



The Observer

Sacramento Audubon Society

VOLUME 71 • NO. 5

MAY 2019

General Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2019

Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Assembly Room, 7pm

**Nesting Grebes in the High Lakes of
Plumas County**

Lindsay Wood

In 2010 Audubon California was awarded a four-year grant to help protect breeding Aechmophorus grebes, (Clark's and Western) at their important breeding lakes in Northern California. Plumas Audubon, along with the Altacal and Redbud Audubon chapters have partnered with Audubon California to implement the project, which is currently in its eighth year.

This presentation will be a review of the population trends of Aechmophorus grebe species nesting at Lake Almanor. During this project we have been provided with numerous insights into grebe ecology and nesting habits. In 2012 the Chips fire provided an interesting change in the typical rate of summer draw down at Lake Almanor, providing grebes with longer time periods on nests. We also observed a new potential predator at Lake Almanor, with river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) seen in and around grebe colonies. The effects of PG&E's water management decisions will be discussed as it relates to the reproductive success of this species, whose nest floats upon the water.

Lindsay Wood moved to Plumas County with six years of biological consulting experience, and landed her dream job by becoming Plumas Audubon Society's new Executive Director. She is a wildlife biologist and has conducted fisheries, avian, and herptile research throughout the Sacramento River Watershed. An alumnus of the California State University, Chico Biological Science program, Lindsay spent a field season tracking the Greater Sage Grouse

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SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT

Tell Us What You Think

Sacramento Audubon Society's website was designed in 2007 on a do-it-yourself-platform. The site has served us well over the years. As with most things, change is needed, and continuous improvement is one of our goals. To this end the SAS Board appointed a Website Improvement Committee to explore ways to improve the website, recommend changes, and transition the website through the changes, pending full board approval. Committee members are Elliot Chasin, Gesna Clarke, Daphne Reimer, Jane Van Kessel, and Heather White, in consultation with Webmaster, Wendy Money.

Your input is important to us, which is why we ask you to take a few minutes to reply to the survey below. We're interested in knowing which venue you use the most to access Sacramento Audubon Society's information and what areas interest you the most. The collective survey data will help to inform decisions on Sacramento Audubon Society's website improvement.

You may reply to the survey in three ways:

1. Go to the following site: www.surveymonkey.com/r/XCHPHJY
2. Detach and return the survey below via USPS by May 31. Save postage and time by going to the link above and taking the survey now.
3. Pick up, complete and return the survey available at the May 16, General Meeting.

Sacramento Audubon Society Website Improvement Survey

Instructions: please check the item that answers the question or provide other information as applicable.

1. Are you a member of Sacramento Audubon Society? YES NO
2. What is your age? Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44
 45-54 55-64 65-74 75 +
3. Which of the following do you use to access or acquire SAS information?
 The Observer newsletter (print or digital) SAS website Facebook
 Monthly general meetings On Field trips or other events you attend
 Other (please specify)
4. How often do you visit the Sacramento Audubon Society website?
 Weekly Monthly Quarterly Yearly Never
5. Which of the following do you use most often to access the SAS website?
 Desktop/laptop computer Smartphone Tablet n/a
6. When you visit the Sacramento Audubon Society website, which of the following types of information do you access? (check all that apply) SAS Program information (General Meetings-Speakers) SAS field trip information
 SAS organizational information (board and committees, membership, giving)
 Birding information Conservation information (community issues)
 Education information (Nature Bowl, Community Presentations, Outreach events, etc) Other (please specify)
7. Is there anything missing from the website that you would like to see? Please include on another sheet of paper .

Thank you for responding to the survey. Detach and return to:
Sacramento Audubon Society Attention: Daphne Reimer
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95815

Field Trip Findings

Bushy Lake (4/14) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Wow, sunshine and cool. We started walking towards the open grassy area where the Red-winged Blackbirds were plentiful and appeared to be nesting in the tall grass. As we got closer to Bushy Lake a Eurasian Collared Dove landed in a Willow tree. Western Kingbirds were abundant around the lake. We scoured the upper end of Bushy Lake for Wood Ducks and were out of luck. Maybe the next field trip they will reappear. We had a total of 38 species.”

Lincoln Grasslands (4/13) — Leader John York reported: “We started the day off with 12 people, including some newcomers to California. Though some bailed at lunch time, we birded until after five pm because the birding was so good. We picked up twenty-plus species at the first stop, Bullock’s Oriole at the second and continued with several Swainson’s Hawks, Lewis’ Woodpeckers, a Great Horned Owl, Tri-colored and Yellow-headed Blackbirds and a Whimbrel. We finished the day at a pond, where Gary scared up Black-bellied Plover and Dunlin in breeding plumage while the rest of us argued over whether the immature eagle sitting in the middle of the pond was a Bald or Golden.”

William Pond Park (4/10) — Leader Larry Hickey reported: “Despite a windy morning, nine of us enjoyed a successful birding morning. We were joined by a couple of excellent birders who recently moved to Sacramento from the east coast and another from New York. A total of 50 species were seen and heard, including many courting and some nesting birds. Highlights were good looks at recently arrived Bullock’s Oriole and Western Kingbird, Chipping Sparrow and nesting Red-shouldered Hawks. We walked across the bicycle bridge to the River Bend part of the parkway and were delighted to find two young but surprisingly large Great Horned Owlets in their nest.”

Pine Hill Preserve (4/7) — Leader Chris Conard reported: “Because of a scheduling conflict at Kanaka Valley, we relocated our trip to the Cameron Park unit of Pine Hill Preserve. Among the highlights were many singing California Thrashers and everyone was able to see at least one. We had a few calling Ash-throated Flycatchers, a well-seen Hutton’s Vireo, several low flybys of Violet-green Swallows, seemingly half the world’s pop-

ulation of Bewick’s Wrens, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, singing Wrentits, with a pair seen well by some, and multiple singing Orange-crowned Warblers. Views of the Sierra, Coast Range, and Valley, plus an introduction to some of the area’s rare plants rounded out a nice morning.”

William Pond Park Beginners’ Trip (4/7) — Eight beginners joined four SAS leaders on this walk. Highlights were nesting Red-shouldered Hawks, nesting Bushtits, newly arrived Western Kingbirds and Bullock’s Orioles, and views of the heron/egret rookery.

Point Reyes (4/6) — Leader John York reported: “Seven people left in the threatening rain for Point Reyes where rain canceled the first walk at Earthquake Trail. We avoided the rain by hitting Limantour Beach and picked up several nice birds. Highlight was a Wrentit a few feet off the trail, singing. Many photos were shot and many will be deleted. Another highlight was an Osprey carrying a fish. Access to the Fish Docks was jammed up, the Lighthouse was closed and the water was so high at Drake’s Beach that only a few Sea Lions were mucking about. We took off to Five Brooks to pick up some warblers, Band-tailed Pigeons and the usual quail.”

Mormon Island (4/2) — Leader Rich Howard reported: “Eleven participants braved threatening skies to walk the 4-mile loop along the south shore of Folsom Lake from the Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam to Brown’s Ravine and back. Highlights among the 47 species included a Common Loon on the lake, a Hammond’s Flycatcher (identified with Cliff Hawley’s help from a voice recording and Larry Hickey’s photos), a Bald Eagle on the nest, many singing Orange-crowned Warblers, a nest-building Bushtit pair, and a Red-tailed Hawk flying onto a nest with a mouse to join its mate. No complaints about the rain, which only joined us for the last 45 minutes! Thanks to Jane van Kessel for keeping our group eBird list, available here: <https://ebird.org/pnw/view/checklist/S54522866>, with photos.”

Ancil Hoffman Park (3/31) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Seventeen people saw or heard 71 species of birds on a beautiful early spring morning. Highlights included Green Heron, White-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Western Kingbird, Orange-crowned

Warbler, Anna’s Hummingbird on nest and White-throated Sparrow.”

Sacramento Bar (3/30) — Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Sunshine made for a good turnout. People who arrived early were able to observe a very bright Bullock’s Oriole in a tree in the parking lot. As we started our journey a Cooper’s Hawk landed in a nearby tree. Walking along the river we observed Wood Ducks perched in a tree and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher flitting around in a small tree. The river had very few species of birds — a couple of Goldeneyes and a Common Merganser. The bird count was 42 for the morning. All 17 people had a good time.”

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (3/28) — Leader Craig DeMartini reported: “It was a gorgeous sunny day, however the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area continued to be closed due to flooding. Instead we visited the Davis Water Treatment Facility, and the Bridgeway Island Pond. The total between the two locations was 59 species with 3 participants. We got great scope views of several Blue-winged Teal and Cinnamon Teal, a Redhead, Lesser Scaup, American White Pelican, Long-billed Dowitchers, Common Gallinule, American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Spotted Sandpiper, Osprey, Swainson’s Hawk, Marsh Wrens, Song Sparrow, Common Yellowthroat, and Bullock’s Oriole.”

Lake Natoma (3/24) — Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: “About 15 people showed up for the Lake Natoma field trip and we covered over a mile of riparian and oak woodland habitat along the shore. A total of 50 species were found in the area. Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped warblers were fairly abundant. A couple of the yellow-rumps were Myrtle subspecies. Cliff swallows were congregating around old mud nests on the Folsom Blvd bridge, along with soaring White-throated Swifts and a pair of Northern Rough-winged Swallows. A small group of female Purple Finches were found close to the bridge as well. A female Bald Eagle was sitting on its nest along the cliffs on the Orangevale side of the reservoir with the male perched nearby on a gray pine. Probably the best sightings that day were a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers we found among a thicket of willows and later in the morning a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers found close

Findings continued on page 7

Field Trips



Flycatcher Species
Stephen D'Amato

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 Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com, 916-508-7192. For trips from May 12 through June 11, contact the scheduler Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, 916-502-2699.

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.

Thursday, May 2, 8am

Sweetwater Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207

spskua2@comcast.net

Ann Burris, 916-947-7573

burris.nellieann@gmail.com

This trip is another chance to bird this favorite hotspot for Yellow-breasted Chat, Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Meet at the Bella Bru in the shopping center on the northeast corner of El Dorado Hills Blvd and Highway 50. 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. This will be a half day trip and is a good one for beginners.

Saturday, May 4, 7am

Driver's 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. In honor of Global Big Day, we will go a full day. If we seem to have exhausted species at the location, we will continue to other locations in search of more birds. Those who wish to leave earlier may want to connect with others that also want to leave early. For

us die-hards, we will keep going until....?

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 Driver's Flat.

Sunday, May 5

Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults 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 common birds in a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on looking and listening. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, 916-502-2699. More information can be found on page 7.

Sunday, May 5, 7:30am

Mather Field

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767

wayne.blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join Wayne to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. 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. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Wednesday, May 8, 8am

Falcon Crest, El Dorado Hills

Leader: Craig DeMartini

916-599-3300

cloudwalk7@icloud.com

We will be scouting the oak woodlands and floodplains of Folsom Lake for falcons, eagles and osprey as well as passerines, woodpeckers and water birds. Early nest builders should be active. Meet at the Falcon Crest turnout parking lot, off Salmon Falls Road. From Sacramento head east on Highway 50 towards Placerville. Take the El Dorado Hills Blvd, exit #30B and go north on El Dorado Hills Blvd for approximately 4 miles to Green Valley Road. Go straight across Green Valley Road where El Dorado Hills Blvd becomes Salmon Falls Road. Continue on Salmon Falls Road for 3 miles to a large dirt parking lot on the left with a large wooden sign that reads "Falcon Crest". Use caution when crossing oncoming traffic to enter the parking lot. This trip may last into early afternoon; you may want to bring snacks and water. There are no bathrooms.

Saturday, May 11, time TBD

Dragonfly Trip-Location: TBD

Leader: Tim Manolis, 916-485-9009

Ylightfoot@aol.com

Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, including the California endemic Exclamation Damsel, Tim will scout his favorite haunts and choose the exact meeting location as the date approaches. Call or email Tim the week before the trip to get the time and meeting place; the trip is typically a few hours in the morning. With his expertise as the author of a field guide to California dragonflies and damselflies, you can be sure that he will lead you to the best possible site, and share fascinating

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Field Trips continued from page 3

information about migration patterns of the odenates, and other bits of natural history. (Ask him about spiders!) Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet—just in case.

Sunday, May 12, 7am

Spenceville WLR

Leader: Richard Barbieri

916-761-1124, offleash56@yahoo.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.

Thursday, May 16, 8am SHARP!

Remaining Lincoln Grasslands and Other Habitats

Leader: John York, 530-320-4751

johnyork157@yahoo.com

Join John for a day of birding based in Lincoln. We will look for Tri-colored Blackbirds, Western Kingbirds, and the great raptors that inhabit the area. You can join John and others at Sterling Cafe at 7am for breakfast, located next to Raley's on Lincoln Blvd and Sterling Parkway. We will be leaving the parking lot at 8am sharp for our excursion, which will end about mid-afternoon depending on the birding. Some easy walking involved. Bring lunch and drinks.

Saturday, May 18, 8:30am

Family Friendly Trip!!!

Beals Point, Folsom Lake

Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398

sasteurer@yahoo.com

Sue Darst, 530-902-3427

sue.darst51@gmail.com

This is a great spot for family members of all ages and early May is a good time to find a nice variety of birds. Join Sandra and Sue on a 1 to 2 mile walk in the oak woodlands with views of the lake. Recently, in addition to expected species, specialty birds such as Phainopepla, Rock Wrens, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow have been found.

The trip will end before noon. Meet in the parking lot of the Beals Point unit of the Folsom Lake State Recreation Area (turn left as you enter the parking lot, to park near the first row). The entrance to Beals Point is on Oak Hill Drive off Auburn-Folsom Rd, about 2 miles south of Douglas Blvd and about 3 miles north of Greenback Lane. The entrance fee is \$12 per car, or you may use a state (not county) park pass.

Saturday, May 18, 6am

Mosquito Ridge Rd, Placer County

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

Join Scott for this early season trip into the lower to mid-elevation Sierra. While seemingly a bit early for this area, Scott has found it very productive in this time period. Previous trips have found 6 species of woodpecker including Pileated and White-headed, Olive-sided and Hammond's Flycatcher, Pacific and Canyon Wrens and several warbler species. Plan for an all day trip. Bring lunch and liquids. We will be walking 1-2 miles over moderate terrain. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. FRS radios are helpful on this trip, so bring them if you have them.

Saturday, May 18, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

Join Audubon birding leaders Craig DeMartini and Dan Williams 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. Reservations are not needed, families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists/birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net.

Sunday, May 19, 7:30am

Del Paso Regional Park

Leader: Maureen Geiger

916-281-6652

mkgeiger@comcast.net

This large, little known park is tucked into the confluence of I-80, Bus 80, and the Auburn Boulevard exit. Its lush riparian habitat along Arcade Creek is definitely worth exploring, so join Maureen for a morning walk and see which species are present this time of year. Besides the plentiful resident Acorn Woodpeckers, Yellow-billed Magpies, turkeys and peacocks, there

should be plenty of spring migrants to be found in this overlooked urban oasis. This will be an easy, 2-mile walk ending mid-morning. Parking is on Norris Avenue south of Auburn Boulevard. From the intersection of Watt Avenue and Auburn Boulevard, go east on Auburn and park on Norris Avenue.

Thursday, May 23, 8am

Willow Creek Trail, Folsom

Leader: Susan Thrower, 469-231-5418

susan.thrower@gmail.com

Join Susan for a leisurely walk along Willow Creek Trail in Folsom; a shaded riparian portion of the trail with some wetland areas. Meet at Cummings Family Park at Oak Avenue and Creekside. From Hwy 50 take Exit #27 on E Bidwell, north on Bidwell, then right at Oak Avenue and the park will be on your left. This trip will end mid-morning.

Saturday, May 25, 7 am

Sacramento Bar

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999

mohrdd@gmail.com

On this morning walk along the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. 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. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, May 26, 6am

Sierra Valley

Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471

shoppe01@surewest.net

The month of May can be a peak time for viewing breeding birds in Sierra Valley. This gem of the Sierras is unique in that it has characteristics of the Eastern Sierra and the Great Basin, yet is part of the western drainage. The Feather River flows out of the northwestern corner of Sierra Valley, through the Sierras and into the central valley, where it joins the Sacramento River. We will stop on the way at Kyburz Flat to look for nesting Mountain Bluebirds and other montane species, and Sandhill Cranes are possible here as well. Birding will be done mostly by car, with numerous stops along the way. Bring lunch and water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. FRS radios

are helpful on this trip, so bring them if you have them.

Friday, May 31, 8am

Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach

**Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661
Marksawyer3383@yahoo.com**

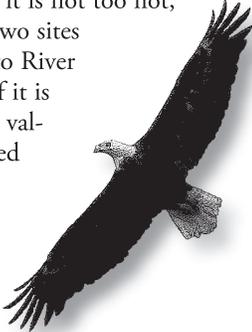
Join Mark for a morning bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Mark will be looking for returning breeding birds and migrating warblers and vireos. From H Street, (north side of Sac State University), take Carlson Ave north till it crosses Sandburg and dead ends into the park.

Saturday, June 1, 6:30am

Northern California River Walks

**Leader: Jane Taylor, 916-587-3366
1jgtaylor@att.net**

Depending on conditions, we will try a riparian walk to look for late-spring birds and other critters. If it is not too hot, we can visit one or two sites along the Sacramento River but move up-slope if it is too hot down in the valley. Please be prepared for park or parking fees and bring liquids and snacks or lunch to get you through to early afternoon. Plan to meet at the Park and Ride near Brookfield's Restaurant 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. FRS radios may be helpful while en route.



Bald Eagle
Photo Illustration

Sunday, June 2, 7am

Crystal Basin

**Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn
530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com
Ann Burris, 916-947-7573
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

This trip will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads, looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area, including Calliope Hummingbird. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Walking distance will not be more than 1/2 mile. Both beginners and experienced bird-

ers are welcome. Meet Ann at the Bella Bru 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. You can also meet Phyllis at 8am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

Thursday, June 6, 8am

Bannister Park to Sacramento Bar

**Leader: Stan Hunter, 530-902-8462
stanton.hunter@gmail.com**

On this morning walk through the woods to the American River, you will see, and hear, a nice variety of resident birds and spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. Meet Stan in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road, south off Fair Oaks Blvd, west of Sunrise Blvd.

Family Friendly Trip

Saturday, June 8, 10:30am

Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova

**Leader: Sheila Green, 916-813-1470
raeshei@aol.com**

Join Sheila at the duck pond at Hagan Park in Rancho Cordova for a bird walk geared towards children, families and beginners. Bring water and snacks and dress in layers for variable weather. We will see birds in urban, park and riparian (river) habitats. Hagan Park, 2197 Chase Drive, Rancho Cordova, is near Hwy 50 and the Mather exit. Meet at the duck pond near the free parking area on the right just before the park entry kiosk.

**Saturday and Sunday, June 8-9, 8am
onsite both Saturday and Sunday**

Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass

**Leader: Gary Fregien 916-708-0636
calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra Valley or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. We will bird the Sierra Valley area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, including a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire located at the southern end of the valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks. On Sunday we will bird the Yuba Pass area until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola and Sierra City. US Forest Service campgrounds are

located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons. If you need to, please contact Gary by mid-afternoon on Thursday, 6/6, as he will be unreachable after that time.

Sunday, June 9, 7:30am

Mather Field

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767
wayne.blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident birds. Targeted birds will be Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Black-headed Grosbeaks, White-tailed Kites, Wild Turkey and Green Heron. Meet Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Douglas Road turn south on Zinfandel Dr, then turn left into the park for this morning trip. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders. Parking is \$5; your Sac County Park Pass is good here.

**FIELD TRIPS FOR
BEGINNING BIRDERS 2019**

Location: William Pond Park, American River Parkway

Dates: Sunday, May 5

*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 empid@earthlink.net, (put "Beginning Birder" in the subject line), and give your name, phone number and email address, or phone Cathie at 502-2699, and leave your name and phone number. Following registration you will receive additional information regarding the field trip.

BIG DAY OF GIVING, MAY 2 Nature Conservancy with SAS

C'mon down to the river to celebrate the Big Day of Giving with some amazing local nonprofits!

May 2nd from 5:30 to 8pm
Camp Pollock: 1501 Northgate Blvd,
Sacramento, 95815
Family-friendly live music with Cat's
Meow

Guests are encouraged to bring a picnic and a blanket or camp chairs for the concert

Sacramento Audubon Society

This is our 4th year to participate in Big Day of Giving which is a 24 hour 'giving challenge' that enables local non-profits to obtain needed funds to help them with their missions and programs. Last year we received over \$2,700 for this single-day-giving event THANKS to many of you! Sacramento Audubon Society has many important areas to fund each year:

- Sacramento Audubon Society continues to work to preserve and maintain the wonderful Bobelaine Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Sacramento Audubon provides education for both adults and youth about wild birds and their environments.
- Sacramento Audubon also supports legislative efforts that try to protect wild birds and their habitats.

If you would like to help Sacramento Audubon advocate for wild birds and their habitats, please put May 2nd on your calendar!

You can donate ONLINE at bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubon on Thursday, May 2nd from midnight to midnight! Your donations also can be made in advance using the same web address starting April 15th! There is a minimum online donation of \$15.

Please tell your friends and family, who value wild birds and their natural environments, that Sacramento Audubon Society is a valuable non-profit to support on Big Day of Giving!! More detailed information is available about Sacramento Audubon Society's mission and programs on our profile at: www.bigdayofgiving.org/sacramentoaudubon.

Thank you very much!

General Meeting continued from page 1

and two years working on a fish screen improvement project. Lindsay has worked with the Altcal Audubon Society, studying Aechmophorus grebe populations on the Thermalito Afterbay and leading field trips for the annual Snow Goose Festival. More information on Lindsay and Plumas Audubon may be found at PlumasAudubon.org.

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/SacramentoAudubon.

Anthony Asay, Program Chair

SACRAMENTO AUDUBON SOCIETY SLATE OF OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2019-2020

A vote will be held at the May General Meeting for the new slate of officers and board members, announced in April, for Sacramento Audubon Society for the fiscal year 2019-2020

President	Bill Bianco
Vice President	Daphne Reimer
Treasurer	Harriet Saeck
Recording Secretary	Heather White
Corresponding Secretary	Diana Hickson
Past President	Sally Walters Schmoltdt
Directors	Grant Boice, Rosalind Becker, Gesna Clarke Elliot Chasin, Jane VanKessel

Farallon Islands Pelagic Trip, July 14: The trip will last approximately 8 hours, departing out of Sausalito promptly at 8am and returning about 3:30pm. The pre-trip presentation starts promptly at 7:30am. This trip is limited to the first 25 people that sign up to ensure everyone has plenty of room, so send your reservation and check early to reserve your spot. Note: reservations are not confirmed until payment is received. The trip cost is \$115 per person. Sign up deadline is July 1. Your space will be confirmed by email after your reservation form and check is received. Detailed instructions, maps, and pre-trip information will be provided in late June. Please use the reservation form provided below. Contact Harriet Saeck, hssaeck@gmail.com, (email preferred) or phone 916.233.8282 for further information.

Farallon Islands Boat Trip Reservation Form

Sunday, July 14, 2019 Registration deadline: July 1, 2019

Tour departs from Harbor Drive, Sausalito. Trip price: \$115 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:
Harriet Saeck, 5823 Callister Ave, Sacramento, CA 95819

25TH ANNUAL WALK ON THE WILDSIDE

On **Saturday, May 18**, from 10am until 4pm, bring the family and join Regional San's Bufferlands staff for our annual Walk on the Wildside event, a celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

Walk on the Wildside highlights local efforts to protect and restore Central Valley habitats. This FREE family-oriented event includes hiking tours of local wetlands and forests, presentations, live animal shows by Wild Things, Inc, live music, children's hands-on activities, informational exhibits, and more!

Guided and self-guided tours are offered throughout the day. Explore a pristine valley oak riparian forest in search of migratory songbirds. Visit numerous wetland and riparian forest restoration projects. Take one of the Bufferlands guided tours and enjoy a unique opportunity to see a rare heron and egret rookery—one of only four in Sacramento County. This rookery contains more than 120 active nests of great blue herons, great egrets and double crested cormorants. Spotting scopes will be available for optimum viewing of these fascinating and beautiful birds.

Walk on the Wildside has grown to be one of Sacramento's favorite outdoor environmental events, and both the event and parking are FREE! The fun activities are held at the beautiful Beach Lake Park, near the town of Freeport. **Directions:** Exit I-5 at Pocket Road and head east. At Freeport Blvd turn south. Continue 2 miles through the town of Freeport and past the golf course. Turn left at the signs (just opposite Cliff's Marina) and continue until you reach the Beach Lake event parking area.

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

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

THIS IS WHY WE DO IT

Often when we volunteer for SAS events and tasks, there is little reward other than our own personal sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. And, maybe, the thanks of our fellow volunteers. But once in a while, we are rewarded with obvious feedback that what we do matters. This is one such story.

I take walks with a friend who often cares for her two grandchildren, aged six years and eight. We chat about our lives, and one day after I had talked about "working on the Kids' bird count," she rather tentatively asked if she could sign up her grandkids. She is not a birder and is not really an outdoors person, so I was thrilled, and, of course, I signed them right up!

They showed up on the day of the count—mother, grandmother and Aiden and Laurelai—and, as everyone always does, they had an amazing and wonderful time on the Count. About six weeks later, as we walked one morning, my friend said her grandson had come in from the backyard to say, "I just saw a hummingbird!" followed by his sister's announcement that they "always look for birds in the yard."

So, to all of the SAS and Effie Yeaw volunteers who give so generously of their time, remember please: This is why we do this.

Maureen Geiger, Count Coordinator, Kids CBC

Findings continued from page 2

to the Young Wo Circle access point. Very good views of the two woodpeckers were shared by the group."

Cosumnes River Preserve (3/23) — Leader Mike Heacox reported: "The trip started as the rain ended, always a good time to see active birds: red-winged blackbirds calling, bushtits in their hanging sock nest, marsh wrens flying with long strips of nesting materials into the reeds, yellow-rumped warblers calling from the oaks and hunting in the wetlands, mixed species of ducks and wading birds foraging in the marshes, tree swallows zipping over the marshes and fluttering around an oak. Despite the newsletter description, the snipe failed to put in an appearance, at least not a solid, stand-up sighting where we could all see the bird in his camouflaged glory. One person caught a furtive glimpse of a probable snipe just as it dropped behind the tules, never to reappear. I saw white pelicans flying overhead after I drove away. Another member of the group saw juncos as he left. So, if you're fussy like me and report only what you personally saw during the walk in the specified area, the count was 45. All told, counting glimpses, blurry wings, feathery shapes in peripheral vision, uncertain

calls in dense foliage and birds seen on the road after clocking out of eBird we could claim 50. But would that really be proper science?"

Glenn Hall Park (3/22) — Leader Mark Sawyer did not file a report, but a participant said it was a very good trip, and the group viewed, some for the first time, the seldom seen orange crown of the Orange-crowned Warbler.

Bobelaine (3/19) — Leaders Maureen Geiger and Ken Poerner reported: "Due to flooding of the mighty Feather River, the Bobelaine trip instead occurred at Hwy 99 along the Feather River levee. It has been a few years since SAS offered a trip in this location, so all 7 of us enjoyed checking it out. On this warm, overcast spring morning, a respectable 44 species were seen and heard. House Wrens, all singing madly, seemed to be about every 10 feet. Sparrows, towhees and woodpeckers were present along with raptors including a Northern Harrier. Wood Ducks and river otters were also seen."

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (3/17) — Leader Scott Hoppe reported: "It was evident early on that my trip would not be able to go into the YBWA. It had been closed for some time due to flooding. The joke developed that I should show

up pulling a boat on a trailer, then ask if anyone would be willing to "boatpool". I had decided to meet anyone that might show up at the entrance gate at the top of the levee, and then proceed to other nearby areas as an alternative. Well, you couldn't even get to the entrance gate, as Chiles Rd was closed on both sides of the freeway. Our group ended up meeting at the end of the off ramp, just past the causeway. It was a small group of just 7. I had decided that we should go down to Cosumnes River Preserve as an alternative. Most of the birds there are what one might expect at the Bypass. We all had a great time, tallying about 69 species. Highlights included, a small flyover flock of Cattle Egrets, Cackling Goose, Blue-winged Teal, and at least 6 Lesser Yellowlegs."

Sailor Bar Family Friendly Trip (3/16) — Leader Ben Graber reported: "We had very nice weather and a good group of people, with a decent variety of birds, but nothing particularly uncommon. The highlights were excellent looks at Lark Sparrows with their distinctive facial markings, a White Tailed Kite, Western Bluebirds, White Breasted Nuthatches, and California Quail."

Cathie La Zier

BIRD AND BREAKFAST AT EFFIE YEAW NATURE CENTER, 2019

Sacramento Audubon provided 24 volunteers for this fund raising event, including birding leaders for both adult walks and family walks, and monitors for the scopes trained on various nests, including Anna's Hummingbird, Hutton's Vireo, Bushtits, Red-shouldered and Red-tailed Hawks and more. Highlights were Wood Ducks inspecting nesting cavities, House Wrens singing, and a Brown Creeper creeping.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Betty J Cooper, Lisa and Chris Couper, Bob Ellis, Marcia Ferkovich, James and Nancy Ree Joye, Scott and Julie Kenney, Robert Moeszinger, Sarah Powell, Brian Rhodes, Nancy Schoellkopf and Rick Soehren made donations to the **General Fund**.

Daniel A Airola, Gesna Clarke, Sue Darst, Rick Soehren, and Michael Taylor made donations to the **Education and Conservation Fund**.

James and Nancy Ree Joye and Rick Soehren 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.



Join Us For Family Friendly Field Trips!

Saturday, May 18, 8:30am, Family Friendly Trip, Beals Point, Folsom Lake

This is a great spot for family members of all ages and early May is a good time to find a nice variety of birds. Join Sandra and Sue on a 1 to 2 mile walk in the oak woodlands with views of the lake. You can find all the information on page 4.

Saturday, June 8, 10:30am, Family Friendly Trip, Hagan Park, Rancho Cordova

Join Sheila at the duck pond at Hagan Park for a bird walk geared towards children, families and beginners. Bring water and snacks and dress in layers. We will see birds in urban, park and riparian (river) habitats. You can find all the information on page 5.

Effie Yeaw and SAS Family Nature Walks 2019

Bring the family out for a birding and nature walk led by a Naturalist and our special guest guides from the Sacramento Audubon Society. Birdwatchers of all levels are welcome. No registration is necessary but you might want to arrive a little early. This month's walk is the last one until fall. **May 18:** With SAS leaders Dan Williams and Craig DeMartini

NOTE: Meeting location and other information for all trips is available in our Field Trips column, beginning on page 3, or at sacramentoaudubon.org under Field Trips.

EDUCATION UPDATES

Sacramento Audubon Society Receives Award

Sacramento Audubon Society is a proud recipient of the Sacramento Environmental Commission's 2019 Outstanding Environmental Education Award. Sacramento Audubon Board President, Bill Bianco, and Education Chair, Gesna Clarke, attended the April 15 ceremony to receive the award. Sacramento Audubon Society was chosen as a winner for its Sacramento Regional Conservation Corps' Environmental Education Program and its participation in the 2018 Nature Bowl Competition. The televised awards ceremony was held at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers at 709 H Street. Pictured are Gesna Clarke, Bill Bianco and Environmental Commission Chair, Richard Hunn.

Presentation to Sierra Foothills Rose Society

On April 4 Gesna Clarke made a spirited presentation on Backyard Birding to members of the Sierra Foothills Rose Society (SFRS). Between 25-35 members attended the presentation which was held at the Maidu Community Center. SFRS made a \$50 donation to Sacramento Audubon Society. The donation will support Education.

Seasonal Observations

March 1 to March 31

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm

This March will surely be remembered for decades as the month of the **Garganey**. A male of this small, Eurasian-breeding duck (a California Bird Records Committee review species) was seen and photographed by hundreds in West Sacramento from 3/1-20. It was initially found at Bridgeway Island Pond, where it often continued, but was also seen fairly regularly at a nearby wetland near the intersection of Southport Parkway and Jefferson Blvd. Bridgeway Island Pond has been locally famous for its inexplicably high numbers of **Blue-winged Teal** (at times over 200), but this find put it on the national map.

One to two **Surf Scoters** continued off of Sherman Island E Levee Rd from early January through at least 3/3, while the cooperative male **White-winged Scoter** first found on 12/13 near the Nimbus Hatchery continued through 3/31 (it was apparently not seen in April). Male **Costa's Hummingbirds** were reported from Rancho Cordova on 3/24 and Citrus Heights on 3/25.

An immature **Glaucous Gull** has been reported sporadically this season in Yolo County, including on 3/8 at the Woodland WTP. The **Red-throated Loon** found along the Deep Water Channel between Bridgeway Island Pond and the turning basin on 2/27 was reported into the first week of March, while the **Pacific Loon** found last December on Folsom Lake

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.

SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome these new members:

Sandra Auriemma	Marina Olson
Janet E. Coleman	Kathryn Rian
Farley Cross	Michael Taylor
Christine Howe	Kasandra Vargas
Robert Moeszinger	William Wright

Sacramento Audubon Chapter Board Meetings

Board Meetings of the Sacramento Audubon Society are held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on May 28, 2019, at 7pm. This Board Meeting will be held at a **new** location, Turley Associates, 2431 Capital Ave, Sacramento CA. 95816.

Minutes of Board Meetings can be found online at sacramentoaudubon.org/societyinfo/archives.html. Scroll down to Board Minutes.

SEE THE LATEST SAS ACTION ON FACEBOOK

facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon

You can enjoy the photos and commentary without joining Facebook



Observations continued

between the dam and Folsom Point was last reported on 3/10. A **Long-eared Owl** roost in a private orchard along Putah Creek between Davis and Winters continued with at least five birds present in March. A pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** was seen off of Young Wo Circle along Lake Natoma through the end of the month. This is the only site in Sacramento County where this species is somewhat expected, and only there since 2013.

Another major regional highlight was an immature female **Vermilion Flycatcher** found along Bruceville Rd, between Twin Cities and Desmond Rds, from 3/9-15. It was seen by many, moving between private land and the Cosumnes River Preserve, and often perched cooperatively along the roadside fences. This is only the third Sacramento County record (the others coming from 1983 and 2004). A somewhat early **Cassin's Vireo** was at

Slide Hill Park in Davis on 3/24, while another was found at Marriott Park in the Pocket area of Sacramento on 3/30, along with a well-photographed **Plumbeous Vireo**. The bright male **Tennessee Warbler** photographed in a north Davis yard on 1/25 continued through at least 3/11 along the greenbelt in the vicinity of Elk Place and Falcon Ave. A drab **Blackburnian Warbler** was reported in north Davis 3/1, but was not refound despite considerable effort. The same goes for a **Black-and-white Warbler** reported at Granite Regional Park on 3/29. The **Palm Warbler** first reported on 2/12 near Covell Blvd and Pole Line Rd in Davis continued through at least 3/15.

We feature photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (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' 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) and in eBird (ebird.org). It is impossible to list everyone, but I want to thank the following for their reports:

Dan Airola, Max Brodie, Leo Edson, Gil Ewing, Stephen Fettig, Steve Hampton, Cliff Hawley, Ed Harper, Terry Hodapp, James Holmes, Afton Kern, Dan Kopp, Manfred Kusch, Jeri Langham, Jean Leonatti, Mark Martucci, Ed Pandolfino, Michael Perrone, Chris Ronshausen, Mark Sawyer, Steve Scott, John Sterling, Michelle Swarthout, Craig Swolgaard, and John Trochet.

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

Chris Conard

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
sacaudubonmembership@gmail.com
P.O. Box 160694, Sacramento, CA 95816-0694

Date _____

The Observer Newsletter \$25 per address (1 Year) _____

Donation for Conservation/Education \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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White-tailed Kite Dan Brown

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916-203-1610, e-mail preferred: conardc@gmail.com

Program Chair: Anthony Asay, e-mail, cend86@gmail.com

Editor: Sharon Wisecarver, e-mail, 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

Thursday, May 16, at 7pm

At the Effie Yeaw Nature Center

Lindsay Wood, *Nesting Grebes In the
High Lakes of Plumas
County*



Lindsay Wood