

46th Annual Conference of Western Field Ornithologists

Reno, NV • September 7th to 11th

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, September 7th

3:00—6:00 PM Early registration begins 3rd Floor of Whitney Peak Hotel

Thursday, September 8th

5:00—7:00 AM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor of Whitney Peak Hotel

5:00—7:00 AM Grab and Go Breakfast (PRE-ORDERED) is available in Mt Rose Room

5:00—7:00 AM Grab and Go Boxed Lunch (PRE-ORDERED) is available for pick up in Mt Rose Room. Be sure you have a cooler in your car for your lunch.

THURSDAY FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL; Full Day Field Trips return by 4:30 PM

5:45 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 5:45 AM prompt departure.

- 1THU Mason Valley WMA & Lahontan Reservoir

6:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:00 AM prompt departure.

- 2THU South Shore Lake Tahoe
- 3THU Alpine County
- 4THU Carson Lake/Stillwater NWR
- 5THU Topaz Lake & Walker River SRA

6:30 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:30 AM prompt departure.

- 7THU North Shore Tahoe & Martis Valley
- 8THU Lahontan Recreation Area & Carson Lake
- 9THU Pyramid Lake & Numana Wetlands

6:45 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:45 AM prompt departure.

- 10THU Tahoe Meadows & Spooner Lake
- 11THU Carson City Area

7:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:00 AM prompt departure.

- 12THU Boca & Stampede Reservoirs
- 13THU Little Washoe & Davis Creek Regional Park
- 14THU McCarran Ranch & Vicinity

11 AM—4:00 PM WFO Board Meeting in the Mt Rose Room

4:30—6:30 PM Registration is open in Prefunction A, 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel

6:00—9:00 PM A Welcome Reception—WFO invites you to a Welcoming Reception with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar on Thursday evening. Everyone is invited. Come and meet old and new birding friends. Meet this year's scholarship recipients. Rub elbows with our hard working volunteer Field Trip Leaders. Mingle with the Board of Directors. It's time to eat, drink and celebrate together.

Friday, September 9th

6:00—8:00 AM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel

6:00—8:00 AM Grab and Go Breakfast (PRE-ORDERED) is available in Mt Rose Room

6:00—8:00 AM Grab and Go Lunch (PRE-ORDERED) is available for pick up in Mt Rose Room. Be sure you have a cooler in your car for your lunch.

FRIDAY FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL; Field Trips return by about 11 AM

7:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:00 AM prompt departure.

- 1FRI Carson City Area & Silver Saddle Ranch
- 2FRI Little Washoe Lake WMA & Davis Creek
- 3FRI Damonte Ranch Wetlands
- 4FRI Swan Lake NSA

7:15 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:15 AM prompt departure.

- 5FRI White's Canyon Trail
- 6FRI Crystal Peak Park (Verdi)
- 7FRI McCarran Ranch
- 8FRI Boynton Slough

7:30 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:30 AM prompt departure.

- 9FRI Caughlin Ranch Trail
- 10FRI Oxbow NSA
- 11FRI Cottonwood Park & UNR Ag Fields
- 12FRI Rancho San Rafael Park

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

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

8:00—11:00 AM 1FRI-WS Nathan Pieplow presents “A Shared Vocabulary for Bird Sounds” in Whitney Peak Ballroom, 3rd Floor

8:00—11:00 AM 2FRI-WS Tom Blackman presents “Improve Your Nature Photography” in Wheeler Peak Room, 3rd Floor

- 8:00—11:00 AM 3FRI-WS Jon Dunn's Shorebird Identification **Workshop Only** in the Mt Rose Room, 3rd Floor
- 8:00—11:00 AM 4FRI-WS&FT Jon Dunn's Shorebird Identification **Workshop and Saturday Field Trip** in the Mt Rose Room, 3rd Floor (Saturday Field Trip time and destination to be announced at Workshop.)
- 11:00 AM—12 PM Lunch break
- 12:00 PM—1 PM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel**
- 1:00—3:45 PM Plenary & Science Sessions in the Whitney Peak Ballroom
- 4:00—5:30 PM Bird Sound Identification: Team Challenge—Nathan Pieplow in the Whitney Peak Ballroom
- 5:30—6:30 PM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel**
- 6:30 PM Dinner Break No other evening activities planned
- 6:30—8:00 PM Scholarship Recipients and Alumni Reception: This is an Ice Breaker Reception for all Scholars and Alumni of the WFO Scholarship Program.

Saturday, September 10th

- 6:00—8:00 AM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel**
- 6:00—8:00 AM Grab and Go Breakfast (PRE-ORDERED) is available in Mt Rose Room
- 6:00—8:00 AM Grab and Go Lunch (PRE-ORDERED) is available for pick up in Mt Rose Room. **Be sure you have a cooler in your car for your lunch.**

SATURDAY FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL; Field Trips return by about 11 AM

- 7:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:00 AM prompt departure.
- 1SAT Carson City Area & Silver Saddle Ranch
 - 2SAT Little Washoe Lake WMA & Davis Creek
 - 3SAT Damonte Ranch Wetlands
 - 4SAT Swan Lake NSA
- 7:15 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:15 AM prompt departure.
- 5SAT White's Canyon Trail
 - 6SAT Crystal Peak Park (Verdi)
 - 7SAT McCarran Ranch
 - 8SAT Boynton Slough
- 7:30 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:30 AM prompt departure.
- 9SAT Caughlin Ranch Trail
 - 10SAT Oxbow NSA
 - 11SAT Cottonwood Park & UNR Ag Fields

- 12SAT Rancho San Rafael Park
- 13SAT Student's Program Field Trip—Bird Banding with GBBO

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

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

- 8:00—11:00 AM **CANCELLED** 1SAT-WS Bryce Robinson presents "*Illustrating Birds from Field to Studio*" in Mt Rose Room, 3rd Floor
- 8:00—11:00 AM 2SAT-WS Mario Córdoba presents "Birding Costa Rica" in Relay Peak Room
- 8:00—11:00 AM 3SAT-WS Nathan Pieplow presents "Ear Birding with Your Phone" **Workshop Only** in the Whitney Peak Ballroom, 3rd Floor
- 8:00—11:00 AM 4SAT-WS & FT Nathan Pieplow "Ear Birding with Your Phone" **Workshop and Sunday Field Trip** in the Whitney Peak Ballroom, 3rd Floor
- 11:00 AM—12 Lunch break
- 12:00 PM—1 PM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel**
- 1:00—3:45 PM Plenary & Science Sessions in Whitney Peak Ballroom
- 4:00—5:15 PM Bird Photo ID: Expert Panel with Ed Harper in the Whitney Peak Ballroom
- 5:00—9:30 PM Silent Auction—Browse and Bid on items in the Prefunction Room B
- 6:00—9:00 PM Cash Bar is open. That's a good time to browse the Silent Auction and bid.
- 6:45—9:30 PM Banquet and Cash Bar, Annual Meeting, Awards, Election and Keynote Address in the Whitney Peak Ballroom. **Please wear your name badges to the banquet.**

Keynote

"Birds in Sierra Nevada National Parks: Vulnerability and Resilience to Fire and Climate Change"

Rodney Siegel, Executive Director of the Institute for Bird Populations

Drought, rising temperatures, and the emergence of annual megafires are spurring rapid ecological change in the Sierra Nevada. How are bird populations in the region's flagship national parks responding? What patterns are evident among common bird species, and how are rarer birds of conservation concern – like Clark's Nutcracker, Willow Flycatcher, Spotted Owl, and Great Gray Owl - faring? Drawing primarily from long-term monitoring and recent research conducted by The Institute for Bird Populations in partnership with the National Park Service, I will discuss ecology and population trends of birds at Yosemite and Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, with an emphasis on vulnerability and resilience to fire and climate change.

Sunday September 11th

5:00—7:00 AM Registration is open on the 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel

5:00—7:00 AM Grab and Go Breakfast (PRE-ORDERED) is available in Mt Rose Room

5:00—7:00 AM Grab and Go Lunch (PRE-ORDERED) is available for pick up in Mt Rose Room. Be sure you have a cooler in your car for your lunch.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRANSPORTATION BY CARPOOL; Field Trips return by 4:30 PM

5:45 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 5:45 AM prompt departure.

- 1SUN Mason Valley WMA & Lahontan Reservoir

6:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:00 AM prompt departure.

- 2SUN Tahoe South Shore
- 3SUN Alpine County
- 4SUN Carson Lake & Stillwater NWR
- 5SUN Topaz Lake & Walker River SRA

6:30 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:30 AM prompt departure.

- 7SUN North Shore Tahoe & Martis Valley
- 8SUN Lahontan Recreation Area & Carson Lake
- 9SUN Pyramid Lake & Numana Wetlands

6:45 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 6:45 AM prompt departure.

- 10SUN Tahoe Meadows & Spooner Lake
- 11SUN Carson City Area

7:00 AM Assemble on the 3rd Floor at the appropriate sign for a 7:00 AM prompt departure.

- 12SUN Boca & Stampede Reservoirs
- 13SUN Little Washoe & Davis Creek Regional Park
- 14SUN McCarran Ranch & Vicinity

THURSDAY FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, September 8th

Note: All Field Trips are full day and return by 4:30 pm

Carpools leave from the Prefunction A, 3rd Floor, Whitney Peak Hotel, Reno, Nevada

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

List and description of Field Trips for WFO Reno September 2022

Climate Considerations: The weather in the Reno area in early September is generally excellent with highs in the low 80s and early morning lows in the upper 50s with very low humidity and little chance of rain. However, some of our field trips will go into the higher elevations of the Sierra Nevada and Carson Range (some well over 8000 feet) where mornings can be quite chilly and afternoon thunderstorms are possible. So, be prepared for a variety of conditions and dress in layers. Reno sits at 4500 feet elevation and all our trips will be at 4000 feet or higher. The air is thin and dry, and this will affect your ability to do strenuous exercise, affect your rate of evaporative water loss, and increase your susceptibility to sunburn. Wherever you go, be sure to take (and drink!) plenty of water, wear a hat and use sunscreen.

Logistics Considerations: Although there are many great birding spots very close to Reno, in order to reach a wide variety of habitats (and a corresponding variety of birds) some full day trips may require as much as two hours of drive time each way. We provide mileages and driving times for each trip. Please pay attention to this as you register for field trips so that you are not disappointed by the amount of time you spend in a vehicle compared to birding time. Some trips require some uphill walking at higher elevations and we have indicated the difficulty levels for each trip. Keep those in mind in choosing your trips.

Carpools: Vans are always popular with our registrants so we try to provide them whenever possible. This year due to Covid restrictions it seems much safer to have carpools. Masks are not required when outside and six feet apart. Please be open to either driving and taking other folks along, or being a passenger. In all cases, your leader will try to organize the group into as few cars as possible. Where to assemble cars for carpools will be explained at the field trip mustering area.

1THU Mason Valley WMA & Lahontan Reservoir

Volunteer Leader: Paul Hurtado

This expanse of managed wetlands and open agriculture supports a wide variety of waterfowl with many species of dabbling ducks present. Expect several stops to view the habitats and bring a scope, if you have one. While early September is too early for most wintering diving ducks, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks should be present as well as a variety of grebes. Shorebird diversity should be excellent with both breeders and migrants (good chances for Lesser Yellowlegs at this time) present. Caspian, Common, and Forster's Tern are all possible plus several species of heron, including American Bittern. Expect good raptor numbers including Swainson's Hawk. Migrant flycatchers such as Willow and Gray may be passing through and good numbers of Say's and Black Phoebe are found here. This is good habitat for the declining Loggerhead Shrike. Among the blackbirds you may find Yellow-headed and Great-tailed Grackles and this is a good time to encounter migrant warblers. There may be a few lingering Blue or Black-headed Grosbeaks as well.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 75 miles

Time (one way): ~ 2hr 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

2THU South Shore Lake Tahoe

Volunteer Leaders: Don & Lynn Harriman

In just over an hour, after a scenic drive over the Carson Range, you can be birding at Lake Tahoe, home of the White-headed Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, and so much more. Despite considerable urbanization, the area includes good montane conifer habitat and extensive natural wetlands. We will start at Rabe Meadows (restrooms) to look for waterfowl on the pond and Mountain and Western Bluebirds in the meadow. With any luck we'll hit the Tahoe Nuthatch Trifecta (Pygmy, Red-breasted, White-breasted) before the day is done. Next stop is Cove East on the Upper Truckee River, where there's always something interesting. Walking a mile plus out to the shore of Lake Tahoe we'll see waterfowl, shorebirds, maybe a Bald Eagle or Osprey, Black-billed Magpie, warblers in the willows, swallows overhead. Listen for Sora, Common Yellowthroat, and Marsh Wren. Then it's on to Taylor Creek (restrooms) for more forest, marsh and wonderful Lake Tahoe views. If we haven't seen a White-headed woodpecker, this could be the place; or maybe an Eagle, Osprey or Wood Duck. The final stop will be Upper Truckee Marsh with more spectacular Lake Tahoe views, lakeshore, marsh, meadow, and forest. A number of sparrows are possible here (Song, Savannah nest here, Chipping, Brewer's, Vesper visit on migration). If we've missed anything listed above, we could see them here.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 65 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 50 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

3THU Alpine County

Volunteer Leaders: Linda Pittman

A drive through Carson Valley and into California takes you into Alpine County, the least-populated county in the state. A few stops allow one to take in a variety of habitats including grassland, chaparral, conifer forest, riparian, and open water. The grasslands can have good raptor numbers with Prairie Falcon and Swainson's Hawk possible. Say's Phoebe and lingering Western Kingbirds should be present and Mountain Bluebird is possible. The chaparral will

hold several species of sparrow with Black-throated is a possibility. Woodland areas host all three nuthatches (Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy) and Williamson's Sapsucker and Lewis's Woodpecker are here among a good variety of other woodpeckers. This time of year it is possible to find four species of Empidonax flycatchers (Willow, Dusky, Hammond's, and Gray). The area is a good a place to find Pinyon Jays. Riparian areas (especially in the town of Markleeville) should offer great warbler-watching and the stream through town has American Dippers. Indian Creek Reservoir can have a good mix of ducks this time of year and shorebirds if the lake level is low. Bald Eagles are found here regularly and you may luck into a flyby Northern Goshawk.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 70 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

4THU Carson Lake & Stillwater NWR Volunteer Leaders: Michael Goddard & Debbie House

The importance of this premier wetland complex is confirmed by its designation as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, and early September is a great time to visit and enjoy the migrant shorebird diversity. Although the peak of phalarope migration is in August, you should still find both Wilson's and Red-necked here in early September. This trip will consist of several stops to view the wetlands so bring a scope if you have one. Besides the myriad species of shorebirds, the site hosts many duck species (dabblers and divers), grebes, herons, and American White Pelicans. Bonaparte's Gulls should be present. Wetlands support Yellow-headed and many other blackbirds and the variety of habitats here support several species of sparrows including Sagebrush Sparrows. Many side trips (including Carson Lake) are possible and you could spend days here, but your leaders will manage the options as time permits.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 76 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

5THU Topaz Lake and Walker River SRA

Volunteer Leader: Ben Sonnenberg

This trip may be modified at the discretion of your leader. The drive to Topaz Lake (right on the NV-CA border) will take about 90 minutes, with another hour drive to reach the Walker River State Recreation Area. Along the way to Topaz Lake, we may make some stops in the canyons along Route 338 to try for raptors, Pinyon Jays, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and Juniper Titmouse. Topaz Lake should have a good mix of dabbling ducks, grebes, probably a Caspian Tern or two and a very good chance for Common Loon. If the lake level is low, there can be a lot of shorebird habitat. A scope will be very handy here. Walker River SRA is a seldom-birded area of isolated riparian habitat – just the sort of area that can attract a “fallout” of migrant songbirds.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: Carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 71 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

7THU North Shore Tahoe and Martis Valley

Volunteer Leader: Cliff Hawley

This trip will first visit Martis Valley and Martis Creek Lake, then head over to the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Martis Valley/Lake has a mix of chaparral, grassland, pine woodland, marsh, and open water. The lake may have dabbling ducks and perhaps a Redhead. Yellow Warblers and a variety of sparrows (including Vesper and Green-tailed Towhee) breed here, most of which should still be around in early September. Watch for Osprey, Caspian Tern, and, if you really get lucky, a soaring Northern Goshawk. This is a great spot for Mountain Bluebirds and the campground often has Red Crossbills. Depending on time, you may make a detour to the Martis Peak area for Sierra woodland birds, then move on to scan the lake from the north shore. A scope is definitely a plus for this part. Mid-late September is ideal for Common Terns and Sabine's Gull here, but they can be present any time in the month. Parasitic Jaegers have been found here as well. Loons and all three mergansers are possible. If the lake level is low, a small patch of willows on a spit of land here can produce remarkable migrants in fall.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

8THU Lahontan Recreation Area and Carson Lake

Volunteer Leader: Kirk Hardie

An expanse of open water at Lahontan State Recreation area can have a variety of waterfowl, grebes, and other water birds. Depending on water levels, there may be plenty of shorebird habitat just in time for fall migration. Shoreline trees could host migrant warblers and flycatchers. Carson Lake includes some outstanding wetland habitat and attracts a large diversity of breeding and migrant shorebirds and waterfowl. Finding double-digit numbers of shorebird species is a good bet here in early September. Virginia Rail and Sora are present and this is a good spot for Loggerhead Shrikes and an excellent mix of sparrows. The wetlands should have lots of blackbirds, including Yellow-headed.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: limited

Difficulty level: Easy

9THU Pyramid Lake and Numana Wetlands Volunteer Leaders: Ted Floyd and Lauren Harter

This natural desert lake hosts one of the largest colonies of breeding American White Pelicans in the US, and many should still be present in September. Expect an excellent diversity of dabbling ducks and a good chance of finding divers such as Redhead, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Common Mergansers are expected and Red-breasted is possible. This is an ideal time for migrant shorebirds and species such as Baird's, Pectoral, and Sanderling are good possibilities. Bring a scope if you have one. Common Loons should be around and raptors such as Northern Harrier, Osprey, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon are likely. Patches of willows here act as migrant traps, attracting flycatchers, vireos, warblers, Western Tanagers, and occasionally a Blue Grosbeak. A visit to Numana Wetlands should add more passerine diversity to the day.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

10THU Tahoe Meadows and Spooner Lake

Volunteer Leaders: TBA

Tahoe Meadows is a high-altitude (nearly 9000 feet) montane meadow with a well-developed willow habitat and a nice boardwalk. These meadows can be a bit quiet in early September but some breeders may well linger here, including Chipping, White-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrows as well as warblers such as Yellow, Townsend's, Nashville, and MacGillivray's. Orange-crowned Warblers move to these high-elevation habitats after breeding to undergo molt and can be common in September. In any case, this is a good place to find residents such as Clark's Nutcracker and Williamson's Sapsucker. The hike to Spooner Lake is short, but includes some short, steep sections on dirt trails. This hike offers an excellent variety of woodland montane species and is one of the best spots in the state to find Pileated Woodpecker. Other more common woodpeckers here include White-headed, Downy, and Hairy. This is a great place to find all three nuthatches (Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy). Bald Eagles are often seen around the lake itself.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: limited

Difficulty level: Moderate to Difficult

11THU Carson City Area, Silver Saddle Ranch

Volunteer Leaders: Bill Frey & Rob Lowry

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: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

12THU Boca and Stampede Reservoirs

Volunteer Leader: Scott Dietrich

These two California reservoirs and the surrounding areas should produce an excellent variety of birds for the day. The deeper parts of Boca and Stampede should have grebes and maybe a Common Loon. The northern, shallow end of Boca can host migrant waterfowl and shorebirds such as Western Sandpiper and American Avocet. The adjacent open sagebrush can be full of sparrows including Vesper Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee and Brewer's Sparrow. Stampede Reservoir is mostly deep water, but the edges usually attract a Bald Eagle or two. This area is great place to see and hear all three nuthatches and the woodlands here are good for Williamson's Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker. A mix of open and wooded habitats north of Stampede can also hold Mountain Bluebirds, Violet-green Swallow, and maybe a lingering Gray Flycatcher. The Little Truckee River corridor between the two reservoirs is a good place for Sierra warblers such as Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and possibly a Nashville or MacGillivray's Warbler. Often Osprey and Belted Kingfisher are seen along the river as well. The woodlands away from the lake are also a good place to listen for Clark's Nutcracker and Red Crossbill. This is good Northern Goshawk country, but you always need a bit of luck for that one.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

13THU Little Washoe and Davis Creek Regional Park Volunteer Leader: TBA

The lake should have plenty of dabbling duck varieties plus lots of grebes. The marshes have many 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 should also be some Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks lingering into September.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

14THU McCarran Ranch & Vicinity 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 and wetlands, and the surrounding open country guarantees outstanding bird diversity. Expect a variety of dabbling ducks including Wood Ducks, Pied-billed and Eared 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. Western 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: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 25 minutes

Restroom facilities: Limited

Difficulty level: Moderate

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.

SATURDAY FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, September 10, 2022

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

All trips are 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

1SAT Silver Saddle Ranch & Carson City Area

Volunteer Leaders: Nancy Santos

This trip will visit one or more of the ebird.com hot spots in Carson City including Silver Saddle Ranch and others as time permits. A variety of habitats (riparian cottonwood forest, agricultural fields, linear ditch willow complex, and sagebrush foothills) should yield a good species list for this time of year. Expect raptors, sparrows, and other species that use agricultural fields to be observed along the northern portion of the ranch property. The riparian habitat along the Carson River supports such fall migrants as raptors (Red-shouldered Hawk, accipiters, Osprey, etc.), waterfowl, wading birds, woodpeckers/sapsuckers, and passerines (warblers, wrens, bushtits, sparrows, etc.). A flock of Pinyon Jays may also be observed along the river corridor or flying over going between the Pine Nut Mountains and Sierra Nevada's. This ranch trip includes a sunny walk along a two-track road between the ag fields and flat dirt trail along the river corridor and other habitats.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 11:00 AM

Cost: \$35

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

2SAT Little Washoe Lake & Davis Creek

Volunteer Leaders: TBA

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

3SAT Damonte Ranch Wetlands

Volunteer Leader: Carlos Gonzalez

This complex of wetlands and scrub can hold a surprising variety, especially this time of year. Expect 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

4SAT 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

5SAT White's Canyon Trail

Volunteer Leader: Don Marsh

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

6SAT Crystal Peak Park (Verdi)

Volunteer Leader: TBA

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

7SAT McCarran Ranch

Volunteer Leaders: Kayla Henry

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. 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

8SAT 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

9SAT 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 increases 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

10SAT Oxbow NSA

Volunteer Leader: TBA

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

11SAT Cottonwood Park/UNR Ag Fields

Volunteer Leader: TBA

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

12SAT Rancho San Rafael Park

Volunteer Leaders: 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 are 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

13SAT Student's Program Field Trip Volunteer Leaders: Kelly Colegrove and Elisabeth Ammon

Bird Banding with Great Basin Bird Observatory

Bird banding is an important research tool for gathering bird population information on migration and dispersal, demographics, life span and survival, and spatial use patterns. Safely capturing live birds and outfitting them with unique identification bands requires patience and

training but is rewarding for those that do it. Participants will be invited to join the long-term banding effort at the McCarran Ranch Preserve where the Nature Conservancy has been working to restore the riparian area along the Truckee river. Attendees will be able to see how a banding station is run and get up close to the many riparian and migrating bird species passing through the area this time of year. Banding station crew will provide introductory instruction on banding methods and ageing/sexing birds in the hand.

SATURDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Saturday, September 11

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

1SAT-WS Workshop: “*Illustrating Birds From the Field to the Studio*” CANCELLED

Workshop Leader: Bryce W. Robinson

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Mt Rose Room

Cost: \$35

Workshop Description: “It is no coincidence that many talented birders and ornithologists also hold a desire to illustrate bird life. In fact, many bird experts such as David Sibley and Kenn Kauffmann, actively work to communicate their knowledge and passion through their illustrations. Bird illustration is a fundamental tool for bird study, since its process breaks down the basics of identification in an intimate manner. To create a recognizable image that resembles reality, one must master shape, proportion, components and structure, posture, and plumage. Through such intimate study, one becomes familiar with not only important identification characteristics, but the general character of each species as well, ultimately enhancing skills in field identification and enriching one’s experience with birdlife.

In this workshop, we will learn how to develop skills in bird illustration so that you too can create captivating and informative representations of birds, no matter your drawing abilities. We will learn the proper approach to illustration, including which aspects to prioritize in order to create the best representation of your subject. We will then put this approach into practice as we work from photographs to ‘build a bird’. We will separate each step, take it slow, and ultimately each participant will not only come away with a refined representation of a bird, but a better understanding of the birds character that will enhance your skills as you enter the field to join the afternoon or Sunday field trips.

Leader’s Bio: **Bryce W. Robinson** is an ornithologist and illustrator. He has illustrated birds since he began birding as a child in Ithaca, New York. He has since studied birds across North and Central America, from illustrating McKay’s Buntings on their breeding grounds on St. Matthew Island, Gyrfalcon at their nests in the Arctic Tundra, to Orange-breasted Falcons atop high cliffs in the Belizean forest. He is the author of many scientific publications, some of which feature his illustrations. He lives in Boise, Idaho, where he manages Ornithologi: A Studio for Bird Study. To see his work, visit www.ornithologi.com

2SAT-WS Workshop: “Birding Costa Rica”

Workshop Presenter: Mario Córdoba

Time: 8:00AM–11:00AM

Where: Relay Peak Room

Cost: \$35

Workshop description: If you have dreamed of birding in Costa Rica, and would like to learn more about the country’s geography, ecosystems and bird life, then this workshop can help you to see what is possible in this diverse country.

Leader’s Bio: Mario Córdoba has been a nature guide in Costa Rica for more than two decades. During all these years he has been able to constantly expand his knowledge and appreciation for the country’s unique features; and more importantly he has been able to proudly introduce visitors to all these facts.

His passion for birds and nature developed as he grew up in the rainy mountains and valleys of San Carlos in northern Costa Rica, then during his career with many hours in the field, he has been able to gather expertise and knowledge about the flora and fauna of Costa Rica; which has helped him design and lead handcrafted tours all over Costa Rica.

Mario attended Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica for his professional training in Eco-Tourism. This career was first offered as an option to fill the existing need for naturalist guides in the growing tourism business in the early 1990’s, as well as the Costa Rican Tourism Bureau credential as a certified tour guide.

In 2010 he founded Crescentia Expeditions, a local outfitter specialized in custom designed itineraries with a focus on birding and natural history tours, as well as field studies programs for both high school and college students.

3SAT-WS Workshop: “Ear Birding with Your Phone” [Workshop Only]

Workshop Leader: Nathan Pieplow

Time: 8:00—11:00 AM

Where: Whitney Peak Ballroom

Cost: \$35

Workshop Description: In Saturday morning's workshop, Nathan Pieplow will discuss apps for recording and identifying birds with your cell phone, with special attention to Merlin Sound ID. If you have a favorite app, you can bring it and discuss it; if you've never used your phone for recording, identifying, or making spectrograms of bird sounds, we will get you set up. This is a **WORKSHOP ONLY**.

OR

4SAT-WS & FT “Ear Birding with Your Phone” [Workshop and Field Trip]

Workshop Leader: Nathan Pieplow

Time: 8:00—11:00 AM

Where: Whitney Peak Ballroom

Cost: \$35

Workshop Description: In Saturday morning's workshop, Nathan Pieplow will discuss apps for recording and identifying birds with your cell phone, with special attention to Merlin Sound ID. If you have a favorite app, you can bring it and discuss; if you've never used your phone for recording, identifying, or making spectrograms of bird sounds, we will get you set up.

In Sunday morning's follow-up field trip, a smaller group will attempt to put our phones and apps to the test on real birds under field conditions. Location and time for the field trip will be announced at the Workshop. This is a **WORKSHOP & FIELDTRIP**.

Leader's Bio: **Nathan Pieplow** is the author of the *Peterson Field Guide to "Bird Sounds of Eastern North America"* and the forthcoming Peterson Field Guide to *"Bird Sounds of 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 at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

SUNDAY FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

Sunday, September 11, 2022

Note: All Field Trips are full day and return by 4:30 pm

All trips by Carpool leave from the Prefunction A, 3rd Floor,

Whitney Peak Hotel, Reno, Nevada

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.

1SUN Mason Valley WMA & Lahontan Reservoir

Volunteer Leader: Paul Hurtado

This expanse of managed wetlands and open agriculture supports a wide variety of waterfowl with many species of dabbling ducks present. Expect several stops to view the habitats and bring a scope, if you have one. While early September is too early for most wintering diving ducks, Redhead and Ruddy Ducks should be present as well as a variety of grebes. Shorebird diversity should be excellent with both breeders and migrants (good chances for Lesser Yellowlegs at this time) present. Caspian, Common, and Forster's Tern are all possible plus several species of heron, including American Bittern. Expect good raptor numbers including Swainson's Hawk. Migrant flycatchers such as Willow and Gray may be passing through and good numbers of Say's and Black Phoebes are found here. This is good habitat for the declining

Loggerhead Shrike. Among the blackbirds you may find Yellow-headed and Great-tailed Grackle and this is a good time to encounter migrant warblers. There may be a few lingering Blue or Black-headed Grosbeaks as well.

Departure Time: 5:45 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 75 miles

Time (one way): ~ 2hr 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

2SUN Tahoe South Shore

Volunteer Leaders: Don & Lynn Harriman

In just over an hour, after a scenic drive over the Carson Range, you can be birding at Lake Tahoe, home of the White-headed Woodpecker, Steller's Jay, Mountain Chickadee, and so much more. Despite considerable urbanization, the area includes good montane conifer habitat and extensive natural wetlands. We will start at Rabe Meadows (restrooms) to look for waterfowl on the pond and bluebirds in the meadow. With any luck we'll hit the Tahoe Nuthatch Trifecta (Pygmy, Red-breasted, White-breasted) before the day is done. Next stop is Cove East on the Upper Truckee River, where there is always something interesting. Walking a mile plus out to the shore of Lake Tahoe we'll see waterfowl, shorebirds, maybe a Bald Eagle or Osprey, Black-billed Magpie, warblers in the willows, and swallows overhead. Listen for Sora, Common Yellowthroat, and Marsh Wren. Then it is on to Taylor Creek (restrooms) for more forest, marsh and wonderful Lake Tahoe views. If we haven't seen a White-headed Woodpecker this could be the place. Or an Eagle, Osprey or Wood Duck. The final stop will be Upper Truckee Marsh with more spectacular Lake Tahoe views, lakeshore, marsh, meadow, and forest. A number of sparrows are possible here (Song, Savannah nest here, Chipping, Brewer's, Vesper visit on migration). If we've missed anything listed above, we could see them here.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 65 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 50 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

3SUN Alpine County

Volunteer Leaders: Linda Pittman

A drive through Carson Valley and into California takes you into Alpine County, the least-populated county in the state. A few stops allow one to take in a variety of habitats including

grassland, chaparral, conifer forest, riparian, and open water. The grasslands can have good raptor numbers with Prairie Falcon and Swainson's Hawk possible. Say's Phoebe and lingering Western Kingbirds should be present and Mountain Bluebird is possible. The chaparral will hold several species of sparrow with Black-throated a possibility. Woodland areas host all three nuthatches (Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy) and Williamson's Sapsucker and Lewis's Woodpecker are here among a good variety of woodpeckers. This time of year it is possible to find four species of Empidonax flycatchers (Willow, Dusky, Hammond's, and Gray). The area is good a place to find Pinyon Jays. Riparian areas (especially in the town of Markleeville) should offer great warbler-watching and the stream through town has American Dippers. Indian Creek Reservoir can have a good mix of ducks this time of year and shorebirds if the lake level is low. Bald Eagles are found here regularly and you may luck into a flyby Northern Goshawk.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 70 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

4SUN Stillwater NWR & Carson Lake Volunteer Leaders: Michael Goddard and Debbie House

The importance of this premier wetland complex is confirmed by its designation as a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve, and early September is a great time to visit and enjoy the migrant shorebird diversity. Although the peak of phalarope migration is in August, you should still find both Wilson's and Red-necked here in early September. This trip will consist of several stops to view the wetlands so bring a scope if you have one. Besides the myriad species of shorebirds, the site hosts many duck species (dabblers and divers), grebes, herons, and American White Pelicans. Bonaparte's Gulls should be present. Wetlands support Yellow-headed and many other blackbirds and the variety of habitats here support several species of sparrows including Sagebrush Sparrows. Many side trips (including Carson Lake) are possible and you could spend days here, but your leaders will manage the options as time permits.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 76 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

5SUN Topaz Lake/Walker River SRA

Volunteer Leader: Ben Sonnenberg

This trip may be modified at the discretion of your leader. The drive to Topaz Lake (right on the NV-CA border) will take about 90 minutes, with another hour drive to reach the Walker River State Recreation Area. Along the way to Topaz Lake we may make some stops in the canyons along Route 338 to try for raptors, Pinyon Jays, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and Juniper Titmouse. Topaz Lake should have a good mix of dabbling ducks, grebes, probably a Caspian Tern or two and a very good chance for Common Loon. If the lake level is low, there can be a lot of shorebird habitat. A scope will be very handy here. Walker River SRA is a seldom-birded area of isolated riparian habitat – just the sort of area that can attract a ‘fallout’ of migrant songbirds.

Departure Time: 6:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 71 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: very limited

Difficulty level: Easy

7SUN North Shore Tahoe & Martis Valley

Volunteer Leader: Cliff Hawley

This trip will first visit Martis Valley and Martis Creek Lake, then head over to the north shore of Lake Tahoe. Martis Valley/Lake has a mix of chaparral, grassland, pine woodland, marsh, and open water. The lake may have dabbling ducks and perhaps a Redhead. Yellow Warblers and a variety of sparrows (including Vesper and Green-tailed Towhee) breed here, most of which should still be around in early September. Watch for Osprey, Caspian Tern, and, if you really get lucky, a soaring Northern Goshawk. This is a great spot for Mountain Bluebirds and the campground often has Red Crossbills. Depending on time, you may make a detour to the Martis Peak area for Sierra woodland birds, then move on to scan the lake from the north shore. A scope is definitely a plus for this part. Mid-late September is ideal for Common Terns and Sabine's Gull here, but they can be present any time in the month. Parasitic Jaegers have been found here as well. Loons, and all three mergansers are possible. If the lake level is low, a small patch of willows on a spit of land here can produce remarkable migrants in fall.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 10 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

8SUN Lahontan RA & Carson Lake

Volunteer Leader: Ned Bowman

An expanse of open water at Lahontan State Recreation area can have a variety of waterfowl, grebes, and other water birds. Depending on water levels, there may be plenty of shorebird habitat, just in time for fall migration. Shoreline trees could host migrant warblers and flycatchers. Carson Lake includes some outstanding wetland habitat and attracts a large diversity of breeding and migrant shorebirds and waterfowl. Finding double-digit numbers of shorebird species is a good bet here in early September. Virginia Rail and Sora are present and this is a good spot for Loggerhead Shrikes and an excellent mix of sparrows. The wetlands should have lots of blackbirds, including Yellow-headed.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: limited

Difficulty level: Easy

9SUN Pyramid Lake/Numana Wetlands

Volunteer Leader: TBA

This natural desert lake hosts one of the largest colonies of breeding American Pelicans in the US, and many should still be present in September. Expect an excellent diversity of dabbling ducks and a good chance of finding divers such as Redhead, Bufflehead, and Ruddy Duck. Common Mergansers are expected and Red-breasted are possible. This is an ideal time for migrant shorebirds and species such as Baird's, Pectoral, and Sanderling are good possibilities. Bring a scope if you have one. Common Loons should be around and raptors such as Northern Harrier, Osprey, Golden Eagle, and Prairie Falcon are likely. Patches of willows here act as migrant traps, attracting flycatchers, vireos, warblers, Western Tanagers, and occasionally a Blue Grosbeak. A visit to Numana Wetlands should add more passerine diversity to the day.

Departure Time: 6:30 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 45 miles

Time (one way): ~ 1hr

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

10SUN Tahoe Meadows & Spooner Lake

Volunteer Leaders: Don Marsh

Tahoe Meadows is a high-altitude (nearly 9000 feet) montane meadow with a well-developed willow habitat and nice boardwalk. These meadows can be a bit quiet in early September but some breeders may well linger here, including Chipping, White-crowned, and Lincoln's Sparrows as well as warblers such as Yellow, Townsend's, Nashville, and MacGillivray's. Orange-crowned Warblers move to these high-elevation habitats after breeding to undergo molt and can be common in September. In any case, this is a good place to find residents such as Clark's Nutcracker and Williamson's Sapsucker. The hike to Spooner Lake is short, but includes some short, steep sections on dirt trails. This hike offers an excellent variety of woodland montane species and is one of the best spots in the state to find Pileated Woodpecker. Other, more common, woodpeckers here include White-headed, Downy, and Hairy. This is a great place to find all three nuthatches (Red-breasted, White-breasted, and Pygmy). Bald Eagles are often seen around the lake itself.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: limited

Difficulty level: Moderate to Difficult

11SUN Carson City Area

Volunteer Leader: Rob Lowry

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: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 40 miles

Time (one way): ~ 45 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

12SUN Boca & Stampede Reservoirs

Volunteer Leader: Scott Dietrich

These two California reservoirs and the surrounding areas should produce an excellent variety of birds for the day. The deeper parts of Boca and Stampede should have grebes and maybe a

Common Loon. The northern, shallow end of Boca can host migrant waterfowl and shorebirds such as Western Sandpiper and American Avocet. The adjacent open sagebrush can be full of sparrows including Vesper Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee and Brewer's Sparrow. Stampede Reservoir is mostly deep water, but the edges usually attract a Bald Eagle or two. This area is great place to see and hear all three nuthatches and the woodlands here are good for Williamson's Sapsucker and White-headed Woodpecker. A mix of open and wooded habitats north of Stampede can also hold Mountain Bluebirds, Violet-green Swallow, and maybe a lingering Gray Flycatcher. The Little Truckee River corridor between the two reservoirs is a good place for Sierra warblers such as Yellow Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, and possibly a Nashville or MacGillivray's Warbler. Often Osprey and Belted Kingfisher are seen along the river as well. The woodlands away from the lake are also a good place to listen for Clark's Nutcracker and Red Crossbill. This is good Northern Goshawk country, but you always need a bit of luck for that one.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 30 miles

Time (one way): ~ 40 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Easy

13SUN Little Washoe Lake/Davis Creek

Volunteer Leaders: Nancy Santos

Little Washoe Lake should have dabbling duck variety plus numerous grebes. The marshes support several blackbird species including Yellow-headed. The surrounding open country is good raptor habitat and both Golden and Bald Eagles are possible. Davis Creek Park is excellent for woodpeckers including White-headed and all three nuthatches (White-breasted, Red-breasted, and Pygmy) can be found. Expect an excellent mix of migrant sparrows, warblers (Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, Yellow, Wilson's), and flycatchers. There may also be some Western Tanagers and Black-headed Grosbeaks lingering into September.

Departure Time: 7:00 AM

Return Time: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 25 miles

Time (one way): ~ 30 minutes

Restroom facilities: Yes

Difficulty level: Moderate

14SUN McCarran Ranch & Vicinity

Volunteer Leader: Kirk Hardie

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 and wetlands, and the surrounding open country guarantees outstanding bird diversity. Expect a variety of dabbling ducks including Wood Ducks, Pied-billed and Eared 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: 4:30 PM

Cost: \$45

Transportation: carpool

Distance (one way): ~ 20 miles

Time (one way): ~ 25 minutes

Restroom facilities: Limited

Difficulty level: Moderate