

THE HOOT OWL



July / August 2010
Issue 4, Volume 48

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

Meetings

There will be no general membership meetings during our regular summer hiatus (May through August). The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 14.

REPORT:

THIRD ANNUAL WALDO MUSIC FEST

On Saturday, June 3, 2010 the Waldo Music Fest III was held at the old DeltaKeeper property and had over 150 paid attendees (kids were free). It was a beautiful day with perfect weather, great music, and delicious food. The Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy collected around \$8,500 from the ticket sales and silent auction which will be used to help provide critical habitat for the endangered species, threatened species, and species of special concern throughout San Joaquin County.

Obtaining habitat is more crucial than ever after hearing the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors trying to give away (or sell for \$1 to the neighbors for use as a private park) the Woodbridge Wilderness Area that provides necessary habitat to those very same species.

If you missed the Waldo Fest and would like to make a contribution to the Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy to help obtain critical habitat (that won't be given away to become someone else's private park) then please send a check made out to "Waldo Holt Conservancy" and mail to:

Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy
PO Box 4073
Stockton, CA 95204

Field Trips

SATURDAY, July 3—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Kurt Mize 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.

WEDNESDAY, July 7—*White Slough Evening Field Trip*

Let's try one of my mid-summer evening strolls again. By timing our visit in the evening, we generally are able to enjoy the refreshing delta breeze while enjoying being out in nature, and we might even come across an owl. Expect a 2-hour walk over level surfaces. Contact leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648, rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for meeting time/place. For more info on this location, review chapter 3 in *Birding In and Around San Joaquin Co.*

SATURDAY, July 17—*San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge*

This is a regular field trip hosted by the Stanislaus Audubon Society. Most of these trips are driving, but we may walk up to 2 miles on dirt roads. Meet at the Stanislaus County Library parking lot at 15th and H Streets, in Modesto, at 7:00 A.M. to carpool.

SATURDAY, July 31—*Lodi Sewage Ponds/ Shin Kee Wetlands*

July can be a great month for viewing shorebirds on their southward migration. Lodi Sewage Ponds is one of the best places to do so in San Joaquin County, especially if the ponds are drawn down and provide some good habitat. Meet leader Susan Schneider at the Park 'n Ride at Highway 12 and Thornton Rd., just east of Interstate 5, at 8:00 a.m. We will also spend some time exploring nearby White Slough and the Shin Kee Wetlands.

SATURDAY, August 7—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

See July 3rd announcement, above. Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648, rowoth@sbcglobal.net) at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, August 14—*Mystery Spot*

Since "good birds" often show up unannounced here in central California, we're going to leave the exact destination open for now. It could be anywhere, depending on what's around. Check with leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648, rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

SATURDAY, August 21—*Tall Forest Cosumnes River Preserve*

Meet leader John Trochet at the Farm Center gate, at the intersection of Desmond and Bruceville Roads, at 5:55 a.m. Please call (916) 284-2816, ext #5, or check the website at <http://www.cosumnes.org> a few days prior to confirm the meeting time and location.

Audubon Gulf Oil Spill Response Update

Frank Gill and Olivia Bouler Ring the Closing Bell

June 28, 2010 – Audubon ended the week with a bang – or more accurately, with a bell, when Frank Gill and 11-year old bird artist and Audubon ambassador Olivia Bouler did the closing honors at the New York Stock Exchange. They were joined by other Audubon leaders and Olivia's family. Olivia and Dr. Gill were invited to visit the exchange in recognition of their work to support Gulf recovery efforts. Since she began her campaign, Olivia has attracted 25,000 facebook fans and raised awareness of the spill's impact on birds through appearances on CNN, CBS, MSNBC and more. She has also inspired over \$135,000 dollars for our response and recovery work through "Olivia's Help the Gulf Wildlife Project," with AOL. More <http://www.audubon.org>

Audubon has assembled a terrific team of dedicated staff across the gulf coast to manage and coordinate our volunteer response, under the leadership of DC-based Sean Saville, National Field Director and Coordinator of the effort.

Since the USFWS first appealed to Audubon for volunteer support, our volunteers have been assisting in the bird rescue and rehabilitation work in a myriad of ways, from helping to transport of oiled birds to rehabilitation facilities; to building and cleaning cages and constructing retaining fences to house cleaned birds; to helping process daily wildlife reports in Mobile, Alabama. Others take part in Audubon's Coastal Bird Survey, providing information about bird populations that will be essential to assess the spill's impacts and plan for the recovery. The citizen science initiative is now underway in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi.

Hospitalization of Pinnacles condors focuses attention on dangers of lead in the environment

Lead poisoning mars celebration of first California Condor chick in Pinnacles in more than 100 years.

May 14, 2010 – With the recent announcement that the first California Condor chick to hatch in the Pinnacles National Monument in more than 100 years has been removed from its nest for treatment for lead poisoning, more attention will be focused on the dangers of lead in the environment, particularly lead from spent ammunition.

Researchers from the Monument and the Ventana Wildlife Society, which have been monitoring the nest, announced yesterday that they had removed the 50-day-old chick from the nest for treatment of extremely high levels of lead in its system. The chick's male parent was also evacuated for treatment.

"This news about the Pinnacles condors is just terrible, and it highlights the dangers that lead presents to condors and other birds," said Gary Langham, Audubon California's director of bird conservation. "The bottom line is that lead is a poison, and has no place in our natural environment."

One of the biggest sources of lead in the environment is spent lead ammunition. California Condors frequently feed on animal carcasses left behind by hunters, and often consume great amounts of lead from ammunition. Audubon California was one of several groups that in 2007 successfully pushed for the passage of a ban on lead ammunition within the condor's range. Audubon California is currently sponsoring a bill, Assembly Bill 2223, to ban the use of lead shot on state wildlife areas, because of the danger that presents to sensitive bird populations.

Audubon California's Dan Taylor appointed to new State Delta Conservancy Board

Conservation organization's public policy director and longtime advocate for birds and habitat will make key decisions on Delta ecosystem restoration.

Sacramento, CA – Selected for his long record of achievement on behalf of bird and habitat conservation, Audubon California Director of Public Policy Dan Taylor this week takes a seat on the newly formed Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta Conservancy. Taylor was appointed earlier this week by State Assembly Speaker John A. Pérez.

“The Delta Conservancy will be at the center of some of the most important decisions we make in California about our environment over the next few years,” said Taylor. “I’m honored to be a part of this important effort, and I’m looking forward to the hard work ahead.”

The Sacramento–San Joaquin Conservancy Act (Chapter 5, Statutes of 2009) created the Conservancy to act as a primary state agency to implement ecosystem restoration in the Delta. The creation of the Conservancy was just one of many actions the Legislature took late last year to address the mounting water crisis in California. You can learn more about the Delta Conservancy at <http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>.

Spanning a more than 30-year career with Audubon, Taylor has been the organization's face for many of its most important environmental victories in the West. Prior to becoming Audubon California's first State Director in 1996, Taylor served in several regional positions, including as Audubon's Western Regional Representative for almost 15 years. In his career, Dan has defended old growth forests from clear-cutting, and helped bring attention to the plight of both the Northern Spotted Owl and the Marbled Murrelet. He helped lead the charge to stop the growth of off-shore oil drilling after a study revealed the effects on the then-endangered Brown Pelican. He was at the heart of National Audubon Society's campaign to save Mono Lake by stopping decades of harmful water diversions.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Mid-April, 2010 - May 12, 2010

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On April 25th, Jim Rowoth reported the return of the **Bank Swallows** to the quarry just west of Stillman Magee County Park. He counted four Bank Swallows. On May 16th he counted 12 bank swallows. The colony was first found April 18, 2009.

On April 25th, Jill Rucker spotted and later photographed a late **Rough-legged Hawk** between Moffat and Quintal roads on Hwy. 120.

Susan Schneider, while leading the May 1st San Joaquin Audubon Society beginning bird walk at Lodi Lake, found two **Hermit Warblers** in a large live oak. David Yee also saw one May 13th along with at least 75 Townsend's Warblers.

Jim Rowoth found a pair of **Blue-winged Teals** at the Lodi Sewage ponds on May 8th. Ed Pangolin and Matt Brady saw them later in the day.

On their May 8th trip Ed Pangolin and Matt Brady saw 3 **Yellow-breasted Chats** in San Joaquin County, two at Kiln Canyon and one at the Mokelumne River Day Use area.

On May 9th, Susan Schneider saw a singing **Grasshopper Sparrow**, perched on a fence post just south of the intersection of Flood and Waverly roads. The next day John Luther, Jim Lomax, and Frances Oliver were only able to hear the sparrow.

During an unsuccessful search for the grasshopper sparrow, Terry Ronneburg found a **Gray Flycatcher**, May 12th, on Waverly Rd. just south of Copperopolis Rd.

Correction: In the last Bird Sightings column, I misspelled Cheri Pillsbury's name.

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New website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Calif. Bird Alerts

No. California	415-681-7422
Monterey	831-626-6605
Morro Bay	805-528-7182
So. California	818-952-5502
Santa Barbara	805-964-8240
Los Angeles	323-874-1318
San Diego	619-688-2473

Joint membership in National Audubon and San Joaquin chapter includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

San Joaquin Audubon
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

(Renewals should be mailed directly to National Audubon per renewal notice.)

Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
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The Hoot Owl is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.