

FRIDAY FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, September 8

Note: All Field Trips are half day and return by 11am

Trips by Carpool are leaving from Prefunction A and down the escalator

Difficulty levels:

Easy—flat ground some walking.

Moderate—walking needed to get to the birding sites, some elevation changes.

Difficult—fair amount of walking with elevation changes.

1FRI Carson City Area & Silver Saddle Ranch

Volunteer Leader: Bill Frey

This trip will visit some of the best spots in the Carson City area, including Silver Saddle Ranch and the city wastewater plant. A good variety of habitats (riparian, wetland, grassland, and sagebrush) should yield a good species list. Expect waterfowl, rails, shorebirds, and herons (including White-faced Ibis) at the wastewater plant, raptors and sparrows in the open areas, migrant passerines and sparrows in the riparian areas along the Carson River. Pinyon Jay is possible here. This trip includes a shady walk along a good trail by the Carson River.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00 PM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

2FRI Little Washoe Lake WMA and Davis Creek

Volunteer Leader: Don Marsh

The lake should have good dabbling duck variety plus grebes. The marshes have blackbirds including Yellow-headed. The surrounding open country is good raptor habitat and both eagles are possible. Davis Creek is excellent for woodpeckers including White-headed and all three nuthatches are here. Expect an excellent mix of migrant sparrows, warblers (possibly including MacGillivray's), and flycatchers.

There could also be some late Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks lingering into September.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate with some short steep uphill at Davis Creek RP

3FRI Damonte Ranch Wetlands

Volunteer Leader: TBA

This complex of wetlands and scrub can hold a surprising variety, especially this time of year. Expect a good diversity of dabbling ducks and maybe a few divers as well. Both Virginia Rail and Sora are here plus many other water/marsh birds. If the water levels are right, this spot can host lots of shorebirds in early September, with double-digits numbers of species possible. Watch for terns over the water and Northern Harriers patrolling the marsh. Marsh Wrens are here year-round, Song and White-crowned Sparrows should be around and some migrant sparrows and warblers are possible, in addition to lingering Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: Options nearby

Difficulty level: Easy

4FRI Swan Lake NSA

Volunteer Leader: TBA

Swan Lake Nature Study Area, a Nevada Important Bird Area, is a delightful patch of habitat surrounded by suburbs and warehouses. It includes marsh, open water, sagebrush, and the Lemmon Valley Wastewater Ponds, so water birds are the feature. Dabbling ducks have included Blue-winged Teal and diving ducks such as Redhead may be present. Eared Grebes are here year-round and should still be

sporting fancy summer plumage in early September. Shorebirding may be good, depending the water levels. This is a great spot to hear (and maybe see) rails. Sparrows abound at this site and you are likely to encounter migrating Orange-crowned Warblers and lingering Common Yellowthroats.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 25 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

5FRI White's Canyon Trail

Volunteer Leader: Ned Bohman

Enjoy a walk through a fine montane riparian area during passerine migration peak. Resident species include White-headed and other woodpeckers, Cassin's Finch, and all three nuthatches (Red and White-breasted, and Pygmy). Western Wood-Pewees should still be around and you may catch a lingering Olive-sided Flycatcher. A migrant empid or two is also possible at this time. You stand a good chance of finding Clark's Nutcrackers here. Sparrows include Chipping and Green-tailed Towhees and most any of the montane-breeding warblers are possible now.

Departure Time: 7:15 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 25 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

6FRI Crystal Peak Park (Verdi)

Volunteer Leader: Kirk Hardie

This park is set in a matrix of different Sierra foothill habitats: riparian, pine woodland, meadow, and upland shrub. Woodpeckers here include Hairy, Downy, Northern Flicker, and Red-breasted Sapsucker. This is a particularly good spot for finding flycatchers including Olive-sided and maybe some empids. Cassin's Vireos may be passing through (and, luckily, they will sing in fall migration) as well as a

good variety of sparrows and warblers. Keep a look overhead for Osprey or eagles and also check the Truckee River for American Dipper. The pond can hold ducks and a variety of blackbirds.

Departure Time: 7:15 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 15 miles

Time (one way): ~ 20 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

7FRI McCarran Ranch

Volunteer Leaders: Becca & Dennis

Serdehely

This Nature Conservancy Preserve along the Truckee River is a great example of what can be accomplished with a concerted effort to restore a riparian system following decades of degradation. The combination of outstanding riverside habitats, some ponds, oxbow channels, and wetlands is certainly a place to explore. The surrounding open country guarantees outstanding bird diversity. Expect a variety of dabbling ducks including Wood Ducks, grebes, and a good chance for Spotted Sandpiper along the shores. Hawks including Red-shouldered and Cooper's are regular here and Lewis's Woodpeckers sometimes pass through in early September. Wood-Pewees and Say's Phoebes usually linger well into September here and this month is ideal for seeing Loggerhead Shrike. Five species of wren are possible, including Rock and Canyon. Western Tanagers should still be around. Sparrow variety should be good and the warbler diversity in early September can be excellent. This site has records for such rarities as Blue-winged Warbler and Painted Bunting!

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 25 minutes

Restroom facilities: Limited

Difficulty level: Moderate

8FRI Boynton Slough

Volunteer Leader: Ken

Drozd

We have special permission to visit this Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation wetland restoration site. It includes a diverse mix of wet habitats and open shrubby uplands surrounded by suburban development. Given the limited access, this spot has not been birded well, so surprises may be in store and any data we collect will aid the foundation's restoration plans. Dabbling ducks, shorebirds, and other water birds should be a feature and the habitat is ideal for Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel. Migrants could include some unexpected species and marsh-breeding blackbirds such as Yellow-headed and Red-winged Blackbirds may be present.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 10 miles

Time (one way): ~ 20 minutes

Restroom facilities: Nearby options

Difficulty level: Easy

9FRI Caughlin Ranch Trail

Volunteer Leader: Lauren

Harter

This trail follows a nice riparian corridor through a suburban neighborhood. In spite of its location, it hosts a remarkable variety of bird life with many montane species (Steller's and California Scrub-Jay, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Mountain Chickadee, Black-headed Grosbeak, etc.). Accipiters are likely and 3 species of Hummingbirds are possible, as well as flicker, thrushes, and maybe a Williamson's Sapsucker. A series of small ponds and open areas increase the diversity. This patch of good habitat surrounded by development is just the sort of place that can attract surprising migrants (and maybe a vagrant or two!) at this time of year.

Departure Time: 7:30 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 10 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restroom facilities: No

Difficulty level: Easy

10FRI Oxbow NSA

Volunteer Leaders: Carlos Gonzalez

Oxbow Nature Study Area is a real gem, one of the few high-quality riparian areas on the Truckee River in Reno. There is a short wheelchair-accessible boardwalk that provides good access to the SOME of the habitat. This is a true migrant “trap” and could host most any migrant passerine in early September. The site attracts a wide variety of migrant warblers and eastern “vagrants” such as Blackpoll, Black-and-White, and Northern Parula have been recorded here. Western Tanagers should be passing through and Black-headed Grosbeaks still on site. Red-shouldered Hawks have been increasing and expanding their range in the west in recent decades and this is one of the best places to find them in the Reno area.

Departure Time: 7:30 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 5 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

11FRI Cottonwood Park/UNR Ag Fields

Volunteer Leader: Ben Sonnenberg

This site offers a good combination of habitats with the riparian along the Truckee River hosting a good variety of passerines and woodpeckers, and open ag fields to the south attracting grassland birds. It is a good spot for raptors including Swainson’s Hawk and American Kestrel. Several heron species are here with White-faced Ibis lingering well into September. Several species of sparrow should be around and surprises are always possible this time of year.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 10 miles

Time (one way): ~ 15 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes
Difficulty level: Easy

12FRI Rancho San Rafael Park

Volunteer Leader: TBA

This site, the closest of all our field trips, offers ideal fall birding. The park is located on the northern edge of Reno and includes woodland, open areas, and some ponds and wetlands. A good selection of dabbling ducks should be around and there is an opportunity to rack up four hummingbird species (Anna's, Black-chinned, Rufous, and MAYBE a late Calliope). Migrants will probably be the focus with several flycatchers possible, vireos passing through, many sparrows, and nearly all the montane-breeding warblers possible.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 3 miles

Time (one way): ~ 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

FRIDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Friday, September 8

All workshops are just off Prefunction A. Look for the signs.

1FRI-WS Sound Workshop: "A Shared Vocabulary for Bird Sounds"

Workshop Leader: Nathan Pieplow

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Whitney Peak Ballroom

Cost: \$35

Workshop Description: In this workshop, you will work on advanced listening skills, paying attention to the fine details of a sound. Just as beginning birders learn the different parts of the bird and how to distinguish colors like "buff" and "rufous," you will learn the different parts of a sound and how to distinguish tone qualities like "burry" and "polyphonic." In the process, you will learn a common vocabulary for describing bird sounds. You will also study how to visualize sounds

and read spectrograms. No matter what your level of experience, this workshop will help you listen to sounds more analytically, describe them more accurately, and use them more effectively in identifying birds.

Leader's Bio: Nathan Pieplow is the author of the Peterson Field Guide to Bird Sounds, published in two volumes (Eastern and Western North America). He has been fascinated by birds since his childhood in South Dakota, and has intensively studied bird sounds since 2003. He is the founder of the bird sound blog Earbirding.com, one of the authors of the Colorado Birding Trail, and the former editor of the journal Colorado Birds. Nathan teaches writing and rhetoric at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

2FRI-WS Tom Blackman presents "Improve Your Nature Photography"

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Relay Peak

Cost: \$35

Workshop Description: Why can't I get an image like that? Yes you can with a knowledge of photographic techniques and development of camera and image post-processing skills. With the development of digital photography it seems every birder is now carrying a DSLR but not all of the images "pop". This workshop will include topics such as a simple way to get the correct exposure, which shutter speed to use and selections of focus points. Composition, cropping and shading to draw the viewers eye to the subject will be demonstrated. Post-processing methods will be discussed to create separation as well as workflow, key wording and databases. Photographing birds in flight will be addressed as well, including observation of bird behaviors to achieve the best image possible.

Leader's Bio: Tom graduated from Point Loma High School and received a B.S. degree in Zoology from San Diego State University, and resides in the San Diego area. Through several careers he always kept his hand in photography since developing an interest in the subject at an early age. He has traveled extensively and is known for his pelagic photography. His work can be found in scientific journals, bird guides and publications and at <https://obeach.smugmug.com/> He served as President of San Diego Field Ornithologists and is a Past President of Western Field Ornithologists.

3FRI-WS FT Jon Dunn's Shorebird Identification Friday Workshop & Saturday Field Trip

Workshop and Field Trip Leader: Jon Dunn

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Mt Rose Room on 3rd Floor

Cost: \$70 for Friday workshop PLUS Saturday field trip.

Workshop: If you find shorebird identification difficult, this is the workshop for you. Jon will focus on the more difficult groups, such as yellowlegs, small sandpipers (peeps or stints), and dowitchers, taking lots of time to view the subtle differences in plumage and shape. Jon will use digital images and when applicable listen to distinguishing vocalizations to help you with identification. He will start with a brief overview of plumages of shorebirds and the seasonal timing and routes of migration. This is a workshop only.

Field Trip: The destination for the Saturday field trip will be determined based on scouting shortly before the conference and will be selected to maximize success in finding a variety of species to study. The field portion of the workshop will deal with techniques for observing and identifying shorebirds. Species identification, ageing and sexing criteria, vocalizations, and various aspects of behavior will be covered in the field. Time and place to be announced. Meet in Prefunction A on 3rd floor for carpooling.

OR

3FRI-WS Jon Dunn's Friday Shorebird Identification Workshop Only

Workshop Leader: Jon Dunn

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Mt Rose Room on 3rd Floor

Cost: \$35 for Friday workshop only

Workshop: If you find shorebird identification difficult, this is the workshop for you. Jon will focus on the more difficult groups, such as yellowlegs, small sandpipers (peeps or stints), and dowitchers, taking lots of time to view the subtle differences in plumage and shape. Jon will use digital images and when applicable listen to distinguishing vocalizations to help you with identification. He will start with a brief overview of plumages of shorebirds and the seasonal timing and routes of migration. This is a workshop only.

Leader's Bio: **Jon Dunn** has a passion for teaching about field identification, status and distribution, both in the field and the classroom. Jon Dunn is the co-author of the seventh edition of the National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North

America.. He was chief consultant for the first five editions and co-author with Jonathan Alderfer for the 6th and 7th. He is a member of the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union and has served more than 27 years on the California Bird Records Committee. He has also been on the Board of Directors for Western Field Ornithologists for over ten years. In 2012, Jon was the recipient of the ABA's Roger Tory Peterson Award, given for a lifetime of achievements in promoting the cause of birding. Among Jon's many publications are the two-video set Large and Small Gulls of North America, Birds of Southern California: Status and Distribution (with Kimball Garrett), the Peterson Field Guide to Warblers (with Kimball Garrett) and Gulls of the Americas (with Steve Howell). Beyond birds, Jon has a keen interest in history, politics and the cinema.