

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2019
Issue 1, Volume 57

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, 2019.

TUESDAY, February 12

Chris Conard

"Iguazu Falls and the Brazilian Pantanal"

In July of 2018, Chris joined a tour of two distinct regions in Brazil: Iguazu Falls and the Pantanal. The spectacular falls, taller and much wider than Niagra, are surrounded by extensive, largely protected subtropical forest providing excellent birding, plus a wonderful show of butterflies in the mists surrounding the falls.

The Pantanal is the world's largest tropical wetlands with an incredible array of waterbirds, surrounded by patches of forest and rangelands. The Pantanal is famous for the chance to see jaguars in the wild, and we were far from disappointed. Much of our time in this region was spent exploring rivers and backwaters by boat. Highlights (shown by photos and short videos) included a surprise swim-by of a tapir, five species of kingfishers, thousands of caiman, nesting Jabiru, Sungrebes, nesting Sunbittern, and Hyacinth Macaws. Night outings produced owls, nightjars, and great views of a weird and wonderful giant anteater.

Chris Conard is a Natural Resource Specialist at the Bufferlands of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He regularly leads field trips for Sacramento Audubon, serves as the Sacramento County editor for North American Birds and eBird, and has just finished six years as president of the Central Valley Bird Club.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 5— *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 12— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader John Trochet (trochetj@gmail.com) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet John at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with John for start time. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

SUNDAY, January 13— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Liz West 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 19— *Flood & Waverly Road Raptor Ramble*

Join leader Pat Paternostro as he explores the Flood/Waverly rangelands in eastern San Joaquin County. This area is a "Raptor Wonderland" in winter. This area is historically good for such birds as Red-tailed Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Prairie Falcon, and Burrowing Owl. Rough-legged Hawk, Bald and Golden Eagles, Merlin are also sometimes seen. Other birds to be looked for include Long-billed Curlews, Loggerhead Shrikes, Mountain Bluebirds and perhaps gulls near the landfill. Meet Pat at Rinaldi's Market in Linden at 7:30 a.m. and bring a lunch.

SUNDAY, January 20— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, January 26— *Staten Island*

Join leader 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, and other waterfowl. Meet at Chevron Station, I-5 exit 493, Walnut Grove/Thornton at 8 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 2— *12th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival*

Enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve and the incredible opportunity to catch sightings of waterfowl, shorebirds, and wildlife in their winter habitat. **FREE!**

<http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/index.aspx?page=495>

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FIELD TRIPS

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SUNDAY, 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.

SUNDAY, February 3— *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. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

SUNDAY, February 10— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Susan Schneider 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 17— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, February 23— *Grasslands Ecological Area*

Join leaders Dale Smith and Peter Ottesen to discover the Grassland Ecological Area in Merced County and visit the Salinas Land & Cattle Company, a privately-held 1,600-acre wetland complex that has been protected since 1929. It is covered in perpetuity by a Federal Easement as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Meet at **Toot Sweets at 8 a.m.** Drive time from Stockton is 1-hour, 15-minutes. Snacks, coffee, water and tea provided at the clubhouse. Accessible restrooms. Bring a lunch. If we have time, we will visit the amazing Visitor Center at San Luis NWR, just 20 minutes away. If you plan to attend **RSVP to Dale** - (209) 481-1782 or dale.smith2@comcast.net)

12th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival

*Saturday, February 2, 2019
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Festival & Tours*

Chabolla Community Center
610 Chabolla Avenue, Galt, CA 95632

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Larry Broderick
Local Birds of Prey Natural History and Interpretive Specialist,
Jenner Headlands Hawk Watch Director and Certified California Naturalist

Welcome to the 12th 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 12th 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>

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"Bring a Friend to an Audubon Field Trip," we've been saying, and that certainly includes the Christmas Bird Counts just concluded. It was good to see some new faces! And all those data will soon be available on the Audubon CBC website. Indeed, as we start a new year, we celebrate our 21st century outreach. Your chapter's Meetup group and Facebook pages are attracting steady interest. Another sign-of-the-times your Board is considering is an all-electronic newsletter – so much better for the environment, and so much easier for us to include color photographs of birds and events. This would also let us put more of our resources into environmental education, conservation, and our many other activities in support of our mission. Can you let us know what you think? A number of neighboring chapters have already made this transition.

But I want to end this issue's column with a plea for your help: Last year, the Nature Center at Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton was under threat, and your chapter was one of the organizations that helped save it. Its docent-led trips provide valuable experience with nature and environmental education for our schoolchildren. Several Audubon members are leaders in this important project. But more help is needed. If you are able to lead trips on weekdays, or staff the Nature Center for 4 hours on an occasional Saturday or Sunday afternoon, please contact Alan England at wdchksqrl@yahoo.com or 209-298-8634. Thanks!

Susan

Recycling Update

What to do with something that's outlived its usefulness? We've been very impressed with the website **StocktonRecycles.com**. You just enter any item and find out exactly what to do with it. If reuse is possible somewhere, that option will be listed along with multiple recycling options. There's useful information no matter where in the county you live. Along those lines, did you know that in Stockton, we can now put much meat waste in the compost bin along with vegetable scraps and yard materials? And what to do with small pieces of paper? Best to compost them rather than recycle because they can plug up the works. Who knew?

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 2, 2018 - December 12, 2018
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On October 11th, following an e-mail from Bruce Cousins of British Columbia, who saw swallows appearing on weather radar in the Tracy area, Jim Rowoth and Pat Paternostro tracked a roost of around **100,000 Tree Swallows** just east of Kasson and Lorenzen Roads. Dan Kopp on September 24 saw around 8500 tree swallows in the Delta near South Bacon Island Rd. This phenomenon last appeared in the Stockton area in 2013.

While leading a group of birders out at Staten Island, David Yee identified and photographed 30 **Taverner's Cackling Geese** November 11th.

On the final Central Valley Bird Symposium field trip to Stockton Rural Cemetery, participants had a quick look at an interesting Sapsucker of which Dan Hackley managed a few photos. On the basis of these photos Jim Rowoth stayed after the end and identified it as a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**. It has subsequently been seen by many observers. It was still present as of December 12th.

Dave Fries found a **Brown Thrasher** in a fig tree just to the east of the north viewing area of the Isenberg Crane Preserve on December 1st. As of December 13th the thrasher is still present.

After looking for the Brown Thrasher at Isenberg Crane Preserve, David Yee found a **Pacific Golden Plover** in a small flock of Black-bellied Plovers, December 1st.

San Joaquin Audubon Society
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San Joaquin Audubon Society

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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjbirds/>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserve

<https://groups.io/g/calbirds>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/

<https://groups.io/g/StanislausBirds>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central-sierra-birds/>

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sierra-nevadabirds/>

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)

**P.O. Box 7755
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