

Field Trips Jan 12 through Feb 11, 2019. Scheduler Richard Barbieri, offleash56@yahoo.com, 916-761-1124.

Saturday, January 12, 8am
Sailor Bar, American River Parkway
Leader: Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722
matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Join Mark for a morning walk checking out the resident and wintering birds. This is a good trip for beginners and experienced birders too, with Mark sharing his expertise on identification of the birds and their vocalizations. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way just west of Hazel. Meet at the last parking lot on your left, just before the boat launch parking area. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, January 13, 8am
Teal Bend
Leader: Richard Barbieri, 916-761-1124
offleash56@yahoo.com

Join Richard to explore the rich habitat at Teal Bend Golf Course. He will explore a variety of habitats, including wooded and riparian areas, and hopes to see a variety of wintering and resident birds. Meet at the Raley's Shopping Center on Arena Blvd at 8:00 a.m. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd., go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd., and then turn right into the parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1.

Thursday, January 17, 9:30am
Colusa National Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Dan Tankersley, 916-662-1951
dantank1016@gmail.com

Approximately 1 hour north of Sacramento, the Colusa NWR is a great location to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be plenty of ducks and geese, as well as other wetland species, passerines and raptors. We will spend a good amount of time on the viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will finish our outing to this wonderful NWR by taking the short auto tour. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Meet Dan at the Colusa NWR in the parking area near the restrooms at 9:30. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Williams; take Exit 578, Hwy 20 east to the refuge entrance, approximately 6 miles. Rain, strong wind, or thick fog cancels. No lunch break, but bring snacks and liquids. The trip will end around 1:00pm.

Saturday, January 19, 8am
Wintering Raptors in the Central Valley
Leader: Craig Swolgaard, 530-334-3023
cswol@sbcglobal.net

A published study found that California's Central Valley is one of the richest wintering areas for raptors in the country. The trip will include the whole length of Meiss Road in Sacramento County, plus a good portion of Michigan Bar Road. Many species of raptors have been found along this productive drive during the winter months, including Golden Eagle, Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, White-tailed Kite, Prairie Falcon, Merlin, and Burrowing Owl. This is also a good area to find Mountain Bluebirds in winter and has potential for other vagrants. Meet at the small public parking lot on Highway 16 and Sunrise Blvd. at 8 AM. We will try to car pool to keep the car numbers down, as some of the route uses pullouts on a busy highway. Bring a

spotting scope if possible. Trip may go into early afternoon so water and food may be a good idea.

Saturday, January 19, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk

This family friendly nature walk will be at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers and Wild Turkeys are abundant, but sharp eyes and ears may find Spotted Towhees or Bushtits as well. Reservations are not needed; families can simply show up and enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists from the nature center and birders Larry Hickey and Gesna Clarke from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, January 20, 7am
Yolo/Solano Big Day
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net

Get set for a full day of birding "hot spots" of Yolo and Solano Counties to see how many species we can tally. We have had as many as 121 species on this trip. We will begin at Lake Solano Park and Putah Creek for unique passerines and waterfowl, then head down Highway 113 to the Robinson Road area for raptors and possibly Mountain Plover; then to the Yolo Bypass and the Davis Landfill for more waterfowl, shorebirds and gulls. The itinerary can change depending on conditions and reports. For those interested, Scott would like to have a casual dinner nearby to tally up species and talk about what was seen. Scopes and FRS radios are helpful. Bring lunch, snacks, and dress for changeable weather. Meet Scott at the Mace Blvd Park & Ride at 7:00 am. From Sacramento, take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd (Exit #75); turn right at the light, then right again at the signal light to the Park & Ride entrance, a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Rain cancels.

Tuesday, January 22, 8am
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area
Leader: Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

This great seasonal floodplain is only 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. A variety of ducks, geese and shorebirds frequent the flooded fields, and American Bitterns and White-faced Ibis are often seen. Raptors and owls are also a possibility. From Sacramento on I-80 west, take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway, East Chiles/Rd. 32A, Exit #78. Turn right at the stop sign, go under the freeway, make a left up onto the levee; then drop down into the Wildlife Area. The trip begins at the first parking lot, Lot A, on your left. This trip sometimes runs into early afternoon, so you may wish to bring water and snacks. FRS radios can be helpful.

Thursday, January 24, 8am
Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads
Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com

On this morning trip we will start by birding the Lincoln water treatment plant. There are several large ponds which can hold a variety of ducks. From the plant, we will drive some nearby backroads of Placer county, searching flooded fields for wintering waterfowl and shorebirds. We will search a small riparian area for sparrows, woodpeckers, and other resident species. Several

open dry fields may provide hunting grounds for raptors. Meet at the parking lot of Dry Creek Community Park at 9235 Walerga Road in Roseville at 8 AM. FRS radios will be helpful.

Saturday, January 26, 8am

Tonzi Road and Western Amador County

Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636

calaveri.gary@gmail.com

Join Gary on a trip featuring the waters and back-country roads of the Sierra foothills in western Amador County. There is a surprising variety and number of passerines and raptors in this area, with a possibility of Lewis's Woodpeckers, Hermit and Varied Thrushes, sparrows, Prairie Falcons and Ferruginous Hawks. This trip also includes stops for waterfowl and shorebirds at ponds near Sutter Creek and Lone. We may also stop at Lake Comanche, where a day-use fee is charged. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for winter conditions. Bring along hand held radios if you have them, food and water. Meet Gary at the Local Bean Cafe in the Rancho Murieta shopping center. Turn right at the 1st traffic light; junction of Hwy 16 (Jackson Rd) and Murieta Drive, and right again just past the fire station.

Sunday, January 27, 8am

Bushy Lake

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999

mohrdd@gmail.com

Meet Darrell in the cul-de-sac at the south end of Ethan Way, just south of where Hurley Way goes into Gate 12 of Cal Expo. Darrell will be looking for a variety of resident and wintering species. With most leaves fallen from the trees, there will be better views of the lake, and Wood Ducks are a good possibility. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. You may want to bring water. This is a good trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Saturday, January 26

Sunday, January 27, 4pm till sunset

Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds

Cosumnes River and Delta area

Trips run by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.

Coordinator: Mike Savino, 916-446-1392

View Sandhill Cranes and the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors which feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Meet on the deck of the Visitor Center at 4pm. From Sacramento, take I-5 south to Twin Cities Road, Exit #498; go left (east) to the stop sign at Franklin Blvd; turn right (south) on Franklin and, driving through the Preserve, watch for the Visitor Center parking lot on your left. Further directions and maps are available at www.cosumnes.org. NOTE: A new photography option is available; a digiscope allowing those with smart phone cameras to attach them and use the scopes to take pictures. Join us and try it.

Thursday, January 31, leaving at 7:30am

Gray Lodge SWR

Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849

biancowm@yahoo.com

Join Bill to check out this State Wildlife Refuge. Bill will take the vehicle driving route and also walk one of the trails. Bring snacks and water, and meet Bill at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. before the 7:30 departure time. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd.; go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Road, and then turn right into the

parking area. We will meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Note that there is a \$4.32 per person charge at the refuge.

Friday, February 1, 8am

Sailor Bar

Leader: Mark Sawyer, 916-968-1661

Marksawyer3383@yahoo.com

Join Mark for a morning walk checking out the resident and wintering birds. This is a good trip for beginners and experienced birders too. Meet at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue, off Winding Way, just west of Hazel. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Saturday, February 2, 9am in Merced County

Merced & Mariposa County grasslands and foothills

Leaders: Dan Brown and Tim Fitzer

Dan: 916-704-0951, naturestoc@aol.com

Join Dan and Tim for a full day birding the grasslands and foothills of Merced & Mariposa Counties. We will bird a 35 mile route of mostly unfenced grassland roads. This area is known for big numbers of raptors, including all the winter species (Ferruginous, Rough-legged, Prairie Falcon, Merlin). On a trip to the area a few years ago, we had 10 Ferruginous Hawks, 5 Rough-legged Hawks and numerous individuals of both eagle species! Meet Dan and Tim just east of the Le Grand road exit (179) off of highway 99 in Merced County at the corner of E. Le Grand Rd and Silveira Way at 9am. This exit is south of Merced, about a 2 1/2 hour drive from Sacramento. This is a long drive, so a possible strategy might be to drive down to the area and spend Friday night in Turlock or Merced. Bring lunch, water, layered clothes, scopes and FRS radios if you have them.

Sunday, February 3, 8am

Mather Lake

Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767

Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com

Mather Lake is one of Wayne's favorite birding locations, and he usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join him to look for a nice variety of resident and migrant birds. Possibilities include White-tailed Kites, California Quail, American Bittern, Green Heron and Common Yellowthroat. Meet in the parking lot of Mather Regional Park; from Highway 50, go south on Zinfandel about 2-1/2 miles. After crossing Douglas Blvd. take the first left into the park area. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning birders.

Wednesday, February 6, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Larry Hickey, 916-962-0387

Larryhickey1@gmail.com

Join Larry for this morning walk looking for wintering and resident birds. Along the river mergansers, goldeneye, herons and egrets can be found in the backwaters. California Quail, Western Bluebirds and Lark Sparrows may be found in the park area and various raptors may be spotted. Trip will end before noon. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east, just under 1 mile, and it runs into the park. Meet along the first parking area on your left, just after the kiosk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders.

Saturday, February 9, 7:30am

Grizzly Island and Rush Ranch

Leaders: Daniel and Pam Thompson, 916-799-1093

keiran247@hotmail.com

Meet Scott Hoppe at the West Sac. Park & Ride for voluntary carpooling to Fairfield to meet Pam and Daniel at their home. After a quick pitstop, coffee and a bird around their back yard, they will lead a trip over to Grizzly Island where you'll visit Rush Ranch and have a bird around Grizzly Island. Please bring lunch and liquids. Hiking shoes or boots are highly recommended. We plan on birding till around 3pm. The only thing that will cancel this trip would be pouring rain. Light rain or showers . . . we are GO to bird!

Meet at the Park & Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Avenue, Exit #81, turn left at the light, and then left again into the Park & Ride lot.

Sunday, February 10, 8am

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276

Johnyork157@yahoo.com

John will be looking for the enormous flocks of ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles are a possibility. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks and hydration as the refuge has no restaurants and birds poop in the water. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd., go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd., and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Please note there is a \$6 day use fee for each vehicle at the refuge, or buy a Duck Stamp and support all our national refuges. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Sunday, February 10

Beginning Birding Field Trip for Adults

William Pond Park

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip with 3 Audubon trip leaders, it's a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this winter trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and look for some of our wintering birds, as well as residents. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, put Beginning Birder in the subject line.