

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2020
Issue 1, Volume 58

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, 2020.

TUESDAY, February 11

The February program is undetermined at time of printing. Please check the San Joaquin Audubon Society Facebook page, or our website at: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org, for updates.

BIRDS ARE SHRINKING AS CLIMATE WARMS

North American migratory birds have been getting smaller over the past four decades, and their wings have gotten a bit longer. Both changes appear to be responses to a warming climate.

Those are the main findings from a new University of Michigan-led analysis of a dataset of some 70,000 North American migratory birds from 52 species that died when they collided with buildings in Chicago.

Since 1978, Field Museum personnel and volunteers have retrieved dead birds that collided with Chicago buildings during spring and fall migrations. For each specimen, multiple body measurements are made.

The research team analyzed this remarkably detailed dataset to look for trends in body size and shape. The biologists found that, from 1978 through 2016, body size decreased in all 52 species, with statistically significant declines in 49 species.

Over the same period, wing length increased significantly in 40 species. The findings were published Dec. 4, 2019, in the journal *Ecology Letters*.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 4— *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 11— *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 7:00 a.m. at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SATURDAY, January 18— *Woodbridge Wilderness*

Join leaders Kathy and Virginia Bonham 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, January 19— *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 Liz and Joanne in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, January 25— *Staten Island*

Join leaders Dave Fries and Jim Hoagland 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 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 26— *Flood & Waverley Road Raptor Ramble*

Join leader Pat Paternostro as he explores the Flood/Waverley rangelands in eastern San Joaquin County. This area is a "Raptor Wonderland" in winter. Birds likely to be seen include Ferruginous and Rough-legged hawks, perhaps a Prairie Falcon or Merlin. Eagles, owls, and numerous other raptors are possible. 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.

SATURDAY, February 1— *13th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival*

Don't miss this FREE family friendly festival (how's that for an alliteration?) Presentations, workshops, field trips, arts and crafts vendors, and free children's activities all day! See announcement on Page 3 for more info.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, February 1— *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.

THURSDAY, February 6— *Colusa and Sacramento National Wildlife Refuges*

Join leaders Joanne Katanic and Kathy and Virginia Bonham, as we visit the Colusa NWR and then Sacramento NWR north of Colusa. Both have driving tours so we will spend most of the time in cars. SNWR has a short walking tour on level ground as well as a very nice visitor center with restrooms. Colusa has a large, accessible observation deck. These two refuges host thousands of wintering waterfowl, as well as resident and migrant songbirds, owls and raptors. There is easy viewing for birders – never disappointing! The rare Falcated Duck has been seen at Colusa in the past. Bring lunch, snacks, water, layers of clothing, binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one. Rain cancels trip. Meet to carpool at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot at McDonalds at I-5 and Hwy 12 near Lodi. Please plan to contribute to \$6 per-car fee at the Sacramento refuge unless you have a National pass. More info: Joanne Katanic at Joanne.katanic@yahoo.com

SATURDAY, February 15— *Woodbridge Wilderness*

Join leaders Kathy and Virginia Bonham 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 16— *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 7:00 a.m. at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SUNDAY, February 16— *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 22— *Grasslands Ecological Area*

Join leaders Amy Weiser 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 (northwest corner of March Ln. and Quail Lakes Dr., in Stockton) at 8 a.m. or at the Gustine Middle School on Sullivan Road at 9:00 a.m. Drive time from Stockton is approximately 1-hour. Snacks, coffee, water and tea provided at the clubhouse. Accessible restrooms. Bring a lunch. You must RSVP if you plan to attend. RSVP to Amy - aec0922@yahoo.com

BIRDS ARE SHRINKING AS CLIMATE WARMS

(Continued from Page 1)

"We had good reason to expect that increasing temperatures would lead to reductions in body size, based on previous studies. The thing that was shocking was how consistent it was. I was incredibly surprised that all of these species are responding in such similar ways," said study lead author Brian Weeks, an assistant professor at the U-M School for Environment and Sustainability.

Several lines of evidence suggest a causal relationship between warming temperatures and the observed declines in avian body size, according to the researchers. Within animal species, individuals tend to be smaller in warmer parts of their range, a pattern known as Bergmann's rule. And while the possibility of body size reduction in response to present-day global warming has been suggested for decades, evidence supporting the idea remains mixed.

Studies of plant and animal response to climate change often focus on shifts in the geographical range of a species or the timing of events such as springtime flowering and migration. The consistency of the body-size declines reported in the new study suggests that such changes should be added to the list of challenges facing wildlife in a rapidly warming world, Weeks said.

Citation: University of Michigan. "Migratory birds shrinking as climate warms, new analysis of four-decade record shows." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 4 December 2019. <www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/12/191204090806.htm>.

13th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival

Saturday, February 1, 2020

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Festival & Tours

Chabolla Community Center
610 Chabolla Avenue, Galt, CA 95632

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Jeff Rich
Wildlife and Bird Photographer, Author, and Educator
“Bald Eagles in the Wild”

Welcome to the 13th 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 13th Annual Winter Bird Festival. On our field trips and tours, our festival guests will enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve, the Isenberg Crane Preserve, and other local birding hotspots, and will be able to take advantage of incredible opportunities 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>

Needed: Your Email Address!

The largest budget items for SJ Audubon are for the printing and mailing of the *Hoot Owl*. Like many Audubon chapters, we are moving toward phasing out paper *newsletters* and going all electronic. For this, we'll need your email address. Please send it at your earliest convenience to our Membership Chair, Alan England, at wdchkgsqrl@yahoo.com or the Audubon mail box, SJAS, PO Box 7755, Stockton, CA 95267.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 7, 2019 - December 5, 2019
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On October 11, David Yee heard the call of a **Red-throated Pipit** flying over his house.

Amy and Doug Weiser found a **Sage Thrasher** on Waverly Road, October 26, near Flood Rd.

Kurt Mize saw a young male **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** in Swenson Park on November 12.

While leading a Central Valley Bird Symposium field trip November 23, Kurt Mize spotted a **Stilt Sandpiper** at the Lodi Sewage Ponds.

A single possibly two **Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks** were observed by Srini Raman and Joe Morlan on November 22 and 23. The first day it was photographed on Eight Mile Rd., then on W. Walnut Grove Rd.

Ben Stalheim reported a male **Lapland Longspur** at Staten Island on December 3.

San Joaquin Audubon Society
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Stockton, CA
Permit #450

Address Service Requested



San Joaquin Audubon Society

Pat Paternostro	President
Vacant	President-elect
Cathy Mathis	Secretary
Liz West	Treasurer
Susan Schneider	Past President/Education Chair
Jim Hoagland	Field Trips
Amy Weiser	Director at Large
Rene Reyes	Director at Large
Jim Rowoth	Director at Large
Rebecca Severin	Director at Large

Alan England	Membership
Kasey Foley	Website, Programs
Kurt Mize	Newsletter Editor
Dave Fries	Conservation Chair
David Coursey	Listserve Moderator

Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

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

Other California Birding E-mail Listserves

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

<https://groups.io/centralvalleybirds>

<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
Stockton, CA 95267

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____