

THE HOOT OWL



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

PROGRAMS

There will be no general membership meetings during our regular summer hiatus (May through August). The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 8, if COVID-19 pandemic conditions allow.

Audubon Statement on Incident in Central Park Ramble

In response to an incident in Central Park's Ramble that went viral on Twitter and was widely disseminated in national news, the National Audubon Society issued the following statement:

"Black Americans often face terrible daily dangers in outdoor spaces, where they are subjected to unwarranted suspicion, confrontation, and violence," said Audubon SVP for State Programs Rebecca Sanders, who is white. "The outdoors – and the joy of birds – should be safe and welcoming for all people. That's the reality Audubon and our partners are working hard to achieve. We unequivocally condemn racist sentiments, behavior, and systems that undermine the humanity, rights, and freedom of Black people. We are grateful Christian Cooper is safe. He takes great delight in sharing New York City's birds with others and serves as a board member of the New York City Audubon Society, where he promotes conservation of New York City's outdoor spaces and inclusion of all people."

FIELD TRIPS

(Cancelled until further notice)

All: Due to the ongoing pandemic, all upcoming San Joaquin Audubon Society field trips will remain cancelled. We hope to resume as soon as Covid-19 pandemic conditions allow. Meanwhile, we hope you are all able to bird in the county and beyond, keeping your safety, and the safety of others in mind. Please share your trips information or pictures on one of our many social media outlets.

Plants for Birds

Bird-friendly landscaping provides food, saves water, and fights climate change. With Audubon's Native Plant Database (<http://audubon.org/native-plants>), you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment.

Your garden is your outdoor sanctuary. With some careful plant choices, it can be a haven for native birds as well. Landscaped with native species, your yard, patio, or balcony becomes a vital recharge station for birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds.

Each patch of restored native habitat is just that—a patch in the frayed fabric of the ecosystem in which it lies. By landscaping with native plants, we can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat.

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URGENT: EMAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED!

We need your email address for our new paperless newsletter!

The paper newsletter that we've all been accustomed to receiving in our mailboxes is now a thing of the past. Going forward, the Hoot Owl will be available in electronic form only. An electronic newsletter not only saves trees, but also saves dollars, which will allow us to do more to support our core conservation and education efforts. An electronic newsletter also makes it possible to include longer articles and color photographs! If you haven't done so already, please provide your email address to our membership chair, Alan England (wdchkgsqrl@yahoo.com). Alan and our chapter can then assure that you will start receiving upcoming electronic editions in your email. Thank you!

Kurt Mize – Newsletter Editor

Warming Climate is Changing Where Birds Breed

Migratory behavior and winter geography drive differential range shifts of birds in response to recent climate change

Summer is in full swing. Trees are leafed out, flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing, and birds are singing. But a recent study published in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* found that those birds in your backyard may be changing right along with the climate.

Clark Rushing, Assistant Professor in the Department of Wildland Resources and Ecology Center, Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, and colleagues at the U.S. Geological Survey wanted to know how climate change has already affected where birds breed. They used data from the Breeding Bird Survey -- one of the oldest and longest citizen-science programs in the world -- to conduct their research. "Thousands of devoted volunteers, cooperators, and a joint U.S.-Canadian wildlife management team have contributed to the success of the surveys for the last 54 years," said Andy Royle, a USGS senior scientist and co-author of the study. "The Breeding Bird Survey is fundamental to our understanding and management of wild bird populations in North America."

The research team combined Breeding Bird Survey data with powerful computer models to discover changes in breeding range for 32 species of birds found in eastern North America. What they found is surprising: Some birds' ranges are expanding. Birds that both breed and winter in North America are extending their ranges north to take advantage of new, warm places to breed. These birds are also maintaining their southern ranges. These results bring hope that some bird populations, such as Carolina wrens and red-bellied woodpeckers, may be resilient to future climate change.

Some birds' ranges are shrinking. Neotropical migratory birds breed in North America during the summer and migrate to the Caribbean, Central America, and South America for the winter. Neotropical migrants include many species that people love and look forward to seeing each spring such as buntings, warblers, orioles, and flycatchers. The team's research shows that these birds are not expanding north and their southern ranges are shrinking.

To make matters worse, over the past 50 years Neotropical bird populations have decreased by about 2.5 billion individuals. Rushing explained, "There's a real risk that, if these declines continue at their current pace, many species could face extinction within this century. Neotropical migrants are vulnerable to future climate change, putting them at risk of greater declines."

Neotropical migrants already fly thousands of miles each year to breed, so why can't they go just a bit farther as the climate warms? The researchers suspect the conditions where the birds live during the winter might make this impossible. Migrations require immense reserves of energy, so migratory birds need high-quality winter habitat with abundant food and moisture. Unfortunately, many habitats in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America are being degraded. It is possible that Neotropical birds can't store enough energy during the winter, so they simply can't extend their journeys any farther.

"That's just one explanation," concluded Rushing, "and it highlights how little we know and how much more research is needed." And what the team does know wouldn't have been possible without the help of devoted citizen scientists.

Citation:

S.J. & Jessie E. Quinney College of Natural Resources, Utah State University.
"Warming climate is changing where birds breed: Migratory behavior and winter geography drive differential range shifts of eastern birds in response to recent climate change."
ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily. 26 May 2020.
<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/05/200526173836.htm>

Plants for Birds

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More native plants mean more choices of food and shelter for native birds and other wildlife. To survive, native birds need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. Research by entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oaks support more than 550 different species of butterflies and moths alone! Caterpillars are the go-to food source for migrant and resident birds alike. With 96 percent of all terrestrial bird species in North America feeding insects to their young, planting native plants is perhaps the best way to attract native insects and the birds that depend upon them for food.

The good news is that California has an abundance of native plants that are both beautiful and perfectly adapted to our climate. With some judicious planning and planting, you can have a low-maintenance, low-water-use garden that is both attractive to look at and attractive to native insects and birds as well.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

April 14, 2020 - June 14, 2020

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

On April 16th, Jim Gain photographed a **Broad-winged Hawk** that briefly flew over Ripon. It started in Stanislaus and was last seen flying south.

John Harris reported a **Brewer's Sparrow** just south of Flood Road on Waverly April 18th on eBird. It continued through April 20th, when Jim Gain also reported two **Grasshopper Sparrows**.

Pat Paternostro saw a **Hammond's Flycatcher** with Susan Schneider at Lodi Lake, April 18th. Susan only had a brief view but heard it vocalize.

Pat Paternostro photographed a **Townsend's Solitaire** at Dentoni Park on April 19th.

On April 22nd, Jim Gain found a **Solitary Sandpiper** at the Tracy Sewage Ponds. One was observed later by Jim Rowoth and John Blades at the Llewellen residence on April 29th.

On a trip up to Kiln Canyon, April 24th, Logan Kahle found a **Hammond's Flycatcher** and a **Calliope Hummingbird**. Permission must be obtained to bird Kiln Canyon. **Hammond's Flycatcher** and **Calliope Hummingbird** were reported on April 28th. On April 26th, Kurt Mize found a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Laughlin Park.

On the evening of April 28th, David Yee saw two female **Calliope Hummingbirds** at his feeders along with a female Rufous/Allen's and Black-chinned Hummingbirds.

Kurt Mize found a **Gray Flycatcher** at Laughlin Park, May 7th. Jim Rowoth also found one at Angel Cruz Park on the same day.

Kasey Foley photographed a Common Poorwill at Stockton Rural Cemetery May 9th. It was not found later in the day.

On May 10th, David Yee saw a singing **Sage Sparrow** along Flood Rd. in a weedy patch. Based on the song, time of year, and location he suspects that it is a **Sagebrush Sparrow**.

On May 22nd, David Yee visited Oak Grove Park and heard a Western Flycatcher giving the call of a **Cordilleran Flycatcher**. It is the same time of the year as the possible Cordilleran that was recorded at Heritage Oaks years ago.

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

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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.io/g/SJBirds>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserves

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

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

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

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CSAS_Birds/info

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—electronic copy \$15

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**P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267**

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