

Meeting Minutes
Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting

Date / Time: November 7, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
Rescheduled from October 31, 2023

Location: Virtual

- I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Approval of Minutes
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Approval of Minutes (September 2023)

- II. Guests / Public Comments:

- III. Presentations:

- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President
 1. Per T Florence, \$436.40 used to buy Bobelaine security camera with “limited time offer”; committee approved purchasing the system.
 - B. Treasurer
 - C. Other Officers

- V. Old Business
 - A. Big Day of Giving Chair still needed.
 - B. President and three committee chairs still needed

- VI. New Business
 - A. Outreach needs to reorder two Audubon Brochures: “Audubon Guide to Bird Feeding” and “Audubon Guide to Attracting Hummingbirds and Orioles” (Bill Bianco).

- VII. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports
 - A. Field Activities
 - B. Education
 - C. Conservation
 - D. Accessibility
 - E. Bobelaine
 - F. Monthly Speaker
 - G. Other Committee Reports (if any)
 - H. Board Member Reports (if any)

- VIII. Adjournment

Attachments:

Membership Report - September



SACRAMENTO
AUDUBON SOCIETY

Board Meeting
November 7, 2023

President's Report

1. **Cliff Feldheim** - Interested in taking on the Conservation Chair position along with being a Board member.
2. **Ian Haliburton Project Funding Request** - See attached request from UC Davis PHD student for \$1,500.
3. **Winter Bird Festival** - Sponsorship request \$500
4. **Central Valley Bird Calendar** - Sponsorship request \$500
5. **Pursuing Grant for Bobelaine Sanctuary** - See attached letter from Britt Hayse owner of HGI grant writing firm. The idea is to obtain grant funding for both seasonal labor and equipment, along with the possibility of hiring a part time manager. Open for discussion.

Restoring Riparian Real Estate: Developing a Nest Shelf Network for Black Phoebes Along the Lower American River

Project Members: Ian Haliburton (PhD Student), Sage Madden (PhD Student), Sacramento County Regional Parks Department, and a team of undergraduate students

Introduction

Our research program endeavors to understand the dynamics and consequences of nesting habitat selection by Black Phoebes in the Sacramento region. Historically, Black Phoebes throughout California had a close association with riparian forests and used these as nesting habitat (Wolf 2020). In the present day, Black Phoebes are often thought of as charismatic backyard birds, nesting in urban and suburban neighborhoods. Our first field season studying both urban and riparian Black Phoebe nests has suggested that urban nesting habitat may be of relatively poor quality compared to the species' historic nesting habitat. Urban nests were more likely to fail than riparian nests, likely due to higher nest predation risk and higher temperatures experienced by eggs and nestlings in urban sites.

Unfortunately, the majority of Phoebe nests that we found were built in an urban environment, and our surveys of extensive riparian systems like the lower American River, Putah Creek and Cache Creek yielded a relatively low density of nests. As such, we believe that the local populations' use of urban environments may be driven in part by differential availability of suitable nest sites between present day riparian forests and urban environments. Black Phoebes require a vertical surface upon which to build their mud nest as well as an overhanging surface to shield the nest from the elements (Wolf 2020). This sort of geometry abounds in the urban environment thanks to structures like houses and bridges, but is ostensibly rare in many present day riparian forests.

In the Sacramento region, streambed alteration projects and deforestation for agriculture and development have decimated historical stands of mature riparian forest (Thompson 1961). This has likely entailed a loss of tree trunks, banks and other natural surfaces suitable for a Black Phoebe nest. Here, we propose a project that seeks to begin restoring opportunities for this species to nest in riparian forests by deploying nesting structures. Although the Black Phoebe is not presently a species of conservation concern, our observations suggest that their disproportionate use of urban areas may negatively impact their long-term population dynamics. Approaches to restore quality nesting sites have successfully been applied to the benefit of other bird species, such as bluebirds and wood ducks, when their natural nest sites (tree cavities) were identified to be too few (Newton 1994). Additionally, the installation and monitoring of nest boxes for these species has created many opportunities for non-scientists across the country to engage with avian biology and conservation (e.g., Graham 2006, Phillips and Dickinson 2009). Likewise, through a collaboration with the Sacramento County Regional Parks Department, we plan to create education and community science opportunities around our Black Phoebe nest structures. In this way, we expect that this proactive conservation effort for the Black Phoebe will empower both local birds and local communities.

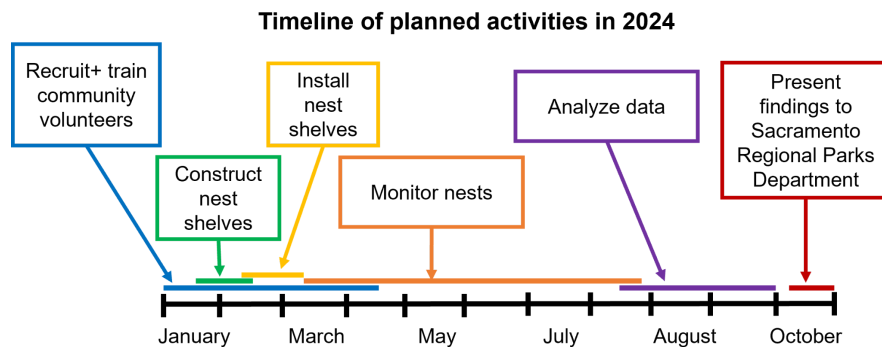
Goals, Objectives, and Planned Activities

Nest Shelf Construction: We will assemble 30 structures, following a "nest shelf" design developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's NestWatch program that is specific to the needs of mud cup nesting birds. According to community science data generated through NestWatch, these nest shelves have been used by other mud cup nesting species, including the Eastern Phoebe and Barn Swallow; Eastern Phoebes which used nest shelves had similar success in fledging young compared to Eastern Phoebes that did not use shelves, suggesting that use of these structures does not impair birds' fitness. As such, we expect that introducing nest shelves into high quality riparian habitat will be beneficial for Black Phoebes as well as any non-target species that may use them.

Nest Shelf Installation: We will work with the Sacramento County Regional Parks Department to install nest shelves along the American River Parkway (ARP). Nest shelves will be fastened to trees within 100 meters of the American River between Discovery Park to the west and the Effie Yeaw Nature Center to the east. Installation will occur in February 2024 to provide time between installation and the expected timing of final nest site selection by Black Phoebes. In determining the placement of each nest shelf, we will consider both the accessibility of the location as well as environmental factors that may impact nesting success.

Monitoring: Throughout the 2024 nesting season, nest shelves will be checked regularly by members of our team or by volunteers as part of a community science nest monitoring program that we are planning to develop in collaboration with the Sacramento County Regional Parks Department. We will also locate and monitor non-nest shelf nests with the help of a team of community nest searching volunteers. We will document the features of nest sites and surrounding habitat, and we will visit active nests every 3-4 days for the duration of the nesting period to document their contents. At the end of the season, we will compare success rates between nest shelf nests and non-nest shelf nests in riparian and urban settings. We will also investigate any placement and environmental factors that may increase the likelihood of nest shelf selection and successful use.

Alignment with Sacramento Audubon Society Mission: We believe that this project is aligned with the Sacramento Audubon mission in two major ways. First, it seeks to improve nesting outcomes and therefore long term population dynamics for a local and very familiar species. Additionally, thanks to the support of the Sacramento Regional Parks Department and the public nature of this project, it will engage the Sacramento region community through opportunities for involvement and education. We are excited to have this chance to raise awareness for urban birds, the importance of our remaining urban wildlands and for community science.



Budget

Expense	Cost per unit (quantity)	Total	Funding source
Supplies to construct nest shelves: lumber, screws, etc.	\$13/nest shelf (30)	\$390	\$390 requested from SAS
Ladders for nest monitoring	\$200/ladder (2)	\$400	Funding secured
Mirrors for nest monitoring	\$10/mirror (25)	\$250	Funding secured
Vehicle travel to nest sites	\$0.625/mile (2,120 miles)	\$1,325	\$1,110 requested from SAS
Total requested from Sacramento Audubon Society		\$1,500	

References

- Graham, H. (2006). *California Bluebird Recovery Program*.
- Newton, I. (1994). *Biological Conservation*
- Phillips, T. and Dickinson, J. (2009). *Proceedings of the Fourth International Partners in Flight Conference: Tundra to Tropics*
- Thompson, K. (1961). *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*.
- Wolf, B. O. (2020). In *Birds of the World*.

2024 WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

FREE FAMILY FUN



SPONSORSHIP PACKAGE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024
10:00 AM- 2:00 PM

More Information

 209-366-7115

2024 Winter Bird Festival Sponsorship

City of Galt “Winter Bird Festival” is a FREE outdoor educational event, which is made possible with a team of fantastic sponsors. As a sponsor of the “Winter Bird Festival”, you'll not only have the opportunity to market your business or organization to Galt residents, but you'll support an event that promotes appreciation of the Cosumnes River Preserve providing an array of educational opportunities to the community.

Our Vision

Citizens of Galt and drawing outside visitors to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve, taking advantage of the incredible opportunity to catch sightings of waterfowl, shorebirds and wildlife in their winter habitat.

Winter Bird Festival is unique in many ways:

- Promotes outdoor recreation as a way to strengthen our community
- Provides Galt residents with opportunities for fun and hands on educational learning
- Attracts the community to see the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve.
- Creates partnerships among community businesses and organizations with a mutual goal of strengthening community unity
- A memorable experience for everyone from grandparents to toddlers

Winter Bird Festival – The Facts

Location:

Chabolla Community Center
610 Chabolla Ave.
Galt Ca 95632

Date/Times:

Saturday, February 3, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



What is the Winter Bird Festival?

Winter Bird Festival offers nature enthusiast of all ages more than 20 individual activities, including exclusive preserve tours, educational presentations, wildlife shows, art displays, wine walk, hometown history, hands-on activities, guest speakers and more. More than 3,000 participants each year immerse themselves in this natural treasure while discovering the fascinating world of bird and habitat conservation.

“This is a winter wildlife celebration you'll always remember!”

What Attendees had to say about the Winter Bird Festival

“Great family event that has something for everyone. Face painting, arts and crafts for the kids, a wide variety of tours (bird viewing, kayaking, wine tasting, etc.), and great presentations in the gym. Looking forward to this year's event!”

“Our family has gone for the last 3-4 years and absolutely love it! From the crafts to the speakers, we love learning about what we can find in our own backyards!”

“A breathtaking sight to see and loved that there were activities for my kids and just for the adults, too.”



Winter Bird Festival Sponsorship Levels and Benefits

BALD EAGLE PRESENTING SPONSOR: \$3,500

All the benefits of the Key Level as listed below, in addition to signage in tour bus window at the Galt Winter Bird Festival, showcasing your company as an Executive Sponsor. This level of membership also includes sponsoring a tour at the Winter Bird Festival, showcasing your company as an Executive Sponsor. Along with all of the Key Level benefits, your company will get the following additional benefits:

- Company Banner posted at the Galt Market for four weeks (80,000 impressions)
- Thank you on the City Community Sign at Lincoln Way and A Street for two weeks.

BARN OWL SPONSOR: \$2,500

The festival brochure/program will feature your company's name and/or logo. These brochures will be reaching out to residents, businesses, and non-profit organizations all over Galt, Lodi, Elk Grove, Sacramento, and beyond.

- Live link to your website via the City of Galt website.
- Featured sponsor on the Festival's Facebook page.
- Your logo featured on our sponsorship sign that will be posted at the Winter Bird Festival.
- Your logo on the back of the Winter Bird Festival t-shirts sold at the Festival.
- Your logo in the local newspaper showing your level of sponsorship to this event.
- Premium Booth at the event to advertise/sell items.
- Company Banner posted at the Galt Market for two weeks (80,000 impressions)

WATERFOWL SPONSOR: \$1,500

- Live link to your website on the City of Galt website.
- Logo featured on our sponsorship sign that will be posted at the Winter Bird Festival.
- Logo on the back of the Winter Bird Festival t-shirts sold at the festival.

SHOREBIRDS SPONSOR: \$500

- Logo featured on our sponsorship sign that will be posted at the Winter Bird Festival.
- Logo on the back of the Winter Bird Festival t-shirts sold at the festival.

BIRDS SPONSORS: \$250

- Logo featured on our sponsorship sign that will be posted at the Winter Bird Festival.

**We look forward to working with you and your organization to create an exciting
and educational event!**

Winter Bird Festival Sponsorship Application

Company/Organization Name

Contact's Name

Address

Contact's Name

City

State

Zip

Phone

Alternate Phone

E-Mail

Company/Organization's Web Address

SELECT SPONSORSHIP OPTION (See Sponsorship Levels & Benefits Sheet for Details):

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OPTION 1 | \$3,500.00 | BALD EAGLE PRESENTING SPONSOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OPTION 2 | \$2,500.00 | BARN OWL SPONSOR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OPTION 3 | \$1,500.00 | WATERFOWL SPONSORSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OPTION 4 | \$500.00 | SHOREBIRDS SPONSORSHIP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | OPTION 5 | \$250.00 | BIRDS SPONSORSHIP |

Make Checks Payable to: **CITY OF GALT**

Tax receipts with tax payer identification number will be sent promptly upon receipt of the sponsorship payment.

Please submit this completed form with your payment to:

City of Galt

**Attn: Jackie Garcia, Special Events Manager
C/O Winter Bird Festival – Sponsorship
610 Chabolla Avenue
Galt Ca**

Email: jgarcia@cityofgalt.org

Phone: (209) 366-7115

NOTE: Deadline for full season printed advertisement is Monday December 18, 2023.



November 3, 2023

Paul Miller
President
Sacramento Audubon Society
P.O. Box 160694
Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Re: Hayse Group Grant Writing Proposal

Dear Paul,

Hayse Group, Inc. is a group of 10 grant writers, evaluators, grant administrators, budgeters, and contract compliance professionals that have been working with nonprofits since 2016. Since our founding, we have raised over \$125 million for our clients. We offer a variety of services, including prospect research, grant writing, evaluation, grants administration, budgeting, and contract compliance.

With a budget of \$8,000 per year (and an initial discounted rate) Hayse Group, Inc. could produce a minimum of four foundation (approximately 15 hours each) and two corporate (approximately 8 hours each) grant applications, including narrative content, budgets, attachments, and final submission. The content produced would be the property of the Sacramento Audubon Society and could be repurposed and used to submit additional applications by your staff or affiliates. This estimate includes meeting and email/administrative time.

In addition, Hayse Group, Inc. maintains subscriptions to the Foundation Directory and Grant Watch. Our team is also subscribed to a variety of listservs and mailing lists, receiving hundreds of grant opportunities directly to our inboxes each week. This allows us to conduct targeted prospecting as well as connect our clients with new, vetted, grant opportunities at no charge to the client.

We look forward to the possibility of working with the Sacramento Audubon Society and helping you to reach your resource development goals.

If you have any questions, please contact me at britthayse@haysegroup.com or 541-400-0649.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Britt Hayse".

Britt Hayse
President & CEO

Field Activities Committee Report - October, 2023

SAS Field Trips

-For 9/15-10/30 we held 13 trips + 1 Beg Birding

-December scouting trip scheduled to Brannon Island State Park to arrange field trips there, beginning in January 2024

Leaders

-added two new field trip leaders:

Cliff Feldheim

Peter Perrine

SAS FAC lending outside FT assistance

-Assisting with leaders for Napa-Sonoma Audubon trip in February

Process

-Added new FAC member - Rich Howard

-Updated website presentation to: our trips + other trips/bird events in the greater Sacramento area

-Review of scheduling and registration processes ongoing

Bobelaine Committee Report 10/29/23

Last committee meeting 8/17/23

1. Kiosk Status.

All is complete except the fourth panel information.

2. Feather River Restoration Project.

Waiting to hear from River Partners on when kickoff meeting is to be held.

3. Monitoring Camera.

Taylor received the two camera package (Loren mfr.). Plan to review electrical requirements early November. Some additional materials will be needed.

4. Refuge status.

- a. South forty trail repair is half complete. The north side of the trail needs the wire mesh and large rock or broken concrete to be set. Plan to start on this on 10/31/23. Trail is still useable.
- b. Trail mowing is now minimal. With last rain, grass is starting to grow, so a final cutting might be required. Trimming of trails and fire break ongoing.
- c. Will be sending burn permit application to Feather River Air Quality Management District early November.

5. Equipment Costs.

The replacement cost for mule (future) is still on Bill's agenda.

Education Committee Report 10/29/23

Last education committee meeting was 10/23/23

1. Family Nature Walks, Effie Yeaw.

Sue reported, scheduled dates are: 12/16/23, 1/20/24 (Sandra), 2/17 - 2/18/24 (weekend of GBBC), 4/20/24 (Cliff) & 5/18/24 (Cliff). Start time 10:30am and all walk's are 3rd Saturday of each month.

2 Beginning Birding.

Larry Hickey, coordinator. All trips are at William Pond. Dates are: 11/12, 12/10, and 1/21/24.

3. Outreach Events.

- a. Lodi Crane Festival. Saturday Nov. 4 & Sunday Nov. 5.
- b. Central Valley Birding Symposium. Nov. 16 - 19th.
- c. Galt Winter Bird Festival. Feb. 3.

4. Presentations.

- a. Cliff is coordinating a bird/nature walk with Allie Dumas at Land-Based Learning Walk is to be at Stone Lakes Refuge on Nov.1st. Students are high school age.
- b. Cliff is doing Bridgeway Pond trips open to the public. Trips noted on the website.

5. Kids Bird Count.

Great Backyard Bird Counts scheduled for 2/17 & 2/18/24.

Nicole will be coordinating with Rachael Greve at Effie Yeaw. Plan is to do one count with Effie Yeaw and one count with State Parks. Suggested Nicole contact Racheal Cowan and Sandra Steurer for helping with counts. Registration/sign-ups can be on the SAS website. Registration by website to start end of December - January 1, 2024. Registration notice for January Observer has to be sent to Carla Resnick, editor by 12/15/23.

6. Other Items.

- a. The updated bird check list "Birds of the Sacramento Area" is complete but waiting final review of authors.
- b. Cliff reported he will be working with Ducks Unlimited on the upgrade of Effie Yeaw's educational pond.

7. Next meeting, Dec.4th at Granite Power House, 10am.

Education Committee Report 9/27/23

Last education committee meeting 9/18/23

1. Family Nature Walks.

Continue again this fall and spring 2024 with Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Scheduled for 3rd Saturday each month and start at 10:30am

Scheduled dates:

1. 10/21
2. None in Nov.
3. 12/16
4. 2/17/24. The weekend of GBBC; Nicole Barden will be coordinating with EYNC.
5. 4/20/24
6. 5/18/24

2. Beginning Birding.

Larry Hickey has trips scheduled for Sunday 10/22 & 11/12. Larry's assistants are Jane VanKessel and Rich Howard.

3. Outreach Events.

Current schedule:

1. Family Fall Festival, 10/1. Near River Bend Park.
2. NatureFest, Effie Yeaw. 10/8
3. Lodi Crane Festival, 9/4 & 9/5
4. Central Valley Birding Symposium, 11/16 - 11/19

Note: Lodi Crane Festival and Symposium need raffle items. Something we always provided in the past. Bill will check with Dan Browns web store and Wild Birds Unlimited for items.

4. Presentations.

1. Cliff Feldheim will be doing Nature/bird walk for SLEW students at Stone Lakes on Nov. 1st. Cliff will be coordinating with Allie Dumas, SLEW's Program Director.

5. Kids Bird Count.

Combined with Great Backyard Bird Count, with Effie Yeaw, 2/17 & 2/18/24. Nicole Barden will be coordinating with Rachel Greve at Effie Yeaw. Need notice to start in October Observer and continue till February. Nicole will be registering participants.

6. Other items.

Committee suggests that "Kids Corner" remain and be kids birding items. An "Teens/Adult" section added. Need to confer with Marry Forrestal.

Next meeting 10/16/23, Mather Park, 10am