

Field Trips, November 12 through December 11, 2018 . Scheduler: Tim Fitzer, 916-870-5207, spskua2@comcast.net

Monday, November 12, 8am

Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area

Leader: Craig DeMartini, 916-599-3300

cloudwalk7@icloud.com

This great seasonal floodplain is only 10 minutes from downtown Sacramento. A variety of ducks, geese and shorebirds frequent the flooded fields, and American Bitterns and White-faced Ibis are often seen. Raptors and owls are also a possibility. From Sacramento on I-80 west, take the first exit at the west end of the Yolo Causeway, East Chiles/Rd. 32A, Exit #78. 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. The trip will end before noon but you may wish to bring water and snacks. FRS radios can be helpful.

Thursday, November 15, 9am

Robinson Road, Rd. 113 & Birds Landing

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 for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. 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.

Saturday, November 17, 8am

Sacramento Wildlife Refuge

Leaders: Mark Martucci and Paul Cordero

Mark, 916-833-6722, matuchbirdman@yahoo.com

Paul, pkcordero@gmail.com

This is a great place to view the enormous flocks of ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles can be found here regularly. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon, so bring lunch, drinks and warm clothes. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd. Exit #524; 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.

There is a fee for each vehicle at the refuge: \$6 for a day pass, or a \$12 Refuge Annual Pass. Or for \$25 purchase a Duck Stamp and support all national wildlife refuges. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Saturday, November 17, 10:30am

Effie Yeaw Family Nature 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

birders Sheila Green and Wendy Money from Audubon. For directions, see sacnaturecenter.net. A Sac County Park Pass or \$5 entry fee is required for all vehicles.

Sunday, November 18, 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.

Sunday, November 18

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 autumn trip we'll talk about habitat, field marks, and look for some of our returning winter birds, as well as residents. Registration is required. Contact Cathie LaZier at empid@earthlink.net, put Beginning Birder in the subject line.

Friday, November 23, 8am

Cosumnes River Preserve, Black Friday Trip

Leader: Cathie LaZier, 916-502-2699

empid@earthlink.net

Want to do something non-commercial? Meet Cathie 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

Lincoln Grasslands Trips

#1, Saturday, November 24

Leaders: Richard Barbieri and Tim Fitzer

#2, Sunday, November 25

Leaders: Scott Hoppe and Mark Martucci

The grasslands and farmlands surrounding Lincoln provide some of the best winter birding in the Sacramento Valley. Because of the diversity and large area to be covered, back to back trips are being offered again this year. Once again, two teams of experienced field trip leaders will enter a friendly competition to show participants as many birds as possible. Richard and Tim will start Saturday, searching for the largest number of raptors and rarities; Scott and Mark will follow Sunday hoping to produce even better numbers. Both days, they will search the back roads of Placer County for a large variety of raptors, shorebirds, ducks, swans and sparrows

plus specialty species such as Tri-colored Blackbirds and Lewis' Woodpeckers. These trips will last into the afternoon, so bring lunch and liquids as well as scopes and FRS radios if you have them. **These are fast-paced trips, some portions on back country roads, so it is necessary to limit the number of participants and the number of vehicles. Sign up to get meeting time and place information.**

Trip #1: Tim Fitzer, phone 916-870-5207

Trip #2: Scott Hoppe, email shoppe01@surewest.net

Saturday, November 24 and

Sunday, November 25, 3:15pm till sunset

Sandhill Cranes and Other Wintering Birds

Cosumnes River and Delta area

Trip run by Save Our Sandhill Cranes, Inc.

Coordinator: Mike Savino, 916-446-1392

View Sandhill Cranes and the wide variety of waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors which feed in the flooded fields and marshy areas of the delta. Dress for changeable weather and bring binoculars, snacks and water if you wish. Meet on the deck of the Visitor Center at 3:15pm. 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.

Tuesday, November 27, 9:30am

Colusa National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Dan Tankersley, 916-662-1951

dantank1016@gmail.com

Approximately 1 hour north of Sacramento, the Colusa NWR is a great location to view large waterfowl concentrations. There will be plenty of ducks and geese, as well as other wetland species, passerines and raptors. We will spend a good amount of time on the viewing platform, and then take an easy walk on a level trail through riparian habitat next to the main viewing pond. We will finish our outing to this wonderful NWR by taking the short auto tour. Be prepared for cold and damp weather. Bring scopes and FRS radios if you have them. Meet Dan at the Colusa NWR in the parking area near the restrooms at 9:30. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Williams; take Exit 578, Hwy 20 east, and go approximately 6 miles to the refuge entrance on the right. Rain, strong winds, or thick fog cancels. No lunch break, but bring snacks and liquids. This trip will end around 1pm.

Saturday, December 1, 9am (in Petaluma)

Bodega Bay

Leader: Ron Storey, 707-479-0171

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. Bring lunch, water and warm clothes. Meet at Shollenberger Park in Petaluma at 9:00 am and carpool from there. For directions to Shollenberger Park go here:

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, December 2, 8am

Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: John York, 916-409-9276

Johnyork157@yahoo.com

John will be looking for the enormous flocks of ducks, geese and swans that winter in the valley or stop to feed on their way south. This is also a good place for raptors, and Bald Eagles are a possibility. There is a 3.7 mile driving route and a great viewing platform as well. This trip will last into early afternoon. Bring lunch, snacks and hydration as the refuge has no restaurants and birds poop in the water. FRS radios are helpful on this trip. Meet at the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd., go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd., and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. Please note there is a \$6 day use fee for each vehicle at the refuge, or buy a Duck Stamp and support all our national refuges. This is a good trip for newer birders and experienced birders alike.

Thursday, December 6, 8am

Robinson Road, Rd. 113 & Birds Landing

Leader: Bill Bianco, 916-372-3318

biancowm@yahoo.com

This is a great area for wintering Ferruginous and Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, Merlins, curlews, possible Mountain Plovers, shrikes and other interesting birds. Bring liquids, lunch, warm clothes, spotting scopes, and FRS radios if possible. 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.

Saturday, December 8, 7am

Gray Lodge WA and Colusa NWR

Leaders: Lily Douglas and Tim Ludwick

Lily: 916-524-9340, ldouglas14@gmail.com

Join Lily and Tim for a tour of this prime wintering area for ducks and geese. After Gray Lodge, we'll take the route back around the west side of the Sutter Buttes, looking for Sandhill Cranes, raptors, and grassland birds, then stop at the Colusa NWR viewing platform. Bring lunch, liquids, and warm clothing. FRS radios and scopes are helpful if you have them. Meet in the Bel Air shopping center on Arena Blvd. From Sacramento, take I-5 north to Arena Blvd, go west (left) over the freeway. Take the first left, Duckhorn Rd, and then turn right into the parking area. Meet on the north side of the parking lot between Wells Fargo and Golden 1. A CDFW Lands Pass must be purchased in advance for entry to Gray Lodge.

Sunday, December 9

Gull I.D trip on the American River

Leader: Ed Harper

Join Ed for an informative walk along the American River and a chance to sharpen your identification skills. Ed is a great birder who will be looking for any interesting or unusual birds, with emphasis on tricky identification of the many gulls that winter on the river. Herring, "Thayer's" (which is now considered a race of Iceland Gull), Glaucous-winged, California, Ring-billed and Mew Gulls are all possibilities. Spotting scopes will be very useful, and be sure to bring your field guides and bird apps for this intensive study. Trip will end before noon **and is limited to 15 people** to ensure quality learning opportunity. **To register for the trip** contact Cathie LaZier, empid@earthlink.net (put Gull Trip in the subject line), or phone 916-502-2699 to find meeting time and place.

Tuesday, December 11, 8am
Mid-Yolo County Hotspots
Leader: Dan Murphy, 916-541-4213
dmmurpete@gmail.com

Join Dan for a trip to several mid-Yolo hotspots, beginning with the Davis WTP and ending with the Plainfield Elementary School quadrangle. Target birds include Burrowing Owl, wintering waterfowl, Red-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks, and perhaps a Prairie Falcon. We should finish by noon. Bring a snack 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.