



# The *OBSE*RVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

**Thursday, September 20**  
**Shepard Garden and Arts Center**  
**7pm General Meeting**

### **Natural History of North American Red Crossbills**

**Tom Hahn**

Diversity, Reproductive Biology, Habitat  
Preferences, Biogeography and Field  
Identification of an Irruptive Nomad

North American Red Crossbills have long fascinated researchers for a variety of reasons, including the curious bill structure that gives them their name, their nomadic and irruptive migratory behavior, their bizarre reproductive schedules that include breeding on both the shortest and longest days of the year, and their extreme variation in body and bill size. In this presentation Tom Hahn will discuss the biology of these enigmatic birds in light of the recent deluge of information about their ecology, evolution, behavior and physiology. He will also introduce you to the crossbill vocal repertoire and its utility for field identification, with particular emphasis on the diagnostic flight calls.

Tom Hahn is a field biologist with bachelors and masters degrees in Biology from Stanford University, and a PhD in Zoology from the University of Washington. He's been studying crossbills, white-crowned sparrows and other songbirds all over the West since the mid-1980s. Tom is currently on the biology faculty at UC Davis. You can find out more about his interests and research at:

<http://www.npb.ucdavis.edu/npbdirectory/hahn.html>.

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

*Sally Riggs, Program Chair*

### **WWW.SACRAMENTOAUDUBON.ORG**

When the web and information highway were just a figment of many people's imagination and my space was not a buzz word, our own Bill Clark created a web site for Sacramento Audubon. Filled with much Society news and local happenings, it also contained our field trip listings and even action alerts. Bill also started the email list for Action Alerts and the Sacramento listserv. The hours in maintaining such a site could be endless and doubtless few of us realized the time it took. So, even though the next time you long on to the web site it will look different, please remember who started it all for us and the great work involved. Thank you so much Bill.

Though Sacramento Audubon Society has changed the look of its web site, it is the same web address. Society President, Keith Wagner, searched and found Subhash Chand, a local web designer, and he is currently our new Webmaster. Because of the increase in dedication by hard working volunteers we will be renewing our efforts to keep the site current not only with the usual Society business but also with calls to action, education and outreach.

### **11TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM.**

Hey Birding Fans- we're baacckk! The 11th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium will be held November 15-18 in Stockton, but at a new location. We're in the brand spanking-new Sheraton Stockton and have sole use of their Convention Center.

Our evening programs include Joe Morlan's, "Digiscoping for Fun and Science: Confessions of a Reluctant Photographer", and Laura Erickson's, "Owls—the Inside Story." We have many workshops such as, "Birding By Ear—Visually" by Arch McCallum, an e-Bird primer with Brian Sullivan, and one of Jon Dunn's famous birding ID tutorials. Clay Taylor is giving a digiscoping workshop and leading a post-Symposium field trip on Monday the 19th. Jon Dunn is leading a gull field trip on Monday as well.

We have programs for beginning birders and for people who want to make their gardens bird-friendly. The Birder's Market is full of artists and vendors with bird and nature related items to take your breath away (and they also take credit cards). Test your ID skills along with the experts at the Bird ID Panel. And we've planned much, much more...

For more info, check the website at [www.cvbs.org](http://www.cvbs.org), or contact Frances Oliver at [hummer52@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hummer52@sbcglobal.net) or (209) 369-2010. Come and we promise you a great time.

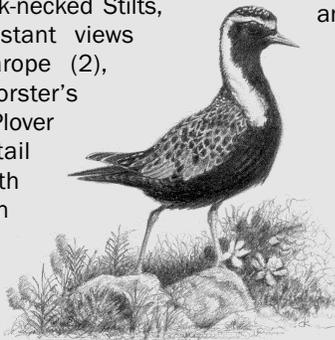
See you there!

*Cheri Pillsbury, Central Valley Birding Symposium*

# Field Trip Findings

**Farallon Islands (8/12)** — Coordinator Frank Gray, filling in for Ken Hashagen, reported: “Thirty-two birders had a great pelagic trip, the main destination being the Farallon Islands. These rocky 211 acres of islands, about 28 miles southwest of the Golden Gate Bridge, are nesting habitat for at least 12 species of seabirds and famed for their abundance and diversity of marine life. Our group saw many birds at the Farallons and waters southwest. These included two Brown Boobys, a Marbled Murrelet, 2 Northern Fulmars, sparse numbers of Sooty, Pink-footed, and Buller’s Shearwaters, several Tufted Puffins still in gaudy breeding plumage, a few Rhinoceros Auklets, and great looks at several Black-footed Albatrosses. At about 5 miles southwest of the Farallons, we viewed 2 groups of humpback whales and most of the albatrosses. At the trip’s onset, we had great looks at some multi-hued Harbor Seals hauled out on rocks.”

**Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley (8/12)** — Leader Steve Abbott reported: “Highlights included the continuing Franklin’s Gull in with approximately 150 other gulls just west of the Davis Oxidation Ponds and below the dump, and 50 Long-billed Curlews on the levee between the western-most ponds. The City of Davis Wetlands provided good views and comparison of Least and Western Sandpipers. Also, Black-necked Stilts, American Avocets, distant views of Red-necked Phalarope (2), Caspian Tern (5), Forster’s Tern, Semipalmated Plover (15), Northern Pintail (several flyovers with Mallards, and American White Pelican (75). 3 immature male Yellow-headed Blackbirds provided good scope views and were enjoyed by all.



Daniel Kilby

“We took a side trip to Wild Horse Golf Course and were treated to 12 or so Burrowing Owls at burrows, on posts, dirt mounds, fences, etc. Beyond birds, participants observed many dragonfly, damselfly, and butterfly species including Black Saddlebags, Variegated Meadowhawk, Western Meadowhawk, Common Green Darner, mosaic darnner sp., Familiar Bluet, Acmon Blue, Cabbage

White, Monarch, and Common Checkered Skipper.”

**Beaver Walk (8/7)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported one-plus beaver, two-plus muskrats, three turtles, and a deer. Birds included Black Phoebe, Lesser Goldfinch, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Tree Swallow and Pied-billed Grebe.

**Granite Lake, Carson Pass, Hwy 88 (8/4)**

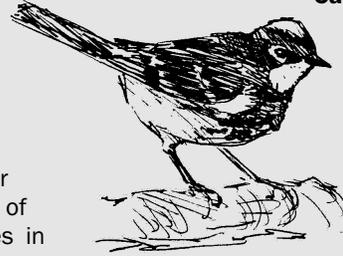
— Leader Lisa Moraga reported: “We had clear skies tinged with wisps of smoke from recent fires in the Sierra. The most numerous of species (50+) were Yellow-rumped Warblers. Many were seen hawking flying insects. Mountain Chickadee and Red-breasted Nuthatch took a close second and third for high numbers. At the lake, 2 vocal Clark’s Nutcrackers provided us with good scope views. Over the lake flew Band-tailed Pigeons and numerous Cliff Swallows mixed with Violet-green Swallows. Birds of the day were an adult and a spotty juvenile Townsend’s Solitaire. Other birds of note were: Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper, Cooper’s Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hermit Warbler (2), Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, and a quick look at an in-flight Selasphorus (Rufous?) Hummingbird. Total species 32.”

**Sailor Bar (8/5)** — Twelve birders had 45 species of birds on a very cool August morning, leader Mark Martucci reported. Highlights were Western Tanagers, Lazuli Bunting, Rufous Hummingbird and Bullock’s Oriole.

**Beaver Walk (7/31)** — Leader Jack Hiehle reported 3-plus beavers, two-plus muskrats and two turtles, along with Double-crested Cormorant, Belted Kingfisher, Great Egret and Mourning Dove.

**Bodega Bay (7/29)** — “We had good weather, a break from the valley heat,” leader Dan Brown said. “We saw 63 species including lots of shorebirds, the highlights being approximately 200

Surfbirds and 3 Red Knots (wearing partial breeding plumage and leg bands) on the mudflats in Doran Park. Other highlights were 2 Brants (compared to 2,000 in winter!) 3 species of loon, nesting Pelagic Cormorants and Pigeon Guillemots at Bodega Head.”



Kirsten Munson

**Carson Pass (7/28)** — Leader Jack Hiehle, joined by former Audubon trip leader Pierre Delastre, reported sighting Williamson’s Sapsucker, Green-tailed Towhee, Clark’s Nutcracker, Rufous Hummingbird, Cliff and Tree swallows, Brewer’s Sparrow, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Townsend’s Solitaire and Golden-crowned Kinglet.

**Mather Field Park (7/22)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “The usual cast of characters were present with some pleasant surprises. Brewer’s, Great-tailed Grackles in diminished numbers, Killdeer, Pie-billed Grebe families, Swallows (Barn, Tree, and Northern), Kingfisher, Double-crested Cormorant, Herons (Green, Great Blue, Black-crowned), Egret (Great and Snowy), Common Moorhen and Black Phoebe. The Yellow-headed Blackbirds were gone except for a lone female noted at the entrance to the park. The surprises were a possible Bullock’s Oriole family (male and female) and final evidence that American Bitterns breed at Mather. The group got marvelous looks at a family of one adult and two juveniles with their new head feathers still evident. An apparent Ash-throated Flycatcher family was observed.”

**Bushy Lake (7/15)** — Weather was good for July and leader Dan Brown reported that eight observers saw 40 species in three hours. “Best sighting was a pair of Western Tanagers spotted by Kathy Moore. We saw one Swainson’s Hawk soaring overhead and to the north. Also, 5 species of dragonflies.”

**Mt. Judah and Roller Pass (7/14)** — Sightings, according to leader Jack Hiehle, joined by Pierre Delastre, included White Pelican, Osprey, Clark’s Nutcracker, White-headed Woodpecker, Rufous and Anna’s hummingbirds, Northern Flicker,

*Findings* continued on page 9

# Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip

**September 29 and 30, 2007**

It's time again to prepare for one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting field trips! This year's 2-day coastal and pelagic trip will take place on September 29 (boat) and September 30 (shore). Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place to visit.

Saturday's boat excursion will highlight the trip. The boat can take 45 intrepid birders! Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic avifauna and marine mammals. Several species of shearwaters are usually seen, not to mention the possibility of close-ups of marine mammals. On Sunday, we will visit the key landbird and shoreline habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Space is limited to 45 participants. Your check for \$80 per person, made out to Sacramento Audubon, will reserve your spot. This trip fills up fast, so get your reservation form and check mailed early. Twenty dollars of this fee is a donation to Sacramento Audubon, and is therefore deductible.

Special notice to campers: A group camp-site (\$4.00 per person, per night) is available for Friday night (September 28) and Saturday night (September 29) at Veterans Memorial Campground. Motels and hotels are available in the Monterey area, but make reservations early. Please fill out the reservation form included.



## Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for Friday night, September 28 and \_\_\_\_\_ space(s) for Saturday night, September 29 at Veterans Memorial Park Campground. The cost is \$4.00 per night per person in group site. NOTE: You will pay the camping fee separately when you arrive. For bookkeeping reasons please do not include camping fees in your check for the trip.

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

## New Pelagic Trip for SAS!

**Saturday, October 13, 2007**

This fall, Sacramento Audubon will be offering two pelagic trips out of Monterey: the usual 2-day Monterey trip September 29 and 30 (see announcement and sign-up form on the front page of this month's Observer) and a new 1-day, 12-hour trip offshore. This new trip is being offered for those SAS members and friends that have been on the 2-day trip, primarily in Monterey Bay, and want to go further offshore to look for pelagic species that would not commonly be found in the Bay or close to shore.

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

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

## 12 Hour Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Registration deadline is October 5, 2007

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

# Audubon California

## AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY 2007

**Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, October 7, 8, and 9, 2007**

**Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove**

THEME 2007: GLOBAL WARMING AND WILDLIFE

The Audubon California Assembly brings together over 300 chapter leaders, birders, scientists, volunteers, grassroots activists and staff for three days on the Monterey Bay.

At the Asilomar Conference Grounds in Pacific Grove, participants will have an opportunity to attend a wonderful variety of interactive workshops on restoration, policy and education; and meet renowned speakers emphasizing the importance of effective conservation of California's birds, wildlife and habitat. World class birding, and pelagic and condor fieldtrips, are also part of the Conference.

For questions and schedule information contact:

Claudia Eyzaguirre [ceyzaguirre@audubon.org](mailto:ceyzaguirre@audubon.org) 510.601.1866 ext.3.

Or visit [www.ca.audubon.org/audubon\\_assembly.html](http://www.ca.audubon.org/audubon_assembly.html)

## AUDUBON CALIFORNIA ACQUIRES BOBCAT RANCH

Winters, CA, August 6, 2007 — After nearly two years of work, Audubon California has acquired the 6,800 acre Bobcat Ranch as part of a conservation initiative in Yolo County, California. The ranch is an anchor property for the coordinated effort to protect rolling blue oak, grassland foothills and its wide diversity of bird and wildlife from development.

In May, Audubon received a \$6.35 million grant from the State of California's Wildlife Conservation Board, a \$610,000 grant from the Great Valley Center, and generous donations from chapters and others to help acquire the ranch. It will be managed by Audubon California and will become a home-base for Audubon's Landowner Stewardship Program, under the direction of Vance Russell. The program has been actively restoring habitat on the ranch since 2003 and will use the ranch to continue its restoration work with neighboring landowners.

Congratulations to the staff at Audubon California and others for their achievement.

## LONG BILLED CURLEW SURVEY

Audubon California will be working with PRBO and the Natural History Museum of LA County to survey Long-billed Curlews this September. The idea is simple. We are collecting information on past sightings of 100 or more birds in the interior valleys, and we will create half-day survey routes (by car). Volunteers will then count all the curlews they see on the route and send the numbers in to us. Then we just add them up. No fancy statistics, just count them all.

We need volunteers to conduct half-day surveys anytime between September 13-16th, 2007. I am coordinating the Central Valley so please contact me at [glangham@audubon.org](mailto:glangham@audubon.org).

Thanks, Gary Langham, Director of Bird Conservation

## COMMON BIRDS IN DECLINE

A new analysis from National Audubon combining 40 years of Breeding Bird Surveys and Christmas Bird Count data made big headlines in California and across the nation recently. The study called "Common Birds in Decline" is the first installment of a new series on the state of the birds across the US. In California, Northern Pintail, Horned Lark, and Loggerhead Shrike topped the list with declines between 96% and 75%, mirroring national trends in the same species. The dramatic national declines are attributed to habitat loss and fragmentation with future losses expected as a result of global warming.

## NOTES FROM E. AFRICA

These are notes submitted by Ed Harper from his recent trip to East Africa for touring, birding, and wildlife viewing. Having traveled there for many years, Ed has a unique perspective on, not only the wildlife, but also the social and political life of African countries which are popular destinations for birders.

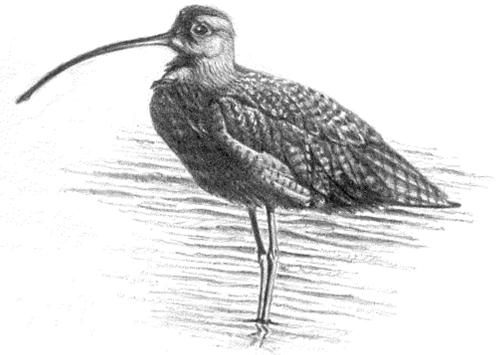
Kenya is at last starting to improve both economically and in spirit. Since his election, Mwai Kibaki has ushered in an era of economic reform that seems to be working. Kenyans we talked to are welcoming this change and are once again smiling as they face the future.

While in Kenya we visited two fantastic wildlife viewing destinations, Lewa Downs and Rekerio Kidogo. Both are booked though Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. We were most impressed by this private enterprise. This organization works as a catalyst for the conservation of wildlife and its habitat. The conservancy's efforts reach out to the local communities to develop conservation and management strategies. It has numerous programs that include educating neighboring areas about the value of wildlife and the economic benefits in having wildlife. We spoke with several Masai working in this program and were greatly impressed with their sophistication, knowledge, and global awareness. We felt we were attending college seminars when discussing a myriad of issues with them! What a bright light looming for Kenya and wildlife if these programs can grow!

Our 7 weeks went without a hitch. We had not the slightest health problems in spite of eating lots of salads and delicious food, travel within East Africa went well, and we felt very safe. The people were wonderful wherever we went. Our only caveat is to avoid flying into Heathrow in London. That was the only negative of the trip. Long lines, too few inspection stations, strict rules on having only one carry-on item—not both your camera bag and your computer case—and the very high prices charged in London make it a stop we will forgo in the future. But you can bet we will be going back to East Africa.

*Ed Harper and Susan Scott  
Sandpiper Journeys*

# 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.

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, September 1, 6:30am**  
**Point Reyes**  
**Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942**  
**conardc@gmail.com**

This is a great time of year for migrating shorebirds and songbirds. Rarities are always possible. Be prepared for a full day with moderate hiking and changeable weather. Bring water, a lunch, 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.

**Sunday, September 2, 7am - 11am**  
**Upper Sunrise,**  
**American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will lead you on a morning walk to one of his favorite spots along the American River Parkway. You will see a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a pulse of migrants. From Hwy 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd., turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd., and take the first left on Pennsylvania. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Wednesday, September 5**  
**Beavers on the Parkway**  
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Cool off on a hot evening with a walk on the parkway with Jack, to view beavers busy at their work. Jack will also be looking at the birds active on the parkway. Trip is limited to 8 persons, so call Jack for meeting time and place.

**Saturday, September 8, early morning**  
**River Walk Trail,**  
**Cosumnes River Preserve**  
**Recorded Information, 684-2816**

The River Walk Trail offers a wide variety of habitat, including woods, sloughs and open fields, so many different species of birds are possible. John Schick usually leads this monthly bird census, and at this time of year, late summer and early winter birds are both present, along with migrants passing through. Call the preserve number listed above for the exact time and meeting location. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 miles of easy to moderate walking.

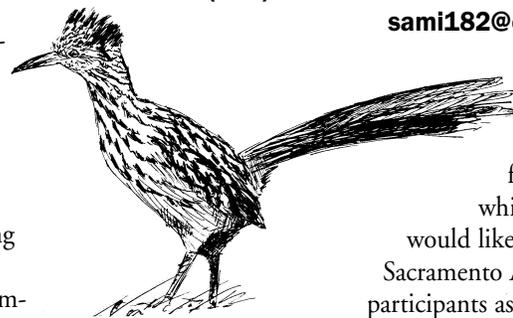
**Sunday, September 9, 7am**  
**Goethe Park**  
**Leader: Cathie Lazier, 457-6882**  
**empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on the right just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk in the oak woodlands down to the river in the cool of the morning, looking for local birds as well as migrating species such as warblers and swallows. We'll look for blooming vinegar weed as well. This walk should end by 11am. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee; if you want to carpool in, meet Cathie at 6:50am behind the pizza place at the intersection of Folsom Blvd. and Rod Beaudry Drive.

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

Discover the many different 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 across from the 10th Street gate and meet inside the cemetery entrance. This will be a short walk, 1-2 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 Maureen or email if you have questions.

**Thursday, September 13, 7am**  
**Capay Valley to Blue Ridge**  
**A Yolo Audubon Trip**  
**Leader: Sami LaRocca**  
**(530) 908-0288**  
**sami182@charter.net**



Kirsten Munson

This is a Yolo Audubon field trip, which Sami would like to offer to Sacramento Audubon participants as well. Sami plans an early start to drive out to the northwest corner of Yolo County through the scenic Capay Valley. Driving along Hwy 16 there are a number of side roads that she'll explore. During the transition from summer to autumn the birds may surprise us. Most recently Greater Roadrunner and Eurasian Collared Dove have been seen. The trip will go up to Blue Ridge via Rayhouse Road

*Field Trips* continued on page 6

## Field Trips continued from page 5

where Lawrence's Goldfinches are often seen at Fiske Lake and residents such as California Thrasher, Wrentit and Fox Sparrow may be found. Meet at the Park and Ride off Mace Blvd. (Northeast corner of Mace and Hwy 80, behind Ikeda's Market) in Davis at 7am. Bring water, lunch and snacks. All levels of birders are welcome; some loaner binoculars will be available. She will plan on returning by early afternoon. NOTE: High winds or a significant rainstorm cancels this trip.

### **Saturday, September 15** **Extremely Early** **Tall Forest,** **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 foray into an area usually closed to the public is a great opportunity to bird the area with a very experienced birder, who will find any rarities present. Check the recorded information a day or so before the trip to get the exact meeting time and any other updated details. Arrive early, as this trip always leaves the parking area promptly.

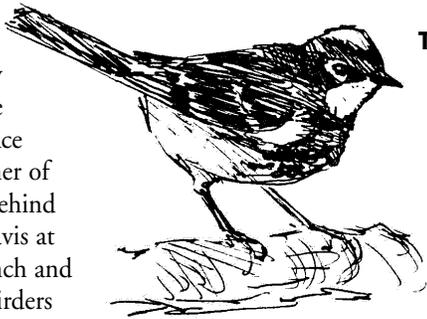
### **Sunday, September 16** **Habitat Improvement** **on the Parkway** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Restoration of native vegetation and elimination of non-native invasives improves the habitat along the parkway, and Jack will tell you this morning's tasks, as well as the meeting time and place, when you phone him.

### **Sunday, September 16, 5pm** **Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, evening trip** **Leaders: Mark Martucci, 722-6098** **matuchbirdman@yahoo.com** **Cathie LaZier, 457-6882** **empid@earthlink.net**

Join Mark and Cathie to check out what's on the ponds; there should be several species of wading birds as it's a great time of year for shorebirds. White-faced Ibis will be coming in overhead to roost and Marsh

Wrens chattering in the tules add to the experience. Back at the main parking lot, if we wait until sunset we can watch the bats coming out from under the freeway for their nightly foraging.



Kirsten Munson

### **Tuesday, September 18** **Evening Beaver Walk** **Leader: Jack Hiehle,** **967-0777**

This will be one of your last opportunities this year to view the beaver with Jack on this evening walk. The seasons are changing and you don't

want to miss the opportunity to go on one of these trips.

Give Jack a call for the meeting time and place.

### **Saturday, September 22, 7am** **Point Reyes for Vagrants** **Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942** **conardc@gmail.com**

Join Chris on this annual trip to the coast for rare fall migrants. With fall migration in full swing, who knows what will appear. The geography of Point Reyes Peninsula makes it a magnet for warblers and shorebirds migrating south. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet Chris at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento.

From Sacramento take the West Capitol Ave. exit off I-80; turn left at the stop light, then left into the Park and Ride.

### **Sunday, September 23** **8am till mid-afternoon** **Point Diablo Hawk Watch** **Marin Headlands** **Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804** **mkgeiger@sbcglobal.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 and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. Take the West Capitol exit; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Call Maureen for a secondary meeting place in Fairfield.

### **Thursday, September 27** **LAST Evening Beaver Walk** **Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

Join Jack for the season's last Beaver Walk. In addition to beaver, muskrats are sometimes seen. Herons and egrets make an appearance and Jack will point out other interesting birds and plants of the area. Call him for the meeting time and place.

### **Saturday-Sunday, September 29 & 30** **Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip** **Leader: Mark Cudney, 987-2422** **Reservations:** **Ken Hashagen, 635-4435**

Please see page 3 for details.

Saturday: The best pelagic birding in North America – Monterey Bay.

Sunday: Visit several Monterey Peninsula and adjacent hot spots for land and shore birds.

### **Sunday, September 30, 7:30am** **Reichmuth Park** **Leader: Tim Manolis** **485-9009**

Join Tim at the park entrance on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue at 7:30am. In the past Tim has found many uncommon birds in Reichmuth Park. On this first day of Autumn he will be looking for fall migrants, warblers, vireos and flycatchers. This is a good chance to work on identifying birds in confusing fall plumage, and Tim has the expertise to do it.

### **Saturday, October 6, 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.



Kirsten Munson

**Sunday, October 7, 8am**  
**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Mark Martucci, 722-6098**  
**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

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

**Friday, October 12, 8am till noon**  
**Bannister Park**  
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**

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



Stephen D'Amato

## Education and Outreach

### LOOKING FOR FAMILY ORIENTED NATURE PROGRAMS?

In addition to the great nature programs offered at Effie Yeaw, Nature in the Neighborhood offers educational and entertaining nature programs to audiences of all ages and interests. Most of these programs and activities are designed for families, while a few of the workshops are intended for adults.

Splash, the highly successful water/habitat education program sponsored by a consortium of water agencies in Sacramento County, has expanded beyond its school programs to offer a broad array of low-cost nature programs and activities for residents and visitors in the Sacramento area. Nature in the Neighborhood programs are conducted by Splash staff, consisting of professional scientists, educators and naturalists. Guest presenters regularly participate in the programs, sharing their expertise and passion for the region's plants, animals, and landscapes.

Programs for September include "Landscaping with California Native Plants" (Sept. 5) and "Creatures of the Night—A Night Walk" at Mather Regional Park (Sept. 8). They begin at the Splash Education Center, located at 4426 Excelsior Road, Mather, CA 95655. For more information about upcoming Fall programs visit [www.sacsplash.org](http://www.sacsplash.org) and click on "Nature in the Neighborhood." Reservations are required and can be made on our website or by calling Splash at (916) 364-2437. Fees are payable by cash or check and (unless otherwise stated) are \$10/adult, \$5/child (8-18).

### OUTREACH TABLE

McClatchy Park provided a perfect setting for the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Urban Forest festival. Julie Serences and Cathie LaZier brought the Sacramento Audubon outreach exhibit for the function, and Cathie LaZier also took the exhibit to the Harvest Festival at the Fair Oaks Horticultural Park. Our next outing is the big one of the year, the Salmon Festival at Nimbus Fish Hatchery. It is on Saturday and Sunday, October 13th and 14th, from 10am to 4pm. We have a prime location right on the river's edge, and we attract a lot of people. We need more volunteers, both to talk to people about birds, field trips, and just general chat, and to man the spotting scopes we will have set up to view herons, egrets, and anything else of interest on the river. If you can volunteer a few hours, either morning or afternoon, Saturday or Sunday, give Cathie a call at 457-6882, or email [empid@earthlink.net](mailto:empid@earthlink.net). There will be others working who have done it before; it's a good opportunity to see what's involved. Come join us!

### TAKE YOUR PICK, JOIN THE FUN AND COME HELP OUT!

#### Audubon Park Monitors Needed!

Here's a volunteer job that you don't need to drive to! Sacramento Audubon member, Elizabeth King, is working with park and recreation districts in the Sacramento area to develop descriptive profiles of local parks. The idea is exercise and environmental stewardship—to get folks walking with their families and friends in local parks. Of course, as we Audubon types all know, what makes a walk in the park even more enjoyable is the bird watching! With this idea in mind we are asking for volunteers to become park

monitors. A park monitor would keep a simple journal of the bird activity in a park near you and the information could become part of a park profile, passed along to others who walk in the same park. It's a great way to share your birding skills and get folks to become aware of the wonderful bird life in our area. For more information please e-mail Julie Serences: [education@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:education@sacramentoaudubon.org)

#### Volunteer at Effie Yeaw

Effie Yeaw is always looking for volunteers to assist the great work the staff does at the

Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Jobs range from being a docent to animal care to pulling weeds—and those are just a few of the jobs that help keep the Nature Center running smoothly. There are also special one day opportunities such as the upcoming Maidu Indian Day, which is on the first Saturday in October. They have a wonderful training program for volunteers of all ages—so don't be shy! Take a look at [www.effieyeaw.org](http://www.effieyeaw.org). Call Jamie Washington at (916) 489-4918 x 224, between 9am and 5pm, Monday through Friday.

# Upcoming Events

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

Grab your binoculars, your field guide and get ready for PRBO's 2007, 30th Bird-A-thon, the longest running event of its kind in the US. Founded in 1965 as Point Reyes Bird Observatory, PRBO Conservation Science partners with hundreds of governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as private interests to ensure that every dollar invested in conservation yields the most for biodiversity. Visit PRBO on the web at [www.prbo.org](http://www.prbo.org).

PRBO's Bird-A-Thon raises over \$100,000 to help fund their critically acclaimed research and education programs. You can participate by becoming an individual counter, creating or joining an existing team, or by sponsoring a counter! For more information, or to register, visit: [www.prbo.org/birdathon](http://www.prbo.org/birdathon) or call Ann Joly, PRBO's Bird-A-Thon Coordinator, at 707-781-2555 ext. 320 or email at [ajoly@prbo.org](mailto:ajoly@prbo.org).

## 3RD ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

Pajaro Valley's 3rd Annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival will take place Friday September 21st through Sunday, September 23, 2007. The festival will feature expert-led field trips, guided walks for children, specialized birding activities for beginners and outings led by a bilingual birding expert. Additional excursions to the Big Sur Ornithology Lab and guided outings to see the endangered California Condor are also available.

Visit [www.montereybaybirding.org](http://www.montereybaybirding.org) for festival schedule or to register. Visit [www.birding.travel](http://www.birding.travel) for additional information on lodging or general travel information.

## SWAINSON'S HAWK PROGRAM IN ELK GROVE

Friends of the Swainson's Hawk (FOSH) presents a panel discussion by scientists on the Swainson's Hawk in South County Sacramento, Monday, September 24. Meet the experts at a reception from 6 to 7pm with light refreshments. The panel follows from 7 to 8:30pm.

"We want to bring together folks in the South County who care about rare birds to learn more about Swainson's Hawk in their area," said FOSH President Judith Lamare. "We'll have presentations by the Chair of the Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee, the environmental coordinator of City of Elk Grove and biologists from California Fish and Game. The Swainson's Hawk is very special and very important to our region. I'm looking forward to meeting more folks who share our interest in the Swainson's Hawk."

The event will be held at the Hampton Inn Suites, Laguna Blvd at I-5, in Elk Grove. For more information, contact Jude Lamare at [judelam@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judelam@sbcglobal.net) or (916) 447-4956.

## AUDUBON LISTING FOR BIRD AND NATURE FESTIVALS

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

## FUTURE SPEAKERS AT OUR GENERAL MEETINGS

In October a previous speaker, Jessica Griffith from Ventana Wildlife, will be returning. The topic is still being decided.

Stanford student Tom Bonebreak will speak to us in November about the Checkerspot Butterfly.

And in January of 2008 Don Yoder of the National Bluebird Society will speak to us about what else, Bluebirds!

## THANKS TO THE BIRDING LEADERS

Since joining SAS this April I've enjoyed 7 trips led by Jack Hiehle, Wayne Blunk, Maureen Geiger and Mark Martucci.

Wayne at Mather's Park. The first trip's highlights: iridescent blue tree swallow, yellow-headed blackbirds. The second one: enthusiasm and eagle eye of the ten-year old boy who heard and spotted (sans binoculars), before us, many of the birds; and the lovely, pearl-gray, ash-throated flycatcher.

In Old Sac Maureen guided us under concrete to purple martins, bats; across the river a gorgeous blue heron taking flight.

With Mark at the American River, before we left the parking lot, we saw mergansers in flight and a downy woodpecker.

With Jack, at Paradise Beach for 4 hours, I saw several birds I'd never seen in 38 years living in River Park. A kildeer nesting among small, round rocks! What a beauty with 2 bold stripes.

On the Beaver Walk, on a cliff near a beaver lodge, besides muskrats, otter, mallards, hawks, egrets, and kayakers, we saw 5 beavers! The first beaver swam, sat, chewed, ate, preened, turned to show teeth, tail, and chubbiness for 30 minutes. Another beaver slapped its tail in the water. A black phoebe on a snag and flying straight up and straight down. As we left, the sun set and the moon rose. Quite lovely.

My third trip with Jack was a work party at Ancil Hoffman park to check and clean bird boxes. Jack does this every year at several sites. It's good hard work and fun to be Jack's assistant. I learned a lot about nesting. The biggest thrill—a spotted towhee, close-up.

I admire the leaders for their knowledge, sharing, and devotion to our wonderful birds!

*Thank you, Vicki Stoffer*

## Findings continued from page 2

Red-breasted Sapsucker, Fox Sparrow, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cassin's Finch, Townsend's Solitaire.

**Wright's Lake (7/7)** — Phyllis Wilburn, co-leader with Jack Hiehle, reported: "It was a great wildflower day and the birds were good also. We had a White-headed Woodpecker, a Williamson's Sapsucker and a quick view of a Pine Grosbeak. It was a nice day to be in the mountains in spite of the holiday weekend.

"The previous Saturday, June 30, I assisted Tim Fitzer on the Crystal Basin trip. We had a nice group of 12 eager birders and had a surprise at the Ice House Store Meadow (before you get to the store, where we usually stop). Here we saw a flock of Lawrence's Goldfinches. None of us had ever heard of them being seen in that area before. We also had several very cooperative Calliope Hummingbirds in the meadow. We hiked to the base of Ice House Reservoir dam, and found a dipper nest with two young. All in all, a great day with perfect weather."

**Goethe Park (7/1)** — "Hot weather cut this trip short," leader Mark Martucci said. "In two and a half hours we had 36 species. We had great looks at a Cooper's Hawk, Osprey, White-Tailed Kite and Downy Woodpecker."

**Evening Beaver Walk (7/3)** — Four beavers, two muskrats and four turtles were spotted by leader Jack Hiehle's group. Also, Ring-necked Pheasant, Great Blue Heron, Tree Swallows, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Phoebe and Belted Kingfisher.

**Evening Beaver Walk (6/29)** — Leader Jack Hiehle turned up five beavers, two muskrats and two turtles. Bird species included Ring-necked Pheasant, Tree Swallows, Red-shouldered Hawk, Snowy Egret and Green Heron.

**Martis Valley and Vicinity (6/24)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: "On a gorgeous day in the Sierra, highlights included three Willow Flycatchers at Martis Creek, several Green-tailed Towhees, close views of Vesper Sparrows and Mountain White-crowned Sparrows. At Martis Lake, we watched an Osprey catch a fish and fly right over us. On the way up to Martis Peak, we ran into a cooperative group of Red Crossbills. At the peak itself, a female Williamson's Sapsucker clung

to the wall of the outhouse. As always, we had wonderful views from the fire lookout. We also saw the first smoke of what turned into the Angora Fire across the lake in South Lake Tahoe."

**Goethe Park (6/24)** — Except for leader Cathie LaZier, no one showed up for this trip, but clearly we should have been there. Cathie took a short walk by herself and filed this report: "A House Wren was feeding noisy young in an oak tree cavity; young Bewick's Wrens and Ash-throated Flycatchers were chasing parents, begging to be fed; tiny young turkeys were following their mom, almost hidden by the high grass. The best sighting was two young kestrels, sitting on the branch outside their cottonwood cavity nest hole, calling continuously, flapping their wings, and occasionally taking short flights at the urging of their parents."

**Mather Field (6/17)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "A good morning that started with a number of turkeys in the field across from the entrance to the park. Early in the walk we heard a singing Bewick's Wren and saw it on the way out. Spotted an Ash-throated Flycatcher and heard a singing Black-headed Grosbeak. Too many Great-tailed Grackles to count but the good news was that Yellow-headed Blackbirds were spotted all around the lake, not just in the usual southeast section of the lake. The group got a good look at an overflying Swainson's Hawk, a Cliff Swallow sitting among many Northern Rough-wings and a fishing Kingfisher. A covey of young California Quail and a Green Heron rounded out the last of 28 species for the morning. Before the walk we were all treated to excellent looks at baby cotton tails in the parking lot."

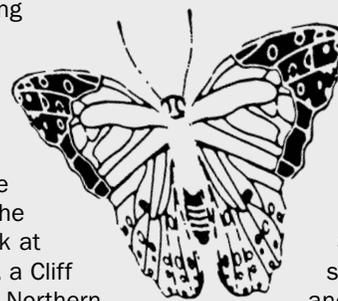
**Michigan Bar/Latrobe Road (6/16)** — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: "It was a great trip, with about 16 of us on a nice day. We had good looks at Lawrence's Goldfinches in particular; also Lark Sparrows, Western Bluebirds, Northern Harriers, a Great Horned Owl in a tree and lots of Cliff Swallows soaring around

us on the Michigan Bar Road."

**Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/Yuba Pass (6/9-10)** — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "The group logged 107 species between the Sierra Valley portion on Saturday and the Yuba Pass portion on Sunday. Certainly the trip birds would have to be the Broad-billed Hummingbird seen at Bassett's Station because it is rare in California and the Hooded Orioles seen near Loyalton, which are not all that common in the northern Sierra. Also notable were the seven species of woodpecker, including the treasured Lewis's Woodpecker, Williamson's Sapsucker, White-headed Woodpecker and Black-backed Woodpecker. We also had Olive-sided, Hammond's, Gray and Dusky Flycatcher, and Western Wood-Pewee. We had nice, long looks at American Bittern. Of course, it's always nice to actually see Mountain Quail, which we did. All in all, a great weekend."

**Dragonfly Trip (5/26)** — Leader Tim Manolis reported: "A nice group of seven folks joined me for the dragonfly walk along the American River Parkway (ARP) near Rio Americano High School. A series of marshy backwater lagoons in this stretch of the ARP are currently harboring a diverse and abundant group of dragonflies. Highlights were the Exclamation Damsel, a distinctive damselfly species endemic to California; Arroyo Bluet, a southwest species rather scarce and local this far north (this stretch of the ARP

is the only area in Sacramento County in which the species is known), and Pacific Clubtail. Lots of Common Whitetails, Widow Skimmers, Twelve-spotted Skimmers, and Black Saddlebags put on an aerial show over the lagoons. Flame Skimmers, Common Green Darners, Western Pondhawks, and Blue Dashers were among the other colorful species seen. 18 species of dragonflies and damselflies were seen on the walk.



## CALIFORNIA EBIRD UNITES BIRDERS, CITIZENS, AND SCIENTISTS FOR CONSERVATION

Audubon California, PRBO Conservation Science, and Cornell Lab of Ornithology have partnered to create California eBird, [www.ebird.org/California](http://www.ebird.org/California), a real-time online bird observation checklist program tailored for use by Californians. California eBird provides a quick and easy way for birders, citizens, and scientists to enter their bird observations into a common database accessible to those working to protect and restore habitats for birds.

The eBird program provides scientists with rich data sources for basic information on the number and distribution of birds across large geographic scales and throughout time. For citizens and birders, eBird provides on-line birding checklists to keep track of your observations at multiple sites, accessible at any time from your home computer. Bird sightings are safely stored in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's database.

California eBird takes the standard eBird site and brings the user information specific to California. With this site, we hope to encourage more birders, students, citizens, and scientists to contribute bird sightings through eBird. This will help us learn more about bird distribution and abundance throughout the state. If you are looking for a place to make bird observations, we encourage you to select one of the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in California, learn more about the site, keep track of your sightings, and enter your records (for a list of IBAs go to [www.ca.audubon.org/iba](http://www.ca.audubon.org/iba)). Or, you can choose your own favorite birding site or "hot spot" using the interactive Google maps provided. We have added California habitat types so that you can provide information on the kinds of habitats you are birding in. You can also select any IBA site and learn about the birds others have seen at the site, times of year, abundances, and more.

Visit the California eBird website ([www.ebird.org/California](http://www.ebird.org/California)) to read timely information on birds and birding news in California and try entering some bird data!

### Contact Information:

Andrea Jones, Audubon California: (805) 772-1991, [ajones@audubon.org](mailto:ajones@audubon.org)  
Melissa Pitkin, PRBO Conservation Science: (707) 781-2555 ext. 307,  
[mpitkin@prbo.org](mailto:mpitkin@prbo.org)

Additional Note: July 26, 2007-Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology are changing the way people report and find out about rare birds with the release of a new eBird Google Gadget. This addition to a user's Google search page provides instant information about local rare bird sightings reported to eBird. The gadget provides the name of the observer as well as a Google map showing where the rare bird was seen.

To find out more about the new eBird Google Gadget go to [http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/Google\\_Gadget.htm](http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/Google_Gadget.htm)

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Yoshino Hatanaka to the **General Fund**

Sonja Armour, Elizabeth Bower, Sue Bucholz, Brenda Bunnell, Winifred Detweiler, Norman Eade, Nancy Earl, Denise Gonzales, Betty Gutt, Ed Harper, Marie Heid, Laurie Isabell, Peggy Kennedy, Joan Lee, Leslie Marshall, Mary Beth Metcalf, Joyce Mihanovich, Carolyn Sandie, Judith Waggoner, to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Natalie Brooks-Myodi, Valerie Brown, Jane & Herb Cohen, Maxine Cornwell, Shirley Craine, Norman Eade, Nancy Earl, Mercedes Gay, Sara Gillespie, Denise Gonzales, Betty Gutt, Ed Harper, Marie Heid, John Huls, Angela Jackson, Margaret Jenkins, Peggy Kennedy, Barbara Klocek, Walter Larson, Joan Lee, Kevin McRae, Patricia Morehead, Sarah Powell, May Jean Ralph, John Ranlett, Carolyn Sandie, Barbara Smith, Beverly Spencer, Del and Alta Tura, Christie Vallance, Judith Waggoner, Salli Warriner to the **Bobelaine Fund**.

A donation to **Conservation and Education** was received from Louise McCullough, "In Memory of Willie Argante, a great lady."

A special Thanks to June Persson, who raised over \$1000 in donations for **Bobelaine** during her "Birdathon for Bobelaine."

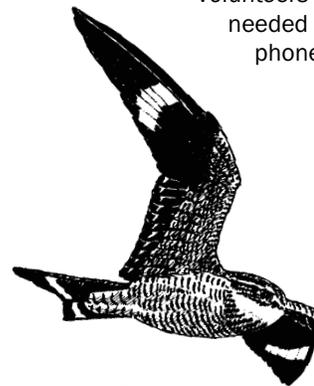
## FEED BABY BIRDS AND HELP CARE FOR WILDLIFE

Volunteers are needed to help feed and care for baby birds at Wildlife Care Association's baby bird nursery in Sacramento. No experience is necessary. We will train you though you must be at least 16 years old.

Please contact us at [wcavolunteers@yahoo.com](mailto:wcavolunteers@yahoo.com)

For more information on how you can help our local wildlife visit our website: [www.wildlifecareassociation.net](http://www.wildlifecareassociation.net)

Volunteers are also needed for the phone line!



Stephen D'Amato

### Observations

continued from page 12

**eyed Juncos** found at CRP's Orr Forest on 6/29, and an adult **Orange-crowned Warbler** with a stub-tailed juvenile on 6/30, also near the Orr Forest. **Dark-eyed Juncos** were first found breeding at CRP in 2000—the first confirmed for the Valley—and the above report is the best evidence to date for **Orange-crowned Warblers** breeding at CRP.

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit [www.cvbirds.org](http://www.cvbirds.org) and click "Listserv" for details. With over 250 reports, it is impossible to list everyone. However, I want to thank Steve Hampton for his summary of Yolo County birds, and the following for reports on the above species and for providing me with additional information:

Roger Adamson, Laura Davis, Dan Brown, Todd Easterla, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Dave Feliz, Maureen Geiger, Joan Humphrey, David Johnson, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Terry Ronneberg, Mary Schiedt, Doug Shaw, John Sterling, Fritz Steurer, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Sue Bucholz	Elizabeth Ditter
Brenda Bunnell	Mark Enes
Terry Campbell	Pam Flohr
Bruce Casler	Janine Gordon
Michael Chapman	Iona Luke
Jane and Herb Cohen	Iris Newton
Bobbe Christopherson	Andrew Phillips
	William Wingfield

### 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 September 25, 2007 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

### 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.



## 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

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

### SAS BOARD AND CHAIRPERSONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008

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Sheila Deaner, 278-7869, deaner@skymail.csus.edu

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**Newsletter Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, 399-1660, sawise7@sbcglobal.net

# Seasonal Observations

June 1 to July 31

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

In the Sacramento area, June and July are typically considered the doldrums. It is true that there are many uncomfortably hot days with fewer birds to look at than in spring, fall, or winter; however, every year a few interesting songbirds show up. Highlights this season included a singing **Yellow-throated Warbler** in north Davis from 6/6 to 6/9, a first year male **Summer Tanager** from the Fremont Weir on 6/12, a singing **Lark Bunting** south of Dixon from 6/16 to 6/19, a **Red-eyed Vireo** from Ancil Hoffman Park along the American River Parkway on 6/19, and a singing **Indigo Bunting** found at Cosumnes River Preserve on 7/7 and continuing into August. A singing **Hooded Warbler** was reported in Davis on 6/18, though it was not seen.

Many are surprised to learn that fall shore-bird migration begins in late June and builds to full strength in July. There were some wonderful finds this year. At the top of the list was a **Curlew Sandpiper** found at Yolo Wildlife Area (YWA) on 7/29 and seen by many through 7/31. An adult **Red Knot** was found at the Davis Wetlands (DW) on 7/16, a **Snowy Plover** was found at the newly reopened Woodland Sewage Ponds on 7/20, and one was reported the same day from the Davis Sewage Ponds. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was at YWA on 7/20. **Marbled Godwits** were regularly reported in Yolo with a high of 36 at DW on 7/13.

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An impressive 54 **Willetts** were reported at DW on 6/24.

Another highlight was a breeding condition **Franklin's Gull** found at DW on 7/1 and continuing into August. It was seen by

many at the wetlands and nearby flooded ag lands along Rd 25. By the end of the month it was molting out of breeding plumage. An adult **Least Tern** was found at DW on 7/7 and an adult **Common Tern** was at DW on 7/26 and 7/27.

An adult **Least Bittern** was seen feeding a juvenile at YWA on 7/8 for the first confirmed breeding in Yolo

County. Other notable reports included 30 **Redheads** at DW on 6/24, and the continuing **Common Nighthawks**, likely breeding, along Meiss Rd in eastern Sacramento County. Other rare local breeders included a family group of **Dark-**



Daniel Kilby

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

**Internet Address:** [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane

Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry@softcom.net](mailto:llandry@softcom.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,

Sacramento, CA 95826

(916) 362-5942,

e-mail preferred, NOTE new address: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

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

Copy deadline is the 15th of the month. Send all copy to the Editor. Observations must reach the Seasonal Observations Editor by the 8th of the month.

*The Observer* is published monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

*Observations* continued on page 10