General Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2010
Shepard Garden and Arts Center
6:30pm Book Sale
7pm General Meeting

Birding in Delhi, India

Subhash Chand, known to some of us as our very wonderful Web Master, and to others as a good birding companion, will share his excellent pictures and informative narration of birding near his family home in Delhi, India.

Subhash claims that he is neither a biologist nor an ornithologist but has long had an interest in nature, and has done a lot of hiking and backpacking. His partner, Marty, has had an interest in birding for over 40 years and pointed out some of the birds they saw on the hikes. About 7 years ago, Subhash finally became interested in birding. A trip to Sri Lanka further piqued his interest—to the extent that he started going on Sacramento Audubon Society’s Field Trips about 5 years ago. In addition to birding in California, he has travelled to Costa Rica and Africa on birding trips. After his retirement from State service in 2005, he became much more active in birding. In 2007, he was asked to redesign the website for SAS. His interest in photographing birds has also grown with time—and the investment in a better camera and lenses. Additionally, he recently converted parts of his front and back yards in Fair Oaks to native plants in order to attract more birds.

Since his retirement, Subhash has been visiting his elderly mother in New Delhi about every 3 months. He carries his binoculars and camera with him on his morning walks to various parks around his family home in Delhi. He also joined with Delhi Bird Club on their Sunday birding trips around Delhi. In this presentation, he will give you a flavor of birding in Delhi. He will compare Sacramento with Delhi in terms of urban density, birding areas and common birds, as well as the enthusiasm of birders. While many of the bird families are similar to the ones found here, the species are often different. Some of the colorful birds you will see are the Brahminy Mynah, Red-whiskered Bulbul, Coppersmith Barbet, Painted Stork, Indian Roller, Bluethroat, and Red Munia. You will hear the unusual calls of some birds, too. A few scenes from around the city of Delhi are also included among the photos of the exotic birds.

ANNUAL MAY BOOK SALE

The May General Meeting will feature on sale many birding field guides and books of nature. If you need books (and I know you do, because everybody does) this is a sale you will not want to miss. The prices are pennies on the dollar and all monies are donated. There will be field guides for birds from all over the world. Come and see the books and I guarantee there will be many you will want to add to your library.

Don’t forget to bring your donated books to the Book Sale which begins at 6:30pm. The sale includes books, CDs, videos, and maybe even some artwork.

This is always a good fundraiser and we annually donate the monies raised to a worthy organization in the birding conservation world. Thanks to all of you who participate. For any questions please call Tim Fitzer at 870-5207.

Tim Fitzer
Book Sale Coordinator

SAS BOARD FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2009/2010

The slate of officers was unanimously approved at the April general meeting.

President        Keith Wagner
Vice President   Dan Williams
Treasurer        Cathie LaZier
Corresponding Secretary Karen Zumwalt
Recording Secretary Jonilynn Okano
Directors        Tim Fitzer, Lea Landry, Darrell Mohr, Linda Pittman, Gary Fregien

Peter Watkins will continue as Past President
Field Trip Findings

Bodega Bay (3/21) — Leader Brian Gilmore reported: “There were only six or seven people on the trip. A low tide kept most of the birds at a distance. Highlights included a Bat-ray (shown to us by a man from the Madrone Audubon group of Sonoma County) at the Inn At The Tides. Lots of Brants and a few Brown Pelicans, also at Inn At The Tides. At Bodega Head were several Whimbrels, Black Turnstones, and Black Oystercatchers. We had a side-by-side comparison of Pelagic and Brandt’s Cormorants at Bodega Head as well. Of course there were large numbers of Marbled Godwits and Willets. Sami LaRocca believed she saw a Pacific Loon and took a picture of it.”

Phoenix Field (4/14) — Leader Jack Hiehle reported it was a week or two early for vernal pool flowers to appear, but the group saw two Sharp-shinned Hawks, one of which was chased off by European Starlings; Red-shouldered Hawk, Wild Turkeys displaying, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Nuttall’s Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, Oak Titmouse, Bushtit, White-breasted Nuthatch, Western Bluebird, Yellow-rumped Warbler, House Finch, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Mather Field Park (4/11) — Leader Wayne Blunk reported: “Five intrepid birders took a chance at birding before the pending storm and were rewarded with 39 species. Western Kingbirds had arrived and the White-crowned Sparrows had not departed. Multiple House Wrens were singing and several were spotted. An initial glance suggested a Brown Creeper but turned into a Bewick’s Wren hopping straight up a tree trunk. Some Great-tailed Grackles were present and a large number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds were heard and sighted. A great look at a flying American Bittern helped in identifying a first year Black-crowned Night-Heron that flew later. A Marsh Wren was heard and Audubon’s Warbler, Western Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnat-catcher and Black-throated Gray Warbler were spotted. The Mute Swans were on the lake, though in separate areas. In the mammal area, we got great looks at 3 River Otters. On the return hike, there were fresh signs of beaver having worked on one of the trees. This was interesting in that beaver have not been spotted in over 10 years of birding Mather.”

Jepson Prairie and Yolo Bypass (4/10) — Leader Andi Salimi reported: “Our group of 6 enjoyed a blustery yet mild day viewing a spring wildflower display at Jepson Prairie, including nice patches of Goldfields, Meadowfoam and Golden Violets, among others. Birds included snipe, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt and Canada Goose. At Vic Fazio (Yolo Bypass), we enjoyed breeding plumaged Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin, White Pelicans, White-faced Ibis, as well as Cinnamon and Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, and Mallard ducks.”

Davis Wetlands and Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/9) — Leader Dan Tankersley reported: “Despite a cold and strong north wind, 14 participants enjoyed a full morning of birding. With a good variety of ducks and other waterbirds to enjoy, our time at the Davis Wetlands went fast. From there we stopped by the old “Hawk and Owl Preserve” in hopes of finding Burrowing Owl. We managed to find one nestled in among thistle growing on the side of the mound that houses their burrows. We then moved to the Yolo Bypass WA where we saw close to 100 American White Pelicans and many Greater Yellowlegs. One Lesser Yellowlegs made an appearance at Parking Lot C, and provided the group with an opportunity to compare the two species side by side. Some group members also got great looks at a Virginia Rail at this location. The total Swainson’s Hawk count for the day was 30, with at least 20 seen in a kettle just over the west levee of the refuge. As we exited the wildlife area, several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen across from the entrance on Chiles Road.”

Sacramento Bar (4/4) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Seventeen birders had 58 species of birds on a cold and windy Easter morning. Highlights included Green Heron, Hooded Mergansers, Bullock’s Oriole, Phainopepla, Northern Rough-Winged Swallow and Spotted Sandpiper.”

American River between Howe and Watt (4/3) — Leader Dan Kopp reported: “We had a nice group of 15 participants, although it was an overcast, gray sky most of the trip. We all had looks at a white-striped White-throated Sparrow I have been feeding since 12/08/2009! It’s a bit of a trick sparrow ; ) There were many Orange-crowned Warblers along the way and we even found one dead along a trail; I was able to show the doubters the orange crown. We had the five most common swallow species: Tree, Cliff, Rough-winged, Barn and Violet-green. A pair of Swainson’s Hawks perched near last year’s nest. We also had flyover Cattle Egrets. We tallied 64 species.”

River Bend Park (3/31) — Leader Cathie LaZier reported “On this cool, damp morning, Dan Brown joined me, with his camera, for a morning walk. Cooper’s Hawks and White-tailed Kites were active; wrens and Orange-crowned Warblers were singing; a Great Horned Owl was sitting on a nest. We heard a Pacific-slope Flycatcher and there were 5 different species of swallows in a feeding swarm over the river. The redbud was in bloom and it was a pleasant morning’s walk.”

Lincoln Grasslands (3/28) — Leader Mark Martucci reported: “Twelve birders had 94 species of birds and perfect weather for a late March field trip. Highlights included Hooded Merganser, Cackling Goose, Swainson’s Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Lewis’s Woodpecker, Western Kingbird, Rock Wren, Tri-Colored Blackbird and Bullock’s Oriole.”

Caswell State Park (3/27) — Leader Gary Fregien reported: “Ten of us traveled to this park on the Stanislaus River to bird a lush riparian habitat. Although the day started out chilly, it warmed to become a beautiful spring day; perfect birding weather. Upon arrival at the park, a duck in a tree turned out to be a Wood Duck, of course. We were treated to a variety of bird music. Seems we were never out of earshot of a House or Bewick’s Wren. Spotted Towhees mewed from hidden places, only occasionally showing themselves. Ruby-crowned Kinglets scolded as they flittered about. Oak Titmouse, Bushtit and White-breasted Nuthatch worked the oaks for insects. A lone Northern Mockingbird sang from a distance. Numerous Tree Swallows also kept up a constant chatter. Not as vocal but also present were Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Turkeys gobbled, too, and California Quail offered their distinctive calls. And who can mistake the rattling call of the Belted Kingfisher. Nesting Red-shouldered Hawks called back and forth. Swainson’s Hawks called from high above. A flyover of about a dozen White-faced Ibis was a treat. The woodpeckers...”

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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 Andi Salmi, 691-7216, andisalmi@yahoo.com, for trips through June 20th. After June 20th, call the scheduler Dan Brown, 362-2458, naturestoc@aol.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.

Saturday, May 1, 7am - 11am
Pine Hill Preserve Birding
Leader: Chris Conard and Graciela Hinshaw, Preserve Manager
Pre-registration required through Pine Hill Preserve at graciela_hinshaw@ca.blm.gov
The Preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on gabbro soils. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Highway 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. We plan to visit newly acquired land in Kanaka Valley, with a combination of grasslands, open oak woodland, and areas of chaparral transition. For details and registration, contact Graciela at the e-mail address above.

Sunday, May 2, 7am
Sand Creek Road
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spkua2@comcast.net
Mark Martucci, 833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com
Join Tim and Mark for a trip to Arbuckle and then up Sand Creek Road. Target birds include Black-chinned Sparrow, Sage Sparrow, Lawrence’s Goldfinch, Western Kingbird, Roadrunner, Western Screech Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Mountain Quail, and other migrants. The road can be rough and all wheel drive is recommended. Bring a lunch and liquids and be prepared for an afternoon return. We will meet 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. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, May 2, 7am - 11am
Spring Migration at the Bufferlands
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardec@gmail.com
This morning tour of the Bufferlands will focus on finding migrant songbirds, resident breeders, and lingering winter residents. The heron, egret and cormorant rookery will be in full swing, and if water levels are right, we could have excellent shorebirding conditions. The Sac Reg. County Sanitation District Bufferlands contain 2,650 acres of wetlands, riparian forest, grasslands, vernal pools, and restored habitats. From Sacramento, take I-5 south. Exit at Meadowview/Pocket Rd (just south of Florin Rd) and turn left (east) over the freeway. Turn right (south) on Freeport Blvd (the third light). After one mile, just before the town of Freeport, turn left on Stoncrest and follow it over the freeway and south to a locked gate. Be prepared for potentially muddy trails and up to 3 miles of walking.

Saturday, May 8, 7am
Spenceville
Leader Richard Barbieri, 966-4603
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, rails, warblers, and more. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Richard 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.

Sunday, May 9, 7:30am
Cronan Ranch, Coloma
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkgeiger@sbcglobal.net
Join Maureen for a walk in beautiful grasslands and oak woodlands off Hwy 49 near Coloma. The Cronan Ranch is home to a large variety of foothill birds including raptor species such as White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawk, and Northern Harrier. Other species may include area specialties such as Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Lazuli Buntings (which nest on the Ranch) and resident and migrating passerines. Grasshopper Sparrows were found last year. This hike is 3.7 miles long; trails are uneven and can be muddy. There are portable toilets in the Ranch parking lot and at several locations along the way. Meet in El Dorado Hills just off Hwy. 50 in the coffee shop inside the Raley’s Supermarket. 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.

Sunday, May 9, 7:30am
William Pond Recreation Area
Leader: John Huls, 284-7021
johnhuls@sbcglobal.net
Where Bewick’s Wrens and Song Sparrows share habitat it is easy to get their songs confused. The Bewick’s employs many short buzzes and quick notes joining longer and louder trills, plus, he has many different songs. The Song Sparrow has less variety but can vary the order of his phrases which adds to the confusion. We will key into the

Field Trips continued on page 4
repertories of these two great songsters. Bring a pencil and notebook to create your own mnemonics. The park is located at the east end of Arden Way, south of Fair Oaks Blvd in Carmichael. We will meet at the gazebo at the very end of the park road. A County Park Pass or a $5 parking fee is required. This trip will end before noon.

**Wednesday, May 12, 9am – noon**
**Sailor Bar Area**
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**
Meet Jack at the end of Emperor Street to explore the plants, birds and animals of this riparian corridor along the American River Parkway. From Winding Way, turn south on Kenneth, then east on Emperor Street to the end.

**Saturday, May 15, 7am**
**Bothe-Napa Valley State Park**
**Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266**
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com
Join Dan for a full day of birding the Coast Range above beautiful Napa Valley Wine Country. Bring a lunch and be prepared for a moderate hike, as we explore this park's fern-lined trails that wind through tanoak, madrone, and redwood forests. Birds we will seek out include spring arrivals such as Allen's Hummingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, and Hermit Warbler. We also hope to see park residents like Pileated Woodpecker, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Winter Wren, and maybe even a snoozing Spotted Owl (definitely not a guarantee)! Please meet at the I-80 Park and Ride on West Capitol Ave by 7am. We will bird until early afternoon, so those of you who wish to can stay and do a little tasting!

**Sunday, May 16, 7:30am**
**Sacramento Bar, American River Parkway**
**Leader: Mark Martucci 833-6722**
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com
Join Mark for a morning walk along the American River Parkway. We will see a nice variety of resident birds and hopefully some migrating songbirds. From the intersection of Sunrise and Fair Oaks Blvd, go west on Fair Oaks, then make an immediate left turn onto Pennsylvania Avenue and follow it into the park. Without a County Park Pass there is a $5 parking fee. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**Saturday, May 22, Dragonfly Trip**
**Time and Location: TBD**
**Leader: Tim Manolis, 485-9009**
ylightfoot@aol.com
Since the weather will affect the best location to see a variety of dragonfly species, 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. 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. Bring your binoculars and wear shoes that can get wet - just in case!

**Sunday, May 23, 6am**
**Sierra Valley**
**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471**
shoppe01@earthlink.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.

**Saturday, May 29, 7:30am**
**Riverbend Park (formerly Goethe Park)**
**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 457-6882**
empid@earthlink.net
Join Cathie for a walk through the oak woodland to the river, looking for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginning birders. The trip will end before noon.

The park is at the end of Rod Beaudry Drive, north off Folsom Blvd, between Mather Field Road and Bradshaw. Meet in the first parking lot on your right just past the entrance kiosk. There is a $5 entrance fee per car if you don't have a County Parks Pass. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

**Sunday, May 30, 7am**
**Crystal Basin**
**Leader: Frank Gray, 723-5249**
fgray4birds@aol.com
This area is about 70 miles east of Sacramento. Frank plans several stops with short walks along Icehouse Road and side roads. Many of the areas are at about a mile elevation and are within the area of the '92 Cleveland Fire. There will likely be good chances to view Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, several species of warbler, and other birds of the area. Bring lunch, liquids and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Some time will be spent pointing out bird ID features on this slow-paced trip. We expect to return by 2 or 3pm. Meet Frank in the Raley's parking lot 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. Meet at the far north end of the parking lot.

**Tuesday, June 1, TBA**
**Evening Beaver Walk**
**American River Parkway**
**Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777**
This is a great trip if you've never seen a beaver, because Jack reports a 100% success rate! This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. Please call Jack to reserve a space and to find out the meeting time and place. Jack will, of course, point out birds and plants, as well as mammals, on this evening trip.

**Saturday June 5, 7:30am**
**Mather Field**
**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**
wayne.blunk@worldnet.att.net
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 Wayne in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park at the corner of Douglas Road and Eagle's Nest Road for this morning trip. There is a $5 entrance fee per car if you do not have a County Parks Pass. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

**Sunday, June 6th, 6am**
**Granite Springs Road and Wright's Lake**
**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207**
spskua2@comcast.net
Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Tim and Mark for a full day of fun
and birding. Granite Springs Road runs
from Crystal Basin Road to Wright's
Lake Road, a distance of about 8
miles. We should find Mountain
Quail with young, and possibly
Evening Grosbeaks, flycatchers,
MacGillivarys Warblers, and Calliope
Hummingbird. Around Wright's Lake
we expect to find Pine Grosbeak,
Osprey and a variety of woodpeckers,
vireos and warblers. The trip will last
into the afternoon so bring liquids,
lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case
of chilly weather. FRS Radios are help-
ful. Since Granite Springs Road is dirt,
we will scout its condition to determine its
drivability. Meet at the
K-Mart parking lot on Sunrise Blvd, located
just behind the Chevron Gas Station at
Zinfandel Drive.

Saturday, June 12, 6:30am
Mosquito Ridge, Placer County
Leader: Chris Conard, 203-1610
conardc@gmail.com

We will explore several productive areas
outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge
Rd, including Grouse Falls and the Placer
Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of
mid-elevation breeding birds, including
potentil distant views of Black Swifts at
Grouse Falls. There are no services, so bring
all of the food and liquids you will need for
the day. The trip will end by mid-afternoon.
We will be walking about 4 miles over easy
to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace.
Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park
and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80.

Saturday, June 12, 5:30am
River Walk Bird Count, Cosumnes River Preserve
Recorded information, 684-2816 or
www.cosumnes.org; check the
Activity Schedule
Meet at the Visitor Center on Franklin Blvd
for this monthly birding census trip. It’s a
great birding area, always full of surprises;
joining a group trip is a good way to find out
what’s happening at the preserve. You
must check the recorded information or the
web site a day or two in advance to
verify the exact meeting time and any other
updated details.

Sunday June 13, 7am
Grover Hot Springs (and other
Alpine County areas)
Leader: Dan Williams, (714) 943-1266
jaegermaestro@yahoo.com

Plan for a full day birding the mountain
meadows and sage flats of Alpine County
with Dan. Bring a lunch, liquids, and be
prepared for moderate hiking as we search for such
Alpine species as Calliope Hummingbird, White-
headed Woodpecker, Pine Grosbeak, and maybe
even a Goshawk! We will spend the afternoon in the
sage scrub near the Nevada border looking for
Great Basin specialties such as Pinyon Jay,
Sage Thrasher, and Brewer’s Sparrow. It may be a good idea to bring
hiking boots and insect repellent! Meet Dan
at the Bella Bru in the Raley’s shopping
center parking lot 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.

Wednesday, June 16, TBA
Evening Beaver Walk
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

Don’t forget to bring your binoculars on
this evening trip to look for beavers. This
trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum
age of 7 years old. Please call Jack to reserve
a space and to find out the meeting time
and place. In addition to the beavers, you
will enjoy observing the birds and plants,
and perhaps other mammals.

Saturday, June 19, 8:15am
Purple Martins at Sutterville Road
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 444-0804
mkggeiger@sbcglobal.net
(281-6652 the morning of the trip)
Co-leader: Dan Airola

This is a great opportunity to see and learn
about purple martins. Join Maureen and
Dan Airola, the Central Valley expert on
martins, and hear him discuss their habits
and status as these lovely birds fly overhead
catching insects and feeding young in their
next holes. The best activity lasts less than
two hours, so there will be an optional
trek into nearby Land Park for additional
birding. This trip will last until late morn-
ing. The location is near Sacramento City
College between Hwy 99 and Freeport
Boulevard and under the east side of the
Sutterville Overpass. From Sutterville Road,
coming from either direction, turn right
onto W Pacific Avenue. Park near the inter-
section of Pacific and DeBeale Street. Call
Maureen’s cell at 281-6652 if there are dif-
ficulties finding the meeting site.

Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20
8am onsite, both Saturday and Sunday
Sierra Valley/Antelope Valley/
Yuba Pass
Leaders: Gary Fregien 708-0636
calaveri@sbcglobal.net
Dan Tankersley 606-6518
dtankers@winfirst.com

This trip offering is designed to accom-
modate both those who want to do an
overnighter and those wanting to bird
either the Sierra/Antelope Valleys or the
Yuba Pass area as a day trip. Antelope Valley
is located at the southern end of Sierra
Valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks, and
includes a very productive riparian stream
zone adjacent to a previous wildfire. We
will bird the Sierra/Antelope Valleys area by
car on Saturday, a full day’s excursion, and
the Yuba Pass area on Sunday until early
afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee,
Sierraville, Portola, Calpine and Sierra
City. U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are
located between Truckee and Sierraville on
Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra
City on Hwy 49. Both Gary and Dan plan
to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, they will not be reach-
able by email or phone after mid-afternoon
Thursday, 6/17. Meet Gary and Dan 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. Bring
along hand held radios, food and water, and
dress for probable cool mornings and warm
afternoons.

Saturday, June 26, 7:00 am, Sharp!
Wright’s Lake
Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Phyllis Wilburn, (530) 642-9942

This high mountain lake near the edge of the
Desolation Wilderness offers a good
sample of high Sierran bird life. Tim and
Phyllis will help you find many of the
Sierran bird specialties including Pine
Grosbeak, Black-backed Woodpecker,
White-headed Woodpecker and Cassin’s
Finch. Bring water and lunch for a full
day of birding; bring your FRS radios and be
prepared for changeable weather. Meet
Tim and Phyllis at the Bella Bru Cafe at
Field Trips continued on page 6
Field Trips continued from page 5 the south end of the Raley’s parking lot just north of Highway 50 off of El Dorado Hills Blvd. (Exit 30B).

Sunday, June 27, 8am
Swainson’s Hawk Trip
Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Nesting Swainson’s Hawks are the focus of this morning trip, in conjunction with “Friends of the Swainson’s Hawk” (FOSH), a group organized to encourage habitat protection. Our local population of Swainson’s Hawks differs from other Swainson’s Hawks in their migration patterns and wintering grounds. Members of FOSH will be on hand to share information about these interesting birds. Mark will also be looking for other valley nesting birds. Meet Mark 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 left again into the Park and Ride lot. FRS radios and spotting scopes will be helpful, if you have them.

Tuesday, June 29, TBA
Evening Beaver Walk
American River Parkway
Leader: Jack Hiehle, 967-0777

If you missed an earlier trip to see beavers, now is the time to go. This trip is limited to 8 people, with a minimum age of 7 years old. Please call Jack to reserve a space and to find out the meeting time and place. Jack, a great all-around naturalist, will point out other animals as well as plants on this short, evening walk.

Saturday, July 3, 7am
Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain
Leader: Dan Brown, 362-2458
naturestoc@aol.com

Meet Dan in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Dan will be looking for a variety of resident species and Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

Saturday, July 10, 6am
Loney Meadow
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471
shoppe01@earthlink.net

Come join Scott for this July trip. Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000’ elevation. The area can have some excellent birding. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson’s Sapsucker); also Townsend’s Solitaire, Caliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at the Park and Ride on Horseshoe Bar Road in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80, at 6am. The meadow is about an hour and half’s drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

Sunday, July 11
Farallons Pelagic Trip
See opposite page for information and registration.

Yolo Basin Wildlife Area (3/24) — Leader Marlene Ishihara reported: “Seven participants enjoyed a fruitful morning of birding at the Bypass. Many of the usual birds were seen. Highlights included a few Dunlins in breeding plumage, a single Marbled Godwit flew in to feed with the Green-winged Teals, a pair of Horned Larks took a vigorous dust bath on the return loop road, a very large flock of Yellow-headed Blackbirds greeted us as we started our auto loop tour, and finally we were treated with the appearance of a Peregrine Falcon enjoying breakfast perched on a snag. Also, the birding group included a visitor from Southern California and a visitor who is a member of Napa Solano Audubon. Nice to share the tour experience with the company of birders from other areas.”

Golden Gate park, San Francisco (3/20) — Coordinator Cathie Lazier, reporting for leader Ron Storey: “We started at Sutro Baths, where Ron picked a Black Scoter out of a raft of Surf Scoters. We also found Townsend’s and Hermit Warblers. We lunched at the picnic tables in the park, then birded some of the smaller lakes in the park, picking up Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers before going to Sutro Baths, where Ron picked a Black Scoter out of a raft of Surf Scoters. We were pleased that Harlin Perryman was able to join us after his recent successful surgery.”

Pete Hayes
LEAD SHOT POSES AN UNACCEPTABLE RISK IN STATE WILDLIFE AREAS (NOT JUST FOR CONDORS ANYMORE)

In an effort to remove a loophole in the law that creates a dangerous environment for birds and other wildlife, Audubon California is sponsoring Assembly Bill 2223 (Nava), which would ban the use of lead shot in state wildlife areas. We have also requested that the California Fish and Game Commission consider implementing the restriction administratively.

There is widespread consensus among conservationists, hunters, public agencies, and land managers that the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting poses a real danger to bird populations in wetland environments. Research now shows that both wetland and upland birds will ingest spent lead shot, and that this creates the potential for devastating effects on these bird populations. Lead poisoning has been observed in 37 species of birds beyond waterfowl, and impacts on Mourning Doves appear to be especially acute.

The federal government banned the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting in 1991, but left available the option to use lead to hunt upland species in the same environment. This omission frequently results in lead introduction to wetlands and has led 25 states to enact further restrictions on lead shot. State wildlife areas are islands of habitat that serve as magnets to birds and they should be maintained in accordance with the highest standards of wildlife management.

Past restrictions on the use of lead shot have not reduced hunting opportunities, and this measure will not either. We hope the hunting community will embrace this effort to help bird populations thrive.

What you can do... visit our website (www.ca.audubon.org) and sign up for action alerts so that you can support the measure as it moves through the Legislature.

Jordan Wellwood
Central Valley/Sierra Nevada Conservation Coordinator
Audubon California
Birding Festivals

SPRING WINGS BIRD FESTIVAL
The twelfth Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival takes place in Fallon, NV and coincides with International Migratory Bird Day and the height of spring migration in the Lahontan Valley wetlands. This year’s festival is May 14-16. See last month’s Observer for more information or contact Candy Dolan, P.O. Box 6332, Fallon, Nevada 89407. Phone: (866) 432-5566 Fax: (775) 423-8926. E-mail - info@springwings.org. You can also check their website, www.springwings.org for updated information.

MONO BASIN BIRD CHAUTAUQUA
The 9th Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua will be held June 18-20. There will be field trips including owling, Yosemite, Lee Vining, Rush Creek Delta and Mono Basin. See last month’s Observer for more information or check out the website www.birdchautauqua.org.

NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE EVENT
On April 23, Bonnie Breeze will be leading the SAS birding field trip station at the Silva Elementary School in El Dorado Hills. This is the second year that the Education Committee has participated in this very special No Child Left Inside Field Day. Over 230 students will be going on a 50 minute bird walk through a very birdy area. Leaders, besides Bonnie, for these mini-field trips are Tim Fitzer, Cathie LaZier, and Maureen Geiger. How lucky can these kids get! Thanks to all our volunteers.

FRIENDS OF THE RIVER 2010 CAPITAL RIVER AWARDS
Friends of the River is hosting the 2010 Capital River awards honoring Illa Collin and Ron Stork on Thursday, May 13, 5:30-8PM at the home of Deborah Baron, 421 Crocker Road in Sacramento.
SAS is co-sponsoring this event, and inviting everyone to contact Friends of the River or go to their website at friendsoftheriver.org/capitalriver to buy tickets/sponsorships for the event. For more information, please contact Paul Tebbel, Executive Director, Friends of the River at paul@friendsoftheriver.org, or by phone at (916) 442-3155, x212.

AUDUBON OUTREACH
Returning Swainson’s Hawks were the focus of an event at Sutter’s Landing, where Darrell Mohr and Bonnie Breeze met and talked to many families enjoying the guided river walk led by “Friends of the Riverbanks” volunteers, and a live presentation of Swainson’s Hawks by the California Raptor Center.
“Animal House” was the focus of art displayed at the Sacramento Arts Center, where Cathie LaZier represented Sac Audubon, using the new freestanding support for our photo display board, which was designed and constructed by Darrell Mohr.
The Creek Week Clean Up Celebration in Grant Park, Carmichael, also used Darrell’s new display board support. Tim Fitzer and Jonilynn Okano used the birding quiz photos designed by Jan Tankersley as part of Creek Week’s Treasure Hunt Nature Passport game.
And finally, Cathie LaZier celebrated Earth Day at Cosumnes River College’s Earth Week 2010, encouraging students to think about their environment. As you can see, our Outreach committee is very active. Periodically I send out a list of upcoming events so interested people can volunteer for a particular event. If you’d like to be on that list send an email to me, Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net, with Outreach in the subject line.

Darrell Mohr and Bonnie Breeze at the river walk.
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 May 25, 2010 at 7pm at the SMUD Building, 6301 S Street, Sacramento.

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.

Mokelumne Fish Hatchery on 3/13, where there had been sporadic reports earlier in the season. A Hermit Warbler was at the Sacramento City Cemetery at Broadway and Riverside on 3/13 and 3/20. It probably wintered there. A Chipping Sparrow was at the same location on 3/20.

We are now featuring photos of some of the highlight birds on the Sacramento Audubon Web site (http://sacramentoaudubon.org/activities/recentsightings.html). Many of these reports first appeared on the Central Valley Bird Club Listserv. Visit 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:

Chad Aakre, Dan Airola, Dan Brown, Steve Hampton, Dan Kopp, Jeri Langham, Don Marsh, Linda Pittman, Zack Smith, Kevin Thomas, John Trochet, Liz West, and Ed Whisler.

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Thanks to the following for their generous donations:
Gregory Brott, Chris Conard, Christine Hansen, Jeff and Marian Mangum, Susan Nishio, Louis Regenmorter, Gerald Swafford, Arthur Watkins to the General Fund.

Chris Conard, Patrick Fitzgerald, Gary Harbison, Jim Hepler, Bronwyn Moffett, Karen Resch, Peter Watkins and Sharon Wisecarver to the Conservation and Education Fund.

Lynne Gaffikin made a donation to the General Fund in memory of Patricia M. Habel.

Chris and Jadine Nielsen made a donation to the Endowment Fund in memory of Roy Greenaway.

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.

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Not quite winter and not quite spring, March is a month of waiting. Waiting for the migrants to arrive. Sure, the swallows are here and the end of the month produces Western Kingbirds and Bullock’s Orioles, but the floodgates have yet to open. The Yellow-rumped Warblers are singing, in their hundreds, and in amazing colors, but most of the others have yet to arrive. Early migrants, foreshadowing April, included a Warbling Vireo in N Davis on 3/22, a Cassin’s Vireo at Cosumnes River Preserve’s (CRP) Orr Forest on 3/28, and a Wilson’s Warbler at CRP on 3/27. The first Purple Martin detected in Sacramento was on 3/18. A Marbled Godwit at Yolo Wildlife Area on 3/31 was a nice find; shorebird migration is building too.

A visit to the Putah Creek Canyon between Winters and Lake Berryessa produced two Northern Pygmy-Owls and a Winter Wren on 3/5. A mountain biking trip up Rayhouse Rd in Yolo County on 3/19, now perhaps permanently closed to vehicles, produced a Pine Siskin (one of the few reports of this irruptive species for the region this winter), a Hairy Woodpecker, and a Sage Sparrow. The Tall Forest survey at CRP on 3/20 recorded a Merlin, two Peregrine Falcons, an impressive 9 Lesser Yellowlegs, a Western Tanager (which probably wintered locally), and three Purple Finches. A male Brewer’s Duck (a Mallard X Gadwall hybrid) was found at CRP on 3/14.

Interesting gull reports were way down from last year, which had regional firsts and record numbers for rare species. Among the few reports this month was a Mew Gull at the lone WTP on 3/8, where there are few reports of this species in Amador County, an adult Western Gull at the Gristmill access to American River Parkway (ARP) on 3/20, the only one reported for Sacramento County this winter, and an adult Glaucous Gull near Jepson Prairie on 3/3. Other interesting reports include two Eurasian Wigeons at Lincoln WTP on 3/1, plus the continuing bird at Sailor Bar (ARP). Two Short-eared Owls off Yolo Rd 29 on 3/10 stand out among few reports of this erratic species this winter. Also of note was a Yellow-shafted [Northern] Flicker at ARP at Upper Sunrise on 3/2, the Hammond’s Flycatcher found in N Davis on 1/2 continuing through at least mid-March, and the Plumbeous Vireo at Southside Park continuing through at least 3/6. A Townsend’s Solitaire was found at the