

News from the Field

Spring 2007 Sutter County CVBC Outing Report

On 28-29 April, 2007, the Central Valley Bird Club sponsored a weekend of field trips to Sutter County. On Saturday, six participants joined leaders Bruce Deuel, Ed Pandolfino, and John Ranlett for a morning's birding at the Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary, on the banks of the Feather River about 10 miles south of Yuba City. Under clear skies with calm winds and warm temperatures, we explored several of the well-groomed trails of this 430-acre preserve, marveling at the huge sycamores, valley oaks, and cottonwoods, and enjoying the wetlands of the ponds, sloughs, and river itself. Highlights of our birding here included Wood Ducks, a 25-nest Great Blue Heron rookery, an Osprey, Swainson's Hawks, Caspian Terns, an Olive-sided Flycatcher (very rare in Sutter (and my 225th species for the county), migrant Warbling and Cassin's Vireos, Nashville, Orange-crowned, Black-throated Gray, and Wilson's Warblers, Common Yellowthroat, and Western Tanager, and summer resident Ash-throated Flycatchers, House Wrens, Black-headed Grosbeaks, and Bullock's Orioles.

After lunch under the shade trees of the sanctuary parking lot, entertained by Black-chinned Hummingbirds and a Pacific-slope Flycatcher, we drove north along the Sutter Bypass levee, with its gallery riparian forest on the west and agricultural fields and managed wetlands on the east. Here we added many Greater White-fronted Geese, a good smattering of ducks and shorebirds (including Semipalmated Plover), American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Common Moorhen, singing Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

On Sunday 25 folks met in Yuba City early in the morning to be led into the Dean Place in the heart of the Sutter Buttes by Bruce Deuel, Don Schmoltd and Kathy Larsen of the Middle Mountain Foundation. We hiked up the shaded canyons, across the flower-speckled ridges, through a glen of rhyolite domes and boulders, and along the Chinese-built rock walls, enjoying the vistas and the cooler, breezier weather, while racking up a nice list of resident breeding and migrant birds. These included Golden Eagle, White-throated Swift, Violet-green Swallow, Canyon Wren, Phainopepla, and Rufous-crowned Sparrow among the former, and another Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hammond's Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Townsend's and Hermit Warblers, and a Chipping Sparrow among the latter. A special treat was supplied by the 40-50 singing and nest-building Lawrence's Goldfinches. Combining the lists of all participants, I came up with a total of 123 species (see next page) for the weekend.

Bruce Deuel

**Species List, Central Valley Bird Club Field Trip
Sutter Co., 28-29 April 2007**

Gr. White-fr. Goose	Anna's Hummingbird	Wilson's Warbler
Snow Goose	<i>Selasphorus</i> hummingbird	Western Tanager
Canada Goose	Acorn Woodpecker	Spotted Towhee
Wood Duck	Nuttall's Woodpecker	California Towhee
Gadwall	Downy Woodpecker	Rufous-crowned Sparrow
American Wigeon	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Chipping Sparrow
Mallard	Hammond's Flycatcher	Lark Sparrow
Northern Shoveler	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Savannah Sparrow
Canvasback	Black Phoebe	Song Sparrow
Lesser Scaup	Ash-throated Flycatcher	Lincoln's Sparrow
Bufflehead	Western Kingbird	White-cr. Sparrow
Ruddy Duck	Cassin's Vireo	Golden-cr. Sparrow
Ring-necked Pheasant	Hutton's Vireo	Dark-eyed Junco
California Quail	Warbling Vireo	Black-headed Grosbeak
Pied-billed Grebe	Western Scrub-Jay	Blue Grosbeak
Double-cr. Cormorant	Yellow-billed Magpie	Lazuli Bunting
American Bittern	American Crow	Red-winged Blackbird
Great Blue Heron	Tree Swallow	Western Meadowlark
Great Egret	Violet-green Swallow	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Snowy Egret	N. Rough-winged Swallow	Brewer's Blackbird
Green Heron	Cliff Swallow	Brown-headed Cowbird
Black-cr. Night-Heron	Barn Swallow	Bullock's Oriole
White-faced Ibis	Oak Titmouse	House Finch
Turkey Vulture	Bushtit	Lesser Goldfinch
Osprey	White-breasted Nuthatch	American Goldfinch
Northern Harrier	Canyon Wren	Lawrence's Goldfinch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Rock Wren	House Sparrow
Cooper's Hawk (nest)	Bewick's Wren	
Red-shouldered Hawk	House Wren	
Swainson's Hawk	Marsh Wren	
Red-tailed Hawk	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Golden Eagle	Western Bluebird	
American Kestrel	Hermit Thrush	
American Coot	American Robin	
Common Moorhen	Wrentit	
Semipalmated Plover	Northern Mockingbird	
Killdeer	European Starling	
Spotted Sandpiper	Cedar Waxwing	
Greater Yellowlegs	Phainopepla	
Western Sandpiper	Orange-crowned Warbler	
Least Sandpiper	Nashville Warbler	
Dunlin	Yellow Warbler	
Caspian Tern	Yellow-rumped Warbler	
Rock Pigeon	Black-thr. Gray Warbler	
Mourning Dove	Townsend's Warbler	
White-throated Swift	Hermit Warbler	
Black-ch. Hummingbird	Common Yellowthroat	

The only other birds reported seen by people birding on their own after the organized trips were Whimbrel and Wilson's Phalarope -- *Bruce Deuel*.