



# The Phoebe

Newsletter of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Volume 36, Number 4 • July - August, 2015

## President's Corner

□ Rudy Darling, SFAS President

When I was in high school, my parents gave me a subscription to Audubon magazine. They must have noticed that I had an interest in birds. Perhaps the feeders I put up by the kitchen window gave it away. Now, some 50 years later, I'm still a member of Audubon, and still interested in (Jeannie says, "Obsessed with" is more accurate) birds, and have realized every child's dream – to grow up to become President ... well, at least of Sierra Foothills Audubon Society (SFAS). Since 1998 I have had the pleasure of being on the SFAS Board of Directors, working with dedicated folks with varying interests relating to SFAS's mission: "to educate ourselves and others to the variety and the beauty of our natural environment and to protect our wildlife and natural places." Now it's my turn to take the helm, following in the footsteps of such notables as Dan Stewart, Carol Malnor, Connie Stevens, Christy Sherr, Don Rivenes, Walt Carnahan, Linda Chaplin, Jim Olsen, and many others before my active association with the chapter (Deren Ross and Tom Rycraft come to mind).

I have always been impressed with the educational efforts of our chapter. Perhaps most obvious are the membership meetings, which bring in speakers on all aspects of the environment. Kudos to Willie Hall, and before him to Walt Carnahan, for lining up varied and interesting speakers for us. Certainly our very active field trip calendar promotes our educational mission by bringing members and the public into direct contact with birds and nature.

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## Bills moving through State Capitol could help California birds survive the challenges of global warming

With the threat to birds and people from global warming becoming more apparent every day, Audubon California is supporting a broad swath of bills in the state's 2015 legislative session addressing the dangers of climate change.

Recent Audubon research shows that global warming caused by carbon pollution will threaten 170 California bird species in the coming decades. Birds at risk include iconic species such as the Brown Pelican, Golden Eagle, Allen's Hummingbird, and Yellow-billed Magpie.

While air pollution in the form of greenhouse gas emissions is the leading cause of these changes in the environment, air pollution also poses an immediate threat to public health, as well as the health of our birds and environment.

"Taking aggressive action on carbon pollution helps us protect two of California's greatest assets – our communities and our natural treasures," said Brigid McCormack, executive director of Audubon California. "With the national discussion on global warming stalled, California is now leading the way in addressing this important issue, in a way that stands to benefit both birds and people."

The California State Senate leadership, led by Senate President Pro Tem Kevin de León, in February announced a broad package of climate change proposals intended to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and reduce the state's reliance on fossil fuels. The two most prominent bills in this package include Senate Bill 32, which would expand California's current climate pollution reduction target to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050; and Senate Bill 350, which calls for a 50% reduction in petroleum use in cars and trucks, a 50% increase in energy efficiency in buildings, and a goal of 50% of state utilities' power coming from renewable energy, all by 2030.

While the Senate leadership's legislation largely seeks to limit the amount of pollution going into the atmosphere that creates global warming and public health issues, other important bill in this legislative session seek to help birds and habitat meet the challenges of a changing environment. For example, Assembly Bill 498 would establish state policy calling to preserve the most important wildlife corridors. Assembly Bill 1482 would create a Strategic Growth Council that will oversee climate adaptation for critical habitat. Audubon California is co-sponsoring both of these bills.

## Nevada County Conservation Report

□ Don Rivenes, Conservation Chair Nevada County



## Welcome New Members

□ Kate Brennan

**Alta:** Joseph Hoffmann, James Johnson / **Auburn:** H Larry & Sandra Rea, Chris Simmons, Richard Schuman, Jane Vierra, Terry Ducharme, Ted Meyers, Susan Tomlin, Jody Herrill / **Grass Valley:** Frederick Hall, Carol Raynsford, Maggi Shelbourn / **Lincoln:** Patrick Pinkham, Valarie Lucas, Betty Rush / **Meadow Vista:** Karen Selmi / **Nevada City:** Judith Lancaster, Will Mora, Erin Robbins, Colleen McKinnon, Linda Meyers, Helen Mitchel, Karen Loro / **Penn Valley:** Kathleen Bettis, Stephanie Rahn, Barbara Tallberg / **Pilot Hill:** Beth Dougherty / **Rocklin:** Shirley Tavare, Sahli Cavallaro / **Roseville:** Linda Watts / **Tahoe City:** Lois Martello / **Truckee:** Miles Congress / **Yuba City:** Neva Bright

### President's Corner... continued from page 1

Dale Rubach coordinates the corps of field trip leaders that makes it all happen. Behind the scenes is a dedicated group of active volunteers who give presentations to various schools and clubs, work at events, and make displays for the public. These activities are especially important as they reach people that might not otherwise be exposed to the importance of protecting wildlife and natural places. It is critical to reach children before they become lost in the modern digital jungle. This august group of educators includes Jim Groeser, Dan Stewart, Judy Netherwood, Carol Malnor, Kate Brennan, Heath Wakelee, and others.

Several dedicated members work to fulfill our mission to protect our wildlife and natural places. They pursue projects ranging from hands-on to local, state and national policy to last resort legal action. We also support several research projects financially, such as this year's Flammulated Owl studies at Lake Davis and Swainson's Thrush research at Lake Tahoe. In the hands-on department, our chapter is responsible for hundreds of bluebird boxes being deployed in the foothills. Jim Groeser, Kate Brennan, and Heath Wakelee have been instrumental in this program. Don Rivenes, as chair of the Conservation Committee for Nevada County has his finger on the pulse of many issues of local importance, particularly of forest policy and global warming. We maintain partnerships with several associations of conservation organizations, such as the Yuba Bear Watershed Council. In recent years, former board member, Ed Pandolfino, was instrumental in forcing developers in Placer County to mitigate various deleterious impacts threatened by their project proposals.

It takes many people doing often unacknowledged tasks to make a successful organization run smoothly. Perhaps you have partaken of the delicious refreshments at membership meetings. Thank Jane Hall, hospitality chair, for that. In fact, you might not have heard about the meeting at all without our newsletter (Christiane Raymond), website (Walt Carnahan) and/or publicity (Jane Hall). Someone has to keep track of who all our members are and make sure they receive the Phoebe (Kate Brennan, Judy Netherwood, Christiane Raymond). Someone has to keep track of the finances (Don Rivenes, Walt Carnahan). It takes an ecosystem.

I look forward to working with this excellent cast of characters for the next two years. As they leave the board, thanks go out to Walt Carnahan and Kate Brennan for their years of service. Let us also welcome new board member elect, Patti DeLuca. I look forward to her input to our discussions. Finally, pardon me if I left someone out. I'm still not used to this being president thing yet.

### SFAS New & Renewal Memberships Now Payable Online

Go to [www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com](http://www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.com)

To pay by credit card or PayPal click on "membership" for new and renewals, and for gifts and bequests click on "Our Chapter"

## SFAS Officers, Board and Committee Chairs

### Officers:

Rudy Darling, President  
rdarling@sbbmail.com  
(530) 272-6504

William Hall, Vice President  
ryardcard@usamedia.tv

Judy Netherwood, Secretary  
walksfar7@gmail.com

Don Rivenes, Treasurer  
rivenes@sbcglobal.net  
(530) 477-7502

### Elected At Large Board Members (n) = Remaining Term:

Patty Deluca (2)  
pdeluca@ralston.com

Jim Groeser (2)  
redtailh@gmail.com

Heath Wakelee (2)  
hwakelee@gmail.com

Dale Rubach (1)  
rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com

Jane Hall (1)  
yardcard@usamedia.tv

Dan Stewart (2) Ex-officio  
dcstew@hotmail.com

### Nominating Committee Chair:

Appointed each year

### Standing Committee Chairs:

Don Rivenes, Conservation Chair (Nevada County)  
rivenes@sbcglobal.net  
(530) 477-7502

Jim Groeser, Education Chair (Nevada County)  
redtailh@gmail.com

Judy Netherwood, Membership Chair  
walksfar7@gmail.com

Dale Rubach, Field Trip Chair  
rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com

William Hall, Program Chair  
yardcard@usamedia.tv

Christiane Raymond, Publication Chair  
40licksart@gmail.com

### Special Committee Chairs:

William Hall, Scientific Grant Chair  
yardcard@usamedia.tv

Heath Wakelee, Scholarship Chair  
hwakelee@gmail.com

Jane Hall, Publicity/Hospitality  
yardcard@usamedia.tv

### Other Positions:

Kate Brennan, Database Manager  
wolfcreekfarms@goskywest.com

*The Phoebe* is published six times per year on or about the first of January, March, May, July, September and November. The publishing address is 13065 F Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603. Newsletter submissions are due by the 15th of each month preceding newsletter publication. Mail or email copy to Christiane Raymond, Editor, 13065 F Lincoln Way, Auburn, CA 95603, 40licksart@gmail.com.



## **Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch Saturday, July 4, 2015**

8:00 a.m.

Leader: Bill Covington (916-) 645-0727  
Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd at the south-east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. This trip is intended for beginners, but experienced birders are welcome and add to the experience for all. Traylor Ranch affords an opportunity to see the resident species of the lower foothills and valley floor, usually twenty or more different species. We'll spend about two hours and walk a little more than a mile. Come on out, bring your binoculars and help us find some birds. The more eyes and ears, the more birds we'll see.

## **Bridgeport at South Yuba State Park Tuesday July 7, 2015**

8:00 a.m.

Leader: Bob Slyker bgsly@aol.com  
Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just past the Yuba River highway bridge). Expect to see California Quail, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Lark Sparrow, Wrenit, Cliff Swallow, and Yellow Warbler.

## **Bridgeport at South Yuba State Park Saturday, July 11, 2015**

8:00 a.m.

Leaders: Bob Slyker bgsly@aol.com  
Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just past the Yuba River highway bridge). Expect to see California Quail, Black-headed Grosbeak, Bullock's Oriole, Lark Sparrow, Wrenit, Cliff Swallow, and Yellow Warbler.

## **Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley Sunday, July 19, 2015**

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Dan Stewart  
(530) 265-4677 dcstew@outlook.com  
Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot. A two mile walk through several habitats usually takes about two hours and gives us a chance to see most of the local, common, and resident species. This activity is geared for beginning bird watchers, but more experienced birders are welcome and helpful to the learning experience for everyone.

## **Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch Saturday, August 1, 2015**

8:00 a.m.

Leader: Bill Covington (916-) 645-0727  
Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd at the south-east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. See July 4, 2015 listing for trip description.

## **Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley Sunday, August 16, 2015**

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Dan Stewart  
(530) 265-4677 dcstew@outlook.com  
Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot at 8:00 a.m. See July 19, 2015 listing for trip description.

## **Bridgeport at South Yuba State Park Saturday, September 5, 2015**

8:00 AM

Leaders: Bob Slyker bgsly@aol.com  
Carol & Bruce Malnor cmalnor@comcast.net  
Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just past the Yuba River highway bridge). Expect to see Downy Woodpecker, Phainopepla, California Quail, Wrenit, Song Sparrow, American Dipper and Red-shouldered Hawk.

## **Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch Saturday, September 5, 2015**

8:00 a.m.

Leader: Bill Covington (916-) 645-0727  
Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd at the south-east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. See July 4, 2015 listing for trip description.

## **Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley Sunday, September 20, 2015**

8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Leader: Dan Stewart  
(530) 265-4677 dcstew@outlook.com  
Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot at 8:00 a.m. See July 19, 2015 listing for trip description.

*For field trip updates, changes  
or cancellations visit  
[sierrafoothillsaudubon.com](http://sierrafoothillsaudubon.com)*

## **2015 SFAS Election**

### Don Rivenes Nominating Committee Chair

Results of the June 4, 2015 SFAS election of officers and Board members for the year July 2015 through June 2016 are: President Rudy Darling, Vice President William Hall, Secretary Judy Netherwood, Treasurer Don Rivenes, and elected Board members Jim Groeser, Heath Wakelee, and Patty Deluca. Thanks to all of you for agreeing to serve our chapter and the community!

## **SFAS Calendar**

**2015 Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.** The first Thursday of January, March, May, August (retreat), September and November. From time to time, if there is a need to take action, the Board will meet prior to the general membership meeting.

**2015 Membership Meetings - 7:00 p.m.** A general meeting will be held the first Thursday of every second month: February 5, April 2, June 4, October 1 and December 3.

For meeting updates please visit  
[www.sierrafoothillsaudubon](http://www.sierrafoothillsaudubon)

## **Donation to SFAS**

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society welcomes gifts and requests for specific conservation projects or the general operation of SFAS. They can also be memorial gifts to honor a friend or relative. All gifts will be recognized in *The Phoebe* as well as personally on behalf of SFAS.

Mail gifts to:  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1937  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

All gifts are tax deductible



## **Become a SFAS Member**



Two levels of membership are available: SFAS Chapter Membership is \$20 annually and includes a subscription to *The Phoebe* newsletter and an invitation to the many chapter activities. Send a check payable to Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1937, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

An introductory membership to the National Audubon Society is \$20 and includes SFAS Chapter Membership, subscriptions to the bi-monthly *NAS Audubon Magazine* and *Phoebe* newsletter from SFAS. Send a check payable to NAS Membership Department, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250. Please write C1ZC460Z in the memo section of your check. For more information contact Dan Stewart at (530) 265-4677.



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*The mission of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society is to educate ourselves and others to the variety and the beauty of our natural environment and to protect our wildlife and natural places*

## Migratory Bird Treaty Act Under Attack—You Can Help!

We had no notice that Congressman Duncan (R-SC) would offer an amendment to the Commerce Appropriations Bill to prohibit enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The good news is there appears to be little appetite to include the Duncan amendment in the Senate version of the bill. To top it off, the White House has also issued a veto threat.

There are two ways you can help. First, contact your Senators to voice opposition to the Duncan MBTA amendment and urge the Senate to keep it out of their version of the bill.

Second, support the recent announcement by USFWS to broaden the power of MBTA to protect birds from incidental take — things like open oil waste pits, cell towers and power lines — by sending a letter such as the sample illustrated at right.



The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C. Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

*Dear Secretary Jewell,*

*I want to thank you for the strong leadership you have shown in advancing bird conservation by proposing to strengthen and modernize the longstanding and successful Migratory Bird Treaty Act by ensuring its protections are extended to address the widespread threats to birds from oil pits, power lines, communications towers, and other pervasive hazards.*

*Every year, tens of millions of birds unnecessarily fall victim to bird death traps scattered across the American landscape. These birds are dying horrible deaths from electrocutions, collisions, poisoning, and oiling. Studies have estimated that oil waste pits alone kill 500,000 to one million birds every year, and power lines may kill as many as 175 million birds per year.*

*We have the technology and the tools to make manmade structures and industrial sites safer for birds. Many companies are already working with the federal government and conservation groups to find solutions that keep birds safe. The rulemaking under the MBTA will help to ensure that these kinds of collaborative efforts will achieve their maximum impact. As this process moves forward, we encourage you to develop the most effective protections possible to benefit birds.*

*Respectfully,*