

FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, September 6, Jewel Lake, Tilden Park. Meet 7:30 AM in Nature Center parking lot at north end of park. From Hwy 24 in Orinda, go north on Camino Pablo. Turn left on Wildcat Canyon Road. Stay right at the Brazil Building. At the next main intersection, turn right and pass Lake Anza and the Carousel. Or take Fish Ranch Road from the Caldecott Tunnel. Turn right at the top onto Grizzly Peak Road. Turn right and downhill onto South Park Drive and turn left at the bottom onto Wildcat Canyon Road. Short morning walk to look for migrants. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 2.

Saturday, September 8, Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge. 10:00-11:00 AM. Carpool from Sun Valley at 9:00 AM. This is your chance to visit the only unit of the National Wildlife Refuge system in Contra Costa County. A 1-hour docent-led tour will introduce us to the history of the only place on earth where one can see Lang's Metalmark Butterfly. The butterfly requires Naked-stem Buckwheat for its entire life-cycle. Don't be disappointed if we don't see this butterfly. Don't expect to see flowing sand dunes, though sand has been brought in from river dredging the last several years. After hearing the history, you will understand. May be hot, there is no shade, may be dusty walking along graded fire trails. Bring sun protection and water. From Hwy 4 in Antioch, exit north on A Street. After about 1 mile, bend right onto Wilbur Avenue. Turn left onto Fulton Shipyard Road and cross the railroad tracks. The entry gate is on the right. We will be guided by a refuge volunteer. Questions: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 2.

Saturday, September 15, Healdsburg Vaux's Swifts at Rio Lindo Academy. We hope to see 1000s of swifts enter a chimney on the grounds of the Rio Lindo Academy. This has been an annual occurrence since 1989, when human use of the chimney ceased. Be advised that we will be returning home after dark. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 4:00 PM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma take US 101 north to Healdsburg, exit at Old Redwood Highway/Healdsburg Avenue (Exit 502). Go north to Bailhache Avenue, turn right on Bailhache, which becomes Rio Lindo Avenue. Follow it about 3 miles into the Academy's main entrance. Turn left at the first stop sign and another left just before the dormitory. In half a block turn right toward the rear of the campus, park on the right past the chimney. Bring folding chairs, a picnic supper and join many others as we enjoy the evening show. Alcohol, including wine, is not permitted on any school property in the state. The carpool will first stop in downtown Healdsburg for a bathroom/coffee/food stop. Please call leader if you want to carpool. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 1.

September 20, Thursday, Hayward Regional Shoreline Winton Avenue Entrance. Carpool leaves Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride lot in Danville at 7:45 AM. Meet at

8:30 AM at Winton Avenue entrance. From I-880, exit Winton Avenue, drive west 4.5 miles. Park near the trail head just before the parking lot gate. Because traffic is so unpredictable, if no one is there, wait a while. Passerines, shorebirds and possible early ducks. Time permitting, we will finish at the San Leandro Marina. Bring drinks and lunch. Leader: Bob Richmond, 510-427-9843. Category 2.

Saturday, October 6, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool leaves southwest corner Sun Valley parking lot at 7:00 AM. Meet 8:30 AM at Bear Valley Visitor Center in Olema. From I-80 in Vallejo, follow SR 37 19.1 miles to Atherton Avenue, exit and turn left, cross US 101 to San Marin Drive and continue about 3 miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for 6 miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for 7 miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge, go 3 miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee and pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. We are hoping for migrants and vagrants. Weather is unpredictable. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: Juan-Carlos Solis, 925-222-8573, www.QuetzalAdventures.com. Category 2.

Saturday, October 13, Hawk Hill. Carpool leaves El Nido Ranch Road at 8:00 AM. Meet in parking lot by upper Rodeo Lagoon at 9:15 AM. From southbound US 101 take last Sausalito exit, Alexander Avenue, just before the Golden Gate Bridge. If driver knows the City, Fremont St/ Columbus Ave/Marina/Golden Gate Bridge is a very reasonable alternate route on a Saturday--pass the Vista Point and take the Alexander Avenue exit. On west side of freeway, turn left toward Marin Headlands and go up the hill (Conzelman Road); at the traffic circle go right and down hill (McCullough Road). Turn left at the stop sign onto Bunker Road and continue to the parking lot on the right just before the bridge. We will bird the lagoons before going up to the hawk watch site. At noon the staff gives a talk on their work and usually demonstrates the actual banding. Carry lunch and liquids. The walk up the hill is only a few hundred yards, but it is steep. Leader: Fred Safier, 925-937-2906. Category 2.

Wednesday, October 24, Berkeley-Emeryville Shoreline. Carpool leaves at 8:00 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet the leader at 8:30 AM in the parking lot behind the Seabreeze Market at the SW corner of W Frontage Road and University Avenue in Berkeley. Take SR 24 to I-580 west, turn north onto I-80. Take Powell St. exit, turn left on Powell, go under freeway, then right on W Frontage Road. Park behind Seabreeze Market in about 2 miles on left. Up to 2 miles flat walking along the bay. Second stop to look for shorebirds at high tide roosts near Emeryville Marina. May be cold and windy, dress in layers, bring lunch. Possible additional stops along Albany or Richmond shorelines after lunch if participants interested. Shorebirds and possibly early-arriving loons, grebes, bay ducks. Leader: Teri Wills, 925-408-5364. Category 2.

Saturday, October 27, Abbott's Lagoon. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:00 AM. Meet at 8:30 AM at Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. From I-80 in

Vallejo, follow SR 37 19.1 miles to Atherton Avenue, exit and turn left, cross US 101 to San Marin Drive and continue for 3 miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for 6 miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for 7 miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge, go 3 miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee and pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. Be prepared to carry lunch and liquids. Lots of walking in sand. Leader: TBD Category 3.

Saturday, November 3, Charleston Slough/South Bay. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet at Terminal Road in Mountain View at 8:30 AM. Take I-680, exit Mission Boulevard west. Continue through two traffic lights and take I-880 ramp south. Exit to SR 237, connect to US 101 north at Moffett Field. Exit at San Antonio Road, turn right (north) to Terminal Road, turn right and park. Entrance is on left. Other areas of interest in the South Bay are Palo Alto Baylands, Alviso and Redwood Shores. Shorebirds and waterfowl should be plentiful. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869. Category 2.

Tuesday, November 13, Lafayette Community Park. Meet at 9 AM near the hockey court and walk the trail behind the Community Center. This is a mostly level trail, which features a variety of mature trees and grassy hillsides along a stretch of riparian habitat. Raptors, woodpeckers, nuthatches, sparrows and many other birds are sighted regularly. We will walk one to two miles total. Restrooms and water are available at this location. If it has rained a lot, the trail could be muddy. The Center is located at 500 St. Mary's Road. From central Lafayette, go south on Moraga Road, after .43 miles turn left onto St. Mary's Road. Drive 2 miles to the Community Center. From Walnut Creek, drive to the west end of Olympic Boulevard past the roundabout. At the stoplight turn left on Reliez Station Road and go over the hill. Reliez Station becomes Glenside. Follow to St. Mary's Road and turn left, drive a short distance to the Center. From Moraga, go toward downtown Lafayette and turn right onto St. Mary's Road. Follow for 2.6 miles to the Center. Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810. Category 2.

Saturday, November 17, Limantour. Carpool leaves at 7:00 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet at 8:30 AM at the Bear Valley Visitor Center, Point Reyes National Seashore. Take SR 24 to Oakland, then I-580 west to Richmond and the San Rafael Bridge. From US 101 north, take Central San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left on 3rd Street and continue west to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. Turn right on Sir Francis Drake. At SR 1 at Olema, turn right for 0.25 miles, then turn left on Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. This trip includes forest birds on the ridge and ducks, shorebirds and often loons and grebes on the bay. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: TBD. Category 2.

Saturday, December 1, Sacramento Refuges. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7 AM, or meet the group at 8:15 AM at the I-5 North Dunnigan rest area. Take I-680 north, cross the Benicia Bridge, merge onto I-80E at Cordelia. At Vacaville, merge onto I-505N,

follow for 34 miles and merge onto I-5N just south of Dunnigan. Continue past the town to the rest stop. This one-day field trip will include visits to several wonderful wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley. Collectively these sanctuaries are home to tens of thousands of wintering ducks, geese and swans. Featured on this trip will be visits to Sacramento and Colusa National Wildlife Refuges. The exact itinerary is to be announced the day of the trip. Leader: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869. Category 2.

Saturday, December 8, Southeast Solano County Raptors and More. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:15 AM. Meet the leader at 8 AM at Suisun City McDonald's, Hwy 12 and Sunset Avenue. Take I-680 north, cross bridge to Benicia and merge to I-80 east at Cordelia. Then take Hwy 12 east toward Rio Vista for approximately 4 miles to Sunset Avenue, where you will make a left turn at the signal light into the shopping center. The McDonald's is on the right. We will bird east on Hwy 12 and Creed Rd to the vicinity of Hwy 113 and Robinson Road, possibly including Jepson Prairie. We will make several stops, looking for migrating waterfowl, passerines and winter raptors, especially Flannery and McCormack Roads in search of the elusive Mountain Plover. From there, given time, we may travel to the Bird's Landing area, where we should see Tri-colored Blackbirds among other passerines and possibly to Montezuma Slough for waterfowl. Plan to spend 4-5 hours birding, plus driving time getting there and back. There will be minimal hiking, but dress for seasonal conditions. Bring along hand held radios, food and water. Carpooling is strongly advised, due to limited access at stops and the distance traveled. Leader: Gary Fregien, 916-708-0636. Category 1.

Saturday, December 15, Central Contra Costa Christmas Count. Elizabeth Leite, e.leite@sbcglobal.net

Wednesday, December 19, East Contra Costa Christmas Count. Elizabeth Leite, e.leite@sbcglobal.net

Saturday, January 5, Putah Creek. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 8:00 AM. Meet at 8:45 AM at the intersection of Cherry Glen and Pleasants Valley Roads, approximately 1 mile north from I-80, west of Vacaville. Dress warmly; this is a cold, windy area. Bring lunch. Possible Osprey, Phainopepla, Barrow's Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser. Leader: Fred Safier, 925-937-2906. Category 1.

Thursday, January 17, East Contra Costa County. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 8:15 AM. Meet at Big Break at 9:00 AM. From Central Contra Costa, take Highway 4 toward Stockton/Pittsburg, after Antioch take right Exit 30 toward CA-160/Sacramento/Rio Vista (just past Hillcrest Avenue Exit; do NOT continue straight on Highway 4). Take exit 1-A East 18th/Main Street, turn right at the bottom of the exit onto Main Street, proceed east a little over 1 mile, then turn left onto Big Break Road. Turn right just past the last houses on the right into Big Break Regional Shoreline/Delta Science Center. We will see

wintering birds at Big Break, Iron House Sanitary, and several other spots in the eastern portion of our county. Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070. Category 1.

Monday, January 21, Lake Merritt /Arrowhead Marsh—High Tide. Carpool leaves at 8 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet at 8:30 AM in parking lot by Lake Merritt. Take SR 24 to Oakland and I-980, take Grand Avenue exit and turn left on Grand. Enter park at Children's Fairyland (entry fee), and follow road around to parking lot entrance on right between boathouse and aviary. We should find a good variety of wintering ducks and gulls. We will then drive to Arrowhead Marsh for the high tide around 11:30 AM; the rising tide should flush out rails. The area is also good for shorebirds and more wintering ducks on the estuary. A visit to Garretson Point will finish our trip. Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Sandy Ritchie, 925-685-8048. Category 1.

Saturday, January 26, Las Gallinas/Rush Creek/Shollenberger Park/Ellis Creek. Carpool leaves Sun Valley parking lot at 7:30 AM. Meet at Las Gallinas at 8:30 AM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 22 miles to US 101 south, exit at Lucas Valley Road/Smith Ranch Road. Cross under the freeway to the east on Smith Ranch Road for 0.6 miles, cross the railroad tracks and turn left. Follow the road around the hill 0.7 miles until arriving at the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District parking lot. Rush Creek Marsh is just north and east of the Atherton Avenue exit from US 101 in Novato. Immediately past the Park and Ride lot on Atherton, turn left onto Binford Road and go north to the marsh. Schollenberger Park is in Petaluma, east of US 101. After crossing the Petaluma River take Exit 472B East 116 Sonoma Napa, turn left at the light, then right on S. McDowell. Look for a half-right onto Cypress Drive, then enter the PRBO parking lot at 3820 Cypress. Go to the back and park near the picnic tables. Ellis Creek is just south of the PRBO offices. All four sites are good for wintering waders, shorebirds, waterfowl and raptors. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: TBD. Category 2.

Saturday, February 9, Thornton Area/Cosumnes Preserve. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 8 AM. Meet at 8:45 AM in Westgate Landing Park at end of Glascock Road. Take SR 4 to Antioch Bridge, go north on SR 160 along river to Rio Vista bridge. Turn right on SR 12 for 11.5 miles. East of Terminous, turn right onto the exit to Glasscock Rd. The road will go under the bridge. Turn left onto Glasscock Rd. proper and continue to the park at the end. Tundra Swans, Sandhill Cranes, hawks and grassland birds. Trip will go in light rain. Bring lunch and a beverage. If questions, call the leader. Leader: Ethan Chickering, 925-686-9231. Category 1.

Thursday, February 14, Grizzly Island Wildlife Area. Carpool leaves at 7 AM from Sun Valley. Meet at 8:30 AM at Refuge headquarters. Take I-680 north, then I-80 east to SR12. Follow SR12 through Fairfield, watch for sign to Grizzly Island Refuge on right and follow road to headquarters. Entry fee for refuge. Watch for raptors and Short-eared Owls along road. The California Department of Fish and Game's Grizzly Island Wildlife

Area is in the heart of the 84,000-acre Suisun Marsh, the largest contiguous estuarine marsh in the United States. Grizzly Island provides habitat for more than 200 species of birds and is home to a variety of threatened or endangered wildlife and plants. We may see the herd of Tule Elk. We may also bird at the Rush Ranch if time permits after finishing at Grizzly Island. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Maury Stern, 925-284-5980. Category 1.

Saturday, February 16, Bodega Bay. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:30 AM. Meet at the Tides Restaurant on water side of Highway 1 in Bodega at 9:15 AM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma turn left on E Washington Street and continue on Bodega Road, Valley Ford Road and SR 1 to Bodega Bay. Walk through or around The Tides to find the group viewing the harbor birds from the outdoor seating. Possibilities at Bodega Bay are wintering shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit, as well as terns, gulls, cormorants and waterfowl. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 1.

Saturday, February 16, John Muir House—Great Backyard Bird Count.

Wednesday, February 20, Sunol Regional Park. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride lot in Danville. Meet at 8:00 AM in the first parking lot on the left, Sunol Regional Park. Go south on I-680 to Calaveras Road. Go left under I-680 and drive 4 miles south on Calaveras; turn left on Geary Road and go 2 miles to park. Possible entry fee. Watch and listen for Wild Turkey along Geary Road. Golden Eagles and other raptors, Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Dipper, and Canyon and Rock Wrens are possible. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810. Category 3.

Saturday/Sunday, February 23-24, Los Banos/Panoche Valley. On Saturday we will leave from Sycamore Valley Road Park & Ride at 6:30 AM or meet at MacDonald's in Gustine at 8 AM. We will bird Santa Fe Grade Road, together with the San Luis and Merced Wildlife Refuges and should see a full range of waterfowl and raptors. On Sunday we will bird Little Panoche Road and Panoche Valley. Target birds include Mountain Bluebird, Mountain Plover and Long-eared Owl. Motel options in Los Banos include Best Western Executive Inn (209) 827-0954, Los Banos Days Inn (209) 826-9690, Vagabond Inn Executive Los Banos (209) 827-4677; and in Santa Nella, Holiday Inn Express (209) 826-8282. Participants need to bring lunch for both days. A communal (optional) dinner is being planned for Saturday evening. A fee is charged at Mercey Hot Springs. If you plan to go on the trip, please call the leaders as soon as possible for likely last minute detail changes! Leaders: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869, Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 1.

Wednesday, February 27, Walnut Creek City Parks. Meet 8:30 AM at wooden railing at the natural pond, just past the community center in Heather Farm Park. This is down the hill from where our monthly meetings are held. We will continue our birding at the Borges Ranch off Castle Rock Road. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 1.

Wednesday, March 6, Contra Loma Reservoir. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:45 AM. Or meet the leader at 8:30 AM at the Channel Point Parking Lot in Contra Loma Regional Park. Go east on Highway 4 and exit at Lone Tree Way in Antioch. Continue south to Golf Course Road and turn right. Continue on Golf Course Road to Frederickson Lane, turn right and continue into the park and the entrance kiosk. Fee required at kiosk. Turn left and continue to first parking lot on right, which is Channel Point Parking Lot. Expected species include waterfowl and woodland, riparian/marsh, shore and grassland birds. Bring lunch and beverage. Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070. Category 1.

Tuesday, March 12, Mt. View Sanitary/McNabney Marsh. Meet at 9 AM at the Mt. View Sanitary Visitor Center. Exit from I-680 southbound at Arthur Road, turn left and go under the freeway. Exit I-680 northbound at Pacheco Blvd, turn right onto Arthur Road and go under the freeway. Arthur Road will turn left. At .4 miles turn sharp left onto Mt. View Sanitary's private road. Follow the road through the entry gate, alongside the freeway and through the tunnel under I-680. Park and sign-in at the Visitor Center. Trails may be muddy. Close-up looks at dabbling ducks; possibly bitterns and herons. After walking around the ponds we will drive back through the tunnel to the viewing platform on the left to observe more birds and also complete a check list of the birds we saw at the ponds. Special projects may be underway and we may bird at Martinez Regional Shoreline instead, depending on access issues. Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810. Category 2.

Friday, March 22, Valle Vista. Meet at 8 AM at Valle Vista staging area off Canyon Road in Moraga. From SR 24 in Orinda, take Moraga Way to Moraga. From Mt. Diablo Blvd in Lafayette, take Moraga Road south to Moraga. At the Chevron station, go south 1 mile on Canyon Road to Valle Vista. Expect 55-60 species; we should be finished by noon. Leader: Don Lewis, 925-284-5480. Category 2.

Wednesday, March 27, Lake Lagunitas. This very popular birding trip to Marin passes through varied terrain in the beautiful area of the northern slopes of Mount Tamalpais. Carpool leaves from Sun Valley at 7:30 AM. Cross the San Rafael Bridge to US 101 north. Take the first San Rafael exit, go left on 3rd Street. In San Anselmo turn right onto Sir Francis Drake Blvd, continue to Fairfax. Go left on Fairfax Bolinas Road, follow to left turn on Sky Oaks Road and continue to kiosk. Entry fee required (\$8 last year). Drive to parking lot near foot of Lagunitas Dam. Approximate meeting time is 9:00 AM. After birding the nearby area, we will hike around Lake Lagunitas. We have often found Pileated Woodpeckers here. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 3.

Saturday, March 30, Tomales Bay State Park. Carpool leaves 7 AM from El Nido Ranch Road. Meet at 8:30 in the parking lot at Heart's Desire Beach in Tomales Bay State Park. After crossing the Richmond Bridge, follow US 101 north and take the first San Rafael exit. Go 2 blocks, turn left onto 3rd Street. In San Anselmo turn right onto Sir Francis Drake. Follow Sir Francis Drake Blvd through Inverness. Just over the ridge, turn right onto Pierce Point Road. The park entrance is on the right. Entry fee required. Leader: TBD. Category 2.

Wednesday, April 3, Orinda Connector Trail. Meet at 8 AM at the northeast corner of Camino Pablo and Bear Creek Road, Orinda. Exit at Orinda from SR 24, turn north on Camino Pablo and drive just over 2 miles to the intersection. We will walk towards the base of Briones Dam looking for spring birds. We will be finished by noon. Leader: Don Lewis, 925-284-5480. Category 2.

Saturday, April 6, Garin Regional Park. Carpool leaves 7:15 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet in parking lot at the end of Garin Road at 8:00 AM. Take I-680 south and I-580 west. Take Castro Valley exit and continue west. Turn left onto Crow Canyon Road and go under the freeway. Crow Canyon Road becomes Grove Way and then A Street. At A Street and Mission Blvd turn left; stay left to continue south on Mission Blvd, which becomes SR 238. Go south about 3 miles to Garin Road, turn left, and follow up the hill to its end. Spring migrants will be our goal. Lunch in the park after. Leader: Fred Safier, 925-937-2906. Category 3.

Thursday, April 11, North Briones. Meet 8 AM in the parking area at the north entrance of Briones Regional Park. Take Briones Road off Alhambra Valley Road and drive up this narrow winding road, park at the end. Wildflowers, spring birds and poison oak are along shaded trails. A continuation through grasslands to Sindicich Lagoons makes this walk about 3 miles round trip. Bring liquids. Leader: Maury Stern, 925-284-5980. Category 3.

Tuesday, April 16, Pine Canyon. Meet in parking lot at end of Castle Rock Road at 8 AM. Turn south on Walnut Avenue from the intersection with Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek. At the traffic circle, turn right and continue on Castle Rock Road past the high school to the end, which is the parking lot for Castle Rock Recreation Area and Diablo Foothills Regional Park. We will hike into Pine Canyon at least as far as the Castle Rocks. The trail crosses Pine Creek several times. Be prepared to carry lunch and liquids. Spring migrants and Peregrine Falcons. Leader: Nancy Wenninger, 925-938-7987. Category 3.

Thursday, April 18, Black Diamond Mines. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:30 AM. Or meet the leader at 8 AM at the parking lot at the end of Somersville Road. Exit Highway 4 at Somersville Road (south). Alternate route, go east on Ygnacio Valley/Kirker Pass Roads, in Pittsburg turn right on Buchanan Road. Turn east on Buchanan to Somersville Road (Antioch) and turn right. Follow Somersville to the entry gate, entry fee required,

proceed to the last parking lot. Woodland, chaparral and some grassland birds. Bring lunch and a beverage. Leader: Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070. Category 3.

Tuesday, April 23, Del Puerto Canyon. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet on Del Puerto Canyon Road west of I-5 at 9 AM at Patterson Exit (Diablo Grande Parkway and Sperry Road) off I-5 (56 miles from Sycamore Valley Road). Take I-580 east to I-5 south. We will stop at the Larry Combs Rest Area near Westley, as there are no facilities on trip until our lunch stop. Canyon Wren, Costa's Hummingbird, Greater Roadrunner and other goodies. Usually very warm! Bring lunch and drinks. Leader: Beth Branthaver, 510-502-4869. Category 1.

Thursday, April 25, Mitchell Canyon. Meet at 8 AM in Mitchell Canyon parking lot. There is a \$6.00 parking fee. From I-680 in Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road to Clayton Road. Turn right on Clayton Road and right on Mitchell Canyon Road to the end. Gnatcatchers, spring migrants and residents, lots of wildflowers. Usually hot! Bring liquids and lunch. Leader: Maury Stern, 925-284-5980. Category 3.

Tuesday, April 30, Mount Diablo State Park. MDSP is a treasure trove for birders. Although every season in the park has its special qualities, late April on the mountain has its own beauty, wildflowers add color to the vistas. **NOTE:** Carpool leaves at 8 AM from La Gonda. From I-680 southbound, exit at El Pintado, turn right and right again; park along open space on left. From I-680 northbound, exit El Cerro, turn left, then right at second light onto La Gonda; carpool point is about one-half mile north. Meet at 8:45 AM at the South Gate entrance after birding South Gate Road. Usually hot! Bring lunch and drinks. Entry fee required. Many migrant and nesting species are possible including Sage Sparrows, California Thrashers, woodpeckers, raptors and warblers. Leader: Steve Taylor, 925-828-8810. Category 2.

Thursday, May 2, West Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 AM in parking lot on the right hand side of the west entrance road, off Bear Creek Road. From SR 24 in Orinda, drive north on Camino Pablo about 2.25 miles, turn right on Bear Creek Road, continue for 4.5 miles to park entrance. Wildflowers, spring birds; Lazuli Buntings are usually abundant. Poison oak along shaded trails. Bring lunch and liquids. Leader: Maury Stern, 925-284-5980. Category 2.

Saturday, May 4, Mines Road. Because of limited parking along Mines Road, carpooling is essential. This is an all-day trip and often hot! Bring lunch and liquids. Phainopepla, Lewis' Woodpecker and Lawrence's Goldfinch and many spring migrants are possible, plus great spring wild flowers. Entry fee required for Del Valle Regional Park. Call the leader for meeting time and location. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 1.

Saturday, May 11, Mt. Wanda, John Muir National Historic Site, International Migratory Bird Day.

Saturday, May 11, East Contra Costa County. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 6:15 AM. Or meet the leader at 7 AM on Cypress Road at the Marsh Creek Trailhead parking lot just east of O'Reilly's Auto Parts in Oakley. Go north on I-680, exit Highway 4 toward Stockton/Pittsburg, take right Exit 30 toward CA-160/Sacramento/Rio Vista (just past Hillcrest Avenue Exit; do NOT continue straight on Highway 4). Take exit 1-A East 18th/Main Street, turn right at the bottom of the exit onto Main Street and drive through Oakley for about 4 miles, turn left onto Cypress Road. Make a U-turn at Picasso Drive, the stoplight after the railroad tracks. May be hot! Bring lunch and liquids. Target birds include: Blue Grosbeak, Hooded Oriole, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Swainson's Hawk, Yellow-billed Magpie and Yellow-breasted Chat. Leader: Gary Fregien. 916-708-0636. Category 2.

Tuesday, May 21, No Child Left Inside. Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070.

Thursday, May 23, No Child Left Inside. Paul Schorr, 925-998-0070.

Saturday, June 1, Outer Point Reyes. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:00 AM. Meet 8:30 AM at Bear Valley Visitor Center in Olema. From I-80 in Vallejo, follow SR 37 19.1 miles to Atherton Avenue, exit and turn left, cross US 101 to San Marin Drive and continue for 3 miles. Turn right on Novato Blvd for 6 miles to stop sign, then turn left on Point Reyes-Petaluma Road for 7 miles to another stop sign. Turn right across the bridge, go 3 miles to SR 1. Turn left into Point Reyes Station. After a stop at the Bovine Bakery for coffee and pastries, continue out of town towards Olema, then turn right onto Bear Valley Road. Visitor Center is off Bear Valley. We are hoping for migrants. Bring lunch and liquids. Weather is unpredictable. Leader: . Category 2.

Saturday/Sunday, TBD, Yuba Pass. This is always a productive and well-favored weekend trip to the northern Sierra which requires driving and walking, some of it over rough terrain. Saturday we will bird in the Sierra Valley for basin birds. Sunday we will be birding in the Yuba Pass area for mountain birds. Meet at the parking lot at the top of Hwy 49 at the pass at 7:00 AM Saturday morning. Make motel reservations now! Closest motels are in Sierra City, 11 miles down Highway 49 to the west. Herrington's Sierra Pines (530-862-1151 or 800-682-9848) is one of the most popular; or try Yuba River Inn (530-862-1122) with cabins and kitchenettes (cash or check only). Bassett's Station (530-862-1297) at Highway 49 and Gold Lake Road has some accommodations and meals, High Country Inn (530-862-1530 or 800-862-1530) is across Hwy 49 from Bassett's. Also, in Calpine is Sierra Valley Lodge (530-994-3367 or 800-858-0322). More listings are at www.sierracity.com/Stay/LodgingCamp.html Campgrounds are located at Yuba Pass and Chapman Creek downhill to the west. Sites are available first come/first serve for only three days at a time. Longer term reservations can be made at 877-444-6777, but

there is an additional \$10 charge for this service. After TBD call Wild Birds Unlimited (925-798-0303) for information. Leaders: TBD.

Saturday/Sunday, TBD, Mt. Lassen. If you are planning to participate in this MDAS birding trip to Lassen Volcanic National Park, let the leader know ahead of time that you are coming. Leaders will be camping in Section D of the Manzanita Lake Campground, which is tents-only and non-reservable. If you prefer not to camp, Google “motels near Lassen National Park” for options. There are also a few sleep-only cabins at Manzanita Lake with a nearby communal bathhouse, and a private lodge in the south-central part of the park, which serves meals and has a pool. Please contact me for details. Leader: TBD.

Saturday, July 27, San Mateo Coast. Carpool leaves at 7:30 AM from Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride. Meet at McDonald’s parking lot in Half Moon Bay at 8:30. Go south on I-680, turn west on I-580 to I-238, follow to I-880, then south to SR 92. Cross the San Mateo Bridge and continue to Half Moon Bay. Turn right at the first stoplight (N. Main Street), drive one block to the next light, and cross Hwy. 1 into the parking lot. Bring lunch and sunscreen—one can get badly burned on a foggy day at the seashore. Early returning shorebirds, gulls and seabirds, but the exact itinerary will be announced the day of the trip. Leader: TBD. Category 2.

Monday, August 5, Frank’s Dump—High Tide. For a shorebird spectacle, we will visit this site late in the day with the sun to our backs and birds congregating to avoid the high tide. Many of the returning shorebirds still have much of their breeding plumage. Some of these birds will stay the winter, some will continue a southerly migration. Leave the Sycamore Valley carpool location at 3 PM, then meet at the Winton Avenue entrance for Hayward Regional shoreline. From I-880, exit Winton Avenue, drive west 4.5 miles. Park near the trail head just before the parking lot gate. We will walk at least a mile to our viewing site. Bring a snack. Leader: Hugh Harvey, 925-935-2979. Category 2.

Saturday, August 17, Bodega Bay. Carpool leaves Sun Valley at 7:30 AM. Meet at the Tides Restaurant on water side of Highway 1 in Bodega at 9:15 AM. Take I-680 across the Benicia Bridge. Go west on I-780 to I-80 towards Sacramento, exit to SR 37. Follow SR 37 to Lakeville Road, turn right. In Petaluma turn left on E Washington Street and continue on Bodega Road, Valley Ford Road and SR 1 to Bodega Bay. Walk through or around The Tides to find the group viewing the harbor birds from the outdoor seating. Possibilities at Bodega Bay are flocks of shorebirds including Black Oystercatcher, Wandering Tattler, Marbled Godwit, as well as terns, gulls, cormorants, near-shore pelagics and much more. Bring lunch, liquids and sunscreen. Leader: Fred Safier, 925-937-2906. Category 1.