

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2018
Issue 1, Volume 56

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

PROGRAMS

The meeting location is at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

There will be NO general membership meeting in January, 2018.

TUESDAY, February 13

Ted Beedy

"Birds of Trinidad and Tobago"

Ted recently returned from a birding and bird photography tour of Trinidad & Tobago led by the well-known birder and superb bird artist, Keith Hansen.

Please join us for his photo-illustrated talk on the stunning diversity of birds and other wildlife that inhabit the Caribbean coast and tropical rainforests of the mountains and coastal canyons of these islands.

More than 400 species of birds have been observed in Trinidad & Tobago, and the group was able to find 213 species. Ted got photographs of 103 species. This presentation will be accompanied by sound recordings of selected species. Ted will also address aspects of individual bird species including their taxonomy, natural history, and the on-going efforts to conserve these tropical treasures.

Ted received his Ph.D. in zoology from UC Davis in 1982. A biologist and ornithologist, he is the author of *Discovering Sierra Birds* and *Birds of the Sierra Nevada—Their Natural History, Status, and Distribution* (with Ed Pandolfino, and illustrated by Keith Hansen), and has authored numerous technical publications and articles on Sierra birds. For more than 40 years, Ted has studied birds throughout California and many western states, and has traveled widely in the tropics. Please join us for this informative and entertaining presentation.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 6— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SATURDAY, January 13— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SUNDAY, January 14 – *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Kasey Foley for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, January 20— *11th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival*

This year's festival features key-note speaker Paul Bannick, author of "Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls" and "The Owl and The Woodpecker, Encounters with North American's Most Iconic Birds". See announcement on Page 3.

SUNDAY, January 21— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Join leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic for our monthly census of this lovely little riparian area below Camanche Dam. Meet the leaders in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, January 27— *Staten Island*

Join leaders Alan England and Dale Smith for a visit to Staten Island where the flooded fields of corn and wheat provide critical winter habitat for Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, Cackling Geese, and other waterfowl. Meet at Chevron Station at Walnut Grove/Thornton exit off I-5 at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 3— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 8:00 a.m. Birders of all skill levels are welcome, but the focus will be on birding fundamentals. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SATURDAY, February 3— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

(Continued on page 2)

FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, February 11—*Bear Creek Bike Path*

Join leader Susan Schneider for this easy walk that features riparian and marsh habitat. Many interesting species have been encountered on previous trips including Sora Rail and Peregrine Falcon. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Michael Faklis Park which is off Cosumnes Dr. near Mokelumne Circle, SW of I5/Eight Mile Road interchange.

SUNDAY, February 17 – *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Kasey Foley for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, February 18— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Join leaders Liz West and Joanne Katanic for our monthly census of this lovely little riparian area below Camanche Dam. Meet the leaders in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 24— *Medford Island*

Join leaders Peter Ottesen and Dale Smith on a tour of this 1,200 acre private tract in the Delta, which has been converted from row crop farming to wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Once on Medford, we'll do a briefing, explain converting a flat tract to a riparian zone with more than 8,000 trees and ponds and discuss a little about how critters have responded. Snacks, beverages, clubhouse and restrooms provided, but bringing a lunch is suggested. Meet leaders at Flag City McDonald's (I-5 and CA-12) at 7:30 to carpool to the boat ramp for transport to the island.

MERLIN BIRD ID APP

If going birding for you is like visiting new friends who you really like but can't quite remember their names, the Merlin Bird ID app can help. Developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Merlin is free. It identifies more than 650 U.S. and Canada birds, with additional support for birds of Mexico, Central America, and Europe. It comes with photos, range maps, and sounds; and it works on both iOS and Android. A new feature identifies birds from photographs submitted by the user. Download it and head out for a short, head-clearing walk each morning or evening, and let the chip notes drift down at you like quiet hellos.

From the desk of the President:

As I write, it's the holiday season – and Christmas Bird Count season. What a truly millennial change in 1900, when ornithologist and Audubon officer Frank Chapman built on a hunting tradition, starting a scientific bird count that's continued ever since. These days, Audubon is proud to sponsor what's become one of the largest and longest-running citizen science projects in the world – maintaining a humongous publicly accessible database used regularly by scientists and conservationists tracking changes in bird species and numbers. (For a list of some of the scientific reports, see <http://www.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count-bibliography>.) From the original 25 counts, the effort has expanded to over 2500 across the Americas, involving over 70,000 participants. Chapman would surely be astonished and delighted.

My own first CBC, in Kansas many years ago, featured a sudden turn in the road that revealed a nearby adult Bald Eagle cruising a snowy river. Everyone on the team gasped. Oh, the highlights over the years as I did counts across the nation, from Miami to Minnesota.

Our two San Joaquin County-based count circles have been continuously censused for 50 years (Stockton) or close (Wallace-Bellota), and I've been proud to help out ever since I moved to the state. This season, I'll also be giving an assist to a CBC in northeastern California that needed more birders. If you didn't participate this year, make plans for the 2017-18 count season (always Dec. 14-Jan. 5; dates are published in the Hoot Owl and online). All are welcome, at all skill levels. California offers an astonishing 138 CBCs, plus lots of exciting wintering birds. Many of them are right here in our own county! Wonder what we'll find this year . . . Best wishes for 2018, everyone.

Susan Schneider
President, San Joaquin Audubon Society

11th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival

*Saturday, January 20, 2018
Festival & Tours*

Chabolla Community Center
610 Chabolla Avenue, Galt, CA 95632

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Paul Bannick, Author/Photographer
Author of Owl: A Year in the Lives of North American Owls and The Owl and The Woodpecker,
Encounters with North American's Most Iconic Birds

Welcome to the 11th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival. The City of Galt, in collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary and High School Districts, is pleased to bring you the 11th Annual Winter Bird Festival. Our festival guests will enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve and take advantage of the incredible opportunity to catch sightings of waterfowl, shorebirds and wildlife in their winter habitat. Festival headquarters provide a starting point for exclusive preserve tours, educational presentations, wildlife shows, art displays, wine walk, hometown history and hands-on activities. This is a family-friendly winter wildlife celebration you'll always remember!

Questions! Call 209-366-7115
jcannell@ci.galt.ca.us

Or, visit the website at: <http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/index.aspx?page=495>

BIRD SIGHTINGS

*October 10, 2017 - December 15, 2017
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)*

Submitted by Liz West

On October 15th, David Yee saw a flicker at Buckley Cove that is morphologically a male Gilded Flicker. David told me that identification of **Gilded Flicker** outside of its range is very difficult

Ian Souza-Cole found a **Sage Thrasher** October 25th in a closed portion of Staten Island.

A Central Valley Bird Symposium field trip spotted a **Band-tailed Pigeon** at Lodi Lake Wilderness Area on November 18th, possibly the same one found October 4th. David Yee also saw one in the Stockton Hilton parking lot November 17th.

David Yee found an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Koster Road quarry pond on November 25th.

On November 28th, while doing a Sandhill Crane survey on Staten Island, Ian Souza-Cole found a **Red-necked Grebe** swimming in the north fork of the Mokelumne River just above where it joins the south fork.

Dan Murphy and Mike Yoshihara photographed a prairie subspecies of **Merlin** on Flood Road on November 30th.

San Joaquin Audubon Society
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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

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Membership

National Membership

By joining the National Audubon Society you are also a member of the San Joaquin Chapter. This includes subscriptions to the award-winning *Audubon Magazine* and to the chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. Both publications are bimonthly. For *national membership*, send check payable to the **National Audubon Society** to the address below.

- National Audubon Membership Rate: \$20

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Attn: Membership (National)
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

Local-Only Membership

This includes a subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. For *local membership*, send check payable to **San Joaquin Audubon Society** to the address below.

- Chapter Newsletter—mailed paper copy \$15
- Chapter Newsletter—electronic copy \$10

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Attn: Membership (Local)
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