

OBA field Trip – Sauvie Island, Rentenaar Road with Bob Archer
Trip Report, January 28, 2024

The OBA's Rentenaar Road trip got off to an inauspicious start. The entire road was shut down due to flooding. However, nine birders were not deterred. The first arriving birders got to see a Cooper's Hawk fly into a nearby tree. We walked the short non-flooded section of the road in the early morning to see what was there. The cold snap the previous week caused passerines to be hard to find. However, a few overhead Mallards allowed for discussions on identifying ducks in flight. To not make the day a waste, we moved to the Reeder Road observation deck. A variety of ducks were spotted along with a large flock on Tundra Swan. A few Trumpeter Swans were spotted but with very poor views. A quick trip to Willow Bar allowed a few birders to visit the spot for the first time. The river was unfortunately empty of scaup.



Photo by Kathy Wilson-Fey

Moving on we went to Wapato Access Greenway with a brief visit to the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area Headquarters. Stepping out of the cars at Wapato our ears were met with the distinctive vuvuzela horn call of Trumpeter Swans. Avoiding the mud, we walked along the east side of the area and saw a number of Trumpeters and a beautiful Eurasian Wigeon. Farther down the trail a Red-shouldered Hawk was spotted.

Overall it was a good day for waterfowl but a tough one for passerines. Still three hours of birding made for a great day. Thanks to all for attending. We shall try again when road is open!

Bob Archer



Photo by Kathy Wilson-Fey