



# The Phoebe

Newsletter of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Volume 40 Number 4 • September - October, 2019

## President's Corner

Rudy Darling, SFAS President

I just returned from an 11-day vacation on Maui, Hawaii and my head is still reeling from what I saw and learned there. Or maybe it was just the sunburn on the top of my head. Anyway, although it was a family vacation, I just can't keep myself from looking at the birds. The first bird I identified was a House Sparrow, a European species. I was prepared for this, as my friend Barney had told me that the first bird he saw after getting off the airplane was a House Finch (North America). By the next day I had identified Cattle Egret (Africa, Asia), Red-crested Cardinal (South America), Common Mynah (Asia), Rock Pigeon (Europe), Zebra Dove (Australia), and Spotted Dove (Asia). I had read about the mass extinctions in the islands but was somewhat unprepared for the sheer abundance of non-native species, many of them tame and begging for food at my feet. How did such a thing come to pass?

The Hawaiian Islands are the most isolated island chain on earth. For any animal to make it there from anywhere else in the world would take an extremely rare set of circumstances, such as a storm blowing them 2,500 miles across the ocean, landing intact, surviving and propagating. Actually it would have taken two or more of the same species or at least one pregnant female to start a new population on the Hawaiian Islands. These early pioneers diverged into new species filling available niches. Everyone was happy – few predators, few competitors, great weather, and, oh, the beaches – until ...

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## SFAS GENERAL MEETING

Thursday October 3, 2019

Doors open at 6:30 pm, program begins at 7:00  
Madeline Helling Library Community Room, Nevada City

### BIRD MIGRATION: THE MORE WE LEARN, THE LESS WE KNOW

Ever since Aristotle wondered where the swallows went in winter (and likely well before that) humans have been curious about the movements of birds. Even given the very basic methods available in the 19th and most of the 20th centuries, what we learned was astounding. However, in the past couple decades new technologies have allowed us to uncover secrets of bird migration that are simply mind-boggling, confirming that birds are capable of feats that seem to belong more the realm of science fiction than science fact. Ed will tell us about these new methods and the describe some of phenomenal behaviors they have revealed.



Ed Pandolfino BIO

After a checkered and inconsistent college experience that included dropping-out and touring Europe as a drummer for a Rock & Roll band, Ed finally settled down and earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Washington State University and spent over twenty years working in various management positions in the medical device industry. Since retiring in 1999 he has devoted his life to birds, working on habitat conservation and avian research. Ed has served as president of Western Field Ornithologists, vice-president of San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, conservation chair for Sierra Foothills Audubon Society, and Regional Editor for Northern California for North American Birds and is currently on the board of Institute for Bird Populations. He has published more than four dozen articles on status, distribution, behavior of western birds. He co-authored with Ted Beedy, *Birds of the Sierra Nevada: Their Natural History, Status, and Distribution*, illustrated by Keith Hansen and published by U.C. Press in May 2013.

... the first human settlers arrived from the Marquesas Islands around the fourth or fifth century A.D., some 2,500 miles away. How did they even find this speck in the ocean? Many scientists believe they followed a bird, the Golden Plover, as it migrated from Samoa and other South Pacific islands, the logical assumption being that there must be land somewhere in the direction they were flying to or from each year. These folks brought with them some of the plants and animals from their homeland – taro, breadfruit, pigs, dogs, and fowl. This was lucky for them, as there were almost no edible plants on Hawaii at the time and the only land mammal was the Hawaiian hoary bat; not so lucky for the endemic flora and fauna – new predators and competitors. A second wave of settlement came, probably from Tahiti, around 1,000 A.D., again bringing plants and animals from their homelands. While disturbing to the Hawaiian ecosystem, it eventually reached a new balance. But when Hawaii was “discovered” by Captain James Cook in 1778 a whole new invasion began. Gradually rats, dogs, and cats took hold on the islands, eating native birds and their eggs. Sheep, goats, and cattle started eating up the landscape. Sugar cane and pineapple plantations converted forests into agricultural fields. The native birds had no defenses against all these assaults. The sugar industry introduced mongooses in 1883 to control the rats. Unfortunately rats are nocturnal and mongooses are diurnal so the mongooses took to eating the eggs of ground-nesting birds. We certainly saw quite a few mongooses during our stay. They are doing very well, thank you.

Many species were purposely introduced for various reasons. 43% of Hawaii's 157 species are not native. Among landbirds, 69% are introduced species. The Common Mynah was



Red-crested Cardinal, one of many species introduced to Hawaii from abroad  
*Photo by Rudy Darling*

introduced in 1865 in an attempt to control armyworms in pasturelands and quickly became one of the most ubiquitous birds on the islands. Various species were introduced as game birds, many as recently as mid-twentieth century – Ring-necked Pheasant, Wild Turkey, California and Gambel's Quails, Chukar, and Black, Gray, and Erckel's Francolins. Cattle Egrets were brought over in the late 1950s in an attempt to control insect pests on island cattle ranches. Unfortunately they are known to eat almost anything and pose a threat to the nestlings of waterbirds and seabirds. These are just a few examples of dozens of alien birds that have become established on the Hawaiian Islands. Most were poorly thought-out disasters for the local fauna and flora.

What of the native birds? As might be expected from the onslaught of new predators, competitors, and diseases, the replacement of original plants by invasive species, diseases, and agriculture, and the building of cities, resorts, condos, marinas, etc., they have not fared very well. Since humans arrived centuries ago, 71 bird species have become extinct and 31 more are federally listed as threatened or endangered. Of these, 10 have not

been seen in as long as 40 years and may be extinct. Many of the ones that remain are confined to small patches of remnant native forest. Mosquito-borne diseases, like avian malaria, force the native birds higher up the mountains (volcanos) above where the mosquitos can survive. To add insult to injury, now global warming is allowing the mosquitos to move ever higher. Eventually the native birds will run out of “up” to go. We were lucky to see a few of the native birds during our stay, but many may become extinct during our lifetimes. That's not very long, if they mean my remaining lifetime.

This well-intentioned, but poorly planned introduction of alien species is especially devastating to island ecosystems, but is a world-wide phenomenon. In 1890 Eugene Schieffelin brought some European Starlings into New York. It was a part of his grand scheme to introduce all 40 bird species mentioned in Shakespeare's plays to North America. Fortunately most of them did not take hold, but the starling has caused untold harm to crops and contributed to the decline of hole-nesting birds in the U.S. Likewise, the introduced House Sparrow has outcompeted native hole-nesting birds in North America and is at least in part responsible for the decline of bluebird populations. These “unintended consequences” have had devastating effects on many native organisms and rapidly upset the balance of ecosystems that slowly evolved over millennia. It's a warning to us all – think about what you are doing before you act. Similarly, engage brain before mouth is a good mantra to live by. I sure wish I could. Now, how do I get this foot out of my mouth?

## Audubon, Other Groups Can Continue Lawsuit against the Federal Government to Protect Birds, Federal Judge Rules

*By National Audubon Society August 01, 2019*

A federal court greenlighted a joint lawsuit to defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act despite the administration's efforts to hand industry a blank check for bird deaths.

"If the White House expected to gut the most important bird protection law without a fight, then they underestimated the National Audubon Society and America's 46 million bird-lovers," said David Yarnold (@david\_yarnold), president and CEO of National Audubon Society, in response to a decision by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York to allow *Audubon v. Department of the Interior* to proceed, rejecting an effort by the government to dismiss the lawsuit.

"Industries that kill birds have been held accountable for decades, and we'll fight and win in the courts to protect the birds Americans love," said Yarnold.



Maui Amakiki, one of Maui's remaining endemic species  
*Photo by Rudy Darling*

Audubon and other conservation groups filed suit in May 2018 challenging an opinion by the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office saying it will no longer enforce the MBTA in cases of incidental bird deaths, effectively giving a blank check to industry to avoid gruesome and preventable bird deaths. Eight states filed a similar suit in September 2018.

The opinion undermines the Migratory Bird Treaty Act's (MBTA) prohibition on the killing or "taking" of migratory birds, which has long been understood to include the "incidental" take of birds from industrial activities like birds flying into uncovered oil pits or other predictable and avoidable or negligent killing.

Under the Trump administration's revised interpretation, the MBTA's protections apply only to activities that purposefully kill birds. Any "incidental" take—no matter how inevitable, avoidable or devastating the impact on birds—becomes immune from enforcement under the law. Additionally, for decades, industry has worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take common sense precautions like covering oil waste pits so birds don't mistake them for safe ponds; insulating small sections of power lines so raptors don't get electrocuted; siting wind farms away from bird migration routes and habitats. The law has also provided accountability and recovery after oil spills like the Deepwater Horizon.

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 2018 was declared The Year of the Bird. More than 60 cities, counties

and states passed proclamations in celebration of the MBTA's success.

17 former Interior Department officials wrote a letter asking the administration to suspend the opinion, as did dozens of members of Congress and more than 500 wildlife and environmental groups from all 50 states.

Audubon and its 1.4 million members will mobilize to reverse this policy and oppose any effort that weakens our most important bird protection law.

Audubon is joined in the lawsuit by the Center for Biological Diversity ("Center"), Defenders of Wildlife, and the American Bird Conservancy. The groups' lead counsel is Eric Glitzenstein, director of litigation for the Center.

*The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive. Learn more how to help at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and follow us on Twitter and Instagram at [@audubonsociety](https://twitter.com/audubonsociety).*

# Field Journal

For field trip updates, changes or cancellations check <http://sierrafoothillsaudubon.org/>  
Our field trips are free. Carpooling drivers appreciate participants offering to share fuel costs

## Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Saturday, September 14, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Howard Williams [oldbackpacker@me.com](mailto:oldbackpacker@me.com)

Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Road at the southeast corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is different. 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. Here's the Placer Co. web site for Traylor Ranch: <http://www.placer.ca.gov/departments/facility/parks/parks-content/parks/traylor-ranch-nature-reserve>

## Bird Walk at South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport

Saturday, September 14, 2019,  
7:30 - 9:30 AM

Leaders: Carol & Bruce Malnor [cmalnor@comcast.net](mailto:cmalnor@comcast.net) (530-263-9392) and Bob Slyker [bgsly@aol.com](mailto:bgsly@aol.com)

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just across the highway bridge on Pleasant Valley Road) This approximately two-hour walk takes us along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. We may see common foothill species including Downy Woodpecker, Black-headed Grosbeak, Oak Titmouse, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Stellar's Jay and near the river, American Dipper.

## Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, September 15, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Dan Stewart 530-265-4677 [dcstew@outlook.com](mailto:dcstew@outlook.com)

This walk is designed for beginners, but more skilled birders are helpful and welcome. We'll talk about binoculars, how and where to find birds, what to look for when you find one. We meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot of the Briar Patch Market on Sierra College Drive in Grass Valley. We walk for a little less than two miles and it usually takes about two hours. Fifteen to twenty different species are almost guaranteed, especially with enough sharp eyes and ears. It's a nice walk up over the hill at Sierra College and back to the Briar Patch. Come on out and help us find and identify some birds.

## Bird Walk at South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport

Friday, September 27, 2019,  
7:30 - 9:30 AM

Leader: Sylvia Wright, [Sylvia.L.Wright.1@gmail.com](mailto:Sylvia.L.Wright.1@gmail.com)

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just across the highway bridge on Pleasant Valley Road)

This approximately two-hour walk takes us along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. We may see common foothill species including Downy Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black Phoebe, Spotted Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Stellar's Jay, Western Bluebird, Northern Flicker, Wrentit, California Quail, and near the river, American Dipper.

## Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Saturday, October 12, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Howard Williams [oldbackpacker@me.com](mailto:oldbackpacker@me.com)

Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Road at the southeast corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is different. See September 14, 2019 listing for trip description.

## Bird Walk at South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport

Saturday, October 12, 2019,  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leaders: Bob Slyker [bgsly@aol.com](mailto:bgsly@aol.com) and Carol & Bruce Malnor (530-263-9392) [cmalnor@comcast.net](mailto:cmalnor@comcast.net)

We'll meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just past the Yuba River highway bridge). This approximately two-hour walk takes us along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. Dress warmly. We may see common foothill species including Hairy Woodpecker, Oak Titmouse, California Scrub-Jay, Black Phoebe, and Spotted Towhee. There is also a possibility of seeing American Dipper near the river.

## Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, October 20, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Dan Stewart 530-265-4677 [dcstew@outlook.com](mailto:dcstew@outlook.com)

Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot at 8:00AM. See September 15, 2019 listing for trip description.

## Bird Walk at South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport

Friday, October 25, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Sylvia Wright, [Sylvia.I.Wright@gmail.com](mailto:Sylvia.I.Wright@gmail.com)

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just across the highway bridge on Pleasant Valley Road) Easy walking on a wooded trail and along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. We may see species common to an oak woodland/riparian habitat such as California Scrub-Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Northern Flicker, Fox Sparrow and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Cedar Waxwing have also been present in the park this time of year.

## Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Saturday, November 9, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Howard Williams [oldbackpacker@me.com](mailto:oldbackpacker@me.com)

Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Road at the southeast corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is different. See September 14, 2019 listing for trip description.

## Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, November 17, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM

Leader: Dan Stewart 530-265-4677 [dcstew@outlook.com](mailto:dcstew@outlook.com)

Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot at 8:00AM. See September 15, 2019 listing for trip description. Please contact leader if the weather is questionable.

## Colusa National Wildlife Refuge/Sutter Buttes

Saturday, November 30, 2019  
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Leader: Ted Beedy 530-274-7232 [tbeedy@comcast.net](mailto:tbeedy@comcast.net)

We always schedule this trip in late November to maximize our chances of seeing large concentrations of waterfowl and other water birds wintering in the Central Valley. Colusa National Wildlife Refuge is among the best places to view this great, annual spectacle. We should see more than 100,000 geese and ducks, and on past trips we have identified more than 80 species of birds. We will also drive around the Sutter Buttes to look for raptors, songbirds, and Sandhill Cranes, and we'll go from there to District 10 north of Marysville to see thousands of Tundra Swans, White-faced Ibis, and myriad other waterfowl as the sun sets over the Buttes. Bring a lunch & something to drink, and wear warm clothes

and bring a raincoat if the weather is wet and cold—the trip is on, rain or shine. Meet at the Park & Ride at the intersection of Highway 20 and Pleasant Valley Road at 8:00 am, and we will carpool from there. We'll get back to Grass Valley at about 5 pm, estimated driving time is 1.5 hours each way. Please pre-register at least a week before the trip by contacting me at 530-274-7232 or tbeedy@comcast.net

### **Bird Walk at South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport**

**Friday, December 6, 2019  
8:00 – 10:00 AM**

Leader: Sylvia Wright, Sylvia.I.Wright@gmail.com

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just across the highway bridge on Pleasant Valley Road) Easy walking on a wooded trail and along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. We may see species common to an oak woodland/riparian habitat such as Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Western Bluebird, and Common Merganser or American Dipper near the Yuba River. Please contact leader if the weather is questionable.

### **Sierra Valley**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019  
7:00 AM to ?**

Leader: Dale Rubach 530-272-3698  
rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com

Sierra Valley is a unique and exciting area. It is located on the east slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains encircled by the towns of Sierraville, Loyaltown and Portola. In winter it is the home to many raptors including: Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and both species of Eagles. It is also home for many mountain species like; White-headed Woodpecker, Townsend's Solitaire, Pygmy Nuthatch and Mountain Chickadee. We will carpool from the Nevada County Government Center (Rood Center) at 950 Maidu Ave, Nevada City. All levels of birders are welcome. We will bird mainly from cars with one or two short walks on level ground. Inclement weather will cancel. Call or e-mail to reserve a spot. If weather looks questionable please call the evening before for an update. Bring drink, food and warm clothes. This is an all day trip.

### **Bird Walk at South Yuba State Park at Bridgeport**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019,  
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**

Leaders: Bob Slyker bgsly@aol.com and Carol & Bruce Malnor (530-263-9392) cmalnor@comcast.net

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just across the highway bridge on Pleasant Valley Road) This approximately two-hour walk takes us along Kentucky Creek and the Yuba River. Some of the species we may see include California Scrub-Jay, Band-tailed Pigeon, California Towhee, Black Phoebe, Acorn Woodpecker, Western Bluebird, and Red-shouldered Hawk. There is also the possibility of seeing Common Merganser and American Dipper near the river. Please contact leaders if the weather is questionable.

### **Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn**

**Saturday, December 14, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM**

Leader: Howard Williams oldbackpacker@me.com

Meet in the parking lot off Humphrey Road at the southeast corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is different. See September 14, 2019 listing for trip description. Please contact leader if the weather is questionable.

### **Marysville Rice Fields Birding**

**Saturday, December 21, 2019  
8:30AM- 12 Noon**

Leader: Jim Groeser 530-432-6596 redtailh@gmail.com

We will caravan from the Pleasant Valley Rd. and Hwy. 20 Park and Ride 16 miles to Woodruff Lane and the rice fields northeast of Marysville. Figure three hours of swan, goose, ibis, duck, shorebird, raptor, etc. viewing. No hiking--we view from the roads. Bring snacks, liquids, optics. Restroom stop at halftime. If weather is questionable contact Jim.

### **Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019  
8:00 - 10:00 AM**

Leader: Dan Stewart 530-265-4677 dcstew@outlook.com

Meet in the Briar Patch parking lot at 8:00AM. See September 15, 2019 listing for trip description. Please contact leader if the weather is questionable.

## Welcome New Members

**Auburn: Betty Wells, Kimberly Mauch**

**Browns Valley: Janet Pelligrino**

**Cool: Christopher Ward**

**Grass Valley: Ken Howe**

**Loomis: Nathaniel Duyck**

**Marysville: Tamra Straling**

**Nevada City: Melier Benoit, Cindy Elia Barnett**

**Pollock Pines: David Wooldridge**

**Rocklin: Billie Cannon, Nathaniel Gruspe**

**Truckee: Richard Kannisto**

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, National Audubon Society, PO Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194. Please write C1ZC460Z in the memo section of your check. Or you can join online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org) and click on "JOIN." For more information contact Dan Stewart at (530) 265-4677.

## David Sibley Tips On Birding

Whether one is a new birder or an experienced birder, it seems like there is always something new to be learned birdwise. A great birding learning site is the introduction to National Audubon Society's "THE SIBLEY GUIDE TO BIRDS". These 21 pages, in simplicity, lay out the basics for birding and give a person the feel for bird identifying, which is the fun part. When one gets some grounding in the sport it is much easier and satisfying, and more fun to walk or drive thru the countryside and have some birding confidence. After a few field trips with old hat birders one will not be frustrated with all the look alike LLBs (little brown birds.....all the sparrows, the Bewick's Wren, the Oak Titmouse, the California Towhee, or the nervous little Ruby-crowned Kinglet), to name a few.

Bird IDing is usually the way people ease into birding. David Sibley briefly points out eight suggestions of study (pages 9, 10, and 11). They are: LOOK AT THE BIRD-

-don't fumble with a book for a picture; PRACTICE SEEING DETAILS--such as bill, facial markings, and general coloring; RECOGNIZE PATTERNS--the kinglet cannot sit still; LEARN FIELD MARKS FOR EACH BIRD--the white rump of the Violet-green Swallow; STUDY SHAPES--the board-like wings of the Bald Eagle; STUDY BIRD HABITS--a Red-tailed Hawk on a telephone pole(most bird habits relate to searching for food); BEWARE OF MISJUDGING SIZE--use reference points like: other birds, fence posts, and tree limbs; MEET OTHER BIRDERS--join the crowd of binocular wearers, ask questions, and join up with a small group on a local field trip. For field trip info contact any board member.

The key word in all of this is:.....GESTALT..... or general impression. One spots a bird and instantly the eye photographs area, bird size, flight pattern, color, body shape,sound, flock size, and more. So, hope these tips will help you enjoy looking at birds every chance you get. And get out on some field trips.

## Results of the June 6, 2019 SFAS election of Officers and Board members July 2019 through June 2020

President Rudy Darling ~ Vice President William Hall ~ Secretary Patti Deluca ~ Treasurer Don Rivenes

*Elected Board members for a two-year term are:*

Jim Groeser  
Dan Stewart  
Theresa Thomas  
Heath Wakelee

*Returning Board members for a one-year term are:*

Dale Rubach  
Jane Hall

**Thanks to all of you for agreeing to serve our chapter and the community!**

Each year the Nominating Committee also selects individuals that have been outstanding as an activist and volunteer for the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society. This year's award goes to Jim Groeser.

Jim has been a SFAS Board member for over 25 years. He has chaired the Education Committee for probably that long, arranging countless presentations in the schools and giving many of them himself. He has continued to lead field trips for the schools to Gray Lodge and other trips to the rice fields. He also has been a Christmas Count leader and birdathon participant for many years. He is a mainstay of the Pioneer Park Children's festival founded by our own Pat Cobler that is held in July creating over 700 shore bird pencil holders that kids can paint. Additionally, Jim has granted requests for bluebird boxes, even helping to install them! Jim has proved to be an invaluable asset to SFAS and certainly deserves this award and our thanks.

*~ Don Rivenes, Nominating Committee Chair*

## Central Valley Birding Symposium 2019

The Central Valley Bird Club will be hosting the 23rd annual Central Valley Birding Symposium Nov. 21-24, 2019, at the Stockton Hilton Hotel in Stockton, CA. The Great Central Valley, in the heart of California and the Pacific Flyway, is uniquely situated for excellent birding. Please join us as the CVBS again celebrates the best of birding in the Central Valley!

The CVBS kicks off with a delicious hors d'oeuvres buffet & no host bar on Thursday night, followed by one of our favorite keynotes, outstanding photographer, birder, and presenter, Ed Harper, with his program, "Simply in Awe of Birds".

Friday night's keynote program "The Language of Birds" will be presented by Nathan Pieplow, author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds.

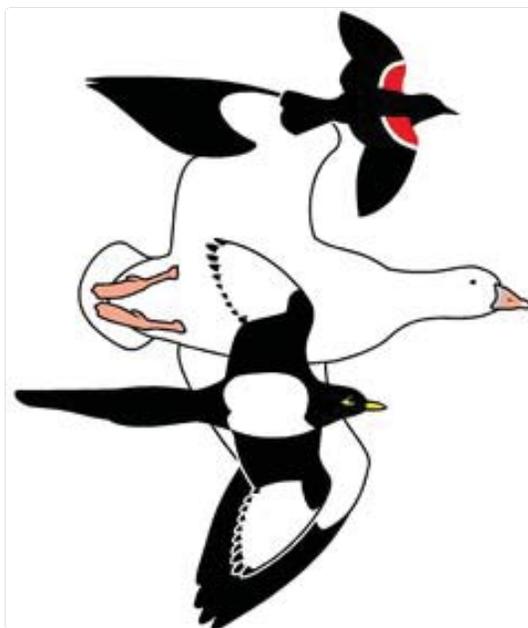
Saturday night's keynote program, "The Genius of Birds" will be presented by acclaimed science and nature writer, Jennifer Ackerman. Learn how birds make and use their own sophisticated tools, teach one another new skills, exercise astonishing feats of memory, create works of art, navigate, communicate in ways that resemble language, and even pass along cultural traditions.

Informative and entertaining workshops include: "Subspecies for Birders" with Joe Morlan, "I Know It When I See It" by Jon Dunn, and an update on Central Valley bird conservation and research programs. Build your skills at workshops: Nature/Wildlife Photography and Photo Editing (Ben Knoot), Bird Sketching (René Reyes), Beginning Birding (Sal Salerno) and Carving (Jim Burcio).

Field trips, offered Friday, Saturday and Sunday, always turn up exciting birds. Add in the entertaining and educational Bird ID Panel, the wonderful selection of optics, art and gifts at the Birder's Market plus the camaraderie of hundreds of like-minded folks, and you know you'll have a good time! There's something for everyone interested in birds. Come and join us to bird, learn, and just have fun!

To look over the schedule of events, go to: <http://www.cvbirds.org/events/symposium/>  
Registration begins September 6, 2019.

CVBS Steering Committee  
[www.cvbirds.org](http://www.cvbirds.org)  
Linda Pittman  
Wilton, CA



## SFAS Officers, Board and Committee Chairs

### OFFICERS:

Rudy Darling, President  
[rdarling@sbbmail.com](mailto:rdarling@sbbmail.com) (530) 272-6504

William Hall, Vice President  
[yardcard@usamedia.tv](mailto:yardcard@usamedia.tv)

Patti DeLuca, Secretary  
[drpatti27@gmail.com](mailto:drpatti27@gmail.com)

Don Rivenes, Treasurer  
[rivenes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rivenes@sbcglobal.net) (530) 477-7502

### ELECTED AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS:

Jim Groeser (1)  
[redtailh@gmail.com](mailto:redtailh@gmail.com)

Dan Stewart (1)  
[dcstew@hotmail.com](mailto:dcstew@hotmail.com)

Theresa Thomas (1)  
[randtthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randtthomas@sbcglobal.net)

Heath Wakelee (1)  
[hwakelee@gmail.com](mailto:hwakelee@gmail.com)

Dale Rubach (2)  
[rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com](mailto:rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com)

Jane Hall (2)  
[yardcard@usamedia.tv](mailto:yardcard@usamedia.tv)

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIR:

Appointed each year

### STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Don Rivenes, Conservation Chair (Nevada City)  
[rivenes@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rivenes@sbcglobal.net) (530) 477-7502

Jim Groeser, Education Chair (Nevada City)  
[redtailh@gmail.com](mailto:redtailh@gmail.com)

Patti DeLuca, Membership Chair  
[drpatti27@gmail.com](mailto:drpatti27@gmail.com)

Dale Rubach, Field Trip Chair  
[rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com](mailto:rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com)

Theresa Thomas, Program Chair  
[randtthomas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:randtthomas@sbcglobal.net)

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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*



Western Blackbirds perched near  
nest box at Western Gateway Park  
Photo by Sylvia Wright

## *Children's Faire*

The Children's Faire went well again this year.

-  The Pioneer Park annual, renaissance theme event saw over 2500 wide-eyed kids.
-  Our Audubon table featured cedar, rocking, shore bird pencil holders that kids creatively paint.
-  550 birds were painted this year.
-  Patty Deluca is one of the organizers, and Barbara Rivenes, Sue Graf, Dan Stewart, and Lorraine and Jim Groeser worked the tables.
-  Mick Tuttle and Jim Groeser built the pencil holders.
-  Audubon also supplies the shopping bags for the kids to cache their crafts at the happening.

*Photo credit omitted on back page of May Phoebe issue. Blackbird photo taken by Sylvia Wright*