Santiam Valley Ranch (aka Duckflat Wetlands)

Trip Report

October 8, 2023

The private Santiam Valley Ranch, located 6 miles east of Ankeny Wildlife Refuge between Duckflat and Hunsaker Roads, has nearly as much shorebird and waterfowl habitat as Ankeny itself. One-day access for an OBA field trip was arranged and a dozen OBA members walked part of the Ranch on October 8.

They were led by birders Dominic Valenti, Shane Pruett, and myself. Water levels were low but in 4 hours we found 60 species. We had excellent looks at a Peregrine Falcon, two Redheads, over a dozen Wilson's Snipe, and both Western and Least Sandpiper. A Virginia Rail obligingly stepped out of the vegetation just a few feet away. Here's a link to some photos by Nagi Aboulenein: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjAYtGa>

In exchange for access permission, Dominic, Shane, Joy Jensen, and I have surveyed birds throughout the property each month for 3 years. The cumulative list totals 170 species. OBA will sponsor another field trip here in the spring. Amazingly, the landowners have managed and restored hundreds of acres of habitat for waterbirds and grassland species and are continuing their efforts: <https://www.santiamvalleyranch.com/>

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