

**Field Trips, February 12 through March 11, 2019.
Scheduler Sonja Sorbo, ssgasdoc@yahoo.com, 916-390-8463.**

**Thursday, February 14, 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.

**GBBC
February 15th through 18th
Great Backyard Bird Count
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.

**Saturday, February 16, 8am
Family Friendly Trip, a GBBC trip
North Natomas Regional Park
Leader: Ben Graber, 916-844-8682
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.

**Saturday, February 16, 10:30am
Effie Yeaw Family Nature Walk, (and a GBBC 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 birding leaders Craig DeMartini and Dan Williams from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, February 17, 8am

Wolf Ranch Wildlife Sanctuary, a GBBC trip

Leaders: Maureen Geiger and Ken Poerner

Maureen: mkgeiger@comcast.net, 916-281-6652

Ken: 707-580-6277, kenpoe@sbcglobal.net

This is a little known 60-acre wetlands in the North area of Sacramento. Good time of year for a variety of species in the open water and wetland perimeters which have been planted with native riparian shrubs and trees. Maureen and Ken will walk the two-mile loop, exploring different habitats along the way. This trip will last until late morning and will involve walking on a fairly good, flat trail which may be muddy. From Sacramento take I-5 north, then follow Hwy.99/70 north 1.1 miles. Take the Elkhorn Boulevard exit #525B and, turning right, continue 3.1 miles, cross Steelhead Creek, and make an immediate right turn on Sorrento into a large, unpaved parking lot. You will see a sign for the Walter S. Ueda Parkway in the parking lot.

Monday, February 18, 8am

Ancil Hoffman Park, a GBBC trip

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699

empid@earthlink.net

We'll bird the grassy picnic area, then bird our way upstream for a change. Note that we'll be walking over a lot of cobbles. Meet in the picnic parking lot across from the golf course parking lot. From California Ave. in Fair Oaks take the Tarshes Drive entrance and follow it all the way to the last parking lot on your left. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles. This is a good trip for beginners.

Tuesday, February 19, 8am

Lake Solano/Putah Creek

Leaders: Tim Fitzer and Ann Burris

Tim: 916-870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Ann: 916-947-7573, burris.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 23, 8am

Sailor Bar, American River Parkway

Leader: Darrell Mohr, 916-225-3999
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. 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, February 24, 7am till noon
Michigan Bar and vicinity

Leader: Chris Conard, 916-203-1610
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.

Tuesday, February 26, 8am
Cosumnes River Preserve

Leader: Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300
cloudwalk7@icloud.com

Meet Craig at the main CRP parking lot and we'll walk the boardwalk loop looking for Sandhill Cranes, geese and a wide variety of duck species. Yellowlegs and Wilson's Snipe will be in the shallower water, and other shorebirds are possible. Then we'll take the walking trail to the river looking for smaller passerines. This is a great trip for beginners. 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, March 2, 6:30am

Arrowhead Marsh and Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline

Leaders: Scott Hoppe, 916-835-8471, shoppe01@surewest.net
Mark Martucci, 916-833-6722, 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 3, 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.

Wednesday, March 6, 8am

William Pond Park

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699

empid@earthlink.net

This park has a variety of habitats, river, pond, woods and mown grass. We'll walk down to some different spots on the river, then check out the heron rookery and look at the pond area. 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, 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 an excellent trip for beginners

Saturday, March 9, 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 Ione. 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, March 10, 7:30 to 12:00 (Note: DST begins today)

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Dan Murphy 916-541-4213

dmmurpete@gmail.com

Join Dan in this great area 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. Depending on the extent of flooded fields on the auto tour route, there may be good numbers of

shorebirds and waterfowl as well as raptors. From Sacramento, take I-80 west, take the first exit (#78) at the west end of the Yolo Causeway. 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, at the beginning of the auto tour. FRS radios and scopes are helpful on this trip