



The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, September 16
Shepard Garden and Art Center
6:30pm Potluck Dinner
7:00pm General Meeting

Northern California Birds In Motion – Larry Arbanas

Larry Arbanas is sure to draw resounding oohs and aahs from onlookers as they witness his videography entitled “Northern California Birds in Motion.”

Having spent years as a cameraman in the entertainment field, Larry now dedicates his time to nature filmmaking. Of his work in progress (taking part in the video documentation of the 800 North American bird species and their respective behaviors) he states, “The absolute highlight of my work happened when my digital bird footage became a part of Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Visual Media Collection.” Clearly this man has found his passion, so don’t miss this exciting presentation.

The evening kicks off at 6:30 with a picnic/potluck in McKinley Park-across the street from the Garden and Arts Center. Please bring a salad, main dish, or rolls to share. Board members will bring desserts. Utensils, plates, cups, and beverages will be provided.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Art Center, 3330 McKinley Blvd., in McKinley Park. The public is welcome. Visit our website www.sacramentoaudubon.org for further information.

Early Fall at Bobelaine

This is the time of year when birders get up very early to enjoy watching their avian friends. Bobelaine is definitely one of those places where this is a very good idea. If you possibly can, arrive at first light and start your day with all of God’s creatures as they start theirs. Be sure to bring water and wear sun screen as well as a good bug repellent. Migrating birds are beginning to arrive in the area and joining their resident friends and it may even begin to cool down a bit. Bring a lunch or snack and use one of our picnic areas to relax after your birding walk.

Bill Clark, Co-Manager



Monterey Bay Coastal and Pelagic Trip October 2 and 3, 2004

Jeff Mangum reports that this year’s Monterey Trip is filling up fast with more than 30 participants so far. Refer to the last issue of *The Observer* for details about this exciting trip. At press time there were a few vacancies left and a reservation form is included here for your convenience. Jeff can be reached at (916) 988-2802.

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

October 2 and 3, 2004 • Trip price: \$75 per person

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Number of persons _____ Total Payment \$ _____

Please reserve me _____ space(s) for Friday night October 1 and _____ space(s) for Saturday night October 2 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

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

Field Trip Findings

Alpine County (8/7)–Excellent weather graced this trip led by Bill Hart to the Markleeville area, Grover Hot Springs, and Indian Valley Reservoir. Chris Conard reported that a few of the participants headed to Tahoe Village in Nevada to look for woodpeckers in a recent burn. “Bill led us to a flock of over 50 Pinyon Jays. Other highlights: Evening Grosbeaks, Wilson’s, Orange-crowned and MacGillivray’s Warbler, and Williamson’s and Red-breasted Sapsuckers.” A raccoon lying back asleep in a tree was another bright spot.

Beaver Walk (8/3)–Three-plus beaver and three-plus muskrat were observed, along with Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck and Double-crested Cormorant, leader Jack Hiehle reported.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (8/1)–Hundreds of White-faced Ibis coming in to the refuge was a highlight of this evening trip. Other great birds, leader Maureen Geiger reported, were many Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Dowitchers and Pelicans, a Spotted Sandpiper and quite a few Semipalmated Sandpipers. En route home, some participants saw thousands of bats fly out from under the Yolo Causeway.

Thunder Mountain and Alpine Cirque (7/31)–Leader Joe Ceriani’s group had good looks at Clark’s Nutcracker, a family of Mountain Bluebirds and Williamson’s Sapsucker. A Golden Eagle appeared in the distance, and wildflowers were abundant at this site off Highway 88.

Mather Field Park (7/25)–Western Tanager, a family of Common Moorhens and Green Heron were the main talking point sightings on leader Wayne Blunk’s trip. Other species included Canada Geese, Barn Swallow, Belted Kingfisher, Western Bluebird, Black-crowned Night-Herons and White-tailed Kite. Also: three coyotes and three cottontails.

Carson Pass (7/24)–Leader Jack Hiehle’s trip to the mountains yielded Rufous and Calliope Hummingbirds, Cooper’s Hawk, Mountain Chickadee, Clark’s Nutcracker and Band-tailed Pigeon. Also observed were 125 flowers, shrubs and trees, including the Monument Plant (Green Gentian) and Columbine.

East Yolo (7/18)–This trip was originally billed to go to the rice fields north of Sacramento, but when it was found to be non-productive, leaders Tim Fitzer and Dan Brown opted for a “Plan B” to Fazio Wildlife Area and the Davis City Water

Treatment area. At Fazio their group was rewarded with looks at Blue Grosbeak, Barn Owl, Swainson’s Hawk and American White Pelicans. At Davis they saw Semipalmated Plovers, dowitchers, and a Marbled Godwit.

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve (7/17)–Although July is generally slow, leader John Trochet’s monthly census yielded 70 species of birds, including two Green-winged Teals, an unseasonal Hermit Thrush and an early Yellow Warbler. Blue Grosbeaks continued to be more common than usual this year.

Dragonflies on the American River (7/14)–Leader Tim Manolis said the group had good looks at Wandering and Spot-winged Gliders, Black Saddlebags, Flame Skimmer, Widow Skimmer, Western Pondhawk, Variegated Meadowhawk, and Familiar Bluet. A family of Western Bluebirds at the Howe Avenue River Access parking lot was a bonus.

Farallon Island Boat Trip (7/11) A high overcast and smooth seas greeted Auduboners who enjoyed good looks at Tufted Puffins, Pigeon Guillemots, Common Murres and many Cassin’s Auklets. Their boat approached close enough to Hump-backed Whales to hear them breathe, Jeff Mangum, co-leader, said. Docent Susan Sherman of San Francisco provided interesting historical sidelights of the marine area.

Mt. Judah and Roller Pass (7/10)–Leader Jack Hiehle’s group recorded Clark’s Nutcracker, Mountain Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Western Tanager. Conditions were extremely dry, but Jack ticked off 100 plants, shrubs and trees.

Evening Beaver Walk (7/7)–Three-plus beaver and a River Otter were spotted, along with a large flock of Common Mergansers, 24 in all, that suddenly took off en masse from the river, skittering along on the surface. Leader Jack Hiehle said they apparently had been spooked by a beaver or muskrat.

Martis Valley (7/3)–Leader Chris Conard’s group went to Martis Valley near Truckee and Martis Peak to the lookout for spectacular views. Chris reported: “Highlights included at least three singing Willow Flycatchers along Martis Creek and a Sage Thrasher, which I’ve since

learned, was an historic breeder in Martis Valley, but hasn’t been recorded there in some time. A flock of Red Crossbills about a half mile up the Martis Peak Road was also a treat.”

Evening Beaver Walk (6/30)–Leader Jack Hiehle’s group saw muskrat and beaver, along with Belted Kingfisher and Green Heron.

Bushy Lake (6/27)–Good looks at Ash-throated Flycatchers feeding young, plus immature Red-shouldered Hawks, and male Black-chinned Hummingbird featured leader Joe Ceriani’s walk on the Cal Expo floodplain.

Wright’s Lake (6/26)–Topping a rich bird list were Hairy Woodpecker, Red-breasted and Williamson’s Sapsuckers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager, Hermit Thrush, Pine Grosbeak, Osprey, Violet-green Swallow, Spotted Sandpiper and Chipping Sparrow. Leader Jack Hiehle said this trip to El Dorado National Forest also yielded some 100 flowers, shrubs and trees, including White Rein Orchid and Fivespot.

Bodega Bay (6/19)–Leader Mark Cudney reports: “We had a small but enthusiastic group. The flowers were so prevalent, it seemed like spring. The bird species were low but we saw plumages not seen in the fall, such as the bright red feet and black coloration of the Pigeon

Guillemot nesting on the cliffs. We also observed the white flank patch of the Pelagic Cormorant, which made identification easy. The tide was out when we arrived so we observed hundreds of white pelicans, Black-crowned Night-Herons, terns, and egrets feeding just behind the Tides restaurant. An Osprey carrying a large fish flew right over our heads as we departed.”

Pyramid Lake, Nevada & Sierra Valley, California (6/19-20)–Canceled for lack of interest.

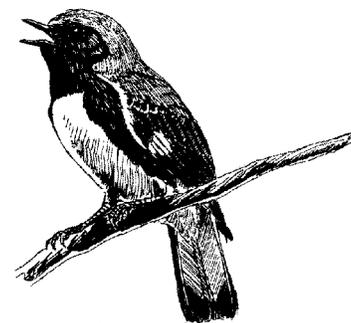
Turner Road Vintners, San Joaquin County (6/16)–Good looks at Forster’s Tern, along with Great-tailed Grackles, Song Sparrows and Marsh Wren were by leader Joe Ceriani at this wetland of wine-making residue. A Vermilion Flycatcher was a sensation here last winter.



Stephen D’Amato

Pete Hayes

Field Trips



Stephen D'Amato

Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he/she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Chris Conard, 362-5942, for trips through September 5. For trips after September 5 call the scheduler Cathie LaZier, 457-6882, or e-mail empid@sbcglobal.net.

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.

Saturday, September 4, 7am

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 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 & Ride.

Sunday, September 5, 6pm

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, evening

Leader: Maureen Geiger (444-0804)

e-mail: mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen to witness the spectacle of large White-faced Ibis flocks coming in to roost. There should be several species of wading birds, and this is a great time of year for shorebirds. As the sun goes down, foraging owls and bats are a possibility. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, and take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left onto the levee, and head into the wildlife area. The trip will begin at the first parking lot (on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour.

Friday, September 10

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.

Saturday, September 11

Cosumnes River Preserve Willow Slough Trail Bird Survey

Leader: John Schick

Info phone: 684-2816 ext. 5

web site: www.cosumnes.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 12, 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's 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, and 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. This is a good trip for beginners.

Saturday, September 18, Daybreak

Tall Forest, Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: John Trochet

Info Phone: 684-2816 ext. 5

web site: www.cosumnes.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.

Bring water, a snack, insect repellent and be prepared for 4 to 5 miles of moderate hiking.

Sunday, September 19, 7:30am

Point Diablo Hawk Watch

Leader: Joe Ceriani 922-0768

Join Joe and other raptor enthusiasts for the annual trek to Marin Headlands to witness one of the Pacific Flyway's most dramatic events as migrating hawks funnel down to the coast and head over the straits near the Golden Gate. Buteos, accipiters, falcons and eagles are frequently seen. Migrating swifts, swallows and Band-tailed Pigeons may also show up. Mornings are foggy but the fog usually breaks by noon, giving great views. The site can be quite windy, so dress warmly. Bring a lunch and liquids. Meet Joe at the Park & 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 & Ride.

Friday, September 24

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.

Saturday, Sunday, September 25-26 Ahjumawi Lava Springs State Park Canoe & Camping

Northeastern Shasta County

Leader: Gary Fregien (916) 451-2767

Cell: (916) 708-0636

This trip to lava country on the Modoc Plateau requires "paddle power"; a canoe or kayak is preferable. Enjoy spectacular

views of Mt. Shasta to the west and Lassen Peak to the south, while watching for Bald Eagles, Osprey, Sandhill Cranes, Swainson's Hawk, Lewis' Woodpecker, and many other species of birds. Primitive camping (no water, pit toilets) in nine sites on the shoreline of Big Lake and accessible only by water, makes this a very special trip. For a sneak peek, go online at www.parks.ca.gov and open "Find a Park". Big Lake can be reached from a PG&E public boat launch known as "Rat Farm". Turn left off Highway 299 onto Main Street in the town of McArthur; continue past the Inter-mountain Fairgrounds; across a canal and through a gate, and go about three miles north on a graded dirt road. Meet Gary at the launch ramp at noon on Saturday. You can also make arrangements to caravan to the area with Gary early on Friday morning. This trip requires confirming your attendance with Gary at least one week in advance. Please call Gary to confirm and to discuss travel information. Inclement weather may cancel or reschedule the trip.



Kirsten Munson

**Saturday, September 25, 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 & 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 & Ride.

**Sunday, September 26, 5:30pm
Yolo Basin Wildlife Area, evening
Leader: Maureen Geiger 444-0804
mkgieger@comcast.net**

Join Maureen at this area of valuable habitat close to downtown Sacramento. An evening trip this time of year will be a first and could turn up some interesting migrants. Several areas of the Wildlife Area will be flooded, and large numbers of shorebirds are possible. The trip will last until just before sunset. From Sacramento, take I-80 west. Take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway onto the Frontage Road.

Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left onto the levee, and drive into the wildlife area. The trip begins at the first parking lot (on your left) at the beginning of the auto tour.

**Monday, Sept 27, 8am
Putah Creek, Solano Lake &
Monticello Dam
Leader: Craig De Martini 489-7000**

Craig will be looking for Canyon and Rock Wrens, Osprey and other raptors, and a variety of waterfowl on this trip which will last into mid-afternoon. Bring water and lunch and meet Craig at 8am at the old SOUTH Park & Ride off the West Capitol Avenue exit in West Sacramento. From Sacramento take the Enterprise/West Capitol Ave. exit; turn left on West Capitol; go through the underpass and make an immediate right turn into the Park & Ride. (This is not the Park & Ride we usually meet at.) If you have walkie-talkie type radios they will be helpful.

**Saturday-Sunday, October 2 & 3
Monterey Bay Coastal & Pelagic Trip**

See the write up on page 1 of this month's Observer.

**Sunday, October 3, 8am
Goethe Park Morning Walk
Leader: Cathie LaZier 457-6882
empid@sbcglobal.net**

On this morning walk we'll be looking for early winter returnees, such as sparrows, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Hermit Thrushes and Yellow-Rumped Warblers. Trip will end before noon. This is a good trip for beginners. Meet Cathie at the first parking lot on the right past the kiosk. There is a \$4 per car entrance fee. If you wish, you can meet Cathie at the corner of Rod Beaudry Drive and Folsom Blvd. at 7:50am to carpool into the park.

**Saturday, October 9, 8:30am-1:30pm
Bufferlands Habitat Restoration
Workshop**

Are you interested in Habitat Restoration? If you are a student, volunteer, consultant, professional restorationist, or would just like to learn more about this critical aspect of conservation, we invite you to participate in the Bufferlands Habitat Restoration Workshop. In 1990, the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) began numerous ongoing habitat restoration projects on its 2,650-acre Bufferlands. Over the years,

the natural resource staff has applied and developed many techniques that have led to successful projects. This workshop will draw from over ten years of onsite restoration experience. You will see the restoration sites up-close as we discuss how the projects were implemented, what worked, and how we addressed challenges. We will walk through a portion of the Upper Beach Lake project and discuss several sites and management strategies. We will focus on field techniques for riparian forest restoration, grassland restoration, and seasonal wetland management. There will be many opportunities to ask questions. Space is limited, so sign-up in advance. For more information, call 875-9309 ext. 1, or e-mail: conardc@saccounty.net.

**Sunday, October 10, 6:30am
Coastal Trip
Leader: Tim Fitzer 961-5871
spskua@aol.com**

Where the birds are! That's where Tim 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 for an EARLY start at 6:30am at the Park & 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 & Ride. Bring a scope if you have one. Gulls, loons, scoters, turnstones, peeps, and larger shorebirds should all be present and Tim will be looking for any unusual migrants.

**Saturday, October 23, 8am
Coloma Area
Leaders: Judy Denney 492-2239
judenney@yahoo.com
Valerie Phillips 722-1802**

Join Judy to explore the Straza property, near the South Fork of the American River. This BLM land, rumored to have good birding, is a new area for us and who knows what surprises it may hold! Judy's hoping for raptors and migrating songbirds. Bring a lunch and water, and meet Judy at the far north end of the Raley's parking lot on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd. and Highway 50.

**Sunday, October 24, 7am
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco
Leader: Marilyn Hemmeter 989-4547
birdergirl@earthlink.net**

Marilyn knows this area well, and will be

searching the ponds and woods for Pygmy Nuthatches, Allen's Hummingbirds, and other resident species. We may go to Stowe Lake and we'll also be going to the Cliff House area to check out seabirds and perhaps find a Wandering Tattler. Bring layered clothing and water. You can bring lunch, or there are places for lunch in the Cliff House area. Meet Marilyn at the Park & 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 & Ride. Rain cancels the trip.

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.



Daniel Kilby

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIRECT DONATIONS

We would like to thank Kevin McRae, Winston H. Hickox, and Dorothy Tribbett for their donations to the Sacramento Audubon Society.

Donations help keep us financially strong and provide the means to carry out the conservation work of the chapter.

Seasonal Observations

Continued from page 6.

Thanks to the following for their reports:

Steve Abbott, Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Jennifer Albright, Mel Bolinder, Dennis Cavallo, Mary Chambers, Diane Colborn, Terry Colborn, Daryl Coldren, Laura Davis, Leo Edson, Andrew Engilis, Dave Feliz, Maureen Geiger, Brian Gilmore, Cheryl Glackin, Richard Hall, Steve Hampton, Dave Johnson, Jon King, Jeri Langham, Ron Melcer, Scott Morrical, Ed Pandolfino, Peter Perrine, Michael Perrone, Andy Pfeffer, Ryan Phillips, Terry Ronneberg, Mary Schiedt, John Sterling, Craig Swolgaard, Irene Torres, Gene Trapp, John Trochet, and Brian Williams.

Chris Conard

Coming Events

ATTENTION ARTISTS & CRAFTS PEOPLE

The Sacramento Garden & Arts Center will hold their first Arts & Crafts Fair at the Center on November 20-21, 2004. This is being done as a new fund raiser to help keep the room rental costs as low as possible for the clubs such as Sacramento Audubon Society that use the facility. Table space will be rented to artists and crafts people of all levels. A booth/table of approximately 7' x 7' for the two days will rent for \$50. All work sold must be that of the artist who must be present for the sale. All monies taken in during the sale are kept by the artist. A state resale certificate is required for each artist. Application forms can be obtained at the Garden & Arts Center or by calling the Center at (916) 264-8800.

This is a way our member artists can help minimize the cost of general meeting room rental for SAS as well as raise some additional income for the participating artists prior to Christmas.

AUDUBON ASSEMBLY OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Audubon California will be hosting an Audubon Assembly at the Radisson Hotel in Stockton on Wednesday, November 17th and Thursday the 18th. The Assembly is a statewide meeting open to all members to discuss conservation challenges in California and adopt a common set of priorities for meeting those challenges. It is a chance for activists from throughout the state to gather, meet and collaborate. It is also an opportunity for Audubon members to gather and learn more about the birds, wildlife and habitat of California and what Audubon is doing to protect them. The Assembly will include a range of practical workshops led by experienced chapter leaders and Audubon staff. It will also feature interesting speakers, and some great field trips. For more information contact Jill Shirley at 530-795-0550 or jshirley@audubon.org.

COME TO WHERE THE BIRDS ARE!

MORRO BAY WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL, JANUARY 14-17, 2005

Migrate to one of the country's pre-eminent birding spots and join the Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for the 8th Annual Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. Morro Bay-located on California's scenic Central Coast-is an important stop on the Pacific Flyway, and is recognized worldwide for its diversity of both resident and wintering birds. At last year's festival, 213 species of birds were identified!

The Morro Bay Winter Bird 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.

For more information about the Festival, check out our website at www.morro-bay.net/birds, where you can request that your name be added to the mailing list for our 2005 brochure, due out in October. Registration deadline is December 31, 2004 and early signups are encouraged as the most popular events fill up quickly.



If you attended the excellent bat program last spring, you will remember Marilyn Pearman. Sadly, she passed away recently.

She was one of our finest speakers-energetic, spontaneous, and totally devoted to the bats she loved from childhood. Contributions to Indigo Wings may be made in her memory.



Seasonal Observations

June 1 to July 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

783-2331

This period, July in particular, produced several spectacular reports. In fact, there are so many good reports for the period that all cannot be given their due. Migrating shorebirds were reported in good numbers during the last week of June and numbers climbed throughout July. Migrant songbirds, as usual, came in about a month later. The last ten days of July produced a particularly good flush of common Western migrants, with a few surprises in the mix.

The Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) hosted more than its share of good reports for the period. A singing male **Hooded Warbler** reported in the Orr Forest on 6/17 was an excellent find along with an out of season (Audubon's) **Yellow-rumped Warbler**. A female **Selasphorus hummingbird** (probably Allen's due to timing and breeding range) was seen feeding two begging juveniles in the Tall Forest. This is the first breeding evidence of **Allen's Hummingbird** in the Sacramento Area since a first nest was found in the Tall Forest in 2002. A **Myiarchus flycatcher** well seen near Lost Slough on 7/5 and reported as a **Great Crested Flycatcher** would be an excellent record if accepted by the state and local bird records committees. Previous records for the state are confined to the fall. A subsequent report of a calling **Great Crested Flycatcher** on 8/14 along the River Walk trail near the visitor center suggests that the bird may have summered on the preserve. Additional excellent rarity reports include two **Red-eyed Vireos** on 7/20, two-three **Northern Parulas** on 7/24, and a **Summer Tanager** on 7/24 and 7/31.

A first-year **Brown Pelican** was found at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge on 7/19 and continues at press time. There are very few records of this species for the

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

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Central Valley. This bird's arrival may be tied to a breeding season in Baja and the islands off of the Southern California coast unprecedented for its early timing, expansion of nesting locations, and number of birds fledged. The situation is complex, but the result has been many wide-ranging first-year **Brown Pelicans** turning up in surprising numbers and locations, with many desperately seeking food.

An **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was reported on 6/26 along Putah Creek near Winters. It was seen and heard singing. It was heard the following morning as well. A nesting **Pacific-slope Flycatcher** was found downstream of the Lake Solano diversion dam. A **Yellow Warbler** was singing and apparently on territory at this location as well as CRP.

The Davis Wetlands produced a number of excellent shorebird records. Best among them were ten **Willetts** on 6/25, as many as 200 **Short-billed Dowitchers** on 7/11, an adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 7/14, individual **Snowy Plovers** on 7/15 and 7/17, a **Solitary Sandpiper** on 7/21, up to 13 **Marbled Godwits**, and, best, a **Stilt Sandpiper** in breeding plumage on 7/17. The Woodland Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) produced reports of 16 **Marbled Godwits** on 7/19 and an adult **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on 7/29.

Other interesting reports for the period include a singing **Black Rail** along the River Walk trail at CRP on 6/22, a **Least Bittern** at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) near parking lot F on 7/6, singing and juvenile **Savannah Sparrows** from the Davis Wetlands and YBWA, a **Northern Parula** along the Mokelumne River near Woodbridge on 7/9, and as many as 15 **Great-tailed Grackles** at the WWTP. A **Solitary Sandpiper** was found along the American River Parkway in a pond southwest of the Nimbus Hatchery, and two **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were reported from the Sacramento County Bufferlands (an adult on 7/20 and a juvenile on 7/31). A **Glossy Ibis** was photographed at the large ibis colony on a closed portion of the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge on 5/29. A raptor present for weeks in February at Lincoln Lake in North Stockton was photographed and turned out to be a **Common Black-Hawk**. This would be a first record for Northern California.

Continued on page 5.