



## PUBLIC PROGRAM

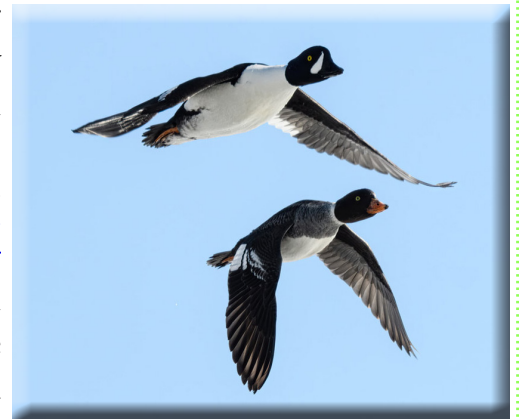
**ONLY in-person at Sonora Library**

**Wednesday, October 19, at 7pm**

**Photographing Wildlife in their Natural Settings  
by Connie Cassinetto**

Connie Cassinetto is a local nature and wildlife photographer who travels frequently around the US and internationally to see, experience and photograph wild animals in their natural settings. In fact, she only just returned from her latest trip to Africa earlier this month. You can enjoy her fine art photography on her website at <http://www.cassinettowildanimals.com/>

As Connie says, "in this presentation I will feature animal images from across the globe, including Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, Costa Rica, and Africa. Images might include bears, wolves, definitely birds, a lot of young animals, elephants, lions, baboons, and cheetahs.



As a wildlife photographer my goal is to show wildlife at its best".

*Photos  
by  
Connie Cassinetto*



The September 25 presentation by **Caitlyn Rich** on Burrowing Owls and Prairie Dogs as amicable housemates is now on-line at: <https://youtu.be/4IHLEgiQ9bk>

All CSAS Zoom presentation URLs are shown on our website at <https://centralsierraaudubon.org/>

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

**Note: our website (<https://centralsierraaudubon.org/>) contains maps for each field trip and will also indicate cancellations due to weather or other reason, so, if in doubt, check it out!**

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**Thursday, October 13 - Merced National Wildlife Refuge**



*A prior year sunset photo at the refuge - photo by Barry Boulton*

Every year we make a trip to this refuge, but generally in late winter when the Sandhill Cranes are gathering to migrate north to breed. We will do that in 2023, but this year we will also explore the early season. Sandhill Cranes have started to dribble in and we should see a reasonable number in mid-October. One of the nice things about visiting early in their return is that they still haven't learned how to keep away from human activity, so they tend to spend more time close to the auto-route than when they've all arrived and organized themselves. If things work out - no guarantees - we may have a satisfying sunset fly-in and, if not, sunsets tend to be spectacular at the NWR in themselves.

Some Greater white-fronted Geese have already been observed, and this is the only place where you're likely to see them. Expect to see the elegant and always-busy-feeding White-faced Ibis with the downcurved bill and gorgeous but subtle plumage. Several ducks have arrived such as the always-numerous Northern Shoveler and the Northern Pintail - for me, the most elegant duck of all. Maybe Great Horned Owls, particularly if you stay for sunset - I once was lucky to have a pair clatter right on to the overlook deck so close to me that getting them properly framed in my camera lens was difficult! This is my favorite birding location, so I hope to share it with you.

We will meet at the main overlook just inside the entrance off Sandy Mush Road (7430 W Sandy Mush Rd, Merced, CA 95341) at 2:30pm. This will give us plenty of time to do one auto-route circuit, and then a second one to end up at the far overlook point for sunset. If you decide to return home in daylight after the first circuit, you will not be disappointed because the bird species here are rich, varied and prolific.

**Trip leader: Barry Boulton (209)596-0612 or [rbarryboulton@gmail.com](mailto:rbarryboulton@gmail.com)**



## Sunday, October 23 - Indigeny

I was so pleased to welcome 2 new attendees and future members, Michael Stevens and Dawn Lemoine from Alameda County on our September 25 field trip to Indigeny. Michael's daughter has a vacation cabin in Strawberry. I recognized their names from previous eBird posts. They joined the McDows, myself and Bill Bowie for a great day with some nice fall migrants. Highlights included Orange-crowned, Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, a Pacific Slope Flycatcher, Lewis's Woodpeckers, Virginia Rail, and Vaux's Swifts. (A new county bird for me!) We saw a total of 44 species and you can view the eBird checklist online at <https://ebird.org/checklist/S119420833>

Perhaps you will join me on Sunday, October 23 when I hope to see some of our fall/winter visitors, maybe a Red-breasted Sapsucker and White-crowned and Golden-crowned Sparrows.

The walk will last 2-3 hrs. Children are welcome! Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 AM. Rain will cancel the trip. Follow the signs from the intersection of Greenley and Lyons/Bald Mountain Roads in Sonora. After a few miles on Lyons/Bald Mountain Road, turn right onto Apple Hill Drive where there is a large sign that says "Apple Valley Ranches." A quick left turn onto Summers Lane leads you to Indigeny.

Kit DeGear (925)-822-5215 or [kdegear@gmail.com](mailto:kdegear@gmail.com)



*Group photo on September 25 trip by Kit DeGear*

## Wednesday, November 3 - GCSD

Please join me Wednesday, November 3, for our next Field Trip to the Groveland Community Services District. Meet the group in the GCSD parking lot at 8:00 AM. Bring binoculars and a birding guide if you have one. The walk will last about two-three hours. See below for our September visit report.

Kit DeGear (925)822-5215, or [kdegear@gmail.com](mailto:kdegear@gmail.com)

## SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIP REPORT

### September 29 - GCSD

I was joined by Jeanne Ridgley and Dale Swanberg. Not a large crowd but good company! The birds were fairly quiet today; not so all the construction noise. We believe the loud sounds contributed to fewer observations. We saw a total of 26 species. Highlights included a Western Tanager, American Kestrel and a Lincoln's Sparrow. View the full eBird report at: <https://ebird.org/checklist/S119669367>

Kit DeGear

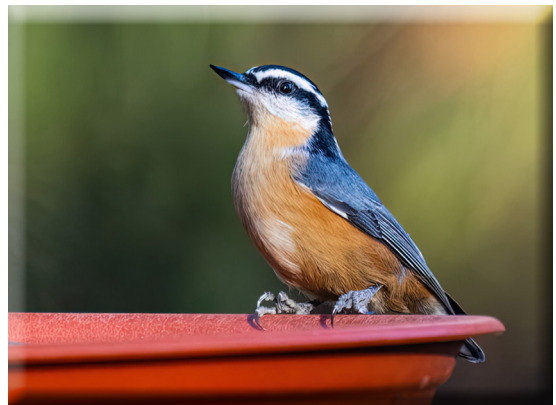
*Jeanne Ridgley & Dale Swanberg  
at GCSD. Photo by Kit DeGear*





## Pine Mountain Lake Folio - photos by Dave Douglass

On most days Dave captures great photos of birds and mammals in his backyard - here are some recent shots



Clockwise from top left: Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-breasted Nuthatch, male Anna's Hummingbird

### Central Sierra Audubon Society - CSAS

(Chapter of the National Audubon Society)

P.O. Box 3047, Sonora, CA 95370

**Public Presentations:** As of this month, April 2022, we will hold monthly in-person presentations in the Sonora Library as we did before covid, and simultaneously share them on Zoom so that you have flexibility in attendance. Monthly details shown in the Squawker and on our website at [www.centralsierraaudubon.org](http://www.centralsierraaudubon.org)

**Board Meetings:** Please call Barry Boulton (209)596-0612.

### Membership of National Audubon & CSAS

If you are not already a member, we would be honored to have you join us. You can join as a full member of National Audubon Society, which includes dues for CSAS membership, or you may join solely as a local member of CSAS in which case you will receive the monthly Squawker newsletter and be privy to all other CSAS activities.

An application form for local membership is available on the CSAS website at: [www.centralsierraaudubon.org/join-us/](http://www.centralsierraaudubon.org/join-us/)

### CSAS Officers

Barry Boulton, President	(209)596-0612
Tom Parrington, Conservation	(209)928-3835
Ralph Retherford, VP Programs	(209)770-6124
Jean Dakota, Secretary	(209)591-9952
Linda Millspaugh, Treasurer	(209)586-9557
Kit DeGear, Field Trips	(925)822-5215
Gail Witzlsteiner, Director at Large	(209)586-4025
Jan Jorn-Baird, Publicity	(209)532-1106

### CSAS Committee Chairs

Bird Box Trail - Gail Witzlsteiner	(209)586-4025
Book/Bird Box Sales - Jean Dakota	(209)591-9952
Scholarship - Gail Witzlsteiner	(209)586-4025
Website - Barry Boulton	(209)596-0612
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