

American River Parkway Wildlife Count – Dec. 3, 2011

American River Natural History Association (ARNHA)

American River – Hazel Avenue to Mouth at Sacramento River

Area: All Areas

Number of Observers: 77

LEGEND: * = BIRD SPECIES SPOTTED IN 2011 (108)

** = NEW BIRD SPECIES SEEN IN 2011 (1)

NUMBER AFTER SPECIES = YEARS SEEN IN WILDLIFE COUNT

Once again, as has happened on the first Saturday of December for 27 years, teams of intrepid birders gathered along the American River for the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) Wildlife Count. The Count, established by Jack Hiehle in 1985, covers both sides of the American River, from Nimbus Dam to Discovery Park.

During this year's count, on December 3, unexpectedly robust winds contributed to the relatively low numbers of bird species found. 108 species were seen this year, compared with a record-setting 123 species in 2010 and 215 species in 2009. On the other hand, the outflow from the Nimbus Dam was only 2200 cubic feet per second, compared with last year's 6766 cu. ft./sec., which gave the shore birds and waterfowl a better chance of being spotted this year.

*Greater White-fronted Goose 6
 Snow Goose 6
 Ross's Goose 2
 Cackling Goose 5
 * Canada Goose 26
 Tundra Swan 16
 * Wood Duck 27
 *Gadwall 7
 * American Wigeon 13
 * Mallard 27
 Cinnamon Teal 2
 * Northern Shoveler 17
 *Northern Pintail 14
 Green-winged Teal 12
 * Canvasback 15
 Redhead 3
 Ring-necked Duck 9
 *Lesser Scaup 6
 Long-tailed Duck 1
 * Bufflehead 26
 * Common Goldeneye 27
 * Barrow's Goldeneye 26
 * Hooded Merganser 17
 * Common Merganser 27
 Red-breasted Merganser 2
 * Ruddy Duck 24
 Ring-necked Pheasant 22
 * Wild Turkey 25
 * California Quail 27
 Common Loon 5
 * Pied-billed Grebe 27
 *Horned Grebe 4
 Eared Grebe 6
 Western Grebe 9
 Clark's Grebe 1
 American White Pelican 3
 * Dbl-crested Cormorant 26
 American Bittern 3
 * Great Blue Heron 27
 * Great Egret 27
 * Snowy Egret 24
 *Cattle Egret 2
 * Green Heron 27
 * Black-crowned Night-Heron 19
 * Turkey Vulture 27
 * Osprey 20
 * White-tailed Kite 27
 *Bald Eagle 7

* Peregrine Falcon 6
 Virginia Rail 3
 * Sora 6
 *Common Moorhen 24
 * American Coot 27
 Sandhill Crane 1
 *Killdeer 27
 *Spotted Sandpiper 27
 *Greater Yellowlegs 27
 Long-billed Curlew 1
 Western Sandpiper 2
 Least Sandpiper 10
 Long-billed Dowitcher 8
 *Wilson's Snipe 11
 Red-necked Phalarope 1
 Bonaparte's Gull 1
 Mew Gull 25
 *Ring-billed Gull 27
 *California Gull 27
 *Herring Gull 26
 *Thayer's Gull 27
 Lesser Black-backed Gull 1
 Western Gull 4
 *Glaucous-winged Gull 27
 Glaucous Gull 4
 * Rock Pigeon 27
 Band-tailed Pigeon 4
 * Mourning Dove 27
 Barn Owl 14
 Western Screech-Owl 13
 Great Horned Owl 26
 Northern Pygmy-Owl 1
 Burrowing Owl 5
 Long-eared Owl 3
 * White-throated Swift 25
 * Anna's Hummingbird 27
 Costa's Hummingbird 2
 * Belted Kingfisher 27
 Lewis's Woodpecker 2
 * Acorn Woodpecker 27
 Red-napped Sapsucker 1
 * Red-breasted Sapsucker 26
 * Nuttall's Woodpecker 27
 * Downy Woodpecker 27
 Hairy Woodpecker 1
 * Northern Flicker 27
 Pacific-slope Flycatcher 2
 * Black Phoebe 27

* Bushtit 27
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4
 * White-breasted Nuthatch 27
 Brown Creeper 14
 Rock Wren 12
 * Bewick's Wren 27
 * House Wren 27
 Pacific (Winter) Wren 10
 Marsh Wren 10
 American Dipper 1
 Golden-crowned Kinglet 19
 * Ruby-crowned Kinglet 27
 * Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 25
 * Western Bluebird 26
 * Hermit Thrush 26
 * American Robin 25
 *Varied Thrush 18
 *Wrentit 13
 * Northern Mockingbird 27
 California Thrasher 1
 * European Starling 27
 * American Pipit 26
 * Cedar Waxwing 27
 * Phainopepla 26
 * Orange-crowned Warbler 27
 Northern Parula 1
 * Yellow-rumped Warbler 27
 *Black-throated Gray Warbler 21
 Townsend's Warbler 8
 Palm Warbler 1
 Black-and-white Warbler 1
 Common Yellowthroat 2
 Wilson's Warbler 2
 Western Tanager 4
 * Spotted Towhee 27
 * California Towhee 27
 *Rufous-crowned Sparrow 6
 Chipping Sparrow 5
 * Lark Sparrow 24
 Savannah Sparrow 21
 * Fox Sparrow 27
 * Song Sparrow 27
 * Lincoln's Sparrow 27
 * White-throated Sparrow 15
 * White-crowned Sparrow 27
 * Golden-crowned Sparrow 27
 * Dark-eyed Junco 27
 * Red-winged Blackbird 26

| | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Northern Harrier 23 | * Say's Phoebe 7 | Tricolored Blackbird 3 |
| * Sharp-shinned Hawk 27 | Loggerhead Shrike 3 | * Western Meadowlark 27 |
| * Cooper's Hawk 27 | Northern Shrike 1 | **Yellow-headed Blackbird 1 |
| * Red-shouldered Hawk 27 | Cassin's Vireo 1 | * Brewer's Blackbird 27 |
| Swainson's Hawk 1 | * Hutton's Vireo 22 | * Brown-headed Cowbird 11 |
| * Red-tailed Hawk 27 | * Western Scrub-Jay 27 | * Purple Finch 18 |
| Ferruginous Hawk 1 | * Yellow-billed Magpie 27 | * House Finch 27 |
| Rough-legged Hawk 2 | * American Crow 27 | Pine Siskin 15 |
| Golden Eagle 1 | Horned Lark 3 | * Lesser Goldfinch 27 |
| * American Kestrel 27 | * Tree Swallow 18 | * American Goldfinch 27 |
| * Merlin 14 | * Oak Titmouse 27 | * House Sparrow 27 |
| NEW SPECIES: ONE | | |

SUMMARY: Wildlife spotted on December 3, 2011, along the American River Parkway in 11 areas (plus 3 canoes in the river between Grist Mill and Howe Ave.) 77 observers who spotted a total of 108 bird species and 18 other animal species.

Leader Robert Sewell won for the year with the greatest percentage increase of bird species sighted in his area over the area three year average.

Weather: Clear and Cool with sustained and gusting winds

River CFS: 2,200

Number of Observers: 77

Year: 2011

Bird Species: Number Seen: 108

Mammal Species: Number Seen: 12

Other Species: Number Seen: 2

Total Different Bird Species seen in 27 years: 177

Most in one year: 123 species in 2010

MAMMALS AND OTHER SPECIES COUNT, 2011

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 58 Deer (11 Bucks, 32 Does, 15 Fawns) | 4 House Cats | 4 California Sea Lion |
| 26 Ground Squirrels | 0 Beavers (scat) | |
| 48 Gray Squirrels | 1 Skunks (smell) | 0 Fence Lizards |
| 70 Fox Squirrels | 0 Black Rat | 0 Alligator Lizard |
| 0 Coyotes | 4 Raccoons (tracks) | 2 Western Pond Turtles |
| 2 River Otters | 2 Muskrat | 3 Pond Slider Turtle |
| 8 Jackrabbits | 0 Pocket Gopher (mounds) | 0 Pacific Tree Frogs |
| 1 Cottontail Rabbits | 0 Mole (broken ground trails) | 28 Wild Turkeys |