General Meeting

Thursday, September 20, 2018
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
Assembly Room, 7pm

Nature–Alive on the American River
Susan Maxwell Skinner

Susan “eagle woman” Maxwell Skinner is a Sacramento photojournalist. Her photography and written observations of bald eagles on the American River have been in the news for several years. She also has a huge international following at American River Nature Blog on Facebook. Susan also writes for Arden and Carmichael community newspapers and sings in the John Skinner Band. Her interests include most of nature’s creatures and the photojournalist has a particular love for recording family interactions between many species of birds–large and small! For her presentation, Susan will share her pictures and experiences with nature on the American River. Check out Susan’s blog at www.facebook.com/Susan-Maxwell-Skinner-1543823865927571/

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 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/Sacramento Audubon.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

Monterey Bay Coastal Field and Pelagic Trips

SAVE THESE DATES
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6–7

Join Sacramento Audubon Society for the annual Monterey Bay coastal and pelagic weekend! Note: this year the coastal field trip will be on Saturday, October 6, and the pelagic trip will be on Sunday, October 7.

For those arriving early in Monterey for the weekend, on Saturday, October 6, we will visit coastal habitats on the Monterey peninsula that may yield many migratory and vagrant surprises.

Monterey Bay is perhaps one of the most accessible and productive areas to learn about and enjoy pelagic birds and marine mammals. Normally protected from heavy sea swells, yet geographically situated to capture an amazing diversity of ocean-going birds, Monterey Bay and the surrounding area is an exceptional place for birding. On Sunday’s pelagic trip, we’ll look for shearwaters, albatrosses and other pelagic birds as well as marine mammals. Experts will be on board to spot and identify the pelagic birds and other wildlife we encounter.

The boat will depart Fisherman’s Wharf promptly at 7:30am and return about 3:30pm. The boat trip is limited to 25 participants to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation form and check early to reserve your spot. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. This trip fills up quickly! You do not need to be a Sacramento Audubon Society member to participate.

Your space will be confirmed by email after the reservation form and your check is received. Please use the reservation form provided on page 6. Contact Linda Pittman, pittmanl@frontiernet.net, (email preferred) or phone 916-715-1876 for further information.

Pelagic Trip continued on page 6
Field Trip Findings

Mather Lake (7/8) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Despite the forecast for hot weather 15 souls gathered for birding and identified 44 species. Best bird seen by several was a Barn Owl and near the end a possible Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.”

Loney Meadow (7/7) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: “A great group of 12 participants hiked around (and beyond) this beautiful mountain meadow. While a bit slow for this location compared to other trips here, birding wise, everyone had a great time. And the trip produced a couple of lifers for some in the group. Highlights included great views of a male MacGillivray’s Warbler perched in the open, a Red-breasted Sapsucker that stayed in one spot for seemingly an endless time and an adult Spotted Sandpiper with a still downy fledgling. We always stop at the Sierra Discovery Trail (a mitigation site for PG&E) on the way in and, often on the way out. This time, we walked the short interpretive loop trail on the way out. Highlights were great views of an adult male Lazuli Bunting and American Dipper.”

Ice House Rd, Crystal Basin (7/6) — Leader Linda Pittman, substituting for Mark Sawyer reported: “A total of 13 participants started up the Ice House Road under cloudy skies and birded a few locations before heading over to Wright’s Lake. While the overall number of species was lower than expected (35), many local breeders and young were observed. At Big Hill Lookout, recently fledged Green-tailed Towhees were active and being fed by adults. At Wright’s Lake, Jane Van Kessel found a Warbling Vireo on a nest. We also saw Brown Creepers going in and out of a nest under bark and several streaky juvenile Yellow-rumped Warblers. Both Williamson’s Sapsuckers and Red-breasted Sapsuckers were seen near the marsh. Wildflowers were abundant throughout the area.

Del Paso Regional Park (7/1) — Leader Maureen Geiger reported: “On this hot morning, 5 of us walked through the mostly shady east end of Del Paso Regional Park and enjoyed 30+ species including Western Bluebirds feeding young, 3 species of woodpeckers, and magpies near several of their very large, round nests. The shade was much appreciated.”

Nighthawks at Sunset (6/30) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “17 of us enjoyed an afternoon and evening escap-
ing the valley heat up in Placer and Nevada Counties. The birding started at about 3pm with a drumming Pileated Woodpecker and ended around 9 pm with numerous Common Nighthawks soaring above as the stars began to appear. In between, we tallied 36 species of birds and 5 species of Dragonflies. Bird highlights were of course the Pileated Woodpecker and the Nighthawk but also very good looks at Western Tanagers, Fox Sparrows, Green-tailed Towhees and a singing MacGillivray’s Warbler. Thanks to Linda Brown for gaining us access to the private campground lake in the area.”

Granite Springs/Crystal Basin (6/26) — Leaders Ann Burris and Tim Fitzer reported: “Sixteen people joined us for a beautiful day in the Sierra. We spent time birding Granite Spring Road and the Ice House Road Aspen grove where we saw a Calliope Hummingbird. Highlights were: Lewis’s Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Pygmy Nuthatch, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Lazuli Bunting, MacGillivray’s and Yellow Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Western Tanager and Cassin’s and Purple Finch. We finished with 53 species for the day.”

River Bend Park (6/24) — Leader Dan Brown reported: “6 of us had a nice walk along the river this morning before the heat kicked in. We spotted 37 species, the highlights being: a pair of Ash-throated Flycatchers, a female Common Merganser with 6 fledglings and several Western Bluebirds including one nesting!”

Indian Grinding Rocks SP (6/23) — Leader Cliff Hawley reported: “6 participants joined me for a great morning of birding. Best bird highlights were great views of Pacific Wren, lots of Black-headed Grosbeaks, and birds of many species carrying food or being followed by recently fledged young. Non-avian highlight was a snowberry clearing moth hovering like a hummingbird among a large patch of showy milkweed. We ended by wrapping up early to beat the heat. We found 34 species on our lap around the park.”

Estates Drive (6/19) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “Eleven of us stayed in the shade for most of our hike along the river and finished before the heat of the day. Twenty Rough-winged Swallows gorged on a swarm of flying insects, while we speculated on the meaning of their Greek and Latin species names ("scraper wing" and "saw feather"). An intrepid pair of nesting House Sparrows surprised us, being so far from a McDonald’s. The highlight of the walk came when we heard a repeated call nearby, similar to a Northern Flicker. But something was different; the volume was wimpy! After a search, we discovered a juvenile Flicker poking it’s head out of a cavity nest. We got long views of the youngster in the scope, waiting for its parents. In all, we saw 37 avian species in 3 hours during our 1.5 mile walk.”

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass (6/16–17) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “On Saturday we were joined by new birders; one from Paris and one from Amsterdam. On Sunday a couple from New York City joined in. Yuba Pass on Sunday was marked by lightning and periods of heavy rain that lasted until about 6:30am. By 7am the rain ended and the remainder of the day was mostly rain free. Overall, the numbers of birds have steadily declined in the 17+ years I’ve birded these areas, though the species count remains similar. Well represented families were waterfowl and shorebirds including Wilson’s Phalarope. Raptors included Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl and Swainson’s Hawk; woodpeckers included Lewis’s, Hairy and White-headed, and Red-breasted Sapsucker. Other birds of interest were Sandhill Cranes, Dusky Flycatcher and Western Wood Pewee, Hermit and Swainson’s Thrushes, Mountain and Western Bluebirds, Yellow-rumped, Yellow, Hermit and Wilson’s Warblers, Green-tailed Towhee, Brewer’s, Vesper, Thick-billed Fox, Sparrows, Cassin’s Finch, Pine

Findings continued on page 5
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. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through August 11, contact the scheduler Craig DeMartini, cloudwalk7@icloud.com, 916-599-3300. For trips from August 12 through September 11, contact the scheduler Scott Hoppe, shoppe01@surewest.net, 916 835 8471.

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. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. 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: We are now listing departure times for our field trips. It is up to you to arrive at the meeting place in plenty of time to arrange for your ON TIME departure. Thank you!

Saturday, August 4, 7:30am
Mather Lake
Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake and the surrounding grasslands host a variety of birds and it’s one of Wayne’s favorite birding spots. Join him to explore the area on this morning trip. This is a good trip for beginners and enjoyable for all. Bring water and insect repellent. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50 go south on Zinfandel, Exit #17, about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd, take the first left into the park area. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, August 5, 7am–11:30am
SRWTP Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

The Bufferlands are 2,500 acres surrounding the wastewater treatment plant between Sacramento and Elk Grove and not typically open to the public. Habitats include riparian forest, seasonal wetlands, grasslands, wildlife-friendly agricultural lands, and many habitat restoration sites. This is a good time for early songbird migrants, lingering breeders, and peak shorebird migration. Be prepared for 3 miles of easy walking. New directions: Take I-5 south from Sacramento and exit at Laguna Blvd. Drive east to Franklin Blvd and turn left. Go past the stoplight at Bighorn Blvd and turn left at the next block (Sims Rd—no stoplight) with poplar trees and a brick planter. Drive 0.6 mile and turn right on Laguna Station Rd. Drive 0.5 mile and turn left at Glacier Way before reaching the guard station (If using GPS, enter Glacier Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758). Drive 0.25 mile to the Bufferlands office entrance at the end of Glacier Way. A large gate will be open and the front glass doors will be unlocked.

Tuesday, August 7, 7am
Ancil Hoffman Park
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuschbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for nesting and fledgling birds, and maybe something unexpected will turn up. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet Mark in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tashles Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A SAC County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, August 11, 8am
Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass
John York, 916-409-9276, 530-320-4751
johnyork157@yahoo.com

We will meet at The Fork and Horn parking lot in Sierraville, corner of Lincoln St and Main, at 8am. We will bird the valley floor and then the pass. Bring snack, lunch and liquids as we have no scheduled eating stops. This trip will take most of the day. The highlights should be the young mountain birds, woodpeckers and warblers, although the valley can turn up some great birds as well. If you want to caravan from the Denny’s at Newcastle, please contact John so he can meet you there. Please RSVP to John so we know to look for you at either rendezvous point.

Sunday, August 12, 7am
Shorebirds of the Sacramento Valley and Beyond
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

August is a great time to view shorebirds in migration from their Arctic breeding grounds. Since ideal conditions change depending on water levels, we may visit locations in our own “backyard”, or we may need to go a bit farther afield. Either way, we should find plenty of shorebird activity, and maybe find a rarity or two. If you have a spotting scope, bring it, along with water and snacks. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Tuesday, August 14, 7am Sharp!
Wright’s Lake
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Ann Burris: 916-947-7573
burrissnellieann@gmail.com

Escape the valley heat and join Tim and Ann in searching for a variety of montane birds at this mountain lake. The high Sierra offers a wide variety of woodpeckers, finches, towhees, and other passerine birds, and it’s a good trip for beginners, as well as more experienced birders. Bring plenty of water and lunch for a full day of birding.

Field Trips continued on page 4
Field Trips continued from page 3

Bring your FRS radios and be prepared for changeable weather. Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley’s shopping center in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

Saturday, August 18, 6:30am
Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

This Wildlife Area encompasses a large swath of land north of San Pablo Bay. Shorebirds and other water birds should be in abundance, and Scott is hoping that the Least Terns that have been in the area this summer are still around. The trip should end early to mid-afternoon, depending on conditions. Bring lunch and liquids, and some layers of clothing as Bay Area weather can be cool even in August. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Sunday, August 19, 7am
Putah Creek Reserve
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Mark will be looking for fall migrants that often pass through this remnant riparian area. Warblers, buntings, flycatchers and orioles are often seen during this time of year. This will likely be a two to four hour trip. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Wednesday, August 22, evening trip
Bats and Swainson’s Hawks
Leader: Dan Brown, 916-704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan along with bat expert, JoEllen Arnold to see 60,000 Mexican Free-tailed bats emerge for their evening hunt while Swainson’s Hawks and American Kestrels try their luck and skill at bat hunting! This trip is limited to 12 participants. Please contact Dan Brown for meeting time and place.

Saturday, August 25, 7am
Sailor Bar
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrdd@gmail.com

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the resident birds. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way just west of Hazel. Meet at the last parking lot on your left, near the boat launch area. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, August 26, 7am
Riverbend Park
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid@earthlink.net

Meet Cathie in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. We’ll walk through the oak woodland and down to the river looking for the resident birds of the parkway, as well as possible migrants. This is a good trip for beginners. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. Meet in the first parking lot on your right as you enter the park. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Friday, August 31, 7am
Ancil Hoffman Park
Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661
MarkSawyer3383@gmail.com

Mark will be looking for early fall migrants, as well as remaining summering birds and residents. This will be a 2 to 4 hour walk. Meet in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, September 1, 6:30am
Alpine County/Douglas Counties
Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net

Join Scott for this exciting local trip seeking fall migrants. But, there is a twist. The locations will be unknown until you arrive at the meeting place. Scott will be checking conditions and posts to see where activity has been best. The trip could include some riparian areas for passersines and some wetlands for water birds. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

Thursday, September 6, 7:30am
Yolo Bypass wildlife Area
Leader: Maureen Geiger 916-281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net

Join Maureen for a morning drive around this diverse area just a few minutes from downtown Sacramento. A good variety of species is possible this time of year, shorebird numbers will depend on the amount of water available. Spotting scopes and FRS radios are useful. 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. This trip will end before noon.

Saturday, September 8, 6:30am
Point Reyes
Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

Birding Point Reyes can be very productive this time of year, for both regular migrants and more uncommon birds. Chris is an expert birder who can sort out that confusing fall warbler. Be prepared for several miles of walking. Bring lunch and liquids for a full day of birding. Meet at the Park
and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Sunday, September 9, 8am**
**Sacramento Bar**  
**Leader: Paul Cordero**  
**pkcordero@gmail.com**

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and maybe a few early migrants. Paul will focus on finding and identifying birds by ear. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd, and take the first left on Pennsylvania and follow it into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Family Friendly Trip/Beginning Birders**  
**Sunday, September 9, 9am**  
**Point Reyes**  
**Leaders: Sandra Steurer**  
**916-580-8398, sasteurer@yahoo.com**  
**Wendy Money, 916-205-3194**  
**wendydougm@msn.com**

Sandra and Wendy will steer you in the direction of birds and beaches on this full day trip. We will drive to Point Reyes via Hwy 37—it is very birdy through the salt marshes, so keep those binoculars handy to watch for ducks and waders. In the Point Reyes National Seashore area, beginning at the visitor’s center, we will learn about this area—its flora, fauna, geology and human impact, then take a short hike nearby looking for wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and other coastal forest birds and reptiles. After working up an appetite we will head to the beach for lunch and some shoreline birding. We might even have time to make a sandcastle! As we drive we will search for migrating raptors and will enjoy the Point Reyes National Seashore area, beginning at the visitor’s center, we will learn about this area—its flora, fauna, geology and human impact, then take a short hike nearby looking for wrens, Chestnut-backed Chickadees and other coastal forest birds and reptiles.

The tour, participants may have a chance to see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair. Please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or email twilight@bobelaine.org to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

Our last Twilight event will be on Thursday, September 20.

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

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

**SAS ACTION ALERTS**

With many drastic changes on the horizon for our country’s natural resources and wildlife, many organizations are hoping you will take the opportunity to make your voice heard by legislators who put some of these changes in place. While we are besieged daily by unwanted emails if you would like to receive timely email notification of birding, conservation and other issues that effect wildlife, both locally and nationally, send an email to: webmaster@sacramentoaudubon.org containing your name and email address with “SAS Action Alert List” as the subject. Most Alerts have a short action period which seems to be the norm. This is an opportunity for you to do your part to affect change in the wildlife conservation arena. (Alerts are gleaned from various sources and information is provided for your consideration and possible action).

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**BUFFERLANDS EVENTS**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**TWILIGHT ON THE BUFFERLANDS**  
**Wednesday, August 15, 6:30pm–9pm**

Don’t miss this unique opportunity to explore some of the Great Central Valley habitats at dusk on the Bufferlands. During the tour, participants may have a chance to see beavers, river otters, muskrats, raccoons, owls and more.

Please wear appropriate clothing for walking on trails and bring water and binoculars, if you have a pair. Please contact Roger Jones at (916) 875-9174 or email twilight@bobelaine.org to confirm your reservation and meeting location. Please note, we can only take reservations the week preceding the event.

Our last Twilight event will be on Thursday, September 20.

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

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**SAS NEW MEMBERS**

**Welcome these new members:**

Kim Derby  
David Jones

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR**

**GENEROUS DONATIONS!**

Terry Dozier, Maureen K Geiger, Timothy and Angela Jackson, David Jones, June A Ritzman, and Robin B Thompson made donations to the **General Fund**.

Yoshino Hatanaka, Timothy and Angela Jackson, Peggy Jenkins, and Bruce and Peggy Kennedy made donations to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Winifred Dettwiler, Christine Hansen, Timothy and Angela Jackson, Linda Melching, Christie Vallance, and Richard and Salli Warinner made donations to **Bobelaine**.

Thank 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 after last winter’s flooding.

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**SEE THE LATEST**

**SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK**

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

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**Findings continued from page 2**

Siskin and Evening Grosbeak. Other usual birds included Golden Eagle, Common Nighthawk and Common Poorwill, Black-billed Magpie, Sage Thrasher, Western Tanager, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. We also saw Vaux’s Swift. The group tally this year was 99 species; the first time in memory that we didn’t reach triple digits. NOTE: On Friday, June 15, Subhash and Vineeta Chand spotted a young wolf at Lake Davis, near Portola, Plumas Co. This animal closely resembled the one pictured in the Sac Bee a couple of days earlier, and is likely the same wolf.”

*Cathie LaZier*
ATTEND THE NEXT
SACRAMENTO AUDUBON
PROGRAM

Thursday, September 20, 2018
Susan Maxwell Skinner:
Nature–Alive on the American River
At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center, 7pm

Monterey Bay Pelagic Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, October 7, 2018  Registration deadline: September 15, 2018
Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: $105 per person

Name _________________________________________________________
Telephone _________________________ Cell Phone __________________
Address (with zip) _______________________________________________
Email (for confirmation) __________________________________________
Number of people ________________ Total Payment $ ______________

Return this form and your check made out to Sacramento Audubon to:
Linda Pittman, 9849 Alta Mesa Rd, Wilton, CA 95693