-tailed Towhee mist-netted on 9/2 at the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (SLNWR), single **Hammond's Flycatchers** from CRP on 9/17 and 9/19, single **Vesper Sparrows** from CRP on 9/14 and 9/17, and from Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 9/19, a single **Grasshopper Sparrow** from YBWA on 9/27, and a **Swamp Sparrow** from North Davis Farms on 9/29. Single **Pine Siskins** were found at CRP on 9/20 and 9/21. **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported more widely and with more frequency throughout the region than in most years.

A **Common Tern** was reported over both Amador and Calaveras County waters of Comanche Reservoir on 9/13. **Least Bittern** reports were unusually regular from CRP throughout the month. Additional CRP reports include a **Common Poorwill** from 9/17 and a **Solitary Sandpiper** from 9/1. A **Brown Pelican**, first found on 7/19 at SLNWR, continued through press time. On 9/29, Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant hosted two **Pacific Golden-Plovers** and 27 **Pectoral Sandpipers**. **Swainson's Hawks** departed early this fall, with the number of September reports far below normal. CRP mammal reports include a **long-tailed weasel** from the Valensin Ranch on 9/3 and a **mountain lion** heard growling north of the Tall Forest on 9/7.

Thanks to the following for their reports:
Roger Adamson, Jennifer Albright, Dennis Cavallo, Daryl Coldren, Todd Easterla, Leo Edson, Andrew
Observations continued on page 5

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, (916) 399-1660, e-mail: sawelma@cwnet.com

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.