

# Field Trips: June mid-July

## Field Trip Information

For questions regarding the trip or to check the status of the trip in case of unfavorable weather conditions, please call the trip leader first. If he or she cannot be reached, for trips through through June 11 contact the scheduler Andi Salmi, andisalmi@yahoo.com. For trips from June 14 through July 11 contact the scheduler Dan Brown, naturestoc@aol.com, 704-0951.

Due to insurance requirements, Sacramento Audubon leaders are not allowed to organize ridesharing/carpools. Participants are, however, encouraged to voluntarily share rides. Any carpool arrangements are private agreements between the driver and the passengers. Drivers must carry adequate insurance coverage. Please be courteous and share gas expenses with the driver. FRS radios can be helpful on all trips. Starting times are the actual time the trip leaves the meeting place. Try to arrive early, especially if you want driving directions or plan to carpool. Groups must make prior arrangements with the trip leader. In case of INCLEMENT WEATHER contact the trip leader for trip status.

### **Saturday, June 3, 7am**

#### **Crystal Basin**

**Leaders: Phyllis Wilburn,  
530-642-9942, abirder@aol.com**

**Sue Darst, 530-902-3427  
sue.darst51@gmail.com**

**Jane Van Kessel, 524-4157  
jvankessel55@comcast.net**

Phyllis will visit a variety of sites along Icehouse Road and side roads. The group will be looking for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird, warblers and vireos, and other birds of the area. They hope to see the beautiful Calliope hummingbird again. Beautiful wildflowers may also be in bloom. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking. Both beginners and experienced birders are welcome. Meet Sue and Jane at the Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit#30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd. and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. You can also meet Phyllis at 8 am in the Crystal Basin area. Take Hwy 50 to the Riverton Rd. (Crystal Basin) turnoff. Turn left and drive a short distance to the large pullout on the left side of the road.

### **Sunday June 4, 6am**

#### **Mosquito Ridge, Placer County**

**Leader: Richard Barbieri, 761-1124  
offleash56@yahoo.com**

Richard will explore several productive areas outside of Foresthill along Mosquito Ridge Rd, including the Placer Big Trees Grove. Expect good numbers of mid-elevation breeding birds. There are no services, so bring all of the food and liquids you will need for the day. The trip will end late afternoon. We will be walking about 2-3 miles over easy to moderate terrain at a comfortable pace. Meet at the Park and Ride by Brookfield's Restaurant, 1817 Taylor Road, in Roseville. From Sacramento on I-80, take the Eureka Road offramp

(Exit 105A) and continue straight through the signal light at Eureka Road and you'll be on Taylor Road. Turn left just past the Shell Station, and park on the right in the Park and Ride.

### **Tuesday, June 6, 7am**

#### **Granite Springs Road and Crystal Basin**

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer, 870-5207  
spkua2@comcast.net**

**Ann Burris, 947-7573  
burris.nellieann@gmail.com**

Join Tim and Ann for a full day of fun and birding. We will start by driving Granite Springs Road, then head into Crystal Basin for the remainder of the trip. We hope to find flycatchers, MacGillivray's Warblers, woodpeckers, Mountain Bluebirds and Calliope Hummingbird. If we are lucky, we will find Mountain Quail with young. The trip will last into the afternoon so bring liquids, lunch, snacks and warm clothes in case of chilly weather. Please bring FRS Radios if you have them. Meet at Bella Bru in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right. We will leave promptly at 7am.

### **Wednesday June 7, 6:30am**

#### **Glenn Hall Park, Paradise Beach American River Parkway**

**Leader: Sally Walters Schmoltd  
710-1077, bajaowl@gmail.com**

Join Sally for her monthly bird walk along the levee and willow covered sand bars of the American River. Sally will be looking for resident breeding birds, wrens, towhees, and other small passerine birds. From Highway 50 take Howe Ave north to Fair Oaks Blvd. Turn left onto Fair Oaks and cross over the American River. Turn right on Carlson Ave, which is the first stop light past the American River bridge. Continue

on Carlson Ave to its end, at Glenn Hall Park. This is a City Park so there is no charge for American River access. Meet on top of the levee. This will be a fairly easy walk, but expect some uneven terrain, gravel, sand, and rock cobble. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

### **Saturday and Sunday, June 10-11, 8am onsite both Saturday and Sunday Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass**

**Leader: Gary Fregien 708-0636  
calaveri.gary@gmail.com**

This trip offering is designed to accommodate both those who want to do an overnighter and those wanting to bird either the Sierra Valley or the Yuba Pass area as a day trip. We will bird the Sierra Valley area by car on Saturday, a full day's excursion, including a very productive riparian stream zone adjacent to a previous wildfire located at the southern end of the valley near Loyalton/Sierra Brooks. On Sunday we will bird the Yuba Pass area until early afternoon. Lodging is available in Truckee, Sierraville, Portola and Sierra City. US Forest Service campgrounds are located between Truckee and Sierraville on Hwy 89, and between Yuba Pass and Sierra City on Hwy 49. Gary plans to travel to the area on the Friday preceding the fieldtrips; thus, he will not be reachable by email or phone after mid-afternoon Thursday, 6/8. Meet Gary at the junction of Hwys 89 and 49 in Sierraville on Saturday, and/or at the Yuba Pass Sno-Park parking lot, at the summit, on Hwy 49 west of Sierra Valley on Sunday. Carpooling is encouraged. Bring along hand held radios, food and water, and dress for probable cool mornings and warm afternoons.

### **Wednesday, June 14, 7:30am**

**Sacramento Bypass/Yolo County  
Leader: Maureen Geiger, 281-6652  
mkgeiger@comcast.net**

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This dense riparian area is an excellent spot for a variety of species. June should be good for summering and resident species and even late migrants. Plan for a couple hours of walking on a mostly flat trail, with no restrooms. From Sacramento, take Bus 80/Hwy. 50 to the Harbor Blvd Exit #1B. Go right at end of off-ramp and through the light at Reed Avenue where Harbor becomes North Harbor. Then drive 1.3 miles (note that North Harbor becomes Old River Road) and park on the large gravel parking area on the right opposite Road 126. Parking is extremely limited at the trailhead, so we will park in this lot, and condense into as few cars as possible.

**Family Friendly Trip and Beginners Too!  
Saturday, June 17, 3pm**

**Yuba Gap Evening Bird Walk**

**Leaders: Sandra Steurer, 580-8398**

**sasteurer@yahoo.com**

**Wendy Money, 205-3194**

**wendydoug@msn.com**

Join Sandra and Wendy to look for mountain birds and Common Nighthawks. Meet at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. Bring a sack dinner or snacks, lots of water and comfortable shoes, a light coat for the evening and MOSQUITO REPELLENT. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike. Loaner binoculars will be available.

**Sunday, June 18, 8am**

**Ancil Hoffman Park**

**Leader: Mark Martucci, 833-6722**

**matuchbirdman@yahoo.com**

Mark will be looking for resident and nesting birds on this 2 to 4 hour walk. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. Meet Mark at the main parking lot across from the golf course. From California Ave in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it to the golf course area parking.

**Thursday, June 22, 7am**

**Bushy Lake/Cal Expo Floodplain**

**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 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 species; Wood Ducks are a good possibility on the lake. This will be a 1 to 2 mile hike that will take 2 to 3 hours. Bring water and sunscreen.

**Saturday, June 24, 7:30am**

**Indian Grinding Rocks State Park**

**Leader: Cliff Hawley, 300-2495**

**yellowhammerCA@gmail.com**

Join Cliff for a day of birding at this State Park. Birdlife varies seasonally, but many species are seen year round, including Scrub and Steller's Jays, California Quail, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Northern Flickers, Hermit Thrushes, and California Thrashers. In summer the bright colors of the Western Tanager, Northern Oriole, Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds can be seen in the woods. A bird list is available at the museum. Meet Cliff at the Starbucks parking area in the College Greens Shopping Center in the 8300 block of Folsom Blvd (near Florin-Perkins, between Watt and Howe) at 7:30am. Trip goes till 2 or 3pm so bring water and lunch. Some light to moderate walking.

**Sunday, June 25, 7:30am**

**River Bend Park**

**Leader: Dan Brown, 704-0951**

**naturestoc@aol.com**

On this walk through the oak woodland to the river, we'll look for our summer birds on nests or in cavities, singing and feeding young. Some wildflowers should still be blooming. This is a good trip for beginners. Trip will end before noon. From Folsom Blvd, between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required

**Tuesday, June 27, 8am**

**Estates Drive, American River access**

**Leader: Craig DeMartini, 599-3300**

**cloudwalk7@icloud.com**

This area is a great example of established riparian habitat. The American River meanders, creating islands and ponds where we will look for Wood Ducks, herons, egrets, and kingfishers. Further inland there are several very old Valley Oaks along a trail that has been referred to as the Avenue of Giants, where we will look for towhees, wrens and nuthatches. From Watt Ave, take American River Drive east to Estates Dr. Turn south on Estates until it dead-ends at the levee. This is a good trip for beginners.

**Friday, June 30, 7am**

**Ice House Road**

**Leader: Mark Sawyer, 968-1661**

**MarkSawyer3383@yahoo.com**

This area, about 70 miles east of Sacramento, is good for Lazuli Bunting, Green-tailed Towhee, Mountain Bluebird,

flycatchers, warblers and other surprises. Mountain wildflowers are a possibility so bring your flower field guides. Several stops will be made along Ice House Road and side roads for short walks. Bring lunch, liquids, and footwear suitable for hiking and wet meadows. Meet Mark at the Bella Bru Cafe, south end of the Raley's parking in El Dorado Hills. From Hwy 50 east take Exit #30B; turn right on El Dorado Hills Blvd and go north under the freeway to the shopping center on your right.

**Saturday, July 1, 7am**

**Point Reyes National Seashore**

**Leader: Dan Williams, 714-943-1266**

**Jaegermaestro@yahoo.com**

Dan will bird the usual places at Point Reyes, including the Fish Docks, Lighthouse and Abbott's Lagoon if the weather is good. If it's too foggy at the coastal spots, he'll bird the onshore locations. Meet Dan at 7am at the Park and Ride off I-80 in West Sacramento. From Sacramento, take the West Capitol Ave Exit #81; turn left at the light and then left again into the Park and Ride lot. Bring fluids and dress for changeable weather.

**Sunday, July 2, 7:30am**

**Mather Lake**

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 876-0457**

**Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake usually turns up quite a list of bird species. Join Wayne 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. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

**Saturday, July 8, 7am**

**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway**

**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 225-3999**

**mohrdd@gmail.com**

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the resident birds. Meet him at the boat launch parking area at the very end of the entrance road. This is a good trip for beginners. 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.

**Sunday, July 9, 6am**

**Loney Meadow**

**Leader: Scott Hoppe, 835-8471  
shoppe01@surewest.net**

Loney Meadows is a beautiful mountain meadow north of Grouse Ridge near Bowman Lake at about 6000' elevation. Scott has seen 8 species of woodpecker there (including Pileated, Black-backed and Williamson's Sapsucker); also Townsend's Solitaire, Calliope Hummingbird, Willow Flycatcher, 7 species of warbler and previous trips have produced Bald Eagles. We will be hiking about 2-3 miles over fairly level terrain with only short, moderate inclines. Meet Scott at 6am at the Horseshoe Bar Road Park and Ride in Loomis, Exit 110 off I-80. The meadow is about an hour and half's drive from there. Bring water and lunch or a snack.

**Tuesday, July 11, 8:30am**

**Yuba Pass and Sierra Valley**

**Leader: Dan Tankersley, 662-1951  
dtank1016@gmail.com  
email preferred**

Though much quieter than last month, the birds should still be present. We may see feeding activity and possibly some newly fledged young. At the pass we will look for Calliope Hummingbird, White-headed Woodpecker, Western Tanager and other montane species. After lunch we will head down to the valley in hopes of finding Sage Thrasher, Brewer's and Vesper Sparrows and others. Bring lunch and be prepared for changing weather conditions, as summer thunder storms occur here this time of year. We'll be walking in the morning at high elevation and over uneven trails at some spots. Most of the birding in the valley will be in or near our vehicles. FRS radios, scopes, and cameras are useful. We plan to end around 3pm, but sometimes go extra innings. From Sacramento, it's approximately 2.5 hours to Yuba Pass. Head east on I-80; take exit 188B at Truckee and turn left (north) on 89; drive 25 miles to the intersection of highways 89 and 49 in Sierraville. Turn left on Hwy 49 and go about 11 miles to Yuba Pass. Follow signage for Yuba Pass campground and meet in the large parking area to the left of the highway.



*Ash-throated Flycatcher*  
Kirsten Munson

## Field Trip Findings

**Cosumnes River Preserve (5/6)**—Leader Dan Williams reported: “We began our day at Stone Lakes NWR. A quick jaunt around the wetlands trail there started our day off with multiple soaring Swainson’s Hawks (of course), a Red-tailed Hawk, and an American Kestrel, as well as a nice pair of Cinnamon Teal, some Great-tailed Grackles, and a crooning Eurasian Collared-Dove. Heading back to the preserve, we crossed the footbridge and headed south along Middle Slough where we heard several Yellow Warblers singing, had nice looks at one flame orange Bullock’s Oriole, and caught a brief glimpse of a Wrentit. In the ponds to the east of Middle Slough were a Pied-billed Grebe with three...(grebelets?...grebelings?), and a magnificent croaking Great Blue Heron sailed in to be appreciated. The Boardwalk Trail gave us Avocets and Stilts, as well as Long-billed Dowitchers, a few American Bitterns, a young Black-crowned Night-Heron, dozens of mostly hidden, constantly singing, Marsh Wrens and Common Yellowthroats, some very bright-billed Common Gallinules, and one all-too-quick peek at a Virginia Rail.”

**Glenn Hall Park (5/3)**—Bill Bianco, substituting for Sally Walters reported: “Nine of us started off with a pleasant morning and managed to see 25 species. Enjoyed a close view of a female Wood Duck with nine ducklings all feeding near the edge of the river. With a patient search we had some good views of a couple of Warbling Vireos. Also saw Ash-throated Flycatcher, Cedar Waxwings, Western Bluebird, House Wren, pair of Common Mergansers.”

**Sweetwater Creek (5/2)**—Leaders Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris reported: “19 birders enjoyed a walk up Sweetwater Creek despite ticks due to all the growth from recent rains. Some of the highlights were: Yellow-breasted Chat, Wilson’s, Townsend’s and Nashville Warblers and Warbling, Hutton’s and Cassin’s Vireos. We all enjoyed an Anna’s Hummingbird on her nest.”

**Georgetown Nature Areas (4/30)**—Leader Craig Swolgaard reported: “Over 15 people showed up for this day of birding at two new locations in El Dorado County. We spent about 3 1/2 hours at the Traverse Creek Botanical Area (2270 feet), hiking the 2-mile loop trail, and

reviewing our bird song skills. The hike passes through about half chaparral and half conifer forest so has potential for a broad array of birds. A total of 30 species were seen or heard there, with the highlights being a common poorwill and a pair of blue-gray gnatcatchers on a nest. Warblers included orange-crowned, Nashville, and black-throated gray. Other common Sierra species such as black-headed grosbeak, western tanager, band-tailed pigeons, wrentit, and Pacific-slope flycatcher were also seen and heard. Perhaps the most out-of-placel bird seen was a great blue heron flying over the pines.”

**Bushy Lake (4/29)**—Leader Darrell Mohr reported: “Sunshine and 14 people were ready for the tour; the open field was alive with blackbirds. Sitting on one of the towers was a dark phase Red-tailed Hawk. As we left the open field we observed two Lazuli Buntings, the highlight of the tour. As we went around the lake we saw Wood Duck ducklings. When we stopped to look for birds at the race track a coyote appeared. Of course it made a run to get out of sight. Our final total of birds was 45. A good day.”

**Dry Creek–West Roseville (4/27)**—Leader Sonja Sorbo reported: “Six birders met at Dry Creek Community Park and then walked about 2.5 miles on a trail near the creek; we also explored three ponds on the adjacent Morgan Creek Golf Course. The theme of the day soon declared itself to be “nests and babies” as we discovered multiple active nests of species including Bushtits, Oak Titmouse, Acorn Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Magpie, Red-shouldered Hawk, House Wren, And Anna’s Hummingbird. We observed fuzzy chicks in the the red-shouldered hawk nest, and enjoyed seeing baby pied-billed grebes, American coots, Canada goslings, and mallard ducklings swimming with their wary parents. Included in the 51 species of birds seen were a western tanager, warbling vireos, a Hutton’s vireo and Swainson’s, Cooper’s and Red-tailed hawks. A flyover of four Long-billed Curlews was a nice surprise. All in all, it was a fine morning.”

**Sailor Bar, Olive Ave (4/26)**—Leader Larry Hickey reported: “Nine of us started out on a cloudy morning. Within a few minutes the clouds became a drizzle,

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then a light rain. The birds didn't seem to mind as we saw nice flocks of Cedar Waxwings and Lesser Goldfinches and good views of Red-shouldered Hawks. Sonja found some nice birds for us including a Nashville Warbler, a Wilson's Warbler and a Western Wood-Pewee. Large numbers of House Wrens were heard almost continuously and a surprising number of Ash-throated Flycatchers were heard and seen. For most of us the unusual abundance of wildflowers were the highlight and, along with the birds, made our walk in the light rain worth the effort and even pleasant."

**William Pond Park Beginners' Trip (4/23)** — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Craig DeMartini, Larry Hickey and Darrell Mohr, reported: "With a group of very interested beginners we totaled 49 species. Highlights were a Wood Duck with young, a Red-shouldered Hawk feeding young in the nest, and close-up looks at singing House Wrens, Western Bluebirds, an Orange-crowned Warbler and a White-tailed Kite."

**Sweetwater Creek (4/23)** — Leader Richard Barbieri reported: "As usual we had a large group of 21 people join us for a morning trip. Seems like the spring migration hasn't quite got into full swing yet, but we did have a fair showing with a total species count of 50. Highlights were Warbling, Cassin's, and Hutton's Vireos,

Nashville, Black-throated Gray, Wilson's, and Yellow Warblers, Wrentit, Bullock's Oriole, and Western Tanager."

**River Bend Park (4/22)** — Cathie LaZier, co-leader with Grant Boice, reported: "Still in the parking lot, our sharp-eyed birders located an active Bushtit nest and a Cooper's Hawk nest. Birding along the trails was slow at times, but there were singing House Wrens everywhere and many other small passerines. We had great looks at a very spotted Spotted Sandpiper, and Tree, Cliff and Northern Rough-winged Swallows were active."

**Clarksburg Branch Line Trail Family Trip (4/22)** — Leader Ann Burris reported: "An overcast sky didn't detour the enthusiasm of the folks who showed up to enjoy a morning of exploring the birds of a section of West Sacramento's Clarksburg Branch Line Trail. Favorites from the morning were sighting a large flock of at least 60 American White Pelicans and watching a Green heron hunt for its breakfast. The turtles, that had hauled out of the water, were also high on the list."

**Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area (4/18)** — Leader Frank Gray reported: "Trip was cancelled because the bypass was flooded"

**Pine Hill Preserve Birding (4/16)** — Leader Chris Conard reported: "Fourteen of us enjoyed a nice hike. The highlight

for me each year is to see and hear Bell's Sparrows perched up in the chaparral and singing. Other highlights included a flyover Osprey, White-throated Swifts circling the top of Morning Glory Hill, a gorgeous and very cooperative Red-breasted Sapsucker, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Violet-green Swallows, and calling and briefly-seen Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. Good numbers of migrant songbirds including a Warbling Vireo, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warblers, Townsend's Warbler, and Chipping Sparrows. Singing Black-headed Grosbeaks added to the chorus, as did Orange-crowned Warblers and Purple Finches, which mostly stayed out of view. There was a nice display of wild flowers and endemic plants, though the expected butterflies were kept to low numbers by the overcast and wind."

**Bodega Bay (4/15)** — Leader John York reported: "Six birders headed out between rains to check out Bodega Bay. With a new birder on board, we had a great day showing her Red-breasted Mergansers, Loons, Pelagic Cormorants and the like. Nothing out of the ordinary and Owl Canyon impassable, we still had a great day of birding. We ran into a mixed flock of shorebirds in very close, where we were able to point out the difference between godwits, whimbrels, both dowitchers, willets and curlews. A very fun beautiful day of birding."

*Cathie LaZier*