

CVBC Newsletter Summer 2020

Even in these unsettled times, the Club has been engaged in several issues that may be of interest to you. Since adaptation is survival, our meetings have been switched to an online virtual setup, fine for conducting business but short on face-to-face comradery. But in the interest of health and safety, we will continue to meet this way until we all feel it is safe to meet again in person. Through prudent management of the budget, the Club continues to be healthy financially and we hope that many of you will renew your membership online this fall. Details about membership follow later in the newsletter.

Symposium 2020

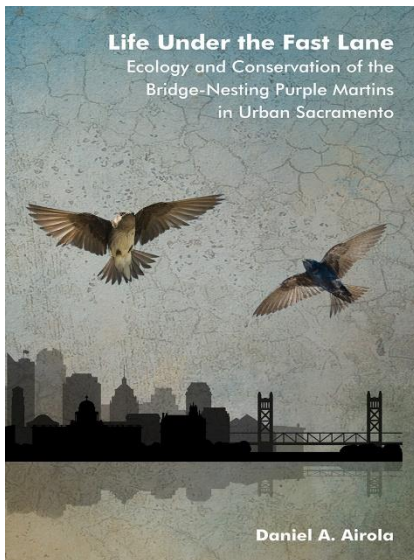
In that vein, most of you are aware that the symposium has been postponed to 2021. Sadly, the prospect of gathering 300 birders and speakers from across the country in an enclosed hotel ballroom seemed unwise. If conditions in the fall of 2021 warrant, we will be back in business with keynote speaker Scott Weidensaul leading the program. We are lucky that the Stockton Hilton Hotel, our partner for over 20 years, was flexible and understood the nature of the current situation.

Youth Scholarships

Because of your generosity, nine young birders were ready to go to camps all over the country this summer; however, you know what happened. Payments had already been made, but Cliff Hawley was able to recover all but our deposit amount from each venue. The deposits will serve as placeholders for next year's camps, and we are hoping that the young people will be able to attend in Summer 2021.

Board member John Harris has proposed that the Board award a stipend to a Central Valley college/graduate student doing bird-related research. In addition to developing young birders, we would like to encourage and develop young scientists. More will be coming about this as we start outreach.

Conservation



The Club has just published an important monograph on the long-studied and declining Sacramento Purple Martin population by our own Central Valley Birds editor Dan Airola, who is the leading expert in Purple Martin biology in California. This highly imperiled species is rapidly disappearing from the state.

The monograph details the population status and ecology of the species, as well as detailed guidance needed to avoid disturbance to nesting martins and their urban habitat. New analyses include population modeling to assess causes of decline, effects of neonicotinoid pesticides and climate change, and effectiveness of rehabilitation of "fall-out" nestlings. The monograph is published as a stand-alone book, the first in what we hope is a series of longer Special Publications. It is available for purchase on the website. We expect this monograph to be as significant as the Tricolored Blackbird double issue that was published by the Club a few years ago.

Life Under the Fast Lane is available at: <https://www.cvbirds.org>

The Club was also able to provide comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion of the Valley Rail Sacramento Extension Project. The railway extension would go through the critical and protected Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District Bufferlands property and cause impacts to oak woodland, grassland, and wetland habitats elsewhere in Sacramento County. Board member Dan Airola and

others were able to submit comments for the Club. We are fortunate to have professionals on the Board and in the membership, who can provide relevant comments when situations like this arise.

As per the Club's mission, we can speak in one voice to protect and advocate for birds in the Central Valley.

Racism and Inclusion

The disturbing events around the death of George Floyd and the harassment of Black birder Christian Cooper led the board to a thoughtful discussion of racism and diversity, or better yet, lack of diversity, in the Club. We were all horrified and saddened that the Black community still has a fundamentally different experience of life than most of us. That experience includes knowing that their life or the life of a loved one could be taken in even the most mundane situation. We felt that it was important to offer support and to issue a statement of inclusion and a condemnation of racist acts. But for this to be more than window dressing, we also made a commitment to work to increase diversity in the Club, to reach out to under-represented communities of color, and to speak up and defend anyone threatened with a racist act.

We are asking the membership to help us reach out to our communities of color. I like to think that birding brings out the best in people, and this moment in history is a time to put that thought into action.

Central Valley Bird Club Statement on Racial and Civil Justice

Racism is inexcusable. The members of the Central Valley Bird Club Board of Directors are sickened by the recent demonstrations of racism in this country. George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in the street. Christian Cooper, a birder like all of us, was falsely accused by a white woman in New York's Central Park. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. There are countless others.

One of the goals of our club is to provide opportunities to learn more about the birds of the Central Valley. This means opportunities for everyone. Our cities in the Central Valley are among the most diverse in the country. We support Black birders and all birders of color. Black lives matter.

The Central Valley Bird Club is committed to providing a safe and inclusive space for all of our current and prospective members. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to reach out to us at outreach@cvbirds.org

Duck Stamp Time



It is that time of year when the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp is now on sale at all federal refuges, sporting goods stores, and federal post offices. Duck stamps are also available at the ABA at no extra cost: <https://www.aba.org/store/2020-2021-duck-stamp/>

The program provides an essential tool to purchase refuge lands for consumptive and non-consumptive habitat conservation.

Last year, I posted this and received a great reply from one Branch Chief in California resource management programs, "The federal duck stamp program is arguably one of the greatest conservation programs in our history. Locally, Sacramento NWR, Stone Lakes NWR, and Merced NWR were purchased 100% with duck stamp funds. We could do so much more if birders purchased a stamp."

The artwork selection for the stamp each year is a national event. It is an important program and I encourage all birders who use refuges (state or federal) to purchase their annual stamp in support of conservation.

The following are two good duck stamp articles from Cornell's All About Birds:

- <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/eight-great-reasons-to-love-the-new-migratory-bird-stamp/>
- <https://www.allaboutbirds.org/news/view-from-sapsucker-woods-why-bird-watchers-should-buy-duck-stamps/>

To quote them:

"This \$25 purchase is perhaps the single simplest thing you can do to support a legacy of wetland and grassland conservation for birds."

"Approximately 98% of the \$25 Stamp directly funds land acquisition and easements that provide critical habitat for wildlife. "

I could not agree more.

Waterfowlers are obligated to purchase these stamps, and they do so willingly. It would be terrific if others including birders would purchase stamps annually. Increasing the base support of this program helps to increase the number of acres of wetland, grassland and other habitats conserved each year.

The funds are used to support expansion of refuges system-wide and are used for non-consumptive, closed zones as well. Funds from this program have been spent in all 50 states in support of refuge acquisitions. Some funds, such as in Hawaii, are used to conserve wetlands and forests for critically endangered species. Lastly, if you make this \$25 purchase, the Federal Duck Stamp gets you free admission to any national wildlife refuge that charges an entry fee. Each stamp is valid from July 1 through June 30 of the following year.

Andrew Engilis, Jr.
Curator Museum of Wildlife and Fish Biology
Dept of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology
One Shield Avenue
UC Davis, Davis, CA

On-line Learning Resources in the Time of Covid-19

Since most of us have extra time on our hands, make it a time to become a better birder. That can mean paying extra attention in your backyard or local patch, birding your county, getting involved with a local conservation issue, or checking into the many new online learning resources.

Go to <https://www.labirders.org/> for webinars by our two of our favorites, Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett. In the first webinar, Kimball leads a free talk about the expansion of Vermillion Flycatchers into Southern California. This species is also becoming more expected in Northern California and Kimball explains why.

The second seminar reviews the subspecies of White-crowned Sparrows, based on the definitive 1995 article in Birding by Jon Dunn, Kimball Garrett, and Jonathan Alderfer. This article, the basis for this webinar, is archived at the Club website: <http://www.cvbirds.org/birding-resources/birding-references/> Now is also a good time to review White-crowned Sparrows information before they start coming our way in the fall.

In the most recent webinar, Dowitchers, Jon provides status and distribution information and rules to follow to help identify Long and Short-billed Dowitchers.

All these highly recommended webinars are free and are available on the website at <https://www.labirders.org/webinars.html>

The Hawk Migration Association of North America has a handy hawk pocket guide at:
http://www.hmana.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/HMANA_Hawks_Guide_09.pdf

They also offer free webinars on hawk watching and raptor ID. Because they are based in Michigan, the emphasis will be on Eastern raptors. However, you cannot find a rarity unless you know what you are looking for, so take a peek: <https://www.hmana.org/lunch-and-learn/>

The San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory has been offering a series of webinars on bird ID, taught by Alvaro Jaramillo, and single lectures on a variety of interesting topics. Sign up for their newsletter to keep up with their events. <https://www.sfbbo.org/events.html>

For past issues of Central Valley Birds and other Club resources, see <https://www.cvbirds.org/>

Membership

If you who have not renewed your membership, emails will be going out in the Fall. You can renew on the Club website, or you can send a check to Frances Oliver at 1817 Songbird Place, Lodi, CA 95240.

Auto-renew on the website: <https://www.cvbirds.org/membership/>

- Regular membership \$30
- Family membership \$45
- Youth membership \$10
- Contributing \$60
- Life \$350 one-time

Vendor Message

We will miss seeing you this November and hope to see you again at the 2021 Central Valley Birding Symposium.

In the interest of staying in touch, some of our sponsors, vendors and exhibitors have prepared a message or special offer for Central Valley Bird Club members. Until we meet again, take care.

We miss you, CVBS friends!

10% Off All Optics

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Expires 3/1/2021



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2021 Belize and Guatemala – Birding two countries adventures in Tropical Birding - March 3, 2021

2021 Southeast Texas – Migration on the Upper Texas Coast, Piney woods, High Island & Bolivar Flats- April 6, 2021

2021 Wisconsin – April 13, 2021

2021 New Mexico – Southern Rocky Mtn. and High Plains, Birding for Spring Migration - April 20, 2021

2021 France – Provence Bird the Camargue, culture, cuisine and villages - May 1, 2021

2021 Nome and Barrow Alaska
 Birding the tundra to the arctic - May 28, 2021

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For details and registration visit
www.yellowbilledtours.com
 925-353-0266

Chet and Dorothy Wilcox, Wood Carving and Crafts

We are happy to take any new orders. Chet has been busy carving and painting birds, so he has been abiding by the stay at home order. I will take orders for placemats and totes as well. Just completed over 80 placemats in anticipation of the cancelled shows. I look at it as increasing my inventory for when we can once again get together. Contact: ccdwilcox@sbcglobal.net

Claudia Schwalm Nature Photography

My website lists local shops where some of my photography is on display and available for purchase. I also have quite an extensive collection of weavings and gourds from Peru and Ecuador, as well as molas from Panama. Anyone interested in viewing images of the designs that are available, may contact me via my photography website. claudiaschwalmphotography.weebly.com

Original Wildlife Artwork by René C. Reyes

For prints and original paintings of our local avian friends, visit my Etsy shop at: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/reyespaintings>.

For notecards and other requests, email me at: Rene.c.reyes@gmail.com.

Sacramento Audubon Society

Sacramento Audubon Society wishes all Central Valley Bird Club members a healthy summer and good birding. We will surely miss the symposium this year, but we are looking forward to your 2021 event.

As Outreach chairman, I have some free bird stickers and pencils for any of your members' children or grandchildren. Also, I have ball caps with SAS logo (\$20); and Birds of Sacramento Area check lists (\$1). If interested, you can contact me at: president@sacramentoaudubon.org or 916-889-4849.

Please visit us at our newly redesigned website : <https://www.sacramentoaudubon.org>

or at Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SacramentoAudubon>



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The graphic features a pair of grey Meopta HD binoculars against a dark background. To the left of the binoculars are three circular icons: 'MEOPTA HD', 'WATERPROOF', and 'NEW OPTICAL SYSTEM'. To the right is a yellow circular seal with 'RETAIL PRICE \$349.99' and 'WWW.MEOPTA.COM'.

FAQ's

Who is Meopta? Meopta, US owned, has been producing high-end European optics for over 85 years.

What is the warranty? Lifetime transferable, handled in Florida, US.

How good is the glass? Meopta uses German Schott glass with up to 99.8%+ light transmission.

Are they waterproof? Yes, up to 4 meters.

Where is Meopta made? In the Czech Republic, in the heart of Europe

Why are these binocs so good? German glass, Magnesium bodies, aluminum eyecups, rubber armor, 8-9' close focus, 6-7.5-degree field of view, 23 oz weight.

What other products are available? – Yes, many HD/ED binocs, Spotters

How do I find out more? <https://www.meoptasportsoptics.com/us/>

Dealer contact: Out of This World. 45100 Main St. Mendocino CA 95460
PH 707.937.1303 EMAIL info@outofthisworldshop.com

Please continue to support our vendors online until we can see them again.

The Board will continue to monitor the situation with Covid-19, and as soon as it is safe, we will announce new field trips. Until then, we will be working remotely to respond to issues pertinent to the conservation and protection of birds in the Central Valley. Stay safe, and we hope to see all of you in the field or at the 2021 Symposium.

All the best birding,

Patricia Bacchetti, President
bacpab@comcast.net