



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, November 21
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Sleuthing Into the Secret Lives of Wood Ducks

John M. Eadie

An undercover look into the amazing life of one of our most beautiful ducks—the Wood Duck. Learn about new DNA testing with some surprising results. If you have one Wood Duck box or many or just want to learn more about these birds this presentation will be of interest. Dr John Eadie will explain those secret lives. His research interests include the ecology and management of waterfowl and wetlands. He and his students have studied mallards, wood ducks, Barrow's and common goldeneye, Steller's eider, Canada geese, trumpeter swans, Orinoco geese and black-headed ducks at study sites ranging from Alaska to Argentina. His current research focuses on evaluating food production for waterfowl in moist-soil wetland habitats, determining the factors limiting population size and production of mallards and wood ducks in California, and linking population and ecological theory to wildlife management and conservation.



Wood Duck pair
Dan Tankersley

John M. Eadie, Ph.D. is the chair of the Department of Wildlife, Fish and Conservation Biology at the University of California, Davis and he holds the Dennis

General Meeting continued on page 6

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON-SPONSORED CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES FOR 2013-2014

Saturday, December 7, Daybreak, ARNHA Wildlife Count

Compiler: Bill Avery, 369-0750, 769-3357, e-mail: averyw@csus.edu
Annual census of birds and other wildlife on the American River Parkway.
See further details in write up on page 6.

Saturday, December 14, Woodfords Christmas Count

Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, e-mail: spskua2@comcast.net
Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216, e-mail: andisalmi@yahoo.com

Sunday, December 22, Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 987-2422, e-mail: mcudney@aol.com

Sunday, December 29, Folsom Christmas Count

Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610, e-mail: conardc@gmail.com

Saturday, January 11, 2014, 3rd Annual Sacramento Kids' Christmas Count

CORRECTED DATE: Saturday, 9am–noon, January 11, 2014

Compiler: Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277

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

Other Christmas Bird Counts:

Saturday, December 14, Auburn Christmas Count

Compiler: Deren Ross, (530) 885-9740, derenross@sbcglobal.net

Sunday, December 15, Stockton Christmas Count

Compiler: Jim Rowth, (209) 956-2648, rowth@sbcglobal.net

Monday, December 16, Benicia-Napa Christmas Count

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island) 870 5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Compiler: Robin Leong, (707) 643-1287, robin_leong@netzero.net

Monday, December 30, Lincoln Christmas Count

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, ERPfromCA@aol.com

Wednesday, January 1, Angwin Christmas Count

Compiler: Murray Berner, (707) 224-5897, vireocity@hotmail.com

For locations and dates of additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit
<http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm>

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facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



Field Trip Findings

Solano Lake/Putah Creek (10/13) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Eleven birders saw 55 species of birds on a very windy day in Solano county. Highlights included Golden-crowned Kinglet, Brown Creeper, Osprey, Phainopepla, Townsend’s Warbler, Wilson’s Warbler and at least a dozen Hermit Thrushes.”

The Best of Both Sides: River Bend Park and William Pond Park (10/12) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Four of us enjoyed a morning of birding on this autumn day. We started by watching Common Mergansers from the top of the bike bridge, where we could see them swimming below the water’s surface. Cedar Waxwings were abundant, and Gibb Parsons spotted an Osprey carrying a fish. Crowned Sparrows, kinglets and flickers were all back in force and vinegar weed and evening primrose were in bloom. The highlight of the day for all was watching a juvenile Lewis’s Woodpecker, spotted by Valerie Phillips.”

Beal’s Point, Folsom Lake (10/10) — Leader Margaret Martin reported: “Three of us found 35 species despite the periodic wind and the very low (and therefore far away) lake. We saw a perched Sharp-shinned Hawk, a Hutton’s Vireo, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a Rock Wren, but missed Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Northern Flickers were by far the most numerous woodpeckers, and we had nice views of Nuttall’s and Acorn Woodpeckers as well. There were also large numbers of American Robins and White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Western Meadowlarks, Western Bluebirds, and Yellow-rumped Warblers all provided a lot of color throughout the morning.”

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek (10/6) — Leader Lea Landry reported: “There were only 4 of us to enjoy the the perfect day for birding. We did not find as many species as I’d hoped, but repeat sightings of several birds really helped cement their sight and sounds into the minds of those of us who aren’t the best at birding-by-ear. The parkway was very busy on this warm fall day, with a competition which seemed to involve bikers dressed as princesses, fairies, butterflies, and ballerinas. We encountered dog-walkers, hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Most were very friendly and courteous, but some “mountain” bikers seemed not to understand the concept of “share the trail”. While several target birds were

among the missing (e.g., phainopepla), having a Cooper’s Hawk engaged in a prolonged chase with a Red-tailed Hawk was definitely a highlight of the trip.”

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach (10/5) — Leaders Don Schmoltdt and Sally Walters reported: “Five beginning birders joined us for a beautiful calm day, after two days of strong winds. The birds cooperated enabling us to get good leisurely looks at a number of species, to the delight of all. We spent three hours near the river, mostly in riparian woodland, and observed 33 species. One of the highlights was the high number of Cedar Waxwings (about 200+) hawking for insects over the river. Other highlights included a flock of Sandhill Cranes flying by about a half mile to the west; 15 Yellow-billed Magpies, one Herring Gull, 2 Spotted Sandpipers, one Lincoln’s Sparrow, and two White-breasted Nuthatches that gave a great show climbing up and down the tree.”

Bushy Lake (10/2) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “The morning started slow. As we progressed the weather warmed up and birds started moving about. Ten of us started seeing birds pop up out of the star thistle thicket. When we were able to have a good look at the water in Bushy Lake there was a large number of Wood Ducks out in the water. And while we were observing the ducks a Sora walked out of the tules.”

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip (9/28-29) — Leader Mark Cudney reported: “Beautiful blue skies and no marine fog greeted the 26 participants on the pelagic portion of the trip to Monterey. The boat had barely left the harbor when two Manx Shearwaters were spotted—only the second time in the 20 plus year history of the trip. The Manx Shearwater was a “lifer” for veteran birder Harlin Perryman.

The group later obtained close looks at a Flesh-footed Shearwater, South Polar Skuas, Buller’s and Black-vented Shearwaters, and Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers.

The sea mammals did not disappoint with a spectacular show of at least ten Hump-backed Whales bubble feeding with sealions. Numerous Risso’s Dolphins were encountered throughout the day. Land birding on Sunday started slowly. Migrating birds apparently decided to keep flying south with the long period of great weather. A brief glimpse of a Tropical Kingbird was had at Andrew Molera State Park. Great views of accommodating Virginia Rail and Sora were obtained at Carmel River State Beach. The day ended with close studies of numerous shorebird species including Pectoral Sandpipers and Semi-palmated Plovers at Moonglow Dairy.”

Fall Migration “Wild Card” (9/22) — Scott Hoppe reported: “We had a great day with beautiful weather and 10 birders in attendance. Mark Martucci graciously agreed to help co-lead when Dan Tankersley had an unavoidable commitment come up. Our first stop on the trip was American Canyon Wetlands. We had a great time there with lots of shorebirds, waterfowl, etc. We spent some leisurely time viewing the mudflats and shorebirds, going over field marks and just enjoying the morning.

Our second stop was the Huichica Creek Wildlife Area, which is a unit of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area. The target bird here was the Hudsonian Godwit, which is rare for the western region of the U.S. The bird had been seen by many

over the previous week, and we hoped it would still be around. We were

not disappointed. We got great views and some good shots by some photographers in the group. It was a lifer for several in attendance.

Because of reports we were receiving, we then decided to head on out to Bodega Head at Bodega Bay and search for a Blue-footed Booby. This species had irrupted up the California coast recently, with many sightings. We hiked out



Pomarine Jaeger
Linda Pittman

Findings continued on page 7

Field Trips



Northern Shoveler
Daniel Kilby

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, empid@earthlink.net for trips through November 3. After November 3 contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net, 444-0804.

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

Saturday, November 2, 8am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457

Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd. take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Sunday, November 3, 8:30am

BKS Preserve, Sacramento County

Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249

Fgray4birds@aol.com

Join Frank for our third annual trip to this 338 plus-acre preserve in the Natomas Basin. It is open to the general public only for rare guided trips and run by the Natomas Basin Conservancy. Properties there were converted from farmlands to marshland and upland habitats, mostly in the last decade. This provides multi-species habitat mitigation via a Federal and State-overseen Habitat Conservation plan. There will be chances to see many marshland and other bird species, as well as to learn about mitigation actions for plants and wildlife there. Tour of the preserve will be on foot, possibly at least a mile of walking on dirt roads. Later we expect to visit one or more birding sites in North Natomas. Locations will be determined before the trip, based upon water availability and other condi-

tions. Mosquitos and no restrooms are possible. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. The trip will probably be over by noon or early afternoon. Pouring rain cancels.

Wednesday, November 6, 8am

Cosumnes River Preserve Boardwalk and Woodbridge Road

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

empid@earthlink.net

Our Sandhill Cranes are back for the winter, joining swans, geese and a wide variety of duck species. Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible. We'll walk the CRP boardwalk loop first; then drive along Desmond Road for more views of waterfowl. Then we'll drive to Woodbridge Road, making a couple of birding stops. Meet Cathie at the Nugget Market at 8am. Going south on I-5, take the Florin Road West exit; go west to the first signal light, (Greenhaven Drive), and make a U-turn. The parking area for the market will be on the right. Secondary meeting place is the CRP Visitor Center parking lot about 8:30 am. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. FRS radios and spotting scopes are helpful if you have them. This is a great trip for beginning birders.

Saturday, November 9, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999

mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident and wintering species; Wood Ducks

are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. You may want to bring water. This is a good trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Sunday, November 10, 7am

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

The Colusa NWR is another great location in the Central Valley to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be many duck species and plenty of Snow, Ross's, Greater White-fronted and possibly a few Cackling Geese as well as other wetland birds. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here as well, and we can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. We will spend a good amount of time on the main viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will then take the short auto tour and finish our outing with a return visit to the platform. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Meet Mark at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.

Saturday, November 16, 8am

Cosumnes River Preserve Boardwalk and Woodbridge Road

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290

dtankers@winfirst.com

Join Dan to look for wintering geese and ducks, including Gadwall, Northern

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

Shovelers, teal and wigeon. In shallow water there may be shorebirds, such as dowitchers, sandpipers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, and maybe some surprises. Our wintering Sandhill Cranes will be back, and the usual herons and egrets will be around. The boardwalk is also a good place to look for the noisy but hard-to-see Marsh Wren, and the cryptic Wilson's Snipe. Meet Dan at the Nugget Market at 8am. Going south on I-5, take the Florin Road West exit; go west to the first signal light (Greenhaven Drive), and make a U-turn. The parking area for the market will be on the right. This trip will end by noon. Bring FRS radios and spotting scopes if you have them. This is a great trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels.

Saturday, November 16, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, November 17, 8am
Sacramento Parks and Cemeteries
Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495
yellowhammerCA@gmail.com

Sacramento has some excellent city parks and cemeteries that are great for birds. Mountain species like Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and sapsuckers are attracted to the islands of ornamental conifers and huge trees. Our local wintering species will be found with a chance to find some rarities. Possible stops include East Lawn Cemetery, Sutter's Fort, Capitol Park, Southside Park and Old City Cemetery. Meet Cliff at the Save Mart shopping center at 5600 Folsom Blvd. From Hwy 50, take the 65th Street Exit; go north on 65th, then left onto Folsom Boulevard. The Save Mart will be about 10 blocks further on your left.

Thursday-Monday, November 21-25
Central Valley Birding
Symposium 2013
Contact: Frances Oliver,
(209) 369-2010
hummer52@sbcglobal.net

This birding festival is considered one of

the best festivals in the country. Birders flock from near and far to enjoy the company of other birders as well as great birders and naturalists in a variety of field trips and workshops. Enjoy the ever popular "stump the experts" bird ID panel which is always fun and interesting. Field trips visit surrounding hot spots to celebrate the diversity of birds wintering in the Central Valley. For more information and to register, go to: www.regonline.com/centralvalleybirdingsymposium2013.

Saturday, November 23, 8am
Granite Regional Park
Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682
bgrab984@gmail.com

Ben will be leading this trip to a new venue for SAS. In November, this park is a good area for the crowned sparrows, California and Spotted Towhees, Hermit Thrushes, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, herons, egrets, and with luck, a moorhen or a roosting Great Horned Owl. An excellent trip for beginners, experienced birders would enjoy learning about this recently established park also. This trip will finish mid to late morning. To reach the park, take Exit #9 from Hwy 50 for Howe Avenue/Power Inn; go south on Howe Avenue as it becomes Power Inn; go under the overpass, and turn left on Cucamonga Road. Take the first left once you are in the park and can see the grassy lawn area ahead of you. Park in the large parking area near the levee.

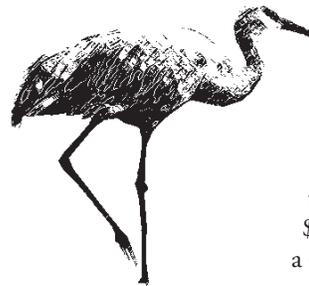
Saturday, November 23,
3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering
Birds of the Sacramento Valley
Sponsored by Save Our Sandhill Cranes
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

Our Sandhill Cranes are back! They, as well as a variety of ducks, swans, geese, and shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, and hawks patrol overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center deck at 3:30pm to hear a brief presentation of Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, enjoying views of the cranes, wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Afterwards, we'll drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in

to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars. Scopes are helpful. 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. This is a great trip for beginners and for families.

Sunday, November 24, 8am
Sacramento Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216
andisalmi@yahoo.com

Andi will be looking for the enormous flocks of ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles can be found here regularly. 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. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Please note there is a fee for each vehicle at the refuge: either \$3 for a day pass, or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.



Sandhill Crane

Sunday, November 24, 3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other
Wintering Birds of the Sacramento
Valley
Sponsored by Save Our Sandhill Cranes
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392
See write-up for November 23rd.

Saturday November 30, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands Trip #1
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
Offleash56@yahoo.com

The grasslands and farmlands surrounding Lincoln provide some of the best areas for winter birding in the Sacramento Valley. Because of the diversity and large area to be covered, this year, trips are being offered both Saturday and Sunday by experienced field trip leaders. They will search the back roads of Placer County for a large variety of raptors, shorebirds, ducks and

swans and sparrows plus specialty species such as Tri-colored Blackbirds and Lewis' Woodpeckers. This trip will last into the afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids as well as scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Meet in the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

Saturday, November 30, 3:30pm
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley
Sponsored by Save Our Sandhill Cranes
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

See write-up for November 23rd.

Sunday, December 1, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands Trip #2
Leaders: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471 and Mark Martucci, 833-6722
Shoppe01@suerewest.net
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

See write-up, above, for Lincoln Grasslands Trip #1.

Saturday, December 7
American River Natural History Association Wildlife Count

To participate contact Bill Avery, averyw@csus.edu. See article on page 6 for more information.

Sunday, December 8
Beginning Birding Field Trip
William Pond Park

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 people per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882.

Sunday, December 8, 9:30am-12:30pm
Nimbus Fish Hatchery/American River
Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311
calidris@surewest.net

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River and a chance to sharpen your identification skills. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting or unusual birds, with emphasis on tricky identification of the many gulls that winter on the River near Nimbus Dam. Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibili-

ties. Spotting scopes will be very useful, and be sure to bring your field guides for this intensive study. This trip will last until late morning. Meet at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot. From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Avenue; turn left on Gold Country Blvd and the Hatchery is on your right.

Saturday, December 14
Woodfords CBC

To participate contact Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Sunday, December 15, 8am
Yolo Wildlife Area
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Join Maureen for a morning drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year including ducks, shorebirds and raptors. This trip will end late morning. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (32A, E Chiles Rd) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A), on your left.

Sunday, December 15, 1:30pm
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.



Warbler species
Kirsten Munson

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2013

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sunday, December 8th

Time: 8am

Each Trip: Limited to 10 participants

Registration required.

These outings are geared toward people who aren't entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders.

The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on where to look and what important field marks to look for. This walk will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. An optional brief session at a picnic table afterwards will cover field guides, smart phone applications and optical equipment.

Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number, email address and the field trip date of your choice, or by calling Cathie at (916) 457-6882 and leaving your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.



FAMILY-FRIENDLY TRIP DATES

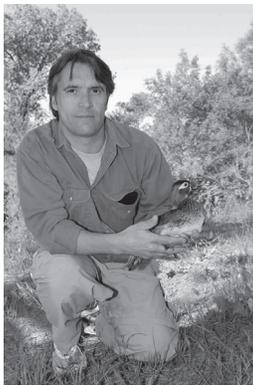
Sacramento Audubon is merging education activities with Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael as a way of maximizing efforts to serve families with children who would like to be out of doors and enjoy nature walks.

Beginning this fall, family friendly trips will be offered on Saturdays at 10:30am for odd months (such as November) and Sundays at 1:30pm for even months (such as October). The next date is **Saturday, November 16**, and **Sunday, December 15** following.

Reservations are not needed. Simply show up at Effie Yeaw Nature Center at the appropriate day and time and walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge.

General Meeting continued
from page 1

G. Raveling Professorship in Waterfowl Biology. He received his B.Sc. from the University of Western Ontario, M.S. from Queen's University and Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. He was an associate professor of zoology at the University of Toronto from 1989-1996 prior to his current position at UC Davis.



John Eadie
with female Wood Duck

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

Sally Walters, Program Chair

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM NOVEMBER 21-24, DON'T MISS IT

On November 21-24, 2013, the Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 17th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium at the Stockton Hilton Hotel, in Stockton. Please come and help us kick off this year's CVBS! Come meet the CVBS board and staff members! Reconnect with old friends and meet new ones! Take advantage of the delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet and No Host Bar on Thursday night.

This year the Thursday night keynote is double-Ed, with speakers Ed and Ed (Harper and Pandolfino) discussing trends in bird populations in the Central Valley. Friday night's keynote program is by Kimball Garrett on "Avian Invaders in California." Few areas of North America are as prone to the release and establishment of non-native bird species as California. Whether introduced purposefully or by accident, these avian immigrants include some of our most familiar bird species (think House Sparrow, European Starling and Rock Pigeon), a whole suite of additional species whose status is ever-changing, and a seemingly never-ending parade of escapees that send us running for our foreign field guides when we encounter them.

Don't miss the Saturday night keynote program "Birds of the Sierra Nevada" with Ted Beedy, Ed Pandolfino, and Keith Hansen! Ted, Ed, and Keith will take you on a virtual transect of the range from the oak savanna in the west, through serene conifer forests of the west side, up into the majestic alpine regions, and down the steep eastern escarpment to the pinyon/juniper woodlands and open steppes of the Great Basin.

See and hear the stunning diversity of birds that make the Sierra their home and learn which birds are in decline and which are expanding and increasing.

Also on Saturday, Susan Schneider will present a fascinating program "No Birdbrains Here", exploring bird learning and intelligence, from everyday foraging, to learning through observing, to tool use. Dawn Garcia will share data about the secretive Northern Saw-Whet Owls in her program, "Migration Patterns of Northern Saw-Whet Owls near Forest Ranch, CA". Join Andy Engilis for an up close look at Central Valley birds at his specimen workshop.

Hands on events include Bob Steele's workshop for photographers, bird sketching with artist Keith Hansen, a carving seminar for beginners with Jim Burcio, and Beginning Birding with Jim Gain. Don't miss "Seeing Rare Birds in California: Why our state list is the largest in the US at 652 species and you can help find more" by Joe Morlan and a Flycatcher ID Workshop with Jon Dunn.

Our field trips always turn up exciting birds. Add in the always entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun! To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips or register, check out our symposium website at: www.2013cvbs.org/

29TH ANNUAL ARNHA WILDLIFE COUNT DECEMBER 7, 2013

The ARNHA Wildlife Count was originally organized as a fund-raising Bird-a-thon in 1985. Jack Hiehle provided the impetus and organization to get it going. He then maintained the momentum and records through its transformation into an annual Wildlife Count in 1993. The count is utilized by the Staff of Effie Yeaw and ARNHA to follow the population trends of various species of wildlife in the American River Parkway as well as their affect on other aspects of the Parkway.

Twelve teams (including 1 team with 5 counters in canoes) participated in the 2012 Wildlife Count on December 1, tallying 115 bird species. The count was 7 species greater than 2011. This may be explained, in part, by varying weather conditions from year to year. Unusual bird species observed in 2012 included Red Crossbill and Great-tailed Grackle (first

time on the list), Greater White-fronted and Cackling Geese, Lesser Scaup, Common Loon, Cattle Egret, Peregrine Falcon, Sora, Chipping and Rufous-crowned Sparrows, and Tricolored Blackbird. The California sea lions sent a single representative this year. 5 coyotes were seen, compared with none found last year. The deer population appears to be moderate, with 67 seen.

This 2013 wildlife count will be the first in which all birds of each species will actually be counted. Team leaders will work with team members to tally the totals for each species seen. Team leaders will report their team's observations in eBird. It will be important also to enter number in party, miles travelled and duration for each eBird entry. Mammals and other species will be included in the Comments section under Data and Effort. More details will be provided to Team Leaders. This change in data

management will retain all the information used in previous years, add more information on abundance within species and will make the information more accessible to everyone.

Folks who are interested in participating in the 2013 Wildlife Count can email their name, email address and phone number to Count Coordinator, Bill Avery (369-0750; 769-3357; averyw@csus.edu). Unless you have a specific area of the Parkway you're interested in, your name will be provided to the Team Leaders who need more participants on their teams. The Count starts about 7am, finishing by 3 pm. Saturday, December 7th. Different leaders have different start times and specific meeting places.

Bill Avery
ARNHA Count Coordinator

DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES

During the waterfowl season the Cosumnes River Preserve hosts a wide variety of birds, including some of the most colorful ducks such as Cinnamon Teal, Green-winged Teal, and Bufflehead, as well as geese, swans, herons and egrets, and Sandhill Cranes. On various dates docents from the preserve will have a row of scopes set up near the boardwalk, some set lower to accommodate children, and they'll focus on giving you good views of these birds. In addition there are often hawks overhead, and some of the more interesting shorebirds such as Black-necked Stilts and Common Snipe are often seen. On one recent day there was a Bald Eagle, on another a Sora. A table display features "Duck Soup", dishes of water dipped from the pond full of sand fleas, dragonfly nymphs, and other squiggly things that provide the protein the birds are feeding on. A microscope and hand lens provide close-up looks.

The Preserve is a quick drive from Sacramento – south on I-5 to Twin Cities Road; left (east) on Twin Cities for 1 mile; then right (south) on Franklin Blvd; the viewing area is in the first parking lot on your right as you drive into the preserve.

The time is 11am to 2pm, and it's a great day trip for families. Scheduled dates are:

Saturday, November 9th	Saturday, December 14th
Sunday, November 17th	Saturday, December 21st
Saturday, November 30th	Saturday, December 28th
Saturday, December 7th	Wednesday, January 1st

HISTORIC LEGISLATION BANNING LEAD AMMUNITION IN HUNTING

Recently Gov. Jerry Brown signed historic legislation into law that will require hunters to use non-lead ammunition, to be phased in by 2019. The bill will eliminate what nationally-renowned scientists say is the number one source of unregulated lead left in our environment.

In addition to posing a danger to human health, lead ammunition still threatens the California Condor, Golden Eagle and other protected species. One in five wild condors has ingested such significant levels of lead from these sources that they are at risk of dying from lead poisoning. In addition, more than 130 other wildlife species are at risk of poisoning by spent lead ammunition left behind by hunters.

SAS OUTREACH

Jerry Towner, using the Audubon Power Point presentation "Common Birds of Sacramento", gave a program for about 70 seniors at their monthly luncheon at Fremont Presbyterian Church.

Jerry also gave a program, "Cool Things Birds Do" for about 90 seniors at a potluck luncheon at Adventure Christian Church in Roseville.

About 30 women attending the annual convention of RV Women at Cal Expo enjoyed a morning bird walk at Bushy Lake led by Cathie LaZier, Lea Landry and Valerie Phillips. The highlight was a White-tailed Kite who hovered, struck, and then consumed a mouse, giving good scope views.

Pam and Dan Thompson, assisted by Scott Hoppe, Ed Harper, Valerie Phillips, Terry Atkinson, and Harlin Perryman, led a bird tour around the Yolo Bypass for a college zoology class. Scott reported that all the students seemed very interested in the birds. The students had some target birds for their assignment, plus they were supposed to learn 3 new species, and Scott felt that everyone learned more than 3 new species.

Findings continued from page 2

around the Head toward Seal Rock, but missed the Booby. Not an entire loss though. We all had said our goodbyes at the Head, but kept stopping on the way back around the Harbor to view birds. We added Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Loon (one in nearly complete breeding plumage), Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Belted Kingfisher and Whimbrel to the day's list. We tallied about 75 species over all."

Point Reyes for Vagrants (9-21) – Leader Mark Cudney reported: "Fortunes looked grim as rain and no good birds at the first two stops greeted the nine participants. Only an ultra-close look at a Peregrine Falcon gave the group any optimism. However, as the rain subsided and the sun prevailed, a juvenile Northern Parula provided excellent looks at the Fish Docks. The goal of the trip was to observe one of the unprecedented number of Blue-footed Boobies appearing in

California. The group was not disappointed as the bird was discovered roosting on Chimney Rock providing "crippling" views" – a "life bird" for most participants. A Tropical Kingbird and a female Western Tanager followed at the New Willows. The day ended with nice studies of Pectoral Sandpipers at Spaletta Ranch."

Discovery Park (9/14) – Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "Well, because of unforeseen circumstances, the trip wasn't at Discovery Park after all. It turned out that there was a huge music festival going on at the same location as the trip (thanks go to Chuck Dotson for the heads-up). I decided to try and re-direct the trip to Putah Creek Preserve outside of Davis (thanks also go to Chris Conard for trying to help in the re-direction, and Maureen Geiger for trying to get the word out). We ended up with a group of only 5, but it turned out very nice, and everyone had a good time.

Highlights included Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, many Yellow Warblers, plus Black-throated Gray and Wilson's Warbler. We also had a good showing of raptors for the location, including Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk and American Kestrel.

SRCS D Bufferlands (9/15) – Leader Chris Conard reported: "Our party of nine enjoyed a good movement of regular western migrants, including about 20 Vaux's Swifts, a Western Wood-Pewee, a Willow Flycatcher, several Pacific-slope Flycatchers, a Cassin's Vireo, two Warbling Vireos, several Orange-crowned Warblers, Yellow Warblers, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Townsend's Warblers, Wilson's Warblers, and Western Tanagers. We also saw first-of-season Lincoln's Sparrows, plus a Black-headed Grosbeak, and a Lazuli Bunting.

Pete Hayes

Birding and Nature Events

TOUR OF THE BUFFERLANDS

Tones of Fall, Saturday, November 9th, 9am to 12pm

Each fall, the riparian forests and wetlands change colors from lush greens to the familiar shades of Autumn. Many species of wildlife leave the area and many others come into the Valley to spend the winter. Come see and listen as our biologists explain the physiological and ecological reasons behind these changes.

The meeting location is weather-dependent, so please contact Steve Scott at (916) 875-9307 or email scottss@sacsewer.com the week preceding the event for exact meeting location and directions.

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 17th annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held November 1-3, at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi. For 17 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival has celebrated the return of the cranes. In partnership with the City of Lodi, the Festival continues this November, welcoming an ever-growing circle of friends to their community to share the wonder of the Sandhill Crane . . . and so much more. Admission is free and there will be wildlife tours, workshops and presentations, an art show, live animal displays, family activities, and an exhibit hall with vendors and displays. (Stop by the Sacramento Audubon table.) Learn more about the event and register for tours at www.cranefestival.com or call (800) 581-6150.

FIRST ANNUAL SWAN FESTIVAL, NOVEMBER 8-10

This November birders and nature lovers have the opportunity to attend the California Swan Festival, a brand new wildlife festival featuring field trips and a wide array of programs and other activities. Last year's announcement stated, Co-hosted by local rice farmers and land owners, these tours will focus on finding Tundra Swans, as this tract is one of the best locations for seeing swans in California. Ducks, geese, cranes, shorebirds, white pelicans, herons, egrets and raptors including bald eagles are also commonly seen in this area, known as District 10. The area contains 23,000 acres of rice fields and restored habitat not normally open to the public. This is an excellent example of rice farming for wildlife habitat.

The main venue is in Marysville, just north of Sacramento, and the Festival occurs November 8-10. Many Sacramento Audubon and other Central Valley field trip leaders are involved with the Festival, and there will be a large variety of trips available to choose from. Other family events will take place too, plus vendors, exhibits and more. To participate, visit the Festival's website at: yubasutterchamber.com/index.php/calendar/swan-festival.

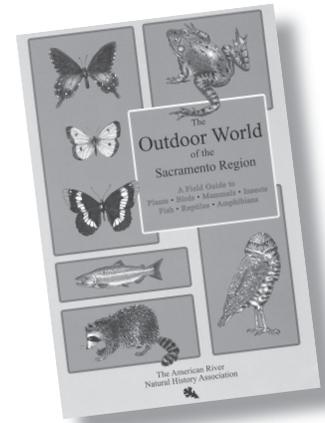
2014 SAS CALENDAR

The first ever calendar of the Sacramento Audubon Society is now on sale for \$10. Watch for it at our General Meetings and area festivals. It features beautiful bird photos taken by SAS photographers Dan Brown, Chris Conard, Ed Harper, Linda Pittman, Dan Tankersley, Keith Wagner and Lon Yarbrough. The full-color calendar is also sold on our website at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/calendarorder.html, for \$10 plus shipping. Some local Wild Bird stores and booksellers are also carrying it.

The calendar lists many local bird festivals and highlights a different bird each month. Proceeds from the calendar will be used to support the wildlife conservation work and education programs of the SAS. Look for the calendar now and please don't limit yourself to just one—think of friends and family, one in every room, and gifts for the holidays. Help support our programs.

NEW EDITION OF THE OUTDOOR WORLD NOW IN FULL COLOR

The American River Natural History Association has published a new edition of *The Outdoor World of the Sacramento Region* in which for the first time the more than 250 illustrations of birds, plants, mammals, insects, fish, reptiles and amphibians are in full color. It also portrays regional landforms, weather and climate, and native peoples.



The new edition is a successor to a volume inspired half a century ago by teacher-environmentalist Effie Yeaw. Proceeds from its sale benefit the Ancil Hoffman Park nature center named for her and which is funded and managed by ARNHA.

A dozen university and other experts updated scientific names in the descriptions of more than 600 species. Longtime ARNHA artist Molly Keller hand-colored the drawings that she, Jo Glasson Smith and Erin O'Toole had previously created.

The thirteenth edition was co-edited by Peter J. Hayes, Molly Keller and Peggy Kennedy. The 240 page volume is available for \$16.95 and in hardback covers for \$24.95 at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, arnha.org and selected stores.



White-tailed Kite
Cover Photo by Dan Brown

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Fanny Crouse

Mike and Mary O'Gara

Rick Skehen

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on November 26, at 7pm, at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Wayne Blunk, Monte Ikemire, Delmar Janson, Alan Kilgore, Dixie Robinson, Joanne Vinton, Jon Wato and John White to the **General Fund**.

Karen Benson, Stanley Ford, Christine Holmstrom, Monte Ikemire, Alan Kilgore, Dixie Robinson, Richard Soehren, Michael Vecchio and John White to the Conservation and **Education Fund**.

William Grenfell Jr. and Eleanor Grenfell made a donation to **Sacramento Audubon** in memory of Ed Greaves.

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.

JOIN THE SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry46@comcast.net

Date _____ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

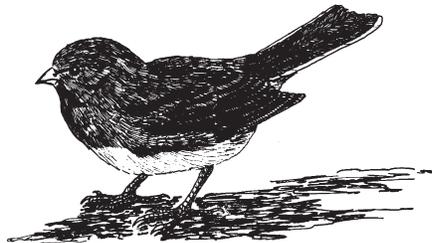
Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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



Oregon Junco
Stephen D'Amato

Observations continued from page 10

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

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

Dan Airola, Brent Campos, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Claire Gallagher, Steve Hampton, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, John Luther, Ed Pandoffino, Michael Perrone, Ron Pozzi, Jim Rowoth, Ruth Rudesill, John Sterling, Michael Strom, Kevin Thomas, 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

Flocks of **Sandhill Cranes**, the quintessential sound of fall in the Valley, were increasingly reported the last week of the month. There were several good shorebird and gull reports, but most notable were some excellent migrant songbirds. The biggest highlights included a **Tennessee Warbler** and a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** along Putah Creek downstream from Pedrick Rd on 9/1; both continued through 9/3, and the **Tennessee Warbler** was last reported on 9/10. The same species pair was found along Babel Slough Rd on 9/22. A **Northern Parula** was reported from Cache Creek Nature Preserve west of Woodland on 9/12 and a **Blackpoll Warbler** was found along Putah Creek on 9/2. Likely the same adult male **American Redstart** found at Reichmuth Park on 8/14-16 continued on 9/6. A **Summer Tanager** was found at the Accidental Forest of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 9/7 and an **Orchard Oriole** was reported along Putah Creek with nearby **Hooded Orioles** for comparison on 9/6.

A **Sanderling** and a **Pectoral Sandpiper** were found at the Granite Bay Boat Launch at Folsom Lake on 9/26 and two **Pectoral Sandpipers** were seen along Desmond Rd at CRP on 9/27-28. A first-cycle **Franklin's Gull** at Woodland WTP on 9/30 was matched by another first-cycle **Franklin's Gull** the same day at the Granite Bay Boat Launch along with an early adult **Mew Gull** and an early adult

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Thayer's Gull. An adult **Western Gull** was a nice find at the Woodland WTP on 9/25

A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was reported along Putah Creek near Pedrick Rd from 9/2-3. Single **Hammond's Flycatchers** were reported in Yolo County along Babel Slough on 9/3 and Cache Creek Nature Preserve on 9/12. A **Dusky Flycatcher** was found at the Putah Creek Sinks portion of the Yolo Bypass on 9/5, and a **Gray Flycatcher**, unexpected in fall, was reported at the Gristmill Access to the American River Parkway on 9/8. Additional interesting reports included a **Yellow-breasted Chat** along Putah Creek on 9/5-7, a Brewer's Sparrow at the SRCSD Bufferlands on 9/30, and single female **Indigo Bunting** along Babel Slough on 9/3 and Putah Creek on 9/4.

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

Observations continued on page 9

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

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