



The *OBSERVER*

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 15

Shepard Garden and Art Center

6:30pm Potluck Dinner

7:30pm General Meeting

From Birds to Butterflies

Hands-on conservation in Monterey County

Join Jessica Griffiths of Ventana Wilderness Society's Big Sur Ornithology Labs (BSOL) for the evening's presentation describing BSOL's bird monitoring throughout Monterey County - from Big Sur to the Carmel River to the Salinas Valley. Also included in the evening's discussion will be the lab's monitoring of Monarch Butterflies at their wintering sites in Monterey County. BSOL has been studying this beautiful species for the last 5 years, the results of which will be shared with us.

Originally from Chicago, with several years experience as a field ornithologist, Jessica has studied birds in seven states from coast to coast, including New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Mississippi. She has worked with Big Sur Ornithology Labs for the past two and a half years and is currently the Assistant Coordinator.

The evening begins at 6:30 with a picnic/potluck in McKinley Park - across the street from the Garden and Arts Center - so please bring your favorite dish to share. Board members will provide desserts and refreshments.

Friends and family are always welcome and invited to attend the general meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in McKinley Park. Visit our website at www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information and updates.

Note: Trusting everyone has had a fun and fulfilling summer. It's time, once again, to begin another exciting year of interesting and informative speakers. Being the Program Chair for Audubon, I seek new and interesting people to come present to you their passions. And it's not always on birds. So, if you know of someone who would enjoy speaking to our group, drop me an email and I'll follow up on the suggestion. Your comments are important and I value your feedback. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas. riggs.sally@comcast.net

Sally Riggs, Program Chair

Bobelaine News

Demise of an Old Friend

Those of you who have been with Sacramento Audubon since acceptance of the Bobelaine Sanctuary property from Bob and Elaine Crandall in 1975, will have fond memories of the large mature Black Walnut tree that graced our picnic area. It was said to be the "mother tree" for many of the walnut orchards that were and are in the area. Old age and mistletoe have been ravaging the tree for many years, requiring a professional pruning about five or six years ago. This spring the tree was again examined by management and an arborist who concluded that it was totally infested with mistletoe all the way down the main trunk and all of the top of the tree was dead. Ninety percent or more of the green leaves on the tree were actually mistletoe. The decision was made for the safety of the public using the picnic area to remove the tree. It was cut down in July and the wood sold to a hardwood dealer to help defray the cost. The three oaks that lived around the old walnut tree and fought for sunlight will now have a good chance to fill in and provide shade for picnickers.

Bobelaine Management



Remembering

Recently Sacramento Audubon Society member Vicki Boffin passed away due to an illness. Many of you have birded with her and know what a sweet, special person she was and how much she loved to bird. Though she only began birding a few years ago, we were all struck by her enthusiasm for birding and thought she would probably become an active force in Audubon. Indeed within only 2 years she became a co-leader on frequent trips.

Board member Tim Fitzer came up with a simple idea that would be a nice way to honor her memory. Those of you who wish to can send a donation to Cathie LaZier at 5427 13th Avenue, Sac 95820. These funds will be donated to Sacramento Audubon in Vicki's name.

Maureen Geiger will also send a copy of this Observer to her parents who knew her love of birding was great enough that they mentioned Audubon in her obituary. (The exact quote was "...an avid birder with the Audubon Society of Northern California"). Vicki will be missed and our condolences go out to her parents.

Field Trip Findings

Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley (8/13) Abundant Cassin's Finches dominated Yuba Pass, Chris Conard reported. Also present were a few Evening Grosbeaks, several species of warblers and Williamson's and Red-breasted Sapsuckers. A Golden Eagle soaring above the forest was a highlight. Sierra Valley had the usual mix of sparrows and Sage Thrashers, along with close-up views of a wide array of waterbirds and their young. Bank Swallows were among four swallow species.

Upper Sunrise, American River Parkway (8/7) - Hot weather kept the trip short and the bird count low, leader Mark Martucci reported. Highlights were four Green Herons, a male Black-chinned Hummingbird, and a Greater Yellowlegs.

Alpine County (8/6) - A male Williamson's Sapsucker stayed in view for the group for 10 minutes, Chris Conard reported. Other high points on this trip led by Alpine County birder Bill Hart included Bald and Golden Eagles, Pinyon Jays, Band-tailed Pigeons, and Pygmy Nuthatches feeding their nestlings.

Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (8/5) - Leader Jack Hiehle's group saw five Beaver and a Spotted Sandpiper, Green Heron, Spotted Towhee and Bushits, but rattlesnakes were the headliners of this trip. First, a girl aged about 10 in the group called out, "There's a snake down by the river." and, sure enough, a rattler with seven segments of rattle on its tail was mov-

ing along the bank from left to right, about three feet from the water. It moved into a Star Thistle, then reversed course and headed upstream and disappeared. A little later the group noticed another rattler higher up on the bank below the bike trail with just a foot or so of its body sticking out from under a bush, its tongue flicking in and out. It was about 3 1/2 feet long and Jack counted 10 segments on its rattle. He speculated that its lack of movement was the result of a broken rib, giving birth, being in the process of shedding its skin or it might have been digesting prey. "It wasn't bothered by us at all," he said.

Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area (7/31) - High temperatures meant virtually no water and many fewer bird species and numbers than usual, leader Maureen Geiger reported. And although only two intrepid birders showed up, Maureen said they saw thousands of swallows at main intersection. Also quite a few White-faced Ibises. Afterwards the group drove west on E. Chiles Road to the sunflower fields and found singing male Blue Grosbeaks.

Loney Meadow (7/30) - Fifteen people joined leader Scott Hoppe for the trip to this beautiful mountain meadow near Bowman Lake at the 6,000-foot level of the Sierra. Two Bald Eagles soaring over a ridge to the north were the top sightings for many. Other birds included Hairy and White-headed Woodpeckers, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Western Wood-

Pewees that seemed to be everywhere. "We flushed a covey of Mountain Quail with many juveniles, and many in our group got good looks at an adult female perched low in a tree," Scott said. Six warbler species were recorded, including a Townsend's, a bit unusual for this time of the year.

Mather Field Park (7/24) - Leader Wayne Blunk's group flushed a family of Barn Owls and spotted Wild Turkeys with young at Mather Lake. Others: Great-tailed Grackles, Common Moorhens, Nuttall's Woodpeckers, Western Kingbirds, Green Herons and Belted Kingfishers.

Carson Pass (7/23) - Leader Jack Hiehle reported: Bald Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Red-tailed Hawk, White-breasted, Red-breasted and Pygmy Nuthatches, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire, Cassin's Finch, Rosy Finch, Clark's Nutcracker, Dark-eyed Junco, Mountain Chickadee, Rock Wren, and Rufous Hummingbird. Wildflowers included Monument Plant, Red and White Heather, Marsh Marigold, Lupines, Lungwort and Sage Wort.

Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (7/19) - Western Bluebird, Green Heron, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, House Sparrow, Red-shouldered Hawk, Spotted Towhee were checked off by leader Jack Hiehle's group. Also four Beavers, a couple

Findings continued on page 7

Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip

September 24 and 25, 2005

Jeff Mangum reports that there are still some spaces left for this year's trip but they are filling up fast. Refer to last month's issue of *The Observer* for details about this exciting annual trip. A reservation form is included here for your convenience. Jeff can be reached at (916) 988-2802

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

September 24 and 25, 2005 • Trip price: \$75 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Please reserve me _____ space(s) for Friday night September 23 and _____ space(s) for Saturday night September 24 at Veterans Memorial Park Campground. \$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:
Jeff Mangum, 5917 Rich Hill Drive, Orangevale, CA 95662

Field Trips

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Chris Conard, 362-5942, e-mail: chris.conard@comcast.net, for trips September 3 and September 4. For trips from September 10 call the scheduler Mark Cudney, 987-2422.

Plan to pool cars and share gas expenses with the driver. Walkie-talkies can be helpful on non-local trips. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader.



Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, September 3, 6:30am

Point Reyes

Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942

e-mail: chris.conard@comcast.net

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 and a lunch. 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 4, 5:30pm

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, Evening

Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804

Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

e-mail: mkgeiger@comcast.net and empid@sbcglobal.net

Maureen and Cathie hope to see good numbers of White-faced Ibis flocks coming in to roost. There should be several species of wading birds, and if water conditions warrant, this is a great time of year for shorebirds. Foraging owls sometimes make an appearance in the late evening. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, and take the first exit (Exit 78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left onto the levee, and drop down into the wildlife area. The trip will begin at the first parking lot (on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour.

Saturday, September 10, 9:30am

Sonoma – Mendocino Birding

Healdsburg Vaux's Swifts

Leader: Ron Storey, (707) 762-5276

e-mail: ronstorey@ronstorey.com

Come and bird the vineyards of Sonoma and Mendocino Counties with Ron and Phyllis Storey. Last year Ron arranged a tour of the organic gardens at Fetzer

Winery in Hopland. There we were able to eat our way through the garden, sampling various varieties of tomatoes, apples and figs. We sampled many herbs, including garlic, chives and fresh basil.

We will end the day late, near dark in Healdsburg to watch the Vaux's Swifts stage and descend into a chimney as if a huge vacuum was sucking them in. Last year we watched as many as a thousand Swifts descend into the chimney in a five-minute period. This is an event that happens every year in Healdsburg and an event you should experience at least once. It is a party atmosphere with many people bringing picnic suppers and lawn chairs.

Bring a lunch, or plan on joining Ron and Phyllis who will be eating at one of the delis along the way. This is a full day of birding that will prove to be a delight for all who attend. Plan to carpool with friends as it is a long driving day. Meet Ron and Phyllis at 9:30am in Shollenberger Park in Petaluma (about 1-1/2 hours from Sacramento). Directions to Shollenberger Park are on the website at www.petalumawetlandspark.org or phone Ron.

Saturday, September 10

Willow Slough Trail Bird Survey

Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: John Schick, 684-2816 ext. 5,

web site: www.consumnes.org

Meet at the trail head for an early morning census of local birds. John has been leading this monthly trip for several years, and knows the area well. Early migrants should be showing up and there are frequently surprises. Call the Preserve number during the previous week for exact meeting time and place. Bring a snack and water and be prepared for 4 miles of moderate walking.

Sunday, September 11, 7:30am

Goethe Park Morning Walk

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882

e-mail: empid@sbcglobal.net

Join Cathie for a morning walk in the parkway while it is still cool. Even at this time of year there are some interesting things along the river. Vinegar weed and tarweeds should be blooming; California Buckeye Butterflies are active, the kites and Red-Shouldered Hawks are usually highly visible. The smaller passerine birds are active in the cool of the morning too, and early migrants are always a possibility. There is a \$4 per car park entrance fee. If you want to carpool in, meet Cathie at 7:15 on Rod Beaudry Drive just off Folsom Blvd. This walk will end before noon, and is a good trip for beginners.

Friday, September 16

Evening Beaver Walk

on the American River Parkway

Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

This trip is limited to 8 persons with a minimum age of 7 years in order to ensure optimum viewing for participants. Jack's leisurely pace allows plenty of time to view the resident birds and he'll point out some interesting plants as well as beaver and muskrats. Call Jack to reserve a spot and get meeting time and place. Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 to 5 miles of moderate hiking.

Saturday, September 17, 7:30am

Reichmuth Park

Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009

Join Tim at the park entrance on Gloria Drive and 43rd Avenue. In the past Tim has found many uncommon birds in Reichmuth Park. He'll 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, September 17, Daybreak Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: John Trochet, 684-2816 ext. 5,
www.consumnes.org

The Tall Forest is perhaps the best remaining example of riparian forest in the central valley, and is not generally open to the public. In this jungle-like habitat, John has found excellent rarities, large numbers of migrants and resident species. Call the Preserve number during the previous week for the exact meeting time and place and be a little early as John leaves promptly.

Saturday-Sunday
September 24, and 25,
Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip
Two-day Monterey Trip
Reservations:
Jeff Mangum, 988-2802
Leader: Mark Cudney, 987-2422

Please see the front page of last month's Observer for details. There is a registration form on page 2 of this issue. Please call Jeff for information on how many spaces are still available.

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

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

Please note that by popular demand the ocean trip will occur on Saturday.

Friday, September 30
Evening Beaver Walk
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Join Jack on this evening search for beavers and other wildlife. For optimum viewing, this trip is limited to 8 people with a minimum age of 8 years. Call ahead to reserve a space and find out about meeting time and place.

Saturday & Sunday, October 1-2, Noon
Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park,
Northeastern Shasta Co.
Leader: Gary Fregien
(916) 708-0636 (cell)
E-mail: calaveri@sbcglobal.net

This trip to lava country on the Modoc Plateau requires "paddle power"; a canoe or kayak is preferable. Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park sits on and along Big Lake and features a great opportunity for boating, hiking, many species of birds and scenic viewing. The scenery includes spectacular views of Mount Shasta to the west and Lassen Peak to the south, and crystal clear

waters at Ja-She Creek and Crystal Springs. Birds include American White Pelican, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Swainson's Hawk, Sandhill Crane, Northern Pygmy-Owl and Spotted Owl, Common Nighthawk, Lewis' Woodpecker and many others too numerous to mention. This trip is best enjoyed by staying over. "Primitive" camping (meaning no running water & pit toilets) is available at 9 sites along the shoreline in the state park. A small camping fee may be charged. For a sneak peek, go online at www.parks.ca.gov and then open "Find A Park". Big Lake can be accessed at a PG&E public boat launch known as "Rat Farm". It is reached from the town of McArthur by turning left off Highway 299 on to Main St., continuing past the Inter-mountain Fairgrounds, across a canal, through a gate (usually open) and proceeding about 3 miles north on a graded dirt road. Meet Gary at the launch ramp at 12 Noon on Saturday. You may also arrange to caravan up with Gary on Friday morning, Sept. 30. This trip requires confirmation of your attendance in advance (by Sept. 24). Please call or email Gary to confirm your attendance and to discuss travel information. Inclement weather may cause a cancellation and rescheduling.



Stephen D'Amato

Saturday, October 1, 7am
Point Reyes for Vagrants
Leader: Chris Conard, 362-5942,
chris.conard@comcast.net

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 Avenue exit off I-80; turn left at the stop light, then left into the Park and Ride.

Sunday, October 2, 7:30am
Yolo Wildlife Area
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804,
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a morning drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of

species is possible this time of year; shorebird numbers will depend on the amount of water available. To reach the Wildlife Area from Hwy. 80, take Exit 78 at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. At the stop sign, turn right, pass under the freeway, then turn left onto the gravel road which tops the levee and drops down into the Wildlife Area. Meet at the first large parking lot. This trip will end by noon.

Saturday, October 8, 6:30am
Coastal Trip
Leaders: Tim Fitzer
961-5871, spskua@aol.com
Dan Brown, 362-2458
Naturestoc@aol.com

Where the birds are! That's where Tim and Dan will take you on this full day of coastal birding. It may be Bodega Bay, or Point Reyes, or ???, so call Tim shortly before the trip for an alternate meeting place. Bring lunch, liquids, and layered clothing for those coastal breezes, and meet Tim and Dan for an EARLY start at 6:30am at the Park and Ride in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the West Capitol Avenue exit off I-80; turn left at the stop light, then left into the Park and Ride. Bring a scope if you have one. Gulls, loons, scoters, turnstones, peeps, and larger shorebirds should all be present and Tim and Dan will be looking for any unusual migrants.

Thursday, October 13, 8am
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Jack knows this area better than anyone. With fall migration in full force, some interesting birds may be present. Jack is especially good at identifying the plants and animals sure to be seen on this trip. This is a good trip for beginners.



Kirsten Munson

Events & Announcements

BIG BIRTHDAY FOR A CHARTER MEMBER

Willie Argante Eizinger, Sacramento Audubon charter member and tireless advocate for planet earth, reported from her Grass Valley home recently that despite assorted ills, "I have great hope and am very happy. If I'm given the next six months I'll have lived a century."

Willie, whose birthday is Jan. 30, lives alone in a mobile home, maintaining four bird feeders and tending a garden while hanging on to a rope with one hand because of nerve damage to her legs. Her daughter, Jonda Friel of Tahoe City, keeps her cupboards stocked, and her son, Tod, lives in Ft. Bragg.

For 40 years, Willie lectured to school, garden and countless other community groups on "the right way to take care of your home on this earth." She carries a 600-plus bird list and participated in Sacramento Audubon Christmas counts "for 50 years, without a miss." She and her first husband, the late Sam Argante, were active in a bird-banding group that helped start the Point Reyes Bird Observatory. And she and her second husband, the late Ben Eizinger, donated time and money to Bobelaine Sanctuary, where the Eizinger Grove recognizes their service.

She also worked closely with her "dearest friend," school teacher Effie Yeaw, to preserve the Ancil Hoffman County Park nature area, site of the Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

Auduboners who may wish to send greetings to Willie can write to her c/o: Olympia Glade MHP, #183, 460 Holly Dr., Grass Valley, CA 95945-4169. Tel. 530, 274-2684
Pete Hayes

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

As a Chapter of the National Audubon Society, we will focus on conservation and environmental education to ensure that the Sacramento region's natural ecosystems and diverse bird populations are preserved, restored, and made available for study and enjoyment.

TANZANIAN SAFARIS IN 2006

Ed Harper and Susan Scott are offering their popular Tanzania safaris again in 2006. Each safari is limited to 10 participants and the February 19 - March 5 trip is nearly full. There is still room on the March 13-26 safari for several more. The dates are an excellent time to visit Tanzania since the birding is at its best with local populations being augmented by bird species from Europe and Asia. The wildebeest herds are calving and predators abound! Also, since air travel to Europe is much less expensive in winter, getting to Africa is appreciably less expensive. For inquiries, contact Sandpiper Journeys at calidris@surewest.net or call Ed or Susan at (916) 971-3311

FESTIVAL OF THE CRANES

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will hold its 18th Annual Festival of the Cranes from Tuesday, November 15 through Sunday, November 20, 2005. Over 100 events will include birding with experts, guided tours of the Refuge; visits to the VLA, the Armendaris Ranch and the brand-new El Camino Real International Heritage Center; plus long-lens photography; art, gardens; field trips with local old-timers; outstanding keynote speakers (Michael Forsberg, award-winning nature photographer; and Wayne Sentman, marine biologist and international traveler); and so much more.

Brochures are available after September 1 by calling (505) 835-2077. You may also check www.friendsofthebosque.org/crane for more details or write P.O. Box 340, San Antonio NM 87832

10th ANNUAL FESTIVAL IN MORRO BAY

Come to where the birds are and join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for their 10th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival, January 13-16, 2006. Located on California's scenic Central Coast, Morro Bay is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway and one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots. The area is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds, and at last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified!

The Festival is sponsored by MCAS and gives you the chance to join local and national birding experts on a variety of field trips and workshops. Field trip group sizes are limited to maximize spotting and identification opportunities. The Festival also offers workshops aimed at sharpening your birding skills, as well as evening programs with outstanding speakers. This year's festival will feature presentations by Kenn Kaufman and Nigel Marven.

For more information about the Festival, check out our new website at www.morrobaybirdfestival.org, or call (805) 772-4677. You can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2006 brochure, or register online. Both the brochure and online registration will be available in October 2005. The registration deadline is January 4, 2006 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.

(Please note the new website address www.morrobaybirdfestival.org and change your bookmarks and links accordingly..

YOUR HELP NEEDED TO SAVE OUR ARCTIC REFUGE!

The fight over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is heating up YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN SEPTEMBER! Audubon is making a big push to save the pristine wilderness in Alaska from destructive oil drilling, and you can help!

After 25 years of fighting, our last best chance to protect the refuge will be in the House of Representatives on a vote quickly approaching in September. All Audubon chapters and Audubon members around the country will be using this opportunity to weigh in with their members of Congress and fight at this critical time for one of the most pristine places left in America!

Please make a point to call, write or e-mail your elected officials today! Log on to Audubon's special "Protect the Arctic" website - accessed via www.audubon.org, or contact Desiree Groves in Audubon's public policy office in Washington, DC at (202) 861-2242, ext. 3038, or email dgroves@audubon.org to find out more about how you can help!

Central Valley Birding Symposium November 17-20, 2005

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the Ninth Annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 17-20, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton, CA.

There will be field trips, workshops, and a Birding Nature Fair and Art Show with over 25 vendors selling nature-related items.

Our Keynotes are set up a bit differently this year. Thursday we have "The Birds of the Central Valley" presented by naturalist Jules Evens using master photographer Ian Tate's photos. Friday is "Hot on the Trail of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker" by Bobby Harrison and our very own John Trochet. Yes, these guys searched for decades and saw the "Grail Bird" before the rest of us knew they still existed! What exciting tales they have to tell. Saturday night finds us in the company of Don Roberson. He has a Website devoted to "The History of California Birding", recounting the pre-computer

days where dozens of eager (and now legendary) birders scoured the state and made history. Some of them may join Don and share in the discussion - many of them will be in attendance.

Other events include workshops such as "Parts is More than Parts: Boning up on Bird Identification" by Kimball Garrett and "Shorebird ID Workshop" by Joe Morlan. There are also regional programs on topics such as Sacramento's Purple Martins and the Sutter Buttes.

The schedule, brochure, registration form, etc. are on the website: <http://cvbs.org>. The non-computer inclined can contact Frances Oliver at (209) 369-2010.

There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

Cheri Pillsbury
Central Valley Birding Symposium

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

A Note from our President

Some personal thoughts on the Clark's retirement from the Society's Board of Directors.

The team of Bill and Jan Clark retired from your Board this summer-ending a period of service that dates back to 1989. They are, thank goodness, continuing as Committee Chairs covering Membership, our Website, the Bird Box and, most important, the management of Bobelaine Sanctuary.

They have worked wonders looking after our Sanctuary-despite the fires; the drought; the floods; the poachers and the paint ball wars! The restoration work is of the highest quality-all learned on the job!

During my tenure as Treasurer and President, I have come to rely upon their thoughts, advice and guidance.

Past problems with newsletter production, local membership, National Audubon's records, relationships with Audubon's State Office--all are examples of areas where the Clark's gave time and ideas to your Society's benefit.

They are a team, married for several decades, who enjoy cooking, photography, their grandson and model train layout. They're also artistic and musical--a multi-talented team.

I wish them the very best in their "retirement"!

President Peter Watkins

Entertainment Books

Sacramento Audubon is again benefiting from the sale of Entertainment Books. The books offer money saving coupons for many area restaurants and reduced price coupons for area activities. They will be available for \$40 at all the General Meetings. They can also be purchased at Wild Bird and Wild Birds Unlimited stores. For further information and store locations please call Tim Fitzer at 961-5871 or 870-5207 (cell). He can also arrange to have you pick one up if you're in the downtown area. All proceeds go to Sacramento Audubon Society.

Membership Reminder

Please send any and all correspondence intended for the Membership chair to the 215 Ardmore Ave, Roseville, CA 95678-5101 address and not to the Sacramento Audubon Society P. O. Box in Sacramento. When mail is sent to the PO Box it often causes extra work for the Membership chair as well as delaying the action time on the correspondence. Thank you for your consideration.

Field Trip Findings

Continued from page 2

of Muskrats, a turtle, and a couple of deer including a spotted fawn.

Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area (7/17) – “Ten of us saw about 45 species this morning before 10:30 when we terminated the trip due to the heat,” leader Dan Brown said. “The best birds were two male Blue Grosbeaks, one adult and one first-year bird with blue on the head and flecks of blue on the chest. We also saw four American Bitterns, two Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a Caspian Tern. A large Beaver was spotted swimming and feeding in the canal along the east side of the bypass in the preserve.”

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (7/16) – Nothing remarkable was turned up at the little shorebird habitat, although leader John Trochet said the mosquitoes were “ravenous.” There was a significant decline in Yellow-billed Magpie numbers, presumably because of the West Nile Virus.

Bats at the Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area (6/14) Leader Maureen Geiger reported: Twenty-three of us spent almost half an hour watching an estimated 100,000 predominantly Mexican Free-tailed bats file out from under the Yolo Causeway and disburse in all directions. It was just an extraordinary spectacle, and there was a breeze that kept it from being too hot. Really a wonderful experience.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip (7/10) – In one of the smoothest trips yet, Sacramento Auduboners enjoyed good views of four Black-footed Albatrosses, Tufted Puffins, Cassin’s Auklets, Common Murres, and a Jaeger. Whales were plentiful, with Humpbacks and Grays showing off by breaching. A Northern Fur Seal out beyond the islands and a large group of Risso Dolphins were uncommon sightings, along with Dall’s Porpoises, Harbor Porpoises, and California Sea Lions. Jeff Mangum again coordinated the popular trip, enlisting San Francisco pelagic specialist Susan Sherman as trip docent.

Mt. Judah & Roller Pass (7/9) – Longtime Sacramento Audubon trip leader Pierre Delastre, back for a visit from his home in France, joined Jack Hiehle as co-leader on this High Sierra trip. “He hadn’t forgotten anything,” Jack reported. Their list included American White Pelican, Osprey, Band-

tailed Pigeon, Townsend’s Solitaire, Green-tailed Towhee, White-headed Woodpecker, Raven, Hairy Woodpecker, Wilson’s Warbler, Mountain Chickadee, Fox Sparrow, and Red-breasted Nuthatch. A Mountain Quail was heard.

Willow Slough, Cosumnes River Preserve (7/9) – Yellow-headed Blackbirds and Lesser Goldfinch were only notables, leader John Schick said.

Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (7/6) – A first-ever sighting by veteran leader Jack Hiehle was that of a Pied-billed Grebe running along the top of the water, just like Western Grebes do during breeding season. His group also saw a Wood Duck with four ducklings, along with three-plus Beavers, a Muskrat and a turtle.

Martis Valley (7/2) – Willow Flycatchers, Green-tailed Towhees, and Brewer’s and Vesper Sparrows topped the list at this mixture of Sierra and Great Basin habitat near Truckee, leader Chris Conard reported. The group also enjoyed great views from the top of Martis Peak, along with close-ups of a male Cassin’s Finch and a White-headed Woodpecker nest.

Goethe Park (6/26) – Leader Cathier LaZier reported: A House Wren carrying a worm to a nest cavity, an Oak Titmouse and Spotted Towhee with young, and a Lesser Goldfinch gathering nesting material were among resident birds seen by some of the 14 participants. Bush Monkey Flower, St. John’s Wort, Elegant Clarkia and Narrow-leaved Milkweed were some of the wildflowers in bloom.

Wright’s Lake (6/25) – This Sierra Trip led by Jack Hiehle and Phyllis Wilburn yielded Red-breasted and Williamson’s Sapsuckers, White-headed Woodpecker, MacGillivray’s, Yellow-rumped and Hermit Warblers, Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches, Townsend’s Solitaire, Mountain Chickadee, Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Western Wood-Pewee, and Chipping, Fox and White-crowned Sparrows.

Beaver Walk, American River Parkway (6/22) – Besides three or more Beaver and a Muskrat, leader Jack Hiehle’s group saw Ring-necked Pheasants, California Quail, Barn, Tree and Rough-winged swallows, Belted Kingfisher, White-tailed Kite, Black Phoebe and Canada Goose.

Yuba Pass/Sierra Valley (6/19) – Fifteen birders enjoyed a full, beautiful late spring day, tallying 71 species. Leader Dan Tankersley reported that at the pass, a pair of Black-backed Woodpeckers were observed exchanging places on their nest, and a Northern Goshawk made a quick fly-over. Afternoon birding on Marble Hot Springs Road in the valley featured great looks at Sage Thrashers, Vesper and Brewer’s Sparrows and a very low fly-over by a Common Nighthawk.

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (6/18) – Leader John Trochet reported an Allen’s Hummingbird nest with two young was found in the preserve, the only place in the Central Valley where the species is known to breed. They’re usually found within 20 miles of the ocean, he said, but this was the fourth consecutive year that it was recorded here. John also reported a Prothonotary Warbler at the Orr Ranch parcel of the preserve not open to the public August 4 and a Black-throated Sparrow found by Julian Wood Aug. 5. This warbler was last observed in December, 1998, and the sparrow was a first for the preserve.

Pete Hayes

Seasonal Observations

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should be submitted to the Sacramento Bird Records Committee. Species with a double asterisk (**) are on the California Review List.

Thanks to the following for their reports (the majority were taken from http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/ and http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sacramento_birds/): Roger Adamson, Sasha Auer, Lola Brocksen, Brent Campos, Mary Chambers, Terry Colborn, Daryl Coldren, Bruce Decker, Andrew Engilis, Gil Ewing, Maureen Geiger, Brian Gilmore, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Waldo Holt, Dave Johnson, Oscar Johnson, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Sami LaRocca, Les Lieurance, Kirsten Lindquist, Janice Lopez, Ron Melcer, Kurt Mize, Barbara Mohr, Steve Pagliughi, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Ryan Phillips, Don Roberson, Terry Ronneberg, Jim Rowth, John Sterling, John Trochet, C.V. Vick, Bud Widdowson, Chad Witko, and Brian Williams.

Chris Conard

Seasonal Observations

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June 1 to July 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports 783-2331

June and July for birding in the Sacramento area can be the best of times, but are more often thought of as the worst of times. Many people hang up their binoculars until fall, or head to the mountains where the temperatures are cooler and bird activity is high. Yet, June in particular is filled with breeding bird activity, and every season some of the year's best finds, often Eastern songbird migrants, show up during this period. As for shorebirds, late June is the beginning of fall migration, and July is one of the most productive months at sites with appropriate habitat. This year, due to concerns over West Nile Virus, fewer flooded fields were available for these species.

A highlight for the period was a singing male **Blackburnian Warbler*** reported on 6/13 at the Sacramento County Bufferlands. This is one of only a few records for this species in the Central Valley. For the second year in a row, a singing male **Hooded Warbler*** was found at Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 6/20 from the Accidental Forest. A different male **Hooded Warbler***, based on plumage characteristics, was found in the Tall Forest on 6/23. A **Bell's Vireo*** was reported singing, though poorly seen, along Putah Creek just downstream of the Lake Solano diversion dam in Solano County on 6/25—intriguing, since this former breeder in valley riparian areas successfully nested this year at San Joaquin River NWR in Stanislaus County after decades of absence. On 7/12, an adult male **Chestnut-sided Warbler*** was reported in breeding plumage from private property near Winters in Solano County.

The waterbird highlight for the season was the report of two **Least Terns*** at the Davis

Wetlands (DW) on 6/20. They were last reported on 6/22, when three were seen. This is only the second occurrence in Yolo County. Other highlights for the season from DW include a **Solitary Sandpiper** on 6/24 and a **Willet** on 7/11. At the Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant, highlights include single adult **Semipalmated Sandpipers*** on 7/15 and 7/26, and three excellent finds on 7/22: an adult **Snowy Plover*** (continuing through 7/25), a **Sanderling*** in breeding plumage, and a **Baird's Sandpiper**.

A highlight from CRP was the first breed-

ing record of **Wilson's Snipe** in Sacramento County. On 6/16, young were found and an adult was performing a distraction display. Very little available shorebird habitat at CRP still produced several good finds. Juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpipers*** were reported on 7/22 to 7/24, and 7/26. A **Marbled Godwit** was found on 7/19, as was **Solitary Sandpiper** on 7/24 and 7/28. A juvenile **Semipalmated Sandpiper*** was also found at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant on 7/28.

Other highlights include two **Yellow-billed Cuckoo*** reports from Yolo County. One was seen at the Putah Creek Sinks on 6/22, and a bird was reported calling on 7/23 at the Cache Creek Settling Basin. The **Common Nighthawks*** reported from Meiss Rd in Sacramento County continued through press time, with three males regularly seen. **Grasshopper Sparrows** were seen and heard on Meiss Rd through June. A **Least Bittern** was reported from CRP on 7/12. Also from CRP, a **Selasphorus hummingbird** nest was found in the Tall Forest. Due to range and a reported male on 5/1, this was likely an **Allen's Hummingbird*** nest. And finally, a real surprise came in the form of a **Flammulated Owl*** reported in a Carmichael backyard by an experienced observer on 7/22.

Documentation of species listed with an asterisk (*) seen in the Sacramento area

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