

**Field Trip Report - Putah Creek
April 21, 2011
With Rich Stallcup**



Photo by Dave Herrema

Always informative and entertaining, Rich led us on a trip from the dam at Lake Berryessa down the gorge to several spots along Putah Creek and the impounded Lake Solano. The raptors were on display, beginning with a **Peregrine Falcon** flying above the cliffs at the dam and an **Osprey** coming in low over the lake. Several **White-throated Swifts** were spotted high above the cliffs. Two **Golden Eagles** and a **Red-tailed Hawk** were overhead just below the dam.

Later in the day, a **Swainson's Hawk** chasing a red-tail caught everyone's attention and a **Red-shouldered Hawk** perched to provide us with a good look. Finally, an **American Kestrel** made the list. A large colony of nesting under the edge of the dam was fascinating to watch.

Other highlights of the day included observing a **Bushtit** nest. The foot-long, woven hanging pocket was concealed in an old tree. We also spotted a **Belted Kingfisher** fly over and watched **Wood Ducks** in the creek. We had really nice looks at **Bullock's Oriole** and **Lewis's Woodpecker**, thanks to all the scopes available. The great group of about 30 birders enjoyed seeing fifty plus species on a cool, sunny spring day. My "bird" of the day was the muskrat.

Report by Dave Herrema



Wood Duck, Photo by Bud Hedrick



Lewis's Woodpecker, Photo by Bud Hedrick