

Golden Gate Audubon -- Birds of the Sierra (1) 2016

DRAFT – May change details but not dates

Rusty Scalf and Bob Lewis

Bob: Home 845-5001 Bob@wingbeats.org Trip: Canyon Ranch Resort (530) 994-1033.

Rusty: Home 666-9936 rscaif@sonic.net Trip: Sierra Hot Springs 530-994-3773

Schedule for the weekend:

Please consider car pooling. For the trips to Sierra Valley and Plumas Eureka SP, we'll initiate carpooling at Sierraville or Loyalton. A number of places to stay are listed below. The Sierra Valley Lodge in Calpine is closed as of this writing, so it will be difficult to engineer a central location for our home base for the whole trip – thus some driving from lodges to meeting places will doubtless be necessary. Consider driving time, gas gauge!!

June 2, Thursday -- Meet at Yuba Pass for birding at 3 – 5:30 PM. Birding around the pass area for White-headed Woodpeckers, sapsuckers and flycatchers. Dinner is on your own, one option would be Los Dos Hermanos. Meet at Los Dos Hermanos at 8 PM for an evening trip to the valley, to listen to bittern, snipe, cranes, etc.

June 3, Friday -- Breakfast available in Sierraville at the Sierraville Kitchen at 7 AM, or in Loyalton. Meet at Sierraville at 8 AM for departure to Sierra Valley. Carpool, and bring your lunch and liquids. Birding all morning in Sierra Valley for ibis, bittern, ducks and shorebirds, raptors and cranes. Finish at Loyalton around noon. Lunch - picnic at Loyalton Park.

In the afternoon we'll go partway up Smithneck Road in search of Lewis's Woodpecker, finishing about 4 PM. Tonight's group dinner at SFSU's Sierra campus is the **ONLY MEAL included** in your class fee. Dinner will be at 6 PM SHARP unless changes are announced. You are welcome to bring wine. Lecture/slideshow at 7 PM, one hour. Driving time from Loyalton to the school is roughly 40 minutes without birding.

June 4, Saturday -- Meet at Sierraville at 8:00 for birding at Carman Valley, seeking Western and Mountain Bluebirds and more. We'll finish at about 11 AM. Lunch is on your own (suggestions – Graeagle's restaurants or picnic at Plumas/Eureka SP). We will meet at Plumas / Eureka State Park, near the intersection of hwy 70 and 89 at 2:30 PM (there is a nice museum if you are there early). We'll seek warblers, woodpeckers, and flycatchers. Dinner at the Iron Door at 5:30 (Johnsville, 5 minutes from the park, about \$35)

June 5, Sunday -- meet at Bassetts (hummers!!) at 8:00 to bird at Sardine Lake. The store at Bassetts has not been opening until 8 AM, so breakfast is on your own – plan ahead! We drive to Sardine Lake and walk up the road to the upper lake, (which is a significant gain in elevation) seeking Osprey, warblers, Calliope Hummingbird, etc. Finish the weekend near the boardwalk by the campground and restrooms at the foot of lower Sardine Lake.

DIRECTIONS

Yuba Pass Campground (meeting place Thursday): Take **Hwy 80** freeway past Sacramento and into the Sierra. You will eventually come to **Hwy 89** Northbound toward Sierraville at Truckee. (Note: This is about 2 miles beyond the southbound Hwy 89 exit). Drive North on Hwy 89 about 25 miles to Sierraville. Turn left toward Sattley on **Hwy 49/89**. Beyond Sattley the road splits. Bear left (west) onto **Hwy 49**, and after another winding 5 miles, you will arrive at **Yuba Pass**. It's about 3.5 hours from the Bay Area.

Sierraville (meeting place Friday AM): See above; Highway 89 toward Truckee from Yuba Pass. There is a road intersection and several restaurants. Meet at the Sierraville Kitchen.

Loyalton (Meeting Place Friday Lunch) From Yuba Pass go east on **Hwy 49** past Sierraville to the town of Loyalton. Turn left on 3rd street, left on Beckwith Road, and follow A24 to Loyalton Park, just past the school. We meet in the park, where there are restrooms and picnic tables.

SFSU Sierra Campus (Friday Dinner) – From Yuba Pass go west on Hwy 49. The campus is on the left (sign) about 1-2 miles before Bassett's. Meet in the parking lot before the bridge.

Bassett's (Meeting Place Sunday): From Yuba Pass, go west on Hwy 49 to the village of Bassetts. There is a store and breakfast place here, and hummingbird feeders on the deck of the store / motel. We will depart from the public parking lot just below Bassett's Store.

Places to camp:

Cottonwood Creek Campground – 4 miles south of Sierraville on Hwy 89. 5,800 feet. Vault toilets, drinking water

Sierra campground: Seven miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49. Elevation: 5,600 feet. 16 campsites. 7 campsites for trailers. Vault toilets. *No piped water.* River water only.

Chapman Creek campground: Eight miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49. Elevation: 5,600 feet. 29 campsites. 14 campsites for trailers. Vault toilets. Piped water.

Yuba Pass campground: Twelve miles east of Sierra City on Highway 49. Elevation: 6,700 feet. 20 campsites. Vault toilets. Piped water. (Has been closed some years because of snow).

Hotels in the Area:

- **SF State Sierra Campus (tent cabins near Bassetts)** contact JRBlair for details: jrblair@sfsu.edu <http://www.sfsu.edu/~sierra/Accommodations.html>
- **Loyalton Golden West Saloon and Motel** (530) 993-4467 (12 rooms, \$69; 711 Main Street) www.goldenwestloyalton.com
- **Canyon Ranch Resort near Sierraville** (530) 994-1033 (Housekeeping cabins, some for small groups)
- **Sierra Hot Springs** 530-994-3773 and **Globe Hotel in Sierraville** (the pools here are clothing optional)
- Sardine Lakes Resort www.sardinelakeresort.com 530-862-1196
- High Country Inn 800-862-1530 (www.hicountryinn.com) (info@hicountryinn.com) (Bassetts)
- Bassetts Station 530-862-1297 www.bassetts-station.com e-mail info@bassetts-station.com
- **Hotels in Sierra City as follows: All area codes are (530). These require a drive each morning!**
- Herrington's Sierra Pines (fancy for the mountains, usually full) 862-1151
- Yuba River Inn 862-1122
- Butte Resort 862-1170

Comments on health and safety:

- Be sure you have sufficient liquids – it can be hot and dry in the mountains. Don't get dehydrated!
- There are biting insects – deet is a good thing to have. Deer flies (Buffalo gnats) can be very nasty and have been known to cause allergic reactions in some.
- We are at a moderately high elevation (about 6,000 feet some days) so take it easy!
- The sun is bright at high elevations and can cause burning Sun cream would be good.

Bring sunglasses, a hat to keep the sun off, good hiking boots, something reasonably warm (although it's more likely to be warm than too cold). Bring a flashlight in case we go looking for nighthawks after dark. You won't need waterproof boots – we'll avoid really wet meadows, etc.

Additional notes, information

Los Dos Hermanos Mexican restaurant, Sierraville – 530-994-1058

Portola Breakfast Place: Dee's Station Café, 165 Commercial Street. 530-832-0720

Lunchmeats, etc. are available at a small store in Loyalton, also Sierraville. Ice is available in Sierraville and Loyalton. Gasoline in Loyalton, Sierraville and Bassetts

There are a variety of other birding opportunities, depending mostly on the stamina of the leaders – perhaps a nighttime trip to the valley to listen to booming bittern. These excursions will be somewhat spontaneous. Stay tuned!

Rusty and Bob hope you are excited about the weekend – we are!