

Regional Outings Saturday, Feb. 14 cont'd. and Sunday Feb. 15

Saturday, February 14, cont'd.

10:00am-2:00pm

Lynch Canyon Eagles, Hawks and Other Birds of Prey Raptor and Birding Hike

Join James Walsh, an accomplished Solano Land Trust and West County Hawk Watch guide and the Solano Land Trust Raptor Team for a Wintering Birds of Prey Hike at Lynch Canyon Open Space Park. This hike will feature raptor identification tips and views of resident and over-wintering birds of prey. Previous sightings include golden eagles, bald eagles, rough-legged hawks, ferruginous hawks, cooper's hawks, sharp-shinned hawks, peregrine falcons, prairie falcons and other more common birds of prey. Bring water, snacks and binoculars. Wear sturdy shoes. Prepare for all weather. All ages welcome. Must be able to hike 4 miles up and down steep hills [Really, 800 ft up and 800 ft. down!] No dogs. Donation suggested—not required. RSVP requested—not required: to Mary Beth at mbcrittendon@comcast.net or 707-685-5908. Constant or heavy rain cancels. Call Mary Beth at 707-685-5908 if weather is uncertain.

Since Lynch Canyon is otherwise closed, the gate will be locked except for the tour's 10:00am start time and 2:00pm end time.

Directions: 3100 Lynch Road, just west of the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo, CA

From San Francisco / I-80 East between Vallejo and Fairfield:

Take the American Canyon/Hiddenbrooke exit. Go south toward Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Just before entering the Hiddenbrooke development, turn east (left) on McGary Road (frontage road that runs parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.6 miles to where it intersects with Lynch Road. Turn left on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 underpass, and proceed through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac to the gravel parking lot.

From Sacramento / I-80 West between Fairfield and Vallejo:

Take the Red Top Road exit. Go south (left) under the underpass. In less than 0.1 mile, turn right on McGary Road (frontage road that runs parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road, go under the I-80 underpass, and proceed through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac to the gravel parking lot.

Solano Land Trust is here: www.solanolandtrust.org

James Walsh is here: www.facebook.com/WestCountyHawkWatch

Sunday, February 15

10:00am – 11:30am

White Slough Eco-walk and Bird Watching [Family Friendly event]

Join wetland biologist Francesca Demgen, President of Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge, to walk on an approximately 1-mile segment of the Bay Trail at the water's edge of South White Slough, an approximately 200 acre tidal lagoon. On our Eco-walk we talk about birds, plants, history, geography, ecology, and politics. Potential to see hundreds of shore birds and ducks foraging and resting. Bring binoculars and curiosity.

Meet at 10:00am at parking area located at the end of Enterprise Street, off of Sonoma Blvd. (cross street/light by Ace Hardware/Raley's) Vallejo [use 1177 Enterprise St. Vallejo for GPS navigation].

Directions: At the stop light on Hwy 29/Sonoma Blvd - Turn west on Yolano Drive, go one long block and then turn right (north) on Enterprise Street. Park where Enterprise "T"s into the Highway 37 sound wall.

10:00am-12:00noon

Sears Point Ranch Raptor Walk

Join Sonoma Land Trust at Sears Point to hike the hilly grasslands with long-time raptor enthusiast Larry Broderick, West County Hawk Watch, as we search for resident and migratory raptors and learn how to identify the different raptor species. From this vantage point, we will also get to look out over the in-progress, 1,000-acre tidal marsh restoration project area and enjoy the panoramic views of San Pablo Bay to San Francisco, Mt. Diablo and Mt. Tam. Bring your binoculars! Meet at the Baylands Center at 2100 Hwy 37, just east of the Lakeville Hwy intersection. Pre-register at <http://sltsearspoint021515.eventbrite.com> or show up at 10:00am at the Baylands Center at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Headquarters, located at 2100 Highway 37, part of an old dairy farm. Hike is over steep and uneven terrain. Wear sturdy shoes.



Photo: Lee Ann Baker

Directions: From Napa/Sonoma: travel from Hwy 12/121 through light at Sears Point to light at Lakeville Hwy. Make U-turn at light. Refuge is .25 miles on right. **From Vallejo:** travel west on Hwy 37 to Lakeville Hwy light. Follow directions above. **From Marin:** travel eastbound on Hwy 37, Refuge is .25 miles on right after Lakeville Hwy light. Turn right into the driveway of an old dairy farm—no refuge signs.

11:30am-3:00pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Tim Behr, Raptor Researcher, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Repeats Friday and Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner; and Friday and Saturday 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am description and directions

1:00pm-3:00pm

Sears Point Levee Shorebirds and Waterfowl Walk

Join Sonoma Land Trust at Sears Point Ranch for a walk with Certified California Naturalist Dave Barry along the old and new levees surrounding the 1,000-acre tidal marsh restoration project. Look at the shorebirds and waterfowl adorning the newly-created wetlands. Bring your binoculars and spotting scopes! Meet at the Baylands Center at 2100 Hwy 37, just east of the Lakeville Hwy intersection. Pre-register at <http://sltsearspointB021515.eventbrite.com>

See Sunday 10:00am directions



Photo: Lee Ann Baker

Mare Island and Regional Tours & Outings Monday Feb.16

Monday, February 16 President's Day Holiday

8:00am-6:00pm

San Pablo Bay Walking Trail Self-Guided Walk Hosted by Weston Solutions, Inc.

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 8:00am

description and directions



9:00am – 6:00pm

Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Walk

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9:00am-6:00pm

See Friday 9:00am for description and directions

9:30am-11:30am

Guided Birdwatching in the Shoreline Heritage Preserve

with Michele Troughton, birding guide

Meet at the Visitor Center for an approximately 2-mile scenic walk on and off road trails (somewhat steep and uneven terrain) through oak woodlands with panoramic vistas and a chance to see lots of hawks and turkey vultures in the skies. And, guess who's back?! At least two osprey and 6 great blue herons have been sighted on their former nest sites as of February 2nd. More to come.

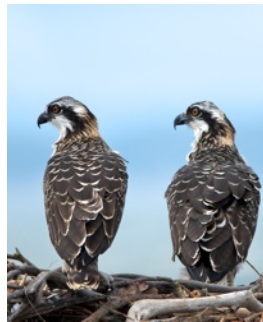


Photo: Eric Dugan
fledgling osprey,
Mare Island Strait

Directions in the 9:00am description above

9:30am – 3:30pm

Come Aboard USS LCS 102 WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat

Location: Berth 10 adjacent to north side of 1080 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 9:30am-3:30pm

Mare Island is home to the last of its kind of the 130 boats built for this purpose during WWII. Tours are free, donations appreciated.

Directions: From Vallejo: cross the Tennessee St. Causeway. Turn left on Nimitz Ave. Turn left to Berth 6. **From Marin, Sonoma and Napa Counties:** Take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37. Turn right. Continue on Walnut Ave. to G St. Turn left two blocks and turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow directions above. **From Contra Costa County:** Cross Benicia Martinez Bridge onto I-780. Exit I-80 eastbound towards Sacramento. Exit Tennessee St./Mare Island. Follow directions above. **From the Building 253 Wildlife Expo:** Follow Connolly St. eastbound to Nimitz Ave. Turn right. Continue on Nimitz Ave. to Berth 10. Turn left to the LCS-102 docked at Berth 10.

10:00am – 2:00pm

Tour Mare Island Museum

Museum tour repeats Saturday and Sunday 10:00am-4:00pm, St. Peter's Chapel is also open Saturday and Sunday, 11:00am-3:00pm

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest Navy chapel built in 1900, is home to the most Tiffany glass on a single site in the West. Directions: Park across from Chapel Park located at the south end of Walnut Ave beyond Captain's Row mansions (right turn at end of Captain's Row onto alley, then left turn and left turn again around traffic circle, onto Walnut Ave. northbound to parking lot). \$4.00 per person for each site.

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Toley Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The complete Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles. If recently rained the trail may be quite muddy.

Directions: Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

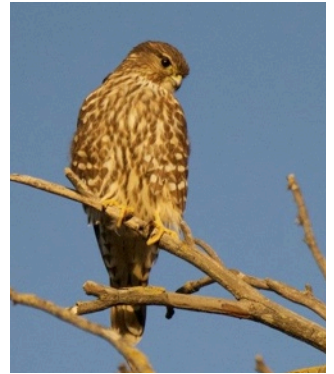


Photo: Rosemary Rawcliffe
merlin, north Mare Island

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Sonoma Baylands Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Friday, Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

When complete, the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project will restore over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak.

After interior demolition, protecting important infrastructure, and installation of public access, the Project breached aging levees along the perimeter to allow the tidal flow. Over time, it will become an expansive marsh, bisected by tidal channels and filled with a multitude of birds, fish and other aquatic species. Thousands of ducks and geese are rafted up on the tidal wetland, already.

Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

Since the parking lot is small, a *Refuge van leaves Building 253, the Wildlife Expo*

Saturday, Feb 14 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 2:00pm and Sunday, February 15 10:00am, 11:00am, 12noon and 1:00pm.



Photo: Al Bayless

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project, 2015

Regional Outings Friday Feb. 13

Friday, February 13 Regional Outings

San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge trails open to public from Sunrise, to Sunset include: the Tolay Creek/ Tubbs Island Trail, Sonoma Baylands Levee Trail, Cullinan Ranch Unit Trail and Guadalcanal Restoration Site Trail. For a San Pablo Bay NWR trail map go to www.fws.gov/uploadedFiles/SPTailMap.pdf#a

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Tolay Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday and Sunday 7:00am-6:00pm

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The complete Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles. If recently rained the trail may be quite muddy.

Directions: Entrance to Trail is located off of east bound Highway 37, just east of the Highway 121/37 intersection in Sonoma County.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Sonoma Baylands Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

Walk the levee trail along this wetland transition zone restoration of a 348 acre tidal marsh habitat constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1995. **Directions:** Turn south off Hwy 37 at Port Sonoma Marina, follow directional signs.

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk, bike or paddle on Cullinan Ranch Tidal Wetland Levee Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

When complete, the Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project will restore over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is now open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak.

After interior demolition, protecting important infrastructure, and installation of public access, the Project breached aging levees along the perimeter to allow the tidal flow. Over time, it will become an expansive marsh, bisected by tidal channels and filled with a multitude of birds, fish and other aquatic species. Thousands of ducks and geese are rafted up on the tidal wetland, already.

Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. From Marin and Sonoma Counties take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

Since the parking lot is small, a *Refuge van leaves Building 253, the Wildlife Expo Saturday, Feb 14 10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm and 2:00pm and Sunday, February 15 10:00am, 11:00am, 12noon and 1:00pm.*

7:00am – 6:00pm

Self-guided walk on Guadalcanal Village Wetland Restoration Trail – San Pablo Bay NWR

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

View the Caltrans Guadalcanal Village wetland restoration on a short, flat out and back trail.

Driving Directions from Festival Wildlife Expo: Travel north on Railroad Ave. to flashing stoplight at G St. Continue through the North Gate. Turn left onto overpass, then left into parking lot. **From Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano and Contra Costa Counties:** take the Mare Island exit from Highway 37 to the parking lot on the north side of the Highway.

9:00am-12:30pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Repeats Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

The Skaggs Island field trips concentrate on diurnal raptors. The former naval station is now part of the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Habitat is grassland and low brush. The most common raptors are Red-tailed Hawk, White-tailed Kite and Northern Harrier. Rough-legged Hawk is an increasing winter visitor. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon are rare. Most trips enjoy at least one Merlin, Golden Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

We take a couple of short walks on levees and around the former base housing area in search of songbirds. A decent look at a Burrowing Owl also requires a levee stroll. Roosting Barn and

Great-horned Owl are possible. The tour begins atop the bridge near the south island gate. Short-eared Owl is possible from the bridge if it is cloudy at the beginning of a morning trip. One restroom stop. All ages and levels of birding experience welcomed. Only heavy rain cancels. Upon arrival of all field trip participants, before entry onto the island, we will consolidate the auto caravan into as few vehicles as possible. The gate is locked behind us. Mostly an auto tour. The fewer vehicles, the better. No early departures.

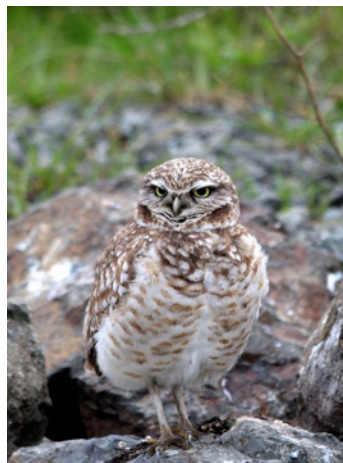


Photo: Lee Ann Baker
burrowing owl

Carpools are required! From Vallejo, Napa and East Bay:

gather at the Wildlife Expo entrance to Building 253 on Mare Island one-half hour before outing time to form carpools. **From Marin and Sonoma:** meet at the Skaggs Island gate to further form carpools.

Directions: From Marin and Sonoma Counties: travel eastbound on Highway 37 five miles beyond the light at Sears Point/Sonoma Raceway. Turn left onto Skaggs Island Road. Meet your guide just inside the gate.

Thank you to our sponsors—see all of them listed at the Wildlife Expo and on our website sponsor page. Many will have a booth at the Expo. Stop and say thank you personally, please!

Regional Outings Friday, Feb. 13 cont'd. and Saturday, Feb. 14

Friday, February 13

11:30am-3:00pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Tim Behr, Raptor Researcher, Golden Gate Raptor Observatory

Repeats Friday, 9:00am-12:30pm and Saturday, 9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner and Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am carpool meeting and driving directions

2:00pm – 3:00pm

Suisun Wildlife Center Tour

The Suisun Marsh Natural History Association presents a tour of its Suisun Wildlife Center, which rescues and releases back to the wild Solano County wildlife. Go behind the scenes to learn how injured wildlife is helped. See non-releasable education birds and animals – a Golden Eagle, Raccoon, Coyote, Great-horned Owl and more. Limit: 30 participants. To preregister call 707-429-4295.

Directions: From I-80: exit at Hwy 12 in Fairfield-near the Budweiser Brewery. Travel East on Hwy 12 toward Suisun for 3 miles to the first exit AFTER the Pennsylvania St. exit. Exit at the Civic Center Blvd/Suisun City Business District exit. Turn left onto Main St. Proceed to stop sign past downtown. Turn left onto Cordelia Rd. Take next right to 1171 Kellogg St.

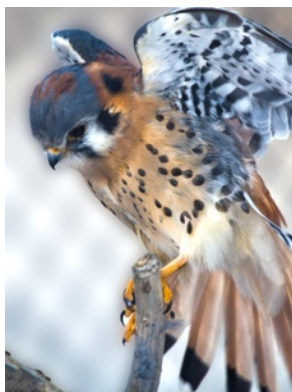


Photo: Erik Halberstadt

Saturday, February 14

7:00am-6:00pm

Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area

Repeats Saturday, Sunday and Monday 7:00am-6:00pm

Walk the trails in the newly restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds. Along the way you will learn the history of the restoration site, design/construction challenges faced.

Directions: From northbound Highway 29 in American Canyon, turn onto Paoli Loop Road/Green Island Road. (From south turn onto Paoli Loop Road .08 miles north of Walmart and follow Paoli Loop under Hwy 29). At stop sign turn left onto Green Island Rd. Proceed straight for 0.9 miles. At 2nd stop sign turn right continuing on Green Island Rd. straight for one long block; continue as it turns left, then approximately 1.4 miles to end. Turn left into the park driveway at Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area, Green Island Unit sign. Follow the driveway around to the parking lot.



Photo: Erik Halberstadt

9:00am – 12noon

The Great Backyard Bird Count & Bird Walk

This weekend is the National Audubon Great Backyard Bird Count. To celebrate, we will have a 30 minute workshop to show you how you can help scientists by recording the birds that you see in your backyard, followed by a walk in American Canyon Wetlands.

Meet at the parking lot on the corner of Wetlands Edge Road and Eucalyptus Drive at 9 a.m. Bring binoculars if you have them and drinking water. Contact Napa-Solano Audubon Society President, Wendy Schackwitz at napa-solano-birds@outlook.com or (925) 963-4871 for more information.

Directions: Meet at the parking lot at the corner of Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Rd. From Highway 29 coming from Vallejo: turn left on West American Canyon Rd. Drive to end and turn right on Wetlands Edge Rd. Drive to the end and turn left on Eucalyptus Dr. From Napa: turn right on Rio Del Mar, make a sharp right on Eucalyptus Dr.; drive to the end.

9:00am-12:30pm

Skaggs Island Raptor Tours

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Repeats Friday,

9:00am-12:30pm with Murray Berner; and Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 11:30am-3:00pm with Tim Behr.

See Friday 9:00am description and directions



Photo: Hank Miller

white tailed kite, Grizzly Island

10:00am – 11:00am

Antioch Dunes National Wildlife Refuge Docent Tour

Join Docent Michael Krieg to learn about three endangered species that occur nowhere else in the world – Lange's metalmark butterfly, Contra Costa wallflower and Antioch Dunes evening primrose. Arrive early to enter Refuge for tour as an escorted group. No late arrivals or early departures.

Directions: Take Hwy 4 east to Lone Tree/A Street exit in Antioch. Travel north on A Street, turn right on Wilbur Ave., left on Fulton Shipyard Rd. to gate at 501 Fulton Rd.

10:00am – 11:30am

Ecology of the North Bay: Walk at Pond 1 – Cullinan Ranch Levee

Join wetland biologist Francesca Demgen, President of Friends of San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge for a walk on the levee between two important north bay habitats: shallow, managed pond and the newly restored 1,200 acre tidal wetland. Potential to see hundreds of shore birds and ducks foraging and resting in Pond 1 and ducks and geese rafted on the tidal wetland. Learn how pickleweed and ducks can both “drink” salt water and about the thousands of acres of wetland restoration happening between the Napa and Petaluma Rivers.

Meet at the corner of Railroad Ave. and Connolly St. one block from the Flyway Festival Wildlife Expo Hall to form carpools or use the Refuge van described below.

Directions: To drive from the Flyway Festival, go north on Railroad Ave. to Hwy 37. Turn left over the overpass and follow directions from Vallejo. **From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties:** take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare Island exit ramp to the Cullinan Ranch Unit parking lot and trailhead. **From Marin and Sonoma Counties:** take Hwy 37 east approximately 9 miles past the Hwy 121 junction to the Mare Island exit. Veer left on the exit under the overpass and then turn right onto the overpass. Turn right to get onto Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is approximately 3.4 miles from the Mare Island ramp.

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