might be encouraged to stay in the area rather than go on their Southern trip.

The Parkers pointed out that most of the hummers in the Sacramento area are a species that does not migrate, namely, the Anna’s Hummingbird, and that they would welcome extra food during the winter months.

**BUSHY LAKE DAMAGE**

Sacramento Audubon played a key role in 1980-81 in heading off another threat to the Bushy Lake riparian area behind Cal Expo, the popular field trip site for birders. More than 750 trees and shrubs, including the Elderberry shrub that harbors the endangered Elderberry Longhorn Beetle, were cut down, and trash was dumped on the American River Parkway preserve. President Truman Holtzclaw appointed a committee headed by Rich Williams to pursue legal avenues to stop the damage and rectify past damage.

Committee members and state officials met with Cal Expo Manager Kirk Breed, who agreed to replant the damaged area with native plants. He apologized that the restoration project was taking such a long time.

On the political front, the Board endorsed Proposition 1, the California Parklands Bond Act on the November, 1980 ballot, and opposed County Measure A which called for a bridge across the American River between Sunrise and Watt Avenues. Proposition 1 passed, measure A was defeated.

Paul Howard, who spent nine years in Sacramento as National Audubon’s Western Representative before moving to New York headquarters, returned here as Audubon Vice President for Western Operations.

**ED HARPER’S CLASSES**

In 1981, Past President Ed Harper began teaching a long-running series of popular classes on field identification of birds at American River College. Over the years, hundreds of Auduboners and others enrolled in the classes featuring lectures and field study of characteristics, habitats and behavior of gulls, raptors, shorebirds, and other specialties.

In February, 1981, the chapter was $1,400 in the red. Three months later, after the Birdathon raised $4,526, and members contributed $800 after an appeal in the Observer, Treasurer Ken Head reported to the Board that the deficit would soon be wiped out. And so it was. Thanks to more contributions, Head reported at the December meeting that the general fund totaled $11,101.

**CHAPTER AWARDS**

Retired Federal Judge Thomas MacBride and the Save the American River Association received public awards at Sacramento Audubon’s May banquet. Awards for outstanding service to the Chapter were presented to Arvil and Ellen Parker, Walt Luke, and Bill Dillinger.

The Yolo County Resource Conservation District presented Sacramento Audubon’s Joe Farnham with a plaque for having won the 1978 Goodyear Conservation Program Award. Farnham, a member of the SAS Bobelaine Sanctuary Committee, maintains a wildlife sanctuary on his property, in addition to
many other conservation activities.

Some nice bird sightings were reported in 1981-82. Bird of the Month for September was a Ruff, a Eurasian Sandpiper that showed up at the Woodland Sugar Ponds. In January, Louise McCullough’s field trip to the Bay Area found a Eurasian Smew that had been wintering at Foster City, San Mateo County.

Townsend’s Solitaire, usually found on Sierra slopes, landed in Ed Warner’s Woodland yard in February. And most exciting of all, in January, Steve Hermann and Bob Mallette sighted a Gyr Falconf in the fields of Yolo-Solano counties. It was only the second recorded occurrence of this Arctic falcon in California, and it lingered for several weeks, long enough for Doug Shaw to see it strong-arm (strong-wing?) a Red-tailed Hawk for the rabbit it was carrying . . .

**BOBELAINE ACCESS DISPUTE**

A long-running dispute with an adjacent landowner who placed a locked gate on the main access road to Bobelaine was finally settled in 1981. Chapter members en route to the sanctuary had been confronted by the gate beginning in 1978, thus launching a frustrating controversy over who had the legal right to use Laurel Road. The dispute involved the SAS Board, the landowner, National Audubon officials, and lawyers and threatened lawsuits.

Audubon members were required to obtain a key from Bobelaine Committee members to enter the Sanctuary. The dispute, along with difficulty in obtaining work party volunteers, slowed activities in the Sanctuary and stalled many of the projects envisioned in the first Bobelaine Master Plan completed in 1977.

Betty Hill retired (but she would be back) in 1981 as editor of the Observer and was succeeded by Joan Stead.

**CHRISTMAS COUNTS**

A beautiful, sunny day enhanced the Sacramento Christmas bird count, producing the highest total numbers since 1977. The rainy but fairly warm fall season was likely responsible for the high numbers, including 110 Anna’s Hummingbirds and some lingering migrants.

And although it was foggy and drizzly for the Folsom count, the species count of 134 was the highest since 1978. The count produced 10 new species: Double-crested Cormorant, American Bittern, Wild Turkey, Hooded Merganser, Townsend’s Solitaire, Sage Sparrow, Red-necked Grebe, Western Kingbird, Mew Gull, and Bonaparte’s Gull.

Dan Brown, Truman Holtzelaw, Doug Shaw and Ed Harper joined in an informal spring Birdathon in which each lined up his own sponsors. Together they raised $1,461, which was shared equally with National Audubon, the NAS Western Regional Office, and the Sacramento Chapter.

Coordinated by Barbara Fowler, 21 Audubon volunteers assisted in the display at Sunrise Mall of the Audubon Arm, a traveling mini-museum devoted to informing people about endangered species.
FIELD TRIP REPORTER

For many years, Jerry Ann Marinovich brightened Observer pages with evocative trip reports. Sample (April, 1981):

"White clouds splashed against March’s blue sky. Along the American River Parkway, Truman Holtzclaw and Tim Fitz produced birds almost upon request. Truman began the day by “pishing” Hermit Thrushes, Rufous-sided Towhees, and a Fox Sparrow out of last year’s dried brambles. When Tim spotted a Black Phoebe, Evelyn Smith predicted the pool of water which (sure enough!) lay just around the first bend. Truman identified the krr-ee and the square tail of Wood Ducks in flight. Those who listened heard the Titmice’s hit parade of songs . . . ."

FRED AND MILDRED EVENDEN

The Observer brought the sad news that Fred Evenden, president of Sacramento Audubon in 1958-60, and his wife, Mildred, were killed in a highway mud-slide accident near Corvallis, OR, Feb. 21, 1982.

NEW BOBELAINE PLAN

Sacramento Audubon reinforced its commitment to Bobelaine Sanctuary with adoption of a First Revision to the Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary Master Plan. Writing in the October, 1982 Observer, Elmer Aldrich said “this action by the Board, together with President Brian Bell’s 1982-83 platform of emphasis on sanctuaries, places Bobelaine as probably the number one project for the coming fiscal year.”

The plan described the value of the sanctuary in preserving a remnant riparian landscape and listed goals for management. They included, first and foremost, to “protect, preserve and manage (Bobelaine) in as near natural condition as possible;” identify and protect its threatened, rare and endangered plants and animals; identify and preserve its evidence of the presence of early Native Americans, and permit and encourage human uses of the Sanctuary that do not conflict with the other goals.

Besides managing the 430-acre Feather River preserve under agreement with National Audubon, SAS also managed the 36-acre Sugar Pond Audubon Sanctuary under lease from the Spreckels Sugar Company near Woodland.

55-FOOT WELL DRILLED

1982-83 was another busy year at Bobelaine under the energetic leadership of Sanctuary Committee Chairman Mel Pasta. A major achievement was drilling a 55-foot water well, which, together with underground piping, submersible pump and water tank, provided water for the picnic and headquarters areas. PG&E installed power.

Pasta praised chapter members who donated money and energy, and appealed for more volunteers to, among other things, realign fences, build a bridge across the slough entryway into the sanctuary, and construct a trail system. Among those activists he cited were Al Forbes for making a Bobelaine sign and Jo Smith for creating a handsome topographical map of the sanctuary.
FOCUS ON BIRDS

As usual, birds and birding were the center of attention for many Auduboners. Andrew Engilis Jr., Field Activities chairman, conducted a two-day workshop on identifying birds in the field at the University of California, Davis.

And cold weather failed to deter 83 birders as they ticked off 136 species in the 1982 Sacramento Christmas count, Tim Manolis reported. Thayer’s Gull was recorded for the first time on the count. Other highlights included Peregrine Falcon, seven terns (probably Forster’s), Winter Wren, 2 Black-throated Gray Warblers, and a Western Tanager. In the high country, Tim Fitzher’s annual Woodford’s Christmas Count included Goshawk, Golden Eagle and Bald Eagle among many raptors, plus Northern Shrike.

There also was a goodly number of candidates for “Bird of the Month” in the Sacramento area, such as a Green-tailed Towhee, a September visitor from the foothill-chaparral country spotted by Hans Johanson; American Redstart, confirmed in the CSUS Arboretum in January by Jeri Langham, and a Goshawk in March at Brown’s Ravine, Folsom Lake, by Dr. Lewette, and in April in Ancil Hoffman Park by Tim and Annette Manolis.

‘BIRDS OF SACRAMENTO AREA’

A major publications milestone was reached in 1982 when the revised edition of Birds of the Sacramento Area went on sale. Editor Bill Dillinger said in a Foreword that the 36-page survey was once again dedicated to the memory of SAS stalwarts Don Fry and A. J. “Sam” Argante. He gave special mention to Betty Kimball who started it all with her 1964 article “Where to Look Around You,” and voluminous records from her “Seasonal Observations” column.

The booklet represented the combined efforts of more than 30 Sacramento Audubon members, including Ed Harper, Andrew Engilis Jr., and Nick Miller (Specialties); Jane Aldrich (Cover), Jo Smith (Maps), and Miriam Davey and Kathleen Seifert (Typing).

Dorothy Harvey reported in the Observer that the American Ornithological bird-namers “are at it again.” Hence the Whistling Swan became the Tundra Swan, Common Gallinule became Common Moorhen, and our own White-tailed Kite became the Black-shouldered Kite (only to revert back later to “White-tailed Kite”). The new nomenclature was described as an effort to make North American species more cosmopolitan, relating to species in other parts of the world.

Observer Editor Joan Stead announced the always-painful need to shrink the size of the newsletter. She said the Board of Directors had decided that because of the high cost of printing, the newsletter should be limited to four pages, with the savings to go elsewhere, such as Bobelaine upkeep. She appealed to contributors to “keep it short.”

OLIVETTE P. DENNISON

Olivette P. Dennison, who with her husband, Jack, was a charter member of Sacramento Audubon, died in January, 1983 at age 86. As the first SAS Historian, it was due to her foresight in saving activity reports that we have records of those early years, Phyllis Thompson wrote in the Observer.
Sacramento Audubon held its first sale of “pre-owned” bird and other nature-related books at the March, 1983 meeting. It was organized by Helen Davis . . . Monthly meetings were moved from Fremont Presbyterian Church to St. Mark’s United Methodist Church in the Country Club Plaza area, effective September, 1983. Incoming President Louise McCullough cited restricted parking and high rental charges at Fremont as reasons for the move . . . Treasurer Cecil Smith reported in May that the Chapter had $20,023 in the General Fund and $2,888 in the Sanctuary Fund.

CONSERVATION UNDERSCORED

Louise McCullough served notice that as the new president of Sacramento Audubon in 1983-84 she would seek to reawaken interest in and dedication to conservation principles. Writing in the September Observer, she asked: “Have we become a little complacent after the successes of the ’60s and ’70s in getting laws passed and protective measures taken by the various levels of government? Now we are seeing how easily those gains are being eroded by both our national and state administrations. We have to let them know that there are a lot of us still concerned about protecting our resources and our wildlife.”

Her conservation agenda included responding to a Sacramento County Planning Department request for Sacramento Audubon representation on an American River Parkway Plan Update Working Committee. She appointed Elmer Aldrich to the committee of 18 to work with the County Planning staff to produce the 1985 American River Parkway Plan. Audubon members Jo Smith and Bill Griffith represented other organizations on the committee.

The committee worked for more than a year in drafting much of the language designed to protect the natural values of the Parkway, an area heavily used by Sacramento Audubon for its field trips. The County Board of Supervisors approved the plan and, impressed with the value of the participation of citizens and organizations such as Audubon, formed the permanent American River Parkway Advisory Committee on which the Chapter continues to be represented.

BOBELAINE FRUSTRATIONS

Of course, an overriding element to the Chapter’s conservation ethic was its eight-year-old commitment to preserving the fragile, scarce river forest that is Bobelaine Sanctuary. During 1983-84, Sanctuary Chair Mel Pasta struggled with a seemingly endless string of frustrations in protecting the 430 acre Feather River preserve owned by National Audubon and managed by SAS.

Trespassing was endemic, and two hunters were arrested on Sanctuary property. Someone changed the locks on the Bobelaine gates in connection with an ongoing dispute over fishing rights to state-owned navigable waters. The State Fish and Game Commission turned down Sacramento Audubon’s request to close the waters of Bobelaine to fishing. However, a potential bright spot glimmered on the horizon. Pasta, Elmer Aldrich and others joined with National Audubon and Audubon’s Western Regional Office seeking state designation of Bobelaine as an ecological preserve. If successful, this would increase protection by the State Department of Fish & Game.

A PRISTINE AREA OF MOODS

As Sanctuary Committee Chair in the 1980s, Mel Pasta worked long and hard at Bobelaine. The following, from the Observer, is his eloquent rationale for visiting the preserve:

“Here you can listen, enraptured, to Nature’s symphony: squirrels chattering,
the piercing shriek of hawks, the barking "kwok" of the Black-crowned Night-Heron, the raucous, throaty squawk of the Great Blue Heron, the staccato drumbeat of a woodpecker, the croak of frogs, birds calling in a variety of pitches and decibels, perhaps not in harmony or in unison, but still delightful listening.

"Observe Nature's parade. The scarlet tapestry of poison oak, carpets of lavender and emerald, stately sycamores, oaks and cottonwoods sentinel-tall, willows swaying gently, or the artist's brush wielded in a profusion of oranges, browns, yellows, greens and pinks.

"Experience the chill of early morning mist, the brooding, ominous portent of a storm, the brilliance of daybreak, the vivid colors of sunset, the first hush of darkness as the mantle of dusk descends, followed by sparkling moonlight and drifting shadows.

"Truly, Bobelaine is a pristine area of moods, colors and hues, changing constantly. Over and over it repeats ever so subtly: Come visit, come discover, come explore, come enjoy . . . ."

AREAS OF CONCERN

Elsewhere on the conservation front, Conservation Chair Alta Tura penned articles in The Observer urging Auduboners to review the 1980 chapter publication "Areas of Critical Concern" and help keep tabs on the 64 locations cited for having unique natural values. She singled out the Sweetwater Valley Project near Folsom Lake, Brovelli Woods near Galt, a dense oak woodland covering 120 acres; Sloughhouse Vernal pools, and Blossom Slough, near Thornton.

"Suspicious-looking heavy equipment?" she asked. "Slender stakes with orange ribbons? Let me know!"

Other conservation efforts included urging Sacramento County Supervisors to make Bushy Lake part of the American River Parkway under County administration; State Fish & Game Ecologist Karen Miller's Chapter meeting program on the Nature Conservancy's California Critical Areas Program, and appealing for financial support for campaigns seeking passage of state bond issues on the June, 1984 ballot to acquire and develop fish and game habitat and parklands. Both bond issues passed.

Andrew Engilis Jr. wrote a detailed series of articles on the American Ornithological Union's (AOU) Checklist to North American Birds, the first in nearly 30 years. He pointed out how scientific methodology has shifted from field and museum techniques to the laboratory, resulting in such techniques as DNA-DNA Hybridization and Protein Analysis. "For example, most of the world's bird fami-
lies have been analyzed by DNA-DNA,” he wrote, “and the result is a complete rearrangement of these families.”

NEW SACRAMENTO CHECKLIST

Changes in the 1983 AOU Checklist were reflected in the new Sacramento Area Checklist produced by Andy Englis, Tim Manolis and other members of the Checklist Committee. An Observer article noted that several species that were previously in the local checklist’s “accidental” category (less than five records) had been removed by the Sacramento Bird Records Committee, largely because of the lack of adequately written descriptions by the birders who submitted them.

Meanwhile, Dave Johnson reported in the Observer on a new Seasonal Observations committee that was formed to take over duties performed so admirably for so many years by Betty Kimball and more recently by Dorothy Harvey. Committee members were Tim Manolis, Doug Shaw, Kathy Moore and Ken Salzman. They were responsible for receiving rare and unusual bird reports from the Sacramento Checklist Area via a new telephone recording device; and from other individual and field trip reports by mail; and to publish the highlights in a monthly column in The Observer.

Dave Johnson was indeed a busy contributor to The Observer in 1983-84, authoring four articles telling how to find good birds at some of his favorite hot spots. The first “Notes From Dave” piece showed the way to a half-day field trip along Green Valley, Starbuck and Deer Valley Roads in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada where his Folsom Christmas Count team records about 55 species every year.

He followed up telling how to see an assortment of shorebirds in Yolo County between Aug. 15 and Oct. 1 by exiting Interstate 5 at Road at 102 and following it north to Road 20 and turning right. Then he reported on Burrowing Owls and friends in the Scott, Latrobe and Jackson Road country of East Sacramento County, concluding in February with a report on wintering species in the Solano Lake area of the western side of the valley.

1983 CHRISTMAS COUNT RECORD

Despite patchy fog, 87 participants counted 196,382 individuals of 144 species, the highest species total in the Sacramento Christmas Bird Count’s 35-year history. Tim Manolis reported these highlights: 76 Cattle Egrets, Barrow’s Goldeneye, Merlin, White-throated Swifts, Western Gull, Phainopepla, two Black-throated Gray Warblers and a Western Tanager.

A Pomarine Jaeger, only the second Sacramento area record, was reported Aug. 13, 1983 by County Ranger-Naturalist James Lower over Elverta area rice fields. He speculated that the predatory seabird flew inland to avoid Tropical Storm Ishmael off the Southern California coast. And a Costa’s Hummingbird, usually found well south of Sacramento, lingered a month or so in Doug Shaw’s yard beginning Nov. 13.

Dave Johnson launched his 1984-85 presidential term by leading his annual trips to the Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve. The salt-water marsh yielded good looks at Clapper Rails, Red Knots, Long-billed and Short-billed Dowitchers, Semipalmated and Black-bellied Plovers, and Wilson’s and Red-necked Phalaropes, among others. Jerry Marinovich reported that Johnson had promised 75 species in the morning, and his group ended with 77.