



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Assembly Room

7pm General Meeting

### Anza-Borrego's Sister Park in Mongolia

Mark Jorgensen

California's largest State Park, Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, has an international Sister Park in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia. November's speaker, retired Anza-Borrego Superintendent, Mark Jorgensen has travelled into the Gobi six times to share his park and resource management experience with the rangers of the Mongolian Steppes. Mark has helped organize a corps of six nomad rangers, helped outfit them with equipment to assist them in fulfilling their jobs, and has generated funding for salaries, patrol motorcycles, laptop computers, and binoculars. The rangers of Ikh Nart Nature Reserve (see [Ikhkart.com](http://Ikhkart.com)) have curtailed the poaching of native wildlife, have helped put a halt to illegal mining within the reserve, and are vigor-



Mark Jorgensen with rangers in Mongolia

ously protecting the precious resources of this Central Asian park. Mark will share his photos of the Mongolian landscape, rare wildlife such as the Argali sheep, the Siberian ibex, Mongolian gazelle, cinereous vulture, demoiselle crane, lesser kestrel, and the long-eared hedgehog.

*General Meeting* continued on page 6

## SACRAMENTO AUDUBON-SPONSORED CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES FOR 2011-2012

### Saturday, December 17, Woodfords Christmas Count

Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, e-mail: [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)

Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216, e-mail: [andisalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:andisalmi@yahoo.com)

### Monday, December 26, Folsom Christmas Count

Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610, e-mail: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

### Saturday, December 31, Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 987-2422, e-mail: [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com)

## Other Christmas Bird Counts:

### Monday, December 19, Benecia-Napa Christmas Count

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island), 870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net) or

Compiler: Robin Leong, (707) 643-1287, [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

### Saturday, December 17, Auburn Christmas Count

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

### Sunday, December 18, Putah Creek Christmas Count

Compiler: Steve Hampton, [stevehampton@gmail.com](mailto:stevehampton@gmail.com)

### Sunday, December 18, Stockton Christmas Count

Compiler: Jim Roworth, (209) 956-2648, [roworth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roworth@sbcglobal.net)

### Wednesday, December 28, Lincoln Christmas Count

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, [ERPfromCA@aol.com](mailto:ERPfromCA@aol.com)

### Thursday, December 30, Sonoma Valley Christmas Count

Compilers: Tom Rusert and Darren Peterie  
(707) 939-8007, [www.SonomaBirding.org](http://www.SonomaBirding.org)

### Saturday, January 1, Angwin Christmas Count

Contact: Louise Vicencio, (707) 224-9386, [jlvicen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jlvicen@sbcglobal.net)

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

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

## Field Trip Findings

### **Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek**(10/15)

Four birders joined leader, Lea Landry, on a field trip along Lake Natoma, from Shadow Glen toward Negro Bar and back. Lea reported "There were fewer birds than usual along the way, despite the unusually sunny and warm October day. A total of 32 species were seen or heard, including a Belted Kingfisher in a Gray Pine, Hermit Thrush in an Interior Live Oak, and—at last—a Phainopepla surveying his kingdom from the top of another Interior Live Oak. Cathie LaZier added plant identification to our activities, and we were kept busy reminding bicycle riders that they really shouldn't be riding on the horse/hiking trail."

### **River Bend Park, American River Parkway** (10/13) — Leader Cathie LaZier

reported: "Six people joined me for this morning walk. Wintering crowned sparrows and kinglets, as well as Yellow-rumped Warblers were active, and after much searching Tim Fitzer found a well camouflaged Great Horned Owl. After hearing many Red-shouldered Hawks, Margaret Martin spotted one perched for a great view. We totaled 34 species, and Vinegar Weed, Goldenaster and buckwheat were in bloom."

### **American River between Howe and Watt** (10/9) — Leader Dan Kopp

reported: "It was a gorgeous, sunny day with no wind for 18 participants. We walked from Howe to Watt and back along the south side of the river. We encountered 62 species, with a nice overlap of migrants and winter residents and at least one summer resident. Highlights included several Black-throated Gray and Orange-crowned warblers, my first of fall juncos and Hermit Thrush and the first Fox Sparrow for this area. Approximately 15 Barn Swallows were a nice surprise, and of local (Parkway) interest only, there were several calling fly-over meadow-larks, a coot in a backwater area, and a single Greater White-fronted Goose that I first noted on Oct. 2. Crowned sparrow numbers were noticeably higher than a few days ago and we encountered a few Lincoln's Sparrows as well. We also saw all five expected woodpeckers (Nuttall's, Downy, Flicker, Acorn, Sapsucker). A great morning and group of birders."

### **Beginning Birding Trip, William Pond Park** (10/8) — Beginning birders

joined Cathie LaZier, Darrell Mohr and Muriel Parker for a morning at William Pond Park

on the American River. Cathie reported, "The weather was great and we managed to see 38 species. A large flock of Cedar Waxwings were alternately feeding on wild grapes and hawking insects over the river. Muriel spotted a Black-crowned Night Heron hiding in vegetation on an island and everyone enjoyed the brilliant yellow of some Lesser Goldfinches. Bewick's and House Wrens surprised with the level of noise coming from "such a small bird!," and egrets and cormorants on the pond had to compete for attention with three active river otters."

### **Discovery Park** (10-8) — Leader Andi Salmi

reported: "Our group of 5 enjoyed a pleasant morning at Discovery Park. Some of the many common species observed were Oak Titmouse, Bewick's and House wrens, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Belted kingfisher,

Anna's Hummingbird, Western Bluebird and White-throated Swift. A small flock of Sandhill Crane overhead was a nice surprise."

### **Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach, American River Parkway** (10/5) — Don

Schmoltdt, co-leader with Sally Walters, reported: "The Glenn Hall Park trip was great, except that no one showed up. Heavy rain was predicted, but the weather being what it is, quite fickle, provided us with a great crystal clear morning. Sally and I spent two hours birding in the riparian woodlands and observed 29 species. Highlights were one Yellow Warbler and about 40 Cedar Waxwings. A quiet morning, but fun. Sorry folks missed a great morning birding."

### **Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Birding** (10/1-2) — Leader Mark Cudney

reported: "Spectacular weather and unusually calm sea conditions greeted the 24 participants. Nice sightings included a pair of Xantus's Murrelets next to the boat (a life bird for many), over 15 South Polar Skuas, all three Jaegers, Sabine's Gull, Flesh-footed Shearwater, and Common Tern. Marine Mammals included a seldom-seen Sperm Whale and numerous

breaching Risso's Dolphins. A sailfish gliding just under the surface was a first for almost everyone. Because of the nice weather, land birding was fairly slow. Good looks at many birds but nothing rare or unusual."

### **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** (9/27) —

Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: "Seven participants enjoyed a short morning tour of the Bypass. The highlight included a large flock of Greater Yellowlegs. About 50 birds were feeding and resting before their continuing migration south. Several Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, and White-tailed Kites were seen hunting throughout the morning. The early wintering ducks included Northern Pintails and Northern Shovelers. A short but satisfying trip."

### **Bodega Bay** (9/25) — Leaders Tim

Fitzer and Mark Martucci reported: 14 participants enjoyed a cool day at Bodega Bay. The birding was slow without any vagrants. The high tide was 10:45 and no mud flats to view shorebirds until afternoon. We met at The Tides to a high tide so the trip began at The Head and worked our way back around the

bay and finished at Doran Beach. The best birds were Black Oystercatchers, 3 species of cormorants, Yellow and MacGillivray's Warblers, a chorus of calling Black Turnstones, Whimbrel, Elegant Terns, and Snowy Plovers at Doran. Frances and Carmen Oliver along with Liz West joined us from San Joaquin Audubon. All had a fun time and lots of laughs.

### **Point Reyes for Vagrants** (9/24) —

Leader Mark Cudney reported: "Intense, low fog transformed this trip into observing bird silhouettes rather than eastern vagrants. Twelve intrepid birders did manage 'looks' at Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Pacific Wren. After the fog lifted the group spotted a Red-necked Grebe at Drake's Beach."

### **Sonoma County Migrants** (9/18) —

Leader Dan Williams reported: "We had outstanding weather all day long, starting at Spring Lake Park in Santa Rosa, where scattered groups of migrants put on a good show. Townsend's, Wilson's, and Yellow Warblers, and Hutton's and Warbling Vireos muddled with the resi-



*Short-eared Owl*  
Stephen D'Amato

*Findings* continued on page 6

# Field Trips



Pileated Woodpecker  
Kirsten Munson

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net) for trips through November 6th. For trips after that date call the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net).

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.

### **Tuesday, November 1, 7:45am** **Colusa National Wildlife Refuge** **Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290** **[dtankers@winfirst.com](mailto:dtankers@winfirst.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. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7:45am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon. We will leave the meeting area at 8am SHARP.

### **Saturday, November 5, 8am** **Mather Lake** **Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457** **[Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com](mailto: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 wintering birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey, Green Heron, Pied-billed Grebe and Common Yellowthroat. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this morning trip. A Sac County Parks Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

### **Sunday, November 6, 9am (Note:** **Daylight Savings Time begins today)** **Bobelaine Sanctuary** **Leader: Carla Barbaro, 717-8808**

Join Carla for a morning autumn walk through this great riparian habitat. Herons, egrets, cormorants and grebes should be on the water, and Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and a variety of sparrows will be settling in for the winter. The sycamore and wild grape should give us some fall color as well. Take Highway 99 north toward Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River bridge turn right on Laurel Ave. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot. You may want to bring water and snacks.

### **Saturday, November 12, 8am** **Sacramento Bar** **American River Parkway** **Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124** **[offleash56@yahoo.com](mailto:offleash56@yahoo.com)**

Join Richard for this morning walk along the American River. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe some surprises. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5

entry fee is required for all vehicles.

### **Saturday, November 12** **Beginning Birder 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](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), 457-6882.

### **Saturday, November 12, 6:30am** **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 is a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group is a good way to find out what's happening and to hone your birding skills. This walk covers about four miles at a leisurely pace and takes approximately five hours, so bring lunch and liquids. Be sure to check the recorded information a day or two before for exact meeting time and possible updates.

### **Sunday, November 13** **Beginning Birder Field Trip** **Cosumnes River Preserve**

This trip is designed to improve your skills in identifying wintering wetland birds, including ducks, geese and some shorebirds. Several Audubon leaders will provide spotting scopes for up-close looks at the waterfowl. Registration is required to ensure a good ratio of leaders to participants. Contact Cathie LaZier at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net), 457-6882.

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

*Field Trips* continued from page 3

**Sunday, November 13, 7am – noon**  
**Eastern Sacramento County Foothills**  
**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610**  
**conardc@saccounty.net**

We will visit portions of Latrobe, Michigan Bar, and Meiss Rds, though access will be partially dependent on road conditions related to recent weather. Vast areas of open grassland and blue oak woodland interspersed with rocky outcrops and the Cosumnes River provide habitat for winter raptors, resident and winter songbirds, Lewis's Woodpeckers and, hopefully, a surprise or two. We'll have a mix of car birding and several short walks. Meet at the Park and Ride on Hwy 16 (Jackson Hwy) just west of Sunrise Blvd and the Folsom South Canal (7 miles east of Watt Ave). Steady rain cancels.

**Thursday-Monday, November 18-21**  
**Central Valley Birding Symposium**  
**Contact: Frances Oliver**  
**(209) 369-2010**  
**hummer52@sbcglobal.net**

Join others from near and far and enjoy the company of great birders and naturalists such as Ed Harper, John Sterling, Ron LeValley, Joe Morlan and Jon Dunn in a variety of workshops to hone your skills. 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. Check the schedule of field trips and programs, and register at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org).

**Saturday, November 19, 6:30am**  
**Tall Forest Bird Count**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Recorded Information: 684-2816**

Meet at the Farm Center Gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME, to join this monthly bird count. Usually led by John Trochet, this area is normally closed to the public, so this is your opportunity to bird there. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always informative. You must check the recorded information a day or two ahead to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

**Family Friendly Trip!!**  
**Sunday, November 20, 9am**  
**William Pond Park**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652**  
**mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

This is another of the family friendly birding and nature outings for families with children. Maureen will spend a couple hours walking in William Pond Park finding birds and other items of interest. Reservations are required, so contact Maureen for more information.

**Sunday, November 20, 8am**  
**Upper Sunrise Area, American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**  
**Wayne.blunk@gmail.com**

Wayne will lead you on a morning walk to this great spot along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident and wintering birds and maybe some surprises. Take South Bridge Road off of Sunrise just south of the Sunrise Bridge. Pass through the kiosk to stop sign at bottom of the hill. Turn right at stop sign and an immediate left. Park in the first parking lot on the left. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee if you do not have a County Parks Pass. This is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders.

**Saturday, November 26, 8am**  
**Pleasants Valley Rd./Putah Creek (Solano Co.)**  
**Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636**  
**Calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This outing entails driving to the Vacaville area to pick up Pleasants Valley Road, and birding our way up to Hwy 128, then Putah Creek, Solano Lake and the Monticello Dam Overlook. We will make several stops along Pleasants Valley Rd, looking for migrating passerines, including Phainopepla, Western Bluebird and Say's Phoebe. Along Putah Creek and Solano Lake we may see Barrow's Goldeneye, Hooded Merganser, American Dipper, and Osprey. At the Monticello Dam Overlook, we'll be watching and listening for Canyon and Rock Wrens, and possibly Peregrine Falcon. Plan to spend 3-4 hours birding, plus driving time getting there and back. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for seasonal conditions. Bring along hand held radios, food and water. Our lunch spot will be at Solano Lake County Park, where there is a day-use fee. We'll also look for Pileated Woodpecker and owls here. Meet Gary at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol Ave exit; turn left at the light and then left again

into the Park and Ride lot. Car pooling is strongly encouraged, due to limited access at stops and the distance traveled.

**Saturday, November 26, 3:30pm**  
**Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**  
**A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip**  
**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

Sandhill Cranes are the focus of this trip but ducks, swans and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, and hawks patrol overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot 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; bring binoculars, 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](http://www.cosumnes.org). This is a great trip for beginners.

**Sunday, November 27, 8am**  
**Lincoln Grasslands**  
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci**  
**Tim: 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net**  
**Mark: 833-6722,**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Tim and Mark will be checking this Placer County area for the many wintering hawks and sparrows that call this area home during the winter months. They will also be looking for winter rarities that flock with Horned Larks and sparrows in the Brewer Road area. Birding and lunch at the Chamberlain Cemetery will be followed by more birding along the rural roads on the way to Camp Far West Reservoir. Meet Tim and Mark at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station. Brookfield's is behind Shell. Bring lunch, scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

**Sunday, November 27, 3:30pm  
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering  
Birds of the Sacramento Valley  
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored  
trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

See description for Saturday, November 26,  
above.

**Wednesday, November 30,  
Isenberg Crane Preserve/Cosumnes  
River Preserve Boardwalk  
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290  
dtankers@winfirst.com**

Join Dan to look for wintering geese and ducks, including Gadwall, Northern 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, December 3,  
American River Natural History  
Association Annual Animal and Bird  
Count  
Compiler: Lea Landry, 638-1411  
or llandry46@earthlink.net (preferred)**

Join Lea 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. This is a great warm-up for the CBCs to follow. Contact Lea for details, team assignments, and meeting and compilation locations.

**Sunday, December 4th, 9am till noon  
Gulls at Nimbus Fish Hatchery  
Leader: Ed Harper, 971-3311  
calidris@surrewest.net**

Sharpen your identification skills as this is a gathering place for a variety of gulls. Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Spotting scopes will be very useful, and be sure to bring your field guides for this intensive study. Meet Ed in the Fish Hatchery parking lot off Hazel Avenue north of Hwy 50.

**Thursday, December 8, 7:45am  
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge  
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290  
dtankers@winfirst.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 follow the short auto tour and finish our outing with a return visit to the platform. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7:45am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park and Ride entrance a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon. We will leave the meeting area at 8am SHARP.

**Saturday, December 10, 7am  
San Francisco Bay Birding  
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
shoppe01@surrewest.net**

Join Scott for a full day of birding the San Francisco Bay area, looking for shorebirds, waterfowl and other wintering birds. Clapper Rails are always a possibility on this trip, as well as unexpected rarities. Possible stops include Arrowhead Marsh, Hayward Shoreline, Palo Alto Baylands and Lake Merritt. Bring lunch and wear layered clothing. Scopes and FRS radios are a help. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride

off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capital Ave exit; turn left at the stoplight and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Saturday, December 10, 7am  
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 is a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group is a good way to find out what's happening and to hone your birding skills. This walk covers about four miles at a leisurely pace and takes approximately five hours, so bring lunch and liquids. Be sure to check the recorded information a day or two before for exact meeting time and possible updates.

**Sunday, December 11, 7:30am  
King Ranch/Lynch Canyon/American  
Canyon Wetlands  
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804  
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277  
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net  
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net**

Solano County has wonderful birding in a variety of habitats. Join Ken and Maureen while we drive through the King Ranch looking for eagles and other raptors and burrowing owls; Lynch Canyon for a short hike into the valley looking for species similar to those at King but also including riparian species along the creek and ducks and grebes at the reservoir pond; then west to the American Canyon Wetlands where there will be myriad shorebirds, ducks and a few raptors as well which, depending on the tide, may be close enough for very good looks. This trip will last to mid-afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids. FRS radios will be useful. Meet Maureen at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit. Turn left; the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left. Secondary meeting place in front of the Safeway just west of the Waterman exit in Fairfield BY 8am.

**Saturday, December 17  
Woodfords Christmas Count  
Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207  
spskua2@comcast.net; or  
Compiler: Andi Salmi, 691-7216  
andisalmi@yahoo.com**

*Field Trips* continued on page 7

## 2011 ARNHA WILDLIFE COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

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 a Wildlife Count in 1993. In 2010, Jack served as a mentor while Lea Landry took over the coordination of the 26th Annual Count. 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 effect on other aspects of the Parkway.

On the 2010 Wildlife Count on December 4, twelve teams (including 1 team with 6 counters in canoes) competed tallying a record-setting 123 bird species, and 14 mammal species. There were no new species seen. Folks who are interested in participating in the 2011 Wildlife Count can email their name, email address and phone number to the Count Coordinator, Lea Landry, at llandry46@earthlink.net (preferred) or phone her at 916-638-1141. 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 3pm. Different leaders have different start times and specific meeting places.

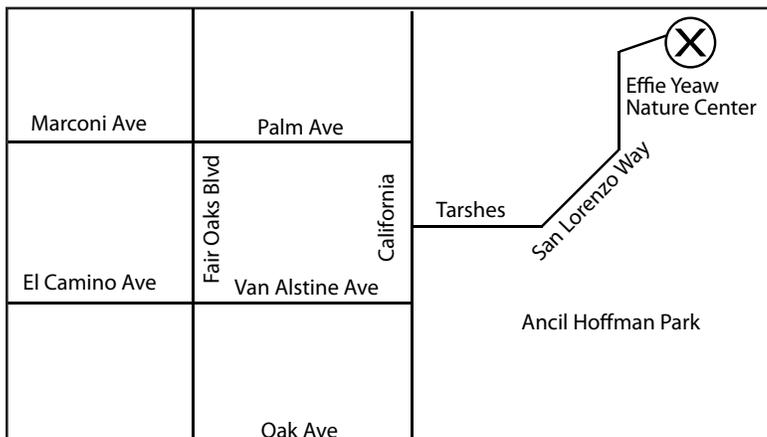
*Lea Landry, 2011 ARNHA Count Coordinator*

## New Location for our General Meetings

Our General Meetings are now in our new location at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Ancil Hoffman Park. If you have a Sacramento County Parks Pass or an ARNHA membership card remember to display it. If you do not, an Audubon member will be in the parking lot with temporary permits for your dashboard. Passes are available at the Dept of Regional Parks, 4040 Bradshaw Road, Sacramento or on-line at [www.arpf.org](http://www.arpf.org)

The Center is nearer to Hwy 50 than to Hwy 80. Depending on where you are coming from get onto Fair Oaks Blvd. From Watt Ave you will go East onto Fair Oaks Blvd and from Sunrise Blvd you will go West onto Fair Oaks Blvd.

Once on Fair Oaks Blvd, go east onto Van Alstine Ave (or Oak Ave); left onto California St; and right onto Tarshes, then left onto San Lorenzo, then right into the first parking lot. Walk the short trail to the center. (Please note that Palm Ave only allows vehicles to exit the park onto Palm Ave.)



*General Meeting* continued from page 1

Ikh Nart is also a reserve protecting ancient archeological features such as grave mounds, rock alignments, petroglyphs, and many sites of stone tool preparation and habitation, covering at least 6,000 years. You'll find out how you can help preserve this sister Park in the Gobi Desert through your contributions of used camping equipment, binoculars, used GPS units, and even cast-off laptops. Enjoy a night in another world, the land of Chinggis Khan, Roy Chapman Andrews, and the Rangers of Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve.

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](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*

*Findings* continued from page 2

dent Chestnut-backed Chickadees in the oaks and redwoods. A Red-shouldered Hawk started screaming and was promptly mocked by the park's Steller's Jays.

"Next it was on to Riverfront Regional Park near Healdsburg, where the migrants were fewer but we were treated to the most impressive bounty of woodpeckers any of us had seen in just a few short minutes. It began with a Hairy calling, and while searching for it a magnificent Pileated flew in and was soon joined by a Flicker, a Downy, the Hairy, and a Nuttall's!

"We wrapped up our day at Bodega Bay where we enjoyed Black Oystercatchers, Black Turnstones, Red-necked Phalaropes, Murres and Guillemots from the head. Then from Campbell Cove we spotted a Heermann's Gull, a couple of Common Loons and a large flock of Elegant Terns which contained one small trailing Common Tern. On the inner bay just down from Owl Canyon we stopped to check through a robust flock of Marbled Godwits when a Peregrine zoomed through and put them all up for a nice finale. We also had a previously reported male White-winged Scoter, two Brants, and a Clark's Grebe."

**Reichmuth Park (9/17)** — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "It was rather a slow day. Everyone had nice, close looks at Wood Ducks, always a pleasure to see. Migrants were scarce, someone reported seeing a Lincoln's Sparrow, I saw a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, there were modest numbers of Yellow, Wilson's and Orange-crowned warblers and Western Tanagers, and a few Western Wood-Pewees."

*Pete Hayes*

## FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2011-12

**Location: William Pond Park on the American River**

**Dates, (all Saturdays): November 12 and January 14**

**Time: 8am, ending by noon**

**Each Trip Limited to 10 participants: Registration required.**

**Location: Cosumnes River Preserve**

**Date: Sunday, November 13**

**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. A brief parking lot talk will focus on choice and use of binoculars and a brief overview of birding etiquette and ethics. A \$5 donation is requested to cover the costs of hand-out materials. (If you're a repeat participant and already have the materials no donation is requested.) You do not need to be a member of Audubon to participate.

The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats and will be led by two or more experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. Register via email to Cathie at [empid@earthlink.net](mailto: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 TRIPS

**Sunday, November 20, William Pond Park, American River Parkway**

These monthly birding and nature walks are specifically geared to and appropriate for families and children. There is a trip limit to ensure a quality experience for all. Register for trips by contacting Maureen Geiger, at [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net), or 444-0804.

*Field Trips* continued from page 5

**Saturday, December 17, 6:30am**

**Tall Forest Bird Count**

**Cosumnes River Preserve**

**Recorded Information: 684-2816**

Meet at the Farm Center Gate at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, ON TIME, to join this monthly bird count. Usually led by John Trochet, this area is normally closed to the public, so this is your opportunity to bird there. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always informative. You must check the recorded information a day or two ahead to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

**Sunday, December 18, 9am**

**East Lawn Cemetery**

**Leader: Mary Beth Metcalf, 456-7382**

Join Mary Beth for a 2-3 hour slow-paced walk through East Lawn cemetery where one can spot many of the common wintering species. Sometimes there will be less common finds such as red-breasted sapsuckers or golden-crowned kinglets, and some years there have been red-breasted nuthatches, as well. Meet Mary Beth at the entrance gate at 43rd Street and Folsom Boulevard. There is street parking on 42nd and 43rd streets.

**Monday, December 26**

**Folsom Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610**

**[conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)**

**Saturday, December 31**

**Sacramento Christmas Count**

**Compiler: Mark Cudney, 987-2422**

**[mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com)**

## THE CENTRAL VALLEY SHOREBIRD SURVEY (CVSS)

**Help count shorebirds if shorebirds count to you!**

**What is the CVSS?**

The CVSS represents one region within the Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey (PFSS), a statewide shorebird monitoring program. These surveys are a coordinated, multi-partner monitoring program led by PRBO Conservation Science designed to guide the management and conservation of wintering shorebirds in the Pacific Flyway.

**Why Count Shorebirds?**

Many shorebird species are thought to be declining in North America; however, we still have a lot to learn about species population trends, such as identifying the species at greatest risk, and the habitats on which they most depend. Answering these questions requires a coordinated effort that includes biologists and volunteer Citizen Scientists in ongoing (e.g. at specific sites such as refuges or coastal estuaries) and newly established monitoring efforts in the Pacific Flyway.

**What you will need:**

- A passion for shorebird conservation
- Shorebird identification skills
- Binoculars and scope
- Reliable transportation
- Computer and internet skills

**Time commitment:**

Survey Day: 1 day for the survey between December 1-15 and 1 day for scouting, 3-4 hours each day.

Training Day: Saturday, November 12th 9am-3pm at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife area HQ.

**What about the Data?**

Data will be collected by both professional biologists and citizen scientists and will be aggregated through an online data entry portal in the California Avian Data Center (CADC; <http://data.prbo.org/cadc2/>). CADC is hosted by PRBO and provides a secure, well-tested platform for storing, managing, analyzing, and visualizing ecological monitoring data.

To learn more, get involved, or ask a question please contact:

Khara Strum, PRBO Conservation Science, [kstrum@prbo.org](mailto:kstrum@prbo.org), 415-868-0371 x 308

Monica Iglecia, Audubon California, [miglecia@audubon.org](mailto:miglecia@audubon.org), 916-649-7600 x 115

For more information on this survey, please visit <http://data.prbo.org/apps/pfss/>

## *Birding and Nature Events*

### **SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL**

The 15th annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held November 4th through 6th, at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi, CA. 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 sign up for tours at [www.cranefestival.com](http://www.cranefestival.com).

### **CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM**

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the Fifteenth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium November 17-20, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton. Keynote speakers include Ed Harper and John Sterling presenting a program on "Appreciating the Birds of the Central Valley"; Ron LeValley on "The Writings of William Leon Dawson—a California Bird Pioneer"; and Jeff Gordon on "10 Birds that Changed Birding." Other events include workshops on Swallow and Warbler identification. There are also programs on topics of Bird Migration and Wetlands Icons.

The 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! The schedule, brochure, registration form, etc. are on the website at: [cvbs.org](http://cvbs.org).

### **16TH ANNUAL MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL**

Morro Bay's 16th Annual Winter Bird Festival will be held January 13-16, 2012. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an area recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified! To register and for more information about the Festival, check their website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org).

### **5TH ANNUAL WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL**

The City of Galt in Collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary School District are pleased to bring you the 5th Annual Winter Bird Festival, Saturday, January 28, 2012. Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. Guided tours offer an exciting opportunity to see the winter birds that call the Central Valley home! Wetlands, songbird and sandhill crane tours are included so hop on a bus and have your binoculars ready! Questions! Call 209-366-7115 or google Galt Birding Festival for more detailed information.

### **SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY**

The 13th Annual Snow Goose Festival will be held in Chico on January 26-29, 2012. This year's festival offers over 65 fieldtrips and workshops including fun, FREE kids activities. It also hosts a Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit and Saturday night's banquet keynote speaker will be Greg Miller, famed birder portrayed by Jack Black in the newly released movie, *The Big Year*. Registration and further information can be found at [snowgoosefestival.org](http://snowgoosefestival.org) or by email at [info@snowgoosefestival.org](mailto:info@snowgoosefestival.org) and phone (530) 345-1865

### **FIRST ANNUAL SAS KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT!!!**

Sometime in the 1940's, Sacramento Audubon sponsored its first Christmas Bird Count, and this effort has been going strong ever since. Currently, SAS sponsors three CBC's for adults: Sacramento, Woodfords and Folsom. Information gathered at these counts is used by scientists and others who study birds all over the world.

This Christmas bird count season, SAS is planning its first count for children and youth on January 7, 2012 at Cosumnes River Preserve. Sacramento area kids ages 6 to 16 can join the first group of children to participate in this exciting event. Volunteers are needed to help this event be a success, and reservations are a must for all children. To reserve space or to volunteer, contact Maureen Geiger at 444-0804 or [mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net).



## *East Africa in 2012*

Responding to requests, Ed Harper and Susan Scott will offer another safari to Uganda. Tentative dates will center around 17 days in July. Special highlights include Mountain Gorilla tracking as well as Chimpanzees and other primates. In addition, there will be elephants, hippos, cats, and many other mammals. The birding is spectacular with Shoebill and other Uganda bird specialties being of high priority.

Following Uganda, an option exists for a week of wildlife viewing in Kenya with emphasis being on the migration that moves into the Masai Mara in early August. It will be your own Big Cat Diary! Camps and lodges have been carefully chosen to maximize the wildlife viewing experience. Ed and Susan have just returned from Kenya where they checked all locations and accommodations and report the wildlife viewing was spectacular.

If you would like to be placed on the planning list or would like more information regarding prices and itineraries, contact Ed at [calidris@surewest.net](mailto:calidris@surewest.net) or call him at (916) 704-7954 or (916) 971-3311.

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Karen & Roy Michel

Sue & John Vroman

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Tom Adams, Delberta Bass, Monte Ikemire, Laurie Isbell, Ken Mateik, Dixie Robinson, Connie Schwartz, Richard Soehren, Sue Vroman, Keith Wagner, Jon Wato and Patricia Wells to the **General Fund**.

Terry Campbell, Irene Devon, Joseph Easley, Michael Eaton, Stanley Ford, Cary Hart, Christine Homstrom, Monte Ikemire, Marlene Ishihara, Nancy Joye, Barbara Klocek, Thomas Manning, Ken Mateik, K.A. McCord, M.A. Nunes, Carmen Pereira, Joyce Reitz, Dixie Robinson, Richard Soehren, Christie Vallance, Joanne Vinton and Frank Wallace to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Celeste Deardorff and Greg Hentz made a donation to Sacramento Audubon in memory of Greg's friend David Roe.

## 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@earthlink.net (916) 638-1141

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.

### 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 held on November 29, at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### SACRAMENTO AUDUBON 2012 PROGRAMS

**January 19** Josh Hull  
*Great Grey Owls*  
**February 16** TBD  
**March 15** David Carle  
*Around the World Starting at Mono Lake*  
**April 19** TBD  
**May 17** TBD

*Observations* continued from page 10

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve. Visit [cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org) and click "Listserve" for details. With nearly 100 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:

Dan Airola, Kathy Blankenship, Brent Campos, Dennis Cavallo, Todd Easterla, Cory Gregory, Steve Hampton, Michael Perrone, Linda Pittman, Mary Schiedt, Dan Skalos, John Sterling, John Trochet, Magill Weber, and Dan Williams.

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

*Chris Conard*

### Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

# Seasonal Observations

September 1 to September 30

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

After three months of unprecedented shorebird finds (June, July, and August each had first records for the Central Valley, and the **Common Ringed Plover** at the Davis Wetlands (8/19-26) was a first for the state), things were bound to get back to normal. This was a fairly typical September, with reports of expected shorebird and songbird migrants, as well as an influx of returning waterfowl. The one major anomaly was **Brown Pelicans** seen through most of the month, with the bird first found at the Bridgeway Island Pond in West Sacramento on 8/24 continuing through 9/11. Possibly the same bird was seen flying at the Port of Sacramento (W. Sacramento) on 9/6. Two **Brown Pelicans** continued from last month in Contra Costa County waters near the Antioch Bridge on 9/20. Another individual was seen at the pond along Rd 102 near the Woodland WTP on 9/3-11 and at the Woodland WTP on 9/21.

Probably the most unexpected bird of the month was a juvenile **Sabine's Gull** at the Woodland WTP from 9/8-15. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was found at the Davis WTP on 9/9-10. The Woodland WTP produced a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** (9/8-15), up to four **Baird's Sandpipers** (9/8-15), and two **Pectoral Sandpipers** on 9/8, with five on 9/11 at the nearby pond on Rd 102. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were widely reported from other sites, including the Lincoln WTP (8/30-9/9), Riley

Sacramento Audubon Society  
11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

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**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, [sawise7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sawise7@sbcglobal.net)

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.

and Salas Rds near Wilton (9/29), Staten Island (six on 9/17), and Sherman Island (two on 9/20). A **Solitary Sandpiper** was

found at the Lincoln WTP on 9/6-9, and a long-staying bird was at the Sacramento Reg. WTP from 9/14-23. A **Sanderling** was found at the Davis Landfill pond visible from Rd 28H on 9/12-16. A **Stilt Sandpiper** was at the Davis Wetlands on 9/16 and, perhaps a different bird, was at the Davis WTP on 9/29-30.

The **Eastern Kingbird** found at the Yolo Wildlife Area on 8/30 continued through 9/1. The sole "eastern" warbler of the month was a **Blackpoll Warbler** on 9/15 along Putah Creek near Pedrick Rd. A **White-throated Sparrow** was in the same area on 9/26. And finally, a singing male **Indigo Bunting** on 8/2 at the Sac Reg. WTP Bufferlands was inadvertently left off of last month's tally.

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

*Observations* continued on page 9