



# Song Sparrow

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

NSAS General Meetings  
7:00 P.M.  
Solano County Office of Education  
Waterman Room  
5100 Business Center Drive, Suisun City

## March 8th Meeting Program: Northern California Birds in Motion

Larry Arbanas of Earthwhile Nature Productions will give his video presentation, Northern California Birds in Motion. Larry has been shooting bird and nature projects since 1989 and this one will give Napa-Solano Audubon members a chance to see some familiar birds close up. By using the same lens and camera that bring NFL action and Olympic figure skating into our living rooms, Larry has been able to get views of California birds that even the best binoculars and scopes cannot see. You can expect to see White-tailed Kites, Burrowing Owls, Virginia and Clapper Rails and many other birds during this 45-minute video. Larry lives in the East Bay and is presently acquiring bird videos for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Watchable Wildlife (represents the 38 CA Nature Festivals), and hopefully the Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

## April 12th Meeting Program: Condor Tales

Sanford R. "Sandy" Wilbur, who led the California condor research and recovery efforts from 1969 to 1981, will discuss the condor and his new book, "Condor Tales: What I Learned in Twelve Years with the Big Birds." The book traces the history of the condor from Pleistocene times until the decision was made to take condors into captivity for a captive breeding and reestablishment program. Sandy uses information seldom heard in other condor presentations to describe the reasons for the condors' endangerment, and to show the history of human involvement with the condors. He will be reading selections from "Condor Tales."

Sandy spent 34 years with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in various capacities with the National Wildlife Refuge System, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and the Federal Endangered Species Program. He is the author of five books and many publications of birds and other wildlife and conservation subjects. Since retiring from the Fish and

*Continued on page 3*

## **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.napsolanoaudubon.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 **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 want to receive the **Song Sparrow** by mail will continue to do so.

**FIELD TRIP: Field trip to Grizzly Island, Suisun California, Solano County**



**DATE:** March 12, 2005, Saturday

**LEADER:** John C. Robinson 864-8279

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi, (707) 643-5544 (if calling and you want a return call, leave the city of your return phone number); [davidtakeuchi@aol.com](mailto:davidtakeuchi@aol.com) (Subject: Field Trip) If I don't know who your are and you do not identify your message as a Field Trip, I will not open your incoming mail!

**DESTINATION LOCATION:** We will proceed to the one-lane bridge & fisherman parking pullout area, 1.2 miles from McDonalds Restaurant. Time: 8:30 am.

"From northbound Hwy I-80 in south Fairfield, take Hwy 12 exit east toward Suisun City. From southbound Hwy I-80 in Fairfield, exist at Abernathy Road exit; turn left onto Chadbourne road and follow signs to eastbound entrance to Hwy 12. Proceed east 4.2 miles, turn left (north) on to Sunset Ave.. Sunset Ave. ends at Hwy 12 and Grizzly Island Road begins on the south."

"Grizzly Island is actually a number of wildlife areas scattered throughout the Suisun Marsh and managed by the California Department of Fish and Game...the area is managed as waterfowl habitat and for duck hunting." \*

Suisun Marsh has been designated as a globally important site by the California Important Bird Area Program.

Bring snacks and liquids. Pack a lunch. The trip should end around 2:00 pm. Rain Cancels.

**CARPPOOL LOCATION:** Suisun: McDonald's Restaurant on the corner or Hwy 12 and Sunset Ave, 8:15 am.

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

\*Quotes from Best Birding In Napa And Solano Counties

**Field trip to Hanns Memorial Park, Vallejo**

**DATE:** April 6, 2005, Wednesday

**LEADER:** Joanne Castro

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi, (707) 643-5544 (if calling and want a return call, leave the city of your return phone number); [davidtakeuchi@aol.com](mailto:davidtakeuchi@aol.com) (Subject: Field Trip) If I don't know who your are and you do not identify your message as a Field Trip, I will not open your incoming mail!

**DESTINATION LOCATION AND TIME:**

Hanns Park, 9:00 am. Exit Hwy-80 and go East on Redwood Parkway. Turn right on Skyline Drive and immediately turn into Hanns Memorial Park parking lot on the left..

Joanne will lead you into the Hanns's Corridor to see passerines and raptors. This is a morning trip. Bring snack and liquids.

**Napa-Solano Audubon Society**

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Song Sparrow

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Web Page www.napasolanoaudubon.com .....John Wagnitz

The *Song Sparrow* is published in Jan., March, May, Aug. & Sept. by the Napa-Solano Audubon Society, P.O. Box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591. Deadline is the 1st of the month prior. Send contributions to: *Song Sparrow*, 301 Clark Drive, Vallejo, CA 94591 E-mail address: [susan@cardsontime.com](mailto:susan@cardsontime.com)

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*NSAS Board of Directors Meetings are held in January, March, May, August, and September. Any BOD member can be contacted for information on date, time and place. All members are always welcome.*

**Trip Report: Sacramento NWR and Gray Lodge WR**

Leader: John W. Boyd

On a beautiful clear Saturday, November 13, 2004, twenty four NSAS members and friends trekked north to bird these two fantastic wildlife refuges. We were treated to the sight and sounds of tens of thousands of wintering ducks and geese. There were more (approximately 200,000) Snow, White-fronted, Canada and Ross' geese there earlier than I have seen in years. When a large flock rose in unison it was an unforgettable and breathtaking sensory experience only to be outdone in California in the Klamath Basin. Highlights of the day, in addition to all the geese and ducks, were an American Bittern flying, a field of several hundred White-faced Ibis feeding, several Eurasian Wigeon dabbling off the viewing platform at Sacramento NWR and the beautiful sight of the Sandhill Cranes setting their wings and settling into Gray Lodge WR at sunset. A memorable day with at least 81 species sighted. You should have been there. We missed you.

**Field trip to Rush Creek Marsh**

**DATE:** March 23, 2005, Wednesday.

See page 3 for details about field trip.

# NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

www.napasolanoaudubon.com

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
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

## Field trip to Rush Creek Marsh

**DATE:** March 23, 2005, Wednesday.

**LEADER:** Jim Knight 707 448 6596

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi, (707) 643-5544

(if calling and want a return call, leave the city of your return phone number); [davidtakeuchi@aol.com](mailto:davidtakeuchi@aol.com) (Subject: Field Trip) If I don't know who your are and you do not identify your message as a Field Trip, I will not open your incoming mail!

### DESTINATION LOCATION AND TIME:

Rush Creek Trailhead, 9:00 am. From Vallejo, take Hwy 37 to Hwy 101, go north, exit at Atherton Avenue, turn left onto Binford Road. Park in the "Park and Ride" lot on the left, or along Binford Road near the trailhead.

Only 20 miles west of Vallejo, Rush Creek offers a variety of waterfowl and woodland birds, but this trip isn't just for the birds. Flowers, insects and other interesting natural tidbits will also be our quarry.

**CARPOOL LOCATION:** Vallejo: 8:30 am and across from Baskin Robbins in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. Any rainfall will cancel. Bring water, lunch and warmer clothes if not sunny. No restroom facilities.

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

*Condor Tales continued from page 1*

Wildlife Service in 1994, he has spent his time writing and publishing on conservation, American history, and religious topics. He is a native of Oakland, California, and has lived in Gresham, Oregon since 1981.

## Field trip to Solano County Environs

**DATE:** April 16, 2005

**LEADER:** Robin Leong (707) 643-1287

[robin\\_leong@netzero.net](mailto:robin_leong@netzero.net)

**COORDINATOR:** David Takeuchi, (707) 643-5544

[davidtakeuchi@aol.com](mailto:davidtakeuchi@aol.com)

### DESTINATION TIME AND LOCATION:

Cordelia/Suisun: 8 am, Solano County Board of Education Bldg. 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield across from Costco.

This field trip is in conjunction with Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas (SCBBA) Workshop III. It will serve to distribute paperwork and explain to those interested in participating in the SCBBA what it's all about. We will show you how to find the boundaries of your block, how to use your field card and other paper work, how to obtain permission to bird on private property, etc. AND we will have fun and bird in a place to be determined by the leader.

### CARPOOL LOCATION:

Vallejo: 7:30 AM and across from Baskin Robbins in the Wal-Mart Shopping Center. Those carpooling from Vallejo, plan for an 20 minute drive to the destination location. Those from Napa allow 45 minutes to the destination location.

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

**Editor's correction.** The following sentence should have been added to Jo Maillard's report on the Newell trip. **"The group split up at the crest and some intrepid fog-walkers took off with Napa County Supervisor Mike Rippey, an excellent birder, and someone who is thoroughly acquainted with this area, his home territory."**

**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.

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- 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/>.



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## **Mike Rippey to Receive Environmental Award**

The Napa County Sierra Club will be honoring former Supervisor Mike Rippey with the presentation of the Earl Thollander Environmental Award at a dinner in Yountville on April 23rd.

Mike's leadership in transforming a traditional flood control project into a combined environmental restoration and flood protection plan for the Napa River has been recognized at state and national levels. He also headed ballot campaigns to create a Napa County Parks and Open Space District, and worked to protect and restore Coombsville's ground water. But his efforts for local wildlife, agricultural preservation, and parks and open space began years before his election as Fifth District Supervisor in 1992.

Mike is a wildlife biologist and co-author of the book 'Breeding Birds of Napa County'. With the Audubon Society and others, he worked to protect farm and wild lands in Napa and Solano counties from destructive developments.

Mike was a leader of the fight against 1990's Measure K, which would have created a new regional landfill in American Canyon. After that ballot measure lost, the land was sold back to its earlier owner and eventually given to the Land Trust of Napa County. This heavily wooded canyon is now Newell Wildlife Preserve.

According to Carol Kunze, Chair of the Napa Sierra Club, the award was instituted as a memorial to Earl Thollander, Napa Valley artist and author of 'Back Roads of California'. In previous years, Harold Kelly, Ginny Simms and Ralph Ingols were chosen for the honor. Kelly and Simms were recognized for their decades of work for agriculture and growth management. Ingols was honored for his work for native plant habitat, including creation of the botanical garden at Skyline Park.

The awards dinner will be held on Saturday April 23 at the community hall in Yountville. Inquiries should be directed to Myrna Abramowicz at 226-9634.