



# The OBSERVER

Sacramento Audubon Society

## General Meeting

**Thursday, January 20, 2011**  
**Shepard Garden and Arts Center**  
**7pm General Meeting**

### Birding Expedition in Chile

The January presentation will be given by Andrew "Andy" Engilis, Jr., the curator of the Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology (MWFBI) at UC Davis. Andy has been a birder since 1970 and has traveled throughout the world since. His current research activities include biogeography and avian community ecology, recovery of endangered species, waterfowl conservation, and faunal inventories. His research is centered in California, Chile, Indonesia, and the Hawaiian Islands. He supervised the wetland restoration and initial management of the Cosumnes River Preserve, established the Pacific Northwest and Hawaiian Islands programs for Ducks Unlimited and represented the company as a biologist, around the Pacific Rim. and has conducted avian and small mammal surveys in several California State Parks.

Sacramento Audubon meetings are held the third Thursday of the month at the Shepard Garden and Arts Center in McKinley Park. The public is welcome.



*Southern Caracara*  
Photographed while on  
expedition in Chile  
Irene E. Engilis

### THE 14TH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT! FEBRUARY 18-21, 2011!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up next month from February 18-21. It's one of the best opportunities for citizen science to contribute to our knowledge of bird species' survival and population. Plus, it's a great opportunity for some healthy competition in compiling those checklists. Last year we achieved our goal of getting to the top ten in the USA! Sacramento was actually fourth in overall checklists with 446! We were #1 in California with Redding #2 with 138 checklists. Sacramento had 131 species. California was second, behind New York, in the total number of checklists and second to Texas in the most species. The GBBC website is quite interactive and the place to go to record your results and check on the latest compilations. It's found at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc/](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/). There's a photo contest every year too. Let's get everyone out counting this year and add to Sacramento's birdy reputation!

### 26TH ANNUAL AMERICAN RIVER WILDLIFE COUNT

"Twelve Sacramento Audubon teams competed in the 26th annual ARNHA American River Wildlife count December 4, and tallied a record-setting 123 bird species, eight more than last year's high mark of 115" coordinator Lea Landry reported. Jack Hiehle, approaching his 90th birthday, had coordinated the previous 17 counts and was on hand to give Lea moral support during the compilation.

"Despite the damp start, the day turned out almost balmy with a bit of sunshine poking through during the afternoon. And NO WIND!" Lea reported. The high, fast flow of the American River discouraged shorebirds and made all of the water birds appear to be 'flying' by. The outflow from Nimbus Dam was 6,766 cubic feet per second; last year it was only 1,833 cu.ft./sec. The count covered both sides of the American River from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park.

The Mew Gull was not seen for the first time in Count history. Rarities included Western Grebe, Snow Goose, Gadwall, *Red-breasted Merganser*, Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Virginia Rail, Sora, Long-billed Dowitcher, Say's Phoebe, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pacific Wren (formerly Winter Wren before the split by the AOU), Townsend's Warbler, *Common Yellowthroat*, *Wilson's Warbler*, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, and *Tricolored Blackbird* (italicized birds were seen for only the second time on the count). No new species were seen.

Fourteen mammal species were seen, including 70 deer (down from 114 last year), 50 ground squirrels, 46 Western Gray Squirrels (5 Eastern Gray Squirrels), 10 house cats and 1 California Sea Lion. No coyotes were seen this year.

This year, there were 12 teams covering the Parkway, including 1 team with 6 counters in canoes. Jeri Langham's team at Gristmill, won the Total Species competition with

**ARNHA Count** continued on page 7

Visit our website [www.sacramentoaudubon.org](http://www.sacramentoaudubon.org) and click on Society Info/Meetings, for further information, including a map and directions.

*Sally Walters, Program Chair*

# Field Trip Findings

**Jepson Prairie/Wilcox Ranch (12/12)** — Maureen Geiger, co-leader with Ken Poerner, reported: “We had about 18 people bird at Jepson Prairie and the Wilcox Ranch, private property near Jepson, then the Robinson/Flannery Road area. We did not find Mountain Plovers, but did have wonderful raptors – particularly 3 Ferruginous Hawks and a Merlin plus plenty of kestrels and red-tails. Tim Fitzer found several Burrowing Owls, which are always a treat. The really amazing sight was several flocks totaling at least 2,000 tricolored blackbirds!”

**Sacramento National Wildlife Area (12/11)** — Leader Andi Salmi reported: “Our group of 8 birders enjoyed a balmy day at the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge, with plenty of raptors and waterbirds. Highlights included at least 2 Bald Eagles, an adult Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Great Horned Owl, Cooper’s Hawk, American Kestrel, Common (Eurasian) Teal (a subspecies of Green-winged Teal, breeding male has horizontal white bar and no vertical shoulder bar), Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, plenty of Mallards, Northern Pintail, Ring-necked Ducks, Northern Shovelers, Gadwall, Greater White-fronted Geese and 1000’s of Snow Geese and Ross’s Geese.”

**Wetlands and Waterfowl Tour II (12/8)** — Rained out.

**Paradise Beach/American River (12/5)** — Leader Dan Kopp reported: “I was joined by two participants on a sunny morning with no wind (the nearby CIM may have kept folks away, with road closures), and fellow field trip leader Mark Martucci. Our main highlight was two – a singing Fox Sparrow, we found two together. Many Lark Sparrows, Yellow-billed Magpies and Western Bluebirds in Glenhall Park were a treat as were the several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers along the Parkway. We were also able to rustle up a few Hermit Thrushes and Lincoln’s Sparrows on the Parkway along with many of our other common wintering and resident birds for a total of 50 species.”

**Pleasants Valley Rd. /Putah Creek (Solano Co.) (11/27)** — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Two birders left West Sacramento under what might be considered inclement weather conditions, a drizzly sky and wind, arriving at our first stop at the west end of Pleasants Valley Road where we met a couple from San Diego

visiting in the area, who had emailed a request to join us. Two other birders met us at Lake Solano County Park. The trip along Pleasants Valley Road produced five species of corvids: Steller’s Jay, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow and Common Raven. We saw large flocks of Wild Turkeys. There were also three Merlins, the last of which surprised us when it scattered the flock of Lark Sparrows we were watching. The county park at Lake Solano had the usual high numbers of Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, with Barrow’s Goldeneye and Wood Ducks adding to the color. A Green Heron was seen, as were Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egret. Phainopepla occupied the picnic area. As a first for this leader at this site, several Lewis’s Woodpeckers put on a nice show, along with Nuttall’s, Downy and Acorn Woodpecker, Red-breasted Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. Thrushes included Western Bluebird, Hermit Thrush and American Robin. We had many sightings of Belted Kingfisher along the shores of the lake and Putah Creek. Near the bridge below Monticello Dam we found Hooded Merganser and the American Dipper. At the east end of Lake Solano, we saw more than 100 Snowy Egrets, more than 60 Greater Yellowlegs, 50-plus Killdeer, six Wilson’s Snipe, several Long-billed Dowitchers, and three Least Sandpipers. There were also Green-winged Teal and American Wigeon, a Common Moorhen and a Sora, an Osprey and a Golden Eagle. In addition, prior and subsequent to the “official” trip, the leader saw Pileated Woodpecker, Lesser Scaup, Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Swainson’s and Varied Thrush. The full-trip tally was 81 species, most of which were seen by the group. As a side note, except for the shower that lasted about a half hour, we had excellent birding weather most of the day, including sunshine.”

**Upper Sunrise Area, American River Parkway (11/21)** — Rained out.

**Gray Lodge (11/20)** — Carla Barbaro and Mark Cudney led this trip on a day that Carla said “the weather was iffy, very cold with some rain, (but) we had a great trip with 81 species. This was a perfect day for a driving tour. We watched a Peregrine Falcon work the duck crowd and identified an uncommon number of Eurasian Wigeons. Sandhill Cranes and

White-faced Ibises were found just west of the refuge.”

Mark’s list: Greater White-fronted Goose, Snow Goose, Ross’s Goose, Cackling Goose (Aleutian Race), Canada Goose, Tundra Swan, American Wigeon, Eurasian Wigeon (17 males alone), Gadwall, Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Ring-necked Duck, Greater Scaup, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, California Quail, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Cooper’s Hawk, Northern Harrier, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, American Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon (2 juveniles), Virginia Rail, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Sandhill Crane, Killdeer, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Wilson’s Snipe, Long-billed Dowitcher, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Northern Flicker, Black Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Western Scrub-Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, American Crow, Horned Lark, Violet-green Swallow (1) very late, Tree Swallow, Bushtit, Marsh Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Pipit, Yellow-rumped Warbler, California Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Western Meadowlark, Brewer’s Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Lesser Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

**Colusa National Wildlife Refuge (11/16)** — Leader Dan Tankersley reported “Our group of seven enjoyed a beautiful warm fall morning at the Colusa NWR. There were good numbers of Greater White-fronted, Snow and Ross’s geese as well as plenty of duck species but not huge numbers of any. Today’s highlights included three Eurasian Wigeons and a scope-filling view of a young Cooper’s Hawk. Among the 66 species enjoyed by the group were Long-billed Curlew, Loggerhead Shrike, Wilson’s Snipe, and Eared Grebe.”

**Yolo Wildlife Area (11/14)** — Leader Marlene Isihara reported: “On a bright

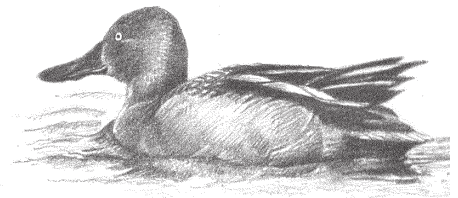
*Findings* continued on page 8

# Field Trips

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or checking the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, call the scheduler Tim Fitzer, 870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net) for trips through January. For trips from February 5th on call the scheduler Richard Barbieri, 966-4603, [offleash56@yahoo.com](mailto:offleash56@yahoo.com).

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.



Redhead  
Daniel Kilby

### **Saturday, January 1, 8:30am** **Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary** **Leader: Brian Gilmore, 451-9146**

Start the New Year with a fresh morning walk rather than sitting around watching television! Join Brian for a stroll through this great riparian habitat. Herons, egrets, cormorants and grebes should be on the water. Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a variety of sparrows will be seen. Take Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City and 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. Bring liquids and snacks.

### **Sunday, January 2** **Folsom Christmas Count** **Compiler: Chris Conard, 203-1610** **[conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)**

### **Tuesday, January 4, 8:30am** **Yolo Wildlife Area** **Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758** **[ishiM2000@comcast.net](mailto:ishiM2000@comcast.net)**

Join Marlene in this great area just 10 minutes from downtown. On the auto tour route there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl and possible raptors such as Peregrine Falcon. White-faced Ibis and Northern Harriers may be seen overhead, and Savannah Sparrows and Horned Larks are visible on the road. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78, E Chiles/Rd 32A) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. 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. If bypass is flooded trip is canceled.

### **Saturday, January 8, 7am SHARP** **Hot Birding Spots in the North Bay** **Leader: Ron Storey, 707-762-5276** **[ronstorey@ronstorey.com](mailto:ronstorey@ronstorey.com)** **Coordinator: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207** **[spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)**

Meet Tim at the West Sacramento Park and Ride to start the trip. We'll meet Ron at Ellis Creek Park, just east of Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 8:30am, and spend a little time there looking for Blue-winged Teal, Sora and Virginia Rail, and any other odd birds that may be around. We'll then drive to Las Gallinas and do a little bird watching there, looking for Eurasian and Common Teal, Hooded Merganser, and any other odd birds (i.e. Peregrine Falcon). From Las Gallinas we will drive south to Corte Madera Marsh in search of Clapper Rail. Dress appropriately for the weather; bring lunch and water. (Option: Ron plans to make a lunch stop for pizza!). Bring FRS radios and scopes if you have them. To meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

### **Another Trip for Kids and Families!** **Saturday, January 8, 8:30-11am** **William Pond Park, Carmichael** **Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804** **Cell that day only: 281-6652** **[mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net)**

This morning walk at William Pond Park along the American River will be specifically geared toward families with children who are interested in birds and nature.

Binoculars suitable for smaller hands will be available for those who do not have them, and a checklist will be provided. Maureen will work with children on how to use binoculars and find birds, discuss a few basics of birding, and show everyone some of Sacramento's great resident and wintering birds. This will be followed by a leisurely walk through several of the park's different environments. There are restrooms in the park. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden follow Arden till it dead ends into the park. There is a \$5 per car charge unless you have a Sacramento County Regional Parks Pass. Park in the first available space after you pass the kiosk and Maureen will meet you near the kiosk. Spaces are limited, so please contact Maureen to let her know you plan to come.

### **Sunday, January 9, 8am** **Salt Springs Valley** **Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207** **[Spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:Spskua2@comcast.net)** **Carla Barbaro, 717-8808**

This area is located in western Calaveras County about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake are home to many wintering ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and grassland birds. This is a unique area you will not want to miss. The trip will last into the late afternoon so bring lunch, liquids, warm clothing and FRS radios. Meet in the parking lot in front of the Wal-Mart located on the west side of Hwy 99 at the Elk Grove Boulevard exit.

### **Tuesday, January 11, 7:45am** **Colusa National Wildlife Refuge** **Leader: Dan Tankersley, 606-6518** **[dtankers@winfirst.com](mailto:dtankers@winfirst.com)**

*Field Trips* continued on page 4

## *Field Trips* continued from page 3

The Colusa NWR is another great location in the Central Valley to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be many duck species and plenty of Snow, Ross's and Greater White-fronted Geese as well as other wetland birds. This refuge often provides an opportunity to view the elgasi race of the Greater White-fronted Goose. Eurasian Wigeon is often seen here as well. We can expect many raptors with the possibility of Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon. We will spend a good amount of time on the main viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through a riparian forest next to the main viewing pond. We will then take the short auto tour and finish our outing with a return visit to the platform. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Weather permitting, there should be ample photo ops. Scopes and FRS radios will be helpful on this trip. Meet Dan at the Mace Blvd Park and Ride at 7:45am. From Sacramento, take I-80 to west to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right (north) and then right again to the Park and Ride behind Ikeda's Market. We will meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. Bring snacks and liquids as the trip will end in the very late morning to very early afternoon. We will leave the meeting area at 8am SHARP.

### **Saturday, January 15, 8am Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Leader: John York, 409-9276 sonofyork@att.net**

John will be looking for the great flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. We'll return through the Dunnigan Hills, a good area for raptors, Burrowing Owls and wintering sparrows. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet John at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take I-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. Please note that at the refuge there is a fee for each vehicle: either \$3 for a day pass, a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass or a Duck Stamp!

### **Sunday, January 16, 8am Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Leaders: Linda Pittman, 715-1876**

### **pittman@frontiernet.net Cathie LaZier, 457-6882 empid@earthlink.net**

Join Linda and Cathie for a tour of this prime wintering area for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge, we'll take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes. This area is great for raptors and grassland birds including wintering sparrows. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. FRS radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. Meet in 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 Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. There is a \$4 per person charge at the wildlife area.

### **Tuesday, January 18, 8:30am Yolo Wildlife Area**

#### **Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758 ishiM2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene in this great area just 10 minutes from downtown. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl and raptors including possible Peregrine Falcon. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78, E Chiles/Rd 32A) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. 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. If bypass is flooded trip is canceled.

### **Saturday, January 22, 7am San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636 calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

The San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex is composed of the San Luis NWR, Merced NWR, San Joaquin River NWR and the Grasslands Wildlife Area. The refuge units are located in the northern San Joaquin Valley in Merced and Stanislaus Counties. There are nearly 45,000 acres of wetlands, grasslands and riparian habitats, plus over 90,000 acres of private lands under conservation easements to protect and benefit wildlife, and together they constitute the largest contiguous freshwater wetlands remaining in California.

The complex is within the Pacific Flyway, a major route for migrating waterfowl and other birds. These refuge units are noted as major wintering areas for Ross's and Aleutian Cackling Goose, as well as Snow and Greater White-fronted Goose, and many kinds of ducks, totaling 30 species of waterfowl using the complex during winter. We can also expect to see Sandhill Crane, numerous other bird species associated with these diverse habitats and, with luck, Tule Elk. We will hike easy trails, drive auto tour routes and stop at viewing platforms. Bring food and water. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. We will meet at the Park and Ride on the east side of Hwy 99 near the Sheldon Road exit. Take Hwy 99 south from Sacramento to the Sheldon Road exit. Turn left and cross over the freeway to the second signal light; turn right on East Stockton Blvd and proceed about a ¼ mile to the lot.

### **Saturday, January 22, 3:30 pm Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored trip**

#### **Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

Sandhill Cranes are the focus of this trip but ducks, swans and geese, as well as shorebirds, feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta, and hawks patrol overhead. Meet at the Cosumnes River Preserve Visitor Center parking lot at 3:30pm to hear a brief presentation of Sandhill Crane behavior, biology and status. Then we'll stroll the boardwalk in the Lost Slough Wetlands, enjoying views of the cranes, wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. Afterwards, we'll drive along Desmond Road and possibly to Woodbridge Road or Staten Island, to see flocks of cranes fly in to roost for the night. Dress for changeable weather; bring binoculars, scopes and FRS radios if you have them. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at [www.cosumnes.org](http://www.cosumnes.org). This is a great trip for beginners. Another chance to view the cranes and other waterfowl.

### **Sunday, January 23, 8am Road 113, Robinson Road and Birds Landing Area Leader: Paul Cordero, email preferred: pkcordero@gmail.com, or 454-4061**

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes, and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This trip will last into the afternoon.

**Sunday, January 23, 3:30 pm  
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering  
Birds of the Sacramento Valley  
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored  
trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

Another chance to view the cranes and other waterfowl. All information is the same as the January 22nd trip.

**Tuesday, January 25, 8am  
Isenberg Crane Preserve/Cosumnes  
River Preserve Boardwalk  
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207  
spsku2@comcast.net**

Join Tim to look for wintering geese and ducks, including Gadwall, Northern Shovelers, teal and wigeon. In shallow water there may be shorebirds, such as dowitchers, sandpipers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, and maybe some surprises. Our wintering Sandhill Cranes will be back, and the usual herons and egrets will be around. The boardwalk is also a good place to look for the noisy but hard-to-see Marsh Wren, and the cryptic Wilson's Snipe. Meet Tim at the Nugget Market at 8am. Going south on I-5, take the Florin Road West exit; go west to the first signal light, (Greenhaven Drive), and make a U-turn. The parking area for the market will be on the right. This trip will end by noon. Bring FRS radios and spotting scopes if you have them. This is a great trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Thick fog cancels this trip.

**Saturday, January 29, 8:30am  
Nimbus Fish Hatchery  
Leader: Dan Kopp, 213-2791  
rey-ality@hotmail.com**

Sharpen your identification skills as this is a gathering place for a variety of gulls. Herring, Thayer's, Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Then we'll walk downstream looking for Hooded and Common Mergansers, Osprey and other raptors, Barrow's and Common Goldeneye, Spotted

Sandpipers, White-throated Swifts, and a variety of the smaller woodland birds. Meet Dan in the Fish Hatchery parking lot off Hazel Avenue north of Hwy 50.

**Saturday, January 29, 8am  
Tonzi Road, Amador Co  
Leader: Gary Fregien, 708-0636  
calaveri@sbcglobal.net**

Join Gary on a road trip to the Sierra foothills in Amador County, along Highway's 16, 124 and 49. The focus of the trip will be the Tonzi Road area, a back-country road north of Ione. Travel along this route will include some stops and walking short distances. There are an interesting and surprising variety and number of passerines and raptors in this area. There have been a Red-naped Sapsucker, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, Western Bluebirds, Hermit Thrushes, American, Lesser and Lawrence's Goldfinches, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and a variety of flycatchers, sparrows and raptors observed here. Time permitting, this trip may also include stops for waterfowl at ponds near Sutter Creek and Ione. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for winter conditions. Bring along hand held radios, food and water. Meet Gary at the College Greens/Raley's Shopping Center lot at 8391 Folsom Blvd Park near the Starbucks. This Folsom Blvd Raley's is between Jackson Road (Hwy 16) and Florin-Perkins Road.

**Sunday, January 30, 8am  
Rush Ranch and King Ranch,  
Solano County  
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804  
Email: mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net  
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277  
Email: ken@solanolandtrust.org**

This trip to Solano County will begin with a birding tour of Rush Ranch, an operating cattle ranch on the beautiful Suisun Marsh owned by the Solano Land Trust. Maureen and Ken will find the birds of Rush Ranch and then head to the King Ranch, another Solano Land Trust property high above Hwy 680. This site has a spectacular view of the surrounding area and is good for Golden Eagles and other raptors as well as Burrowing Owls and Say's Phoebes. Bring lunch and liquids, and be prepared for possibly muddy conditions. Meet at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento.

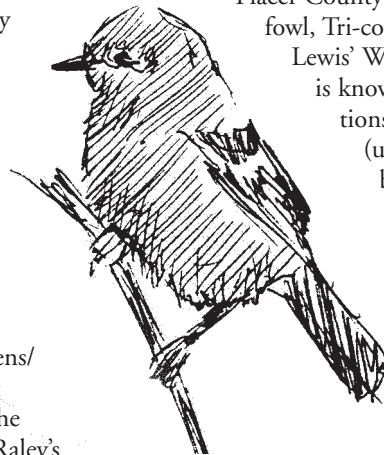
From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This trip will last into early afternoon. Maureen's cell phone that morning only is 281-6652.

**Sunday, January 30, 3:30pm  
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering  
Birds of the Sacramento Valley  
A Save Our Sandhill Cranes-sponsored  
trip  
Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

One of your last chances to view the cranes this year. All information is the same as the January 22nd trip.

**Saturday, February 5, 7:30am  
Lincoln Grasslands  
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
shoppe01@earthlink.net**

We will search the back roads of western Placer County for raptors, waterfowl, Tri-colored Blackbirds and Lewis' Woodpeckers. This area is known for high concentrations of wintering raptors (up to 12 species can be seen in a day), and is also a magnet for wintering ducks and geese. Meet Scott at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 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. Brookfield's is behind Shell. Bring lunch, scopes and FRS radios if you have them.



*Ruby-crowned Kinglet*  
Kirsten Munson

**Sunday, February 6, 7:30am  
Yuba County Wetlands  
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 966-4603  
offleash56@yahoo.com**

Streams and rivers draining from the foothills to the valley and farmers' irrigation help to create these wetlands and winter habitat on surrounding properties. Join Richard on a trip to one of his favorite places to bird while he looks for ducks, geese, shorebirds, and birds of prey. Meet Richard at the Brookfield's Restaurant parking lot, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From

*Field Trips* continued on page 6

*Field Trips* continued from page 5

Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road exit (105A) and follow straight through the first stop light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Brookfield's will be on your left behind the Shell gas station. Bring lunch, layered clothes, and scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

**Saturday, February 12, 7:30am  
Lake Solano and Monticello Dam  
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266  
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Join Dan for a day of birding that will last into mid-afternoon. Lake Solano is situated at the base of the Coast Range just past the town of Winters and below Lake Berryessa. It is one of the closest spots from Sacramento to see a variety of higher elevation species, including Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and American Dipper. A great diversity of waterfowl winter on the lake itself including Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser. We will enjoy a picnic at Lake Solano Park, then finish the day at Monticello Dam where we will hope to see Bald Eagle, Common Loon, and Rock and Canyon Wren. Bring lunch and layered clothes and meet Dan at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot.

**Sunday, February 13, 8am  
Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge  
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207  
spskua2@comcast.net**

Tim will be looking for the great flocks of ducks and geese that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way further south. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. We'll return through the Dunnigan Hills, a good area for raptors, Burrowing Owls and wintering sparrows. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet Tim at the Woodland Jack-in-the-Box. Take 1-5 north toward Woodland; exit at County Road 102 (#536); turn right (north) on 102 and turn right into the Jack-in-the-Box parking lot. Please note that at the refuge there is a fee for each vehicle: either \$3 for a day pass, or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass or a Duck Stamp.

**Tuesday, February 15, 8am  
Isenberg Crane Preserve/Cosumnes  
River Preserve Boardwalk  
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 606-6518  
dtankers@winfirst.com**

Join Dan for an end of season look at our wintering Sandhill Cranes before they take off on their migration to nesting areas. He'll also look for wintering geese and ducks, including Gadwall, Northern Shovelers, teal and wigeon. In shallow water there may be shorebirds, such as dowitchers, sandpipers, yellowlegs, Dunlin, and maybe some surprises. After Woodbridge Road Dan will stop at the Cosumnes Preserve boardwalk, a good place to look for the noisy but hard-to-see Marsh Wren, and the cryptic Wilson's Snipe. Meet Dan at the Nugget Market at



*Meadowlark*  
Stephen D'Amato

8am. Going south on I-5, take the Florin Road West exit; go west to the first signal light, (Greenhaven Drive), and make a U-turn.

The parking area for the market will be on the right.

This trip will end by noon. Bring FRS radios and spotting scopes if you have them. This is a great trip for both beginners and more experienced birders. Thick fog cancels this trip.

**February 19, 20 and 21,  
President's Day Weekend  
Eureka/Arcata area  
Leaders, Dan Brown 362-2458  
naturestoc@aol.com  
Joe Ceriani, joeceriani@usmessage.net**

Please mark your calendars and join Dan and Joe for 3 days of birding along California's North coast. We will be birding some of the traditional spots in the Eureka and Arcata areas and possibly some of Joe's new favorite spots. Please contact Dan or Joe for further details.

**Family Friendly Trip!!!  
Sunday, February 20, 8:30-11am  
Yolo Basin Wildlife Area  
Leader: Ann Burris, 947-7573  
naburris@sbcglobal.net**

Children aged 6-12 are invited to spend the morning on a guided tour of the Yolo Basin Wildlife Area. This is an exciting opportunity to watch ducks, geese and swans that migrate to this area each Fall, and learn

more about them and the habitat they come to visit. A parent or other responsible adult must accompany all children attending. There is no charge for this trip, and binoculars will be provided for children who need them. Please dress in layers and bring water and snacks, and wear shoes that can get muddy. Meet Ann in Parking Lot A by the kiosk. From Sacramento, take I-80 west. At the west end of the Yolo Causeway bridge, take the first exit (County Road 32A, East Chiles Road). Turn right at the end of the off-ramp and go under the freeway. Turn left onto the gravel road that leads up the levee and enter the Wildlife Area on the left. Continue on the road to the first parking lot, Parking Lot A.

**Thursday, February 24, 8am  
William Pond Park  
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882  
empid@earthlink.net**

Meet Cathie along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk down to some different spots on the river, where mergansers and goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area for Red-winged Blackbirds and Green Heron. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area. Trip will end before noon, and there is a park entrance fee of \$5 per car if you don't have a County Parks Pass. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**Saturday, February 26, 7:30am  
Serrano Parkway, El Dorado Hills  
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804  
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net**

Join Maureen for a leisurely walk through this riparian habitat and look for resident birds such as woodpeckers, nuthatches, towhees, wrens, bluebirds and marsh birds, as well as possible winter warblers and sparrows. River otters are a possibility. Meet for coffee at 7:30 at the coffee shop on the right side of the Raley's shopping center on El Dorado Hills Boulevard just off Highway 50; the group will leave for birding by 8am sharp. This trip lasts into late morning. The trail may be muddy.

**Saturday, February 26, 3:30 pm (last weekend for this trip!)  
Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering  
Birds of the Sacramento Valley**

### **An SOS-sponsored trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

This is the last weekend for the SOS sponsored trips—don't miss it! All information is the same as the January 22nd trip.

### **Sunday, February 27, 7am**

#### **Upper Lake Natomas and Folsom Lake**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610  
conardc@gmail.com**

The sheltered canyon of upper Lake Natoma near the Folsom Rodeo Grounds is usually quite productive and Mormon Island to Brown's Ravine is one of the best sites for Phainopeplas. We'll also look for loons, grebes and other waterbirds on the lakes. The woods should be alive with the songs of Bewick's Wrens and other resident breeders. From Hwy 50, exit at Folsom Blvd and go north. After 2.7 miles, turn right on Natoma Street. In 1.0 mile, turn left on Stafford St and park between the library and the entrance to the Folsom Zoo. Be prepared for about three miles of walking. Trip will end by noon. Steady rain cancels.

### **Sunday, February 27, 3:30pm**

#### **Last SOS trip of the season**

#### **Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds of the Sacramento Valley**

#### **An SOS-sponsored trip**

**Coordinator: Mike Savino, 446-1392**

All information is the same as the January 22nd trip. This is a great trip for beginners, and the last time you can go out with the SOS organization, as the cranes will be leaving for their nesting areas soon.

### **Thursday, March 3, 8:30am**

#### **Yolo Wildlife Area**

**Leader: Marlene Ishihara, 635-9758  
IshIM2000@comcast.net**

Join Marlene in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of shorebirds and waterfowl and possible raptors such as Peregrine Falcon. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. 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. Scopes are helpful on this trip which is good for both beginners and more experienced birders. Note: trip will be canceled if bypass is closed due to flooding.

### **Saturday, March 5, 8am**

#### **North Fork Pleasant Grove Creek**

#### **(Roseville area)**

**Leader: Scott Dietrich, 208-4976**

**sed25@csus.edu**

The North Fork Pleasant Grove open space area is a river flood plain area scattered with old growth Valley Oaks, riparian habitat and a small wetlands area. It's usually a great place to see raptors such as Barn Owl, American Kestrel, Red-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite, Red-shouldered Hawk and Cooper's Hawk. Also present are some waterfowl including Wood Duck, Mallard, and often Hooded and Common Merganser. Also seen here are Great Egret, Great Blue Heron and Green Heron. Of course there will still be many winter birds, Northern Flicker, sparrows and finches as well as the resident oak habitat birds, Acorn and Nuttall's Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Oak Titmouse and Western Bluebird.

Meet Scott at Paul Dugan Park in the northeast part of Roseville. In Roseville drive north on Woodcreek Oaks Blvd. past Blue Oaks Blvd; then turn right onto Diamond Woods Circle and drive a short distance; Paul Dugan Park will be on your right. Or, coming from Sacramento, take I-80 east to Hwy 65; take 65 north to Blue Oaks Blvd; take Blue Oaks Blvd. west to Woodcreek Oaks Blvd, and go north on Woodcreek Oaks to Diamond Woods, then right to Paul Dugan Park. (Thomas Bros Map 219 D1, for those without Internet!) This newer area for Sacramento Audubon trips will be of interest to beginning and more experienced birders.

### **Sunday, March 6, 7am**

#### **Highway 37 and Ellis Creek, Petaluma**

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**

**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

From the West Sacramento Park and Ride, Mark will lead the group towards Petaluma, with various birding stops along Hwy 37. Moving on to Ellis Creek (near Schollenberger Park), he'll look for Blue-winged Teal and a variety of other waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls, Common Yellowthroat and the occasional rail and possibly a Peregrine Falcon. Bring lunch and liquids and layered clothing. Meet Mark at 7am at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. This is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders.

## **VOLUNTEER SURVEYORS NEEDED**

Audubon California is organizing a California-wide winter **Mountain Plover Survey** this January 2011. This survey will help provide updated information on Mountain Plover winter abundance, geographic distribution and habitat associations in California. Volunteers are needed to help cover survey routes throughout Mountain Plover wintering areas in California.

The survey will take place over a five day period, **January 20-24, 2011**. Participants will select predefined areas designed to be surveyed in half a day to a full day, and will conduct the survey on any day of their choosing during the five day survey period. Surveys will be largely vehicle based, where all accessible public roads are driven and suitable habitat is scanned for Mountain Plovers.

The only qualifications: Ability and willingness to use your own vehicle and optics and enthusiasm for citizen-science projects.

For more information or to sign up to participate, please contact:

Alex Hartman  
Shorebird Conservation Biologist  
Audubon California  
chartman@audubon.org  
649-7600, ext 115

If you have the time please consider joining in this important effort.

Jordan Wellwood, Audubon California

---

### **ARNHA Count** continued from page 1

93. This was by far the highest area count since 2006 when the same team found 92 species. Robert Sewell's team at Sutter's Landing easily won the Highest Percentage of Change, but it has only been in existence for 3 years and is making rapid advances. We certainly offer them our congratulations on their increasing species count as well as spotting the only Sea Lion for the second year in a row. The team on the south side of the American River from Watt Avenue to Capital City Freeway had only 5 counters, but being led for the second year by Dan Williams, enjoyed a BIG jump in count numbers with 77 species. This was an improvement of 15 over the team's 3-year average, a 24.1 percent increase.

Results of the 2010 ARNHA Wildlife Count can be found on the ARNHA website at <http://arnha.org/events.html#WC>.

Join the teams on the ARNHA Wildlife Count next year on Saturday, December 3, 2011.

## Birding and Nature Events

### GALT, 4TH ANNUAL, WINTER BIRD FESTIVAL

Mark your calendar now for the 4th Annual Winter Bird Festival, in Galt. It's scheduled for Saturday, **January 29th**. The Winter Bird Festival steering committee and volunteers hope that you will find this festival to be an exciting and educational opportunity to celebrate the Winter Birds and habitat we all call home. Guided Tours offer an exciting opportunity to see the birds in our local habitat. Hop on a bus and have your binoculars ready!

Speakers include Lon and Kat Yarbrough and Chris Conard, with additional presentations on bats and the insects they eat and also a group called Wild Things that cares for displaced wildlife. There are lots of activities for kids including crafts and an art festival. Lon Yarbrough is leading a sunrise photography tour, Chris Conard is leading a tour to the Bufferlands and the Cosumnes River Preserve tour is being led by John Trochet, including areas not normally open to the public. For more information and to register for the tours see the website at [www.ci.galt.ca.us](http://www.ci.galt.ca.us), or call (209) 366-7115. SAS will also have an information and outreach table there. Call Cathie LaZier at 457-6882 if you'd like to help!

### 12TH ANNUAL SNOW GOOSE FESTIVAL, CHICO

The 12th Annual Snow Goose Festival, taking place **January 27-30**, will again celebrate the arrival of thousands of waterfowl that come from the north to spend their winters in the temperate North Valley climate. This year's Snow Goose Festival has planned more than 50 field trips and workshops to show off this season of wildlife abundance and offers many free events and activities for the whole family. They have workshops and field trips in many areas of interest, including ones for families, first time birders, serious birding and the artists and photographers among us.

Their website is [www.snowgoosefestival.org](http://www.snowgoosefestival.org) and the phone is (530) 345-1865.

### BIRD AND BREAKFAST AT EFFIE YEAW

On **Saturday, March 12th**, the American River Natural History Association will continue it's Annual Spring Classic at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Explore the miracles of spring in the beautiful oak woodland and meadows of the Effie Yeaw Nature Area, in small groups guided by Audubon experts. Then return to a hot, hearty breakfast (vegetarian option available) served in the new Assembly Building at the Nature Center in Ancil Hoffman Park, California Ave and Tarshes Drive in Carmichael. Participants (not advised for children under 12) should wear comfortable walking shoes and bring binoculars. On this walk one can expect to see some 30 bird species among more than 100 that populate the lower American River's environs.

Sign-ups start in mid-January. Reservations are always necessary for the space-limited, \$35 per person, fund-raiser for educational programs on the American River Parkway. Call the Center at 489-4918 for details. Checks payable to ARNHA may be mailed to PO Box 241, Carmichael, CA 95609. Be sure to include your telephone number.

### *Findings* continued from page 2

Sunday morning, five birders had a productive day at the Bypass. Over 40 species of birds were seen. In addition to the usual assortment of ducks, shorebirds, and raptors, birds of particular interest were a Merlin, Cooper's Hawk, Virginia Rail, Long-billed Curlew, and Wilson's Snipe. Also observed were a fly-over of a pair of Sandhill Cranes, a Red-tailed Hawk exhibiting hovering behavior, and an American Kestrel enjoying breakfast with gusto."

Pete Hayes

## BIRDS OF WINTER IN THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Popular instructor, Ed Harper, will again be offering an excellent birding class early this year. Classes will be given at Effie Yeaw Nature Center and field trips will take place on Saturdays at different locations.

Whereas some of our birds such as swallows, flycatchers and warblers do migrate south for the winter, many more birds flock to the Sacramento region to spend the winter. Cranes, ducks, geese, gulls, raptors, kinglets, and sparrows are just a few of the many representative groups residing here during the winter months. Whether you simply want to distinguish one sparrow species from another or seek greater help in learning the distinctive "chuck" note of a Hermit Thrush, this course has broad appeal. Any one who has a serious interest in birds and enjoys their presence in our lives can profit from this class.

### 2011 SCHEDULE

**Lectures** will all be from 7- 8:30pm at Effie Yeaw Nature Center.

- Lecture #1: Thursday, February 24  
Lecture #2: Thursday, March 3  
Lecture #3: Thursday, March 17

### Field Trips:

- Trip #1 Saturday, February 26  
8am - noon  
Effie Yeaw Interpretive Center,  
Ancil Hoffman Park
- Trip #2 Saturday, March 5  
7:30am-1:30pm  
Linden Raptor Route,  
Linden in San Joaquin Co.
- Trip #3 Saturday, March 19  
8am - noon  
Yolo Basin Wetlands off I-80,  
Yolo Bypass

**Note:** A moderate amount of walking will be required for most trips. Wear appropriate footwear and clothing. Liquids, insect repellent, sunscreen, and snack food can make your outings much more pleasant.

**Materials Suggested:** Binoculars and a recent field guide to the birds such as The Sibley Guide to Birds or the National Geographic Society Field Guide to Birds of North America, 5th Edition.

**Effie Yeaw Nature Center**, American River Parkway, Carmichael, CA 95608  
489-4918

**Ed Harper:** e-mail: [calidris@surewest.net](mailto:calidris@surewest.net)  
Home: 971-3311 Cell: 704-7954

## SAS NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these  
new members:

Judy Bell  
Michael Flynn  
Rebekah Leiser  
Pedro Marengo  
Kathy Souza  
Jane A. Steele

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:

Delberta Bass, John Davidson, Maria Nicholas Kelly, Fred Klass and Lachlan McClenahan to the **General Fund**.

Marilyn Armbrusher, Grant Boice, Grant Green, Betsy Magladry, Pedro Marengo, Dick Meckfessel, Jane Taylor, Dee Warenycia and Carolyn Woodruff to the **Conservation and Education Fund**.

Those who remember Gail, Harry and Heather Janke, from many field trips will be sorry to hear they have moved to Shawnee, Kansas. They made a generous good-bye donation to Sacramento Audubon. Gail also served on the SAS board, and was an active volunteer for both the Education and Outreach committees. We will miss them.

## AUDUBON OUTREACH

Our Outreach table was at November's Central Valley Birding Symposium in Stockton, where Lea Landry did most of the work at the booth, including selling our birding book and distribution list. We'll be at the Galt Winter Bird Festival on January 29th, so plan to come by and say hello. If you'd like to come and help out at one of the functions, give Cathie LaZier a call at 457-6882 or email, empid@earthlink.net.

### 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.

## 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

Lea Landry, Membership Chair

11054 Autumnwind Lane, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

llandry@softcom.net (916) 638-1141

Date \_\_\_\_\_ *The Observer* Newsletter \$25 per address \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Make checks payable to Sacramento Audubon Society

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 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 held on January 25, 2011 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

*Observations* continued from page 10 numbers found this fall throughout our area's foothill oak woodlands.

We are now featuring photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (<http://sacramento-audubon.org/activities/recent sightings.html>).

Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit [www.cvbirds.org](http://www.cvbirds.org) and click "Listserv" for details. With nearly 100 reports, it is impossible to list everyone; however, I want to thank the following for reports on the above species and for providing additional information:

Roger Adamson, Dan Airola, Chris Dunford, Maureen Geiger, Steve Hampton, Ed Harper, Dave Johnson, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, John Luther, Tim Manolis, Mary Beth Metcalf, Ed Pandolfino, Kathy Parker, Ron Pozzi, Deren Ross, Vance Russell, John Sterling, John Trochet, and Dan Williams.

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

*Chris Conard*

# Seasonal Observations

November 1 to November 30

Rare and Unusual Bird Reports

[www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm](http://www.cvbirds.org/ListServ.htm)

The Yolo County winter kingbird show got even more interesting: on 11/20 a **Tropical Kingbird** was found at North Pond in Davis, and it continued through at least 11/26. While **Tropical Kingbirds** are rare but regular to the coast in fall, this is perhaps just the third for the Central Valley, and certainly the first for Yolo. The similar **Couch's Kingbird**, with only one documented record for the state, can only be confidently separated by voice. To remove all doubt, this bird called in response to a fly-by **Red-shouldered Hawk**. The **Cassin's Kingbird**, first found on 10/15 north of Winters at Rds 27 and 88, continued through at least 11/21.

Sherman Island in extreme southwestern Sacramento County produced some good waterfowl records last winter, and regular coverage has turned up some more good finds. Sacramento County's fifth **Brown Pelican** record was found on 11/29 and continued into early December (the first was in 1976, the second in 2004, and the next two were just last summer—the increase of records in recent times is perhaps tied to this species' DDT-induced population crash and subsequent recovery). Also reported during this period was a **Pacific Loon** flying by on the Solano County side of the river on 11/29, a **Red-throated Loon** in both counties on 11/30, and a couple of **Western Gulls**, apparently regular here in low numbers, but rare farther inland.

Sacramento Audubon Society  
11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670-4224

Return Service Requested

Dated Material: Please Expedite Delivery

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit #2840  
Sacramento, CA

## Sacramento Audubon Society Information

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

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

**Membership/Subscriptions:** Lea Landry, 11054 Autumnwind Lane  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

(916) 638-1141, e-mail preferred: [llandry@softcom.net](mailto:llandry@softcom.net)

**Seasonal Observations:** Chris Conard, 2405 Rio Bravo Circle,  
Sacramento, CA 95826  
(916) 203 1610,

e-mail preferred: [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@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 monthly January through December, except June and August, by the Sacramento Audubon Society.

The invasion by montane species continued with good numbers of **Red-breasted Nuthatches** persisting where conifers are planted, three **Mountain Chickadees** at

the East Lawn Cemetery in Sacramento on 11/15, continuing into December, and a **Steller's Jay** in Curtis Park near the Sierra II Center from 11/14 into December. Other interesting reports include a "**Common Teal**" (the Old World version of **Green-winged Teal**) at the Yolo Wildlife Area on 11/28, a female **Surf Scoter** on Folsom Lake on 11/8 near Granite Bay, a female **Red-breasted Merganser** on Folsom Lake at Beals Point on 11/21, a female **Red-breasted Merganser** at the Winters Wastewater Ponds on 11/22 to at least 11/29, a late **Wilson's Phalarope** at the Lodi Sewage Ponds on 11/6 through the end of the month, a **Western Gull** along the American River Parkway (ARP) at Ancil Hoffman on 11/1 and at the Nimbus Hatchery on 11/10, and a very late **Warbling Vireo** along the ARP upstream of Howe Ave. A survey of **Lewis's Woodpeckers** at Audubon's Bobcat Ranch near Winters produced an astounding 402 individuals. This attests to the impressive

*Observations* continued on page 9