

# Mare Island and Regional Outings

Friday, February 10, Saturday, February 11 and Sunday, February 12

## Friday, February 10, Mare Island Outings

**8:00am-5:00pm**

### **Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Self-guided Hiking and Biking**

*Repeats Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-5:00pm*

Walk or bike on the 1.3 mile paved road/trail along the route to the hilltop 7-county scenic vista and beyond.

Dogs are allowed on leash.

**Directions:** [167 O'Hara Ct](#) at southern end of Azuar Dr.

**From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way**, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles.

Continue beyond gate to parking. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond entrance gate to parking.

**8:00am-6:00pm**

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

*Repeats Saturday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm*

Explore the wetland and bay habitats of Mare Island on a self-guided wildlife viewing trail to the Bay and seasonal ponds.

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. Entrance Azuar Dr. at A St.

### **8:30am-10:00am Join "UnOfficial Mare Island Preserve Photographer" Bill George, to photograph together**

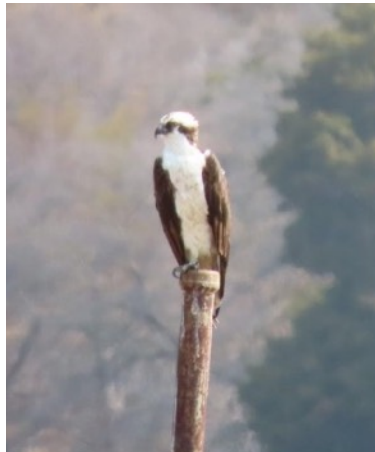


Photo: Osprey perched on lightning rod, Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Bill George

Former Mare Island Shipyard worker, Bill George regularly chronicles wildlife and humans in the Preserve. His photography visits are posted on our Facebook Mare Island Preserve Community page. Bill will guide a short wildlife photographing walk in the Preserve. This isn't really a class. Bill will help you to see where nesting birds have been seen, including Osprey, great blue herons and great egrets. Bill will guide as far as the Rowser Garden. Walk further up the Trail on your own. Bring a camera, binoculars/scope and hike gear – hats, sunscreen, water for 1-mile roundtrip walk on a paved trail. Meet at Mare Island Preserve parking lot. See directions above to [167 O'Hara Ct. @ Azuar Dr.](#) southern end of Mare Island. FREE. No reservation required. Call/text 707-249-9633.

**10:00am-11:00am**

### **Birdviewing Outing at Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Seasonal Wetland Pond**

Michele Troughton, Mare Island Heritage Trust field guide



Photo: Say's phoebe, Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail, Bill George

Michele is an expert and avid birding guide who gives freely of her time to guide birders of all skill levels at Mare Island viewing spots. Meet her at the parking lot of the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail, (entrance, [Azuar Dr. @ A St./Dump Rd.](#)) for a very short, easy walk to the seasonal pond, filled to overflowing with water and likely lots of waterfowl. She writes, "I saw a short-eared owl, not nocturnal, there last February, and American Pipit the other day and previously." Michele will stay about an hour. Feel free to continue on the Trail on your own, or return to your car.

**10:00am-12:30pm**

### **Mare Island Birding Hot Spots Car Caravan Tour**

With Wally Neville and Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Society field trip leaders



Photo: Hummingbird takes flight, in the East Bay, Michael Warner

Get to know what's on Mare Island. Stroll amongst "Captain's Row", Alden Park, and the grounds around St. Peter's Chapel. Learn about the people, it's historic buildings, the trees, avian fauna, and possibly, monarch butterflies. Meet Robin and Wally to walk for a bit, then form a car caravan to drive to other Mare Island birding hot spots. The car caravan will guide you to the San Pablo Bay Trail with pickleweed and saltmarshes, prime salt marsh harvest mouse and Ridgeway rail habitat. There are always lots of waterfowl in San Pablo Bay and in the pond near the trailhead. Portable restroom at trailhead, only.

Meet at the carved eagle enclosed in a glass display case across from [1061 Walnut Ave, Mare Island, Vallejo, CA 94592](#). (Walnut Ave. @ 8th St. across from Alden Park on Mare Island). Call 707-249-9633 for assistance.

# Mare Island Outings

## Friday, February 10, continued

### Friday, February 10, Mare Island Outings and Opening

**1:00pm-2:30pm**

#### **Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve Birding Walk**

Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Society field guide

When you join Robin Leong for a birding outing on Mare Island, you

get to spend time with not only an expert and enthusiastic birdwatcher, but, you will learn about Mare Island history from a 30-plus year civilian employee of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard. The walk is about one-mile, but does rise somewhat steeply near the top of the hill. You will likely see great blue herons, possibly great egrets and osprey, certainly red-tailed hawks,



Photo: Bill George, Mare Island Preserve

possibly a red-shouldered hawk and white tailed kites, and certainly, songbirds. Bring what you need for a hike and if you have binoculars or cameras, that would be great! Meet at the visitor center parking lot. *NOTE: Robin highly discourages dogs on his outings. Although they are allowed in the Mare Island Preserve, please don't bring your pets along on his guided outings.*

**Directions:** [167 O'Hara Ct](#) at southern end of Azuar Dr. **From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way**, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond entrance gate to parking. Located at the southernmost deadend of Azuar Dr. on Mare Island.

**5:00pm – 7:00pm**

#### **Festival Opening Reception, Wildlife Expo Headquarters Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)**

Join us at our 2023 Flyway Festival Wildlife Expo headquarters for an In-Person Opening Reception – at last! We are eager for you to join us in person and in spirit, as well as in that third strata we have become more and more accepting of, if not resigned to. We'll Facebook Live the evening. Enjoy good company and a spot of yummy refreshments. We certainly expect a host of dignitaries and Festival Sponsors, including our HOST SPONSOR, MARE ISLAND CO. and other friends and supporters, such as **Vallejo Mayor Robert McConnell** who began attending our Friday night opening reception with his wife when he was first elected as a Vallejo Councilmember, quite some time ago. How long ago? He has served two terms as Council representative and is beginning his 3rd year as our Mayor. **We thank you for your everlasting support, Mr. Mayor.**

**Directions: From Vallejo and East Bay:** Continue across the Blue Bridge onto Mare Island. Turn left immediately, at Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend. Park

anywhere in the ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** Lost? Call/text 707-249-9633. **From Marin,**

**Sonoma:** From Hwy 37 Eastbound, take the Mare Island exit immediately before the Napa River Bridge. Veer right onto Walnut Ave. At the stop sign, turn left 2 blocks through the flashing stop light at Railroad Ave. to Nimitz Ave. Turn



Photo: Now Mayor Robert McConnell attending our opening reception as a Councilmember, 2019

right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend. Park anywhere in the ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and

gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** **From Napa:** From Hwy 37 Westbound, take the Mare Island exit immediately after the Napa River Bridge. Veer right off the off-ramp, looping over the overpass onto Walnut Ave. Continue to the first stop sign. Turn left 2 blocks through the flashing stop light at Railroad Ave. to Nimitz Ave. Turn right onto Nimitz Ave. Follow it to the deadend. Park anywhere in the ample parking spots. Walk south towards the Buildingways and gantries to **Building 34, [1024 Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)** Lost? Call/text 707-249-9633.



Photo: San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tamalpais and the setting sun from the east side of the Napa River mouth with Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve to the west side of the mouth of the Napa River, Clifford Johnson

# Mare Island Outings

## Saturday, February 11

### Saturday, February 11, Self-guided and Field Guide Led Outings and an In-Person Wildlife Expo

- We are pivoting, AGAIN! After 2 years, due to the pandemic, hosting a Virtual Wildlife Expo consisting of curated pre-recorded presentations, video tours and outings and Live coverage of In-person outings, too, on our Facebook Group, we are In-Person.
- This year, we are returning to our traditional Wildlife Expo headquartered on Mare Island at Building 34 with exhibitor booths, an art show, digital slide shows and live presentations held in a Mare Island historic building, as we have for decades. Since we are almost starting over, expect that we may not be fully charged, but we will be here with much of what you love.
- We will offer some Hybrid programming. Now, you will be able to view some of our Wildlife Expo Live on our [Facebook Group](#). We will live stream each day, a curated group of presentations, videos, Youtube and links from websites of interest. All Guided Outings are In-person. You will see descriptions and directions to locations in this schedule.
- A separate schedule features our Wildlife Expo programming.
- Check in on the [Facebook Group](#) beginning February 10th, through the 12th for our daily lineup of Virtual Wildlife Expo programming.

*Our FLYWAY FESTIVAL schedule is 2-PART. Mare Island and Regional Outings are combined in one file. This schedule is ALL Mare Island and Regional Outings. A second schedule details the programming for the In-Person Wildlife Expo headquartered on Mare Island at Building 34. Look for a Virtual Wildlife Expo schedule on the [Facebook Group](#) by Feb. 10th*

### 8:00am-5:00pm Mare Island Preserve open for self-guided hiking and biking

**Repeats Friday and Sunday, 8:00am-5:00pm**

**Directions:** [167 O'Hara Ct Mare Island Vallejo](#) at southern end of Azuar Dr. **From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way**, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking.

**8:00am-6:00pm**

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

*Repeats Friday and Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm*

*In addition to our portable restrooms at the Festival Wildlife Expo, there are porta potties on Mare Island at the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve and one is stationed at the San Pablo Bay Trail.*

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St.



Photo: Native American Prayer Flags made and hung for the 2021 Flyway Festival by Michelle Herrera, San Pablo Bay Trail, Myrna Hayes

**9:30am**

### Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer to bless the sacred Native lands and waters on which our Flyway Festival is held.

Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream from our 2021 Flyway Festival on [Facebook Group](#) will air each morning on Facebook and at the Wildlife Expo. Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-founder & Director with Michelle Herrera

**9:30am – 3:00pm**

### Come Aboard USS LCS 102 WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat and You May See Fishing Birds!

[Location: Berth 6, A St @ Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#)

Mare Island is home to the last of its kind of the 130 boats built for this purpose during WWII. The Historic WWII Mighty Midget Landing Craft Support (LCS-102) Gunboat is located at Berth 6, the historic WWII submarine repair berth. Flags will be flying on the boat. There's a chance of seeing a kingfisher perched on the mooring lines, osprey, great blue herons, green heron and a "pet" gull that follows the crew around. All volunteer. Tours are free. Donations appreciated.

**Directions:** From the Blue Bridge, G. St/Wichels Causeway: Turn left onto Nimitz Ave. Look for a wayfinding sign on your right showing LCS-102. Turn left at A St. [Berth 6, A St @ Nimitz Ave. Mare Island](#) . Continue to Berth 6. Park in parking lot near dock and boat.



Photo: LCS-102 , WWII Landing Craft Support Gunboat, Berth 6, Mare Island, Myrna Hayes

# Mare Island Outings

## Saturday, February 11, continued

### Saturday, February 11 Mare Island Tours and Self-Guided and Field-Guide Led Outings

**9:30am–11:00am**

#### Go Take a Hike in the Mare Island Preserve with Mare Island Heritage Trust Volunteer Guide

*Repeats Friday 1:00pm-2:30pm and Sunday 9:30am-11:00am*

Mare Island Heritage Trust hiking guide, Gordon McMahon, will escort you on a 2-mile roundtrip hike to the Preserve Hilltop at 284 ft elevation with stupendous 7-county views of the Bay region. From the Hilltop explore further in the Preserve, on your own. The trek is chocked full of nature and cultural history points of interest with scenic vistas and birdwatching. Gordon has been a Preserve volunteer since 2011 and knows its treasures, well. Bring: snacks and water, hiking shoes, binoculars, outing wear, and your questions! Meet at the Mare Island Preserve parking lot, 167 O'Hara Ct. 94592

**Directions:** See Saturday, 8:00 am directions on left below gold box.

#### 11:00am – 2:00pm Tour St. Peter's Chapel

*Repeats Sunday 11:00am-2:00pm*

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest existing Navy chapel built in 1901, is home to an early collection of Tiffany stained glass windows. Note: The Chapel is no longer accessible to mobility challenged.

**Directions:** Park across from Chapel Park, 1181 Walnut Ave south of the historic Captain's Row mansions on Mare Island. \$5.00 per person donation. (12 and under, free).



Photo: St Peter's Chapel, Mare Island, Myrna Hayes

**1:45pm-2:45pm**

#### Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Birdwatching

with Wally NeVille, Napa-Solano Audubon Society field guide

Meet Wally at the wetlands pond a short distance from the Trailhead. Turn left immediately after entering trailhead gate. After birding at the pond, continue on to the Bay if you like. Views of San Pablo Bay, Mt. Tamalpais and Sonoma Mountain. Seasonal wetlands with ducks, egrets and shorebirds. A good chance of spotting raptors in the sky and trees. No matter what your birding skill level, take advantage of this special opportunity for an afternoon of learning how to look for birds in the sky and in the wetlands. Easy short trail walk. A portable restroom is stationed at the parking/trailhead area of the San Pablo Bay Trail.

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. [Entrance on Azuar Dr. at A St.](#)

**5:30-7:30pm**

#### Join an Evening Ramble on Mare Island with Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-Founder/Director

Given that one of the most magical times of day on Mare Island, is actually the "golden hour" of sunset, evening and dusk, Myrna Hayes will guide a Flyway Festival evening "ramble"/walk on Mare Island starting at [Mare Island's Alden Park](#). She will

guided a cultural history and nature ramble through this lovely classical park with it's towering old-growth trees and quirky concentration of WWI bomb shelters and the Victorian Bandstand Gazebo. Alden Park is adjacent to historic Captain's

Row with it's stately southern-inspired mansions, which we will also walk along, continuing on to other areas of Mare Island, then, circling back to your cars.

Bring friends, family and pets, for an evening exploration of the Island. Don't forget, birds will be settling in for the night and owls will likely be active, so this can be a good time to extend your birdwatching. Bring something to drink, hiking gear, jackets, binoculars and cameras.

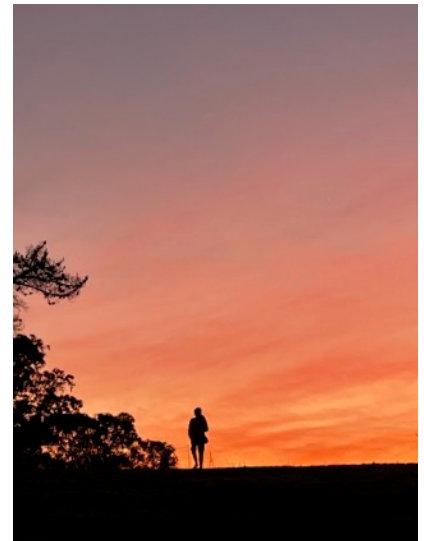


Photo: A recent Winter Ramble on the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve with Myrna Hayes

## The Nature of Thread



Fiber Expressions Art Quilts  
Inspired by the Nature of Our Bay Area

Mare Island Art Studios February 4th-26th

Please join us for an artist reception  
Saturday February 11th from 2 to 5 pm

Open  
Saturdays & Sundays  
February 4 - 26  
12 - 4 pm

Mare Island Art Studios  
110 Pintado St.  
Vallejo, Ca  
[mareislandartstudios.com](http://mareislandartstudios.com)



Contact: [jklincoln59@gmail.com](mailto:jklincoln59@gmail.com)

**12noon – 4:00pm**

#### The Nature of Thread, an art show presented by Fiber Expressions Art Quilters at Mare Island Art Studios

*Repeats Sunday, February 12, 12noon-4:00pm*

When we announced this show on Facebook, we received a number of excited comments about how fabulous this show was last year. You are invited to an artist reception Saturday, February 11, 2:00pm-5:00pm at the Mare Island Art Studios, 110 Pintado St on Mare Island.

[mareislandartstudios.com](http://mareislandartstudios.com)

# Mare Island Outings

## Sunday, February 12

### Sunday, February 12 Mare Island Outings

**8:00am-5:00pm Mare Island Preserve open for self-guided hiking and biking**

**Repeats Friday and Saturday, 8:00am-5:00pm**

**Directions:** 167 O'Hara Ct at southern end of Azuar Dr. **From the Mare Island entrance at Tennessee and Mare Island Way**, continue to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond gate to parking. **From Marin or Napa** take the Mare Island exit off of Hwy 37 and follow Walnut Ave. south 3/4 mile to stop sign at "G" St. Turn right one block to Azuar Dr. Turn left 2 miles. Continue beyond entrance gate to parking.

**8:00am-6:00pm**

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

**Repeats Friday and Saturday 8:00am-6:00pm**

**Directions:** Once you've reached Mare Island travel West to Azuar Dr., turn left onto Azuar Dr. Continue on Azuar Dr. to the first right at A St./ Dump Rd. onto the gravel road. Park in the gravel parking lot at the end of A St. [Entrance on Azuar Dr. at A St.](#) A portable restroom is located at the trailhead/parking area.



Photo: Native American Prayer Flags made and placed with prayer for the 2021 Flyway Festival by Michelle Herrera, San Pablo Bay Trail, Myrna Hayes

**9:30am**  
**Opening Greeting and Native American Prayer to bless the sacred Native lands and waters on which our Flyway Festival is held.** Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail Virtual Facebook Live Stream from our 2021 Flyway Festival on [FACEBOOK GROUP](#) Myrna Hayes, Flyway Festival Co-founder & Director with Michelle Herrera

**9:30am-11:00am**

**Go Take a Hike in the Mare Island Preserve with Mare Island Heritage Trust Volunteer Guide**

**Repeats Friday 1:00pm-2:30pm and Saturday 9:30am-11:00am**

Mare Island Heritage Trust hiking guide, Gordon McMahon, escorts you on a 2-mile roundtrip hike to the Preserve Hilltop at 284 ft elevation with stupendous 7-county views of the Bay region. From the Hilltop explore further in the Preserve, on your own. The trek is chocked full of nature and cultural history points of interest with scenic vistas and birdwatching. Gordon has been a Preserve volunteer since 2011 and knows its treasures, well. Bring: snacks and water, hiking shoes, binoculars, outing wear, and your questions! Meet at the Mare Island Preserve parking lot, 167 O'Hara Ct. 94592

**Directions:** See [Saturday, 8:00 am directions.](#)

**10:00am-11:30am**

**Birding for All Ages Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail**

**Leader:** Marcia Grefsrud, Wildlife Specialist and Field Guide

No matter what your birding skill level, take advantage of this opportunity for a morning of learning how to look for birds and wildlife wherever you are. Orient to looking for birds in the sky and all around you at the Mare Island San Pablo Bay Trail.

Walk with Marcia as far as you want. Turn back or head-off on your own whenever you like. This is an easy and fun outing because Marcia is warm and gracious as well as knowledgeable! **Meet Marcia at parking lot, [Azuar Dr. @ A St.](#) **Directions:** 8:00am description.**

**11:00am – 2:00pm**

**Tour St. Peter's Chapel**

**Repeats Saturday 11:00am-2:00pm**

St. Peter's Chapel, the oldest existing Navy chapel built in 1901, is home to a large collection of early Tiffany stained glass windows. 16 of the 29 windows are signed by the Tiffinay Studioe. This is the first time in a number of years, that the Chapel has been open for the Flyway Festival. A must see, as it is normally only open by appointment. Note: The Chapel is no longer accessible to mobility challenged.

**Directions:** Park across from Chapel Park, [1181 Walnut Ave Mare Island](#)

south of the historic Captain's Row mansions on Mare Island. \$5.00 per person donation. (Under 12, free).



Photo: St Peter's Chapel, Mare Island, Myrna Hayes

**12noon-4:00pm**

**In Fine Feather, a Birds in Textiles show presented by Fiber Expressions Art Quilters at Mare Island Art Studios**

**Repeats Saturday, February 11, 12noon-4:00pm**

When we announced this show on Facebook, we received a number of excited comments about how fabulous this show was last year. You are invited to an artist reception Saturday, February 11, 2:00pm-5:00pm at the Mare Island Art Studios, 110 Pintado St on Mare Island. [mareislandartstudios.com](#)



Photo: Hiking the Mare Island Shoreline Heritage Preserve, Bill George

# 2023 Flyway Festival Regional Outings

## Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11

### Friday, February 10 and Saturday, February 11 Regional Outings

All 7:00am self-guided repeat, daily Feb. 10, 11 and 12.

#### 7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Toley Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles. **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 National Wildlife Refuge  
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

The Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project has restored over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak. Thousands of ducks and geese raft-up on the tidal wetlands.

**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 to the stopsign. Then turn left onto the overpass towards Hwy 37 West. Parking lot/trailhead 3.4 miles from the Mare Island overpass.

#### 7:00am-6:00pm Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, CA Dept Fish and Wildlife Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area

Walk the trails in the restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds. Mostly shorebirds, seasonally.

**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: Male Hooded Merganser Lake Solano, Pam Starr

#### 8:30:00am-10:30am Bird and Nature Walk, Lake Solano, Winters/Vacaville

Guide Pam Starr, Bird and Wildlife Photographer  
Pam is an avid wildlife photographer and nearly daily posts of her adventures from Sacramento Valley National Wildlife Refuge to Point Reyes National Seashore. She frequently posts photos of a wide variety of waterfowl, hawks and other raptors and birds and wildlife taken at Lake Solano near Vacaville. While this might not be precisely within the San Francisco Bay Flyway area, it IS nearby. This will be a great birding outing with Pam. The trails at Lake Solano offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Meet Pam at the trailhead. \$6 fee to park or permit.

**Directions: Lake Solano County Park, 8685 Pleasants Valley Road, Winters.** From the Bay Area: Take I-80 Eastbound to Lagoon Valley/Cherry Glen Road exit. Turn left over the freeway, onto Cherry Glen Road. Bear right around the curve and then turn left onto Pleasants Valley Road (12.4 miles) to 8685 Pleasants Valley Road. From Sacramento: Take I-80 West (26 miles) to HWY 505 (11 miles), at Winters/CA128 exit turn left onto CA128 go (5.3 miles) Turn left onto Pleasants Valley Road/County Road 86. Arrive at 8685 Pleasants Valley Road on right.

### Saturday, February 11 Regional Outings

#### 8:30am-10:50am Birding Cullinan Ranch and Pond 1

Join Robin Leong, Napa-Solano Audubon Society Field Guide to

learn about the birds and wetland restoration of north bay habitats. Potential to see hundreds of shore birds and ducks foraging and resting in these two wetlands. Thousands of ducks and geese raft-up on the tidal wetlands. The [Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project](#) has restored over 1500 acres of tidal wetlands in the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The site is open to the public to explore on foot, bicycle or kayak. Bring binoculars.

**Directions: From Vallejo, Solano and Contra Costa Counties** take Hwy 37 West 3.4 miles past the Mare



Photo: Common goldeneye male duck, Loma Vista Farm pond, Vallejo, Rita LeRoy

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 to the stopsign. Then turn left onto the overpass towards Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is 3.4 miles from the Mare Island overpass.

# 2023 Flyway Festival Regional Outings

## Saturday, February 11, continued

### Saturday, February 11, Regional Outings, continued

**8:30am – 11:00am**

#### **Birding American Canyon Wetlands Edge Trail**

*Repeats Sunday, 9:00am-11:30am with Napa Solano Audubon Society*

Fred Werner, Golden Gate Audubon Society field guide, leads a morning of birding at [Wetlands Edge Park in American Canyon](#) to look for waterfowl and shorebirds and even raptors. Please pre-register with [Golden Gate Audubon Society](#) for this special Flyway Festival guided outing. We are grateful that the Golden Gate Audubon Society offered to allow Flyway Festival participants to join.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot at the corner of 2 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.



Photo: northern shoveler, American Canyon Wetlands, Bill George

**9:00am – 12noon**

#### **Birding Huichica Wetlands and Hudeman Slough**

Napa Solano Audubon Society field guide, Andrew Ford & Mark Stephenson from Napa-Solano Audubon will sponsor a Flyway Festival walk to Huichica Wetlands and Hudeman Slough on Saturday, Both areas are part of the greater Napa-Sonoma Marsh Wildlife Area Complex overseen by the CA Fish & Wildlife. Huichica Marsh and Hudeman Slough are hotspots for wintering waterfowl, shorebirds and raptors. Many interesting birds have been reported in these wonderful birding areas. We are likely to find Sora & Virginia Rails, Northern Shoveler, Pintails, Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Redheads, Western & Eared Grebes, Double-Crested Cormorants, American White Pelican, Dunlin, Western & Least Sandpipers, Black-Necked Stilt, and American Avocets. Raptors observed at these locations include: Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, White-Tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, and occasionally Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, Ferruginous Hawks, and Short-Eared Owls. Bonaparte's Gull and Forster's Terns

are regular winter visitors. A number of passerine species and Great Horned Owls frequent the marshes and Eucalyptus Groves. This year there has been a Red-necked Grebe and several Red Phalaropes at Huichica. We will begin at Huichica Marsh and see what birds are prevalent and how time goes before heading onto Hudeman a couple of miles further West along Ramal Road.

**Directions:** [Huichica Wetlands](#). Heading North on Highway 29 from Vallejo, turn left and head West on Highway 12/Sonoma Highway for approximately 2.4 miles to Duhig

Road (next to the Domain Carneros Winery just past the light at Old Sonoma Road). Turn left on Duhig Rd. and

head South approximately 2 miles to Las Amigas Road. Turn left and head East approximately 1 1/4 miles to Buchli Station Road. Head South on Buchli Station Road approximately 1 mile to the very end past the winery then along a dirt extension to the parking lot just over the railroad tracks. Following Huichica, if time permits we will caravan to Hudeman Slough by heading to Duhig Road and west on Ramal Road to Hudeman Slough located at 25696 Ramal Road, Sonoma.

**From Marin and Sonoma Counties:** From Hwy 37, turn left at Sears Point Rd. onto Hwy 12/121/Arnold Dr. Continue east on Hwy 121 to Duhig Rd. Follow directions above. **From Napa:** turn right from Hwy 29 onto Hwy 12/121 towards Sonoma. Turn left on Duhig Rd. Follow directions above.

# 2023 Flyway Festival Regional Outings

## Saturday, February 11, continued

### Saturday, February 11, Regional Outings, continued

10:00am-12:00pm

#### SKAGGS ISLAND BIRD TOURS, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

**DUE TO RECENT STORM DAMAGE, OUR TRADITIONAL SKAGGS OUTINGS HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH A GUIDED HIKE AT SEARS POINT WETLANDS BAY TRAIL, SAT, FEB 11, 9:30AM-12:30PM AND A HUDEMAN SLOUGH WETLANDS BIRDING WALK, SUN, FEB 12, 9:30AM-12:30PM**

10:00am-12:00pm

#### Hike at Sears Point Wetlands Bay Trail

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Winter is a great time to see waterfowl and shorebirds on the San Pablo Bay. Hopefully, raptors will also be seen on this 1,500 acre tidal marsh restoration managed for resident and migratory waterbirds and tidal marsh habitats and species. Waterfowl species commonly seen in the area include mallard, Northern shoveler and pintail, ruddy duck, canvasback, widgeon, gadwall, scaup and Canada goose, among many others. In marsh areas, egrets, herons, stilts, avocets and sandpipers rest and prey on invertebrates in the shallow water and exposed mud flats. Bring your binoculars and get to know the raptors, waterfowl and shorebirds along the bay.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot at **Sears Point Trailhead** [7699 Reclamation Road Sonoma, CA 95476](#). **From Highway 37 from Vallejo:** turn left at the Lakeville Hwy light onto Reclamation Rd. Follow signs to the parking lot. **From Marin County:** turn right at the Lakeville Hwy light onto Reclamation Rd. Follow signs to parking lot.



Photo: Young red-shouldered hawk, Rita LeRoy

10:00am-2:00pm

#### Lynch Canyon Open Space Park

#### Eagles, Hawks and Other Birds of Prey Guided Hike

Link to registration and details: [Solano Land Trust Events](#)

Join Larry Broderick, West County Hawkwatch for a Birds of Prey Migration Hike featuring resident, migrating and over-wintering birds of prey hosted by Solano Land Trust and Solano County Parks. Over-wintering hawks are the highlight of this day. Lynch Canyon already boasts a large population of raptors, but over-wintering birds added in makes for a peak level of Hawks, Eagles, Falcons, Harriers, Accipiters, Kites and even Osprey. Arrive by 9:45 am for parking and orientation. Larry brings over 25 years of experience researching, rescuing and rehabilitating raptors. Raptor identification tips. Learn about where they go and do, and how to distinguish different species based on their looks, behaviors, and ways they fly. Golden and Bald Eagles, Rough-legged, Cooper's, Sharp-shinned and

Ferruginous Hawks, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, and other more common raptor species. **Free: requested \$10 donation. Parking \$6 cash or check per day.** Stay on trails. No dogs allowed. A working ranch—stay a safe distance from cattle. Bring water, snacks, sunglasses, camera, hiking sticks, bug repellent, binoculars and bird books. Wear sturdy shoes. Dress for all types of weather. Hike off trail: steep and rugged 4 miles. Restroom at parking lot. A phone number for Larry is 707-791-0335. Pre-registration appreciated—not required. Register at [Solanolandtrust.org](#)

**Directions:** [3100 Lynch Road, just west of the intersection of Lynch Road & McGary Road, Vallejo, CA](#)  
**From San Francisco / I-80 East just east of Vallejo:** Take the American

Canyon/Hiddenbrooke exit. Turn towards Hiddenbrooke Parkway. Just before entering the

Hiddenbrooke, turn east (left) on McGary Road (frontage road parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.6 miles to Lynch Road. Turn left, go under the I-80 underpass through gate at end of cul-de-sac to parking lot. **From Sacramento / I-80 West toward Vallejo beyond Fairfield:** 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 parallel to I-80). Follow McGary Road for 1.8 miles. Turn right on Lynch Road. go under the I-80 underpass, and through the gate at the end of the cul-de-sac.



# 2023 Flyway Festival Regional Outings

## Sunday, February 12

### Sunday, February 12, Regional Outings

**7:00am-6:00pm**

#### **Self-guided walk on Lower Tubbs Island and Tolay Creek Trail Loop to San Pablo Bay – San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge**

The trail offers hiking, fishing, photography, wildlife viewing and biking opportunities. Parking lot is located at the trailhead. The Lower Tubbs Island Trail loop is 8.15 miles.

**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 National Wildlife Refuge**

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**

The Cullinan Ranch Restoration Project has restored 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. Thousands of ducks and geese raft-up on the tidal wetlands.

**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 to the stopsign. Then turn left onto the overpass towards Hwy 37 West. The parking lot and trailhead is 3.4 miles from the Mare Island overpass.

**7:00am-6:00pm**

#### **Self-guided walk at Green Island Unit, CA Dept Fish and Wildlife Napa-Sonoma Marshes Wildlife Area**

Walk the trails in the restored 1,400 acre Napa salt ponds, primarily shorebirds, seasonally.

**Directions:** Follow directions on Friday, Saturday Regional Outing listing.

**9:00am – 12noon**

#### **Birding American Canyon Wetlands**

*Repeats Sat, 8:30am-11:00am with Golden Gate Audubon Society*

Mark Stephenson & Andrew Ford from Napa-Solano Audubon will sponsor a Flyway Festival walk to American Canyon Wetlands, a restored marsh land along the Napa River. Many aeration ponds and treatment ponds make up the waters where the Napa River Bay Trail meanders around. Many waterfowl and shorebirds are

within the marshes. Cinnamon Teal, Northern Shoveler and Green-winged and Cinnamon Teal, Bufflehead and Common Goldeneye, Marbled Godwit, Willet, American Avocet, Black-Necked Stilt, Black-Crowned Night-Heron and American White Pelican are almost guaranteed. American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Bald Eagle, and Black Rail, are uncommon visitors to the area. Wintering Surf, White-Winged, & Black Scoters, Long-Tailed Duck, and Barrow's Goldeneye have been seen in the past.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot at the corner of 2 Eucalyptus Drive and Wetlands Edge Rd. [Wetlands Edge Park in American Canyon](#) **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.



Photo: male cinnamon teal, Wetlands Edge Trail American Canyon, Bill George

**9:30am-12:30pm**

#### **Hudeman Slough Wetlands**

Field Guide: Murray Berner

Managed by Sonoma County, the Hudeman Slough wetlands attract waterfowl, raptors and wading birds to permanent and seasonal ponds, grasslands, and tidal marsh. All of the Bay Area's wintering duck species are present. The marsh, adjacent hay fields and hillsides host raptors including Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, and Peregrine Falcon. Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon are regularly seen. Wintering songbirds are well-represented. Recent rains have significantly expanded the fresh water wetlands. We will walk a 2.3 to 2.8-mile loop through the wetlands, the distance depending on where the birds are. Gravel trails on level, maintained levee roads. The parking lot is located near 25700 Ramal Rd, about 2.5 miles east of Hwy 12. About 1.2 miles west of the intersection of Ramal Rd and Skaggs Island Rd. Coordinates are [38.22110, -122.39535](#). Large open hay barn at the parking lot. No restrooms.

**10:00am-1:30pm**

#### **Birds of Prey Hike at Sears Point Wetlands Bay Trail**

Raptor Guide Larry Broderick

Winter is a great time to see the birds on the San Pablo Bay. Celebrate the Flyway Festival with Sonoma Land Trust and raptor guide Larry Broderick on the Dickson Trail at the San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Bring your binoculars and get to know the raptors and shorebirds along the bay. There is no charge for this event, which is made possible by the voters of Sonoma County who fund the work of Ag + Open Space with a quarter-cent sales tax. Visit the [Sonoma Land Trust](#) website for details and to register.