



# Song Sparrow

[www.napasolanoaudubon.com](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com)  
(Not .org)

NSAS General Meeting  
7:00 P.M. **Tuesday, January 11, 2005**  
Solano County Office of Education  
Waterman Room  
5100 Business Center Drive, Suisun City

## Meeting Program: Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook

The January program will consist of a discussion utilizing a draft Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas Handbook, to see what needs to be modified so the beginning birder can use it efficiently. Robin Leong will conduct the meeting, and those that want to participate need to find out how to get DRAFT copies from Robin at 643-1287

**Directions:** Take the Green Valley exit from eastbound or westbound I-80 and go north to the first road which is Business Center Road. Turn west and head toward the Costco store which is northwest of the junction of I-80 and I-680. The Board of Education Building is on the right side of the road before you reach Costco. If you're coming north on I-680, take the Cordelia Road exit and make three right turns to go under the highway and north on Green Valley Road which is the frontage road west of I-80. Go over I-80 and make a left turn on Business Center Rd. The meeting will be held in the Waterman room. For more information: visit [www.napasolanoaudubon.com](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com) or call (707)224-6133.



Avid NSAS Birders

## San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival - Coming Soon!

The 9th annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival will take place on January 21-23, 2005, and again the Napa-Solano Audubon Society Chapter will co-sponsor the event. The Festival is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the Chapter and Audubon issues, and to educate attendees about conservation, nature and our natural resources. We as a Chapter are involved a great deal to make this festival happen. Our activities this year will include an information booth full of literature, chapter activities and fun things for kids to experience, and a variety of field trips throughout the weekend. We'll also be selling our two publications – Best Birding in Napa and Solano Counties and the Breeding Bird Atlas of Napa County.

Our activities this year will not include the famous Bluebird nest boxes. We have decided instead, to do a less technical project. We will help kids make pinecone bird feeders with pinecones, peanut butter, birdseed and string. Therefore, we'll need LOTS of pinecones! If you have pine trees in your yard or neighborhood, or perhaps you are heading to the forest, gather a bag or two of open pinecones and bring them to the festival.

As always, *we are seeking volunteers* to help in any capacity, such as: providing information to visitors at the booth, helping kids make pinecone feeders, helping visitors identify birds at any one of several stations on the "wetland walk" around the old dredge ponds, and event set-up and clean-up. There is much to be done before and during the festival. You don't need to be a professional birder to help, just have a desire and a little enthusiasm. If you would like to participate in any way, please call or write to John Tarpley at (707) 864-6955 or [jsetarpley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jsetarpley@sbcglobal.net).

## FIELD TRIP: Lake Solano and Putah Creek

**DATE:** Saturday, January 15, 2005

**LEADER:** Jim Knight (707) 448-6596

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi 643-5544  
davidtakeuchi@aol.com



**DESTINATION LOCATION:** Meet at the Peña Adobe Park, parking lot at 8:00 am. This is to the left of the Lagoon Valley Park entrance. Take Peña Adobe road off I-80, one mile south of Vacaville,

Our field trip to Lake Solano and Putah Creek (the northern boundary of Solano County) will feature waterfowl and shorebirds not found easily in other areas. Sightings of phainopepla and river otters are possible. Lake Solano is 15 miles north of Vacaville. The outing should conclude by 1pm. Bring a scope if you have one. Beginner birders are welcome. Bring a snack and dress in layers.

A reminder from the Field Trip Coordinator: Car-poolers will share driving expenses (recommended \$.20/mi to be split by the number of riders).

## FIELD TRIP: Lower Klamath and Tule Lake

**DATE:** Saturday and Sunday, February 19 - 20, 2005

**LEADER:** Charlotte Kisling, (530) 397-2770,  
and John Boyd (707) 255-1475

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi, (707) 643-5544  
davidtakeuch@aol.com

### DESTINATION TIME AND LOCATION:

This trip is by **RESERVATION** so let the coordinator know if you are coming so we can expect you. Friday will be a travel day to get there. Return late Sunday or Monday. We will meet at the Golden Eagle Motel early Saturday morning.

Take I-80 east, north on Hwy 505 and 5 to Weed, then US 97 northeast to Dorris, CA. Make your own carpool or call David Takeuchi for a list of participants also wanting to carpool. Contact Charlotte at (530) 397-2770 upon arrival to get times and other meeting places.

**MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS:** Golden Eagle Motel is at 100 First Street, Dorris. Phone is (530) 397-3114 for reservations. Let the motel reservation clerk know that you are coming with Napa Solano Audubon and mention Charlotte Kisling's name for a discount.

This is one of the top birding experiences in the United States and the reason Charlotte moved to the area! We will join Charlotte and bird Lower Klamath and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge as well as selected spots in the area which may include Butte Valley, Miller Island, Lava Beds National Monument, and Fort Klamath. We will get up before dawn on at least one day to see the amazing 'eagle flyout' at Bear Valley. You should see more Bald Eagles than you have ever seen in your life outside of Alaska; also Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, Rough-legged Hawks, Prairie Falcons, tens of thousands of Snow, White-fronted and Canada Geese, ducks galore, Northern Shrike and Pronghorn Antelope. Dress very warmly, in layers, including gloves and scarves, and bring snacks and drinks for at least two days. Don't forget your Motorola 2-way radios. Contact John Boyd for further information and useful cell phone numbers.



## Napa-Solano Audubon Society

### Officers

President	John Wagnitz.....707-447-2685
Vice President	Marge Irwin.....707-224-6184
Secretary	Margaret Barson .....707-257-8389
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CBC	Robin Leong .....707-643-1287
Member at Large	John Robinson.....707-864-8279

### Song Sparrow

Editor	Susan Lane .....707-649-8033
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**Web Page** [www.napasolanoaudubon.com](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com) .....John Wagnitz

The *Song Sparrow* is published monthly except July & August by the Napa-Solano Audubon Society, P.O. box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591. Deadline is the 15th of the month prior. Send contributions to: *Song Sparrow*, 301 Clark Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591  
E-mail address: [susan@cardsonline.com](mailto:susan@cardsonline.com)

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*NSAS Board of Directors Meeting are held the last Wednesday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the San Pablo Bay Wildlife Refuge Headquarters on Mare Island. Any BOD member can be contacted for directions. All members are always welcome.*

## Important Update

John C. Wagnitz

The March 2005 edition of the *Song Sparrow* will be **BOTH** mailed **and** distributed electronically via the website [www.napsolanoaudubon.com](http://www.napsolanoaudubon.com) (NOT .org), list-serve, and email. Please update your email addresses on file by sending them to Gordon and Laurie Schremp, Membership Chairs or by notifying the chapter's list-serve at <http://groups.yahoo.com/> then select [napasolanoaudubon](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com). In addition please enable your email filters to receive communications from Napa Solano Audubon Society and Board Members.

Starting with the May 2005 edition of the *Song Sparrow* it will be **ONLY** be distributed electronically via the website, list-serve, and email, **UNLESS** a specific request is made in writing, by phone, or by email to the President or any other Board Member stating the individual subscriber desires to continue to have the *Song Sparrow* mailed. Please make the request prior to April 10, which is prior to the mailing date of the May edition.

This update will enable the chapter to significantly reduce the cost of distributing the *Song Sparrow* from the current level of nearly \$3000 per year while assuring that those who desire receiving the *Song Sparrow* by mail will continue to do so.

# NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

www.napasolanoaudubon.com

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
January 15 - Saturday:	Lake Solano/Monticello Dam, Solano Co	Jim Knight	707-448-6596
January 21 - 23	9 <sup>th</sup> Annual San Francisco Bay Flyway Festival, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA	Myrna Hayes, Festival Coordinator	707-557-9816
February 2 - Wednesday	Northwest Vacaville	John Wagnitz	707-447-2685
February 12 - Saturday	Open		
February 19 - 20 - Sat - Sun	Klamath Basin/Tule Lake, Siskiyou Co	Charlotte Kisling/ (John Boyd)	916-397-2770
February 26 - Saturday	Owling, Solano Co	Robin Leong	707-643-1287
March 12 - Saturday	Grizzley Island, Fairfield, Solano Co	John Robinson	707-864-8279
March 23 - Wednesday	Rush Creek, Black John Slough, Sonoma Co	Jim Knight	707-448-6596
April 6 - Wednesday	Hanns Park, Vallejo, Ca	Joanne Castro	707-644-8191
April 16 - Saturday	Solano Co Transect	Robin Leong	707-643-1287
May 4 - Wednesday	Fairfield Neighborhood	Uzelle Williams / Fran Scarlet, Tim Jenkins	707-425-2732 timwjenkins@jcis.net
May 14 - Saturday	Napa-Solano Valley Lakes	Mike Rippey	
June 18 - 19 - Sat - Sun	Plumas-Eureka, near Blairsden/Graeagle, (North of Yuba Pass) Plumas Co	Jerry Karr	707-643-7089
June	Churchill, Canada	Robin Leong	707-643-1287

## Birding Trip to Malaysia and Borneo

by Sue Johnson [bluhrnsu1@webtv.net](mailto:bluhrnsu1@webtv.net)

Malaysia and Borneo ...the three-week birding trip with Borderland Tours, sounded adventurous with many exotic target birds possible. Babblers, Barbets, Broadbills, Bee-eaters, Pittas, Spider-hunters, Sunbirds and Hornbills were among the 384 species that ended up on our trip list - most of them life birds for me. On this trip I immediately learned that Americans are "rare birds" in Malaysia and Borneo, the predominant tourists being Australians and Japanese.

We birded from eight different locations throughout peninsular Malaysia and the island of Borneo. The lodges were in clearings in the forest and their grounds were the best chance to see birds well. The lodge grounds were planted with decorative shorter trees and fruit trees that were magnets for Hornbills, Crested Firebacks, Malkohas, Whistling Thrushes, Treepies, and Green Magpies. Instead of hummingbirds, this part of the world has Sunbirds. Accompanying them in the garden would be Flowerpeckers, Spiderhunters, Tailorbirds and Broadbills.

After we had birded the lodge grounds, the birding got more difficult. The forest trails were either very muddy or covered with tree roots. I needed to continually look down at my footing, but the birds were up; two hundred and fifty feet up at the top of the canopy. To make it even more difficult many of the birds were small and green against a green background. We

used elevated canopy walks and swinging bridges and spent many hours in and above the canopy, but the birds were still more at scope distance than binocular distance. The swinging bridges were a first for me!

The first Muslim call to prayer is at sunrise, about 6AM in that latitude, but we got up even earlier to see Wood-owls, Hawk-owls, Frogmouths and Nightjars. As usual the other owls were 'heard only'.

Where there were leeches (they didn't mention leeches in the tour information) you needed to wear leech socks as well as continually check yourself and your companions since leeches can jump. We found leeches on all parts of our bodies and clothing, but luckily there was only one rainy day when we focused more on leeches than on birds.

Pittas - cryptic, elusive birds - are a specialty for world birders. We had three on our trip list: Black-headed, Blue-headed and Garnet. Each of these sightings required more than an hour of time, while we stood immobile on a narrow trail and our guide tried to call the bird close in to us. The people who eventually saw the elusive Pittas got one-second glimpses. I never saw them. But I did see the Masked Finfoot a large duck-like bird with a big yellow bill. It was migrating and we were lucky to see it. There's only one other finfoot in the family, in East Africa. (I have a Masked Finfoot tee-shirt as a great reminder.)

Hornbills are large birds but still not easy to see well. We were fortunate to have one feeding at our lodge, so we had

*Malaysia continued on page 5*

## PRESIDENT'S PERCH

(As in where a bird sits – not the fish)

As usual the past few weeks have been very busy times for the Napa Solano Audubon Society.

I attended the California Audubon Conference in Stockton, California November 17th and 18th, along with fellow board members Jerry Karr and Robin Leong. We went hoping it would be a worthwhile event, and returned with our expectations fully met. It was a great event, led by the new Executive Director of California Audubon, Glenn Olson, a native Californian and long time Audubon employee. Glenn is very enthusiastic and very articulate about his plans for the future.

Glenn has a fantastic staff including Julia Levin, State Policy Director, our representative in the maze of Sacramento politics, and Jill Shirley, Chapter Outreach Director, who along with many others, was responsible for organizing a smooth-running, productive conference on very short notice. The entire staff projected a warm, professional, enthusiastic attitude, and went out of their way to get input from those of us in attendance. I assure you this was not a top – down meeting with the State telling the local chapters “here is the way it is going to be”. It was the exact opposite – State wants our input because they know, without strong local chapter input and support, there will be no success at the State level.

One of the big issues was how to prioritize our efforts over the next year. We had many discussions about which issues to put the time, effort, and resources of California Audubon, behind over the next year. The choices honed from a long list of possible issues were based on the following criteria:

- Importance for bird conservation
- Likelihood of success
- Chapter support, interest and likelihood of collaboration
- Potential to raise sufficient funds to cover the costs
- Potential visibility among policy-makers, media, public
- Opportunity to reach diverse constituencies

The choices are:

1. Expand Landowner Stewardship Program to Imperial Valley/Salton Sea area.  
This program was first introduced in the Winters/ Yolo county area and is very successful.
2. San Francisco Bay-Delta program  
This program is well on its way to success – but constant vigilance is required.
3. Begin building framework and support for '06 conservation funding bond  
More money, more money, more money for conservation issues on a state level
4. Launch California Condor campaign  
This program has many partners who are leading the effort with Audubon in a supporting role.
5. Pass bill to recognize/protect IBA's (Important Bird Area) in California, or in CA State Parks  
Require State parks to designate IBAs as a first step to bird habitat management.
6. Establish site and technology requirements for new wind power generation. Wind power - without bird fatalities.

As a result of our discussions at the conference and input by chapter boards from all over the state, the State Board of Directors will announce the FY 05 priorities in January 05.

There were many practical workshops to attend so Jerry, Robin, and I split up to cover as many as possible – I think we covered them all. The workshops included issues such as fundraising, local political action in support of conservation issues, gardening for birds, energizing volunteerism among the membership, project planning (such as our Solano county Breeding Bird Atlas), education and outreach, the basics of bird monitoring, and state and Audubon policy initiatives. Let me tell you the schedule was fast-paced although we did have time for an outing to Woodbridge Crane Reserve. Even the meals were busy. The welcoming lunch included presentations and so did the dinner that evening (four speakers!). On Thursday the pace increased– we had four workshops before lunch and then a working lunch wrap-up.

I came away from the conference with a lot of optimism for Audubon California. Glenn Olsen is the right person for the job. He knows Jerry Karr and Robin Leong personally and we were fortunate to have lunch with him at our table the first day. We also met in small groups with many members of the State Board of Directors and west coast representatives on the National Board of Directors all of which were extremely interesting dedicated individuals with the skill sets and resources to lead Audubon to a very positive future.

Our local Board has been busy as well. Robin Leong led a successful second planning meeting for the Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas on Tuesday November 16. We progressed in our vision of what the final product would be, decided to add Abundance as a data collection point, and obtained volunteers to cover more blocks. Ken Dexter volunteered to obtain land ownership maps from all the political entities in the county as a step toward making permission for access easier for block holders. I volunteered to make the block maps available online and over our list-serve. Many others reported on their efforts and volunteered for numerous details so important to a successful project.

The Board also agreed to keep the General meetings on the same schedule as we currently have but to reduce the Board meetings to six per year: January, March, May, August (combined with the field trip planning meeting), September, and November. The Song Sparrow will also be published six times per year: January, March, May, August, September, and December. Commencing with the March 2005 issue the deadline for input to the Song Sparrow will be the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month prior – for example the deadline for the March issue will be February 1. In addition beginning with the August 2005 issue the Song Sparrow will be distributed

### *President's Perch continued*

electronically only via list-serve, email, and website UNLESS individual chapter members specifically request by mail, email, or phone call to the President or any Board member that they want the Song Sparrow mailed to them.

Printing and mailing of the Song Sparrow is the largest single expense of the chapter each year totaling nearly \$3000. Reducing the number of copies distributed by US mail will greatly reduce the cost of distribution while still assuring the information on chapter events is personally delivered to chapter members in a timely and user-friendly format. It is important that everyone who has an email address provide the membership chair or any other Board member with his or her email address, and to setup the email filter on his or her computer to allow email from Napa Solano Audubon Society. It is also important to reiterate that if you prefer to continue to receive the Song Sparrow by US mail all you have to is let us know before April 10, 2005– we will gladly continue to mail it to you.

Whew! A lot of information and a lot of activity – check out the now complete changes to [www.napasolanoaudubon.com](http://www.napasolanoaudubon.com) (NOT .org). Sign up for an Atlas block – 40+ of the 95 blocks are already taken. Find an area you enjoy and volunteer your efforts. We need help with articles for the Song Sparrow. In addition Susan Lane would like to pass the editor's job on to someone else who enjoys a challenge as much as she does. Gordon and Laurie Schremp welcome help with membership. Robin Leong solicits your help in providing speakers and presenters for our general meetings. We need a Webmaster (call me – please!). Jerry Karr would like assistance on the conservation committee – he has attended so many meetings his car drives there on autopilot. We need volunteers to work with the Education committee and on field trips, and with Cheryl Harris on Publicity. Margaret Barson would like to start training her replacement as Secretary. We need you. We are you – without strong and extensive volunteerism our chapter cannot exist.

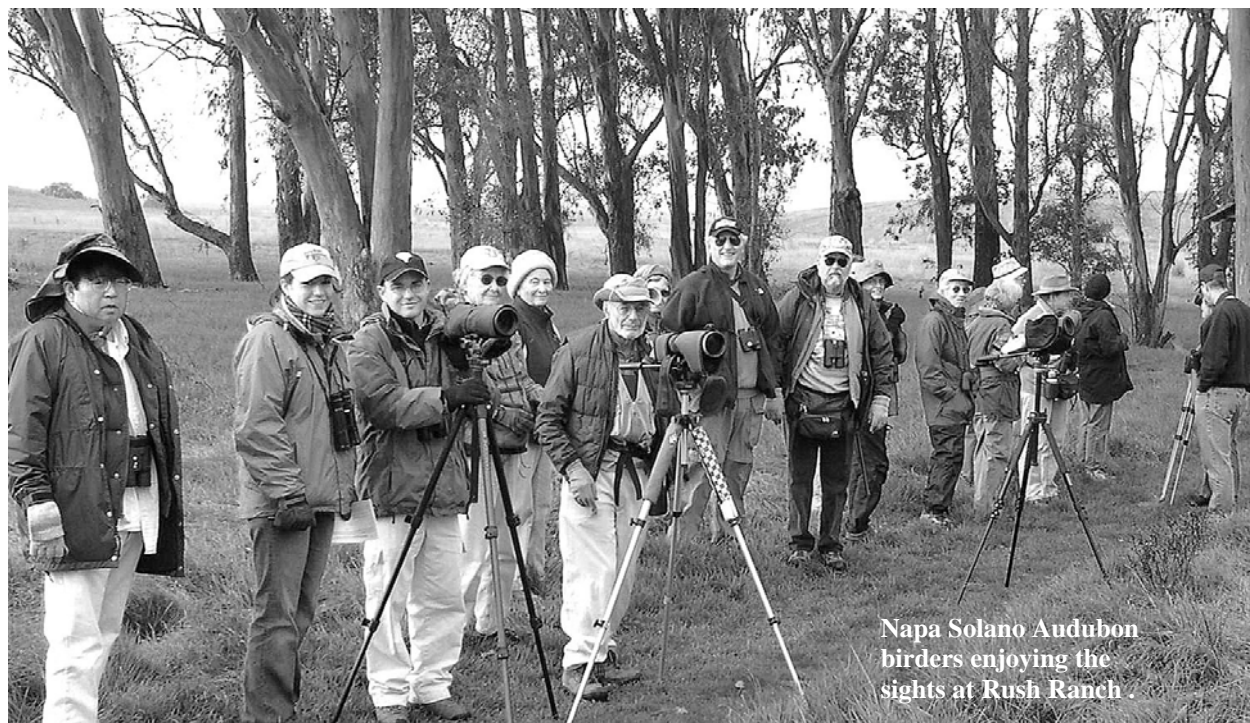
### *Malaysia continued*

long, close views of the Oriental Pied Hornbill. Our trip list included six Hornbills, most at long distances but still impressive. You can hear their call a long way off, above the canopy, since they feed on ripe fruit at the canopy top. When you hear them, you try to track their calls hoping they will fly across a window in the canopy, allowing a quick view. In that second you try to identify them by color pattern, length of tail, number and width of white bands, and size and position of horn. Fortunately, our guides were Hornbill specialists. I vividly remember hearing hornbills calling, tracking them flying above the canopy and then feeling like a jet plane had passed as they flew directly overhead. Even without seeing them, I really felt like I had been in their presence!

We were often in boats and had quick views of nine Kingfishers: Common, Blue-eared, Blue-banded, Black-backed, Banded, White-throated, Black-capped, Collared, and Stork-billed. The Stork-billed, with his huge bill, was easy to identify even with a quick glimpse.

Our trip leader, Rick Taylor, who has written a book on Trogons, is considered the Trogon expert in the United States. Three of the six Trogons on our list were life birds for him, including Whitehead's Trogon. Many of the local endemics were discovered by Whitehead and they turned out to be the toughest for us to find.

Many of the Malaysia and Borneo bird families were new to me. I studied Southeast Asia bird books before and during the trip to keep up with all we were seeing. It was very satisfying when I saw familiar names and shapes like the sixteen species of Woodpeckers, Striated and Purple Herons, and Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns. I could go on forever but to conclude I had a great time, I have pictures, and I want to show them to you.



Napa Solano Audubon  
birders enjoying the  
sights at Rush Ranch.

**FRIENDS OF NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY**

**MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$25 per year (July 1-June 30)**

One hundred percent, of *Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society* Membership dues will stay in our local Chapter to support local birding, local conservation education and advocacy, and local birding science including the new Breeding Bird Atlas of Solano County. *Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society* members receive periodic issues of Song Sparrow but do not receive Audubon Magazine.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_ I do not wish to receive any communications from National Audubon Society.
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_ Do not share any of my personal information with any other organization.

Please make your \$25 check for Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society Membership payable to Napa-Solano Audubon Society (NSAS) and mail it to: NSAS, PO Box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591

National Audubon Society new memberships and renewal dues support national conservation issues. A token amount for each new member is sent to the local chapter as a modest 'safety net' payment based on the total local chapter membership. National Members receive Audubon Magazine and receive our local NSAS newsletter, *Song Sparrow*. National Audubon Society Membership is \$20 for the first year.

To join the National Audubon Society, please remit \$20 and make your check payable to National Audubon Society and mail directly to National Audubon Society, Membership Department, PO Box 51005, Boulder, CO 80323-1005. You may also join or renew online at <http://www.audubon.org/audubon/>.



Napa-Solano Audubon Society  
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