



# The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

**Thursday, October 18**  
**Shepard Garden and Arts Center**  
**7pm General Meeting**

**Bird Banding in Hungary**  
**Jessica Griffiths**  
**Ventana Wildlife Society**

We are pleased to welcome back Ventana Wildlife Society Biologist, Jessica Griffiths, for a presentation discussing her recent travels to Hungary and the bird banding she conducted while there.

Griffiths will share with us about her 8-day stay at the banding station where approximately 2,000 birds of over 30 species were processed. Her photographic presentation will feature the species she handled, as well as a discussion of the differences between European and American banding techniques.

Griffiths has worked in Monterey County for VWS for the last three years. Originally from Chicago, she has eight years of experience as a field ornithologist, studying birds in seven states from coast to coast, including New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Mississippi.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

*Sally Riggs, Program Chair*

## CHRISTMAS COUNT WORKSHOP

At our November 15th general meeting we will host a Christmas Count workshop. There will be tips on counting large flocks of birds and distinguishing some common birds that can look confusingly alike. Meet some of the area count leaders and find a good count to participate in. You do not have to be an experienced birder to take part, just enthusiastic.

## CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES 2007-2008

**Saturday, December 1, American River Natural History Association Annual Animal Count (and Birds!)**

Compiler: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

**Saturday, December 15, Woodfords Christmas Count**

Coodinator: Tim Fitzer, 916/870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)  
Compiler: Andi Salmi, 916/691-7216, [andisalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:andisalmi@yahoo.com)

**Saturday, December 15, Auburn Christmas Count**

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

**Sunday, December 16, Stockton Christmas Count**

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

**Sunday, December 16. Putah Creek Christmas Count**

Compiler: Steve Hampton, [shampton@ospr.dfg.ca.gov](mailto:shampton@ospr.dfg.ca.gov)

**Monday, December 17, Benecia Christmas Count**

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island), 916/870-5207 e-mail: [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)  
Compiler: Robin Leong, 707/643-1287, [robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

**Saturday, December 22, Sacramento Christmas Count**

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 916/987-2422, [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com)

**Thursday, December 27, Lincoln Christmas Count**

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

**Friday, December 28, Sonoma Valley Christmas Count**

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

**Sunday, December 30, Folsom Christmas Count**

Compiler: Chris Conard, 916/362-5942, [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, January 1, Angwin Christmas Count**

Compiler: Floyd Hayes, 707/965-7577, [floyd\\_hayes@yahoo.com](mailto:floyd_hayes@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday, January 2 or Thursday, January 3**

**Check for final date!, Rio Cosumnes Christmas Count**

Compiler: Andrew Engilis, Jr., 530/752-0364, [aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aengilisjr@ucdavis.edu)

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

# Field Trip Findings

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

**Capay Valley to Blue Ridge** (9/13) — Fourteen birders turned out for this joint Yolo Audubon Society and Sacramento Audubon Society trip that began on side roads to State Highway 16. Leader Sami LaRocca said County Road 81 yielded Yellow Warbler, Golden-crowned Warbler and usual suspects like Bewick’s Wren, Acorn Woodpeckers and California Towhee. In the air were Turkey Vultures, Ravens and a single Vaux’s Swift. County Road 78A produced Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, White-breasted Nuthatch and Wild Turkeys. On County Road 57, birders failed to see previously reported Greater Roadrunners but were happy to hear and see numerous California Thrashers near Cache Creek. The remainder of the day was spent at the western edge of Yolo County and driving up Blue Ridge on Rayhouse Road (County Road 40) where Bushtits, woodpeckers and Lesser and American goldfinches were seen/heard.

“On the way toward Davis Reservoir we happily saw even more California Thrashers, Wrentits and Blue-grey Gnatcatchers,” Sami said. “At the lake our target was to check out the nest sites for Osprey and Bald Eagle; both were empty. Before heading back we saw Violet-green Swallows and Vaux’s Swifts.

Best bird of the day was saved for the return trip up the road. As we rounded a curve, four Sage Sparrows were seen foraging in the roadbed.”

**Sacramento Old City Cemetery** (9/12) “The trip this morning was fairly quiet,” leader Maureen Geiger said, “but 18 of us saw about 20 species of birds and enjoyed our walk through the beautiful gardens at the cemetery.”

**Goethe Park** (9/9) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Fall migrants were probably the favorite birds on this walk, including several Yellow Warblers, a Wilson’s Warbler, Western Tanagers, and a Western Wood Pewee. Anna’s Hummingbirds were busy establishing winter territories and there were many active smaller birds, towhees, wrens and Bushtits, as well as Downy and Nuttall’s Woodpeckers. The Vinegar Weed was in full scent and flower.” (After no one showed up for Cathie’s last Goethe trip, she said 20 birders joined her this time. “I need to develop better balance on my trips,” she added wryly.)

**Beavers on the Parkway** (9/5) — Besides seeing three-plus Beavers, leader Jack Hiehle’s group was treated to the hoots of two or perhaps three Great Horned Owls on two islands calling to each other. Also: White-tailed Kite, Great Egrets, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, California Quail and Black Phoebe.

**Upper Sunrise, American River Parkway** (9/2) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Seventeen birders had 39 species of birds. Highlights were Yellow, Wilson’s and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Western Tanager, and Cedar Waxwing.”

**Bobelaine Sanctuary** (8/26) — “Many Lazuli Buntings were heard and seen,” leader Brian Gilmore reported. “A Great Horned Owl was sighted near the Oak

and South Trail, along with a family of noisy Ash-throated Flycatchers on the Oak Trail near the firebreak. Also: A Warbling Vireo, Cedar Waxwings, and Least Sandpipers.”

**Yolo Wildlife Area** (8/26) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “The trip Sunday night was a lot of fun. There were more than 20 of us and we traipsed around the auto loop plus the extended loop to the southeast and had nice birds—lots of shorebirds and raptors. Then a full moon rising and the bat fly-out.”

**Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands** (8/25) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Twenty-four of us enjoyed a cool, breezy morning. A fair number of migrants were moving through. Highlights included Willow and Western Flycatchers, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray’s and Wilson’s Warblers, Western Tanagers, and Blue and Black-headed Grosbeak. We also watched a river otter eating a large catfish.”

**Beaver Walk** (8/22) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported three-plus Beavers, Belted Kingfisher, Black Phoebe and Great Egrets.

**Bodega Bay** (8/19) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Twenty-two of us had a full day under gorgeous blue skies. Bodega Head produced many of the trip’s highlights, including a Rhinoceros Auklet, Pigeon Guillemots flying to the cliffs, Pelagic Cormorants with downy chicks, a Black Oystercatcher feeding its chick, and a Wandering Tattler. Many Common Loons and one Red-throated Loon were in the bay. At Doran Park, we had nice studies of juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers, and a Common Murre swimming very close, allowing good views.”

*Pete Hayes*

## BUFFERLANDS HABITAT RESTORATION WORKSHOP SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 8:30AM-1PM

In 1990 the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District began numerous ongoing habitat restoration projects on its 2,650-acre Bufferlands between Sacramento and Elk Grove. Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour. We will spend the morning visiting several sites and will primarily discuss field implementation and management of our riparian, grassland, and seasonal wetlands projects. There we be plenty of time for questions and we expect a wide range of experience and backgrounds.

We will provide water and snacks. Bring a lunch, since we plan to eat and have a wrap-up at the end. We will be

walking one to two miles in the course of the morning, but the terrain is flat and fairly even.

From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the Meadowview/Pocket Rd exit (the first exit north of Laguna Blvd, and the first exit south of Florin Rd). Head east on Meadowview, then turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd. In one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stonecrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate. RSVP appreciated but not required.

For more information, call 875-9309, or e-mail: conardc@saccounty.net

# Field Trips



Daniel Kilby

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Mark Cudney, 987-2422, for trips through October 7th. Call the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net) for trips from October 8 through November 11th.

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

### Saturday, October 6, 7:30am

#### Bodega Bay

**Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216**  
[andisalmi@yahoo.com](mailto:andisalmi@yahoo.com)

Join Andi for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Bring lunch, water and warm clothes. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capitol Ave. exit. Turn left, and the Park and Ride will be on your immediate left. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

### Sunday, October 7, 8am

#### Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098**  
[matuchbirdman@yahoo.com](mailto:matuchbirdman@yahoo.com)

Join Mark to explore this part of the parkway. Returning winter species such as the crowned sparrows, Yellow-rumped Warblers, mergansers and goldeneye may be seen, as well as resident species. A trip with Mark is always interesting, and is appropriate for both newer and more experienced birders. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Ave., off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. Meet Mark at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road.

### Friday, October 12, 8am - noon

#### Bannister Park

**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Summer is over and Jack is beginning his series of American River Parkway trips again. Join him to identify the common and more unusual plants of the Parkway, as well as look for a variety of birds, including raptors, waterbirds and passerines. Meet Jack in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd, west of Sunrise Blvd.

### Saturday, October 13, 7am SHARP!

#### Hope Valley - Alpine County

#### Fall Foliage Birding

**Leader: Lisa Moraga**  
**Home, 455-4786, Cell, 671-4642**  
[ploverlover@earthlink.net](mailto:ploverlover@earthlink.net)

Autumn Color explodes in mid October at Hope Valley. A camera is a recommended addition to your pack. Join Lisa as we look for resident and specialty birds that include: Sooty (Blue) Grouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, Stellar's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cassin's Finch. The Valley is relatively flat; however, some of the terrain is hilly, so wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. Bring water and lunch. We will meet at the northeast corner of Hwy 50 and El Dorado Hills Blvd (exit 30B), at 7am SHARP! From there we will try to carpool to Hwy 88 via Fiddletown/Shake Ridge Road. For those who would like to meet us in Hope Valley, we will meet at the Hope Valley Wildlife Area parking lot on the north side of Hwy 88 before the junction with Hwy 89, between 9-9:30am. Delorme Northern California Atlas Grid #90, 1B, 1C. FRS radios would be helpful on this trip.

### Sunday, October 14, 8am

#### Bobelaine Sanctuary

**Leader: Carla Barbaro, 486-1198**  
[cbarbaro@comcast.net](mailto:cbarbaro@comcast.net)

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 Avenue and follow it to a dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot. Bring liquids, and a snack if you wish.

### Saturday, October 20, 8am

#### Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek

**Leader: Lea Landry, 638-1141**  
[llandry@softcom.net](mailto:llandry@softcom.net)

This morning walk will include riparian habitat, ridge trails and a good view of Lake Natoma. Lea will be looking for both woodland birds and waterfowl. There may be some short steep climbs on the trail, and if the rains come it may be muddy, so wear appropriate footwear. Bring liquids and snacks if you wish. Lea usually finds a nice variety of birds on this trip, which is suitable for both beginning and experienced birders. Meet Lea in the parking lot of the Snowberry Creek Equestrian Staging area, ¼ mile east on Main, from where Main and Sunset Avenues meet in Orangevale.

### Saturday, October 20, Very Early

#### 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, so this is your opportunity to bird there. John has an appreciation of nature on many levels, and a trip with him is always exciting. You must check the recorded information a day or two previously to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

### Sunday, October 21, 8am

#### Gristmill Recreation Area

#### American River Parkway

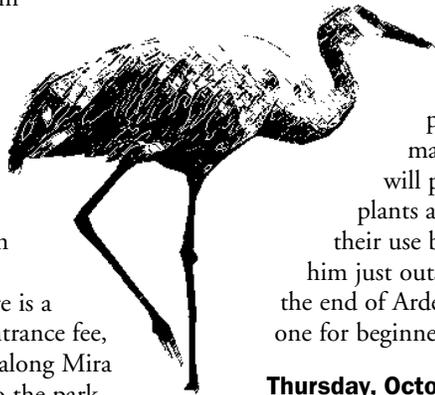
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098**  
[matuchbirdman@yahoo.com](mailto:matuchbirdman@yahoo.com)

Join Mark to explore this section of the American River, checking for possible late migrants and the many different bird

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

## Field Trips continued from page 3

species which winter here. From Hwy 50 take the Bradshaw exit; go north on Bradshaw to Folsom Blvd; go left (west) on Folsom Blvd, then right onto Butterfield. Turn right on Linda Rio and right again on Mira Del Rio. In about 50 yards turn left into the Gristmill Recreation Area. There is a \$4 per car parkway entrance fee, or you may also park along Mira Del Rio and walk into the park.



### **Sunday, October 21** **Habitat Improvement Work Day** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Help Jack restore native vegetation along the American River Parkway. Tasks vary from month to month, so call Jack for details and meeting time, usually early morning.

### **Tuesday, October 23, 7am** **Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary** **and Sutter Basin** **Leader: Sami LaRocca** **(530) 908-0288** **Sami182@charter.net**

This is another Yolo Audubon field trip, which Sami would like to offer to Sacramento Audubon participants as well. Bobelaine is a rare remnant of the riparian forests that once extended two to five miles on either side of rivers in the great Central Valley of California. Early morning is the best time to check out resident raptors, woodpeckers and passerines. Sami plans to work on identifying juvenile birds and ducks in eclipse plumage. Sami will lead you through the oak woodland habitat to an overlook where the Bear River runs into the Feather River. On the return trip she plans to drive through the Sutter Bypass and along a levy to add a few more birds to the day's list. Meet Sami at the Park and Ride on the northeast corner of Mace Blvd and Highway 80, behind Ikeda's market. Bring water, snacks, lunch and hiking shoes. All levels of birders welcome; some loaner binoculars will be available. Sami plans to return by early afternoon. Sacramento participants may wish to phone Sami and arrange to meet her at the Bobelaine Sanctuary. Note: High winds or heavy rain cancels the trip.

### **Wednesday, October 24, 8am – noon** **William Pond Park** **American River Parkway** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack for this walk to check out both the river and the small lake, as well as the developed park area. A variety of birds may be present, and Jack will point out some of the local plants and share information about their use by Native Americans. Meet him just outside the park entrance at the end of Arden Way. This trip is a great one for beginners.

### **Thursday, October 25, 8am** **Yolo Basin Wildlife Area** **Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829** **dtankers@winfirst.com**

Meet Dan in the first parking lot (on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour. We'll set up scopes and bird for awhile so bring coffee and a breakfast snack to enjoy while we check out the newly arrived waterfowl and shorebirds. Then we'll drive the auto tour loop, stopping to scope any likely areas. From Sacramento take I-80 west, and take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Trip will last approximately 3 hours. This is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders.

### **Saturday, October 27, 8am** **Yolo Basin Wildlife Area** **Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804** **mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

Join Maureen in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and possible waterfowl as well. Raptors such as peregrine falcon are possible also. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, and take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left onto the levee, then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip will begin at the first parking lot (on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour. FRS radios are especially useful on this trip.

### **Sunday, October 28, 7am SHARP** **Calaveras Big Trees State Park** **Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882** **empid@earthlink.net**

We'll take a leisurely walk on the one mile loop trail through the North Grove of Giant Sequoias, enjoying dogwood, hazelnut, and big leaf maple in fall color. Hoped-for birds include White-headed Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Winter Wren, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. Stellar's Jay and Douglas Squirrel are a certainty. Afterwards we'll picnic at the meadow and make a short stop at the visitor center before an optional short afternoon hike. Meet Cathie at the Starbucks in the Raley's Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (between Watt and Howe), to LEAVE at 7am SHARP. Or meet in the large visitor's day parking lot at Calaveras between 9 and 9:30. There is an entrance fee to the park. This trip is suitable for beginners.

### **Tuesday, October 30, 8am** **Goethe Park** **Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882** **empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie at the first parking lot on the right past the entrance kiosk for this morning walk. We'll look for resident birds and wintering species in the oak woodland and on the river. This walk will end before noon and is a good trip for beginners. Goethe Park is at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive, off Folsom Blvd. From Hwy 50 take the Bradshaw exit; go north to Folsom Blvd, east to Rod Beaudry Drive and turn left. There is a \$4 park entrance fee; if you want to carpool into the park meet Cathie about 10 minutes earlier behind the pizza place on the northeast corner of Folsom and Rod Beaudry Drive.

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

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

### **Sunday, November 4, 8am** **Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering** **Birds of the Sacramento Valley**

**A "Save Our Sandhill Cranes" sponsored trip**

**Co-coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

**REMEMBER CHANGE TO STANDARD TIME! CLOCKS BACK 1 HOUR.**

Sandhill Cranes are the focus of this trip, but the experienced birding leaders will also help you identify the waterfowl and shorebirds that winter here. A variety of ducks and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot, where we will stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, then drive out along Desmond Road and Woodbridge Road searching for cranes. Optional lunch at Wimpy's afterwards with SOS Cranes board members for further discussions. Dress for changeable weather; bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org), or the recorded info line at 684-2816.

This is a great trip for beginners.

**Thursday, November 8, 8am - noon Old Fair Oaks Bridge**

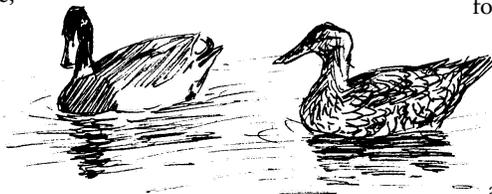
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

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

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

Bring lunch and liquids for this trip which will last into mid-afternoon. Target birds are Phainopepla and Barrow's Goldeneye, and Dan will find many other species as well. On the return to Sacramento we may drive the roads north of Davis looking for wintering raptors, or do the auto tour loop at the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area to view the waterfowl. It could be muddy if we've had recent

rains; wear appropriate footwear. There is a \$5 parking fee at the Lake Solano area. Meet Dan at the Park and Ride off Mace Blvd and I-80 in Davis, behind Ikeda's Market.



Kirsten Munson

**Saturday, November 10 River Walk Bird Count**

**Cosumnes River Preserve Recorded Information, 684-2816**

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd, south of Twin Cities Road, for this monthly birding census trip. It's a great birding area, always full of surprises, and joining the group trip is a good way to find out what's happening at the preserve. This walk covers about four miles, and, at a leisurely pace, should take approximately five hours, so be sure to bring a lunch and liquids. You must check the recorded information a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

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

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

*Pelagic Trip for SAS!*

**12 Hour Pelagic Trip Reservation Form**

October 13, 2007 • Trip price: \$120 per person  
Tour departs from Fisherman's Wharf Monterey, CA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email (for reservation confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration deadline is October 5, 2007

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:  
Ken Hashagen, 11375 Buckeye Hill Ct, Gold River, CA 95670

**Saturday, October 13, 2007**

A new 1-day, 12-hour trip offshore is being offered this year for those SAS members and friends that have been on the 2-day trip, primarily in Monterey Bay, and want to go further offshore to look for pelagic species that would not commonly be found in the Bay or close to shore.

This trip will be limited to 20 individuals; your check reserves your spot. Cost will be \$120 per person, which includes a \$20 donation to Sacramento Audubon. The date is Saturday, October 13, 2007.

The boat departs Monterey at 6am and returns about 6pm. Detailed instructions and pre-trip information will be provided once you reserve your space. Please use the registration form provided above. Contact Ken Hashagen (916) 316-8596-cell, or (916) 635-4435-home, for further information.

# Upcoming Events

## PRBO'S 30TH ANNUAL BIRD-A-THON SEPTEMBER 1-OCTOBER 15

It's not too late to contribute or participate in the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's Bird-A-Thon. PRBO's Bird-A-Thon raises over \$100,000 to help fund their critically acclaimed research and education programs. You can participate by becoming an individual counter, creating or joining an existing team, or by sponsoring a counter! For more information, or to register, visit: [www.prbo.org/birdathon](http://www.prbo.org/birdathon) or call Ann Joly, Bird-A-Thon Coordinator, at (707) 781-2555 ext. 320 or email at [ajoly@prbo.org](mailto:ajoly@prbo.org).

## 11TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

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

There will be great evening programs with Joe Morlan and Laura Eerickson; workshops, tutorials and an e-Bird primer; and post-Symposium field trips on Monday the 19th, one led by Jon Dunn. There are programs for all birders from beginners to experts, bird-friendly garden-tips, and a Birder's Market full of artists. The wonderful vendors from previous years will return with bird and nature related items.

For more information, see last month's *Observer* and check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 369-2010.

## 12TH ANNUAL MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for their 12th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, being held January 18-21, 2008. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers.

For more information about the Festival, check out their website at [www.morrobaybirdfestival.org](http://www.morrobaybirdfestival.org), or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for their 2008 brochure, or register online. The registration deadline is January 4, 2008 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

## AUDUBON LISTINGS FOR BIRD AND NATURE FESTIVALS

Audubon California has a web page, listing birding and nature festivals by month. The site is [http://ca.audubon.org/california\\_nature\\_festivals.htm](http://ca.audubon.org/california_nature_festivals.htm).

National events can be found at National Audubon's birding calendar at <http://www.audubon.org/birdingcalendar/>

## BIRDING FOR FUN WORKSHOP, PART 2

Following up on last spring's successful Birding for Fun Workshop, SAS's Sheila Green is offering a second class for kids. This time she will be exploring birds in the Sacramento area, with special emphasis on bird biology and behavior, optics, area Hot Spots and keeping your own bird list! Sheila has many years of experience teaching the joys of birding to various youth groups and her enthusiasm is catching... If you missed the first series last spring sign up anyway!

Birding for Fun is an inter-generational, hands-on workshop for children ages 6-16 accompanied by a parent, grandparent or other special adult.

Where: Cordova Community Center, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova

When: Classes will be Wednesdays 6:30-8pm, October 10 and 17 with a field trip Saturday 9-11am, October 20

How: Register by calling the Park District's number at 362-1841. The class size is limited, so sign up soon. Cost is \$15.

## JACK HILL PARK WALK

On August 25, at Jack Hill Park in Elk Grove, a small group of folks joined Maureen Geiger and Julie Serences for a bird walk along Laguna Creek.

Organized by the Laguna Creek Watershed Council, the walk was designed to acquaint neighbors with the wide variety of birds in the area and, of course, increase their awareness of the need to protect the watershed. Among other birds, we were treated to a Great Blue Heron and it's green cousin, all 3 egrets, and a kite hunting and feeding a fledging. The kids were impressed and so were we!

Add this Park to your list to check out if you are in the area – Jack Hill Park on Porto Rosa Drive (it's off of Waterman Road and Elk Grove Blvd). Easy walking.

*Julie Serences*

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Christine Hanson	Janet Tisue
Ann Kohl	Anthony Willard
Kam Langham	Lois Wren

**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.

**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 October 30, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Paul Beach and Ann and William Kohl, to the **General Fund**.

Wayne Blunk, Gordon Fairchild, Cary Hart, Thomas Manning, Janet Tissue, Drs. James and Patricia Wells, and William Wingfield, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Charles Bennett, Cary Hart, George Koch, Dale Kuhn, Bob Radix, Janet Tissue, Drs. James and Patricia Wells, Jonathan Williams and William Wingfield, to **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

A donation was received from Theresa and Helen Lazorisak as a memorial for Richard Esmiol.

**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

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for maintenance Bobelaine Sanctuary \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE SUPPORT THE FEDERAL DUCK STAMP PROGRAM**

Want to "make a difference" to conserve and protect natural resources? Duck Stamps are a highly effective way to conserve America's natural resources, and also serve as an entrance pass for National Wildlife Refuges where admission is normally charged.

Originally created in 1934 as the federal licenses required for hunting migratory waterfowl, Federal Duck Stamps have a much larger purpose today. They are a vital tool for wetland conservation. Ninety-eight cents out of every dollar generated goes directly to purchase or lease wetland habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since its inception, revenue generated by The Federal Duck Stamp Program has contributed more than \$700 million that has been used to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In addition to waterfowl, numerous fish, amphibian, reptile, bird and mammal species dependent on wetland habitats have benefited. Among the birds directly benefiting from stamp revenues are waterbirds, shorebirds, raptors, and wetland-associated songbirds.

Birders throughout the U.S. may gain free admission to every National Wildlife Refuge in the country by purchasing a \$15 Federal Duck Stamp. New stamps become available July 1 each year, and have become popular collectors' items.

The stamps are, dollar for dollar, one of the best investments one can make in the future of America's wetlands. Federal Duck Stamps are sold in many post offices. You can also buy them on the internet, at sporting goods and outdoor stores that sell hunting licenses, and at some National Wildlife Refuges. For additional information about Duck Stamps go to <http://www.fws.gov/duckstamps/>

# Seasonal Observations

August 1 to August 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports  
[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

The wetlands of Yolo County once again stole the show. A **Glossy Ibis** was found among the **White-faced Ibis** at the Yolo Wildlife Area on 8/25. This bird was seen by several observers and photographed. If accepted by the California Bird Records Committee, it would be a first for Yolo County. The **Glossy Ibis** was reported again on 8/28. While watching the ibis on 8/25, several birders saw a jaeger flying over. It was later found at the Davis Wastewater Treatment Plant and identified as a **Long-tailed Jaeger**. The **Franklin's Gull** found at the Davis Wetlands (DW) on 7/1 continued into September.

A molting adult **Sanderling** was found at DW on 8/5. The rest of the notable shorebird action came from the newly reopened Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant. On 8/6 a **Sanderling** and a **Red Knot** were reported. The latter continued until 8/8. Several **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found through the first half of the month.

Good numbers of migrant songbirds were reported, but there were only a few rarities to spice things up (check back next month!). A total of four **Indigo Buntings** were seen. A singing **Indigo Bunting** found at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 7/7 was last seen on 8/12 with two fledglings. The female of the pair was never seen. On 8/5, a female and a

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male were found in different portions of CRP, with that male also continuing until 8/12. An additional male **Indigo Bunting** was found at the Capay Bridge at Cache Creek on 8/7. A male **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** was found on the Solano side of Putah Creek near Winters on 8/24. Two **Brewer's Sparrows** were reported

this month: one at Lower Sunrise on the American River Parkway (ARP) on 8/20 and another at the UC Davis Picnic Grounds on 8/24. There were two very early fall/winter sparrows: a **Lincoln's Sparrow** at CRP on 8/12 and a **White-crowned Sparrow** from Upper Sunrise (ARP) on 8/31.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit [www.cvbirds.org](http://www.cvbirds.org) and click "Listserv" for details. With over 150 reports, it is impossible to list everyone. However, I want to thank Steve Hampton for his summary of Yolo County birds, and the following for reports on the above species and for providing me with additional information:

Roger Adamson, Dan Brown, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Ed Harper, Joan Humphrey, David Johnson, Rodd Kelsey, Jeri Langham, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Terry Ronneberg, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Fritz Steurer, Craig Swolgaard, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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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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