



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, October 16
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
7pm General Meeting

Raptor Identification

Ed Pandolfino will give an "Eyes-On" presentation to help us all with Raptor Identification at our next general meeting. Seventeen different species of hawks and eagles can be found regularly in our area and winter is the best time to go looking for most of these species. Both the diversity and the abundance of hawks increase dramatically in winter in California and the Central Valley is probably the most important wintering area for raptors in all of North America. Although Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels and Northern Harriers account for the majority of the raptors you will find, winter holds the possibility of finding rarer species like Rough-legged Hawks, Ferruginous Hawks and Merlins. Ed will cover the basics of raptor identification and give tips to help you ID the more unusual species.

Since you can only learn by doing, Ed will be giving a (self-graded) photo quiz so bring along a pencil and paper. Also, BRING YOUR BINOCULARS.

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.sacramento-audubon.org and click on Society Info/ Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

Lea Landry, Program Chair

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES FOR 2008-2009

At our November 20th general meeting we will again host the Christmas Count workshop. Learn how to count large flocks of birds and distinguish some common birds in their winter plumage which makes them look confusingly similar. Some area count leaders will be in attendance and you can find a good count to participate in. The main qualification is enthusiasm not experience!

CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES FOR 2008-2009

Saturday, December 6, American River Natural History Association Annual Bird Count (and Mammals!)

Compiler: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Sunday, December 14, Putah Creek Christmas Count

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

Monday, December 15, Benicia-Napa Christmas Count

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

Saturday, December 20, Woodfords Christmas Count

Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 916/870-5207, e-mail: spskua2@comcast.net
Compiler: Andi Salmi, 916/691-7216, e-mail: andisalmi@yahoo.com

Saturday, December 20, Auburn Christmas Count

NOTE: Date Change

Compiler: Deren Ross, 530/308-5114, e-mail: derenross@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, December 27, Sacramento Christmas Count

Compiler: Mark Cudney, 916/987-2422, e-mail: mcudney@aol.com

Tuesday, December 30, Lincoln Christmas Count

Compiler: Ed Pandolfino, e-mail: ERPfromCA@aol.com

Thursday, January 1, Angwin Christmas Count

Compiler: Floyd Hayes, floyd_hayes@yahoo.com

Friday, January 2, Sonoma Valley Christmas Count

Compilers: Tom Rusert & Derren Peterie, 707-939-8007, SonomaBirding.org

Sunday, January 4, Folsom Christmas Count

Compiler: Chris Conard, 916/362-5942, e-mail: conardc@gmail.com

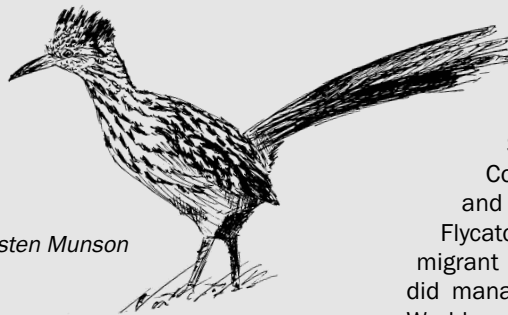
For locations and dates for additional Christmas Bird Counts, visit <http://natureali.org/cbcs.htm>

Field Trip Findings

Sailor Bar (9/14) — Leader Mark Martucci reported, “Eleven birders had 53 species of birds on a very pleasant late summer morning. Highlights included Yellow, Wilson’s, Orange-Crowned and Black-throated Gray Warblers. White-Crowned Sparrow, Black-Headed Grosbeak, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager and Phainopepla.”

Pt. Reyes for Vagrants (9/13) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “The birds were very cooperative for our group of 17. There were a lot of regular migrants to look at, with abundant Townsend’s Warblers, Pacific-slope Flycatchers, and Western Wood-Pewees. We also had several Hermit Warblers and Willow Flycatchers. The highlights included a Blackburnian Warbler and a Cape May Warbler (Cape May is very rare in California) at the Lighthouse, single Tennessee Warblers at the Lighthouse, the Fish Docks, and Mendoza, and a very cooperative Prairie Warbler at Mendoza. American Redstarts were everywhere, including a nice male, and we saw several Blackpoll Warblers. We ended the day with 15 or 16 species of warblers! At our last stop in a very full day, we had a single Red-necked Grebe at Drake’s Beach. There were so many birds to look at that we didn’t get back to Sacramento until after 8, but I didn’t hear anyone complaining. The timing of a trip during migration can be hit or miss—this was an unqualified hit.”

Beavers on the Parkway (9/10) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported the group saw four-plus beaver and a deer, along with Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Belted Kingfisher, White-tailed Kite, Cooper’s Hawk, Mallard, Mute Swan, Barn Swallow, Black Phoebe, California Quail and Mourning Dove.



Kirsten Munson

Upper Sunrise, American River Parkway (9/7) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Eleven birders had 43 species of birds on a warm September morning. Highlights included Wilson’s Warbler, Warbling Vireo, Western Tanager and Pacific-slope Flycatcher.”

Bodega Bay (9/6) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “There were only 4 of us for this trip, but we enjoyed some great birding. The bird of the day was a Buff-breasted Sandpiper. This bird was not actually at Bodega Bay, but on a pond

on Carmody Road, which is half way between Petaluma and Bodega Bay. It had been reported earlier in the week on the North Bay Birds Listserv, so we decided to check it out since it was on the way. And we’re glad we did, especially since it was a lifer for 3 of the group. We had a total of 16 shorebirds, including Wandering Tattler, Surfbird and both Ruddy and Black Turnstones. Other notable birds included numerous Common Murres and Pigeon Guillemots, a couple of Vaux’s Swifts flying over at Campbell Cove, an Allen’s Hummingbird, and both Pacific-slope and Willow Flycatchers. There wasn’t too much migrant activity at Owl Canyon but we did manage to find a couple of Yellow Warblers and a Wilson’s Warbler there, in addition to the Pacific-slope Flycatcher. Chestnut-backed Chickadees were seen there as well. With sunny skies, just a very light breeze and a total of 75 species, it was a very pleasant day.”

Yolo Wildlife Area (8/31) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “With no water at the Yolo Wildlife Area, 17 birders drove to the Davis Waste Water Treatment Plant. We scoped the main ponds from the road and had great looks at Caspian Terns, White-faced Ibis, Black-necked Stilts, American

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WELCOMING NATURE TO YOUR YARD WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Workshops a Natural Partnership!

In August and early September over 200 people attended five public workshops given jointly by SAS Education Committee and the Sacramento Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society at public library branches. Folks heard a presentation by Julie Serences of SAS about increasing the biodiversity of their yards by planting native plants and then learned from Jennifer Hogan and Melinda Rivasplata of CNPS how to propagate those plants from cuttings. The workshops focused on the Audubon at Home idea of good habitat stewardship applied to our individual yards. Also incorporated into the workshop was some of the information presented in entomologist Douglas Tallamy’s 2007 book, *Bringing Nature Home-How Native Plants Sustain Wildlife in our Gardens** (It’s a good read if you are interested in why planting the plants, that feed the bugs, that feed the birds, that... can make a huge difference in urban habitat. His host capacity studies are impressive.) The excitement the workshop seemed to generate, indicated that folks really want to learn what they can do to increase habitat and save \$\$\$ as well! It’s a very

“teachable” public moment. More workshops are planned in the spring (without the propagation component.) Anyone wishing to help please contact Julie Serences: education@sacramentoaudubon.org. It’s easy work, just help set up/take down and meet and greet.

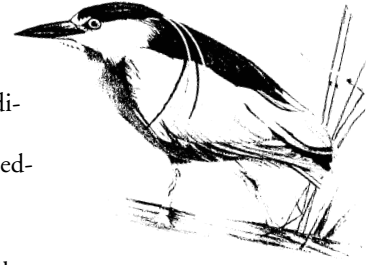
One of the handouts developed especially for this workshop (with the help of many in SAS and SVCNPS)—*Bird Friendly California Natives for the Valley Garden*—is available for download at our web site www.sacramentoaudubon.org. Also the *Indigenous Dozen* handout might be of interest.

Thanks to all involved for making this happen: Maureen Geiger, Sheila Green, Cathie LaZier, Lea Landry, and Darrell Mohr for help setting up and cleaning up after the workshops; and to our partners from The Native Plant Society—Melinda and Jen. We will be working together again as a team next fall.

* Available at Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Julie Serences, Education Chair

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 5th. For trips October 6th through November 12th 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.

Saturday, October 4, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan for a look at some of the birds that live along this section of the American River Parkway. This will be about a 4 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear. Meet in the parking lot of the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, located just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

Sunday, October 5, 8am

River Bend (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. River Bend (formerly 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 \$5 park entrance fee; call Cathie if you want to meet outside the park and carpool in.

Friday, October 10, 8am till noon

Bannister Park

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Explore another beautiful area along the American River with Jack. Early fall migrants may be around; some native plants are at their best this time of year, and, as always, you can share in Jack's knowledge of the natural history of the parkway. Meet Jack in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd, west of Sunrise Blvd.

Saturday, October 11, 7:30am

Bodega Bay

Leader: Andi Salmi, 691-7216
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.

Saturday, October 11, 7am

River Walk Bird Count

Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded Information, 684-2816

Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd. south of Twin Cities Road for this monthly birding census trip. It'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. It's wise to check the recorded information a couple of days before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details, as they sometimes change.

Sunday, October 12, 7am SHARP!

Hope Valley – Alpine County

Fall Foliage Birding

Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
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, Stellar'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 just north of Highway 50 off El Dorado Hills Blvd. (Exit 30B). We will leave at 7am SHARP!

Sunday, October 12, 7am

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. It's wise to check the recorded information a couple of days before to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details, as they sometimes change. Arrive a little early, as this trip always leaves promptly.

Saturday, October 18, 7:15am

Bobcat Ranch, Yolo County

Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

This wonderful 7,000-acre property recently purchased by Audubon California is currently open to the public solely for docent-led trips. Join Maureen and Vance Russell, Director of the Landowner Stewardship Program for Audubon California, for our first visit to this area and see the local and wintering bird species as well as learn about the restoration efforts taking place. This outing will involve moderate hiking on fairly level ground and should last until early-to mid-afternoon. Bring liquids and lunch. Meet at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento no later than 7:15am. Alternate

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Field Trips continued from page 3

meeting place is Steady Eddy's at 5 E. Main Street, next to the parking lot at the intersection of Main and Railroad in Winters by 8am sharp. To reach the Park and Ride, from I-80, take the West Capitol Ave exit; turn left at the light and left into the lot.

Sunday, October 19, 7:30am

Solano Lake/Putah Creek

Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

The Lake is a good area for wintering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Mergansers. Phainopeplas are possible, and Pileated Woodpeckers have been found in the area several times during the last year. A drive up Putah Creek may turn up wintering passerines as well. There is a \$5 per car fee at the Lake Solano campground.

Bring lunch and liquids and meet Mark at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From I-80 take the West Capitol Ave. exit; turn left at the light; then left again into the lot. Plan on a trip lasting into the afternoon.

Sunday, October 19

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.

Wednesday, October 22, 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.

Saturday, October 25, 8am – noon

Shadow Glen/Snowberry Creek

Leader: Lea Landry, 638-1141

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.

Sunday, October 26, 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, so bring a lunch and liquids, and we'll 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 28, 8am

**Cosumnes River Preserve Boardwalk/
Isenberg Crane Preserve**

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 359-2829

dtankers@winfirst.com

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

Saturday, November 1, 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.

Sunday, November 2, 8am

Daylight Savings Ends!

Set your clocks back one hour.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area

Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758

IshiM2000@aol.com

Join Marlene in this great area 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 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 (Lot A, on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour. Scopes are helpful on this trip, which is a good trip for both beginners and more experienced birders.

Wednesday, November 5, 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.

Thursday, November 6

7:30am in Davis

Lake Solano and Putah Creek

A Yolo Audubon Trip

Leader: Sami LaRocca

(530) 908-0288

Sami182@wavecable.com

On this trip we'll go to Lake Solano where Yolo County borders Solano County, to check for birds during the transition time

of late fall to early winter. Bird sightings may include residents such as Osprey, Phainopepla, Wood Duck and varied woodpeckers; expected wintering species such as goldeneye, mergansers and Bufflehead may have arrived. There could be some surprises like Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Golden Eagle. After checking the lake we'll drive up Hwy 128 as far as Monticello Dam. One stop will include the bridge to check for the American Dipper that has wintered there for the last four years. Meet at the Marketplace Shopping Center (near Big 5 Sporting Goods, 1301 W. Covell in Davis, just east of Hwy 113) at 7:30am. We'll plan on getting back to Davis about 2pm. All levels of birders are welcome. Bring water, snacks/lunch and binoculars. A \$5 fee per car will be needed for parking at the picnic grounds.

Saturday, November 8, 8am
Riverbend Park, (formerly 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. This 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 \$5 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.

Sunday, November 9, 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.

Birding Festivals and Trips

12TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

This year's Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held at the Stockton Grand Hotel, November 20th to 23rd. Friday's keynote speaker will be Hans Peeters, the author of *Owls of California and the West*. There will be the usual great programs and workshops with Ed Pandlino, Ed Harper, John Laws, Joe Morlan and Jon Dunn among others. There will also be great vendors and artists. Field trips will cover territory in many counties and are always popular so you may want to sign up early.

For complete information, registration and pictures from last year's event, check the website at www.cvbs.org. Registration includes membership in the CVBC and a subscription to *Central Valley Bird Club Bulletin*.

MOUNTAIN GORILLAS, SHOEBILLS, AND MARA MIGRATION

Just back from their 13th visit to East Africa, Ed Harper and Susan Scott have researched and tested a new safari route that captures some of the best wildlife viewing in all of East Africa. They were very impressed by the outstanding birding they enjoyed in Uganda along with the phenomenal experience of trekking for Mountain Gorillas. In Kenya they discovered an outstanding camp along the banks of the Talek River, optimally positioned for catching the spectacular migration of Wildebeest and Zebra into the Masai Mara. If there is sufficient interest, Ed and Susan are willing to organize a safari lasting about 15 days during late July and early August 2009, but they will need to start the process very soon. This is the ideal time of year for touring Uganda and optimizes the expected arrival of the great migration in the Masai Mara. If interested, contact Ed at 916-971-3311 or email: calidris@surewest.net for more details.

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society for their 13th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 16-19, 2009. 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 Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers. For more information check out the website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. Online registration will be available in October 2008. The registration deadline is January 5, 2009 but early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

Wednesday, November 12, 7:30am
Sacramento Old City Cemetery
Broadway and Riverside Blvd.
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net

Discover the variety of birds that live in and migrate through this historic city cemetery near the heart of downtown Sacramento. This walking tour is perfect for beginning birders. Meet Maureen at the cemetery's main gate at Broadway and 10th Street.

Visitors may park in the lot across from the 10th Street gate and meet inside the cemetery entrance. This will be a short walk, 1 to 2 hours. The tour is a public service of the Old City Cemetery Committee and is offered under the auspices of the Division of History and Science of the City of Sacramento. Call or email Maureen if you have questions.

Birding Classes

BIRDS OF WINTER IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Ed Harper will be teaching a course highlighting the wintering birds of our area. Consisting of three class meetings and three field trips, the course covers the finer points of identification, natural history, and associated vocalizations of the many wintering birds that frequent our region. Classes will be held at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center on Oct. 30, Nov. 6, and Nov. 13 with field trips scheduled for Nov. 1, 8, and 13. The fee for all classes and field trips is \$80. To enroll contact Effie Yeaw Nature Center 916-489-4918 or obtain additional information at www.arnha.org.

INTRODUCTION TO ORNITHOLOGY

Introduction to Ornithology (Bio 332), will be offered this coming Spring Semester at Sacramento City College. This course covers the ecology, behavior, and identification of birds, and will meet on Fridays beginning on January 23, 2009. Lecture will be from 11:30 am - 12:50 pm, and lab from 1:30 - 4:35 pm, in Lillard Hall, Room 109. There also will be several Saturday field trips during the semester. Please contact Professor Alexis Ackerman if you have questions (ackerma@scc.losrios.edu).

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Avocets and Long-billed Curlew. Out in the fields we had Swainson's Hawk, Blue Grosbeak and White-tailed Kite. We had 35 total species."

Bodega Bay (8/30) — Leader Andi Salmi reported: "Our group of 18 enjoyed a sunny and fairly breezy day at Bodega Bay. Highlights include 4 Red Knots, a Brant and a beautiful Common Loon in breeding plumage. Flocks of Marbled Godwits, Least and Western sandpipers, and juvenile Short-billed Dowitchers were studied and enjoyed. Also observed were Red-necked Phalaropes, the 3 species of cormorants and Western, California, Ring-billed and Heerman's gulls. Time at Bodega Head was limited due to high winds."

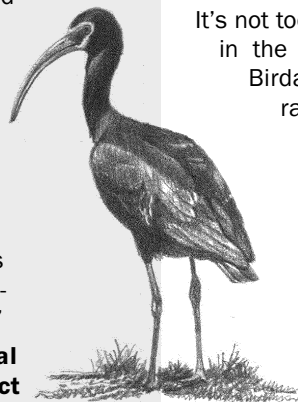
Evening Beaver Walk (8/28) — Leader Jack Hiehle said his group saw three-plus beaver in addition to California Quail, European Starling, American Crow, Pied-billed Grebe, Canada Goose, Mallard, Great Egret, Red-shouldered Hawk, Western Scrub-Jay, California Quail, Black Phoebe and Mourning Dove.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area/Davis Wetlands (8/23) — Leader Frank Gray reported: "Our group enjoyed very good birding and weather. Even with the dry conditions this season, surface water and associated birds were present at one location on the Yolo Bypass auto

route, at the Davis Sewage Ponds, and at two tracts at the Davis Wetlands. Trip highlights included Lesser Yellowlegs, Tricolored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds, a Short-billed Dowitcher, at least one Whimbrel, and Red-necked and Wilson's Phalaropes. Hundreds of Long-billed Curlews and several Swainson's Hawks were also seen. A side trip to a nearby heron and egret rookery at a eucalyptus grove on Road 103 produced close views of many herons and egrets, and some juveniles recently fledged there."

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Bufferlands (8/24) — Leader Chris Conard reported: "15 of us had a nice morning with a fair number of migrants. For the first half of the trip, we had some frustratingly brief views of a number of warblers, but finally came upon a decent flock containing Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray, MacGillivray's, and Wilson's Warblers. We didn't see any migrant flycatchers, but there were several Western Tanagers throughout the morning."



Daniel Kilby

Pete Hayes

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Thomas Adams, Paul Beach, Charlene Eberwine, Denise Gonzales, Julie Haas, Marie Heid, Laurie Isbell, Charity Kenyon, Thomas Manning, Marie Koch and Joyce Rietz, to **Conservation and Education**.

Denise Gonzales, Ed Harper and Marie Heid, to the **General Fund**.

Sara Gillespie and Rick and Ann Viegas to **Bobelaine**.

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 28, 2008 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

PRBO'S 31ST 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. This year their goal is to raise \$130,000.

You can participate by becoming an individual counter, creating or joining an existing team, or by sponsoring a counter! If you missed our September general meeting SAS member, Gary Fregien, spoke about the

Bird-a-Thon and many members joined his sponsorship list. For further information or to volunteer or sign up you can contact Gary at 916-708-0636 or email at calaveri@sbcllobal.net

For more information about PRBO, or to register, visit: www.prbo.org/birdathon or contact Membership and Events Manager Glenna Records at grecords@prbo.org or call 707-781-2555 x 320.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Arnold, JoEllen Silver, Tom
Landis, James Tucker, J Kay
Rietz, Joyce C Wright, Sally D

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.

Observations

continued from page 8

near Gristmill continued into September. Banded **Caspian Terns** photographed mid-month at SRWTP proved to be from colonies in Richmond, CA and the Columbia River, OR. A late report of a **Band-tailed Pigeon** near Galt on 6/8/08 is one of very few for the Central Valley in summer, and all the more interesting when taken with the **Band-tailed Pigeon** found along the American River at River Bend (formerly Goethe) Park on 7/2.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit www.cvbirds.org and click "Listserv" for details. With nearly 100 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Roger Adamson, Todd Easterla, Gil Ewing, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Scott Hoppe, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Cathie LaZier, Shawn Lockwood, Michael Marsh, Ed Pandolfino, Deren Ross, Jo Ellen Ryan, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Gene Trapp, John Trochet, Dan Williams, and David Yee.

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

Chris Conard

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 \$ _____

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.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE SAS BOARD AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2008/2009

Vice-President: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Board of Directors:

Lea Landry, 638-1141, llandry@softcom.net
Ken Hashagen, 316-8596, khashagen@mindspring.com
Darrell Mohr, 973-9841, mohrdd@att.net
Roy Greenaway, 631-3536

Membership Chair: Lea Landry, 638-1141, llandry@softcom.net

Program Chair: Lea Landry, 638-1141, llandry@softcom.net

*CORRECTIONS:

Tim Fitzer's email was corrected to spskua2@comcast.net
Lea Landry was added to the Board and is now also our Program Chair
Brian Gilmore is no longer on the Board of Directors



Seasonal Observations

August 1 to August 31

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

August is a great time for birding in the Sacramento area. Really, it is. This is known by experienced birders, but is still not widely accepted by most. Sure, it can be very hot, but it also gets light very early. The hours before 9am can be pleasant and very birdy. August is perhaps the most productive month for "fall" shorebirding, though July and September are excellent too. Songbird migrants, especially in the second half of the month, can be quite numerous.

While this August provided us with many birds, there were only a few rarities found, and most of the best of those were continuing from the previous month. These included the two **Stilt Sandpipers** at the Davis Wetlands (DW), which continued from 7/31 to 8/2, and the two **Least Terns** that attempted to nest (their eggs failed to hatch) at the Sacramento Reg. Wastewater Treatment Plant (SRWTP). First seen on 6/27, the terns were last seen at the SRWTP Bufferlands on 8/5. The male **Northern Parula** found at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 7/26 continued well into September. A **Plumbeous Vireo** reported on 8/31 at the South Fork Putah Creek Preserve, just downstream from Mace Blvd, was perhaps the best August-only rarity. A very early **Brown Creeper** was there as well—recall that a nest was found farther upstream on 5/18. A **Green-tailed Towhee**, also quite

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early, was a nice find at the West Pond in Davis on 8/10.

Among the uncommon shorebird finds, the best "haul" occurred at CRP on the morning of 8/5, with a **Snowy Plover**, two **Marbled Godwits** (far less com-

mon in Sacramento County than Yolo), a **Semipalmated Sandpiper**, and a **Baird's Sandpiper**. An impressive total of 78 **Semipalmated Plovers** was reported from the Woodland WTP on 8/8. Single **Solitary Sandpipers** were reported from private property in eastern Yolo County on 8/8 and DW on 8/10. Five **Willetts** were at the Davis WTP on 8/10, and an impressive 25 **Marbled Godwits** were at DW on 8/19—six godwits were also at the Lincoln WTP on 8/19. Single juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at the Bufferlands on 8/2 and 8/7. A **Baird's Sandpiper** was found at the Lincoln WTP on 8/19, with one to two at the Bufferlands in the second half of the month.

A female or young male **Calliope Hummingbird** was found on 8/8 after striking a window in Natomas. This species is more often recorded in spring. Other interesting reports include a **Hermit Thrush** thought to be one of the western montane races on the early date of 8/1, and the continuing male **Common Goldeneye** along the American River

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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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