

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

General Meeting

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom

The meeting will be held online via Zoom. You must register for the meeting, but there is no cost to register and you do not need a Zoom account. Registration is required due to space limitations set by Zoom. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with information on how to join the meeting. You will also receive email reminders about this event. For more information visit www.sacramentoaudubon.org/monthly-speaker.

Survival In An Unpredictable World: How Birds Flexibly Respond to Environmental Stressors

Presented by Jamie Cornelius. Ph.D.

Birds use different behavioral and physiological strategies to cope with unpredictable change in their environments. Stressors include storms, fire, drought, environmental contamination, urbanization, and unpredictable or patchy food resources.

Conservation efforts, resource management, and policies can protect our wild birds.

Jamie Cornelius is Assistant Professor of Integrative Biology at Oregon State University, and a 2022 National Geographic Explorer. She received her B.S. in Zoology at the University of Washington and doctoral degree in animal behavior from UC Davis. After graduating she was a post-doctoral scholar at the Max Planck Institute in Germany, and won a Fulbright fellowship to work in Russia at St. Petersburg State. Her first faculty job was at Eastern Michigan University and finally landed at Oregon State University (OSU) in 2019 as an assistant professor of Integrative Biology. Her research program is focused on how birds cope with unpredictability and she is currently building research programs around the problems of storms, drought, and fire.



Upcoming Events

Bushy Lake Eco-Cultural Community Celebration

Saturday, April 29, 10 AM – 1 PM

Event and Parking are Free.

Join the Bushy Lake team for Tours, Tabling, and Community. Bushy Lake is an Eco-Cultural Restoration Project in Sacramento, CA (adjacent to Cal Expo) that was established in 2015 (www.bushylake.com). Eco-cultural restoration is a core component of our project and includes planting culturally significant native plant species. We are also conducting a Northwest Pond turtle conservation project, conducting weekly bird surveys, and monitoring wildlife cameras. Please join in on this community celebration.

Join us at the Parking Lot of the Cal Expo RV Park at 500 Ethan Way, Sacramento, CA 95815. From Hwy 50, take Howe Ave north. Turn left on Hurley Way, then turn left at Ethan Way.

<https://www.bushylake.com/upcoming-events>

Walk on The Wildside

Saturday, May 20, 10 AM – 4 PM

Event and Parking are Free.

This free event celebrates International Migratory Bird Day and highlights local efforts in wildlife conservation and protecting and restoring native Central Valley habitat. Visitors can take the miles of trails, or enjoy tours of restored wetlands and oak forests on Regional San's Bufferlands. Throughout the day, visitors can get up close and personal with wild animals, listen to some great folk music, and check out conservation exhibits.

Take I-5 or Highway 99 south from Sacramento. Exit at Cosumnes River Blvd. Take Cosumnes River Blvd west to Freeport Blvd. Take Freeport Blvd south, past the golf course and the small town of Freeport. Turn left at signs opposite Cliff's Marina (8651 River Rd, Sacramento, CA 95832). Follow signs to parking area.

<https://www.regionalsan.com/event/walk-on-wildside>

see page 6 for more events

Field Trips: Field Trips April 1 – May 15, 2023

Sacramento Audubon has returned to volunteer-led field trips.

Precautions are still in place for everyone's safety. Unless otherwise noted, field trips are geared towards adults and those over age 13. With wildfires on the rise, smoky conditions may occur. Please note that a forecast of bad air quality (AQI of 100 or higher) will result in trip cancellation. If you are unsure, please contact the trip leader.

For questions regarding the trip, or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please contact the trip leader. Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ride-sharing/carpools. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios may be helpful. Please arrive early if you need driving directions or plan to carpool as starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place.

COVID-19 Protocols

- Some trips may require advance registration. For those trips, please only sign up if you are committed to attending as field trips have a limited number of participants.
- All participants, including children 5 and up and field trip leaders, must be vaccinated.
- Additional restrictions may be required, such as proof of vaccine or face masks. It varies with each field trip. Please read the description of the field trip carefully. Do not register for a field trip if you are unwilling to comply with the stated COVID precautions.

To Register for a Field Trip, follow the instructions in the trip description or visit <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org/field-trips>. If you have questions or need help, email our Registration Coordinator at sacramentoaudubonfieldtrips@gmail.com.

Point Reyes

Saturday, April 1, 8 AM
Expected length: All day
Leader: John York (530) 320-4751
Johnyork157@yahoo.com
RSVP to John by email or text is recommended in case of change of plan due to weather, etc.

John plans a full day of birding at the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks and Abbott's Lagoon (weather permitting). If it's too foggy at coastal spots, we will bird on shore locations.

John plans to stop for lunch at the Deli in Inverness, but bring snacks, drinks and/or own food if you choose. Dress for changeable weather.

Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit 81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park & Ride lot.

Sacramento Migration Hotspot

Sunday, April 2, 8:45 AM
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Kevin Thomas, (916) 217- 6946
bionerdkevin@gmail.com
This trip is full. Email Kevin to be added to the waitlist.

This trip will focus on a spring migration hotspot in the Sacramento area. Kevin will be scouting areas and reports the weeks prior to the trip to identify a location that has produced good migrant activity and has trails for easy walking. We will expect to see our early migrant flycatchers, vireos and warblers along with our local breeding birds returning from the south. A Sacramento County Parks Pass may be required.

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

Sailor Bar

Monday, April 3, 8:30 AM
Expected length: 2 ½ - 3 hours
Leader: Nicole Barden, (530) 304-5461
nicolebarden@gmail.com

Join Environmental Educator Nicole to explore what this popular birding location has to offer! We will be looking and listening for spring favorites, including returning Pacific-slope Flycatchers, trilling Chipping Sparrows, bright yellow Wilson's Warblers, and singing Black-headed Grosbeaks. Maybe we will even locate a nest!

Open to all birding levels, this trip will be slow-paced, and we will be taking the time to appreciate bird behavior along the way. We will be listening for birds as much as looking for them and will be keeping an e-bird list as we go. Beginning birders and young birders are

encouraged to join.

The trail we will be walking on is mostly flat, though there are some uneven sections with large, smoothed river rocks. There will be an optional steep section at the end for anyone who wants to bird for a little longer. We will cover no more than 3 miles. Public restrooms are available at this location.

Meet Nicole at the parking lot at Sailor Bar. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way just west of Hazel. From Hwy 50, take Hazel Ave north, turn left on Winding Way, then turn Left on Illinois Ave. Follow Illinois all the way to the end.

Meet at the last parking lot on your left, near the boat launch area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Foothills Birds and Flowers Hike

Wednesday, April 5, 8 AM
Expected length: 4-5 hours
Leader: Sonja Sorbo (916) 390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Sonja to register.

This amazing area north of Oroville is a result of ancient volcanic activity which created an elevated basalt mesa. The reserve is known for its spectacular wildflower displays in springtime. With adequate rain, several seasonal waterfalls and streams should be running, adding further beauty to the landscape. Our adventure will be about the hiking and wildflower viewing as much as the birding. The plan is to hike a dirt trail about 1.9 miles out and the same distance back, with an elevation gain of about 320 feet. The trail is generally in good condition, but it can get rocky, and any recent rain may result in some muddy areas. Wear sturdy hiking shoes or boots, and bring plenty of water as well as snacks, lunch, sunscreen, and hats. There is very little shade on the trail.

We can expect to see resident bird species of open land and oak woodland, including up to four wren species and four swallow species, Western Bluebirds, Western Meadowlarks, sparrows, woodpeckers, goldfinches, California Quail, and raptors. If we're lucky, we might spot an early migrant or two.

This will be an all-day trip, with about 4 hours of birding and hiking plus driving time to and from the preserve which is about 70 miles from Sacramento.

Space is limited so sign up soon. Exact meeting time, driving directions, and instructions to purchase a Lands Pass will be sent to registered participants.

Bufferlands Birds and Blooms

Saturday, April 8, 9 AM
This trip is full. Email Brian Young at youngb@sacsewer.com to be added to a waitlist or if you have any questions about this trip.

Join biologists Bryan Young and Shawn Petrash along with the Bufferlands docent team for a guided hike through the grassland, wetland and riparian habitats of the 2,000+ acre open space preserve surrounding the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Family Friendly Trip to Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Sunday, April 9, 10 AM
Expected length: 2-3 hours
Leader: Paul Miller (916) 768-7503, and Maureen Geiger
Pjmiller1962@me.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Paul to register.

This area is beautifully designed for those with mobility challenges, and families with small children, as it offers a wide, level cement trail that loops through the refuge. Designed to meet a wide range of mobility needs, the facility includes handicapped parking, accessible restrooms, handicap ramp access from parking lot, and wide level concrete trails. The varied habitats may produce interesting birds, including Green Heron, Sora, Belted Kingfisher, Song Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat, as well as Red-tailed Hawks and Western Meadowlarks.

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

Traylor Ranch Bird Sanctuary and Nature Reserve Family Friendly Trip

Saturday, April 15, 9 AM
Expected length: 2 ½ hours
Leader: Mary Forrester (530) 209-0826
sacaudubonrecording@gmail.com

This morning walk among the 88 acres of recreational land located in Penryn will be specifically geared to and appropriate for families and children. Join Mary in finding interesting birds such as Western Bluebird, Tree Swallows, California Quail, and Red-shouldered Hawks in this open oak woodlands area. There will be a few extra pairs of binoculars for children to use. A clean port-a-loo is available at this location. It is about a half-mile walk from the parking area.

Meet Mary at the Traylor Ranch Parking Area off of Humphrey Rd. From Sacramento, take I-80 to Sierra

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Field Trips: continued

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 Rd. The parking lot is 0.4 miles ahead on the right.

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Saturday, April 15, 10:30 AM
Paid registration is required through Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Please see www.sacnaturecenter.net or call (916) 876-4918 for registration and other details.

Join Audubon birding leaders Dan Williams and Sandra Steurer, and Nature Center docents, for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and Bushtits will be active. Families and individuals are encouraged to enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area, with naturalists and birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge.

Pine Hill/Kanaka Valley

Sunday, April 16, 7 AM
Expected length: 5 hours
Leader: Chris Conard
Maximum number of participants: 20
Registration is required for this trip. Pre-registration is required and limited to 20 participants through Pine Hill Preserve contact Virginia Meyer at vcmeier@mac.com www.pinehillpreserve.org

The preserve was established to protect rare native plants, in El Dorado County, that occur only on the specialized soils of the Pine Hill area. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Hwy 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. Plan to visit Kanaka Valley, with a mix of oak woodland and chaparral. Chris will look for California Thrashers, Bell's Sparrows, migrating warblers, and, on a clear day, great views of the Sierra and the surrounding geography. A botanist will be on the trip to provide background on the rare plants. Be prepared for three miles of moderate walking.

Lake Solano County Park

Monday, April 17, 8 AM
Expected length: 4-5 hours
Leader: Bill Bianco, (916) 372-3318
biancowm@yahoo.com

Join Bill for an easy walk through low foothills looking for a variety of woodpeckers, warblers, late wintering species, and other songbirds. Walk 1 - 1.5 miles on fairly flat terrain. May want to bring a lunch and water. Heavy rain and strong wind cancels. A \$6 Park Fee is required. No dogs and no glass containers allowed in the park area.

Meet Bill at the Lake Solano County Park parking lot. 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. 8685 Pleasants Valley Rd, Winters, CA.

Grasslands Regional Park, Davis

Wednesday, April 19, 7 AM
Expected length: 4 hours
Leader: Nancy Gronert, (279) 346-4790
sacauduboncorsec@gmail.com

This 320 acre gem outside of Davis houses resident hawks and Great Horned Owls. It can also be a warbler and oriole stop-over. A Burrowing Owl preserve is present, as well as new grassland trails. As the season progresses, Lazuli Buntings may be seen. Depending on time, we may have a chance for a later walk through the South Fork Preserve towards Mace Boulevard. A parking fee is only required for those doing archery. Two sets of port-a-potties are on site.

Meet Nancy at the Grasslands Regional Parking lot as you enter.

Take Interstate 80 toward Davis, then take exit 75 at Mace Boulevard. Turn left on Mace and proceed about 4 miles to Grasslands Regional Park on the left, near the junction of Mace Blvd and Tremont Rd.

Unusual Parts of the Cosumnes River Preserve

Saturday, April 22, 7:30 AM
Expected length: 5 hours
Leader: Rodd Kelsey, (916) 662-4085
rodd.kelsey@gmail.com
Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Rodd to register.

On this trip we will explore parts of the preserve that are not usually publicly accessible, covering habitats like flooded farm fields, sloughs and

floodplains, and gallery valley oak forest. Given time, and to fill out the diversity of birds we see, we may also stop at some of the usual public places to see what's happening on some of the managed wetlands. This will give us great opportunities to see a nice diversity of waterbirds and land birds, including many waterfowl and shorebirds, the remaining sandhill cranes who have not yet begun their journey north, wintering songbirds, raptors, and possibly some owls, as well as possible spring migrants. This trip will also be a great way to wander around both the well-known and lesser-known parts of the area to learn about the ongoing work there to restore natural floodplains, and to manage wetlands and farmlands for the greatest wildlife benefit. This trip will involve a significant amount of walking along roads and trails, including on some uneven ground. If rains have continued, there will likely be muddy and wet conditions. Be sure to bring water and some snacks.

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

Beginning Birder Walk William Pond Park

Sunday, April 23
Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.
Contact Cathie LaZier,
empid77@gmail.com.
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's a low key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We'll talk about habitat, field marks and bird behavior as we look at individual birds. Registrants will be sent the meeting time and exact location, along with other information.

Sacramento Bar

Wednesday, April 26, 7 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Mark Martucci,
(916) 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Mark to register.

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see and hear a nice variety of resident birds, and maybe a few spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Meet Mark at the Sacramento Bar Parking Lot. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd. Turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd and take the first left on Pennsylvania Avenue. Follow Pennsylvania to the parking lot at the end on the right.

Lake Solano

Friday, April 28, 9 AM
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Paul Miller, (916) 768-6503
pjmiller1962@me.com
Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Paul to register.

This trip is specifically designed for beginning to more experienced birders in a location with paved trails, handicapped parking, and fully accessible restrooms. Whether you walk, use a wheelchair, or a walker, this trip is for you. We will travel along paved trails and hard-packed dirt at Lake Solano Park, a short drive from Sacramento. This location offers a wonderful opportunity to see a wide variety of bird species. Please bring a \$6 parking fee. Bring water, a snack, and a smart phone if you have one.

Meet Paul in the Parking Lot, Lake Solano Park, 8685 Pleasants Valley Road, Winters, CA. From Sacramento, take I-80 West (26 miles) to HWY 505 (11 miles), at Winters/CA128 exit. Turn left onto CA128 go (5.3 miles). Turn left onto Pleasants Valley Road/ County Road 86.

Sweetwater Creek

Saturday, April 29, 7 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Richard Barbieri, (916) 761-1124
offleash227@gmail.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip. Please email Richard to register.

At this favorite spring hotspot, we should find wildflowers in bloom and may hear the song of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Other possibilities are Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Rain cancels.

Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on the right.

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Field Trips: continued

Knickerbocker Creek Auburn State Recreation Area

Sunday, April 30, 7:30 AM
Leader: Timothy Jackson, (530) 558-5164
eldoradobirds@yahoo.com

We will look (and listen) for songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, game birds, and hummingbirds in a three to four mile walk through predominately oak grasslands with some pockets of chaparral. We'll visit a couple of ponds early in the walk to look for wetland species and then parallel part of the creek which feeds the north fork of the American River. We'll be on the lookout for incoming breeding season migrants and a few lingering non-breeding season migrants. The trip should last until 12 noon or 1 PM. Depending on precipitation the trails may be muddy and bordered by wet grass. Meet Tim at the Northside Elementary School parking lot at 7:30 AM. The address is 860 Cave Valley Rd. Cool, CA 95614.

Directions from Highway 50 (recommended route): From Sacramento head east and leave highway 50 at exit 30B. This will cloverleaf onto El Dorado Hills blvd. heading north. At approximately 5 miles the road crosses Green Valley Rd. and becomes Salmon Falls Rd. Continue on Salmon Falls Rd. for a little under 12 miles. Turn right on Salmon Falls Cutoff Rd. and in a few hundred feet turn left onto Highway 49 heading north. Go about three miles and turn left onto Cave Valley Rd. Park in the Northside Elementary School lot on the left.

Directions from Hwy 80 (descends into and ascends out of the American River Gorge). From Sacramento head east and leave Hwy 80 at exit 119C. The exit lane will split in two during the cloverleaf so make sure to get in the left lane and turn left onto Elm Ave at the stoplight. In a few hundred feet turn left at another stoplight onto Hwy 49. Continue for seven miles and turn right onto Cave Valley Rd. Park in the Northside Elementary School lot on the left. While the destination is closer to the highway on this route it does involve hairpin turns on a rural highway in a river gorge. Take the route from Hwy 50 if you are not prepared for this type of drive.

William Pond Park

Tuesday, May 2, 8 AM
Expected length: 2-3 hours
Leader: Cathie Lazier, (916) 502-2699
empid77@gmail.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Cathie to register.

On this morning walk we'll visit some different spots on the river, then check out the heron rookery and the pond area. Nesting birds are more visible and more vocal, so we should see a good variety. This is a great trip for beginners. A Sacramento county Parks Pass, or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Meet Cathie at the William Pond Parking lot at the 1st parking lot on your left, just past the entrance kiosk. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, as it runs into the park.

Ancil Hoffman Park

Saturday, May 6, 8:00 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

We'll check out the river trails upstream and downstream looking for resident, migrating, and nesting birds. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders. A Sac County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Meet Dan at the main picnic area parking lot across from the golf course. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Dr entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left.

Beginning Birder Walk William Pond Park

Sunday, May 7
Maximum number of participants: 10
Registration is required for this trip.
Registration is required for this trip.
Contact Cathie Lazier,
empid77@gmail.com.
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's a low key introduction to finding and identifying birds. We'll talk about habitat, field marks and bird behavior as we look at individual birds. Registrants will be sent the meeting time and exact location, along with other information.

Spring Migration Hotspots

Sunday, May 7, 6:30 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Kevin Thomas, (916) 217-6946
bionerdkevin@gmail.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Kevin to register.

This trip will focus on a spring migration hotspot in the Sacramento area. Kevin will be scouting areas and reports the weeks prior to the trip to identify a location that has produced good migrant activity and has trails for easy walking. We will expect to see our early migrant flycatchers, vireos, and warblers along with our local breeding birds returning from the south. 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.

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Monday, May 8, 8 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Leader: Maureen Geiger, (916) 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

The Bobelaine Preserve is a 430-acre National Audubon Sanctuary on the Feather River, managed by Sacramento Audubon. This riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores and willows is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Join Maureen for about a 2.5 mile walk along the mowed trails to the River's Overlook looking for resident and migrating birds and enjoy this lush habitat along the Feather River. There is a port-a-potty on site.

Meet at the Bobelaine Preserve Parking Lot. From Sacramento, take I-5 north, then Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City. About 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge, turn right on Laurel Ave. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.

Sailor Bar

Thursday, May 11, 8 AM
Expected length: 3-4 hours
Darrell Mohr, (916) 225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the local birds. Possible birds include Phainopepla and California Quail. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders. A Sac County Parks Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Meet at the last (gravel) parking lot on your left, just before the boat launch parking area. From Sacramento, take Hwy 50 east to Exit 21, Hazel Avenue. Turn left at the light and proceed north 1.4 miles to Winding Way. Turn left on Winding Way, then proceed 0.5 miles to Illinois Ave, where you will take another left. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue.

Riparian Corridor in Roseville

Saturday, May 13, 7:30 AM
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Sonja Sorbo, (916) 390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Sonja to register.

This riparian area is tucked away in a Roseville neighborhood like a secret garden. It hosts resident birds, and in the springtime, there are returning nesting birds as well as migrants passing through, such as warblers, vireos, and flycatchers. A family of wood ducks is often visible if we are stealthy. We will walk for about 2 miles on a level trail (both dirt and paved sections). Bring a snack and water; the trip will last about 3 hours. Space is limited, so sign up soon.

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

Family Friendly Trip to Putah Creek South Fork Preserve

Sunday, May 14, 9 AM
Expected length: 2 hours
Leader: Nicole Barden, (530) 304-5461
nicolembarden@gmail.com

Mother's Day! What better Mother's Day gift than to take your mother on a Mother's Day Birding stroll! Join Environmental Educator Nicole to visit this mixed riparian, upland grassland, and oak savannah habitat. We will be on the lookout for Say's Phoebe, Horned Larks, and raptors in the fields. Traveling along the creek, we will look for herons and otters. We may also get to see any spring migrants that may have stopped over.

This trip is open to all birding levels and ages and will be slow paced. We will be listening for birds as much as looking for them, and will keep an eBird list as we go. Beginning birders and young birders are encouraged to join. The trail is flat, un-paved, and travels through mixed shade and sun. There are no bathrooms available at the preserve. We are expecting to travel no more than 2 miles.

Meet Nicole at the South Fork Preserve parking area. From I-80, go south on Mace Boulevard for 2.5 miles to the south side of the creek. The Putah Creek South Fork Preserve will be on the left.

Field Trip Reports



Ferrari Ranch. Photo: Susan Goodrich

Ferrari Ranch Ponds, (3/9)

Leader Mary Forrestal reported: The rain held off and ten birders explored this location north of Sacramento. Highlights included pairs of **Hooded Merganser**, **Pied-billed Grebe**, **Common Gallinule**, and **Bufflehead**. A field full of hundreds of **Greater White-fronted Geese**, thousands of **Snow Geese**, and at least two **Cackling Geese** was a delight. Several species of swallows were first of season for many with **Tree**, **Cliff**, **Violet-green**, **Northern Rough-winged**, and **Barn** all putting in appearances. One of the biggest surprises of the morning was an **Osprey** that flew over the parking lot at the beginning of the trip. 63 species were seen in total on this great morning of birding. <https://ebird.org/checklist/S130544838>

Phoenix Park Family Friendly Walk, (3/6)

Leader Nicole Barden reported: Our group of 11 birders met at Phoenix Park and our field trip started off strong when one person realized that a **Great Horned Owl** was in a nearby tree that several other people had missed. We looked through a mixed flock of **Lesser** and **American Goldfinches** and found a single **Chipping Sparrow**. While looking at **Canada Geese** standing in a baseball field, our group noticed several **American Pipits** poking around in the grass. At one point we started hearing **Sandhill Cranes**, and after a bit of looking around in the sky we located them flying over. We were pleased to see several **Yellow-billed Magpies** actively carrying sticks and entering many of the nests that can be found throughout the park. The vernal pools were full of water and we saw plenty of California Ground Squirrels peeking their heads out of holes and from behind logs. A few people in the group stayed at the end and tried unsuccessfully to find the Lawrence's Goldfinches. To see the full list of birds, please see our eBird list: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S130807231>

William Pond Park Beginners' Walk, (3/5)

Larry Hickey, co-leader with Darrell Mohr, Cathie LaZier and Jane Van Kessel, reported: On a cold and wet morning in early March nine of us met at the William Pond section of the American River Parkway and, despite the weather, enjoyed watching and listening to the many birds who stay there in the winter and year round. It became clear, though, that spring activity was on the rise. Noisy **Yellow-billed Magpies** were actively building and re-building their nests, both **Lesser** and **American Goldfinches** were foraging in the trees and on the ground, **Great Blue Herons** were occupying their nests, and two large groups of **Sandhill Cranes** flew over on their way to their breeding grounds. A very cooperative **Red-shouldered Hawk** provided us excellent scope views as the weather began to clear when we started

our walk. Highlights included a **White-tailed Kite**, a singing **Purple Finch**, good looks at **Ruddy Ducks** and close up views of the interesting lobed feet of the **American Coot**. THE highlight of the day, however, was seeing a nesting **Great Horned Owl**.

Gray Lodge, (2/26)

Leader Paul Miller reported: I canceled the trip due to weather and safe driving concerns.

Sacramento Bar, (2/23)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported: A cold and windy day. Not fit for man or birds. However, 14 people thought it would be a good birding day. The day started off with a **Red-tailed Hawk** and two **Common Ravens** flying overhead. The **Red-tailed Hawk** landed in a tree and everyone had a good look at the bird. As we walked along the American River trail we spotted a **Snowy Egret** and a **Great Egret**. There were a few water birds out in the river. A **Common Goldeneye** and a **Bufflehead** put on a good show for everyone. As we were walking along the pond trail a pair of **Purple Finches** were spotted on a branch in the bushes where everyone was able to get a good look at the pair. Perhaps that was the bird of the day. The day turned out to be successful. We counted a total of 50 species.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center, (2/22)

Leader Ed Harper reported: A cool but beautiful morning devoid of any wind or clouds greeted eight of us as we assembled to explore the Effie Yeaw Nature Area. Folks were warmly dressed for the mid 30's F start, but as the day warmed to 49F by noon everyone was quite comfortable. The birds responded by becoming more active as the day warmed. We first began with a quest for the **American Pipits I** had spotted in the big lawn area across from the Effie Yeaw parking lot. Our search turned up 20 **American Pipits** walking about, but they were upstaged by several **Western Bluebirds** and **Lark Sparrows** that delighted us with scope views. We then turned to the trails where we had leisurely looks at **Acorn Woodpeckers**, **White-breasted Nuthatches**, **Oak Titmice**, **Red-shouldered Hawks**, and numerous **Yellow-rumped Warblers**. We walked to the banks of the American River where **Common Merganser**, **Common Goldeneye**, and **Bufflehead** were actively foraging. While at the river, three River Otters were spotted both feeding and frolicking to the delight of all of us. We completed our walk just after 12 noon satisfied with a great morning in the field that logged an exciting 43 species of birds.

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk, (2/18)

Larry Hickey, co-leader with Lynn Tweten, reported: Eighteen of us enjoyed a clear morning at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center for a lovely birding walk. Our delightful group included seven enthusiastic young children and their wonderful young parents. Wild Turkeys and friendly looking deer walked the trails with us as we watched and heard noisy **Acorn Woodpeckers** and **European Starlings** in the oak trees. Two beautiful and cooperative **Red-shouldered Hawks** gave us good long looks as they perched on nearby trees. **Downy**, **Nuttall's** and **Northern Flickers** rounded out the woodpecker species we were able to find. Many **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, **Oak Titmouse**, **Dark-eyed Juncos**, and four **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** flitted and foraged all around us on our walk.



Sandhill Cranes. Photo: Ervin Norman

Cosumnes River Preserve, (2/18)

Leader Paul Miller reported: Our trip started at 3:00 with the intent to see **Sandhill Cranes** fly-in for the night. As we slowly meandered out to the boardwalk we heard the unmistakable trill of our first set of five cranes flying north but not landing. So beautiful and majestic. As we waited for more Sandhills we were treated by a very close-up encounter with a camouflage master, a **Wilson's Snipe**. Although only 20 feet away, finding it amongst the short dry grass was still tricky! Other treats were a **Common Yellowthroat**, **Ringed-necked Ducks**, and some very close-up **Least Sandpipers**. Halfway down the boardwalk we got our first good look at several flocks of Sandhills standing on the far berm to the north, about thirty or so birds. As the sun began to set the evening pink hues started to intensify. This is my favorite time to view the cranes, backlit by the setting sun and slowly cruising above us. Before we started our slow jaunt back we were blessed by several more groups of cranes, flying and calling overhead. We are so blessed to have the Cosumnes River Preserve in our backyard, a beautiful winter home for our majestic cranes.

Bridgeway Island Pond, (2/15)

Leader Ed Harper reported: Undeterred by chilly temperatures hovering in the lower 40s F and accompanied with NNW winds of 12 to 15 mph in their faces, nine stalwart birders joined me for a great morning at Bridgeway Island Pond. We were not disappointed, as this hot spot lived up to its reputation as being one of the ten top birding locations in Yolo County. Aided by great and skilled spotters along with their enthusiastic participation, we tallied an impressive list of birds. Highlights included finding a **Swamp Sparrow** that we were able to view in our scopes along with a **Sora** that also paraded for us with scope views. **Common Yellowthroats** and **Marsh Wrens** even gave us scope views! We enjoyed three species of teal including 26 **Blue-winged Teals** for which this location seems to be a magnet. Nine **Forster's Terns** were a pleasant addition. The three **Wilson's Snipes** gave everyone great looks, but they were completely outnumbered by 140 **Black-necked Stilts**. Encouraged by the views of **Osprey** and **American Kestrel**, we hiked up to the crest of the ship canal levee where we spotted a wayward California Sea Lion swimming up the channel. Back at the pond a River Otter put in a brief appearance before disappearing completely. Some of the group had to leave early, but several stayed longer to bird until noon affording us time to scope the pond from its eastern boundary. Upon reaching 65 species, it seemed like a good time to call it a day.

Seasonal Sightings February 1 – 28

While there were breaks in the storms, high water, rain, and winds limited birding activity for good chunks of the month. The expected winter raptors and water birds were in their usual spots, though waterfowl moved a lot, exploiting newly-flooded areas. Early signs of spring came in the form of all the regular swallows (except for **Purple Martin**, not expected until mid-to-late March) reported before month's end. The **Greater Roadrunner** found along Rd 81 in the Capay Valley on 1/22 continued through February. **Mountain Plovers** along Hwy 45 in Yolo County, just south of the Colusa County line, continued with up to 30 reported through mid-month. The report of 25 north of Flannery Rd, just west of Hwy 113, was a nice surprise. This appears to be the only report this winter in the vicinity of their old stronghold. A first-cycle **Glaucous Gull** was reported at the Kiefer Landfill on 2/20, while at least one was found throughout the month along Yolo County Rd 104 west of the Yolo County (Davis) Landfill. Up to two **Northern Pygmy-Owls** were seen and beautifully photographed along Rayhouse Rd early in the month. The **Long-eared Owl** wintering in the Wildhorse neighborhood of Davis continued into March, and at least eight were found on a semi-regular roost in a normally closed portion of Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) on 2/25.



Nashville Warbler. Photo: Daniel Brown

Lewis's Woodpeckers continued in excellent numbers, and the **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** found on 12/26 near the Elkhorn Volunteer Fire Dept (close to the Elkhorn boat ramp) continued into late February. Another was photographed near Guinda in the Capay Valley on 2/27. A **Hammond's Flycatcher** was a nice find at Streg Park in Woodland on 2/8 and 2/27. Two different **Cassin's Vireos** were reported in Davis and a Plumbeous Vireo was found on the UC Davis campus on 2/7-2/12. The **Townsend's Solitaire** at Sacramento City College continued into March, while the bird at the Sacramento City Cemetery continued from December to at least 2/22 (access had been limited because of downed trees), and another was near the UC Davis Med Center on 2/14.

There were scattered reports of **Evening Grosbeaks** in the region, but most remarkable was a regular flock of up to 25 or more in a Gold River neighborhood south of the American River between Sunrise and Hazel Blvds. They were first reported on 2/23 and were consistent through at least mid-March. This species is almost never found consistently on the Valley floor, but occasionally as transient, calling flybys. Up to three **Cassin's Finches** were found throughout the month in a Sacramento yard, and up to five **Lawrence's Goldfinches** were found regularly at Phoenix Field. A **Swamp Sparrow** was seen and photographed at Bridgeway Island Pond from 2/4-2/19, and another was at North Pond in Davis from 2/18-2/21. The **Bullock's Oriole** found in Woodland on 1/25 was seen again on 2/23, and the **Nashville Warbler** at CRP, first detected on 1/19, appears to be spending the winter at a site without regular public access.

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: Dan Airola, Max Brodie, Aidan Brubaker, Brent Campos, Calvin Carroll, Lyann Comrack, Konshau Duman, Leo Edson, Andy Engilis, Gil Ewing, Lief Gallagher, Maureen Geiger, Joshua Greenfield, Cliff Hawley, Leia Hewitt, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Stephanie Levins, Mark Martucci, Daniel Murphy, Roger Muskat, Chris Ortega, Nora Papian, Michael Perrone, Eric Pilotte, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, Alex Single, Cindra Smith, Sean Smith, Kirk Swenson, Cameron Tescher, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, and Lynette Williams. Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

—Chris Conard

Sacramento Audubon at Community Events

Sacramento Earth Day hosted by ECOS

Sunday, April 23, 11 AM – 4 PM

Southside Park - Sacramento

<https://www.ecosacramento.net/sacearthday/>

Bushy Lake Eco-Cultural Community Celebration

Saturday, April 29, 10 AM – 1 PM

Bushy Lake - Parking at Cal Expo RV Park 500 Ethan Way, Sacramento

<https://www.bushylake.com/upcoming-events/h0i9eq6mq10z30xhxzziu7rzyf1lj7-94ykm>

Sierra College Dinosaur Day and Science Fest

Sunday, May 7, 9 AM – 3:30 PM

Registration Required

Sierra College - 5100 Sierra College Boulevard, Rocklin

<https://www.sierracollege.edu/campus-life/things-to-do-on-campus/natural-history-museum/>

Sacramento Valley Conservancy Speaker Series: Changes in Local Bird Populations Over 25 Years (And It's Not All Depressing)

Thursday, May 11, 6 PM – 8 PM

Camp Pollock - 1501 Northgate Blvd, Sacramento

Registration required:

<https://sacramentovalleyconservancy.org/event/speaker-20230511/>

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Outreach Volunteers Needed

We have upcoming spring events on the calendar where we will need volunteers to help staff our table. You do not have to be an accomplished birder, just someone who enjoys birding and talking to people about our field trips, birding, and SAS. You will be working with an experienced volunteer.

If you can work a few hours in the morning or afternoon please contact Bill Bianco and he can send you the spring list of events. Contact Bill at: biancowm@yahoo.com, or call 916-372-3318.

SAS New Members

Please welcome these new members:

Gwen Bedient
Karen Bos
Donald Coelho
Charles Gorgen
Larry Ladd
Nancy Oliver
Rachael St Peter

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Wayne Blunk, D. Brown & W. Patterson, Donald Coelho, Betty J. Cooper, Jodie L. Crandell, John Davidson, Malcolm Ettin, Mary Louise Flint, Stan Ford, Joseph M. Ferreira, Angelique Goodhue, David Harlow, Monte Ikemire, Earl King, Rory Litwin, Susan O'Farrell, Erika Otto *in memory of Jean Irvin*, Heidi Sanborn, Rick Skehen, Jon Wato, Jane Woehl & Michael O'Sullivan

Education and Conservation Fund

Agricultural-Natural Resources, Wayne Blunk, D. Brown & W. Patterson, Subhash Chand, Timothy D. Fitzner, Stan Ford, Rowland Gaal, Andrea Hollen, Monte Ikemire, Terrance & Marion Jones, Susan O'Farrell, Jill Pease, Regen Rose, Rick Skehen, Susan E. Solarz

Bobelaine Sanctuary

Barbara Banholzer, Judith Bell, Wayne Blunk, P. Scott Clemons, Mary Louise Flint, Stan Ford, Monte Ikemire, Jim & Patricia Moses, Susan O'Farrell, Jill Pease, Rick Skehen, Arthur E. Watkins

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.

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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, April 25, 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.

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www.sacramentoaudubon.org

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

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

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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:

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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 _____.

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White-tailed Kite Daniel Brown

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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.

The Observer is published by the Sacramento Audubon Society, monthly, January through December.

April Program

Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7 PM

Survival In An Unpredictable World: How Birds Flexibly Respond to Environmental Stressors

Presented by Jamie Cornelius. Ph.D.

