

# The Observer

## Sacramento Audubon Society



### General Meeting

#### MEETING NOTICE:

With the uncertainty regarding the Coronavirus situation, the SAS Board has decided to suspend our April general meetings. We know you enjoy the speaker presentations, but it seems wise to heed health warnings concerning public gatherings in enclosed spaces. Please check the Observer, our web site: [sacramentoaudubon.org](http://sacramentoaudubon.org); or our Facebook page: [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon) for updates concerning the May meeting. Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center Assembly Room in Carmichael. The public is welcome. Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/ Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions. To keep up with current happenings follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon](https://facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon).

*Anthony Asay, Program Chair*

### BILL BIANCO

#### MEET YOUR PRESIDENT

Bill is a native Californian who was born in Yuba City and moved to Sacramento at an early age. He joined the society in the late 90's when he was still working as a mechanical, air conditioning and plumbing engineer. Bill explains that his initial draw to Sac Audubon was the field trips. The trips gave him an opportunity to get outdoors to clear his mind of work. It wasn't until he retired in 2008 that his involvement expanded beyond the enjoyment of field trips. He became grounded and vested in Sac Audubon's mission by volunteering his time, skill and expertise in many areas. Volunteerism is important to Bill because he believes it is the backbone of the organization and what "keeps the chapter cohesive" and viable. It's also "a good opportunity to get to know fellow members and help promote the chapter mission".



Bill Bianco

Numerous members know and have worked with Bill over the years, either in his capacity as a member of the Bobelaine Committee, the Education Committee, as the Outreach Coordinator, Convener of the General Meetings, or as Sac Audubon President for the past two years. Some of these members were asked to submit one word to describe Bill, and the list includes the following: dedicated, competent, prepared; effective, practical, systematic, rock solid, steady, generous, helpful, selfless, kind; modest, charismatic, gracious, considerate, calm, indispensable, and great! Each word and others not listed aptly describe Bill.

Bill reflects on his role as president and identifies one of the things he enjoys the most about the job. It is that he receives numerous requests from the general public and loves

Bill Bianco continued on page 4

### 2020 GREAT BACKYARD BIRDCOUNT RESULTS

Wow, just wow! The 2020 GBBC exceeded all expectations and set the bar even higher when it comes to public participation in worldwide citizen-science events! This year's count smashed previous records for number of participants, checklists, and species reported. More than a quarter-of-a-million people were counting birds over the four days of the GBBC this year!

Species: 6,942; Checklists: 249,444

**Estimated Participants: 268,674**

Our top-10 list for species appearing on the greatest number of checklists shows the Northern Cardinal once again in the top spot. Changes compared to year: White-

breasted Nuthatch got knocked out of the tenth spot, replaced by the Red-bellied Woodpecker—a species that has been expanding its range in recent years. House Sparrow and American Crow swapped places, with the sparrow moving up two notches. All other species are in the same position as during the last GBBC.

The top-10 list reflects species common in the United States and Canada because of continued high participation in the region. Record-breaking participation from other countries generated valuable data documenting the diversity of species across the globe. The countries reporting the greatest

number of species is always a hotly-contested race in bird-rich Central and South America. Peru and Mexico swapped places but otherwise the list remains unchanged compared to last year, although in nearly every case, these countries set new species records. U.S. participants reported slightly fewer species than last year.

Country	Number of Species
#1 Colombia	1,129
#2 Ecuador	1,082
#5 Peru	838
#6 Mexico	743
#8 United States	661

# Field Trip Findings

**William Pond Park (3/11)** — Leader Larry Hickey reported: “6 of us enjoyed a beautiful morning . . . spring was clearly in the air. Several species were on or near nests including Yellow-billed Magpies in three separate nests, Red-shouldered Hawks and Great Blue Herons. Many other species were seen exploring cavities and performing courtship displays including House Wrens, Tree Swallows, Western Bluebirds, Oak Titmouse, Northern Mockingbirds, American Coots and White-breasted Nuthatches. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were singing their delightful spring song and an Osprey was feeding at the River. We totaled 50 species for the morning including good looks at Lark and Chipping Sparrows.”

**Mather Lake (3/8)** — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Giving up an hour of sleep, 15 dedicated birders braved moderately overcast skies and identified 53 species. Two pairs of Red-tailed Hawks, a pair of White-tailed Kites, and excellent looks at an Osprey and a young Red-shouldered Hawk ticked the raptor tally. Marsh, House and Bewick Wrens were spotted. Of note were Lincoln, White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Song and Fox Sparrows. Three Cinnamon Teal, a Bufflehead, a Greater Yellowlegs and a Common Yellow-throat were icing on a great birding morning.”

**Arrowhead Marsh and MLK Jr. Regional Shoreline (3/7)** — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “Despite the weather, 13 of us enjoyed viewing the diverse bird species at this wonderful area. We encountered showers intermittently throughout the morning and then spent lunchtime in our cars waiting for the rain to stop. But the group persevered, and we had a great day, tallying about 73 species. Highlights included at least 3 Ridgway’s Rail seen, and several more heard, and at times they seemed so close that you could almost walk right up to them; a Brant foraging in with Canada Geese, this bird is very uncommon for the Bay; 2 Red Knots, a target bird for many in the group; Greater and Lesser Scaup side by side, providing good opportunities for comparison, and hundreds of shorebirds off Garristson Point during the falling tides. A trip like this provides those memories . . . ”remember that trip with the rain, but we saw . . . ” A great group, very pleasurable.”

**William Pond Park Beginner Walk (3/1)** — Nesting birds dominated the observations on this beginners’ trip. Yellow-billed Magpies weaving strands of vegetation into their domed nests, Bushtits working on their sock-shaped nests, Great Blue Herons on rookery nests, Red-shouldered Hawks trying out a couple of different nests, and an active courting display by Northern Mockingbirds were the highlights. A Chipping Sparrow feeding in a group of Lark Sparrows was also a treat. Our group totaled 49 species.

**Bridgeway Island Pond (3/1)** — Leader Dan Murphy reported: “11 of us strolled around the pond and over the levee to check the ship channel on a cold and mostly gray morning. Fortunately the birds were not deterred by the chill and we saw 51 species. Memorable were a lone American White Pelican who flew in no more than 30 ft over our heads, a tight grebe trio—2 Clark’s and a Western for comparison, and a Great Horned Owl nesting in a tree with a colony of Great Blue Herons.”

**Sailor Bar (2/29)** — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Rock Wren, Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, Phainopepla, and a Yellow-rumped Warbler—birds everywhere! All 14 people saw birds wherever they looked. The American River had Barrow’s and Common Goldeneye, as well as other species found on the river. A Sora came out of the tules and walked along the edge of the water. A very active and exciting day for all the bird watchers. A total of 63 species for the day.”

**Lincoln WWTP (2/27)** — Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: “Unseasonably beautiful weather lured several birders to this rewarding morning with sightings of 60 species! The warm weather caused significant thinning of waterfowl numbers, but there was a decent diversity of species. Several hundred Greater White-fronted Geese dropped in for a rest, but soon dispersed frantically when a juvenile Bald Eagle soared overhead. A fun finale was the spotting of a Great-horned Owl lurking in the cover of an oak tree. The second phase of the trip involved checking a small riparian area near the water treatment plant. The creek and woods were teeming with birds flitting, perching, and calling; included were a Hermit Thrush, California and Spotted Towhees, Oak Titmouse, Nuttall’s Woodpecker,

Song Sparrow, White and Golden-crowned Sparrows, House and Bewick’s Wren, and Red-shouldered Hawks. While enjoying the entertainment, we noted a furry intruder swimming across the creek to a hidden hole in the bank—it was a mink!! It seemed to be peacefully co-existing with the birds who paid no attention to it. The overall feeling of the day is that spring is definitely here!”

**Michigan Bar (2/23)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: “16 of us had a good outing on a clear, calm, and increasingly warm trip to Michigan Bar and Meiss Rds. While songbird activity was a bit low, raptor sightings were impressive. Highlights included 3 Bald Eagles, 4 Ferruginous Hawks, 2 Rough-legged Hawks, and 2 Prairie Falcons. Good views of Loggerhead Shrikes, close Horned Larks, a couple of Violet-green Swallows, and a few Tricolored Blackbirds made for a nice morning.”

**Bodega Bay (2/22)** — Leader Ron Storey reported: “12 of us met at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma and drove directly to Doran Park in Bodega Bay where we started our day of birding. The weather started off nice and the day ended with a little wind and colder than when the day started. All had a good time and several of the participants saw life listers. The highlights of the day included Snowy Plovers, a Black-legged Kittiwake, a Bonaparte’s Gull, Black and Ruddy Turnstones, a Dark Morph Rough-legged Hawk, Brants, all three Loons (Common, Red-throated, and Pacific), all three Cormorants (Double Crested, Pelagic, and Brandt’s) and Black Oystercatchers.”

**Lake Solano/Putah Creek (2/18)** — Leaders Ann Burris and Tim Fitzer reported: “8 birders joined us on a beautiful day along Lake Solano and Putah Creek. First thing we had great views of a Western Screech Owl sitting in its hole in a tree in the morning sun and then a Pileated Woodpecker being chased by an Acorn Woodpecker. At one point it landed in a tree right in front of us, giving the whole group great views. Other highlights included Eurasian Wigeon, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Hooded Mergansers, Phainopeplas, Brown Creepers and a very unexpected beaver feeding across the creek. Later we were surprised when it swam up the creek right in front of us. It was a fun day with excitement for all.”

*Findings* continued on page 4

# Field Trips

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. For trips through May 11, contact the scheduler Carla Barbaro, cbarbaro@comcast.net, 916-717-8808.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. 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 can be helpful on all trips. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

**NOTE: Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place..**

Please NOTE: Due to the continuing threat of Covid-19, Sacramento Audubon Society is cancelling all March and April field trips. Since the status of this threat is changing so rapidly, a decision will not be made about May trips at this time. Please consult the May Observer, the SAS website, and/or Facebook for clarification regarding the status of future field trips.

**Saturday, May 2, 7am**

**Drivers Flat, Ruck-a-Chucky**

**Auburn State Recreation Area**

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471  
shoppe01@surewest.net**

We will be exploring the beautiful canyon of the Middle Fork of the American River off Foresthill Road to look for spring migrants and resident breeding birds. This is one of Scott's favorite birding spots. Possibilities include several species of flycatcher, including Hammond's and Pacific-slope; Hutton's, Cassin's and Warbling Vireos; up to 7 species of warbler; Black-headed Grosbeak; Lazuli Bunting and Bullock's Oriole. Walking will be up to a mile at a time with moderate inclines. Bring lunch, snacks and drinks. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. NOTE: there is a \$10 per car parking fee at Drivers Flat.

**Saturday, May 2, 8:30am**

**Bushy Lake trip with CSUS**

**Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266  
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

CSUS Professor Michelle Stevens would like to invite Sacramento Audubon members on a field trip to Bushy Lake. With the assistance of HDR biologist and long time SAS member Dan Williams, CSU Sacramento students Andrea Levinson and Nathan Marschal will be gathering data on the resident bird species as part of their

ongoing restoration work at Bushy Lake. Meet in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo.

**Sunday, May 3, 8am**

**River Bend Park**

**Leader: Dan Brown, 916-704-0951  
naturestoc@aol.com**

Meet at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk through the oak woodland and over to the river, looking for small woodland birds and woodpeckers. We sometimes have good looks at Red-shouldered Hawks or Great Horned Owls. Walk will end by noon, and it's a great walk for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Sunday, May 3**

**Beginning Birding Field Trip**

**William Pond Park**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's 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. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid77@gmail.com; put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

**Tuesday, May 5, 2:45-5pm**

**Bobelaine Preserve-Plants and Birds**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger  
916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net  
Guest Leader: Melissa Ha**

Join Maureen and Melissa, Associate Professor of Biology and Ecology, Yuba

College, to explore birds and plants at the Preserve. This riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores, willows and understory plants is a perfect study area for Melissa who will be teaching her botany students about ecological concepts and botanical terminology for some of these plants. This is a great trip for birders who want to learn about plants and students who want to learn about birds! There will be a walk of 1-2 miles. To carpool, meet by 2:15pm at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd; go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Road, and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Or meet at Bobelaine by 2:45pm. From Sacramento take Hwy99 north toward Yuba City; about 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge, turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.

**Thursday, May 7**

**Sweetwater Creek**

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris**

Yet another chance to bird this favorite hotspot for Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. To minimize impact on this small confined area the trip is limited to 12 people, ensuring good viewing for all. Register by email to Ann at burris.nellieann@gmail.com.

**Family Friendly Trip!!!**

**Saturday, May 9, 10am**

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger  
916-281-6652, mkgeiger@comcast.net**

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

**BILL BIANCO** continued from page 1

to work with knowledgeable Committee members who help respond to questions or coordinate Sac Audubon participation in events or activities such as community presentations, field trips tailored to specific groups or requests for resource material.

One of Bill's priorities for Sac Audubon going forward is to work with the Board and Committees to identify and implement strategies to diversify the membership. This includes more aggressive effort to attract younger members who understand the critical need to protect the environment so that future generations will continue to enjoy birds and the birding experience.

If you have questions for Bill, or if you want to volunteer your time and talent to Sac Audubon, contact him at [president@sacramentoaudubon.org](mailto:president@sacramentoaudubon.org).

*Field Trips* continued from page 3

Join Maureen for a morning drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of birds should still be present. This will be a car-birding trip with activity limited to entering and exiting vehicles for better views of the birds. Spotting scopes and FRS radios are useful on this trip. From Sacramento on I-80 west, take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway, East Chiles/Rd 32A, Exit #78. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left and will end by noon.

**Sunday, May 10 7am**

**Spenceville WLA**

**Leader: Richard Barbieri**

**916-761-1124, [offleash227@gmail.com](mailto:offleash227@gmail.com)**

This scenic recreational area of rolling hillsides, streams, reservoirs and ponds offers a variety of wildlife. This trip will include several short hikes over uneven terrain. Possible birds include Yellow-breasted Chat, Lewis's Woodpecker, warblers and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp (Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

## BIRDS CAN BE BEACONS OF HOPE

**A Message from John W. Fitzpatrick, Director, Cornell Lab of Ornithology**

I often talk about the power of birds, but this year they take on an even more powerful meaning. They enliven our days, brighten the trees, serenade in our backyards and city parks, and bestow us with so much joy and hope, all bundled together in feathers and lively personalities. Like everyone around the world, we at the Cornell Lab are adjusting to new routines.

A core part of our mission is to help people celebrate the wonder of birds. We do it because you (and we) love birds, are amazed by their powers, and even gain solace from them and a deep, clean breath of hope. We can bring birds and bird song into your home—or let you explore the farthest reaches of the world in sounds and images.

For live cams and virtual birding go to [allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds/](http://allaboutbirds.org/news/how-to-make-these-next-few-weeks-a-little-easier-courtesy-of-birds/)

*Findings* continued from page 2

**Tonzi Road (2/16)** — Leader Gary Fregien reported: "14 birders spent a day in above normal temperatures for this season in western Amador Co. for a full day in search of raptors, passerines, shorebirds and waterfowl. Raptors were the highlight again, as we observed 11 species, including Osprey, Bald Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks. 11 waterfowl species were also observed; notably Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck and Hooded Merganser. Other species of note included Common Loon, American White Pelican, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Phainopepla, Lark Sparrow and Lawrence's Goldfinch. The

group tally was 75 species for the day, right in the range of our normal count for this location. Special thanks to James Bennett for the ebird lists."

**North Natomas Regional Park (2/15)**

— Leader Ben Graber reported: "It was a great trip. The weather was clear but cold, and we had a group of about 10 people, including a family with kids. The highlights were two Say's Phoebes, a Sharp-Shinned Hawk, a Northern Harrier, a nice look at a Green Heron, Savannah Sparrows, Lincoln's Sparrows, and even a Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher. We had about 43 species overall."

*Cathie LaZier*

## Birding and Nature Events

### GODWIT DAYS, ARCATA, POSTPONED

The Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival, to be held in April, has been postponed due to the Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic. Planning will start soon for an event this fall that we hope you will attend. Further information may be available at [www.godwitdays.org](http://www.godwitdays.org) or call 1-800-908-WING.

### 11TH ANNUAL POINT REYES BIRDING AND NATURE FESTIVAL

As of press time on March 19, there is no information regarding cancellation or postponement of this festival due to Covid 19. Please check the website listed below or call (415) 663.9312 for further information as the date approaches.

Save the dates of **April 23–26** for the Bay Area's best birding and nature extravaganza! Held over the last weekend of April, the three day festival attendees choose from 50+ educational field outings and classroom-based events based in Marin and Sonoma counties, and focused on birds, wildlife, plants and marine life, plus hiking, biking, kayaking, art and field photography, and led by some of the Bay Area's award-winning naturalists and birders. For more information and to sign up for their email newsletter, visit [pointreyesbirdingfestival.org](http://pointreyesbirdingfestival.org). Tickets are already on sale, and all proceeds benefit the habitat conservation work of the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin.

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

### Nature Bowl 2020 Semifinals Cancelled at Camp Pollock

Sacramento Audubon Society cancelled the March 31 Nature Bowl Semifinals at Camp Pollock as a preventative measure in response to the mounting Coronavirus crisis. Nature Bowl is sponsored by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and a science and ecology-based program. Local and regional elementary school teams (grades 3-6) engage in indoor and outdoor activities to advance students' knowledge and interest in nature and conservation. Sacramento Audubon Society looks forward to coordinating the event in 2021 at Camp Pollock.

### Support to California Montessori Project – Capitol Campus

Sacramento Audubon Society continues to support CMP and the campus birding club. The society was represented at their Science Expo and the Education Committee donated mini binoculars and a copy of *Birding 101* (Authored by Maureen Geiger) for each member of the birding club. Membership has grown to 40 youth.

### Update on Outcome of Jane Taylor's Presentation to California Building Standard's Committee ( CBSC)

*Jane Taylor—An Advocate for Bird Friendly Buildings* was featured in the December issue of *The Observer*. As discussed in the article, Jane planned to meet with the California Building Standard's Green Code Advisory Committee. Her goal was to solicit advisory committee member support and approval to include language in the code encouraging contractors to use bird friendly designs in the construction of commercial buildings. The committee met March 4 and Jane reports that members denied her proposal, citing that CBSC may not have authority for the standards and they don't belong in a building code, albeit green, which had not changed over the last 12 years. Committee members did suggest an option for Jane to consider: get legislative or gubernatorial specific direction enabling the California Building Standards Commission to pursue this. She plans to pursue this avenue, and she asks for your help. Contact her at [1jgtaylor@att.net](mailto:1jgtaylor@att.net) if you have any friends or colleagues at the Capitol who might be open to supporting and advocating for the proposal.



## LOCAL BIRDING TRIPS OF INTEREST

**Please NOTE: This April trip may be cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns. Please either check the website at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net) or call 916-480-4918 for further information.**

**These are not Sacramento Audubon field trips, but are great opportunities for birders and are all Family Friendly.**

### Birding for Families at Effie Yeaw Nature Center April 18, Saturday, 10:30am

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides, Mary Forrestal and Cathie LaZier from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels welcomed. Make sure to bring your binoculars or borrow a pair from us.

**Cost:** General, \$5. Ages 4-11, \$3. 3+Under FREE.  
Members receive \$1 off each admission.

These family-friendly weekend programs fill quickly, so please CALL TO REGISTER and save your spot 916-489-4918. Programs start promptly at stated time and run 30-60 minutes depending on content and are offered only once per day.

Effie Yeaw Nature Center is in Ancil Hoffman Park. Directions can be found at [www.sacnaturecenter.net](http://www.sacnaturecenter.net). There is a \$5 per car parking fee or you can use your ARNHA membership card or County Parks pass.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Many Birding Festivals we attend are fantastic opportunities to view birds and make some new friends but they may also be the host organizations' chief or only fund raising event for the year. Please consider donating to those organizations or others that promote birding, protecting birds or preserving our environment.

## BRIGHTEN YOUR DAY WITH SOME SWEET BABY BIRD PICS

[www.audubon.org/news/brighten-your-day-some-sweet-baby-bird-pics](http://www.audubon.org/news/brighten-your-day-some-sweet-baby-bird-pics) might just be the solution to brightening your mood. The photos are brought to you by the 2017 Audubon Photography Awards.

If you're still not smiling try [www.audubon.org/news/15-awww-inspiring-photos-baby-birds](http://www.audubon.org/news/15-awww-inspiring-photos-baby-birds). Who doesn't love an ugly but cute baby bird?

As a last resort follow some of the links at the bottom of their pages.



## FIELD TRIPS FOR BEGINNING BIRDERS 2020

**Location:** William Pond Park, American River Parkway

**Date:** Sunday, May 3

**Please NOTE:** The April trip is cancelled due to Covid 19 concerns. Please check with Cathie at the email or phone below for information on the May trip.

\*Trips limited to 10 adult participants, and require a minimum of 3 participants: Registration required.

These outings are geared toward people who aren't yet entirely comfortable joining field trips as well as those who have birded a bit but would like to be better birders. It is not necessary to be an Audubon member to participate.

The field trips will focus on finding and identifying common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. This walk, covering about a mile and a half, will last about 3 hours and will be led by two or more friendly and experienced Sacramento Audubon trip leaders. You can sign up for just one session, or for more than one.

Register via email to Cathie at [empid77@gmail.com](mailto:empid77@gmail.com), (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 916-502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Robert and Maureen Burness, Gesna Clarke, Mel and Donell Duvall, Angelique Goodhue, Stanton Hunter, Fred Klass and Peggy Platt, Diane Luke, Arla Mc Guire, Susan O'Farrell, Rick Skehen and Susan E Solarz made donations to the **General Fund**.

Bob and Cindy Austin, Rosalind Becker, Nancy and Bill Bittner, Douglas and Mary Davy, Susan O'Farrell and Rick Skehen made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

Susan O'farrell, Rick Skehen, The Thomson Family and Arthur E Watkins made donations to the **Bobelaine Sanctuary**.

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 continuing restoration and management.



### SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook

#### Mission Statement Sacramento Audubon Society

The mission of the Sacramento Audubon Society is to:

- Promote the protection and scientific study of wild birds;
- Promote the enjoyment and appreciation of wild birds through community outreach;
- Provide, encourage and support environmental educational opportunities; and
- Provide proactive leadership in the conservation of open space in the Sacramento region.

## Mark Your Calendars: Great Opportunity for Birding and Learning about Birds

**Western Field Ornithologists (WFO)** is celebrating its first 50 years with a conference in Reno, NV, September 9-13, and everyone is invited. If you've never been to a WFO conference, it offers a mix of great field trips, workshops to help learn more about birds and birding, and engaging talks on local research. WFO links ornithologists who love birding with birders who have an interest in the science of birds.

Early September in Reno is an ideal time, with mild weather and both shorebird and passerine migration in full swing. Our field trips will take advantage of this. You can learn more about this conference, past conferences, and WFO in general on our web site ([www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/conference.php)). We will open registration for the conference in June so keep checking for updates. Or, better yet, become a member ([www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php](http://www.westernfieldornithologists.org/join.php)) and you will get early notice for registering for the conference (as well as a subscription to our journal *Western Birds*). If you have questions, you can contact Ed Pandolfino at [erpfromca@aol.com](mailto:erpfromca@aol.com).



Sabine's Gull: one of the species we have a chance of finding at this conference (AND the logo bird for WFO!) Photo by John Ranlett.



Among many sites we will visit is Carpenter Valley, a recently-preserved mountain meadow in Nevada County. Photo by Ted Beedy.



## Seasonal Observations

### February 1 to February 29 Rare and Unusual Bird Reports [www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

For the first time in recorded history, we had absolutely no rain in February. That's not to say that the region was devoid of waterfowl. Colusa County's first **Garganey** was found on 2/26 off of White Rd, east of I-5 at Harrington, and continued into March. A **Eurasian Green-winged Teal** was seen sporadically at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (YBWA). The **White-winged Dove** found on 1/24 along Meiss Rd to the west of Dillard Rd continued through at least 2/2. A male **Costa's Hummingbird** was visiting feeders in southeastern Davis mid-month, and an **Allen's Hummingbird** was seen by multiple observers visiting flowering eucalyptus on Sherman Island from 2/12 through at least 2/24, with a displaying male and at least three other

**Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds** seen. This Delta location is just beyond the edge of the regular breeding range for this species.

A **Marbled Godwit** at the YBWA on 2/23 was a nice find for the season, and a **Ruff** at the same location on 2/27 was even more unexpected. An adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** was found at the Yolo Landfill Pond on 2/25, and perhaps a different adult was found at the YBWA on 2/26. An adult **Slaty-backed Gull** was photographed on 2/15 along Yolo County Rd 104 where likely the same bird had been found earlier in the season. **Rough-legged Hawks** are much less expected than they were two decades ago, but this winter they continue to be reported fairly regularly from good raptor locations in the region. A wintering flock of at least ten **Long-eared Owls** was found on 2/22 in a closed portion of Cosumnes River Preserve

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these new members.

Candace Adams	Jennifer House
Joan Ferroggiaro	Rory Litwin
Douglas Griebner	Nancy March
Michael Guard	Dean Nerhus
Alisa Hartz	Walter Neal

### Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Please contact President, Bill Bianco, at [biancowm@yahoo.com](mailto:biancowm@yahoo.com); or 916-372-3318 to find out if the Board Meeting is still being held.

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on April 28, 2020, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento, CA 95816.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at [sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html). Scroll down to 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. Please include your email address if you would like to be added to our Action Alert List for letter/email writing on conservation issues.

### Sacramento Audubon Society Membership Application

[www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)  
[sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*The Observer* Newsletter \$35 per address (1 Year) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you would prefer to receive the *Observer* in PDF form by email [  ]

Send address changes to our Membership Chair to help keep down our costs.

### Observations continued

(CRP) where the flock had been found in November and December, but missed in January.

The young male **Vermilion Flycatcher** first found at Tanzanite Park in Natomas on 10/30 continued to 2/26, but was missed thereafter. The **Gray Flycatcher**, first found on 1/4 along the River Walk at CRP, continued through at least 2/21. A **Northern Shrike** was found on 2/29 and seen by many into March near the Colusa **Garganey** location. The **Plumbeous Vireo** reported in Winters on 12/8 continued through at least 2/20, and a singing **Cassin's Vireo** at Slidehill Park in Davis on 2/26 was also notable for the date. Two **Evening Grosbeaks** were heard and seen near Sac State on 2/16. A **Lark Bunting** was found on 2/1 along Yolo County Rd 86 to the north of Rd 16 and continued through the end of the month. The **Clay-**

**colored Sparrow** found on 12/27 at Tanzanite Park continued into mid-March. Additional notable reports included the continuing **Harris's Sparrow** in Woodland, the continuing **Swamp Sparrow** along the auto tour route at the YBWA, and a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Bobelaine on 2/1. The continuing **Worm-eating Warbler** in southeastern Davis, first found on 10/27 at San Marino Park, was only sporadically found through at least 2/29.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site ([sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html](http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html)).

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 listserve ([cvbirds.org](http://cvbirds.org)) and in eBird ([ebird.org](http://ebird.org)). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Stuart Angerer, Kathy Blankenship, Max Brodie, Holly Coates, Konshau Duman, Chris Dunford, Gil Ewing, Leif Gallagher, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, James Holmes, Stan Hunter, Emmett Iverson, Logan Kahle, Jeri Langham, Michael Perrone, Zane Pickus, Ken Schneider, Steve Scott, Dave Shuford, Ken Sobon, Gavin Stacey, John Trochet, Zeke VanZante, Bart Wichel, Dan Williams, and Lynette Williams.

Thanks to everyone for their reports—without them, this column would not be possible. t

Chris Conard

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

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #1827  
Sacramento, CA

Address Correction Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery



*White Tailed Kite* Dan Brown

### Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

**Internet Address:** [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org)

**Membership/Subscriptions:** [sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com)

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

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,  
Sacramento, CA 95826

916-203-1610, e-mail preferred: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)

**Program Chair:** Anthony Asay, e-mail, [cend86@gmail.com](mailto:cend86@gmail.com)

**Editor:** Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, [sawise7@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sawise7@sbcglobal.net)

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, except June and August, when we publish abbreviated editions.

### **ATTEND THE NEXT SACRAMENTO AUDUBON PROGRAM**

All programs are temporarily suspended due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Perhaps in May we'll be up and running again! In the meantime please stay healthy and go wash your hands.