

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

November General Meeting

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7 p.m.

The November General Meeting and Monthly Speaker Program will be held on 5th Thursday this month. This meeting will be a hybrid session. That means participants can join the meeting on-site or in the comfort of their home. The hybrid session will resume on Zoom with ongoing registration requirements for online participants only.

Attend the Meeting in Person:

We will host a watch party at Effie Yeaw. The speaker will be joining us via Zoom. Registration is not necessary to attend the meeting in person at Effie Yeaw. Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way, Carmichael, CA

Attend the Meeting online via Zoom:

If you would like to attend the meeting via Zoom you will need to register for the meeting. Registration is required because Zoom has set space limitations.

You must register to attend the online Zoom meeting, but you do not need a Zoom account to join the meeting. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the meeting. (You do not need to register to attend the meeting at Effie Yeaw.)

For more information visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker.

Monarch Butterflies – A Conservation Opportunity for Native Species

Presented by Melissa Burns

Melissa Burns is the Western Monarch Coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She works in the Pacific Southwest Regional Office here in Sacramento.

In her role, Melissa supports and catalyzes western monarch conservation at a landscape scale by supporting science, managing data, leveraging resources, developing durable partnerships, and bridging the gap between research and land management.

Melissa has 20 years of experience in wildlife and habitat conservation, is an avid birder, and loves learning and exploring with her family.



New Bobelaine Sanctuary Improvements

The Bobelaine Committee has been hard at work this year. We decided to get the trusty old quonset hut professionally painted, and replace the venerable old kiosk with a shiny new one. Bill Bianco did a fabulous job finding the right painter for the curvy quonset hut. Not only does it look brand new, but the painter did a great job sealing the hundreds of bolts used to construct the hut. It will last many decades more! The kiosk project was a wonderful collaborative of our Bobelaine Sanctuary Committee members, headed by Bill Bianco as Chair, along with Taylor Florence, Nancy Gronert, John Williams, Steven Hall and Paul Miller.

Many thanks to Taylor Florence who researched kiosk designs and installation requirements. We settled on a large four panel kiosk that measures ten feet wide by seven feet tall, made of steel with a weather resistant coating, a protective cover, and weighing hundreds of pounds. The committee discussed having it professionally installed, but the eager and able volunteers decided to tackle the project themselves. More on that later.

Once we had chosen a suitable kiosk design we needed to determine sign

Continued on next page

Photos by Paul Miller



Pictured in front of the new Kiosk at Bobelaine:
John Williams, Maureen Geiger, Carla Resnick, Paul Miller,
Taylor Florence, Bill Bianco, and Larry Bergkamp.

Bobelaine Sanctuary Improvements *continued from page 1*

panel content and the best approach to creating the large printed inserts. We quickly found out that having the panels professionally designed and printed would be very costly. Taylor had the great idea to ask Carla Resnick, who does all the wonderful graphic design layout for the Observer, if she could help. What a great idea that turned out to be. Carla is a master at graphic design, including large panels, and created some absolutely beautiful panels. With Carla on board we decided to dedicate one panel with a short history of the Sanctuary, the second with a trail map and Sanctuary rules, the third dedicated to common Sanctuary birds, and for now we are leaving the fourth panel blank.

The kiosk panel that took the most work was the one dedicated to Sanctuary birds. We were having difficulties deciding exactly what birds to include, and in what fashion. Mary Forrestal came to the rescue regarding which birds. Using eBird data from 2013 to the present, she provided us with a spreadsheet showing how frequently different bird species (182 to be exact) have been observed at the Sanctuary and submitted to eBird. Our next decision was how to arrange and display images of the most common birds, and exactly how many images would fit on the panel? We ultimately decided to use photos for the top 25 birds, and list the remainder. A huge thank you to Daniel Lee Brown (Dan Brown) who graciously allowed us to use his spectacular photography. Mary Forrestal, Chris Conard, and Paul Miller also provided some of their wonderful photos.

The entire committee, including Maureen Geiger, met onsite to discuss placement location for the kiosk and necessary adjustments to fences and the Sanctuary entry point. Once the location was chosen, the chore of constructing the kiosk could commence. The volunteer construction crew consisted of Bill Bianco, Taylor Florence, John Williams, Steven Hall, Larry Bergkamp, and Fred Turner, along with some family and friends. It truly took a village! There are not photos of the deep concrete foundation work and heavy steel kiosk assembly work in progress, so you will need to use your imagination. Needless to say, it was a big project!

Regarding the fourth kiosk sign panel, it will be dedicated to the upcoming side channel improvement project. Last year the Sacramento Audubon Society, along with Audubon California, agreed to allow River Partners and a team of specialists to pursue a grant to improve endangered salmon habitat on the Feather River, by restoring year round water flow to the existing side channels within the Sanctuary. These side channels allow the baby salmon to safely grow and avoid predation before they return to the ocean. The grant was awarded earlier this year and we are expecting an initial kickoff meeting for this project later this year. We will keep you all updated as the project progresses.



Bob Crandall
(Archive photo)

For those of you not familiar with the Bobelaine Sanctuary, in 1975, Bob and Elaine Crandall donated 430 acres on the west side of the Feather River to the National Audubon Society, to be preserved and protected as a near natural, rare remnant of the once common riparian forest habitat. In fact the name Bobelaine was created by combining the names Bob and Elaine. It is truly a love story. The Sanctuary is also registered as a "State Ecological Reserve" and is protected by the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Bobelaine

Preserve is a sanctuary for both wildlife and plant species native to the riparian habitat adjacent to this section of the Feather River. Although a variety of habitat types and plant species exist within the sanctuary, one of the unique features is the abundance of mature California Sycamore trees. Although historically abundant throughout California and Baja California, there may be as little as 2,000 acres left today due to loss of habitat from clearing for agriculture, development, as well as other impacts. The mosaic of plant species



Freshly Painted Quonset Hut



Newly installed Kiosk



Bird Kiosk Panel

found onsite is known as a Sycamore alluvial woodland (SAW). We greatly appreciate all your donations to the Sanctuary! National Audubon provides a small yearly funding amount taken from the Bob and Elaine Crandall Endowment. However managing 430 acres is costly and we typically exceed this yearly amount. The Bobelaine Committee is actively working on pursuing grants to help with maintenance costs and will keep you posted on our progress.

—Paul Miller

Field Trips: Field Trips November 1 – December 15, 2023

Sacramento Audubon Society is proud to offer field trips to suit a variety of birders and birding abilities, and visit a large range of birding locations. Activities are organized and led by volunteers who offer their time and expertise to those who join them.

- Unless otherwise noted, field trips are geared towards those over the age of 13.
- All trip leaders and participants, including children 5 and up, must be vaccinated against COVID 19.
- Please read the description of each field trip carefully to note any specific requirements.
- Some trips require advance registration. Registration opens when the trip is announced in The Observer or posted to the website. (Please note that receiving the electronic Observer means you will receive it up to 2 weeks in advance of the paper edition.) Click on the photo or title of the field trip to learn more about the trip and its registration requirements.
- Always check the website for any last minute updates prior to joining a field trip. Cancellations or last minute instructions will be posted to the website, even for trips requiring registration. Trips are planned up to 3 months in advance and conditions can change. If you are unsure of the status of a field trip, call or email the trip leader.

Trips leave the meeting place at the time stated. Please arrive early if you need driving directions or plan to carpool.

Leaders cannot organize ride sharing or carpools as they 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.

Bothe-Napa Valley State Park/Lake Hennessey

Saturday, November 4, 7 a.m.
Expected length: 8 hours
Leader: Dan Williams (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 12
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Dan to register.

Join Dan for a full day birding in Wine Country! We will start at the Lake Hennessey Boat Launch where late fall should bring lots of diving ducks, grebes, and maybe even a loon or two. Bald Eagle, Phainopepla, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow are also possibilities at this location. From there, we will venture to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park and spend the rest of the morning into early afternoon hiking the various trails in search of redwood forest species such as Pileated Woodpecker, Pacific Wren, Varied Thrush, and maybe if we're very lucky a Northern Pygmy-Owl will put in an appearance! Be prepared for moderate hiking in slightly undulating terrain, but nothing terribly steep. We may decide to eat lunch after our hike in the picnic grounds of the state park, or during our hike (depending on how the day goes), and there will be an optional stop on our way home at V. Sattui Winery for a mid-afternoon après birding wine and cheese!

Bring enough water and provisions to last through the morning and early afternoon. We may picnic at the park after our hike, or if the birding/weather dictates, we may choose to eat mid-hike, or snack until late lunch at the winery around 1 or 2 p.m.
Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

Traylor Ranch Bird Sanctuary and Nature Reserve

Sunday, November 5, 7:30 a.m.
Expected length: 2 ½ hours
Leader: Mary Forrester (530) 209-0826
and Susan Goodrich
cmforrester@yahoo.com

This morning walk among the 88 acres of recreational land located in Penryn is a great trip for beginning as well as more experienced birders. Join Mary and Susan in finding birds such as Western Bluebird, Acorn Woodpecker, California Quail, and Red-shouldered Hawk in this open oak woodlands area. A clean port-a-loo is available at this location. It is about a half-mile walk from the parking area.

Meet Mary and Susan at the Traylor Ranch Parking Area off of Humphrey Rd. From Sacramento, take I-80 to Sierra College Blvd in Rocklin, exit 109. Turn left and follow Sierra

College Blvd 4.8 miles to English Colony Way. Turn right on to English Colony Way. In 1 mile turn right on Humphrey Road. The parking lot is .4 miles ahead on the right.

Cosumnes River Preserve

Tuesday, November 7, 9 a.m.
Expected length: 2-3 hours
Leader: Cathie LaZier (916) 502-2699
empid77@gmail.com

The flooded fields of Cosumnes River Preserve attract a wide range of waterfowl. A variety of dabblers and divers, Greater White-fronted Geese, Sandhill Cranes, dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe, and yellowlegs may be seen. We will walk along the flooded wetlands, down to the boardwalk and out, and circle back on the loop trail. Scopes will be helpful if you have them. You may want to bring lunch for afterwards; there are picnic tables behind the visitor center. Heavy rain cancels.

Meet Cathie at the main visitor center parking lot. Directions: (*These directions are different from the usual ones but factor in some recent road construction*). Take I-5 south from Sacramento, exit on Twin Cities Rd, Exit #498. Turn left onto Twin Cities Rd and go east, crossing Franklin Blvd across the train tracks. Turn right at the next stop sign onto Bruceville Rd. Take Bruceville Rd south to Desmond Rd. Follow Desmond Rd back to Franklin Rd and turn left. Follow Franklin down to the main visitor parking lot on the left side of the road.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery

Saturday, November 11, 8 a.m.
Expected length: 2-3 hours
Leader: Brian Gilmore (email only)
bgilmore71@gmail.com

As fall continues, we will take a leisurely walk along the American River starting at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot and working our way along foot trails that parallel the river. We should get good looks at the local resident birds and run into some of our local wintering species. Expect easy walking with frequent stops to scan the river, riparian habitat, and surrounding bluffs to see what interesting birds we can find. We will be on the lookout for gulls and waterfowl.

Meet Brian at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery Parking Lot at the bottom of Nimbus Road. From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Ave; turn left on Gold Country Blvd. Make an immediate right on Nimbus Road and follow the signs to the hatchery.

Beginning Birder Walk, William Pond Park

Sunday, November 12
Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.
email larryhickey1@gmail.com and put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line.

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip, with three Audubon trip leaders, it is a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and bird behavior, as we look at individual birds. Registrants will be emailed the meeting time and exact location.

Lake Solano County Park

Wednesday, November 15, 8 a.m.
Expected length: 4 hours
Leaders: Nancy Gronert (279) 346-4790
and Amy McDonald
sacauduboncorsec@gmail.com

Join Nancy and Amy for an easy walk through low foothills looking for a variety of woodpeckers, warblers, wintering species and other songbirds. We will walk 1 – 1.5 miles on fairly flat terrain. You may want to bring a lunch and water. Heavy rain and strong wind cancel. An \$8 Park Fee is required. No dogs and no glass containers allowed in the park area.

Meet Nancy and Amy at the Lake Solano County Park parking lot. 8685 Pleasants Valley Rd, Winters, CA. From Sacramento on I-80 west, take Exit 70 for CA-113 north toward Woodland. Take Exit 70 for West Covell Blvd. Turn left on West Covell Blvd/ Road 31. In 7 miles, take a slight left on to Rd 93A. At the traffic circle, continue straight to stay on CA-128/E Grant Ave. Continue to follow CA-128 west. In 4.3 miles, turn left on Pleasants Valley Rd. In 0.2 miles, turn left into the park.

Bannister Park /Sacramento Bar

Thursday, November 16, 7:30 a.m.
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Stan Hunter (530) 902-8462
Stanton.hunter@gmail.com

Spend a few hours exploring around Bannister Park and Sacramento Bar, along the American River in Fair Oaks. We will take a leisurely stroll along the paths that wander through the dredge tailings, looking for autumn regulars and seasonal migrants in the woods, on the ponds, and along the river. Meet Stan at the Bannister Park parking lot. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd. Take Fair Oaks Blvd to

continued on next page

Field Trips continued from previous page

Bannister Rd and turn left to go south toward the river. Park in the parking lot. No permit needed

Cosumnes River Preserve, Black Friday Trip

Friday, November 24, 9 a.m.

Expected Length: 2 to 3 hours

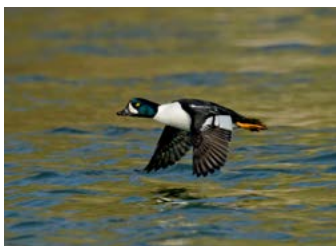
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid77@gmail.com

Want to do something non-commercial on Black Friday? Meet Cathie at the main CRP parking lot and we'll walk along the flooded wetlands, down to the boardwalk and out, and circle back on the loop trail. We'll be looking for Sandhill Cranes, geese, and a variety of duck species. Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible.

This is a great trip for beginners. Scopes are helpful if you have one. You may want to bring lunch for afterwards; there are picnic tables behind the visitor center. Heavy rain cancels.

Directions: *(These directions are different from the usual ones but factor in some recent road construction)*.

Take I-5 south from Sacramento, exit on Twin Cities Rd, Exit #498. Turn left onto Twin Cities Rd and go east, crossing Franklin Blvd across the train tracks. Turn right at the next stop sign onto Bruceville Rd. Take Bruceville Rd south to Desmond Rd. Follow Desmond Rd back to Franklin Rd and turn left. Follow Franklin down to the main visitor parking lot on the left side of the road.



Barrow's Goldeneye.
Photo by Daniel Brown.

Nimbus Fish Hatchery/Upper Sunrise

Saturday, November 25, 7:30 a.m.

Expected length: 2 ½ hours

Leader: Kevin Thomas, (916) 217- 6946
bionerdkevin@gmail.com

As winter sets in on the Central Valley, we will take a leisurely walk along the American River, starting at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery parking lot and working our way downstream along the foot trails that parallel the river. We should get good looks at the local resident birds and run into local wintering species. Expect easy walking with frequent stops to scan the river, riparian habitat, and surrounding bluffs to see what interesting birds we can

find. We will be on the lookout for Barrow's Goldeneye, interesting gulls and our local Bald Eagle. Meet Kevin at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery Parking Lot at the bottom of Nimbus Road.

From Hwy 50 go north on Hazel Avenue; turn left on Gold Country Blvd and then immediately turn right on Nimbus Road.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area

Sunday, November 26, 7 a.m.

Expected length: all day

Leader: Sonja Sorbo, (916) 390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip.

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 10.

Please email Sonja on or after November 10 if you would like to attend. Please put "Gray Lodge" in the subject line.

This winter trip offers fantastic opportunities to view waterfowl, and it is one of the more reliable places near Sacramento to see Blue-winged Teal. Sometimes thousands of geese take flight over the water to the delight of birders. Other species to expect for the day include passerines, wetland birds, and raptors. We will spend some time walking the trails which are all well graded and on level ground. After lunch, we'll take a drive around the auto loop. If there's time and if the group agrees, we'll drive home to Sacramento via a different route looking for Sandhill Cranes, grassland birds, and raptors.

NOTE: A Lands Pass is required for entry to Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. (Anglers or hunters possessing a CA license are free.) You may purchase a day pass one of four ways:

1. Pay \$5 cash at the "iron ranger" at the parking lot.
2. By phone (800) 565-1458. (Bring the temporary authorization number provided to you by the salesperson.)
3. Online, go to CDFW's website at ca.wildlifelicenses.com and "continue as a guest" and select 2023 Lands Pass. For phone and online, the fee is \$5.40 for a 1-day pass.
4. Purchase in person at sporting good stores, such as Big 5, Dick's, Fisherman's Warehouse, etc.

Meeting place, directions, and other details will be provided upon registration.

East Yolo County

Wednesday, November 29, 9 a.m.

Expected length: 3 hours

Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com

Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Bill to register.

Join Bill to Bird various sites in the east Yolo County area. Sites will require short walks. Bring FSR radios for communication between sites.

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

Wintering Raptors of the Valley (Meiss Road/Michigan Bar)

Sunday, December 3, 8 a.m.

Expected length: 6-7 hours

Leader: Craig Swolgaard (530) 334-3023
cswol@sbcglobal.net

A published study found that California's Central Valley is one of the richest wintering areas for raptors in the country. The trip will begin at Meiss and Dillard Roads and end at Clay Station and Dillard Roads following a 33 mile loop used as a survey route in a past study. Many species of raptors have been found along this productive drive during the winter months, including Golden Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, White-tailed Kite, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and Burrowing Owl. This is also a good area to find Mountain Bluebirds in winter, and has potential for other vagrants. Bring a spotting scope if possible. Trip may go into early afternoon so bring water and food.

Meet at the small public parking lot on the northwest corner of Hwy 16 and Sunrise Blvd at 8 a.m. Because some of the route involves using pullouts on a busy highway, we should try to minimize the number of vehicles driven. Participants may arrange their own carpools at the meeting site.

From Sacramento take Hwy 50 to Rancho Cordova and exit at Sunrise Blvd SOUTH. Follow Sunrise Blvd for several miles until you reach Highway 16. Turn right into the parking lot.

Gull Identification Trip

Wednesday, December 6, 8:30 a.m.

Leader: Ed Harper

Maximum number of participants: 10

REGISTRATION OPENS NOVEMBER 10.

Please email Sonja Sorbo ssgasdoc@yahoo.com on or after November 10 if you would like to attend. Please put "Gull Trip" in the subject line.

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River and a chance to sharpen your identification skills. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting or unusual birds, with emphasis on tricky identification

of the many gulls that winter on the river. Herring, "Thayer's" (which is now considered a species of Iceland Gull), Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed, and Short-billed Gulls are all possibilities. Spotting scopes will be very useful and be sure to bring your field guides and bird apps for this intensive study.

The trip will end at noon. Directions and exact meeting time and place will be provided upon registration.

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Saturday, December 9, 8 a.m.

Expected length: All Day

Leader: John York, (530) 320-4751
johnnyork157@yahoo.com

John will be looking for the enormous flocks of ducks, geese, and swans that winter in the Valley, or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles are a possibility. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. Bring lunch, snacks, and hydration, as the refuge has no restaurant. This is a good trip for new and experienced birders alike.

FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Note that there is a \$6 day use fee for each vehicle or buy a Duck Stamp (\$25) which supports all of our national wildlife refuges and is valid July 1 to the following June 30.

Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento take I-5 north to Arena Blvd. Turn left (west) at the first stoplight which is Buckhorn Blvd, then turn right into the parking lot. Meet at the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.



Lewis's Woodpecker.
Photo by Daniel Brown.

Lincoln Grasslands

Sunday, December 10, 8 a.m.

Expected Length: 7-8 hours

Leader: Richard Barbieri (916) 761-1124
Offleash227@gmail.com

The grasslands and farmlands surrounding Lincoln provide some of the best winter birding in the Sacramento Valley. Richard will search the back roads of Placer county for raptors, shorebirds ducks, swans, and

continued on next page

Field Trips continued from previous page

sparrows, plus specialty species such as Tri-colored Blackbird and Lewis's Woodpecker. It is not unusual to find 90 species on this trip.

We will bird into the afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids, as well as scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Be prepared for a fast-paced trip!

We will meet at the Park & Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Rd in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Rd off ramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Rd and you'll be on Taylor Rd. Turn left just past the Shell Station and park on the right in the Park & Ride.

Beginning Birder Walk, William Pond Park

Sunday, December 10

Maximum number of participants: 10

Registration is required for this trip.

Contact Larry Hickey at: larryhickey1@gmail.com;

put Beginning Birder in the subject line. Registrants will be emailed the meeting time and exact location.

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip, with three Audubon trip leaders, it is a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and bird behavior, as we look at individual birds.



California Quail. Photo by NPS/Steve Krause

William Pond Park

Wednesday, December 13, 7:30 a.m.

Expected Length: 2-4 hours

Leader: Mark Martucci 916-833-6722

matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Maximum Number of Participants: 10

Registration is required for this trip. Please email Mark if you would like to attend.

Join Mark for a morning walk at William Pond Park looking for resident and wintering birds.

Mergansers and goldeneye may be swimming in the backwaters, while wrens and towhees call from the shrubs. California Quail, Western Bluebirds, and Lark Sparrows may also be present in the park area. Bring snacks and liquids if desired. The trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

Bufferlands: Wetlands and Waterfowl

Saturday, December 9, 2023 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Join Bufferlands biologists, Roger Jones and Steve Scott, for an early morning 1-1/2-mile walk around seasonal wetlands. They will talk about their roles as wetland managers and look for waterfowl and other waterbirds that rely on these wet habitats.

Some of the walk will be in areas that are wet and muddy, so please dress accordingly.

Advanced registration is required for this free event as space is limited. Reservations begin one week prior to the event date, so please plan accordingly.

To register for the walk, please email Roger Jones (jonesro@sacsewer.com), or call 916-875-9174.



Photo: Cosumnes River Preserve Instagram
[@cosumnesriverpreserve](https://www.instagram.com/cosumnesriverpreserve)

Guided Sandhill Crane Tours at Cosumnes River Preserve

Upcoming dates are:

November 11 & 25, and December 9 & 23.

Registration is required via eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/cosumnes-river-preserve-10868733267>

Join experienced docents and members of the Save Our Sandhill Cranes advocacy group for a 90-minute guided tour of the Sandhill Cranes at the Cosumnes River Preserve. This tour will begin at the visitor center, rain or shine, and you will get the opportunity to learn about the features, behavior, and anatomy of Sandhill Cranes. After your short Crane introduction, you will either walk or drive to see the cranes, depending on where they are expected to be roosting that night. During the tour, there will be a few opportunities to look through a scope that will be provided by the preserve docents. But it is recommended that you bring your own binoculars to view the cranes and a variety of shore birds, ducks, geese, swans, and raptors.

Most Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific Flyway spend their fall and winters with us in California and then spend their spring summers in Alaska and Canada where they nest.

For more information visit: <http://soscranes.org/visit-the-cranes/free-tours/>

Upcoming Birding Festivals

Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

November 3–5, 2023

<https://lodisandhillcrane.org/>

California Swan Festival, Marysville

November 10–12, 2023

<https://www.caswanfestival.org/>

Central Valley Bird Club Symposium

November 16–19, 2023

Online registration is open

<https://cvbirds-symposium.netlify.app/>

Morro Bay Bird Festival

January 11, 2024 – January 15, 2024

Registration Opens November 4, 2023

Keynote Speaker: Jennifer Ackerman

<https://morrobaybirdfestival.org/>

Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway, Chico

January 25–28, 2024

<https://snowgoosefestival.org>



Photo: CDFW

Free Swan Tours by CDFW

Pre-registration is required by contacting Genelle Treaster, CDFW North Central Region, at genelle.treaster@wildlife.ca.gov.

The 2023-24 swan tour dates are:

November 4, 18, 25

December 2, 9, 16, 30

January 6

Two tours are offered each day at 9:30 a.m. and at 1 p.m.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is offering free swan tours in Yuba County near Marysville on select Saturdays, November through early January. Held in partnership with Mathews Rice farming operation, this area boasts one of the largest populations of overwintering tundra swans in the Central Valley as well as abundant geese, ducks, shorebirds and raptors.

These popular, naturalist-led tours last approximately two hours. In caravan fashion, the tours traverse flooded rice fields filled with migratory and resident birds, with periodic stops to watch and learn about the wildlife.



27th Annual CVBC Symposium November 16–19, 2023

The Central Valley Birding Symposium is live again! We are so happy to be able to welcome you back to the 27th annual Central Valley Birding Symposium after four long years. This year's program features two nationally known keynote speakers, as well as a full complement of field trips and short presentations highlighting the Central Valley. We would like to thank our sponsors for their continuing support, and to all of you for supporting the club the past three years. We look forward to seeing you in person in November! This year's CVBS is Thursday, November 16, through Sunday, November 19, 2023.

For more information or to register visit:
<https://cvbirds-symposium.netlify.app/>

Many field trips still have openings!

Help Protect Wildlife and the Environment

Since 1981 California Fish and Wildlife's CalTIP witness program has been available to the public to help protect the state's wildlife and fish resources.



Poaching incidents have increased in the American River Parkway. We encourage people using the parkway and other recreation areas to report poaching, pollution, and wildlife violations by using CalTIP. The number is 1-888-334-2258 and is available 24/7. Reporting is confidential and you don't have to give your name.

For more information visit <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Enforcement/CalTIP>.

Use CalTIP to report poaching, pollution, and wildlife violations.
Call 1-888-334-2258.

Orion Magazine & National Audubon Society Present "Spark Birds"

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 10 a.m.

Join *Orion Magazine* and the National Audubon Society on November 8th to celebrate *Orion's* latest anthology, *Spark Birds*. The essays and poems collected here—including work by Brian Doyle, John Freeman, Elizabeth Kolbert, J. Drew Lanham, Mary Oliver, Emily Raboteau, Sandra Steingraber, Terry Tempest Williams, and many more—follow the curious movements of the black sparrowhawk, the glossy flowerpecker, the pied starling, and other miraculous creatures navigating the earth's invisible forces. The book is co-edited and introduced by Jonathan Franzen.



This special launch event will feature authors Elizabeth Kolbert and Emily Raboteau in conversation with Audubon's Vice President of Content, Jennifer Bogo, about their contributions to the anthology, the importance of bird conservation, and their own spark birds. Register at <https://act.audubon.org/a/orion-magazine-webinar>

—National Audubon Society

California Limits the Use of Neonicotinoids

California Assembly Bill 363, (the Pollinator Protection Act), was signed into law on October 9, 2023 by Governor Newsom. This bill limits the use of bee-killing pesticides called neonicotinoids (or neonics). Neonics attack a bee's brain by binding to nerve cells, causing paralysis and death. In addition, these chemicals have been linked to a variety of health risks for humans and other mammals, as well as being detrimental to birds, insects, and fish. Neonics kill insects, which are an important food source for many bird species. They also reduce the plankton populations that fish consume.

Passage of this bill makes California the tenth state that has taken action to save bees from neonicotinoid pesticides. AB363 bans over-the-counter sales of lawn and garden neonics by 2025, limiting their use to trained professionals. The bill also mandates that there should be a review of California's non-agricultural neonic use. This is a big win for bees, birds, and the planet!

—Jane Van Kessel

Field Trip Findings

Sacramento Bar, (10/10)

Leader Mark Martucci reported:

Ten birders detected 53 species of birds on a windy overcast morning along the American River Parkway. Highlights included **Yellow Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Hutton's Vireo, Wood Duck, Green Heron** and **Sharp-shinned Hawk**.

Point Reyes, (10/7)

Leader Dan Williams reported:

Nineteen of us had an excellent fall day on the Point. We started at the Lighthouse, where the typical blanket of fog completely obscured our view of the ocean below, and birds were few and far between. However, we enjoyed a pair of **Common Ravens** playing tag with an immature **Red-tailed Hawk** in the cypress trees, as well as **Savannah, White-crowned** and **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, and one **Fox Sparrow** foraging in the bush lupines. Just two miles east at Chimney Rock Trailhead and the Fish Docks, we were greeted by glorious sunshine and a feeding frenzy of **Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls**, and **Brandt's** and **Pelagic Cormorants** on Drake's Bay. A **Peregrine Falcon** wheeled overhead, the elephant seals snorted from their haul out area below, and two coyotes treated us to scope views on the hill above. As we trekked down the perimeter road through the cypress trees, we were able to locate first a **MAGNOLIA WARBLER** which had just been found prior to our arrival, and then to our great astonishment, a thrush that landed on some low branches at the base of the cypresses turned out to be a very rare **VEERY!** A good number of us got to see the clinching field marks on the bird in scopes before it dove down into the understory and could not be refound. After a brief stop at Drake's Beach for lunch, where we were treated to **Red-breasted Nuthatches** in the trees near the restrooms, a **Long-billed Curlew** on the shore, and a couple of dolphins just past the shore, we elected to press on to Abbott's Lagoon since there were two rare shorebirds being seen there (a Ruff and an American Golden-Plover). While we did not find those species, we did get to enjoy dozens of **Black-bellied, Semipalmated**, and **Snowy Plovers, Dunlins, Sanderlings, Least** and **Western Sandpipers, Greater Yellowlegs, Long-billed Dowitchers**, and **Marbled Godwits**. On the hike back to the parking lot a group of **RIVER Otters** played near the outlet bridge, and a **TROPICAL KINGBIRD** flew past the trail giving us one last rarity to cap off our very good day.

River Walk, West Sacramento, (10/3)

Leader Bill Bianco reported:

Six of us started from the Broderick boat launch area and had a leisurely walk along the Sacramento River edge. Thirty-two species were observed during the walk which finished before noon. Top sightings were **Cedar Waxwings, Western Bluebirds, Osprey, Belted Kingfisher**, and **Yellow, Orange-crowned** and **Black-throated Gray Warblers**. The **Black-throated** presented surprisingly close views, which presented good photo opportunities. A side attraction was a sea lion stirring up water and attracting feeding gulls. Very pleasant day and enjoyed by all.

Teal Bend, (9/24)

Leader Richard Barbieri reported:

A good group of 14 people joined me for this early fall trip. The temperature was pretty cool at the start and slowly warmed to a very comfortable morning. Highlights from the trip were **FOS Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-throated Gray, Townsend's** and **Orange-crowned Warblers** and **Western Tanagers**. Total species count for the morning was 51.

Hagan Park, (9/23)

Leader Sheila Green reported:

Trip was canceled due to conflicting events at the park.

Sierra Discovery Trail, Emigrant Gap, (9/21)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported:

Nice to know that if birds are not forthcoming, plants always sit still. Seven of us remembered this on a quiet morning while we walked this lovely trail in towering conifers and oaks at about 4,600'. Barely a mile long, much of this trail is along the beautiful Bear River which was flowing strongly and included a surprisingly large, rambunctious waterfall. No dippers sadly but the **Brown Creepers** were fun, and we all enjoyed our time there.



Golden-crowned Sparrow at Bobelaine Sanctuary. Photo by Timothy Jackson

Bobelaine, (9/17)

Mary Forrestal, co-leader with Nancy Kapellas, reported:

A group of 12 set out to explore the various areas of Bobelaine on this beautiful Sunday morning. The trip began up and across the levee with **Western Bluebird, House Finch** and so many **American Robins**. Here as well an **Osprey** put in the first of multiple appearances and a **Cooper's Hawk** made a dramatic display chasing a **Northern Flicker** in and around the trees. Down to the trail at the base of the levee where a female/immature **Lazuli Bunting** was a highlight for a lucky few. The group then headed into Bobelaine following the Center Trail to the River Overlook, stopping along the way to see a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, several warblers, and the occasional woodpecker. At the River Overlook, 3 **Spotted Sandpipers** on the sandbar were upstaged by 2 **Bald Eagles** soaring over the Feather River. Not being willing to call it a day, the group headed down the South Trail where a first of season **Golden-crowned Sparrow** was a wonderful surprise. As we headed out along the Oak Trail, the warblers continued to flit among the treetops with **Yellow, Wilson's, Orange-crowned** and **Black-throated Gray** all joining in the fun. See the complete eBird list at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S150146333>.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center, (9/16)

Sue Darst, co-leader with Rachael Cowan, reported: We joined EYNC Naturalist Hannah Steurer for a very quiet morning of birding with 9 adults and children. We saw a total of 16 species on this late-morning walk. For this group of mostly beginning birders, we introduced them to basic bird identification by sight, sound, and behavior. Highlights included observing **Acorn Woodpeckers** noisily preparing for the upcoming winter, two **White-throated Swifts, Killdeer**, and a distant **Great-blue Heron** down by the river. It was a lovely morning with lots of Pipevine Swallow-tail butterflies to observe in addition to birds.



Osprey at Bobelaine Sanctuary. Photo by Timothy Jackson



Sandhill Crane. Photo by Daniel Brown

Seasonal Sightings September 1 – 30

September about tops the list as the most interesting month for birding in our area. This month did not disappoint in terms of rarities, though many noted more slow days in the field than desired and very few days with really high numbers of migrants. There were some interesting shorebirds again this month, but songbird rarities stole the show. Toward the end of the month, many reported flyover **Sandhill Cranes**, signaling a turn toward fall. A **Snowy Plover** was a nice find at Staten Island in San Joaquin County on 9/20, and the string of excellent Yolo County shorebird reports continued with a **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Rd 104 ponds from 9/7–9/20. **Pectoral Sandpipers** were widely reported, and **Solitary Sandpiper** reports came from Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 9/2, a different CRP location on 9/3, and from the Bufferlands on 9/7.

A well-photographed **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was an excellent find at Lake Solano on 9/18. A **Least Flycatcher** at CRP on 9/15 was an excellent find, as was an **Eastern Kingbird** along the Natomas Main Drainage Canal, north of Garden Hwy and the Sacramento River, on 9/6–9/8. Even more surprising was a well-photographed **Blue-headed Vireo** on 9/11 along Putah Creek near the Pedrick Rd Bridge. Two **Pacific Wrens** reported at Lake Solano on 9/23 were on the early side. Four **Evening Grosbeaks** on 9/21 at Sacramento Bar along the American River Parkway (ARP) were a real surprise, as was a male **Red Crossbill** that perched briefly in the top of a dead tree at Willow Hill Reservoir Community Park in Folsom on 9/3. A **Lark Bunting** was nicely photographed at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA) on 9/8, and a **Green-tailed Towhee** was a nice find at Sailor Bar (ARP) on 9/15. A recording of a calling **Bobolink** was a nice surprise from the Pocket neighborhood of Sacramento on 9/6.

Rare warblers made a good showing this month, with a **Northern Waterthrush** at YBWA on 9/9, and a **Tennessee Warbler** at Sacramento Bar (ARP) on 9/24. A **Virginia's Warbler**, very rare in Northern California, was an excellent find at Lake Solano on 9/17-9/18. **American Redstarts** were found on 9/1 near the Pedrick Rd bridge, along Babel Slough from 9/2-9/7, and in North Davis on 9/19. A **Northern Parula** was a nice find at Lake Solano on 9/6, as was a **Chestnut-sided Warbler** on 9/19 at Sacramento Bar (ARP). Rounding out the list of rarities, **Summer Tanager** reports included one at CRP on 9/9, two different birds at CRP on 9/15, and one at William Land Park on 9/26.

To view photos of some of the highlights, visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/bird-sightings, and then click on the highlighted eBird checklists.

The Sacramento Area is roughly defined as lying between Hwy 20 to the north, Hwy 12 to the south, and the 1000-foot contour to the east and west, plus all of Sacramento and Yolo counties. Many reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club listserv (groups.io/g/centralvalleybirds) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but we thank the following for their reports: Max Brodie, Lyann Comrack, Konshau Duman, Chris Dunford, Jonathan Eisen, Frank Fabbro, Tim Fitzer, Joshua Greenfield, Mike Guard, David Hamilton, Denise Hamilton, Cliff Hawley, Jim Holmes, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Jenny Luo, Mark Martucci, Roger Muskat, Bryce Parker, Zane Pickus, Rene Reyes, Steve Scott, Kim Tenggardjaja, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, and Lynette Williams. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

—Chris Conard

SAS New Members

Please welcome these new members:

Joyce Keene
Chris Malysiak
Rosemary O'Grady

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Betty J. Cooper
Kit Custis
Anna Doty
Roger Dunstan
Michael J. Harris
Gregory Hoyt
Suzanne Lapin
Robert Lyons
Chris Malysiak
Gibbe and Ann Parsons
Gail Porter
Joyce C. Rietz

Education and Conservation Fund

Ann Burris
Kit Custis
Michael J. Harris
John & Julie Hamlin
Gibbe and Ann Parsons
Joyce C. Rietz

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Kit Custis
Michael J. Harris
Gibbe and Ann Parsons
Joyce C. Rietz

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support of Sacramento Audubon and its work in the community. Donations to the Bobelaine Sanctuary are encouraged to help defray the cost of management.

See the Latest SAS Action on Facebook



facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

Follow SAS on Instagram



[@sacaudubon](https://instagram.com/sacaudubon)

Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:



- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds.
- Foster the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach.
- Encourage, support, and provide environmental educational opportunities.
- Advocate for the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Paul Miller, at sacaudubonpresident@gmail.com to find out how the Board Meeting is being held. Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month, except for June, July, and December when no meetings are held.

The next board meeting is:

Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found at sacramentoaudubon.org/board-minutes.

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. Members receive our online newsletter, *The Observer*; so be sure to include your email address.

Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

www.sacramentoaudubon.org

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

SAS Membership per address/household (for 12 months): \$ 35

I want to add an extra Donation of: \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Mail this form with your check payable to Sacramento Audubon Society to the address shown above. You can also use your credit card or PayPal account on SAS website:

<https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/join-renew>

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel _____

Email _____

New members will receive *The Observer* in color via email. Please provide your email address above. If you would prefer a black & white, paper copy mailed to you instead, please email sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com.

If you would like to be added to the SAS Action Alert list, check here _____.

Sacramento Audubon Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit. #94-1615830

Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

Sacramento Audubon Society
P.O. Box 160694
Sacramento, CA 95816

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 1935
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery



SACRAMENTO
AUDUBON SOCIETY

www.sacramentoaudubon.org

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

instagram.com/sacaudubon



White-tailed Kite Daniel Brown

Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

Internet Address: www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Membership/Subscriptions: Jane Van Kessel
sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Seasonal Observations: Chris Conard
2405 Rio Bravo Circle, Sacramento, CA 95826
(916) 203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail: sacaudubonmeetings@gmail.com

The Observer Editor: Carla Resnick, e-mail: carlaphoto@gmail.com

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 by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December.

November General Meeting

Monarch Butterflies – A Conservation Opportunity for Native Species

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Presented by Melissa Burns

Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 2850 San Lorenzo Way,
Carmichael, CA and on Zoom



The November
General Meeting
and Monthly
Speaker Program
will be held on
5th Thursday this
month.

