



# Song Sparrow

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

NSAS General Meetings  
7:00 P.M.  
See program announcement for location

## Tuesday, May 10th Meeting Program:

Carolyn Parr Nature Center  
3107 Browns Valley Rd., Napa.  
(adjacent to Westwood Hills Park)

### California's Wild Turkeys

**Understanding the spread and impact of a charismatic invader.**

Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) are certainly among the most interesting challenges introduced to California. Though native to other parts of North America, Wild Turkeys never successfully colonized California, and so the recent introduction and expansion of turkeys in California creates tantalizing questions and research opportunities. In November 2002, I initiated the first experimental assessment of turkey impacts in California. This exclusive experiment evaluates the effect of turkeys on vegetation structure and composition, acorn removal, and ground-dwelling invertebrate populations. Audubon Canyon Ranch's Turkey Invasion Program also includes a mapping project that will complete important gaps in the understanding of introduced turkey ecology. This presentation will give an overview of the history and biology of California's introduced turkeys and include presentation of ongoing turkey research.

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**Daniel Gluesenkamp, Ph.D** oversees Habitat Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch's 26 properties and leads in the development, implementation, and evaluation of conservation and restoration projects at ACR preserves.

## Tuesday, June 14th Meeting Program:

The June meeting will be our annual end of the season potluck and share your birding experiences meeting. Bring your favorite entrée, salad or desert to share. Also bring utensils and beverages. If you have slides, pictures or stories to share with other birders, please bring them also.

**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 Road. Go inside to the Waterman Room.

## FIELD TRIP: Field trip to Fairfield Neighborhood

**DATE:** May 4, 2005, Wednesday

**LEADER:** Uzelle Williams, 864-8635

**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 you are and you do not identify your message as a Field Trip, I will not open your incoming mail!

## DESTINATION LOCATION:

We will start at the Solano County Education building, and bird around Cordelia and Rockville. Acorn Park and Rancho Solano, etc. This is a morning trip. Bring snacks and liquids.

**CARPOOL LOCATION:** Solano County Education Bldg, 5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield across from Costco, 8:30 am. See the Song Sparrow under Meeting Program, Directions.

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 to Plumas Eureka State Park, Plumas County California

**DATE:** Saturday and Sunday, 18-19 June, 2005

**LEADER:** Jerry Karr, 643-7089, [birdnerd@jps.net](mailto:birdnerd@jps.net)

**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:

Plumas Eureka State Park, [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=507](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=507) is located five miles west of Blairsden, CA on County Road A-14. Blairsden/Graeagle are approximately 50 miles north of Truckee via Highway 89, through Sierraville. Telephone: 530-836-2380 Latitude: 39.76022 - Longitude: -120.70274 – Elevation: 5175'

I have camped here numerous times, but never as a birder. Last year there was a great posting to CalBirds by a visitor from Great Brittan and I was quite taken by the variety of species he found on an overnigher at Plumas Eureka in June.

We will meet at the Park Museum at 9:00am on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. The park has excellent mining exhibits, trout fishing and many miles of hiking trails within the 6,700 acre park.

Numerous lodgings may be found in the immediate vicinity. Take a look at the Plumas County Visitors Guide for additional information at the following link:

<http://visitorsguide.plumasnews.com/article.edi?sid=44&mode=thread&order=0&thold=0>

This is one of the few campgrounds in the California State Park System that does not take reservations and is strictly "first come – first served".

Please contact Jerry Karr for additional information. Bring your bins, your trout rod and your best campfire stories and join Napa Solano Audubon Society for some fun in the mountains!

## Grizzly Island Field Trip Report

John C. Robinson

Clear skies and warm weather welcomed 15 birders and one guest of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society during their first field trip to Grizzly Island in several years. John Robinson led the group on a walk down one of the more popular birding levees, followed by various stops and walks of varying lengths along the main road going into the Grizzly Island wildlife area.

Thanks to the many spotting scopes that were on hand, everyone got great looks at the many ducks that were seen on this day, including: American Wigeon, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Cinnamon Teal, and Northern Shoveler. One Bufflehead was seen but only by one or two people. We also got the opportunity to hear John talk about how to tell hawks and shorebirds from one another, in particular the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and the various swallows that frequent our area in the spring and summer.

One Great Horned Owl sitting on a nest, and another one seen later that morning in its favorite roost tree, formed the highlight of the trip for many of the Audubon members present.

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## Napa-Solano Audubon Society

### Officers

President	John Wagnitz.....707-447-2685
Vice President	Marge Irwin.....707-224-6184
Secretary	Margaret Barson .....707-257-8389
Treasurer	Janet Renfrow.....707-255-6780

### Chairpersons

Conservation	Gerald D. Karr .....707-643-7089
Education	Pat Hildreth.....707-252-8928
Field Trips	David Takeuchi.....707-643-5544
Membership	Gordon & Laurie Shremp 707-446-1150
Programs	Robin Leong .....707-643-1287
Publicity	Cheryl Harris.....707-224-6133
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

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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.*

## FY 05–06 SLATE OF OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

A slate of officers for FY 05–06 was nominated by the Board. In addition Members may make nominations from the floor at the May general meeting with the permission of the nominee. A nominee needs a majority of ballots and proxies cast by those present at the May general meeting to be elected. If there is only one candidate for an office the election may be by voice vote at the meeting.

President	No nominee
Vice President and Program Chair	Eric Pilotte
Secretary	Laurie Schremp
Treasurer	Janet Renfrow

Chairs of committees are chosen by the President with the concurrence of the Board. Individuals who volunteered for Chairs and were chosen by the current President for FY 05 –06 include:

Conservation	Jerry Karr
Communication/Webmaster	Dave McMullen
Education	Pat Hildreth
Field Trips	David Takeuchi
Membership	Gordon Schremp
Publicity	Cheryl Harris.
(Cheryl also assists the Education Chair in the Birding Adventure Program)	
CBC and Solano Breeding Bird Atlas	Robin Leong
Board member at large	John Robinson
Song Sparrow Editor	No nominee

# NAPA-SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

www.napasolanoaudubon.com

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>LEADER</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
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 Green Valley Falls, Solano County

**DATE:** Saturday, May 14, 2005

**LEADER:** Mike Rippey

**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:

We will meet at 8:30 am at the Solano County Education Bldg. across from Costco in Green Valley.

Barring any unforeseen event, we are planning to hike the trail to Green Valley Falls. On a level of 1-5 this would be considered a medium level 2-3 uphill hike. Wear suitable hiking shoes, bring a walking stick, dress in layers, bring liquids, snacks, a light lunch, and tick spray. This will be a morning hike ending after lunch.

This is a special outing for members of Napa-Solano Audubon. Green Valley Falls is not open to the general public. However with a permit and only with a leader who has completed the hiking course certification by the City of Vallejo, allotted days are available and we are one of the few to receive a allocation. Although Mike is qualified to lead this hike more than any instructor the city might have, he needs to be certified and will be going through the course on our behalf.

Green Valley Falls is like falling into another world. The first time I hiked it 20 years ago, I thought I was in the forest of Hawaii. Ferns line the lush valley, and you would never expect to see anything like it in Solano County. We will be seeing birds associated with woodland and riparian habitat.

**Due to the limited number of people allowed on this trip, this trip is open only to "individual" Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Society. This does not include family members and friends. If the slots are not filled, members affiliated with Napa-Solano Audubon through the National Audubon Society may fill the remaining slots.**

**Since there may be more people wanting to attend versus the number of slots available, pre-register to be pre-selected by lottery. Send an e-mail to David Takeuchi to get on the pre-registry no later than Friday, May 6, 2005, Subject: NSAS Green Valley pre-registry. It is important that you**

state whether you are a Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Member, or a member of Napa-Solano Audubon via the National Audubon Society.

If you are not a Friends of the Napa-Solano Audubon Member and wish to join but are unable to do so before sending me an e-mail, let me know and I will accept your membership application and \$25.00 at the time we meet on Saturday morning at the Solano County Education Bldg. You can find the application on the Song Sparrow or on our web site. Those selected will be notified by email on May 8, 2005.

The City of Vallejo requires a photo ID, so bring your drivers license or State Issued ID with you. You will be required show your ID to sign in at the entrance to Green Valley Falls.

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## FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR APRIL 2005

By the time you read this you should have received a fund raising letter. The focus of this year's campaign is to greatly increase the number of Friends of Napa Solano Audubon Society. As many of you know we began this membership category in the Fall of 2004 as a way for members to direct their contributions to support local birding, local conservation education and advocacy, and local citizen science such as our Solano Breeding Bird Atlas. The response to the Friends membership has been very positive with over eighty chapter members becoming Friends to date raising over \$2000 for local chapter activities.

The fundraising letters were written specifically for three focus groups: Current Friends who joined in 2004 and now have an opportunity to renew their membership (80), current chapter National members who have not yet chosen Friends membership (550), and former chapter members whose National membership expired within the past six months. All were invited to either renew or initiate their support of the local activities of the chapter by becoming a Friend for only \$25. Friends memberships run from July through June each year.

As an incentive all were offered a copy of both the Napa county Breeding Bird Atlas and a copy of Best Birding in Napa and Solano County (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) for only an additional \$15. This year we hope to raise \$3000 in donations from this campaign.

As a reminder of how the Friends money has been spent so far, the fundraising letter also included a list of chapter accomplishments in 2004-2005.

# FRIENDS OF NAPA SOLANO AUDUBON SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP ONLY \$25 per year

100% of Friends of the Napa Solano Audubon Society membership dues remain in our local chapter to support local birding, local conservation education and advocacy, and local birding science including the new Solano County Breeding Bird Atlas. Friends of the Napa Solano Audubon Society members receive all issues of the local newsletter Song Sparrow.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me a copy of both the Napa County Breeding Bird Atlas and a copy of Best Birding in Napa and Solano county (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition) for an additional \$15.00 Two books for only \$15.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please make your \$25 check (\$40 if you choose to receive the books) payable to Friends of the Napa Solano Audubon Society. Please mail it to NSAS, P.O. Box 5027, Vallejo, CA 94591.

To receive Audubon Magazine renew your National Audubon membership online at [www.audubon.org](http://www.audubon.org). On the form indicate Chapter 28 so we may receive an extra National dues share.

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  
P.O. Box 5027  
Vallejo, CA 94591

## Proposed By-Laws Changes

### ARTICLE III MEETINGS

Section 2. The annual meeting of members shall be held on such date in June each year as may be determined by vote of the Board of Directors.

*Change June to May*

### ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 5. The Vice President shall assist the President in the performance of duties, and in the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside at any meetings.

*Add additional sentence: The Vice President shall, in addition, be the Program Chair, unless with the concurrence of the President, the Vice President chooses any other open Chair.*

### ARTICLE VI ELECTIONS

Current Section 1. The election of officers shall take place at a regular meeting of the members one-month prior to the annual meeting. The officers shall be installed at the annual meeting.

*Change entire paragraph: The election of officers shall occur at the annual meeting in May. The term of office runs until the end of June unless, following the election, the outgoing incumbent voluntarily relinquishes office to the newly elected officer.*

### ARTICLE VII COMMITTEES

#### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The President shall appoint a Program Chair. It shall be the duty of this Committee to make all plans and arrangements for the regular meetings of NSAS.

*Change entire paragraph: With the concurrence of the President, if the Vice President chooses to serve in an open Chair other than that of Program Chair, the President shall appoint a Program Chair. It shall be the duty of this Committee to make all plans and arrangements for the regular meetings of NSAS.*

Add new committee:

#### COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

*The President shall appoint a Communications Chair. It shall be the duty of this committee to maintain a registered, hosted website or future equivalent, which will contain information on the meetings, field trips, projects, and officers of NSAS. In addition it may contain links, pages, and announcements that support the purpose and objectives of NSAS and National. The committee shall continue to seek up to date, cost effective means of disseminating information about NSAS to the public and membership. As long as any member specifically requests information by means other than electronic dissemination, the committee shall maintain a mailing list for those members and mail information on chapter events not less than quarterly to those members who have made such a request.*



## President's Perch (as in where a bird sits – not the fish)

The combined March and May board meeting was held on Wednesday, April 13th. As always there was a full agenda of action items. Pat Hildreth, Education Chair assisted by Cheryl Harris, Publicity Chair reported they had sent out forty invitations to Napa third grade classrooms to present a program they generated called Birding Adventures and received ten invitations to present in classrooms. The program is built in accordance with the California teaching standards. They gave their first presentation on Wednesday, April 13th and reported it was a great success. They said the kids wanted to know if they were coming back the next day too!

David Takeuchi, Field Trip Chair reported he had negotiated a fantastic deal with Eagle Optics to fulfill chapter needs for both light weight sturdy binoculars to be used in our youth programs and good quality field binoculars to be used on adult field trips. He arranged purchase of five youth binoculars for less than \$400 and Eagle donated an additional five. In addition Eagle agreed to sell us two high quality adult binoculars that normally cost nearly \$300 each for a total of \$500. Eagle also waived the shipping charges. Thus the chapter now has twelve new binoculars for less than \$900.

Dave McMullen was introduced as the new chapter Webmaster. He is a former high school teacher now working in insurance in San Francisco. He is an avid birder and has volunteered to cover Block G3 for the Solano Breeding Bird Atlas. David said his goal was to make the website responsive to the needs of the chapter and pledged to post information in a timely and clear manner.

The Board reviewed the FY 04 - 05 Actual v. Budget financial report and was pleased to see we have generated \$1700 more income than expenses to date. In addition they reviewed and approved the FY 05–06 budget which like this year is forecast to break even. The financial status of the chapter is sound with over \$4600 in our scholarship fund, \$20,000 in our Solano Breeding Bird Atlas fund, and over \$10,000 in our unallocated fund. In addition we have over \$6000 in our interest bearing checking account; expenses and income balance at about \$9,000 each per year.

The Board voted to combine the nomination and election meeting with the May general meeting each year. The December general meeting was eliminated, with everyone encouraged to participate in and attend the CBC compilation, in lieu of a general meeting. In addition, the traditional “bring your slides, CDs, and birding experiences to share potluck” will be held in June each year with no speaker scheduled. The board also changed the bylaws to require the Vice President to hold the Program Chair or another open committee Chair.

The Board added a new Committee – the Communications Committee. Its duties include maintaining a registered, hosted website or future equivalent, which will contain information on the meetings, field trips, projects, and officers of NSAS. In addition the website may contain links, pages, and announcements that support the purpose and objectives of NSAS and National. The committee was tasked to continue to seek up to date, cost effective means of disseminating information about NSAS to the public and membership. It was stated in the change that as long as any member specifically requests information by means other than electronic dissemination, the committee shall maintain a mailing list for those members and mail information on chapter events not less than quarterly to those members who have made such a request. Dave McMullen volunteered and was selected to be the initial Communications Chair.

The board discussed providing board members with standardized up to date software to assure good communication and efficient data sharing. To meet that goal Microsoft Office Pro multiple use licenses with two year free upgrade for both PCs and Macs were authorized. Previous research had determined charity organization license rates were available to the chapter and a vendor was chosen [www.zonescs.com](http://www.zonescs.com). As a result beginning with FY 05 –06 all board members will have up to date software provided to assist them in doing chapter business.

This is my last column as President. I have enjoyed the challenges of the job. All the success of this past year is due to the hard work and dedication of the Board and membership of the Napa Solano Audubon Society. I will continue to volunteer but now my focus will be on the Portland Oregon Audubon Society where we are moving this June to live near my daughter, son-in-law and one of my wonderful grandchildren. May you continue to grow and succeed in your goal of “Being the best birding and conservation organization in Napa and Solano counties”.

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*Grizzly island—Continued from page 2*

From afar, we also got to briefly study an active rookery of egrets (most likely Great Egrets). Pelicans flew around us constantly and we patiently awaited for fleeting (but treasured) glimpses of the Common Yellowthroat and Marsh Wrens. About a dozen elk were easily visible from the road at one of our last stops.

In total, over 40 species were seen, and there were many opportunities to study the various waterfowl on the shallow lakes and sloughs throughout the refuge.

### Note from the Song Sparrow Editor

I am retiring from the position of newsletter editor. It has been fun these last four years, and it is now time to pass the “pen” to someone else. Thank you to all of you who have contributed articles and proof reading. You made my job easier.

I hope some one will step forward to take on the job for the coming year. The newsletter is very important to our communication in the chapter. We need to keep it going.

Susan Lane