Field Trips, Dec. 12, 2019 through Jan 11, 2020. Contact: Maureen Geiger, mkgeiger@comcast.net, 916-281-6652.

Thursday, December 12, 8am
Salt Springs Valley
Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris
Tim, 916-870-5207 spskua2@comcast.net
Ann, 916-947-7573 burris.nellieann@gmail.com
This area is located in western Calaveras County about an hour and a half drive from Sacramento. The open valley and its lake are home to many wintering ducks, hawks, eagles, owls and grassland birds. The trip will last into the late afternoon so bring lunch, liquids and warm clothing. Bring FRS radios and scopes if you have them. Meet at "It’s a Grind" coffee shop, 19420 Twin Cities Road in Galt. From Sacramento take Hwy 99 south to Twin Cities Road/Hwy 104, Exit #277. Turn left (east) on Twin Cities; cross the freeway and continue east to the shopping center on your right.

Saturday, December 14, 8am
Sailor Bar
Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
mohrd@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. Phainopepla, California Quail, mergansers and goldeneye may be seen. This is a good trip for beginners. 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, near the boat launch area. A Sac County Park Pass or $5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, December 15, 8:30am
Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699
empid77@gmail.com
Walking the 1-1/2 mile boardwalk loop, we'll check out the wintering waterfowl, including a variety of duck species, Greater White-fronted Geese, and Sandhill Cranes. Dowitchers, Wilson's Snipe and yellowlegs should be present, and there are always some passerines and raptors. Spotting scopes are helpful if you have them. This is a great trip for beginning birders. 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. Heavy rain cancels.

Wednesday, December 18
Woodfords Christmas Count

Saturday, December 21
Sacramento Christmas Count

Sunday, December 22, 7:30am/8:30am
Lynch Canyon, Solano County
Leaders: Maureen Geiger, 916-281-6652
mkgeiger@comcast.net
Ken Poerner, 707-580-6277
kenpoe@sbcglobal.net
This 1,039-acre park just off I-80 in Solano County consists of rolling hills with stands of native oak, buckeye and bay trees, small riparian corridors, panoramic vistas and a pond for wintering ducks, grebes and possible shorebirds. Other wintering and resident birds may include golden eagles plus harriers, hawks, kites and woodpeckers, Hermit Thrush and quail. This trip involves about a two mile walk on an easy trail and will end mid-day. Please note: this area is generally colder, wetter, foggier and windier than Sacramento, so dressing in layers is recommended. There is a $5 parking fee. Meet Maureen at the Mace Blvd. Park & Ride in Davis at 7:30am. From Sacramento take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd., Exit #75; turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park & Ride lot a short distance beyond Ikeda’s Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. Or meet at the park at about 8:30am. From Sacramento on I-80 West, after Fairfield, take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (parallels I-80) and follow for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 overpass and through the gate into the gravel parking lot.

Saturday, December 28, 8am
River Walk Park, West Sacramento
Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-889-4849
biancowm@yahoo.com
This is a newer area for Sac Audubon and should turn up a variety of passerine species, sparrows, wrens, thrushes and more. We'll bird the river from the boat landing, then walk south past the I Street and Tower Bridges and up onto the levee. Walk should end by noon. Meet Bill at the Raley’s parking lot; from Hwy 50 take Jefferson Blvd. north; go left on W. Capitol Ave. and left on Westacre Rd to the lot.

Sunday, December 29
Folsom Christmas Count

Wednesday, January 1, 9am
Family Friendly Trip
New Year’s Day at the Cosumnes River Preserve
Leader: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207
spskua2@comcast.net
Start the New Year off right; go birding! Bring the family! Wintering Sandhill Cranes, Greater White-fronted Geese and a wide variety of duck species frequent the preserve. Yellowlegs and Wilson’s Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible. Tim will walk along the wetland ponds, stopping at the “Ducks In Scopes” activity and then going out to the boardwalk viewing area. Meet at the CRP Visitor Center parking lot. Bring water and snacks and dress for changeable weather. This is an enjoyable trip for everyone, and beginners and families are welcome. 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.

Saturday, January 4, 8am
Yolo County Hotspots
Leader: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471
shoppe01@surewest.net
Join Scott for a trip to several Yolo hotspots. Yolo County always has great places to bird, and we will be visiting some of the most productive locations. Winter produces great numbers of water birds, and we will try to pick up some wintering raptors such as, Ferruginous Hawk,
Rough-legged Hawk and Merlin. This will likely be an all day trip, so bring lunch and liquids. Meet at the Mace Blvd. Park & Ride. From Sacramento take I-80 west towards Davis to Mace Blvd., Exit #75; turn right (north) and then right again at the signal light to the Park & Ride lot a short distance beyond Ikeda's Market. Meet on the south side of the parking lot in the row nearest the big round water tank. FRS radios are helpful on this trip.

Sunday, January 5, 8am
River Bend Park
Leader: Dan Brown, 916-704-0951
naturestoc@aol.com
Meet at the 1st parking lot on your right, just past the entrance kiosk. We’ll walk through the oak woodland and over to the river, looking for small woodland birds and woodpeckers. We sometimes have good looks at Red-shouldered Hawks or Great Horned Owls. Walk will end by noon, and it’s a great walk for beginners. 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 for all vehicles.

Thursday, January 9, 8am
Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads
Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463
ssgasdoc@yahoo.com
In 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. Some years there have been hundreds of Canvasbacks and Wigeons present, with an occasional Redhead or Eurasian Wigeon in their midst. Depending on the water level, we might see shorebirds such as Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitchers, Dunlin, and Least Sandpipers. While driving on the levees around the ponds, we will search the adjacent trees, fields, and fenceposts for raptors, sparrows, woodpeckers, and other resident species. A small wetland area visible from the levees can hold rails, herons, egrets, gallinules, and Marsh Wrens. This trip will end around noon; if there is sufficient time we might drive some nearby backroads of Placer county, searching flooded fields for wintering geese. We will meet at the parking lot of Dry Creek Community Park at 9235 Walerga Road in Roseville at 8AM. FRS radios will be helpful. Bring a spotting scope if you have one. Dress warmly as the weather on the levees can be cold and breezy.
IMPORTANT ADVISORY — there is currently a huge bridge construction project underway on Walerga Road near the entrance to Dry Creek Community Park. Watch carefully for signs directing traffic to the park; the usual entrance is blocked and the new/temporary winding access road is not easily visible.

Saturday, January 11, 7:30am
Gray Lodge State Wildlife Refuge
Leader: Carla Barbaro, 916-717-8808
cbarbaro@comcast.net
Join Carla to check out this State Wildlife Refuge. She will take the vehicle driving route and also walk one of the trails. Bring snacks and water, and meet 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 $4.25 per person charge at the refuge.