



The Phoebe

Newsletter of the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society

Volume 38 Number 4 • Sept - Oct, 2017

President's Corner

Rudy Darling, SFAS President

Spring birding excitement came and went since the last issue of *The Phoebe*. Steve and Diane Rose and other Breeding Bird Atlasers were again rewarded with insights into the courtship, nest-building, and young-rearing activities of



Red-breasted Sapsucker
Photo by Rudy Darling

our summer birds. I loved finding a Red-breasted Sapsucker hole that erupted every few minutes with loud cheeping that could be heard many yards away every time an adult flew in with treats to stuff the bottomless pits of the nestlings' stomachs. Well, now the breeding season has been replaced by migration season as "our" spring birds make their way southwards to places where they actually spend more of their lives than around these parts. Year-round resident species start travelling in mixed-

Continued on page 2

SFAS GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, October 5, 2017 - 7:00 PM
Community Room, Helling Library, Nevada City

Mark Jeter will be speaking about the unlawful "Take" of raptors. Take is defined in Department of Fish and Wildlife code as hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill or attempt to do any of the aforementioned. He will talk about the variety of types of "taking": nest robbing, shooting, eagle feather trade, pigeon hobbyists, falcon trade to the Middle East and smuggling internationally for the pet trade.

Mark is an Assistant Chief with California Department of Fish and Wildlife in charge of state Operations. The programs he oversees are a Delta team, Special Operations Unit (SOU) which is an undercover team, Wildlife Trafficking Unit, Air Services, K-9 Units, Watershed Enforcement Team (WET) and a Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET). He has been with the Department for 26 years. 15 of those were spent in the field, 6 with the Special Operations Unit and now 5 in management.



"Eagle Feathers"
Photos by Rudy Darling

species feeding flocks. Be sure to keep an eye out for unusual species showing up at your feeder – like the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, an eastern species that showed up at my hummer feeder in August 2008. It's also a great time to visit local birding spots, especially lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. This is when those "rarely seen locally" shorebirds, gulls, jaegers, loons, grebes, waterfowl, etc. show up. Remember that "rare" is all relative to location and time. A Lapland Longspur that creates a birding frenzy locally in winter can't be missed on St. Paul Island, Alaska in June.

Summer is also the time when the Sierra Foothills Audubon Society (SFAS) starts planning for the next year. Our annual board retreat was held in July. I was again reminded of what a special group of people I have the privilege of working with. We were happy to welcome new board member, Theresa Thomas, who will be taking over the program committee chair. As we hashed out our past year and plans for the coming year, we came to realize that some of us have been on the board since the 1990's (our by-laws do not specify term limits) and most of us are getting older. Actually, all of us are getting older; it's just that most of us were already old to start with. Like most volunteer organizations, Sierra Foothills Audubon Society (SFAS) relies on the interests of its board and general membership to keep our activities going. Though we have a membership of slightly over 1000, our "active" members are far fewer, and the board has only 11 currently serving, each of which heads up one or more of the committees or programs. We are always looking for new blood (who knows when one of us might need a transfusion) to join the board or work on committees, especially

those from counties other than Nevada County. Our "sphere of influence" includes the Counties of Placer, Sierra, Yuba, and part of El Dorado. Our lone Placer County board member is Heath Wakelee, and none of the other counties are currently represented. Let myself or any board member know if you are interested in helping out.

In keeping with our mission statement - "***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***" – many of our committees are involved with education and conservation. Education endeavors are carried out by the Education Committee, the Program Committee, the Field Trip Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and *The Phoebe* newsletter. Conservation focus is provided by the Conservation Committee, the Scientific Grants Committee, the bluebird monitoring program, and the Christmas Bird Counts. Of course, any organization has to have some administration and SFAS is no exception. In addition to our four officers (president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary), we have a Finance Committee, a Membership Committee, a Publicity Committee, Fundraising efforts, webmaster, Facebook host, and a Nominating Committee. And last, but definitely not least, there is the Hospitality Committee (thanks to Jane Hall) educating our taste buds and conserving our ability to stay awake at membership meetings – mmmm, love those lemon bars!

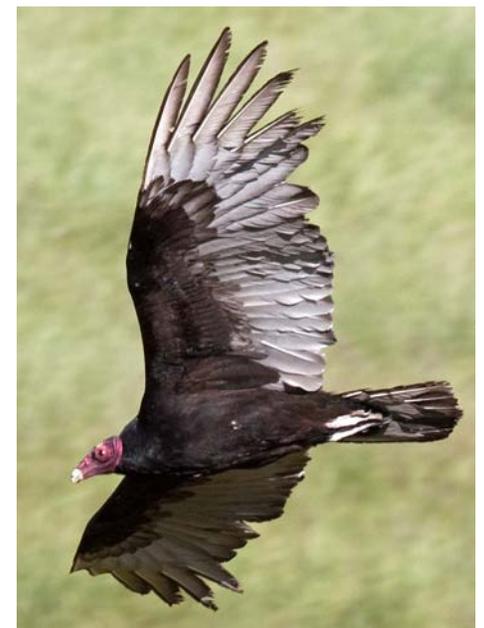
In the last Phoebe I talked about field trip committee chair, Dale Rubach, and the activities of our field trip program. In the coming issues I would like to introduce you to others of our excellent board

members and committees and the work they are doing – things that go on, often unappreciated, in the background. Things that I would never have known about had I not been talked into joining the board twenty or so years ago (board members - don't worry, no secrets will be leaked – the only tweeting this president knows how to do resembles bird songs). I was amazed at all the pies SFAS has its fingers in, and I think you will be, too (I especially enjoyed the four-and-twenty-blackbirds pie). Until then, enjoy the migration season.

JOKES!

□ A Vulture Joke

Two vultures were boarding a plane, each carrying a carcass under its wing. The flight attendant said, "You can't bring those on board." One of the vultures protested, saying, "But they told us we could each bring a carri-on."



SFAS Officers, Board and Committee Chairs

Officers:

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

William Hall, Vice President
yardcard@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:

Patti DeLuca (1)
drpatti27@gmail.com

Jim Groeser (1)
redtailh@gmail.com

Heath Wakelee (1)
hwakelee@gmail.com

Dale Rubach (2)
rugby7676-birds@yahoo.com

Jane Hall (2)
yardcard@usamedia.tv

Dan Stewart (1) Ex-officio
dcstew@hotmail.com

Nominating Committee Chair:

Appointed each year

Standing Committee Chairs:

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

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

Patti DeLuca, Membership Chair
walksfar7@gmail.com

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

William Hall, Program Chair
yardcard@usamedia.tv

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
woodswoman55@goskywest.com

The Phoebe is published five times per year on or about the first of January, March, May, September and November. Newsletter submissions are due by the 10th of each month preceding newsletter publication.



Nevada County Conservation Report

□ Don Rivenes, Conservation Chair Nevada County

Nevada City Commits To Transition To 100% Clean, Renewable Energy

On August 9, 2017 Nevada City became the latest in a growing movement of mountain communities to commit to move to 100 percent clean, renewable energy.

Surrounded by city council members, key members of the community and partners, Mayor Duane Strawser announced the city's near unanimous vote to ensure that the city's electricity will come entirely from renewable sources by 2030 and that all energy sources would be renewable by 2050.

Nevada City is now the 41st city in the country to establish a 100 percent renewable energy goal and comes on the heels of similar pledges from South Lake Tahoe, California and Park City, Utah, showing that mountain communities are taking control of their energy future.

"Nevada City's commitment for 100% renewable energy is driven by our community," said Mayor Duane Strawser. "The passion for the natural environment and our responsibility to take care of it is part of the fabric of what makes Nevada City a very special place to live. I challenge other communities across the nation to join us in this goal."

Nevada City's resolution is grounded in a burning reality as the growing impacts of climate change threaten this mountain community. Fourteen of the 15 hottest years on record globally have occurred since the beginning of this century, and 2017 is predicted to be the second warmest on record.

"If this summer is any indicator of what climate change can mean for the future of our community, it is time to do all we can to avoid its impacts," said Don Rivenes with the Nevada County Climate Change Coalition. "Over the last three years and particularly the last few months we have seen citizens from across our community come together to tackle climate change by helping our city officials take bold action. We're thrilled to see Nevada City commit to 100% renewable energy today."

Nevada City has an existing Energy Action Plan (EAP) with a goal of a 28 percent reduction in electricity use by 2020. The resolution will lead the way toward updating the EAP to transition to 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

"The South Yuba River Citizen's League is thrilled that Nevada City is joining other communities committing to 100% renewable energy", said Caleb Dardick. "We are proud that Nevada City supports our Wild and Scenic Film Festival that has brought activists and concerned citizens to learn about the latest efforts to protect the environment. Nevada City's environmental leadership is a model for the type of municipal advocacy that is needed nationwide."

"I am proud to be part of the community of Nevada City," said Paul Jorgensen owner of The Magic Carpet. "I look forward to helping others commit to and attain a transition to 100% clean energy. Our future depends

Continued on page 7

Field Journal

Beginner's Bird Walk - Miner's Ravine, Roseville

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

9:00 -11:00 AM

Leader: Heath Wakelee

(916-870-5253)

hwakelee@gmail.com

Meet at 9:00 AM at the bottom of the parking lot behind the UA Olympus Pointe movie theaters located at 520 N. Sunrise Ave., in Roseville. This is a paved, multi use trail with a gentle slope. We should see many oak woodland species of birds and the treat (we hope) will be White-throated Swifts near our turn around point. Round trip is about 1½ miles. Please call Heath with questions or for help with directions.

Bridgeport at South Yuba State Park

Saturday, September 9, 2017

7:30 AM

Leader: Carol/Bruce Malnor

(530-432-2724)

cmalnor@comcast.net

& Bob Slyker (530-205-9011)

bgsly@aol.com

We'll meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just past the Yuba River highway bridge). This 2-hour walk takes us by the Visitor's Center and along Kentucky Creek to the Yuba River. We may see common foothill species including California Scrub Jay, Oak Titmouse, California Quail, Black Phoebe, Acorn Woodpecker, or American Dipper.

Annual Auburn Area Turkey Vulture Migration Stakeout

Friday, September 15, 2017 to Sunday,

October 15, 2017

9:00AM - Noon

Leader: Deren Ross (aka the Vulture

Hustler) rossierran@gmail.net

Meet on a small hill above the American River Overlook Park parking lot, 885 Pacific Ave., Auburn. From British Columbia to South America, the southern migration of western Turkey Vultures is one of largest concentrations in North America and, from mid-September to mid-October, we have the unique opportunity to view them passing along the Sierra Nevada and directly through portions of Placer, Yuba, and Nevada Counties. During this time a small band of spotters, aka vulture hustlers,

will take count as they pass over Auburn. Fellow vulture watchers and buzzard busters (kids) are welcomed. Typically, your best opportunity to see the "super-flocks" and "super-kettles" is during the last week of September thru the first week of October. It's not unusual to see hundreds to a few thousand in an hour or two. It's strongly recommended that you spend at least an hour or so at the count site. Early bird gets the carrion. So bring a chair, your binocs, and get comfortable. There is plenty of parking, bathrooms, and a large oak for shade. For updated information and to follow the daily count reports, you can visit the Annual Auburn Area Vulture Migration Facebook group page at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1493579374034900/>

Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, September 17, 2017

8:00-10:00 AM

Leader: Dan Stewart (530-265-4677)

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 8:00AM 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.

Beginner's Bird Walk Miner's Ravine, Roseville

Thursday, October 5, 2017

9:00 -11:00 AM

Leader: Heath Wakelee

916-870-5253 hwakelee@gmail.com

Meet at 9:00 AM at the bottom of the parking lot behind the UA Olympus Pointe movie theaters located at 520 N. Sunrise Ave., Roseville. See September 5, 2017 listing for trip description.

Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Saturday, October 7, 2017

8:00-10:00AM

Leader: Jim Groeser (530-432-6596)

redtailh@gmail.com

Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd. at the south-east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is 5050 English Colony Road 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. 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, October 14, 2017

8:00—10:00 AM

Leaders: Bob Slyker (530-205-9011)

bgsly@aol.com

& Carol and Bruce Malnor

(530-263-9392)

cmalnor@comcast.net

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just over the highway bridge) on Pleasant Valley Rd. Easy walking on a wooded trail and along the river. We will see species common to an oak woodland/riparian ecosystem, such as Oak Titmouse, Black Phoebe, Downy and Acorn Woodpeckers, Spotted Towhee, White-crowned Sparrow, and possibly an American Dipper.

Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, October 15, 2017

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 17, 2017 listing for trip description.

Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Saturday, November 4, 2017
8:00-10:00AM
Leader: Rudy Darling (530-272-6504)
rdarling@sbbmail.com

Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd. at the south- east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is 5050 English Colony Road in Penryn. See October 7, 2017 listing for trip description.

Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, November 19, 2017
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 17, 2017 listing for trip description.

Bird Walk for Beginners - Traylor Ranch, Penryn

Sunday, November 19, 2017
8:00-10:00AM
Leader: Heath Wakelee
916-870-5253
hwakelee@gmail.com

Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Humphrey Rd. at the south- east corner of Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn. Note: the address for the Reserve is 5050 English Colony Road in Penryn. See October 7, 2017 listing for trip description.

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge and Sutter Buttes

Saturday, November 25, 2017
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM
Leader: Ted Beedy 530-274-7232
tbeedy@comcast.net

We always schedule this trip in late November/early December to maximize our chances of seeing large concentrations

of waterfowl and other water birds wintering in the Central Valley. Colusa NWR 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 Flour Garden next to Safeway in downtown Grass Valley (not at Brunswick!) at 8:30 am, and we'll 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.**

Bird Walk at South Yuba River State Park at Bridgeport

Saturday, December 9, 2017
8:00—10:00 AM
Leaders: Bob Slyker
(530-205-9011) bgsly@aol.com
& Caroland Bruce Malnor
(530-263-9392)
cmalnor@comcast.net

Meet at Bridgeport's north parking lot (just over the highway bridge) on Pleasant Valley Rd. Easy walking on a wooded trail and along the river. We will see species common to an oak woodland/riparian ecosystem, such as Oak Titmouse, Black Phoebe, Cedar Waxwing, Hermit Thrush, White-crowned Sparrow, Acorn Woodpeckers, and possibly an American Dipper.

Marysville Rice Fields Birding

Thursday, December 14, 2017
9:00-11:00 AM
Leaders: Jim Groeser 530-432-6596
redtailh@gmail.com
& Allen Bertke bertke@pacbell.net

Meet to carpool at the Pleasant Valley Rd. and Rte. 20 Park and Ride at leisurely 9 am--till 11 am, or longer. This is the prime time for the large winter migrants to be viewed and heard in the District 10 rice fields, near Marysville. We will go rain or shine.....all conditions seem to be interesting. Each car will have a CB radio. Bring a snack and plenty to drink. No hiking, just viewing from the road. Tundra Swans, Snow Geese, White-fronted Geese, Ibis, Red-tailed Hawks and more.

Bird Walk For Beginners In Grass Valley

Sunday, December 17, 2017
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 17, 2017 listing for trip description.

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.

Hummingbirds at Home: Audubon's Citizen Science Program

Watching hummingbirds is a favorite pastime for many birders and gardeners alike. These aerial wonders are fascinating and endearing as they flit about and feed on flowers and at feeders, visiting our yards and parks on their migration journeys during the spring.

Their small size belies their toughness – many hummingbirds migrate long distances and must eat several times their weight in nectar daily to stay alive. Their accelerated metabolism may keep hummingbirds moving at impressive speeds, but also means they live on the edge, consistently within hours of starving to death if they don't find food.

To live such high energy lifestyles hummingbirds must sync their migration and nesting times with the flowering of nectar-bearing plants. Climate change threatens to throw off this delicate balance, with unknown repercussions for hummingbirds. We know that scientific research will be essential for helping us understand how climate change is affecting hummingbirds and for learning what we can do about it. But it's not that simple. Collecting the necessary scientific data across large areas is difficult and costly.

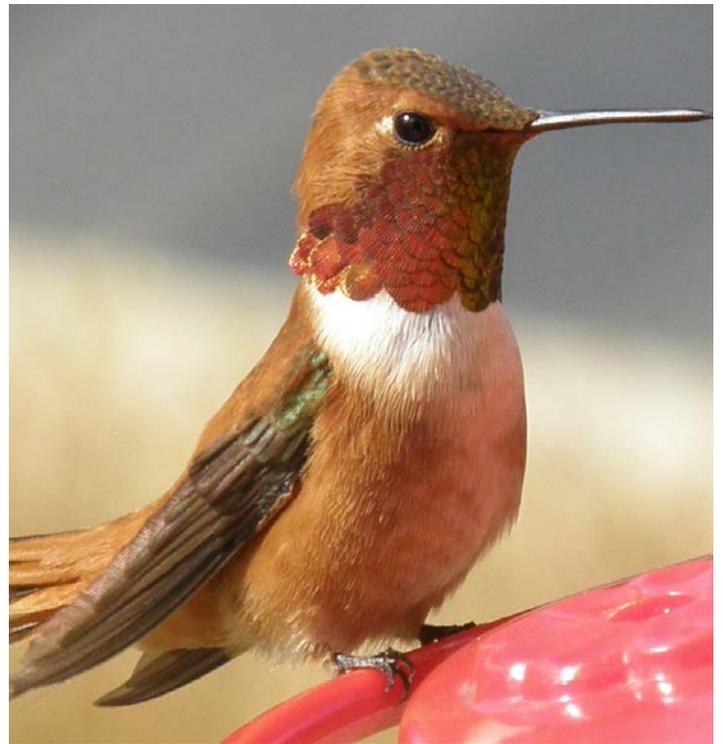
Since the spring of 2013, over 9200 volunteers have shared over 26,000 observations of feeding hummingbirds with Audubon through our newest citizen science program, Hummingbirds at Home. The purpose of this innovative program is to gather data that will help us better understand how changing flowering patterns and supplemental feeding by people relate to the timing of hummingbird migration and breeding success, and how hummingbirds are impacted by feeders, non-native nectar sources in gardens, shifting flowering times, and climate change.

Since nectar is a critical resource for hummingbirds, fueling their ability to breed after migration, Audubon's Hummingbirds at Home program asks people to document what flowering plants the hummingbirds are feeding on in their backyards as well as whether hummingbird feeders are supplied and used. The ultimate goal of Hummingbirds at Home will be to develop a series of region-specific recommendations to help hummingbird lovers make their gardens and "patches" better stocked with nutrient-rich nectar sources, especially during the critical post-migration

and breeding seasons.

In this family-friendly program, participants log hummingbird sightings and the flowering plants or feeders they visit online and with free mobile technology or via desktop computers. Participants can record surveys of their yards, as well as logging how often hummingbirds visit their nectar foods. As sightings are reported, participants can also view hummingbird sightings on the website in near real time!

To learn more about this exciting citizen science project, go to www.hummingbirdsathome.org



(above) a migrating Rufous Hummingbird

(below) a female Anna's Hummingbird

Photos by Rudy Darling



on it. Nevada City's success gives a blueprint to other mountain towns, cities, states and countries across the globe to be a part of the climate change solution."

"The Sierra Nevada Alliance (SNA) is proud to work with cities like Nevada City," said Jenny Hatch, SNA's Executive Director. "Nevada City recognizes the many impacts on the local economy and environment that climate change will bring. At Sierra Nevada Alliance, we bring together the passion to fight climate change with the passion to protect our mountain communities to make an unstoppable force for change. That's why it is no surprise that mountain cities are leading the way on renewable electricity."

About the Sierra Nevada Alliance

Since 1993, the Sierra Nevada Alliance has been protecting and restoring Sierra lands, water, wildlife, and communities. Their mission is to protect and restore the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada for future generations while promoting sustainable communities. They provide resources and networking opportunities to regional conservation groups, implement the Sierra Nevada AmeriCorps Program, and advocate on behalf of "The Range of Light."

Education Committee Report

By Jim Groeser

We see vultures all the time; lazing around in the sky....always sniffing. One doesn't call vultures vegetarians. Ever see a vulture doing a salad? Meat is the menu. Any part of any animal.

Well, I am ranting about vultures because around Sept. 15 our area will see the beginning of the annual 28,000 bird vulture migration south for the winter months. If you enjoy big birds, this event is your meat....back to the vulture diet. Anyway, thanks to Deren Ross, an accomplished Audubon bird man, we are aware of about 3 weeks of enthralling vulture birding in the Auburn area. Vultures, sometimes by the hundreds, gain altitude in the American River canyon and usually in almost a single line continue their journey south, eventually over Lake Isabella, east of Bakersfield, and then south to the warmer countries.

On Deren's observation hill lots of vulture educational info is passed around--a fun, learning, outdoor classroom from 9 am to near noon. You can mingle among a bunch of seasoned birders sitting behind their spotting scopes. There are days of many vulture flights and days of fewer flights. Deren hints that he may have the answer to the big days and the lesser days. The flights usually start near Bowman where the birds have roosted overnight.

SFAS Calendar

2017 Board Meetings - 7:00 p.m.
2017 Membership Meetings - 7:00 p.m.

A general meeting will be held the first Thursday of every second month: February 2, April 6, June 1, October 5, and December 7.

For meeting updates please visit www.sierrafoothillsaudubon.org

Donation to SFAS

Sierra Foothills Audubon Society welcomes gifts and bequests 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.



P.O. Box 1937
Grass Valley, CA 95945-1937

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 25
Auburn, CA

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

Education Committee Report...Continued from page 7



The July Children's Festival went well again in Pioneer Park, Nevada City. Around 2500 kids attended the Renaissance style event with about 27 craft tables. The two Audubon tables featured bird mask making with feathers, glitter and more and wooden shore bird cut outs for kids to paint up. The birdies end up rocking pencil holders.....and the pencil is included.

Audubon will be tabling again at the Bridgeport fall festival on Oct. 22, starting near 11 am. Check on the time of the event. Our table will feature 9 inch split pine branches with several one inch holes drilled in the flat side. A baling wire hanger is threaded thru holes, then the kids mash suet into the holes. We tablers impress on all the importance of suet for birds, all year long and especially in the winter when fat and berries are needed. Peanut butter suet seems to be most practical for mashing and birds sure go after it. So attend the fun fest and go home with a free suet feeder and more.

So, the above are some of the highlights of the annual vulture extravaganza. Hope you can join Deren and the small crowd during the migration and experience this major birding event. Please refer to the specifics in the Field Journal section of this issue.
