



The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, October 19
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
7pm General Meeting

Along the Tahoe Rim Trail with Martin Meyers

Martin Meyers began birding in the late 1970s. "Having birded throughout North America, Gambell and Attu to Nova Scotia to Key West to San Diego and most points in between," Martin's main concentration for the past 10 years has been in Nevada, where he currently serves on the Nevada Bird Records Committee.

Mr. Meyers has lived in the Tahoe area since 1968, and has set his sights on completing the 165-mile hike along the Tahoe Rim Trail this year. "I am still short one segment, Kingsbury Grade to Big Meadows at Luther Pass, and hope to have that accomplished soon. I have been birding and photographing extensively as I hike."

Tonight's presentation, beginning at 7pm, will focus on the flora and fauna of the Tahoe Rim Trail with, of course, the main accent on birds. It will include descriptions and hiking information for each of the trail's segments.

Be sure to visit his website, Martin is a fabulous photographer. Go to:
<http://meyersm.home.mindspring.com>

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. Please note our new starting time is 7pm. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information, including directions.

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

CHRISTMAS COUNT WORKSHOP

Mark your calendar now for our November general meeting program, a Christmas Count workshop. Learn about the history of the counts and get answers to some common questions, i.e. isn't that flock of crows being counted by three different teams? Get tips on counting large flocks of birds in the sky, mixed flocks of birds on the water, and learn to distinguish some common birds that can look confusingly alike in winter plumage on a gray winter's day. Meet some of the area count leaders and plan to come on at least one count. You do not have to be an experienced birder to participate, just enthusiastic; participating in the counts gives you experience. Join us on Thursday, November 16th at 7pm, for coffee, dessert, and an enjoyable evening.

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES

Dec. 16, Saturday, Woodfords, Alpine County

Co-compilers: Tim Fitzer, (916) 870-5207, spskua1@comcast.net
Dan Brown, (916) 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.com

Dec. 16, Saturday, Auburn, Placer County

Compiler: Deren Ross, (530) 885-9740

Dec. 17, Sunday, Stockton

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

Dec. 17, Sunday, Putah Creek

Compiler: Steve Hampton, shampton@ospr.dfg.ca.gov

Dec. 18, Monday, Benecia, Napa/Solano (Grizzly Island)

Contact: Tim Fitzer (Grizzly Island), (916) 870-5207, spskua1@comcast.net
Or Compiler: Robin Leong, (707) 643-1287

Dec. 27, Wednesday, Lincoln

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, (916) 486-9174, ERPfromCA@aol.com

Dec. 28, Thursday, Honey Lake

Compiler: Tim Manolis, (916) 485-9009

Dec. 30, Saturday, Sacramento

Compiler: Cliff Hawley, (916) 300-2495, yellowhammer74@yahoo.com

Dec. 31, Sunday, Folsom

Compiler: Chris Conard, conardc@gmail.net

Jan. 2, Tuesday, Rio Cosumnes

Compiler: Andrew Engilis, (530) 752-0364

To find locations and dates for additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit www.natureali.org/cbcs.htm.

VOTE NO ON PROP 90 !!!

THE MOST EXTREME THREAT TO CALIFORNIA'S ENVIRONMENT IN DECADES !!

Prop. 90 is a full frontal assault on environmental protection in California. Hidden behind language to stop abuses of eminent domain, Prop. 90 includes several very dangerous provisions that would drastically cut back on the State's, local governments' and even voters' ability to protect the environment, local communities, farmland, and other important resources. The most damaging provisions would make it nearly impossible to implement many resource protection laws or to acquire private property to protect wildlife habitat or other important resources.

Under Prop. 90, most government actions to protect the environment would require huge payments to landowners unless those actions are to protect narrowly-defined public health or safety. Prop. 90 would redefine "damages" to allow virtually anyone to sue claiming a law or regulation has impacted the value of their property or business—no matter how far-fetched the claim. It would also make pollution a private property right so that the government would have to pay to regulate or reduce pollution. Prop. 90 would not only impact environmental protection, but also consumer protection, historic preservation, hunting regulation, and many other

laws that protect our quality of life, communities and environment.

In addition to making many regulations difficult or impossible to enforce, Prop. 90 would make it prohibitively expensive for public agencies to acquire property for wildlife or other resource protection, public works projects, new schools, fire protection measures, utilities and other important public works. Prop. 90 would create a new, complicated and expensive standard for compensating landowners that would increase the costs, legal battles and bureaucracy needed for public acquisition.

Conservation organizations, labor, public safety organizations, local governments and many others are opposing Prop. 90. Please urge your business associations, civic and political organizations, and any other groups you can to oppose Prop. 90. The official opposition form, fact sheets and other materials related to Prop. 90 are on Audubon's website, www.ca.audubon.org. For more information, please contact Julia Levin, State Policy Director, at jlevin@audubon.org or (510) 601-1866, ext. 2. Information, including a list of No on Prop. 90 supporters, can also be found at www.NoProp90.com.

Field Trip Findings

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (9/10) – Red-necked Phalaropes and Caspian Terns, along with White-faced Ibises, were highlights of this evening trip led by Mark Martucci and Cathie LaZier. Newer birders also had a chance to compare Western and Least Sandpipers, and watch dowitchers and yellowlegs feeding in the shallow water. There were brief looks at Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a Marsh Wren, and the evening ended with birders watching bats pouring out from their roost under the freeway just after sunset.

Migration at the SRCSD Bufferlands (9/3) – Leader Chris Conard was joined by 20 birders on this tour of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands. There was a good movement of common western migrants, including Willow and Pacific-slope Flycatchers, a late Western Kingbird, Warbling Vireos, Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers, and several Western Tanagers. A very cooperative male Blue Grosbeak was the highlight for many, Chris said.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, evening (9/3) Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "More than 20 of us studied shorebirds, particularly a surprisingly large number of Semipalmated Plovers. We also enjoyed White-faced Ibises coming in, large numbers of egrets and swallows. The bat fly-out from under the bridge capped off a nice trip."

Point Reyes (9/2) – Chris Conard reported: "Kimya Lambert and I went to Abbott's Lagoon on Friday and it was very slow in the shorebird department and the west shore was closed for Snowy Plover nesting, so we elected not to go there on Saturday. We were joined by 24 birders on Saturday, and ended up doing the typical migrant songbird tour of the outer point: from Drake's Beach to the A and B ranches, the Lighthouse, and the Fish Docks. There were good numbers of songbirds, with an American Redstart, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Blackpoll Warbler as highlights. From the Lighthouse, we could see thousands of Sooty Shearwaters on the horizon. At the Drake's Bay Oyster Farm there were many Red-necked Phalaropes allowing close views."

Evening Beaver Walk (8/30)

Not only did participants see at least five beaver, leader Jack Hiehle reported, but they were also treated to these notable American River wildlife scenes: A large snake, too far off to identify, swimming across a lagoon; four deer, two of which were swimming across the lagoon, and a muskrat swimming repeatedly out from its feeding station to feed, then back again. Birds included Green Heron, Mute Swan,

Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron and Pied-billed Grebe.

Bodega Bay (8/28) – Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Twenty-five participants enjoyed viewing a wide variety of birds on a lovely, cool day. Our total species count was 72. Comparing three species of cormorant was informative, and watching a Double-crested Cormorant swallow a large, green eel-like fish was startling! We spotted adult and young Great Horned Owls at Owl Canyon, making for a nice plumage study. Diving elegant terns were enjoyed by all. Several Pacific Golden-Plovers were highlights at Schollenberger Park."

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (8/27)

The Accidental Forest section and adjacent wooded and brushy levee are an outstanding place to see fall passage of songbirds, and so it was on this date. John Trochet, conducting the monthly census alone, reported Western Wood-Pewees and Willow Flycatchers, eight species of wood warblers and Western Tanagers in good numbers and a Black-headed Grosbeak. Tanagers were so numerous that he began counting them, along with Spotted Towhees, and was "amazed" to



Stephen D'Amato

Trip Findings

continued on page 6

Field Trips



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, empid@earthlink.net.

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.

Sunday, October 8, 7:30am

Goethe Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie at the first parking lot on the right past the entrance kiosk at 7:30am for this morning walk. We will look for resident birds and wintering species along the levee, in the oak woodland and down at 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 Highway 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; call Cathie if you want to carpool into the park.

Saturday, October 14, 7am SHARP!

Hope Valley – Alpine County, CA

Fall Foliage Birding

Leader: Lisa Moraga
Home, 455-4786, cell, 671-4642
lmoraga03@yahoo.com

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: 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 north end of the Raley's parking lot, on the northeast corner of Highway 50 & 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.

Saturday, October 14

River Walk Bird Count

Cosumnes River Preserve

Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd. 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. You must check the recorded information a day or two before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details.

Saturday, October 14

8:30am to 1:30pm

Habitat Restoration Workshop

In 1990, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) began numerous ongoing habitat restoration projects on its 2,650-acre Bufferlands. Over the years, the natural resource staff has applied and developed many techniques that have led to successful projects. This workshop will draw from years of onsite restoration experience. You will see the restoration sites up-close as we discuss how the projects were implemented, what worked, and how we addressed challenges.

We will walk through a portion of the Upper Beach Lake project and discuss several sites and management strategies. We will focus on field techniques for riparian forest restoration, grassland restoration, and seasonal wetland management. There will be many opportunities to ask questions.

Space is limited, so sign-up in advance. For more information, call 875-9309, ext. 1, or email conardc@saccounty.net.

Sunday, October 15

8am – mid-afternoon

Point Diablo Hawk Watch Marin Headlands

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen and other raptor enthusiasts for a trek to Marin Headlands to witness one of the Pacific Flyway's most dramatic events as migrating hawks funnel down the coast and head over the straits near the Golden Gate. Buteos, accipiters, and falcons will fly over, and migrating swifts, swallows, and Band-tailed Pigeons may also be seen. Often, there is a demonstration at 1pm of a newly caught and banded raptor which is then released. Mornings are foggy but the fog should break by noon, giving spectacular views. A folding chair can also add to your comfort. Meet Maureen at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot.

Friday, October 20, 8am – noon

Bannister Park

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack for this morning walk looking at the flora and fauna of the parkway. With fall migration in full force some interesting birds may be present. Meet Jack at the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd., west of Sunrise Blvd. This is a good trip for beginners.

Saturday, October 21, 9am

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the large parking lot on the left, past the entrance kiosk of Calaveras Big Trees, at 9am. This park is about a two hour drive from Sacramento; call Cathie if you need directions. We will 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 Kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Afterwards, we'll picnic at the meadow and make a short stop at the Visitor Center, before an optional short afternoon hike. Dress for changeable weather; bring your lunch and drinks. There is a park entrance fee. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Saturday, October 21
Tall Forest Bird Count
Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information, 684-2816**

The Tall Forest is perhaps the best remaining example of riparian forest in the Central Valley and is not generally open to the public. In this jungle like habitat, excellent rarities and large numbers of migrants have been found, as well as the resident birds. Call the preserve number a few days ahead for the exact meeting time and place. Arrive a little early, as this trip leaves the meeting place promptly.

**Sunday, October 22, 7am – noon
Coloma Bird Count
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Join Maureen for a combination field trip and bird count in beautiful, rolling, oak-studded hills in and near Coloma. Three teams will walk the Cronan Ranch and Greenwood sites and Marshall Gold Discovery State Park. This area is intersected with many hiking trails and is home to a large variety of foothill habitat birds. Several species of raptor may be seen, such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed, and Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Other species may include White and Golden-crowned sparrows, and possibly a Rufous-crowned Sparrow, as well as other resident and migrating passerines. All segments of this trip will include several miles of easy hiking; trails can be muddy. Please call Maureen for meeting instructions.

**Tuesday, October 24, 8am
Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek
Leader: Lea Landry, 638-1141
llandry@softcom.net**

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, for a morning walk which will include some riparian habitat, some ridge trails, and a good view of Lake Natoma. A variety of woodland birds and waterfowl are possible, including early sparrows and late migrating warblers. There may be some short steep climbs on trails. Bring liquids and snacks if you wish, and layered clothing.

**Saturday, October 28, 8am – noon
Sacramento Bar/Lower Sunrise on the
American River Parkway**

**Leaders: Cheryl Johnson, 743-0121
cdjohnso@garlic.com
Dee Warenycia, warbler5@aol.com**

This trip will start from the Sacramento Bar parking lot, checking for mergansers, goldeneye, and other birds on the river. Among the more common passerines, such as crowned sparrows, towhees, goldfinches, and wrens, there's a possibility of the less common Phainopepla, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and who knows what other surprises! Time permitting, they'll cross the bike bridge and bird the lower, more wooded, portion of this area. Cheryl and Dee are also familiar with the plants of the parkway. This is an excellent trip for beginners and more experienced birders as well. From

Hwy 50, take Sunrise Blvd. north; left on Fair Oaks and left on Pennsylvania Ave., and follow Pennsylvania down to the parking lot. There is a \$4.00 park entrance fee.

**Sunday
October 29
8am**

**NOTE CHANGE TO
STANDARD TIME
Snipes/Pershing Ravine
Leader: Mark Martucci,
722-6098**

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

This interesting area near Lake Natoma is a part of the State Park system along the American River Parkway. The watershed, with its deep ravines, offers conducive habitat for a variety of birds. Meet Mark at the corner of Twin Lakes Avenue and Snipes Blvd., off Main Avenue in Orangevale. Wear sturdy footwear, and be prepared for narrow paths and uneven terrain. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Tuesday, October 31, 8am – noon
William Pond Park
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Start your Halloween right with a walk along the parkway with Jack. He'll check the river and the small lake, as well as the developed park area, for mergansers and goldeneye, crowned sparrows and Western Bluebirds, and many other wintering birds. He'll point out some of the local plants as well, and possibly share some information about Native Americans use of plants on the parkway. Meet Jack just outside the park entrance at the end of Arden Way. This trip is great for beginners.

**Thursday, November 2, 8am
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829
dtankers@winfirst.com**

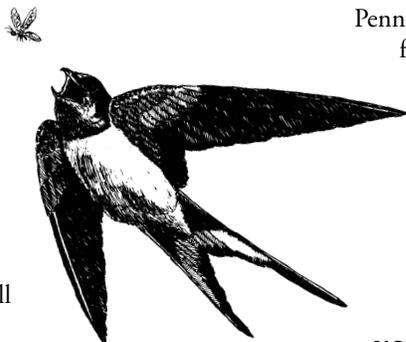
Early ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or are feeding on their way further south are the focus of this trip. Various hawks, falcons, and occasionally an eagle are also seen on the refuge. There is a 3.7 mile driving loop, and a great viewing platform as well. The trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids, and layered clothes. FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at Road 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot to meet Dan.

**Saturday, November 4, 6:30am
Bodega Bay
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 652-5409
shoppe01@earthlink.net**

Join Scott for a full day of birding, exploring the many habitats around Bodega Bay. This is often one of the best coastal birding areas, with many gulls, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors, in addition to possible wintering vagrant songbirds. Meet Scott at the Park & Ride off Highway 80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Bring lunch, liquids and warm clothes.

**Sunday, November 5, 8am
Mather Field
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. The lake and its surrounding grasslands host a wide variety of birds. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this half day trip. This is a great trip for beginning birders.



Stephen D'Amato

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Saturday, November 11, 8am
Lincoln Grasslands
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua1@comcast.net

Tim will be checking this Placer County area for the many wintering hawks and sparrows that call this area home during the winter months. He 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 at the Park & Ride lot on Highway 99 at Elkhorn Blvd., just north of downtown Sacramento and the I-5/99 split. This trip will last till mid-afternoon. This is a good trip for beginners.

Sunday, November 12, 9am
Nimbus Fish Hatchery – Gulls
Leader: Jeff Mangum, 988-2802
skuajm@aol.com

Meet Jeff in the Fish Hatchery parking lot, off Hazel just north of Hwy 50, for a morning trip focusing on gull identification. Bring your binoculars, bird books and scopes if you have them, and Jeff will go over the basics of sorting out the common gulls, and looking for the unusual ones. Rock Wrens are a possibility, and occasionally Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser are seen in this area.



Kirsten Munson

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

Upcoming Events & Tours

10TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM THURSDAY - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH - 20TH

Join birders from near and far and enjoy the company of birding greats and naturalists such as Kevin Karlson, John Hendrickson, Ed Harper, Kimball Garrett, Joe Morlan, Keith Hansen and Andrew Engilis. Workshops and field trips celebrate the diversity of birds that winter in the Central Valley. Evening programs and vendors with birding related wares round out the experience. The Radisson Hotel in Stockton is the center for the Symposium. You can get more information at www.cvbirds.org, (click on Symposium) or call (209) 369-2010.

TANZANIA JUNE 16-29, 2007

This is a dream safari! Limited to just 10 lucky folks and led by Ed Harper and Susan Scott, this safari includes all the highlights. Over their past dozen trips to Tanzania, Ed and Susan have perfected the ideal route for Northern Tanzania. Whether you prefer birds, animals, or photography, their popular safaris have it all! June is an excellent time to visit Tanzania when the temperatures have cooled down from the warm months of November through April. The safari will take you to the Western Serengeti to see the migrating Wildebeest herds and pick up many specialty birds in the Lake Victoria region. There will be plenty of action with lions, leopards, and cheetahs! Enjoy comfortable lodging, great food, and the best in transportation and guiding. Trip highlights include the world renowned Serengeti, the fabulous Ngorongoro Crater plus other outstanding areas including Tarangire, Arusha, and Lake Manyara National Parks along with a visit to the celebrated Olduvai Gorge. For more information including price and itinerary, contact Ed Harper at calidris@surewest.net or call (916) 971-3311.

PPOINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY BIRD-A-THON

The Point Reyes Bird Observatory, a northern California resource for "Advancing conservation through bird and ecosystem research, from Alaska to Antarctica, on land and at sea." is holding their 29th Annual Bird-A-Thon September 1 through October 15, 2006! Grab your binoculars, get your field guide, and get ready for the longest running Bird-A-Thon in the US. Each year, PRBO's Bird-A-Thon raises over \$100,000 to help fund their critically acclaimed research and education programs. Their largest fundraiser, the Bird-A-Thon is a fun way to support PRBO's programs. More information on the Bird-A-Thon and the many contributions to science and the understanding of birds that PRBO makes can be found at www.prbo.org.

MISSION STATEMENT REMOVED FROM BYLAWS

The Sacramento Audubon Board has voted to remove the mission statement from the Bylaws. This will make the Bylaws consistent with those of other chapters, and if desired, the mission statement can be updated to conform with the strategic direction of the chapter. This change in Bylaws requires approval by the general membership, and will be voted on at the general meeting October 19, 2006.

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

(Adopted by the Board 8/29/06)

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.

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Denise Gonzales, Ed Harper, Mike & Eileen Cross, and Dale Kuhn, to the Bobelaine Sanctuary.

Valerie Brown and Christina Marie Lewis to the General Fund. Ms. Lewis' donation was made to honor Mary Bisharat's 80th birthday.

Denise Gonzales, Ed Harper, and Mike and Eileen Cross to the Conservation and Education Fund.

The Sacramento Audubon Society has received a bequest from the Emmaline Schmitt estate, which will be put in the Endowment Fund.

A THANK YOU LETTER FROM BIRDER'S EXCHANGE

The Sacramento Audubon Society donated proceeds from its annual book sale to the American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange Program. The letter that follows is from ABA thanking us for our donation.

Dear Sacramento Audubon,

Thousands of thanks to all of you at Sacramento Audubon Society for so generously supporting Birders' Exchange (BEX).

There are many projects BEX has undertaken from translating important publications into Spanish, to training Latin American naturalist guides, as well as supplying the tools necessary for conservation and education initiatives throughout the neotropics.

Groups like the Sacramento Audubon Society and individual contributors are the heart and soul of the BEX program,



and for that, all of us on the BEX team, the BEX recipients and the birds are ever grateful!

I will see that Sacramento Audubon Society is added to the BEX supporter list on our website.

Good birding to all of you, and heartfelt thanks.

Betty Petersen
American Birding Association
Birders' Exchange Program Director

Trip Findings

continued from page 2

record 61 tanagers and 105 towhees. Bullock's Oriole was observed. As he moved from Accidental Forest to Wood Duck Slough he found perhaps the best bird of the morning, given the route, an Acorn Woodpecker. The species has been extremely rare, especially since the fall of a granary tree across the river from the River Walk, John said. Day's total: 76 plus duck & vireo species.

Upper Sunrise, American River Parkway (8/27) - "Fourteen birders had 46 species, with the biggest surprise being a Lewis's Woodpecker," leader Mark Martucci reported. Also, good numbers of Yellow, Wilson's and Orange-crowned Warblers were seen. "We had great looks at Phainopepla, Cedar Waxwing, Cooper's Hawks, Spotted Sandpiper and Downy woodpeckers. Five River Otter's were seen hanging out on a fallen log along the river bank."

Bobelaine Sanctuary Walk (8/20) - From leader Brian Gilmore: "This morning's hike brought a hint of autumn, as well as a few fall migrants. Warblers, especially at the South Trail just past the Oak Trail were: Orange-crowned, Yellow, and Nashville. The South River Overlook was quiet, except for a Greater Yellowlegs calling. Many Black-headed Grosbeaks and Western Tanagers were seen and heard near the south levee. Two Belted Kingfishers engaged in a raucous dogfight over our heads. Numerous American Goldfinches were visible throughout the sanctuary. A Swainson's Hawk perched in a sycamore tree was visible from the park-

ing area. This bird allowed us great scope views. Along the west levee Ed Harper pointed out the buzzy call of a Lazuli Bunting. We were unable to visually locate this bird. Near the River Overlook we had a fly-by of 20-plus Killdeer. Ashthroated Flycatchers were also seen darting about in the Sandbar Willows that lead up to the Overlook. Other birds of note: Cassin's Vireo (1), Western Bluebird (1) Western Wood-Pewee (2) Least Sandpiper (2), and juvenile Red-tailed Hawk (1).

Ruby Mountains and Marsh, Nevada (8/18-21) - Chris Conard reported: "While we made an effort to see Himalayan Snowcocks, the trip was much more than a snowcock trip—a good thing too, since we failed to find them. The Ruby Mountains are as scenic a place as I've been. It's hard to believe they are just a few miles off of the arduous drive along Hwy 80 through Nevada. In addition to the wonderful scenery, highlights in and around Lamoille Canyon included Red-naped Sapsucker, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Gray-headed Junco, and Bobolink. A rubber boa was also a nice find; it was very tame and allowed everyone who wished to hold him."

Other bird notables included: Trumpeter Swans, a pair of Golden Eagles, Common Nighthawks, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Plumbeous Vireo, Juniper Titmouse, Blue



Kirsten Munson

Gray Gnatcatcher, Black Tern, Dusky (Blue) Grouse, and Chukars.

Evening Beaver Walk (8/16)

Four beaver, along with two turtles, were spotted in the American River. Leader Jack Hiehle also reported these bird species: Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Great Horned Owl, Red-shouldered Hawk and Belted Kingfisher.

Yolo Wildlife Area (8/16) - "We found a few shorebirds, including a dozen Greater Yellowlegs at the wildlife area, but the lack of water dictated we move to the Davis Wetlands," leader Dan Tankersley reported. "There we found good studies of our two peeps, as well as Long-billed Dowitcher, Semi-palmated Plover, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet. Forty-plus American White Pelicans, Caspian and Forster's Terns, and a hen Ruddy Duck with four ducklings rounded out our waterfowl viewing. We also enjoyed watching Swainson's Hawks as they are now grouping together, and soaring in kettles around the area."

The group was joined on the trip by Pam Nickels, president of the Red Rock Audubon Society, which is responsible for covering all of southern Nevada. "This was Pam's first time to bird our area," Dan said, "and she was hoping for her 'lifer' Yellow-billed Magpie. Unfortunately, not one was found. An effect of the virus or just bad luck?"

Pete Hayes

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all
of these new members:

Elisha Back
Michael and Pam Britton
Christine Holmstrom
Tomiko Ibser
Spencer Mair

Entertainment Books

Once again Sacramento Audubon is benefiting from the sale of Entertainment Books. The books offer money saving coupons for many area restaurants and reduced price coupons for area activities. They will be available for \$40 at all the General Meetings. They can also be purchased at Wild Birds Unlimited, 2561 Fair Oaks Blvd. in Loehmann's Plaza next to Noah's Bagels (971-0719) or Wild Birds and Gardens, at 5339 Sunrise Blvd. (Sunrise and Madison), phone 966-5958. For further information you can call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207 (cell) during the day or 961-5871 in the evenings. All proceeds go to the Sacramento Audubon Society.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON NEEDED

The Sacramento Audubon Society is in need of a volunteer to chair its Publicity Committee. This committee is primarily responsible for circulating notice of the speakers and topics for Sacramento Audubon Society's monthly membership meetings to the local press. Beyond this basic function, the Committee's broader role of promoting and publicizing the chapter's mission and goals, as well as its meetings and events, is subject to definition by the committee chair, with input and guidance from the Sacramento Audubon Society Board of Directors.

This "entry level" position requires no special skills other than a willingness to spend a few hours each month circulating notices to the local media regarding upcoming meetings and events. Proposed meeting and event descriptions will be provided, and we already have basic media contact information to get you started!

Members interested in this opportunity to help the chapter by chairing this important committee should contact Keith Wagner at 916-609-5000.

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 \$ _____

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SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY CONTACT INFORMATION



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Seasonal Observations

August 1 to August 31

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

Sacramento Audubon Society
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Many residents of the Sacramento area dread the heat of August. Birders, however, know that it is also when the first major flush of songbird migrants comes through our area, and it is prime time for shorebirds. This August was no exception, with good numbers of flycatchers, vireos, and warblers reported—with a few rarities mixed in. The Davis Wetlands (DW) had excellent shorebird habitat for much of the month, with thousands of birds to look through.

Perhaps the species of the month was **Rose-breasted Grosbeak** — a species with a handful of records for our area turned up three times in August: a male at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 8/6, a male on Babel Slough Rd in Yolo County on 8/16, and a female near the Gristmill Access of the American River Parkway on 8/25. This in addition to the male on 6/21 and a female from 9/9, both at CRP, makes an impressive total for the summer. Rounding out the exceptional songbird reports for the month, a **Bell's Vireo** was found near Galt on private property on 8/11, and the **Indigo Bunting** at the Sac Reg. WTP Bufferlands continued from 7/10 to 8/23.

The waterbird of the month was a juvenile **Little Blue Heron** reported among many herons and egrets of all kinds in the drying ponds at the Yolo Wildlife Area on 8/8. The bird was last seen on 8/9 as it flew away, showing its dark wing tips. A **Red Knot** was reported from the same location on 8/19. Shorebird habitat was limited in many areas, owing in large part to efforts to reduce mosquito habitat due to concerns over

West Nile Virus. DW produced many of the regional reports, including a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 8/15, 8/19, and 8/27, and several reports of **Marbled Godwits** and **Whimbrels**. The only **Baird's Sandpiper** for Sacramento or Yolo County came on

8/27 at DW. Flooded agricultural fields were found in Sutter County near the junction of Pleasant Grove Rd and Striplin Rd. This area produced many excellent reports, including a **Stilt Sandpiper** on 8/14, a **Snowy Plover** and a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 8/15, and two **Ruffs** on 8/18. On 8/17, a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was reported along Hwy 20 near the town of Colusa.



Another highlight was a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger** reported at Camp Far West Reservoir on 8/28.

Thanks to all who submitted reports for August. The majority of them first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details.

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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