

## Sacramento Audubon Society Field Trips – April 1 through May 15

### **Ancil Hoffman Park**

**Saturday, April 6, 8:00 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Dan Williams [jaegermaestro@yahoo.com](mailto:jaegermaestro@yahoo.com)**

Join Dan for a short morning walk through this historic jewel on the Parkway. We will be looking for early spring migrants as well as resident nuthatches, wrens, towhees, and other small passerines. We'll start out birding the riparian habitat along the river down to the swale below the end of the golf course and finish the loop by walking the path back along the driving range. Trip will end before noon. This is a great trip for beginners and more experienced birders. A Sac County Park Pass or \$7 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Meet Dan at the main picnic area parking lot across from the golf course clubhouse. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Marconi, proceed east on Palm Drive. Turn right on California Ave and left on Tarshes Drive into the park. After showing your park pass or paying to park at the kiosk, proceed to the end of Tarshes Drive and park in the farthest lot on the left across from the golf course clubhouse.

### **North Natomas Regional Park**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024, 8:00 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Ben Graber [Bgrab984@protonmail.com](mailto:Bgrab984@protonmail.com)**

Join Ben for a leisurely morning walk around the North Natomas Regional Park. We can expect to see a wide variety of grassland species including Meadowlarks, Ring-necked Pheasants, and Red-Winged Blackbirds. herons, egrets, and various species of raptors are also possible. This trip will include approximately 2 to 3 miles of walking over flat terrain, and bringing liquids is recommended. This is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders.

Meet Ben at the parking lot on the north side of New Market Drive, across from Inderkum High School. (2501 New Market Drive, Sacramento 95835) From Sacramento, take I-5 North to Del Paso Road, Exit 525A. Go right/east on Del Paso Road. In 0.5 miles turn left onto Town Center Drive.

### **Sailor Bar**

**Thursday, April 11, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Darrell Mohr [mohrdd@gmail.com](mailto:mohrdd@gmail.com)**

Join Darrell for a morning walk checking out the local birds. Possible birds include Phainopepla and California Quail. This is a good trip for both beginners and experienced birders.

From Sacramento, take Highway 50 east to Exit 21, Hazel Avenue. Turn left at the light and proceed north 1.4 miles to Winding Way. Turn left on Winding Way, then proceed .5 miles to Illinois Avenue, where you will take another left. Sailor Bar is at the south end of Illinois Avenue. Meet at the last parking lot on your left, just before the boat launch parking area. A Sacramento County Park Pass or \$7 entry fee is required for all vehicles

## Sacramento Audubon Society Field Trips – April 1 through May 15

**Expected length: 3 hours**

**Leader: Paul Miller [pjmiller1962@me.com](mailto:pjmiller1962@me.com)**

**Registration is required for this trip and will be limited to 6 participants. Please email Paul to register.**

This trip is specifically designed for beginning to more experienced birders in a location with paved trails, handicapped parking, and fully accessible restrooms. Whether you walk, use a wheelchair, or a walker, this trip is for you. We will travel along paved trails and hard-packed dirt at Lake Solano Park, a short drive from Sacramento. The lake is a good area for lingering ducks including possible Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser. Phainopepla and Brown Creepers are possible, and Pileated Woodpecker have been found in the area. Please bring an \$8 parking fee. Bring water, a snack, and a smart phone if you have one. Heavy rain or high wind cancels the trip.

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

### **River Bend Park**

**Saturday, April 13, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 3 – 3 ½ hours**

**Leader: Dana Miller-Blair [djmblair@gmail.com](mailto:djmblair@gmail.com)**

We will walk through oak woodland and then along the river. We will be looking for small woodland birds, woodpeckers, Red-shouldered Hawk, and possibly Great Horned Owl. We will also have opportunities to see birds on the river. Walk will end by 11:00.

Meet Dana at the main picnic area/river rafting exit. From the entry kiosk, enter the park and bear left at the information sign. Drive .31 miles to stop sign, proceed straight ahead another .17 miles, then turn left at the sign for "River rafting exit/main picnic area". Proceed another .2 miles to the parking lot with white dumpster on the right and bathrooms to the left.

From Folsom Blvd., between Bradshaw and Mather Field Road, take Rod Beaudry Drive north into the park. A Sac County Park Pass or \$7 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

### **Beginning Birder Walk, William Pond Park**

**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

**Maximum number of participants: 10**

**Registration is required for this trip.**

These beginners' field trips are designed to introduce new birders to the fun of birding. Limited to 10 adults per trip, with three Audubon trip leaders, it is a low-key introduction to finding and identifying birds. On this trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and bird behavior, as we look at individual birds. Registration is required. Contact Larry Hickey at: [larryhickey1@gmail.com](mailto:larryhickey1@gmail.com); put *Beginning Birder* in the subject line. Registrants will be emailed the meeting time and exact location.

### **Sweetwater Creek**

**Sunday, April 14, 7:00 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Richard Barbieri [offleash227@gmail.com](mailto:offleash227@gmail.com)**

**Registration is required for this trip. This trip is FULL and registration is CLOSED.**

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At this favorite spring hotspot, we should find wildflowers in bloom and may hear the song of the Yellow-breasted Chat. Other possibilities are Lazuli Buntings, Wrentits, California Thrashers, migrating hummingbirds, and colorful warblers. Rain cancels.

Meet at the south side of the Bella Bru parking lot in the Raley's shopping center 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 the right.

### **Meiss Road Evening Trip**

**Wednesday, April 17, 5:45 PM**

**Expected length: 2 ½ hours**

**Leader: Chris Conard [conardc@gmail.com](mailto:conardc@gmail.com)**

**Registration is required for this trip, and it will be limited to 15 participants. This trip is FULL and registration is CLOSED.**

This evening tour of Meiss Rd in eastern Sacramento County offers a good chance for Lesser Nighthawks, as well as other grassland birds. Horned Larks and Meadowlarks will be in full song. Grasshopper Sparrows have been hard to find the past few years but are possible. Plan for portions of the road being bumpy but passable in most vehicles. The best chance for nighthawks will be after sunset but before complete darkness sets in.

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

### **Pine Hill/Kanaka Valley**

**Saturday, April 20, 7:00 AM**

**Expected length: 5 hours**

**Leader: Chris Conard**

**Registration is required for this trip and it is limited to 20 participants. See registration details below.**

The preserve was established to protect rare native plants in El Dorado County that occur only on the specialized soils of the Pine Hill area. It stretches from Folsom Lake in the north to Hwy 50 in the south and contains more than 4,000 acres. Plan to visit Kanaka Valley, with a mix of oak woodland and chaparral. Chris will look for California Thrashers, Bell's Sparrows, migrating warblers, and, on a clear day, great views of the Sierra and the surrounding geography. A botanist will be on the trip to provide background on the rare plants. Be prepared for three miles of moderate walking.

Pre-registration is required and limited to 20 participants through Pine Hill Preserve:

<https://eldoradocnps.org/events/pine-hill-preserve-tour-kanaka-valley-bird-hike-chris-conard-cnps-php/>

### **Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Family Nature Walk**

**Saturday, April 20, 10:30 AM**

Join Audubon birding leaders Cliff Feldheim and Rachael Cowan as well as Nature Center docents, for a family friendly nature walk at the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Carmichael. Acorn Woodpeckers, Wild Turkeys, and other resident birds such as towhees and Bushtits will be active. Families and individuals are encouraged to enjoy a one-hour walk in the lovely Nature Area with naturalists and birders who know the area and enjoy sharing their knowledge. Paid registration is required through Effie Yeaw Nature Center. Please see <https://www.effieyeawnature.org/> for registration and other details.

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### **Traylor Ranch Bird Sanctuary**

**Sunday, April 21, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leaders: Mary Forrestal [cmforrestal@yahoo.com](mailto:cmforrestal@yahoo.com) and Susan Goodrich**

This morning walk among the 88 acres of recreational land located in Penryn is a great walk for beginners as well as more experienced birders. Join Mary and Susan in finding interesting birds such as Western Bluebird, Tree Swallows, California Quail and Red-shoulder Hawks in these open oak woodlands. A clean port-a-loo is available at this location. It is about a half-mile walk from the parking area.

Meet Mary and Susan at the Traylor Ranch Parking Area off Humphrey Rd. From Sacramento, take I-80 to Sierra College Blvd in Rocklin, exit 109. Turn left and follow Sierra College Blvd 4.8 miles to English Colony Way. Turn right on to English Colony Way. In 1 mile turn right on Humphrey Road. The parking lot is .4 miles ahead on the right.

### **Beeks Bight Family Friendly Trip**

**Thursday, April 25, 2024, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Nicole Barden [folsomlake@ports-ca.us](mailto:folsomlake@ports-ca.us) and Rich Howard**

**Registration is required for this trip and will be limited to 15 participants. Please email Nicole to register.**

Join Environmental Educator Nicole and SAS volunteer Rich Howard to explore what this popular birding location has to offer! We will be on the lookout for our early spring feathered friends like hummingbirds, California Thrasher, and Wrentit. Migrant warblers, vireos, and flycatchers are also a possibility. Open to all birding levels, this trip will be slow-paced, and we will be taking the time to appreciate bird behavior along the way. We will be listening for birds as much as looking for them and will be keeping an e-Bird list as we go. Beginning birders and young birders are encouraged to join.

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

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**Expected Length: 5-6 hours**

**Leader: Timothy Jackson** [eldoradobirds@yahoo.com](mailto:eldoradobirds@yahoo.com)

We will look (and listen) for songbirds, raptors, woodpeckers, game birds, and hummingbirds in a three to four mile walk through predominately oak grasslands with some pockets of chaparral. We'll visit a couple of ponds early in the walk to look for wetland species and then parallel part of the creek which feeds the north fork of the American River. We'll be on the lookout for incoming breeding season migrants and a few lingering non-breeding season migrants. The trip should last until 12 noon or 1 pm. Depending on precipitation the trails may be muddy and bordered by wet grass. Previous trip eBird checklists:

2019 - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S55516921>

2023 - <https://ebird.org/checklist/S135606856>

Meet Tim at the Northside Elementary School parking lot at 7:30 am. The address is 860 Cave Valley Rd. Cool, CA 95614.

Directions from Highway 50 (recommended route): From Sacramento head east and leave highway 50 at exit 30B. This will cloverleaf onto El Dorado Hills Blvd. heading north. At approximately 5 miles the road crosses Green Valley Rd. and becomes Salmon Falls Rd. Continue on Salmon Falls Rd. for a little under 12 miles. Turn right on Salmon Falls Cutoff Rd. and in a few hundred feet turn left onto Highway 49 heading north. Go about three miles and turn left onto Cave Valley Rd. Park in the Northside Elementary School lot on the left.

### **Reichmuth Park**

**Friday, May 3, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 1 – 1 ½ hours**

**Leader: Eric Johnson** [corporateeric@yahoo.com](mailto:corporateeric@yahoo.com)

**Registration is required for this trip and is limited to 6 participants. Please email Eric to register.**

Join Eric on an easy walk through Reichmuth Park in the South Area of Sacramento. In his own words, "Reichmuth is the spot inside the city of Sacramento with the most different species seen, sitting pretty at 183. It's our own birding box of chocolates—you never know what'll show up next!"

Directions and confirmation of exact meeting location and time will be provided upon registration.

### **Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary**

**Saturday, May 4, 8:00 AM**

**Expected length: 3-4 hours**

**Leader: Maureen Geiger** [mkgeiger@comcast.net](mailto:mkgeiger@comcast.net)

The Bobelaine Audubon Sanctuary is a 430-acre National Audubon Sanctuary on the Feather River, managed by Sacramento Audubon. This riparian forest of cottonwoods, sycamores and willows is home to a wide variety of birds and wildlife. Join Maureen for about a 2.5 mile walk along the trails to the Rivers Overlook looking for resident and migrating birds, and enjoy this lush habitat along the Feather River. There is an accessible port-a-potty in the parking lot.

Meet at the Bobelaine Sanctuary Parking Lot. From Sacramento, take I-5 north, then Hwy 99 north toward Yuba City. About 2 miles north of the Feather River Bridge, turn right on Laurel Avenue. Follow Laurel to the dead end at the Bobelaine parking lot.

Sacramento Audubon Society Field Trips – April 1 through May 15

**Bannister Park to Sacramento Bar**

**Sunday, May 5, 7:30 AM**

**Expected length: 3 hours**

**Leader: Stan Hunter [Stanton.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:Stanton.hunter@gmail.com)**

On this morning walk through the woods to the American River, you will see and hear a nice variety of resident birds and spring migrants. Possibilities include Phainopepla and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. This is a great trip for beginning and more experienced birders. Meet Stan in the parking lot at the end of Bannister Road. From Highway 50, drive north on Sunrise Blvd.; turn left on Fair Oaks Blvd. Take Fair Oaks Blvd to Bannister Rd and turn left to go south toward the river. Park in the parking lot. No permit needed.