

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 68 • NO. 8

OCTOBER 2016

General Meeting

Thursday, October 20, 2016

**Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm**

Birding Ecotourism in Paraguay

John Sterling

John will talk about his adventures on a 17 day trip through Paraguay. From the dry Chaco in the west to the atlantic rainforests of the east, this country will soon be on the map for international birders. John was the team leader that developed a curriculum for training birding guides in Paraguay for National Audubon Society and the Inter American Development Bank. He was able to bird with several of the graduates of the Advanced Training Course. John will talk about the new opportunities for birding ecotourism and will illustrate his talk with some of his thousands of photos taken on his trip.

John Sterling is a wildlife biologist and consultant whose clients include The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, the Center for Natural Lands Management, CA Department of Water Resources, The Kern Water Bank and the Smithsonian Institution. He was a former staff avian ecologist at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and for several universities and US Forest Service research labs in addition to working for two environmental consulting firms in California. John is a diehard birder since 1971 and loves teaching his identification workshops and leading his international tours (spots open in 2017: Uganda, Colombia, and Paraguay).



White Monjita
John Sterling

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/Sacramento Audubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

Sally Walters Schmoldt, President and Program Chair

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER NATUREFEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

The annual Nature fest at Effie Yeaw Nature Center will take place on **Sunday, October 9**, from 10am to 3pm. Mark your calendar now for NatureFest, the Nature Center's largest family event of the year! NatureFest promotes science and nature education and outdoor recreation, and is an excellent opportunity to learn more about local organizations that support our community.

Nature Fest includes live animal shows, kids activities, demonstrations, guided nature hikes, and family-friendly food in the beautiful Nature Center area. Enjoy animal shows from Wild Things on the main stage and close up visits with the Nature Center's own ambassador animals at Critter Corner, plus many more creatures of all shapes and sizes!

Admission (at the door): Adults-\$5; Kids 12 and under-FREE
Event parking is FREE

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES FOR 2016-2017

Saturday, December 3, Daybreak, ARNHA Wildlife Count

Coordinators: Paul Tebbel and Rachel Cowan
e-mail: rachaelc@sacnaturecenter.net

Annual census of birds and other wildlife on the American River Parkway.

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON-SPONSORED CBC DATES

Wednesday, December 21, 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 18, Sacramento Christmas Count

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

Sunday, December 31, 2016, Folsom Christmas Count

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

**Saturday-Sunday, January 7-8, 2017, 5th Annual
Sacramento Kids' Christmas Count**

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

For locations and dates of additional Christmas Bird Counts,
visit natureali.org/cbcs.html

Field Trip Findings

Bufferlands (9/11) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “We had a good outing with 15 participants on a cool and somewhat breezy morning with good bird activity. Our focus was on finding migrant songbirds, and they didn’t disappoint. We found two Warbling Vireos, five Orange-crowned Warblers, five Common Yellowthroats, eight Yellow Warblers, nine Black-throated Gray Warblers, eight Western Tanagers, three Lazuli Buntings, and a Blue Grosbeak. Other birds included heard-only MacGillivray’s Warblers, poorly/quickly seen Pacific-slope and Willow flycatchers, a few lingering Swainson’s Hawks, plus a few butterflies including Monarchs, Lorquin’s Admirals, a Common Checkered Skipper, and a West Coast Lady.”

Mather Regional Park (9/10) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Fifteen spirits enjoyed a cool early Autumn morning to spiritedly identify 51+ species. Even before getting out of the parking lot, the group was treated to a low altitude fly-by over the lake of 15 American White Pelicans. Sharp eyes and seasoned experience identified a Willow Flycatcher, Orange-crowned and Yellow warblers. Mute Swans were abundant with 15 seen in what appeared to be three different families. A large number of Great-tailed Grackles swarmed the picnic area. Raptors were surprisingly scarce except for one Cooper’s Hawk and three White-tailed Kites. It appears that White-breasted Nuthatches may have nested and fledged young as three were seen close together and one was spotted going in and out of a tree cavity. All in all, another splendid morning of birding.”

North Bay Hotspots (9/3) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Eleven people joined me for a good day in the field, despite a very windy afternoon. I decided that we would visit the same locations as my previous field trip since it had been very productive before. We started at American Canyon Wetlands where the highlights included 14 species of shorebirds, including several Lesser Yellowlegs, good views of Virginia Rail and great views of a Sora out in the open, very close by. The group also enjoyed watching the aerobatics of a Peregrine Falcon as it made several dives at scattering shorebirds, hoping to snag a meal. At our second stop, Huichica Creek, we were greeted by very strong winds, which hindered the birding quite

a bit. But we were able to see hundreds of Western and Least sandpipers, and discuss the differences between the two. A highlight here was a leucistic Western Sandpiper that was almost entirely white with just a few dusky feathers. A quick stop at the neighboring farm pond netted us a single Red-necked Phalarope. We tallied 50 species for the day.”

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (8/30) — Maureen Geiger, co-leader with Cathie LaZier, reported: “We had a nice, easy trip to YBWA this evening. Although it was in the low 90s when we started out, seven of us drove the tour route and saw more than 35 species of birds. Close up Caspian Terns and a cooperative Black-shouldered Kite in beautiful evening light were the highlights. (Due to a little “leader confusion,” 5 birders went with the leaders and 15 went on their own!!!)

River Bend Park (8/28) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Seven birders joined me for this generally slow birding morning. We had an abundance of White-breasted Nuthatches, and an influx of Bewick’s Wrens. We spent some time listening to the differences in the individual wren’s songs and calls. We watched an Osprey’s unsuccessful fishing attempts, and were surprised by an unexpected (on the river) Black-necked Stilt. Vinegar Weed and Nude Buckwheat were still in bloom. E-bird reported a trip count of 33 species.”

Alpine County, CA and Douglas County, NV (8/27) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “A group of 10, we headed up Highway 50, and after spotting several Band-tailed Pigeons on power lines in Pollock Pines, we arrived at Mud Lake east of Highway 88 in Nevada. Our hospitable Woodford’s Christmas Count hosts, George and Bobby Goodspeed, gave us access to the shore and a good many waterfowl and shorebirds. Highlights included Common Merganser, Gadwall, Redhead and Ruddy Duck; Pied-billed, Eared and Western grebes; Red-necked Phalarope; Double-crested Cormorant; American Avocet; White-faced Ibis, a pair of Sandhill Cranes; and California and some Ring-billed gulls. From the shore were spotted perched Bald Eagle and soaring sub-adult Golden Eagle noted by its white wing patches. Other raptors included Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon. A visit to the barns yielded Great

Horned and Barn owls. At our lunch spot, Indian Creek Reservoir, we added Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper and Clark’s Nutcracker. Also near water en route to Markleeville were Western Wood-Pewee, Chipping Sparrow and Green-tailed Towhee. Though we missed Pinyon Jay and American Dipper and many woodpeckers and passerines, we had a good day tallying about 55 species.”

Wright’s Lake (8/24) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Ann Burris, reported: “It was a perfect day to go birding in the Sierra, not too hot with a cooling breeze. Eleven people ventured to Wright’s Lake for a fun day. Some of the highlights were: Evening Grosbeak, a Goshawk that flew in front of us into the trees, Williamson’s Sapsucker, Cassin’s Finches, Spotted Sandpiper, a hen with 6 young, Common Mergansers and Ospreys. We had a fun time and lifers for some.”

Truckee/Tahoe Mountain Birding (8/21) — Leader Jane Taylor reported: “Four of us made this trip to visit a new destination, Webber Lake north of Truckee. We diverted on Scott Hoppe’s learning of a rare CA visitor, a Solitary Sandpiper reported a couple of days before near Donner Summit. Scott found the bird in its reported location, and we observed and photographed it at close range. Arriving at Webber Lake too late to do much hiking, we went only as far as Lacey Creek where we saw a Willow Flycatcher. In the trees were many fresh nest-holes and numbers of Chipping Sparrows, Mountain Chickadees and Dark-eyed Juncos. On our way out, we saw a molting Townsend’s Solitaire; our final afternoon stop at Martis Creek Reservoir yielded Vesper Sparrows, Gadwalls, Pied-billed Grebes and some impressive beaver dams on Martis Creek. Altogether we totaled 38 species.”

Granite Springs Road (8/16) — Tim Fitzer, co-leader with Ann Burris, reported: “A beautiful day in the Sierra to Granite Springs Rd near Wright’s Lake. Ten people enjoyed the mountain road birding. Some of the highlights were: Yellow, MacGillivray’s, Orange-crowned, and many Yellow-rumped warblers; Lewis’s and Hairy woodpeckers, Brown Creepers and a Steller’s Jay imitating a Red-tailed Hawk that fooled everyone.”

Napa/Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (8/14) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: *Findings* continued on page 7

Field Trips



Great-crested Flycatcher
Stephen 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, for trips through October 29 contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882. For trips from October 30 contact the scheduler Maureen Geiger, 444-0804, mkgeiger@comcast.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. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Saturday, October 1, 7am
Putah Creek Preserve
Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682
Bgrab984@gmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk along Putah Creek in search of late migrants and wintering riparian birds. If the participants so desire, we may also visit Solano Lake or Monticello Dam. Meet Ben at the Park and Ride lot off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue exit, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This is a good trip for experienced birders and beginners alike.

Sunday, October 2, 8am
Bobelaine Sanctuary
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Bobelaine is a 430-acre National Audubon Sanctuary on the Feather River, managed by Sacramento Audubon. This riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores and willows is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Join Maureen for a 1-2 mile walk along the trails looking for resident, fall migrating and returning wintering birds. Herons, egrets, cormorants and grebes may be on the water, and a variety of sparrows and other passerines settling in for the fall and winter. Meet Maureen 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. If you wish to meet at Bobelaine, take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City and about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking

lot. The group will probably arrive there about 8:30.

Wednesday, October 5, 7am
Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach
American River Parkway
Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltdt,
710-1077, bajaowl@gmail.com

Sally birds this area regularly, and joining her in the different months will give you a good idea of the seasonal changes along the parkway. Walking along the levee and willow covered sand bars, Sally will be looking for returning migrating birds and young of the year. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, ending about 10am, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

Saturday, October 8, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457
Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations at all seasons of the year, and he always turns up quite a list of bird species. Possibilities include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Bittern, Green Heron, and Pied-billed Grebe. 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, October 9, 9am
Family Friendly Trip
William Pond Park
Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Meet Craig along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk, for this morning walk looking for returning migrants and resident birds. Along the river mergansers and possibly goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area, and Craig will be looking for returning White and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Although the focus of the trip is birds, Craig can also help you identify some of the plants. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners of all ages.

Wednesday, October 12, 7am SHARP
Calaveras Big Trees State Park
Leader: Bill Bianco, 889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

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, so bring a lunch and liquids, and we'll make a short stop at the Visitor Center before an optional short afternoon hike. Meet Bill at the Starbucks in the Raley's Shopping Center in the 8300

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

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 around 9am. There is an entrance fee to this State Park. This trip is good for beginners.

Saturday, October 15, 7am
Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and American Canyon
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of wine country birding. We'll start at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (\$8 day use fee per car), where Northern Pygmy-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker and Pacific Wren as well as late migrant thrushes, vireos and warblers will be among our top targets. After our picnic lunch, we'll travel down Highway 29 to American Canyon and Wetlands Edge Park where we'll scope the tidal flats for shorebirds. Finally, on our way home we'll stop at Lynch Canyon Open Space where we'll hope to spot Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and Ferruginous and/or Rough-legged Hawks. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for a moderate morning hike in the hills, and an easy afternoon walk on the flats. 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.

Saturday, October 15, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed; families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely nature area with naturalists from the Nature Center and birders Maureen Geiger and Sue Darst from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, October 16, 8am
Humbag Creek, Folsom
Leader: Mara Weston, 208-3222
Mara_weston@yahoo.com

Meet Mara at the Cummings Family Park on the corner of Creekside Drive and Oak Avenue Parkway in Folsom. You'll follow Humbag Creek around an easy 2-3 mile paved loop. This is a good place to look for

a variety of woodpeckers, ducks, Common Gallinule and returning wintering sparrows and kinglets. Sometimes River Otters are seen in the creek. This is a great trip for beginning birders. Trip will end by 11am.

Tuesday, October 18, 8am
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Leaders: Tim Fitzer 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris 947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com

This great area is only 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl. Tim and Ann may do some short walks on the foot trails to get better vantage points. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign and go under the freeway, then make a left up onto the levee and drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (Lot A). Scopes are helpful on this trip, as are FRS radios. This is an excellent trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Trip will end before noon.

Saturday, October 22, 7am SHARP!
Hope Valley – Alpine County
Fall Foliage Birding
Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Autumn color explodes in mid-October at Hope Valley. Join Dan to enjoy the fall foliage and to look for resident and specialty birds that include: Sooty (Blue) Grouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, Steller's Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Townsend's Solitaire, and Cassin's Finch. Some of the terrain is hilly, so wear sturdy shoes and dress in layers. A camera is a recommended addition to your pack. Bring water and lunch. FRS radios would also be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the north end of the Raley's parking lot in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot. We will leave at 7am SHARP!

Saturday, October 22, 5pm till sunset
Sandhill Cranes and
Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River Preserve/Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

Our Sandhill Cranes are back! And your SOSOC leaders will also be looking for the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors who feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. After birding the boardwalk at the CRP Lost Slough Wetlands, we'll drive along Desmond Road, and possibly on to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island to see flocks of cranes coming in to roost. Dress for changeable weather; bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Meet at the north end of the upper parking lot, near the native plant garden; directions available at www.cosumnes.org.

Sunday, October 23, 7am
Bodega Bay
Leaders: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net
Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Scott and Mark 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. Participants on a previous trip said, "Our outing with you was the best Audubon trip we have taken. It added 10 birds to my life list!"

Sunday, October 23, 5pm till sunset
Sandhill Cranes and
Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River Preserve/Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

See Saturday, October 22, for information.

Tuesday, October 25, 8am
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1290
dtankers@winfirst.com

Fall migration is underway, and Colusa NWR is a great location to view various species of newly arrived ducks and geese. We will spend a good amount of time on the viewing platform, and possibly take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will take the short auto tour to finish our outing to this wonderful NWR. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet in the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west over the freeway. Take

the first left, Duckhorn Road, and then turn right into the parking lot. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. 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.

Saturday, October 29, 8:30am
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Join Cathie for an easy walk of about a mile and a half, viewing the wintering waterfowl, egrets, herons and shorebirds in the flooded wetland ponds. We'll stop by the Ducks In Scopes event, which will have a variety of spotting scopes trained on the various birds, as well as microscopes to see the aquatic invertebrates in "Duck Soup", dipped directly from the ponds. This is an excellent walk for beginning birders. Meet at the CRP Visitor Center parking lot. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. 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. Directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org.

Saturday, October 29, 5pm till sunset
Sandhill Cranes and
Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River Preserve/Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

Join SOSOC leaders looking for the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds, cranes and raptors who feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. After birding the boardwalk at the CRP Lost Slough Wetlands, we'll drive along Desmond Road, and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island to see flocks of cranes coming in to roost. Dress for changeable weather; bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Meet at the north end of the upper parking lot, near the native plant garden; directions available at www.cosumnes.org.

Sunday, October 30, 8am
Sacramento Bar
American River Parkway
Leader: Valerie Phillips, 722-1802
goskival@yahoo.com

Valerie will be checking for mergansers, goldeneye, and other birds on the river. Among the more common passerines, such as crowned sparrows, towhees, gold-

finches, and wrens, there's a possibility of the less common Phainopepla, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and who knows what other 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.

Sunday, October 30, 5pm till sunset
Sandhill Cranes and
Other Wintering Birds
Cosumnes River Preserve/Delta area
Trip by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392

See information for Saturday, October 29.

Family Friendly Trip and Beginners too
Sunday, October 30, 8am
Bodega Bay
Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398
sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 205-3194
wendydougmsn.com

Join Sandra and Wendy for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. This trip is great for families with kids and beginning birders too. 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. Loaner binoculars will be available.

Thursday, November 3, 8am
Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary,
North Natomas
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

This is a little known 60-acre wetlands created when an area of open pasture in Rio Linda was used as a borrow pit to provide dirt for levee improvements in the North area of Sacramento. Good time of year for a variety of species in the open water and

wetland perimeters which have been planted with native riparian shrubs and trees. Maureen will walk the loop, exploring the different habitats along the way. This trip will last until late morning and will involve walking on a fairly good, flat trail which may be muddy depending on rainfall. From Sacramento take I-5 north, then follow Hwy 99/70 north 1.1 miles. Take the Elkhorn Boulevard exit 525B and, turning right, continue 3.1 miles, cross Steelhead Creek, and make an immediate right turn on Sorrento into a large, unpaved parking lot. You will see a sign for the Walter S Ueda Parkway in the parking lot.

Saturday, November 5, 8am
Spenceville Wildlife Area
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124
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 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.

Family Friendly Trip!!!
Saturday, November 5, 9am-1pm
Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve
Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398
sasteurer@yahoo.com
Wendy Money, 205-3194
wendydougmsn.com

This morning walk with 88 Acres of recreational land located in Penryn will be specifically geared to and appropriate for families and children. Join Sandra in finding interesting birds such as Western Bluebird, California Quail and White-tailed Kite in an open oak woodlands area. Meet at Traylor Ranch on Humphrey Road. From Sacramento, take I-80 to Penryn Road exit. Turn left, go to Taylor Road. Turn right, go to English Colony Way. Turn left, go to Humphrey Road (a few miles). Left on Humphrey and the parking lot is down about 1/2 mile on the right.

Field Trips continued on page 6

Field Trips continued from page 5

From Auburn, take I-80 to Hwy 193 exit (past Placer Farm Supply). At stop sign go straight on Taylor Road for several miles until you reach English Colony Way in Penryn. Turn right, go several miles to Humphrey Road, turn left and parking lot is down about 1/2 mile on the right. Bring liquids and be prepared for a nice walk. There will be a few extra pairs of binoculars for children to use.

Sunday, November 6, 8am

**NOTE: Daylight Savings Time Change
Sacramento Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Andi Salmi, 508-7192
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 \$6 day use fee for each vehicle at the refuge. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Wednesday, November 9, 8am

**William Pond Park
Leader: Larry Hickey, 962-0387
Larryhickey1@gmail.com**

Meet Larry along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk, for this morning walk looking for returning migrants and resident birds. Along the river mergansers and possibly goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area, and Larry will be looking for returning White and Golden-crowned Sparrows. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Saturday, October 22
Sunday, November 13
Sunday, November 27

These beginner 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. Trips are limited to 10 adult participants and registration is required. Register via email to Cathie at empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 457-6882, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

DUCKS (AND MORE) IN SCOPES

A great trip for families, youth groups and newer birders. This is an opportunity to work on duck identification as well as other wetland birds.

Stop by the Cosumnes River Preserve and check out Ducks In Scopes, where docents have a row of scopes set up, including lower ones for children, giving you good views of the many colorful ducks and other wetland birds. A microscope and hand lens provide close-up looks at '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. 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. Come any time between 10am and 2pm, on the following dates:

October: Saturdays 10/22 and 10/29

November: Saturdays 11/5, 11/12, 11/19 and 11/26 and Sunday 11/6

December: Sundays 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18

Then, start the New Year off right and join us on Sunday, January 1, 2017.

ARNHA 40 YEAR CELEBRATION, RECOGNITION, AND MEMBER DRIVE

ARNHA and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, recently celebrated their 40th Anniversary as a Nature Center. In special recognition of groups or volunteers that have made an outstanding contribution to the Nature Center the Sacramento Audubon Society and particularly its members Maureen Geiger, Cathie La Zier, and Sally Walters Schmoldt were selected for special thanks. Their continuing contribution to Effie Yeaw and the public's enjoyment (particularly families with children) of the Nature Center has enriched the experience for all.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center also announced that they are shooting for a 10% increase in membership by December 1st. So this is a good time for anyone who has enjoyed Effie Yeaw in the past or wants to in the future, particularly families with children, to join this wonderful organization and to introduce nature to even more area residents.

ANNUAL ARNHA COUNT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

Two of Audubon's greatest accomplishments are the 116 years of the North American Christmas Bird Count data and the new high tech bird list system we all know as ebird. Both of these citizen science monitoring efforts have taught us more about bird population status, movements and migration than any single research effort. And when you think about it, this is not a surprise since there are thousands and thousands of us participating.

Sacramento has its own local citizen science effort counting birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians along the American River Parkway – the annual ARNHA Wildlife (or Critter) Count. This is our 32nd year of this first Saturday in December effort and the coordination of the count is coming back to the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) and Effie Yeaw Nature Center (with our thanks to the past coordinators: Lea Laundry and Dr. Wm. Avery). The two new coordinators are Paul Tebbel, the director of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, and Rachael Cowan, one of the senior naturalists. Past participants should have received a preliminary email in early September. Anyone interested in being added to the communication list should send an email to Rachael (rachaelc@sacnaturecenter.net). This year's count is on Saturday, December 3. Your participation is encouraged—there is no fee.

Findings continued from page 2

ed: "It was a great day of birding for just five of us. We had thousands of shorebirds over all, with the highlight and bird of the day being Baird's Sandpiper, with one found at American Canyon Wetlands and then two more seen at the Huichica Creek Unit of the Napa/Sonoma Wetlands area. Another good find was an unexpected Red-breasted Merganser, first spotted by Karen Cadle at American Canyon. We also had Virginia Rail and Sora out in the open at American Canyon. Everyone had a good time, with some humorous and adventurous moments thrown in."

Point Reyes (8/13) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Eight of us enjoyed a great day at the coast and a pleasant break from the Valley heat. Our first stop was at Bolinas Lagoon where there were recent reports of a Bar-tailed Godwit. Some of us may have glimpsed the bird, but it was at least a half-mile away, so viewing conditions were nearly impossible. Nevertheless, we saw over 2,000 Elegant Terns, a good mix of shorebirds, including Black-bellied and Semipalmated plovers, Marbled Godwits, Long-billed Curlews, Whimbrels, Willets, and Western and Least sandpipers. At Five Brooks we had many looks at Wilson's Warblers, a Hutton's Vireo, an immature male Wood Duck, fly-over Band-tailed Pigeons, and we heard but did not see a Pileated Woodpecker. Drake's Bay and the Fish Docks were a little slow, but highlights included three species of loons, including good scope views of two Red-throated Loons in breeding plumage, diving Elegant Terns, noisy Pigeon Guillemots, plus harbor seals, elephant seals, elk, and a coyote."

Dragonflies, Bear Creek, Colusa County (7/16) — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "Only a couple of folks showed up for the trip, both of them from out-of-town (so no SAS members came out). We had a nice total of 21 species of dragonflies and damselflies. The prime target species, Giant Darner, largest North American dragonfly at the northern edge of its range, made a nice showing. We also had nice looks at Gray Sanddragons, White-belted Ringtails, Pale-faced Clubskimmers and Western River Cruisers, among other things."

Pete Hayes

Birding Festival

LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

The 21st annual Sandhill Crane Festival will be held **November 4-6**, at Hutchins Street Square, 125 S. Hutchins Street, Lodi. The event is free. Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. In awe-inspiring numbers, and with a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane continues to attract and inspire visitors.

We have tours designed to appeal to everyone, led by experienced guides and experts in their field. The choices are many: crane fly-out and fly-in tours; kayaking and cruise tours; birding field trips; expert-led photography field trips; and winery tours. In between tours, check out informative presentations and workshops. Learn more about the event and register for tours at www.cranefestival.com or call (800) 581-6150. Tours fill up quickly so register or call early!

CALIFORNIA SWAN FESTIVAL

The CA Swan Festival, **November 11-13**, is held annually in Marysville, with tours and ancillary events held throughout the Yuba-Sutter region. Positioned just 45 miles north of Sacramento, Yuba and Sutter counties are within the Pacific Flyway route, making the area a premiere waterfowl viewing location. More than 50 million birds can be seen here over the migratory season. This includes the beautiful and elegant Tundra Swan. Moving south from Alaska and Canada, the Swans will make the rice fields and rich, marshy grasslands their winter home. The festival begins Friday, November 11, with a Swan Sighting and continues exploring the wide range of wildfowl habitats and other assets of the beautiful Yuba-Sutter region

Parking and entry to the Swan Festival are free, as are a wide range of workshops and presentations on wildlife education, natural sciences, ecosystem management and photography. Vendors are on site, specializing in wildlife information and goods. More than 35 field trips are offered at affordable prices and hosted by experts. Registration has already begun so hurry to www.caswanfestival.com.

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 20th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium **November 17-20**, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton. Please join us for this special 20th anniversary CVBS!

The CVBS gets off to a great start with Thursday Night's Keynote speaker, professional bird photographer Bob Steele, presenting a program on "Birding in the Central Valley Over the Past 20 Years".

Friday Night's keynote program is presented by Kimball Garrett on *The Central Valley's Prominent Place in the Past and Present of California Field Ornithology*. Saturday Night's keynote program is presented by Ed Harper and friends on *Celebrating 20 Years of the CVBC and the CVBS*.

Workshops include: a specimen workshop with Andy Engilis, *Convincing Details and Other Birding Fiction* by Joe Morlan, a workshop on challenging shorebird ID by Jon Dunn, and *CVBC/CVBS Studies in Review*, a series of 15-20 minute programs by Dan Airola and Ed Pandolfino. Plus, attend informative workshops by Bob Steele on Image Editing, Keith Hansen on Bird Sketching, Sal Salerno on Beginning Birding and Jim Burcio on carving.

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time!

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and fieldtrips, check out our website at: www.cvbsreg.org. Registration has already begun.

**SAS OUTREACH
HELP WANTED!**

Fall events will be coming up and we need volunteers to work our table. You do not need to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding and talking to people about our field trips and SAS. You would be working with an experienced volunteer.

Your help would be appreciated at the following event:

Lodi Crane Festival, In the morning on Sunday, November 6

If you can work a 3 or 4 hour shift on the above day, please contact Bill Bianco at biancowm@yahoo.com, or 372-3318.

**Mission Statement
Sacramento Audubon Society**

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Stephanie Cyr, Michael J Harris, Michael McCormack and Aimee Staats made donations to the **General Fund**.

Angelique Goodhue, Gary and Cary S Hart, Yoshino Hatanaka, Michelle Cordova and Kevin Peters, Susan Mc Intire and Dr and Mrs Tousson Topozada made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Thank you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community.

**SACRAMENTO AUDUBON
FUTURE PROGRAMS**

2017

- January 19** Mike Caldwell, *Things that Bite and Sting*
- February 16** Steph Clymer, *Historical Records into e-Birdg*
- March 16** Paul Bannick, *A Year in the life of North American Owls*
- April 20** Steven T Callan, *The Game Warden's Son*

**SAS BIRDWALK ANDROID APP NOW AVAILABLE
BIRDING IN THE SACRAMENTO REGION**

SAS has just released BirdWalk, a new app that puts our publication *Birding in the Sacramento Region* on your android phone. The app helps you find birding trails and lets you know what you can expect to see at local birding hotspots. Download BirdWalk from the Google Play Store and start exploring our region! BirdWalk was a generous donation from Josh Louie and Margaret Gabil and made available for FREE. Thanks so much to Josh and Margaret. It's a very helpful app.

**FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S FIELD TRIPS
SPONSORED BY:**

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY AND EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER

- Family Nature Walk** Saturday, October 15
Location: Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael
- Bodega Bay** Sunday, October 30
Leaders: Sandra Steurer/Wendy Money
- Traylor Ranch** Saturday, November 5
Leaders: Sandra Steurer/Wendy Money
- Family Nature Walk** Saturday, November 19
Location: Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael
- Mather Lake** Sunday, December 4
Leader: David Rosen
- Cosumnes River Preserve** Sunday, January 1, 2017
Leader: Tim Fitzer
- Kids' Christmas Bird Counts—2 dates:**
Ages 5 to 10 Saturday, January 7, 2017
Ages 10 & Up Sunday, January 8, 2017

The Kids' CBCs require pre-registration. For both dates, visit sacnaturecenter.org

- Family Nature Walk** Saturday, January 21
Location: Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael
- Humbug Creek** Saturday, January 28
Leader: Mara Weston

For more information and directions to events at Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael, visit sacnaturecenter.org.

Other events are sponsored by Sacramento Audubon. For more information, visit sacramentoaudubon.org or [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

*Seasonal
Observations*

August 1 to August 31

**Rare and Unusual Bird Reports
www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm**

While many are waiting for September, for sheer numbers and diversity of migrants, August is hard to top—especially before the heat of mid-day. Massive numbers of flycatchers, vireos, and warblers migrate through the Central Valley, with only a small fraction ever detected. At the same time, shorebird numbers are also at or near their peak. Signs of fall start to creep in with shorter days and the first locally reported **Sandhill Cranes** this season were flying over Sacramento on 8/31. Continuing from earlier in the summer, **Least Bitterns** were reported from Mather Lake on 8/20, Bridgeway Island Pond in West Sacramento on 8/28, and up to two were reported throughout the month from the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA).

Many of the notable reports this month come from the shorebird group, which is expected for August. Single **Solitary**

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Dave Ward and Colleen Wong
Jennifer Dunmire
Lindsley Cross

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. After the summer recess the next meeting will be on October 25, 2016 at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



Observations continued

Sandpipers were reported from the Davis Wetlands on 8/19 and the Lone WTP from 8/22-23. A **Marbled Godwit** was at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) from 8/29-31 and a juvenile **Sanderling** was at the same location on 8/31-9/1.

Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported at YBWA on 8/7 and 8/12-13, a single was reported at SRWTP on 8/31, and another was reported from the Arbuckle WTP in Colusa County on 8/1 along with a juvenile **Baird's Sandpiper**. **Baird's Sandpipers** were also reported at the Winters WTP on 8/25-31, with a high of three on 8/29, and from YBWA from 8/30-31. Three Pectoral Sandpipers were found at the YBWA on 8/31.

A **Calliope Hummingbird** was a nice find at Ancil Hoffman on 8/28. On 8/9, a **Gray Flycatcher** was found along Michigan Bar Rd. This species is detected far more often in spring migration. Somewhat more expected was a **Dusky Flycatcher** at the Orr portion of CRP on

8/27 and a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at the Tall Forest on 8/28. Two **Pileated Woodpeckers** were seen eating grapes near the Fishing Access #1 parking area along Putah Creek west of Winters on 8/2, and a **Steller's Jay** found the same day at Fishing Access #2 was a surprise so early in the season. Among the few **Yellow-breasted Chat** reports was one of two birds on 8/27 along Babel Slough Rd on what was described as a morning "bustling with migrants." Three streaky juvenile **Chipping Sparrows** were found at the same location. A **Green-tailed Towhee** in a Carmichael Backyard on 8/21 was a nice find, and even more unexpected was a female **Summer Tanager** along Putah Creek near Hopkins Rd on 8/5, west of UC Davis.

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

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

Mara Weston, Membership Chair, mara_weston@yahoo.com
7708 McClintock Way, Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

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.

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

Keith Bailey, Kathy Blankenship, Lily Douglas, Chris Dunford, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Frank Fogarty, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, John Harris, Cliff Hawley, Scott Hoppe, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Frances Oliver, Jim Rowth, Mark Sawyer, Ken Schneider, Steve Scott, Kirk Swenson, John Trochet, and Rick Williams.

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

Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon Society
7708 McClintock Way
Sacramento, CA 95828-4321

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #1827
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

Sacramento Audubon Society



www.sacramentoaudubon.org



White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

Correspondence: P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Mara Weston, 7708 McClintock Way,
Sacramento, CA 95828-4321
mara_weston@yahoo.com

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,
Sacramento, CA 95826
203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, 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.

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAMS

October 20, 2016

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

John Sterling: *Birding Ecotourism in
Paraguay*



Many-colored Chaco Finch
John Sterling