

The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

October General Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7 p.m.

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.

From Sea to Summit: The Marvelous Hummingbird

Presented by Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz

From the incredible migration path of the Rufous Hummingbird in Alaska to the Giant Hummingbird of the Andes of South America, join us as we explore the magic of hummingbirds! With 360 species recognized globally, we'll discuss their remarkable biology, unique physiology, expansive range, ecological significance, and the best way to attract them to your yard! Mouth-watering media and local hummingbird ID section included!

Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz owns and operates a bird-guiding business and lifestyle brand called BIRDS by BIJS (pronounced Bee-jus). With a background in biology, ecology, and outdoor

education, Benny has worked professionally for more than 10 years as a naturalist guide, expedition trip leader, and international bird guide. Benny offers professionally guided birding outings in Southern California, and offers small-group birding tours to his favorite tropical locales like Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Benny is a passionate educator and photographer, specializing in birds. Benny is active on social media where creates fun, educational videos and posts to inspire others about the natural world with the goal of getting folks to put down their phone and pick up their Binoculars.



Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz



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/>

Field Trips: Field Trips September 1 – October 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.

River Walk Park, West Sacramento

Tuesday, October 3, 8 a.m.
Expected length: 3-4 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.

This is a newer area for Sac Audubon and should turn up a variety of passerine species, sparrows, wrens, thrushes and more. We'll bird the river from the boat landing, then walk south past the I Street and Tower Bridges and up onto the levee. The walk should end by noon.

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

Point Reyes

Saturday, October 7, 7 a.m.
Expected length: All day
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Join Dan for a full day of birding at Point Reyes and be prepared for a full day of chasing rare birds, wherever they might be! Fall at the Point is always exciting, and Dan will let the most recent rare bird reports dictate the day's itinerary. Every Fall is different and of course there are no guarantees, but this trip in the past has turned up such goodies as Broad-winged Hawk, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, White-winged Dove, Least Flycatcher, Yellow-green Vireo and just about every warbler imaginable! Bring lunch and plenty of water.

Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80 at West Capitol Ave in West Sacramento by 7 a.m. We will plan to return by 5 or 6 p.m. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park & Ride lot. Meet in the southeast section of the parking lot.

Ancil Hoffman Park

Tuesday, October 10, 7:30 a.m.
Expected length: 2-4 hours
Leader: Mark Martucci, (916) 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 8
This field trip is full. Registration is closed.

Mark will be looking for fall migrants, as well as remaining summering birds and residents. 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.

Putah Creek Preserve – Family Friendly

Saturday, October 14, 8 a.m.
Expected length: Ends early afternoon
Leader: Ben Graber, (916) 844-8682
Bgrab94@protonmail.com

Join Ben for a morning walk along Putah Creek in search of migrants and wintering riparian birds. This trip will last into early afternoon. Bring liquids and snacks. If participants so desire, Ben will include Lake Solano and Monticello Dam, with lunch at Steady Eddy's in Winters. This is a good trip for experienced birders, beginners, and younger birders alike.

Meet Ben at the Park and Ride lot off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave exit, turn left at the light, then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Loaner binoculars are available upon request.

Gibson Ranch

Sunday, October 15, 7 a.m.
Expected length: 3 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.

As fall migration starts winding down, we will take a leisurely walk along the riparian parkland and wetland areas of this wonderful county park. We should get good looks at the local wintering birds and run into a few late migrants making their way south. Expect easy walking with frequent stops to scan the creek, riparian habitat, and surrounding grasslands to see what interesting birds we can find.

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

Reichmuth Park

Friday, October 20, 7:30 a.m.
Expected length: 1 – 1 ½ hours
Leader: Eric Johnson, (916) 524-4311
corporateeric@yahoo.com
Maximum number of participants: 6
Registration is required for this trip.
Please email Eric to register.

Join Eric on an easy walk through Reichmuth Park in the South Area of Sacramento. In his own words, "Reichmuth is the spot inside the city of Sacramento with the most different species seen, sitting pretty at 183. It's our own birding box of chocolates—you never know what will show up next!"

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

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Saturday, October 21, 10:30 a.m.
Registration is required through Effie Yeaw Nature Center.
Please see sacnaturecenter.net for registration and other details.

Join Audubon birding leaders Lynne Tweten and Rich Howard, 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.

Beginning Birder Walk, William Pond Park

Sunday, October 22
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. Registration is required. Registrants will be emailed the meeting time and exact location.

Sailor Bar

Tuesday, October 24, 8 a.m.
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: 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.

From Sacramento, take Hwy 50 east to Exit 21, Hazel Ave. Turn left at the light and proceed north 1.4 miles to Winding Way. Turn left on Winding Way, then proceed .5 miles to Illinois Ave, where you will take another left. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Ave. Meet at the last parking lot on your left, just before the boat launch parking area. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$6 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

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Napa-Sonoma Marshes WA—Huichica Creek Unit

Wednesday, October 25, 9 a.m.
Expected Length: 3 hours
Leaders: Nancy Gronert (279) 346-4790
and Amy McDonald
sacaudubonconsec@gmail.com

Join us for a morning of birding the Huichica Creek Unit of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes. We'll bird the containment ponds, adjacent riparian areas, and the levee at the end of the main trail as we look for wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl, gulls, terns, and more. This is an easy walk of approximately 1.5 miles on flat, dirt trails.

Additional details and printable map available at:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Places-to-Visit/Napa-Sonoma-Marshes-WA>
A porta potty is available near the parking lot.

Meet Nancy and Amy at the parking lot at the end of Buchli Station Rd. From I-80 take exit 39B to Hwy 12W. At the intersection with Hwy 121, turn left onto Sonoma Hwy (Hwy 12/121). Turn left on Duhig Rd and in approximately 2 miles turn left on Los Amigos Rd. Turn right (south) at Buchli Station Rd and continue through the vineyards until you cross the railroad tracks and enter the parking lot.

Auburn State Recreation Area – Catecroft Access

Friday, October 27, 7:30 a.m.
Expected length: 4-5 hours
Leader: Craig Swolgard (530) 334-3023
cswol@sbcglobal.net

This part of Auburn SRA is at about 1500 feet, near the town of Cool, and includes a nice variety of foothill habitats including oak woodland, ponds, grassland, and riparian areas. The trails are fairly level and in good condition. Trails will be shared with horses and mountain bikes but is in a low traffic area of the park. We may see some remaining fall migrants, including warblers and empids, from the Sierra Nevada.

Dress for changeable weather conditions (Hat, jacket, etc.). Also, the trail has a couple of muddy creek crossings. Please bring your own water and food. We should be done by 12 - 1 p.m. Rattlesnakes occur in the park so stay on the trails. Care should be taken in oak woodlands to avoid poison oak. Meet Craig at the Holiday Market parking lot on the corner of Hwy 193 and Hwy 49 in Cool. Park near Wells Fargo Bank. Cool is about halfway between Auburn and Placerville on Hwy 49. From the meeting place, folks can follow Craig to the trailhead, about a mile south on Hwy 49.

Bridgeway Island Pond, West Sacramento

Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m.
Expected length: 3 hours
Leader: Maureen Geiger (916) 281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

If large numbers of Blue-winged Teal knock your socks off, join Maureen for this morning walk to view Teal and other shorebirds and waterfowl on the Pond and islands. A walk along the surrounding upland to the levee separating the West Sacramento area from the Yolo Causeway may produce other species as well. This trip involves walking on a level pathway of just over a mile and climbing and descending a fairly steep levee path. Scopes will be a valuable asset. Please note that there are no restrooms.

Meet Maureen at Bridgeway Island Pond, West Sacramento. From downtown Sacramento, take Hwy 50 west, cross over the Sacramento River and exit on Jefferson Blvd. Turn left onto Jefferson and right on Lake Washington Blvd. From Lake Washington Blvd, turn left onto Southport Pkwy. At 2.8 miles, turn right on Oakland Bay Dr, make an immediate right onto Bowen Island St, left on Solomon Island Rd and right on Pender Island Rd. Park at the end of the cul-de-sac and on surrounding streets.

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 Forrestal (530) 209-0826
and Susan Goodrich
cmforrestal@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. Take I-5 South from Sacramento. Exit on Twin Cities Road. Make a left onto Twin Cities and go west, crossing Franklin Blvd, across the train tracks; turn right at the next stop sign onto Bruceville Rd. Take Bruceville south to Desmond Rd. Follow Desmond Rd back to Franklin Blvd 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.

Lake Solano County Park

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

Field Trip Findings

Sacramento Bar, (9/12)

Leader Darrell Mohr reported:

The trip started early, 7 a.m. We had nice clear weather. Nine people were ready to go birding. First we worked the parking lot and this is where we located the majority of species on this tour. We spent almost an hour searching for birds at this location.

We were well rewarded, especially with a pair of **Phainopepla** fly-catching, and a great look at a male **Western Tanager**. From the parking lot we proceeded to the bank of the American River. Out in the river we observed **Wood Ducks** and **Common Mergansers** and a **Spotted Sandpiper**. Walking to the far end of the park and around the old burn area many **Acorn Woodpeckers** have made homes in the old burned out trees. We had a total 43 species. Perhaps the best species were **Western Tanager** and **Red-breasted Nuthatch**.

Sailor Bar, (9/11)

Leader Nicole Barden reported:

17 people gathered at Sailor Bar for a morning stroll through oak woodlands along the river. Right from the parking lot we were rewarded with a small group of **Lark Sparrows** on the ground and two **Cooper's Hawks** were seen dodging into the trees! We sent a small group of folks who had missed the initial **Cooper's Hawks** sighting and they luckily caught a glimpse of them as they moved farther into the forest. Along the way it was amusing to see several hummingbirds at a time chasing away other birds, including the **American Kestrel** and a **Red-shouldered Hawk**. A little farther down the trail we saw an **American Kestrel** (the same one?) sitting beautifully, showing off its back. When the kestrel flew, the sun glowed through his gorgeous tail feathers! The late season elderberries along the path attracted several birds including **Phainopepla**, multiple **Anna's Hummingbirds**, **Bushtits**, **California Scrub-Jays**, and **California Towhees**. We picked out an immature **Turkey Vulture** with fresh feathers and a gray colored head, a treat to find among all the red heads! We also got some warbler action, including **Yellow Warbler**, **Orange-crowned Warbler**, **Wilson's Warbler**. A lone **Bufflehead** was seen diving across the water, and I was told that it has been seen regularly by others recently.

The only bird that we strangely didn't see or hear was the **Spotted Towhee**, which we realized had been absent as we ended our walk. The end of our walk warmed up quite quickly, so we decided to head home. In total we had 37 species and you can find our full list on ebird here: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S149733262>

Putah Creek and Pedrick Road, (9/6)

Leader Nancy Gronert reported:

Eight intrepid birders showed up to leisurely stroll the Putah Creek trails and gravel paths. We saw **Yellow**, **Wilson's**, **Orange-crowned**, and **Black-throated Gray Warblers** along the creek path. We had good comparisons of a pair of **Downy Woodpeckers**, **Nuttall's Woodpeckers**, **Acorn Woodpeckers**, and **Northern Flickers** in the distance. Close up we were treated to regular **White-breasted Nuthatches** and a **Red-breasted Nuthatch**. A number of flycatchers showed up along the creek path for comparison: **Western Wood-Pewee**, **Willow**, and **Pacific-slope Flycatchers**. The expected **Black Phoebe**s, **Yellow-billed Magpies**, several **Western Kingbirds**,



Birders at Putah Creek. Photo by Nancy Gronert



Birders at U.C. Davis Arboretum

Warbling Vireos, along with **Western Tanagers** and a **Black-headed Grosbeak** showed up. We spied a variety of raptors: perched **Great Horned Owl**, **White-tailed Kite**, **Red-tailed Hawk** with **Swainson's Hawks** and **Turkey Vultures** in the distance. As we looked through the warblers bathing at the creek's edge we noticed a couple of river otters. It was a great outing!

U.C. Davis Arboretum, (9/2)

Leader Paul Miller reported: "Fourteen people attended this accessible outing at UC Davis Arboretum. Maureen Geiger joined and helped lead Paul's largest group so far. While UC Davis Arboretum is beautiful and a great place to go birding, it can sometimes be a little sparse on birds. Highlight of the outing was seeing solo Wilson Warblers traveling with large flocks of Bushtits. The hummingbirds never fail to please and the group was able to observe both Anna's and Rufous species feeding on various colorful flowers."

Bobelaine, (8/24)

Leader Maureen Geiger reported: Bobelaine was wonderful as always, peaceful and more lush than it has been in late August for years. Eight of us walked to the Rivers' Overlook enjoying

the birds and plants along the way and found the Bear and Feather Rivers beautiful in the light. It was nice to see that the sandbars which seemed to be dominating the River a year ago were almost entirely gone.

American Canyon Wetlands, (8/23)

Nancy Gronert, co-leader with Amy McDonald, reported:

Four birders showed up to enjoy the cooler Bay temps, check out the stand of trees for possibilities, and search out seasonal shorebirds. Our group arrived at the mudflats along the Napa River 2.5 hours after a 4 foot high tide for an hour of a close view of shorebirds. We scanned to find **Black-necked Stilts**, **American Avocets**, **Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers**, **Long-Billed Curlews**, **150 Marbled Godwits**, **100 Least Sandpipers**, **900 Western Sandpipers** along with **400 peeps** who all scattered when a **Peregrine Falcon** cruised the mudflats. The group identified **100 Dowitchers**, both **Short- and Long-billed**, **Greater Yellowlegs**, and **Willets**. As we walked along the pond and forest edges, birders were treated to a perched **Golden Eagle**, an **Osprey**, egrets and herons, a **Belted-Kingfisher**, a **Nuttall's Woodpecker**, **American Kestrel**, **Western Bluebirds**, and **California Towhees**.

State Legislation Supported by Audubon California

Save Our Night Skies Act (AB38)

Every day in the U.S., at least one million birds die due to building or structure collisions related to outdoor night lighting. A study found that reducing artificial night light by half can result in roughly 60% fewer bird collisions. This bill limits lighting to promote safe passage for birds so they can migrate by the stars.

Light pollution is disruptive to the naturally dark night sky and often results in a waste of electricity and unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions. Light pollution negatively affects bird migration, foraging, and breeding behaviors and makes bird conservation efforts more challenging.

The International Dark Sky Association estimates that at least 30% of all outdoor lighting in the United States alone is wasted – primarily by lights that aren't covered. That wasted light totals \$3.3 billion in lost electricity costs and the release of 21 million tons of carbon dioxide per year.

In recent years, new lighting fixtures have become widely available that reduce unnecessary light pollution, save electricity, and are less harmful to people and wildlife. Audubon California is proud to co-sponsor AB38 to require all buildings owned by the State to implement measures to reduce light pollution.

The legislation requires the state to educate state agencies and the public about the problem too. It includes exemptions to protect human health, safety, and property, it will result in darker, more natural skies in many places where birds and other wildlife need it most.

—Audubon California



Upcoming Birding Festivals

Monterey Bay Birding Festival

October 13–15, 2023

<https://www.birdschoolproject.org/festival>

Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival

November 3–5, 2023

Registration opens September 5

<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>

Volunteer Opportunities with Sacramento Audubon

Conservation Chairperson

We are seeking a new Conservation Chairperson who will help fulfill one of our primary missions, to advocate for the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region, which is critical habitat for birds. The Conservation Chair attends the monthly Board Meeting as well as the monthly meeting of Habitat 2020. The latter group is a coalition of environmental groups working to ensure that the Sacramento region maintains habitat, foraging, and nesting grounds for all of our native birds. If interested, please contact: sacaudubonpresident@gmail.com

Hospitality Committee Chair Position Available

We will be hosting our General Meeting monthly at Effie Yeaw Nature Center and will be providing refreshments and snacks. We are looking for a Hospitality Chair to coordinate refreshments at this meeting. Position description is as follows: Arrive a little early and stay a little late at the monthly General Meetings to be held at Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Duties include: brewing coffee, filling insulated decanters with coffee and hot water, fill lemon water dispenser, provide homemade or purchased snacks, and clean up following meeting.

Supplies such as sugar, creamer, tea bags, coffee, extra paper cups, paper plates, and napkins, etc., are purchased and kept by the Hospitality Chair, and brought to each meeting. Purchases are reimbursed.

If interested, please contact:

sacaudubonpresident@gmail.com

Upcoming Bufferlands Events

No Pets, Please! For all Bufferlands events, we respectfully request that you please leave your dogs and other pets at home.

Bufferlands Open Trail Day

October 14, 2023 - 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Open Trail Day is another great opportunity to explore some of the Bufferlands. Several miles of trails will be open for hiking at your own pace. Bufferlands biologists and docents will be out on the trails to help you find your way and to answer any nature-related questions. This is a great time to see Fall colors as the forests begin to change from green to gold. The trails will span through riparian forests with trees over 300 years old, oak woodlands, and seasonal wetlands. Many species of songbirds, waterfowl and shorebirds can be seen this time of year.

Event and parking are free. Please sign in at the check-in table and get your trail map. Dress for the weather and bring a water bottle. There will be no food vendors on-site, but feel free to pack a picnic or trail snacks. Wild animals are within the hiking trails.

Tones of Fall

Saturday, November 4

Join Bufferlands Biologists on a 1-2 mile hike, to pursue the sights and sounds of the fall season.

During our walk, we hope to see and hear waterfowl, shorebirds and other wildlife. As we walk the trails, we can view the changes taking place within our riparian trees and wetland plants as they prepare for the cold and damp winter.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair.

Advanced registration is required for this free event as space is limited. Reservations can be made starting October 28 by email: jonesro@sacsewer.com.



Photo: Regional San

Name Change Survey

As of August 28, 170 of our 600 members completed the name change survey sent out on July 31.

Of those voting, 40% voted “no”, and 60% voted “yes” for our local chapter to remove the name “Audubon.” The percentages were the same for removing the name “Audubon” from the national organization. Diving a little deeper, of the 40% voting “no”, 44% of those have been members for over 10 years. For the 60% voting “yes”, 23% have been members for over 10 years.

- Sacramento Bird Society
- Sacramento Bird Preservation Society
- Sacramento Bird Watching Society
- Sacramento Bird Conservancy
- Sacramento Bird Enthusiasts
- Sacramento Birders
- Sacramento Birders Society
- Sacramento Birders Association
- Sacramento Birding Club
- Sacramento Birding Society
- Sacramento Valley Birding Club
- Sacramento Valley Birding Group
- Sacramento Valley Birding Association
- Sacramento Regional Birding Club
- Sacramento Avian Society
- Sacramento Advocates for Birds
- Sacramento Bird Advocates
- Sacramento Ornithology Society
- Sacramento Bird and Wildlife Society
- Sacramento Society for the Birds
- Bird Sacramento
- Birds Connect Sacramento
- Birds Sacramento
- Birds Connect Us
- Birding Sacramento
- Birders for All
- Let's Bird Sacramento
- Celebrating Diversity in our Avian World
- Avian Society of Sacramento Valley

As you can see, there is no shortage to new name ideas. We really love the creative input!

For now the Board has decided to continue to solicit input from all sources, while communicating with and monitoring other Audubon chapters regarding the issues. We fully understand the power of name recognition, and do not want to act too hastily. We will continue providing input to Audubon California regarding our members position on a name change. Our

Detailed comments were received by many on both sides. Those voting “no” commented they felt it unnecessary and possibly damaging for the organization. Those voting “yes” commented they felt the name “Audubon” has racist undertones and eliminating the name would promote diversity. Of course this is extremely oversimplifying the numerous and often lengthy comments. Suggested new names for the organization are as follows, with no one name standing out as a preference:

hope is that if enough local chapters voice their feelings regarding the name “Audubon”, the national organization might consider revisiting the issue. Regardless of our name our mission remains unchanged. We truly appreciate everyone's input. It helps us better understand where our members stand on the name change issue. Let's continue our birding love story, one of passion and diversity.

Chalk It Up! 2023

For the third year in a row, SAS sponsored a mural at the annual Chalk It Up! event. Held at Fremont Park in Midtown Sacramento every Labor Day Weekend since 1991, Chalk It Up! is a chalk-art festival with live music, food vendors, and retail booths. Local artist/muralist Andrea Johnston, was paired with SAS this year. Other than asking that our mural be about birds, Andrea had full artistic control. It took her 3 days to create this large scale “Birds in

Photos by Daphne Reimer

a Birdbath” chalk mural. Tens of thousands of people strolled by over the long weekend, watching her progress and snapping photos. Many people also stopped by the SAS Outreach table helmed each day by Bill Bianco and other SAS volunteers. We're not only delighted with the results, we are happy to have participated in this long-running community event.

—Daphne Reimer



Citizen Science at Del Paso Regional Park

Photos by Daphne Reimer

At the urging of Tim Vendlinski, long time Del Paso Regional Park (DPRP) advocate, my husband, David Fullerton, and I decided to try Western Bluebird nest box monitoring there. Spring (2022) was fast approaching and knowing nothing, we turned to local Western Bluebird nest monitoring expert, Vicki Butler. She suggested locations and recommended we use hanging boxes. DPRP, sandwiched between I-80 and Auburn Boulevard in north Sacramento, is a City of Sacramento Park. Before we could proceed, City approval was required. We ran the project by the Youths, Parks and Community Enrichment Department (i.e. parks and rec), got approval, registered as park volunteers and signed a waiver.

Next, we built our nest box lifter. A lifter allows the monitor to place/remove the nest box from a tree limb. Our “basket” was a plastic Kirkland Laundry Detergent bucket attached to a telescoping pool pole. Sacramento Audubon Society supplied the bird boxes. The hooks were bendable aluminum strips from Home Depot – another Vicki Butler tip. Not knowing what to expect we decided to start small. We placed five boxes in trees dispersed throughout the northeastern half of the park. To attract Western Bluebirds, the boxes needed to have a 1 ¼ inch entry hole, face east, have some shade, and be near open ground with short grass.



David Fullerton



Ash-throated Flycatcher nestlings.

We were thrilled to see nesting activity beginning in early April. We'd visit the boxes weekly, tap, tap, tapping on the box to encourage any adult to leave before lowering the box. We'd carefully lift the hatch, peering in to find eggs, hatchlings, nestlings, and fledglings as the weeks went by. Is there anything more precious than a baby bird?! Three out of the five boxes were used by Western Bluebirds (one consecutively, making two broods). The box in the least hospitable spot housed an Ash-throated Flycatcher pair. Their nest was lined with goat fur. Ever resourceful, the fur was sourced from the herd used to eat down the grass for fire suppression. In the end, 10 Western Bluebirds and two Ash-throated Flycatchers fledged. We removed the boxes in late July with the intention of returning the following spring.

Tim Vendlinski and local biologist, Dan Airola, also had nest boxes at the park. Rather than have multiple people doing the same thing, we took

on their boxes and added more of our own for the 2023 season. We'd also changed our lifter from the too-wobbly Kirkland bucket to a hook made out of a bent paint roller arm attached to the telescoping pool pole.

Our nest monitoring expanded from five boxes in 2022 to 17 in March 2023: eight hanging boxes, five on posts, and four nailed to trees. The nest box locations ran the length of the park. Nesting started in April. Our first surprise was finding a White-breasted Nuthatch using a box. Less exciting was finding the unwelcome House Sparrow occupying two boxes. Similar to the previous year, activity ended in early July. Of the 17 boxes, 13 were used — one was used two times by different species. All in all, 26 Western Bluebirds, 6 White-breasted Nuthatches, 12 Ash-throated Flycatchers, and 13 Oak Titmice fledged.

This was my first experience doing anything remotely scientific. Though nerve-racking at times (Would we drop the box? Are we upsetting the parent? Would a nestling fall out?), it was deeply gratifying to help birds both tangibly and directly. In our own small way, we were also demonstrating the role DPRP plays in supporting birds. The park, carved up for human activities, also has in its 667 acres, oak woodland, riparian forests, grassland, and Arden Creek winding through the length of it. It's a vital greenway for resident and migratory birds. eBird shows 115 species have been reported here. We've added our results to the eBird database too and next year will begin participating in the California Bluebird Recovery Program.

I have a canvas bag that says “Parks Are For Everyone.” I believe this. Del Paso Regional Park is for the community, the softball athletes, the golfers, and the horse enthusiasts. But it's also for the birds and other creatures that live there—not to mention all the native plants. Birders know these are not opposing ideas. I hope, with our efforts, we can convince others to feel the same.

—Daphne Reimer

Seasonal Sightings August 1 – 31

While still fully in the grips of summer weather, August is prime migration time for shorebirds and many songbirds. Based on scattered impressions, it appears songbird migration was a little slow. Shorebirds, on the other hand, produced some of the best records ever for the area. **Snow Geese** continued at multiple sites in the region, which, prior to this year, was very unusual. A **White-winged Dove** was a surprise on 8/15 on the Solano County side of Putah Creek at Fishing Access #1 between Winters and Lake Berryessa. On 8/17, a **Calliope Hummingbird** was coming to a feeder in the Rosemont neighborhood east of Sacramento.

There were excellent shorebird reports this month, and shorebirds accounted for the majority of the area's notable finds. A **Pacific Golden-Plover** was at the Cosumnes River Preserve (CRP) Lost Slough Wetlands from 8/19-8/25. A juvenile **Hudsonian Godwit** was a first for Yolo County and one of very few records for the Central Valley. It was found at the CR 104 ponds west of the Yolo Central Landfill from 8/18-8/19. A bright **Red Knot** was an excellent find at the Woodland WTP on 8/3. **Stilt Sandpiper** reports came from the Lincoln WTP, 8/15-8/22, and the Robben Rd ponds south of Dixon on 8/23; both reports were of juvenile birds and the dates suggest it could be the same bird involved, but that's only speculation. An adult **Red-necked Stint** in fading breeding plumage was an excellent find at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area on 8/29-30, providing just the second record for the Sacramento area. A **Common Tern** was a nice find at the Woodland WTP on 8/21.

A **Short-eared Owl** flying in the early morning of 8/20 near the Yolo CR 104 ponds was a nice surprise this early in the season. There appeared to be an early influx of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** late in the month after a couple of years with few reports in the area. A **Gray Catbird** was a very nice find along Putah Creek, Solano County, near Mace Blvd on 8/31. A **Northern Waterthrush** on 8/15 was another nice find for Putah Creek Fishing Access #1, and a **Northern Parula** was found along Putah Creek near the Pedrick Rd bridge on 8/26-8/27.

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: Steve Abbott, Max Brodie, Aidan Brubaker, Lyann Comrack, Konshau Duman,



Red-necked Stint. Photo by Julio Mulero/Flickr



Northern Water Thrush. Photo by Tom Benson/Flickr

Joshua Greenfield, Susan Harrison, Cliff Hawley, Jim Holmes, Scott Hoppe, Jeri Langham, Andrew Lee, Jasen Liu, Mark Martucci, Roger Muskat, Michael Perrone, Zane Pickus, Ron Pozzi, Steve Scott, Kirk Swenson, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, and Bart Wickel. . Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible.

—Chris Conard

SAS New Members

Please welcome these new members:

Shen & Mike Boucher
Robin Duran McBride
Carole Garrett
Wendy LeFevre
Rakesh Sahu
Charles Whitney

Thank You For Your Generous Donations!

General Fund

Betty J. Cooper, Dale Dondero,
Craig De Martini, Charlene G. Eberwine,
Madi Elsea & Rod Lee, Diana Hickson,
Cathie LaZier, Kathleen Styc,
Peter Thomas, Angela & Stephen
Thompson, Jane Van Kessel,
Joel Wiley, United Way Employee Giving,
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Dennis Eckhart, Christine K. Holmstrom,
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Karen D. Benson, Craig De Martini,
Dennis Eckhart, Madi Elsea & Rod Lee,
Christine K. Holmstrom, Maria Martinez,
Patti & Mike Michel-Evleth, M. A. Nunes

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, October 31, 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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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.

October General Meeting

From Sea to Summit: The Marvelous Hummingbird

Presented by Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz
Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7 p.m



Benny Isaac Jacobs-Schwartz