

<i>DRAFT - Subject to Change</i>	Leader 1	Local Guide 1	Leader 2	Local Guide 2	Description
Thursday, May 18th					<i>See also Quick Bios for all leaders below</i>
Morning Field Trips					
Reno Hotspots - South and West, 6-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel	CANCELED				
Reno Hotspots - North and East, 6-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel	Terry Rich	Craig Dodson	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)	On this trip, we focus on the Great Basin landscapes around Reno with their typical sweeping settings for sagebrush, playas, and pinyon-juniper interface. The Reno hotspots for this trip include, as time allows a variety of birding destinations in and around northern and eastern Reno and outlying areas, such as University agricultural fields, Sparks Marina, Kiley Ranch wetlands, Swan Lake, Lemmon Valley treatment ponds, and Hidden Valley. Lakes, marshes, playas, agricultural fields and native riparian areas, where late migrants, western ducks, herons and egrets, yellow-headed blackbirds, flycatchers and vireos, as well as a nice variety of raptors can be found. We will also explore the uplands around these waterbodies, where we can expect sagebrush obligate species, such as Brewer's sparrow, sagebrush sparrow, gray flycatcher, and sage thrasher, but also some pinyon-juniper species, such as pinyon jay, mountain chickadee, hairy woodpecker, and mountain bluebird.
Washoe Valley, 6-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel	Larry Allen	TBA	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)	Washoe Valley is located at the foot of the Sierra Nevada and consists of a playa lake that is the terminus for several Sierra Nevada streams. It features the Scripps Wildlife Management Area, which has permanent water and usually a nice variety of ducks and other waterbirds, as well as marsh denizens. Washoe Lake itself is mostly an ephemeral lake, and given the water conditions in 2017, we expect it to be filled up, but with many shallow shoreline areas that support American avocets, black-necked stilts, and a variety of other shorebirds. The nearby Franktown Road and Davis Creek and their trailheads allow easy access to Jeffrey pine forest and thereby the possibility of Sierra Nevada birds, such as white-headed woodpecker, nuthatches, red-breasted and Williamson's sapsuckers, and a recent wildfire might allow for sightings of black-backed woodpecker at some of these locations.
Tahoe Meadows, 6-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel (trip stops may change based on weather and road conditions; we'll have alternates selected for that)	Martin Meyers	Nancy Santos	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)	The Tahoe Meadows are located near the top of the mountain pass between Reno and the north end of Lake Tahoe, and provide access to bird communities that spend their summer in higher elevation subalpine forests. The options for the field trip range from hiking along the Tahoe Rim trail to stopping at various other hotspots nearby, including great views Lake Tahoe and birding along its shores. In addition to Clark's nutcracker, red-breasted sapsucker, fox sparrow, and Cassin's finches other possible birds here include pine grosbeak, other sapsuckers, mountain bluebird, northern goshawk, and mountain quail.
Morning Workshops					

In-Depth, Close-Up Bird Identification/Banding	Lauren Harter, Ken Voget	Kelly Colegrove	n/a	n/a	This workshop will take place in the field, specifically at GBBO's long-term mist-netting and bird banding station at The Nature Conservancy's McCarran Ranch on the lower Truckee River. Here, we are in a birding hotspot, which is why we need you to bring your binoculars, but we will also get a chance to examine the morphology and field characteristics of western birds in hand. It's an opportunity to delve deeper into western bird identification and what to look for, as well as the opportunity to begin to learn the more subtle characteristics that you don't see through your optic gear, but that allow us to determine age and sex of a variety of species. It'll be a mix of bird identification training by eye and ear (as with regular field trips), but also the specific techniques you use once you have a bird captured. It'll also be an excellent opportunity to hold and release a bird, if you have never done that, and children are also invited to enjoy that opportunity.
Data Mining Workshop	Ed Pandolfino	n/a	n/a	n/a	Thanks to the Internet, staggering amounts of data are readily available to anyone with a computer. Buried in these mountains of raw data is a wealth of information on bird distribution, population trends, responses to climate and habitat changes, and other useful data. However, these data sources are woefully under-utilized, and this workshop provides an ideal opportunity for anyone with an interest in ornithology to make some important discoveries. It is also particularly useful for wildlife biologist working for agencies that need information on bird communities that may be in areas that are managed by their agency. Ed will show you how to access and use data from Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys, Bird Banding Lab, eBird, National Weather Service, and more. Bring your wireless-capable laptop (with Excel software or an equivalent) if you have one and you'll see how easy it is to download and work with data from these sources.
Current Research and Tools Available for Greater Sage-Grouse Management and Conservation	Pete Coates	n/a	n/a	n/a	In this workshop, we'll get to know and ask questions about current research, modeling, and management recommendations for Greater Sage-Grouse, including its bi-state population. Peter Coates has been the renowned USGS sage-grouse scientist for Nevada's populations for many years now, and he has new data from spatial models, satellite transmitters, and habitat/predator associations available for people to delve into, ask questions about, and discuss how it can translated into management action. We invite anyone interested in sage-grouse conservation, including particularly agency biologists who are looking to for an opportunity for intensive training and discussion of everything sage-grouse.
Friday, May 19th					
<i>Morning Field Trips</i>					
Carson Valley, 5:30-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel	Diane Wong	Jim Woods	David Craig	TBA	Carson Valley consists of the sweeping meadows created by the floodplain of the Carson River, the largest river in western Nevada. It features extensive agricultural fields and multiple remnant wetlands, where Nevada's sole population of tricolored blackbirds is found, hot springs that harbor additional marshbirds, breeding sandhill cranes, and old cottonwood trees, which have among other things one of the few breeding pairs of bald eagles in Nevada. This trip will also include a visit to The Nature Conservancy's River Fork Ranch near the historic landmark of Genoa, where TNC's Duane Petite will give us a tour of the restored wetlands on the nature preserve.
Lower Truckee River, 6-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel	Graham Chisholm	Dennis Serdehely	Terry Rich	TBA	The lower Truckee River has been subject to extensive riparian and wetland restoration efforts led by The Nature Conservancy and its partners. Trip stops will include the recently-restored Mustang and McCarran Ranches, and a variety of sites on Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe lands featuring riparian gallery forests and riverine habitats where species such as osprey, Swainson's hawk, migrant warblers and flycatchers, American white pelican, spotted sandpiper, and other western specialties can be expected.

Spooner Summit through Tahoe Meadows, 5:30-11 a.m. (or longer), meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel (trip stops may change based on weather and road conditions; we'll have alternates selected for that)	Martin Meyers	Paul Hurtado	Larry Allen	Will Richardson	This trip will take you through a suite of Sierra Nevada montane habitat types, including Jeffrey pine, meadows, lodgepole pine forests, mountain streams and the east shore of Lake Tahoe. The forests climbing up from the east shore of Lake Tahoe harbor are a great place to find Sierra Nevada birds. Possibilities include white-headed woodpecker, sooty grouse, band-tailed pigeon, Williamson's sapsucker, fox sparrow, Pacific wren, and myrtle, Audubon's, and MacGillivray's warblers.
<i>Morning Workshops</i>					
eBird: Innovating Citizen-Science, Big Data Research, and Bird Conservation	Brian Sullivan	n/a	n/a	n/a	What is eBird (www.ebird.org)? A global online bird recording system with more than 300,000 participants and 390 million records, eBird is an internet-based checklist program built for birders by birders, whose goal is to harness the power of both birding and science. eBird allows you to record your bird observations in the field, keep track of your bird records online, and share them with the birding community, while making them available for science and conservation efforts. eBird allows birders keep life lists, manage their personal records, and explore its vast array of bird information from around the world. This workshop will teach you what eBird is, why it's important to contribute, show you what it can do for you as a birder, and teach you how to get started. Join eBird Project Leader Brian Sullivan for a look at this remarkable tool, and get empowered to make your observations count! We will start out with a quick trip to the Truckee River to do some eBirding in the field, then return to talk about eBird data at the conference venue.
New Tools in Field Ornithology	Ted Floyd, Cat Waters	n/a	n/a	n/a	How do we best use the "e" or digital world to enhance our time in the field? Join Ted and Cat in a casual atmosphere workshop of what hardware and software based tools are available to you as a field scientist to better enhance your field work and research using your own senses, the "e" world and the "solid" world of resources and tools from the easily findable to the obscure. Designed as an overview, this workshop will openly list and address the sometimes mind boggling aspects of the "e" world and leave you with a fresh point of view for how best to use available tools to your advantage.
Bird Brains: Bridging the Gap Between Traditional Education and Conservation Education	Robin Wilson	n/a	n/a	n/a	Education, at multiple levels of K-12 and the general public, is the key to protecting wildlife and their habitats. Many of the important habitats for migratory birds and other animals are found on federal, state, and private lands. The management of these lands can and do vary widely and affect the decisions and conservation outlook of future generations which is critical to the survival of many species in the Great Basin. Many conservation organizations possess conservation education programs under their conservation program umbrella. Traditionally, these conservation programs produce information and materials that focus on a charismatic species or key conservation-based message. However, the efficacy and efficiency of these types of educational programs can yield mixed results that may or may not be realized at the ground level or achieve the desired goal of conserving a species and the associated habitat. Education programs that connect formal teachers with the conservation community through cross-curricular resources with links to core academic standards can lead to an improved holistic conservation effort. However, the needs and pressures of the formal classroom teacher can limit the overall success of the program which has been historically been the greatest hindrance to achieving the goals and objectives of conservation education. This workshop will demonstrate various innovative methods of maximizing the relationships with formal and informal instructors and achieving the greatest educational success which will translate to creative environmental solutions and long-term success in wildlife and habitat conservation.

Saturday, May 20th					
<i>Day Field Trips</i>					
Pyramid Lake * 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel		CANCELED			
Lahontan Valley/Stillwater 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel		Ted Floyd	Chris Elphick	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)
					Lahontan Valley is a hemispheric shorebird conservation site and, as such, will provide excellent shorebirding. It consists of a large lake, reservoir, and playa aggregation that forms the terminus of the Carson River. Managed wetlands of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge and the Carson Lake Wildlife Management Area are excellent opportunities to see most western ducks, but also classic western shorebirds such as snowy plover, American avocet, black-necked stilt, spotted sandpiper, godwits, willets, as well as a good mix of rarer species. Because there are so many places to go in Lahontan Valley, this trip will start early and will keep moving at a good pace between hotspots.
Walker River, East Fork 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel		Graham Chisholm	Diane Wong	Larry Allen	Becca Serdehely
					Our Walker River East Fork destination includes historic ranch properties along the east fork of the Walker River, including the Pitchfork, Rafter 7, and Flying M Ranches, which were recently acquired by the Walker Basin Conservancy and are planned to be turned into one of the largest state parks in Nevada. The middle Walker River features extensive willow and cottonwood stands, where species such as yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak, long-eared owl, yellow warbler and a large variety of migrant songbirds and raptors are expected. This area has not historically been birded, but GBBO's recent surveys included willow flycatcher and a large variety of typical and not-so-typical western riparian species. In the upper reaches on Flying M Ranch, we also hope to catch a glance at members of the bi-state population of sage-grouse, as well as a variety of montane birds, such as green-tailed towhee, black-headed grosbeak, and western bluebird.
Sunday, May 21st					
<i>Day Field Trips</i>					
Lower Walker River 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel		Terry Rich	TBA	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)
					This trip will get us to the lower Walker River starting in the town of Yerington, moving downstream to the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area, which features extensive managed wetlands and lakes, as well as lush riparian woodlands. Species to look for are a large variety of migratory landbirds, including rarities, western ducks and shorebirds, as well as marsh dwellers such as sora, American bittern, and Virginia rail. The trip will continue downstream through the Walker Lake Paiute reservation, where stops will be made at Weber Reservoir for waterbirds, as well as more riparian landbirds. Finally, the shores of Walker Lake, which is the terminus of Walker River, will be birded for eared and horned grebes, phalaropes, and a variety of shorebirds. Depending on how much time remains, stops may also include the lower Truckee River on the drive back to Reno.
Black Rock/Smoke Creek Deserts 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., meet at the Whitney Peak Hotel (trip stops may change based on weather and road conditions; we'll have alternates selected for that)		Larry Allen, Graham Chisholm	Diane Wong, Bob Goodman	TBA (as needed)	TBA (as needed)
					The Black Rock and Smoke Creek deserts are the ultimate Great Basin trip that provide a seemingly never-ending landscape of playa deserts, sagebrush, and pinyon-juniper, interrupted only by lovely oases of desert springs and creeks. If you hunger for the real deal of the desert, this is it. We are going to stop at various spots that will hopefully give us glances at various spring migrants that will concentrate around the creeks and springs, as well as the remote pinyon-juniper locations that have isolated pinyon jay populations and, of course all the sagebrush obligates. We will have to be a little flexible due to the heavy winter before the conference and possibly forbidding road conditions. If necessary (as determined by earlier scoping of the route), we might need to provide some alternate stops on accessible roads in the nearby valleys, for example at Pyramid Lake.

* two boats and one shoreline trip (2 vans)

Leaders' Quick Bios:

Larry Allen	Los Angeles County Breeding Bird Atlas author, long-time Western Field Ornithologists and GBBO supporter, excellent birder
Graham Chisholm	GBBO founder, Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas author, Lahontan Valley Birds author, long-time career in bird conservation, excellent birder
Pete Coates	Greater Sage-Grouse career researcher with USGS; regional authority on all things sage-grouse
David Craig	Professor in wildlife biology at Willamette University, avid and excellent birder, innovator in thinking about birds and bird conservation
Kelly Colegrove	GBBO talent, excellent birder and banding assistant; GBBO project coordinator
Craig Dodson	Chemistry professor at UNR and excellent birder who recently moved from Colorado to Reno
Chris Elphick	Nevada breeding bird atlas co-author, now professor and University of Connecticut, excellent birder and ornithologist
Bob Goodman	Reno birder for (I am guessing) 40+ years, excellent photographer, conservationist, founder of the Swan Lake Preserve
Ted Floyd	Previous GBBO director, NV Breeding Bird Atlas author, now editor of Birding Magazine, American Birding Association; no need to say, but excellent birder...
Lauren Harter	GBBO talent, excellent birder and bander, eBird records reviewer, Western Birds editorial assistant, active in NV, CA, and AZ field ornithologist communities
Paul Hurtado	GBBO board member, member of the Nevada Bird Records Committee, excellent birder, founder of Facebook group "Birding Nevada", math professor at UNR
Martin Meyers	Nevada Bird Records Committee leader, excellent birder, active in both NV and CA birding communities
Ed Pandolfino	Former Western Field Ornithologists' president, researcher specializing on big bird data sets, excellent birder
Terry Rich	GBBO board member, former coordinator of Partners in Flight, excellent birder, social scientist in his second career after ornithology
Will Richardson	Tahoe Institute of Natural Sciences executive director, excellent birder and bird bander
Nancy Santos	Excellent birder from Carson Valley, local expert and conservationist, long-term career in environmental sciences
Dennis and Becca Serdehely	Nevada birders for the past 30 years, major contributors to the birding community and past GBBO bird surveyors
Brian Sullivan	eBird.org western region coordinator, excellent birder, modeler of bird distributions and migration patterns
Cat Waters	Former Western Field Ornithologists' president, wildlife scientist, long-time supporter of GBBO and its mission, loves the Great Basin, its people, and its birds
Robin Wilson	Lahontan Audubon Society's former Director of Conservation, conservation scientist, now high school teacher who knows a ton about conservation education
Ken Voget	30+ year master bird bander, in charge of GBBO's McCarran Ranch banding station for the last 6 years
Diane Wong	Otis Bay Environmental Consultant's wildlife biologist, excellent birder and bander, long-time supporter and collaborator of GBBO and its mission
Jim Woods	Birding Under Nevada Skies owner, and long-term supporter of GBBO and its mission, expert for all things Carson Valley, its birds, its people, and culture