

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society



VOLUME 68 • NO. 7

SEPTEMBER 2016

General Meeting

Thursday, September 15, 2016

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

A Visit to Borneo

Chris Conard

In October 2015, Chris spent three weeks traveling through the Malaysian state of Sabah on the northeastern portion of the Island of Borneo. This is the most biogeographically rich region of the world's third largest island (the island is 3.5 times the size of Great Britain), stretching from coastal estuaries, major rivers, virgin rain forest, and the 13,438-foot Mt. Kinabalu.

The program will consist of photos and short videos with highlights almost too numerous to mention. There is a wonderful array of birds, with 8 species of hornbill, endemic broadbills,

pheasants, trogons, and the Bornean Bristlehead, the sole member of its endemic family.

Then there are the mammals, including monkeys, gibbons, orangutans, wild cats, mouse-deer, and pygmy elephants. Borneo has the world's

most diverse assortment of gliding animals, from the bizarre colugo, several large gliding squirrels, to gliding snakes, frogs, and lizards. Add to this an amazing display of butterflies, moths, and other invertebrates, plus an amazing diversity of plants, habitats and human environments.

Chris Conard is a Natural Resource Specialist at the Bufferlands of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He regularly leads field trips for Sacramento Audubon, serves as the Sacramento County editor for North American Birds and eBird, and is the current president of the Central Valley Bird Club.

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Whiskered Treeswift
Chris Conard

BOBELAINE ACCESS NOW OPEN UNTIL MAY 2017

The Sacramento Audubon Society maintains the Bobelaine Sanctuary, a 450 acre remnant of riparian habitat. The major levee repairs at Bobelaine have been delayed. Construction to repair the levees will begin on May 1, 2017, concluding October 30, 2017. Bobelaine will remain open for field trips, birding and maintenance until then. If you have any questions please contact Larry Hickey at larryhickey1@gmail.com. Bobelaine continues to need your help and support. Donations can be made through our website at www.sacramentoaudubon.org/payments.html

EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER NATUREFEST SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2016

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

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

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

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip

SATURDAY, October 1, 2016, 7:30am

Note: This is a one day trip

Mark Cudney will lead this year's pelagic trip to Monterey Bay, one of Sacramento Audubon's most interesting birding trips.

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 for birding. Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Several species of shearwaters are usually seen, not to mention the possibility of close-ups of a variety of marine mammals.

Boat space is limited to 20 participants. The price is \$130 per person, still a bargain!

Monterey Pelagic Trip registration continued on page 7

Field Trip Findings

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

Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area (8/14) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “It was a great day of birding for just five of us. We had thousands of shorebirds overall, with the highlight and bird of the day being Baird’s Sandpiper, with one found at American Canyon Wetlands and then two more seen at the Huichica Creek Unit of the Napa/Sonoma Wetlands area. Another good find was an unexpected Red-breasted Merganser, first spotted by Karen Cadle at American Canyon. We also had Virginia Rail and Sora out in the open at American Canyon. Everyone had a good time, with some humorous and adventurous moments thrown in to make things interesting.”

Mather Lake (8/10) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Ten birders reported 38-plus species today. Mute Swans apparently did well again this year as nine were spotted. Also sighted were a Northern Harrier, a Black-chinned Hummingbird, a Belted Kingfisher, Violet-green Swallow, a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Eurasian Collared-Dove. Excellent turnout for a mid-week outing.”

Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley (8/7) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Although the focus was supposed to be on shorebirds, I decided that we would start the day at Putah Creek Reserve

west of Davis. Local shorebird habitat was somewhat less than prime, and I thought this would “flesh out the day”. It turned out to be a good decision, giving us some of the best of both worlds, i.e. shorebirds and passerines. Among the passerines at Putah Creek, we saw four species of warbler: Orange-crowned, Yellow, Black-throated Gray and Wilson’s, several Western Tanagers and lots of Lazuli Buntings. We also had two possible rarities: Blackpoll Warbler and Indigo Bunting, though these were not seen well enough to confirm. We tallied 12 species of shorebirds at Davis Wetlands and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area. Highlights included Lesser Yellowlegs and Semipalmated Sandpiper. Yolo Bypass afforded good opportunities to compare “peeps” and two species of Phalarope: Wilson’s and Red-necked. We had 14 participants, and tallied about 86 species for the day.”

Common Nighthawks at sunset (8/6) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “Eleven of us enjoyed great weather for this afternoon field trip to the Yuba Gap area (Placer and Nevada counties). We tallied 27 species of birds, with the highlights being 25-plus Common Nighthawks, 12 Mountain Quail (a family group), 2 Pileated Woodpeckers, three White-headed Woodpeckers and one Sharp-shinned Hawk that was flagged as “rare” on eBird. We also were able to identify five species of dragonflies. And thanks to Craig DeMartini, we enjoyed spotting several planets after sunset! A successful outing! And also thank you to Linda Brown for providing access to the Snowflower Campground areas!”

Riverbend Park (8/3) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported: “Ten birders joined me for a warm walk through the oak woodland. The most common species was Pipe Vine Swallowtail Butterfly, closely followed by Lesser Goldfinches. It was a quiet morning and many more birds were heard than seen. Visiting birder Vicki spotted a Great Horned Owl for us. Vinegar Weed and Nude Buckwheat were in bloom.”

Bats and Swainson’s Hawks (7/31) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “Fourteen of us had cool weather for a great presentation by JoEllen Arnold preceding a spectacular display of Mexican Free-tailed Bats and Swainson’s Hawks! The hawks (5 or 6) were very successful in grabbing

the bats but with an estimated 80,000, the bats are still thriving!”

Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway (7/30) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “We had a cool start Saturday morning. Eleven people were happy to be out before the weather became too hot. In the parking lot area the Elderberries were ripe. Birds were flitting about, eating the berries. While we were watching the area a Western Tanager and a Bullock’s Oriole appeared. Everyone was elated. Farther down the river a juvenile Red-tailed Hawk perched in a tree was begging for food. However, no parent was about. We managed to find a total of 33 species.”

Ellis Road/Power Fire Area (7/27) — Ann Burris, co-leader with Tim Fitzer, reported: “We couldn’t believe that only one person wanted to leave the heat of the valley to enjoy birding in the beautiful Sierra, but that’s exactly what happened; one person showed up to join us on our mid-week trip. It was warm at 6,000 feet. but not hot, and while we didn’t have the nesting activity we had four weeks ago, we still tallied 19 species for the day. We also decided to explore a couple of new areas, Tragedy Spring and the south shore of Silver Lake, where we enjoyed our lunch. Lots of fun and in our book a great alternative to staying in the valley.”

Farallon Islands (7/24) — Leader Linda Pittman reported: “The trip was canceled due to bad weather on the ocean.”

Carson Pass and Lake Winnemucca (7/23) — Scott Hoppe, co-leader with Gary Fregien, reported “Sixteen birders hit the trail—split into two groups to comply with Wilderness area rules on group size. Again this year the birds seemed to occur in pockets. Where we found them, there was a good variety. The first sightings included Band-tailed Pigeon, Cassin’s Finch, Dusky Flycatcher, Pine Grosbeaks, Steller’s Jay, singing Hermit Thrush and Townsend’s Solitaire. That was followed by one of the better sightings of the day, when a Sooty Grouse crossed the trail fairly close, then took refuge in a nearby pine tree. Later we had both male and female Williamson’s Sapsucker, though they were seen separately. A brushy slope produced Green-tailed Towhee and Brewer’s Sparrow. By now we were within earshot and then sight of Clark’s

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Field Trips



Pacific Golden Plover
Daniel Kilby

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through September 24th, contact the scheduler Scott Hoppe, shoppe01@surewest.net, 835-8471. For trips from September 25th through October contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 457-6882.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/ carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

Saturday, September 3, 7am **North Bay Hotspots** **Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471** **shoppe01@surewest.net**

The vast area to the north of San Francisco Bay, known as the "North Bay", has many great birding locations, especially during fall migration. Join Scott as he explores some of these hotspots. Possible stops include American Canyon Wetlands, the wetlands along Highway 37, Schollenberger Park and maybe a coastal location, time permitting. This will be a full day of birding, so bring lunch and liquids. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, September 4, 8am **Sacramento Bar** **American River Parkway** **Leader: Paul Cordero** **pkcordero@gmail.com**

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early migrants. Paul will focus on finding and identifying birds by ear. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd.; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Wednesday, September 7, 8:30am **Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area** **Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652** **mkgieger@comcast.net**

Join Maureen for a morning of birding in this wonderful area close to Sacramento. We will look for raptors, shorebirds and other

fall migrants. From Sacramento take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. Bring your morning liquids and snacks. Also, if you have them, bring your spotting scope and FRS radio. This trip, which will end before noon, is a good one for beginners

Saturday, September 10, 7:30am **Mather Lake** **Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457** **Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake and the surrounding grasslands host a variety of birds and it's one of Wayne's favorite birding spots. Join him to explore the area on this morning trip. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Bring water and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Zinfandel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, September 11, 7am-noon **SRWTP Bufferlands** **Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610** **conardc@gmail.com**

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time of year to look for migrating songbirds. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. From I-5 south of Sacramento, exit at the new Cosumnes River Blvd exit (between the Meadowview/Pocket Road

and Laguna Blvd. exits). Go west toward Freeport Blvd and then turn left (south) toward the town of Freeport. We'll meet in the large gravel lot on the right side of Freeport Blvd at the north edge of the town. This is a new meeting location made necessary by major development north of the Bufferlands.

Wednesday, September 14, 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 2 mile hike and will end before lunch. Bring water and appropriate footwear. Meet in 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.

Saturday, September 17, 7am **Fall Migration "Wild Card"** **Leaders Scott Hoppe** **Scott, 835-8471** **shoppe01@surewest.net**

Join Scott in pursuit of fall migrants. But this trip has a twist: the destinations will be a mystery until the day of the trip. Scott will be watching posts and checking conditions. Depending on where the birding has been best recently, the agenda will likely include coastal or Bay Area locations. So be prepared for an adventurous day in the field. Bring lunch, liquids, dress for possible cooler coastal weather and be prepared for easy to moderate hiking. Meet at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Field Trips continued on page 4

Field Trips continued from page 3

**Saturday, September 17, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk**

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists from the nature center and birders from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

**Sunday, September 18, 8am
Buck's Creek Trail/Serrano Parkway,
El Dorado Hills
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Typically, trips to this great area are in the winter and spring. This time, join Maureen for a leisurely fall walk through this riparian habitat looking for resident woodpeckers, nuthatches, towhees, wrens, marsh birds and bluebirds, as well as possible migrating or early wintering birds such as warblers and sparrows. In this varied habitat, there is always the possibility of unusual finds. Meet at the southeast corner of the intersection of Silva Valley Parkway and Serrano Parkway. To reach this spot, exit Hwy 50 at El Dorado Hills Boulevard and turn right. Pass the large Raley's shopping complex and turn right onto Serrano Parkway, then right again at the bottom of the hill onto Silva Valley Parkway and park.

**Wednesday, September 21, 7:30am
Sailor Bar, Olive Avenue entrance
Leader: Larry Hickey, 415-305-0651
larryhickey1@gmail.com**

Join Larry at the Olive Ave entrance to Sailor Bar. This is a good area to see Phainopepla and a variety of woodpeckers and resident birds. We will walk for about 3 miles along the base of the bluffs to the fish pond, then back on trails along the American River. From Winding Way, (between Fair Oaks and Chicago), go south on Toyon Ave; continue left on Natoma Ave, and at 0.4 mile turn left on Olive Avenue, down a hill and into the parking lot. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, September 24, 7am
Point Reyes for Vagrants
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com**

Join Chris for this annual trip to the coast for fall migrants. With migration in full swing, who knows what might appear. The geography of the Point Reyes peninsula makes it a magnet for warblers and shorebirds. Bring lunch and liquids and be prepared for a full day of birding. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave. Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Sunday, September 25, 7am
Ancil Hoffman Park Fall Migration
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will be looking for fall migrants, as well as returning wintering birds, and maybe something unexpected may turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. Meet Mark at the main parking lot across from the golf course. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it to the golf course area parking lot.

**Monday, September 26, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leader: Bob McCleary, 960-3390
bohmccleary@comcast.net**

Bob is a docent at the Nature Center and knows the trails, and where to find the birds. On this morning walk he'll be looking for both resident and wintering birds. Meet him in the Nature Center parking lot in Ancil Hoffman Park. This is a good trip for beginners as well as more experienced birders. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, October 1, 7am
Putah Creek Preserve
Leader: Ben Graber, 844-8682
Bgraber984@gmail.com**

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

**Sunday, October 2, 8am
Bobelaine Sanctuary**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

Bobelaine is a 430-acre National Audubon Sanctuary on the Feather River, managed by Sacramento Audubon. This riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores and willows is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Join Maureen for a 1-2 mile walk along the trails looking for resident, fall migrating and returning wintering birds. Herons, egrets, cormorants and grebes may be on the water, and a variety of sparrows and other passerines settling in for the fall and winter. Meet Maureen at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. If you wish to meet at Bobelaine, take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City and about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot. The group will probably arrive there about 8:30.

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

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

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

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations at all seasons of the year, and he always turns up quite a list of bird species. Possibilities include Yellow-headed Blackbird, Common Yellowthroat, American Bittern, Green Heron, and Pied-

billed Grebe. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Sunday, October 9, 9am

Family Friendly Trip

William Pond Park

Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

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

Wednesday, October 12, 7am SHARP

Calaveras Big Trees State Park

Leader: Bill Bianco, 889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

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

Saturday, October 15, 7am

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and American Canyon

Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of wine country birding. We'll start at Bothe-Napa Valley State Park (\$8 day use fee per car), where Northern Pygmy-Owl, Pileated Woodpecker and Pacific Wren as well as late migrant thrushes, vireos and warblers will be among our top targets. After our picnic lunch, we'll travel down Highway 29 to American Canyon and Wetlands Edge Park where we'll scope the tidal flats for shorebirds. Finally, on our way home we'll stop at Lynch Canyon Open Space where we'll hope to spot Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, and Ferruginous and/or Rough-legged Hawks. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for a moderate morning hike in the hills, and an easy afternoon walk on the flats. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Saturday, October 15, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

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

Sunday, October 16, 8am

Humbug Creek, Folsom

Leader: Mara Weston, 208-3222
Mara_weston@yahoo.com

Meet Mara at the Cummings Family Park on the corner of Creekside Drive and Oak Avenue Parkway in Folsom. You'll follow Humbug Creek around an easy 2-3 mile paved loop. This is a good place to look for a variety of woodpeckers, ducks, Common Gallinule and returning wintering sparrows and kinglets. Sometimes River Otters are seen in the creek. This is a great trip for beginning birders. Trip will end by 11am.

Tuesday, October 18, 8am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leaders: Tim Fitzer 870-5207,
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris 947-7573,
burris.nellieann@gmail.com

This great area is only 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the

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

General Meeting

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Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon.

Sally Walters Schmoldt, Program Chair

TOURS OF THE BUFFERLANDS

Twilight on the Bufferlands

Wednesday, September 21

5:30 pm to until dark (7:30-8 pm)

Don't miss this opportunity to explore some great Central Valley habitats at dusk. We might see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more. A wide variety of songbirds, raptors and water birds will be active during the first hour of the tour.

Be prepared for 2-3 miles of walking on mostly level ground and bring binoculars if you have them. Mosquitoes are possible, but have not been too problematic lately. Bring water, a snack if you like, and good walking shoes or hiking boots.

This will be the last twilight tour of the season. Let me know if you have any questions and if you'd like to attend at: conardc@sacsewer.com. Directions and other details will be sent upon confirmation.

Chris Conard

Findings continued from page 2

Nutcrackers. We had an accipiter in flight, and it turned out to be a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Our usual stop at Frog Lake was a bit slow. Normally there are both Cliff and Violet-green swallows here in good numbers, but this year only a couple of birds, perhaps because we were here about a week later than last year. Pushing on toward Lake Winnemucca, we had a nice walk through fields of spectacular wildflowers; too many species to count. Here we picked up Anna's and Rufous hummingbirds, and White-crowned Sparrows. While having lunch at the lake, for the first time in several years due to the drought, we saw that there were some nice, remnant snowfields above us this year. That spurred an expedition above 9,000 feet where we were rewarded with small flocks of Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, the highlight of the trip. The group tally this year was 35 species; about average, but no one was complaining."

Calaveras Big Trees, South Grove (7/20) — Leader Bill Bianco reported: "Eight of us met with a cool morning and finished with a warm afternoon. Birded in beautiful mid-elevation old growth forest. However, birds were minimal with 14 species spotted: Pacific Wren, Brown Creepers, Black Phoebe, Sharp-shinned Hawk, to name a few. Not seeing woodpeckers was a little disappointing, but overall a very enjoyable trip."

Wright's Lake (7/13) — Ann Burris, co-leader with Tim Fitzer, reported: "Clear skies and cool temperatures greeted eight enthusiastic birders Wednesday morning on our trip to Wright's Lake. We had 27 species for the day, including Williamson's Sapsucker, Pine Grosbeak, Spotted Sandpiper and Townsend's Solitaire. The complete list is on eBird. After lunch we traveled back towards Icehouse Reservoir and, finding it very quiet there, traveled on to the store where we saw the nesting Barn Swallows and enjoyed an ice cream before heading back to the heat of the valley. All agreed it was a very enjoyable day. Thanks to Dan Murphy and Tim Fitzer for sharing their photos."

Loney Meadow (7/10) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "It was an awesome day for 17 birders in this beautiful mountain meadow area. At times, there was so much bird activity that it was hard to know where to look first. Among the highlights were five species of woodpecker, including three Pileated Woodpeckers at the top of a snag together, seven species

of warbler, adult Western Tanagers feeding a fledgling and a Warbling Vireo sitting on a nest. There were many recently fledged birds of several species practically everywhere we went. Everyone had a great time, and some said it was the best field trip ever."

Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley (7/9) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: "Wind (or Maria as they call it here in the West)! That was the word of the day, both at Yuba Pass where our field trip began, and also in Sierra Valley for the afternoon portion. Estimated at 30 mph, sustained with occasional gusts much stronger, the wind didn't deter our group of seven from experiencing a very enjoyable day at these beautiful Sierra and Plumas counties locations. A highlight of the strong winds was two species that normally forage high in the upper story of trees, were forced down allowing the group extreme close-up views and photo opportunities. Both Hermit Warbler and Golden-crowned Kinglets were well seen, when a neck-breaking view of the undersides are usually the best looks one gets at these species. Fledglings of various species were prevalent with lots of feeding activity observed. In the valley, hatch-year American Coots, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and Cliff and Barn swallows were observed in good numbers. We also enjoyed several Sage Thrashers, albeit brief looks due to the very strong wind. Attributed to the strong winds, our species count (38) for the day was low, but very enjoyable."

Estates Drive, American River Access (7/6) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: "We enjoyed a cool morning walk, with 15 very observant participants. First, we were greeted by a young coyote trotting up the bike trail while being harassed by a Northern Mockingbird. The temperature stayed cool as we wandered through the old growth Valley Oaks, and searched the river in vain for the otters I had seen on my scouting walk the day before. Participants shared their knowledge of the use of herbs and other outdoor lore. We tallied 36 avian species, and numerous species of flora."

Bushy Lake, Cal Expo Floodplain (7/2) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: "7am, I hope a few people show up for the outing. Eleven people ventured out early. We had to make a change in plans. A recent fire in the Bushy Lake area prevented reasonable access to the area. Instead, we ventured up the American River along and near the bike path up to the golf course.

There were plenty of birds, including all of the local woodpeckers. We also had Cooper's Hawk fly over the parking lot. At this time of the year we should have seen large flocks of Lesser Goldfinches. However, the recent fire burned off the Star Thistle in the meadow. Consequently, there were not many to be seen in the area. Our total bird count was 35 species. Not bad for a last minute change."

William Pond Park (6/29) — Leader Larry Hickey reported: "Eleven of us enjoyed an early morning walk through the William Pond section of the American River Parkway. We were immediately rewarded by a large flock of Yellow-billed Magpies, several young and adult Western Bluebirds, a juvenile Nuttall's Woodpecker with parents, nesting Western Kingbirds, and a family of House Wrens. This beautiful habitat of open grass, oak and willow trees, pond and river is a unique part of the American River Parkway that we often take for granted and need to protect. Gibbe Parsons led us to a little-used path along the river where we were able to closely observe two demanding, young Great Blue Herons, still on their nest, being fed by a parent. House Finches ranging in color from red to yellow gave us great looks, three Red-shouldered Hawks, probably related, were flying and calling, and Northern Mockingbirds were heard the entire time. It was a lovely summer morning in Sacramento."

Ellis Road/Power Fire Area (6/26) — Ann Burris reported: "It was an early start to a hot day in the valley as eight birders joined leaders Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci to travel to the cooler temperatures of the Sierra. It was an enjoyable day with 32 species recorded including 25 Golden-crowned Kinglets. They seemed to have had a good nesting season."

South Lake Tahoe (6/21-23) — Leader Sally Walters Schmoltd reported the trip was canceled.

Mather Lake (6/19) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: "Nine or so souls dodged the fishing fathers on Father's Day morning to identify 43 species of birds. It was a good number for a summer outing. Barn, Northern Rough-winged, and Tree swallows were noted. Red-tailed and Swainson's hawks, and White-tailed Kites were sighted. Yellow-headed Blackbirds were still present, though in small numbers (3). Seemed to be two families of Downy Woodpeckers, lots of Western Kingbirds and Robins. Two Mute Swans

Birding Festival

12TH ANNUAL MONTEREY BAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

The 12th annual Monterey Bay Birding Festival will take place from **September 23-25**. The Monterey Bay area is home to one of the most spectacular birding and wildlife venues in North America. From soaring golden eagles, effortlessly gliding California condors, cheeky bushtits, gorgeous Townsend's warblers, scampering snowy plovers, to thousands of sooty shearwaters streaming along the ocean's surface, few places can match the diversity of species as the Monterey Bay region.

September marks the peak of fall migration, with wintering shorebirds arriving en masse. Warblers and other passerines are doing the same, and the first appearances of wintering ducks and other waterfowl is sometimes seen in September. Meanwhile, just a few miles offshore, jaegers, shearwaters, and alcid are present in good numbers. There's no better time to visit the Monterey Bay area to see the greatest number of species or to find a rarity.

Visit the website montereybaybirding.org, for this year's lineup, trips and registration information

CENTRAL VALLEY BIRD SYMPOSIUM

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 20th Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium **November 17-20, 2016** at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton.

Their field trips always turn up exciting birds. Other events include the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful display of art and gifts for yourself or others at the Birder's Market and the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks! There's something for everyone interested in birds.

To look over the line-up of speakers, workshops, and field trips check out their website at: www.cvbsreg.org. Registration is now open and it's recommended that you sign up early for the popular field trips.

were spotted, each by themselves and far apart. Bullock's Oriole popped out on the south leg of the lake."

Riverbend Park (6/18) — Leader Dan Brown reported: "Fifteen participants enjoyed the unseasonably cool weather this morning for a three-hour walk. We tallied 35 bird species with good looks at Ash-throated Flycatcher, Spotted Sandpiper, a Great Egret in the woods and a nice Black-tailed Deer Buck!"

Granite Springs Road and Crystal Basin (6/8) — Ann Burris, co-leader with Tim Fitzer and Mark Martucci, reported: "Nine birders, including Sally visiting from the United Kingdom, joined us for a day of birding Granite Springs Road, Ice House Reservoir and Big Hill in the Crystal Basin. Highlights were watching a Green-tailed Towhee, and Brown Creeper bring nesting materials to a nesting site and a White-headed Woodpecker bringing food to a nesting site. Other highlights were; MacGillivray's, Nashville, and Black-throated Gray warblers, Hairy, Lewis's and White-headed woodpeckers, Western Wood-Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatchers, Mountain Bluebirds and Golden-crowned Kinglets. We also had some nice looks at a Bald Eagle over Ice House Reservoir, one of only two raptors seen. All agreed it was a very enjoyable day."

Pete Hayes

Monterey Pelagic Trip continued from page 1

Cancellation policy: In order to receive a refund you must cancel 2 weeks before the trip. Contact Mark Cudney, email: mcudney@aol.com, phone: 987-2422 with any questions.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Saturday, October 1, 2016, 7:30am Trip price: \$130 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address (with zip) _____

Email (for confirmation) _____

Number of people _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:

Mark Cudney, 102 Feather Falls Circle, Folsom, CA 95630

Phone: (916) 987-2422

Email: mcudney@aol.com



SAS OUTREACH HELP WANTED!

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

Your help would be appreciated at one of the following events:

NatureFest @ EYNC, October 9 Besides our regular table, we will have a kids section also.

Lodi Crane Festival, November 5-6

Swan Festival, Yuba City,
November 12-13

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

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. After the summer recess the next meeting will be on September 27, 2016 at 7pm. Board meetings are held at the Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room, 601 Munroe St, Sacramento, 95825.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Theodore and Leona Boynton, Dan Brown and Kathy Moore, Alta and Del Tura, Georganna Griffin, Christine Hansen, Paul Hardwick, Peggy Jenkins, Ann M Kohl, Robin Kulakow, Jeffrey and Bunkie Mangum, and M Kevin McRae made donations to the **General Fund**.

Alice Bauman, Craig De Martini, Terry Dozier, Robert L Garcia, Mercedes R Gay, Maureen K Geiger, Frank Goss, Bruce and Peggy Kennedy, Thomas Manning, Ruth Younger and Linda Melching, Mary Beth Metcalf, Joyce A Mihanovich, Lori Miyasato, Mary Jean Ralph, June A Ritzman, and Robin B Thompson mad donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Lyla Burnor, Denise Gonzales, Susan Scott and Ed Harper, Marie Heid and Michael T Savino amd contributions to both funds.

Wayne and Joan Gannaway made a donation in memory of Bob Akin.

Sacramento Region Community Foundation disbursed monies earned on the Big Day of Giving.

There was an American Endowment Foundation donation on behalf of Stephen Wetzel.

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

WESTERN FIELD ORNITHOLOGISTS CONFERENCE

The 41st annual conference of Western Field Ornithologists will be in Humboldt county, **September 28-October 2**, at River Lodge Conference Center in Fortuna.

Each year WFO holds a multi-day conference with scientific papers, field trips, workshops, panels, a keynote address, the annual membership meeting, and other events. This year's workshops include fall warbler ID, 'The Lives of Western Woodpeckers', 'Bird Specimen Preparation', bird sounds ID, and 'Illustrating Birds'.

Registration is already open and some field trips may be full. Further information and registration can be found at www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php.

Seasonal Observations

June 1 to July 31

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

With the heat of summer, June and July can be two of the most uncomfortable months to be in the field; nevertheless, excellent finds are made during this period each year. On 6/2, a **Blue-winged Teal** pair was seen with nine young along the auto loop at Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA). A **Least Bittern** was photographed at Mather Lake on 6/26, where this species is found just about every summer; it was reported again on 7/3. A **Least Bittern** was also seen along the YBWA auto tour on 7/10, with continued reports throughout the month, and another was at the Bridgeway Island pond on 7/21. A small **Green Heron** nesting colony was found in planted live oaks along La Riviera Dr near the Howe access to the American River Parkway. While nests are found regu-

larly in the area, most have been single nests rather than colonies.

Songbird migration doesn't pick up until right at the end of the period, but "fall" shorebird migration is well underway by the last week of June. The shorebird report of the season was a **Stilt Sandpiper** seen by many at the Anatolia Vernal Pool Reserve on 7/22. This is a great find anywhere in the Valley, but this is one of few Sacramento County records. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was a nice find at YBWA on 7/10 and a **Snowy Plover** was found at YBWA on 7/21. Two **Willetts** were seen at the Davis WTP on 7/17, and a single was at the Sacramento Regional WTP (SRWTP) on 7/15. **Marbled Godwit** reports from the period include one on 6/4 at YBWA, a high of 24 at the same location on 7/16, as well as multiple reports from the Davis Wetlands. Single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were found at SRWTP on 7/6-7 and 7/28-

29. There were several reports of single **Semipalmated Sandpipers** in July from YBWA and the Davis Wetlands. On 7/11,

a **Baird's Sandpiper** was found at YBWA, with another reported from the same location on 7/31. The pair of **Least Terns** found nesting at SRWTP continued through July, and fledged two young.

A couple of locally rare kingbirds were good finds for Sacramento County. On 6/5, an **Eastern Kingbird** was found along Payen Rd on both sides of the Sacramento/El Dorado County line, and was seen by many who searched for it through 6/10. A **Cassin's Kingbird** found on 7/9 along the River Walk at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) was one of a very few ever reported for the county. Unfortunately, that bird did not stick around. The first solid report of a **Gray Catbird** (with a date and location!) for the county came from the Tall Forest area of

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these
new members:

Eric Ross,
Robin Kulakow
Eileen Heinrich
Karol McCurley
Paul Hardwick

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

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

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

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP + 4 _____

Email _____

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

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon



Observations continued

CRP on 6/14. A **Red-breasted Nuthatch** on 7/31 at Slide Hill Park in Davis was a nice find for the season.

Another great songbird report was of a **Worm-eating Warbler** singing and briefly seen on 6/4 from an area of excellent habitat west of Latrobe Rd, south of Hwy 50, in El Dorado County. The site is publicly accessible along a portion of the closed railroad track paralleling Deer Creek and continuing to Payen Rd (the El Dorado Trail). **Yellow-breasted Chats** were among the interesting birds found by those looking for the **Worm-eating Warbler**. A singing **Ovenbird** was reported along Goethe Rd in Rancho Cordova on 6/15 and an **American Redstart** was found in a backyard near Madera Park off Sunrise Ave on 6/3. Six **Yellow Warblers** singing at the Cache Creek Settling Basin on 6/20 is an encouraging sign of local breeding. On 6/18, at least 14 **Savannah Sparrows** were singing along the YBWA where this

species has previously been documented nesting. This site appears to be near the limit of inland expansion from the SF Bay region, where they are regular nesters. A streaky juvenile **Dark-eyed Junco** was found on 6/13 along Babel Slough and another was found at Reichmuth Park on 6/16, indicating local nesting. A few pairs are detected each summer at CRP, but they are exceedingly rare nesters elsewhere in the Central Valley. The singing male **Summer Tanager** from the Orr Forest at CRP continued on 6/25, but was not found on a subsequent visit in July. On 6/7, there was an intriguing report of an **Evening Grosbeak** along Desmond Rd at CRP.

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

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy

12 to the south, and the 1000' contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserve (cvbirds.org) and in eBird. It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Keith Bailey, Terry Colborn, Farley Cross, Lily Douglas, Todd Easterla, Bob Ellis, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Frank Fogarty, Ted Gilliland, Kevin Guse, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Rosa Jimenez, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Mark Martucci, Frances Oliver, Michael Perrone, Jim Rowth, Sonia Santa Anna, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, Shannon Skalos, Lindsey Smith, John Sterling, Kirk Swenson, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

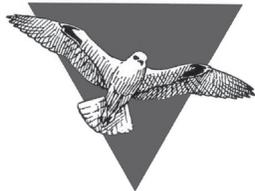
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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

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

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

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, sawise7@sbcglobal.net

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

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

ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAMS

September 15, 2016

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Chris Conard: *A Visit to Borneo*



Bornean Pygmy
Elephant
Chris Conard

February 15, 2017

Steph Clymer:

Historical Records into e-Bird