

Field trips, February 12, 2020 through March 11, 2020. Scheduler: Sonja Sorbo, ssgasdoc@yahoo.com, 916-390-8463.

## **GBBC**

**February 14th through 17th**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**

**[gbbc.birdcount.org](http://gbbc.birdcount.org)**

Count birds for 15 minutes or more in your backyard or other favorite birding locale; then post your results online and see what's happening in your area and across the country. It's fun for all ages and skill levels. Check the website for more information, or join one of the field trips and the leader will input the group's checklist.

**Friday, February 14, 8:30am**

**William Pond Park, a GBBC trip**

**Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699**

**[empid77@gmail.com](mailto:empid77@gmail.com)**

Meet Cathie along the first parking area just past the entrance kiosk. We'll walk down to some different spots on the river, where mergansers and goldeneye can be found in the backwaters and wrens and towhees call from the bushes. We'll check out the heron rookery, then look at the pond area and grassy park. Trip will end before noon. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. From the intersection of Fair Oaks and Arden, follow Arden east and it runs into the park. This is an excellent trip for beginners.

**Saturday, February 15, 8am**

**Family Friendly Trip, a GBBC trip**

**North Natomas Regional Park**

**Leader: Ben Graber, 916-844-8682**

**[Bgraber984@gmail.com](mailto:Bgraber984@gmail.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 Savannah Sparrows, along with herons, egrets, and waterfowl. Various wintering species of raptors, including falcons, are also possibilities. This trip will include approximately 2 to 3 miles of walking over flat terrain, and bringing liquids is recommended. Meet Ben at the parking lot on the North side of New Market Drive across from Inderkum High School. New Market Drive is off Truxel Road approximately a mile north of Interstate 80. This is a great trip for both beginning and more experienced birders. Loaner binoculars are available.

**Sunday, February 16, 8am**

**Tonzi Road and Western Amador County, a GBBC trip**

**Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636**

**[calaveri.gary@gmail.com](mailto: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 Camanche, 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.

**Tuesday, February 18, 8:30am**

**Lake Solano/Putah Creek**

**Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris**

**Tim: 916-870-5207, [spskua2@comcast.net](mailto:spskua2@comcast.net)**

**Ann: 916-947-7573, [burrin.nellieann@gmail.com](mailto:burrin.nellieann@gmail.com)**

This is a great area to find a variety of woodpeckers, Phainopepla, Brown Creeper, Barrow's Goldeneye and many other late wintering birds. 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. Heavy rain or high winds cancel the trip, which will end in the late afternoon, so you may want to bring lunch and water.

**Saturday, February 22, 9am (in Petaluma)**

**Bodega Bay**

**Leader: Ron Storey, 707-479-0171**

**[ronstorey@ronstorey.com](mailto:ronstorey@ronstorey.com)**

Join Ron for a full day of birding around Bodega Bay, taking in a variety of habitats. Plan to see waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls and raptors. Meet at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 9:00 am and carpool from there. For directions, go to [http://colintalcroft.com/Sonoma\\_County\\_Bird\\_Watching\\_Spots/Shollenberger\\_Park,\\_Petaluma.html](http://colintalcroft.com/Sonoma_County_Bird_Watching_Spots/Shollenberger_Park,_Petaluma.html). This is a full day trip; bring lunch and liquids and layered clothing. FRS radios can be helpful.

**Sunday, February 23, 7am till noon**

**Michigan Bar and vicinity**

**Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610**

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

We will focus on Michigan Bar Road and may visit portions of Latrobe and Meiss Rds, though access will be partially dependent on road conditions and recent weather. Vast areas of open grassland and blue oak woodland interspersed with rocky outcrops and the Cosumnes River provide habitat for winter raptors, resident and winter songbirds, and perhaps a surprise or two. We'll have a mix of car birding (bring FRS radios if you have them) and short to moderate walks. Meet at the Park & Ride on Hwy 16 (Jackson Hwy) just west of Sunrise Blvd. and the Folsom South Canal (7 miles east of Watt Ave). Steady rain will cancel the trip.

**Thursday, February 27, 8am**

**Lincoln WWTP and Placer County Roads**

**Leader: Sonja Sorbo, 916-390-8463**

**[ssgasdoc@yahoo.com](mailto: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, February 29, 8am**  
**Sailor Bar, American River Parkway**  
**Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999**  
**mohrdd@gmail.com**

Join Darrell for a Leap Year 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. 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, March 1, 8am**  
**Bridgeway Island Pond**  
**Leader: Dan Murphy, 916-541-4213**  
**dmmurpete@gmail.com**

Join Dan for a trip to Bridgeway Island Pond. Target birds include Blue-winged Teal, other waterfowl, raptors and marsh birds. We should finish by noon. Bring a snack and liquids. 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. Meet in the south east section of the parking lot.

**Sunday, March 1**  
**Beginning Birding Field Trip**  
**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 trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks and bird behavior as we look at individual birds. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at [empid77@gmail.com](mailto:empid77@gmail.com); put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

**Wednesday, March 4, 8am**  
**Estates Drive American River access**  
**Leader: Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300**  
**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, titmice and nuthatches. From Watt Ave. take American River Drive east to Estates Dr. Turn south on Estates and follow until it dead-ends at the levee

**Saturday, March 7, 6:30am**  
**Arrowhead Marsh and Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline**  
**Leaders: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471, [shoppe01@surewest.net](mailto:shoppe01@surewest.net)**  
**Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722, [matuchbirdman@yahoo.com](mailto:matuchbirdman@yahoo.com)**

Arrowhead Marsh and MLK, Jr. Regional Shoreline, encompassing much of San Leandro Bay, is an extremely productive birding area. It is well known for Ridgway's Rails, lots of wintering ducks and hundreds of shorebirds during the falling tides. It has also produced rarities and hard to find species such as Nelson's and Swamp Sparrows. We will likely spend most of the day there. However, time permitting, we may visit other nearby locations. Bring lunch and liquids, and dress for possible cold early morning temps. Meet Scott and Mark at the Park & 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 & Ride lot.

**Sunday, March 8, 7:30am**

**Mather Lake**

**Leader: Wayne Blunk, 916-206-3767**

**Wayne.Blunk@gmail.com**

Mather Lake can be a hotspot for birding, with a variety of possibilities. 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. There is a \$5 per car entrance fee; your Sac County Parkway pass is valid here. This is a wonderful trip for beginning and more experienced birders.