

THE HOOT OWL



March / April 2016
Issue 2, Volume 54

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.

TUESDAY, March 8

Sal Salerno

"Andrew Jackson Grayson, Audubon of the West"

Please join us for this presentation by Sal Salerno on ornithological pioneer Andrew Jackson Grayson.

The founder of the town of Grayson in Stanislaus County was also a self-taught ornithologist and bird artist known in the 19th century as the "Audubon of the West." Despite great hardships, Grayson created an impressive body of work that was finally published 117 years after his untimely death. Grayson's tragic life and beautiful art are featured in this program, which includes a request to help in purchasing "Birds of the Pacific Slope" for the Stanislaus County library.

Salvatore Salerno is the president of Stanislaus Audubon Society. Since 2008, Salvatore has been writing a monthly column on birds and birders for *Valley Habitat*, the shared publication of the Audubon chapter and Sierra Club. He also teaches a class called Early Birders through Modesto Junior College.

TUESDAY, April 12

Chris Conard

"A Visit to Borneo"

In October 2015, Chris spent three weeks traveling through the Malasian state of Sabah on the northeastern portion of the Island of Borneo. This is the most biogeographically rich region of the world's third largest island (the island is 3.5 times the size of Great Britain), stretching from coastal estuaries, major rivers, virgin rain forest, and the 13,438-foot Mt. Kinabalu.

The program will consist of photos and short videos with highlights almost too numerous to mention.

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FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, March 5— *Introductory Birding*

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, March 12— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader John Trochet 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 start time.

SUNDAY, March 13— *Rush Ranch / Grizzly Island*

Join leader Dale Smith for a visit to this interesting area of rolling grasslands and brackish marsh in Solano County. Meet in the parking lot at Flag City (Highway 12 and I-5) at 7:30 a.m. to carpool. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY, March 19— *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, March 20— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, April 2— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternostro at the north end of Laurel Ave. (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) in Lodi 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, April 9— *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.

WEDNESDAY, April 13— *Kiln Canyon Hummingbird Hike*

Join leader John Blades for our annual mid-week trip to this always interesting spot. Meet in the parking lot of Toot Sweets (March Lane and Quail Lakes Dr.) at 7:00 a.m. to carpool or at the entrance to Carnegie SVRA at 8:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch.

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Working Lands: Partnering with Landowners to Protect Birds

Audubon California is increasingly working with the owners and operators of working lands throughout the state to increase the value of these properties for birds and wildlife. We do this by working with landowners to modify land management practices and encouraging restoration of native habitats in these landscapes.

One of the biggest transformations in California over the last 150 years was the conversion of millions of acres of natural wetlands, grasslands, and stream-side forest to create one of the world's most productive agricultural landscapes. While this resulted in the irreparable loss of habitat for birds and wildlife, the reality is that we must find ways for conservation and agriculture to coincide. Private agricultural lands encompass 25 million acres of open space in California – fully one-quarter of the state. Fortunately, we are learning that farms and ranches can be effective surrogates for natural habitats that have been lost and, when appropriately managed, can support wildlife diversity approaching that found on natural lands.

Private lands are vital for a diversity of wildlife, including 60 percent of the threatened and endangered species in the U.S. The importance of private lands for birds is particularly evident. Over 200 bird species in California depend on agricultural habitats for at least part of their annual life cycle. This is not difficult to imagine when witnessing the still spectacular congregations of birds in agricultural fields of the Central Valley during migration and over the winter, where large patches of white indicate where as many as 100,000 Snow Geese have gathered in a single field. Millions of water birds rest and feed in wetlands provided by winter flooded rice fields in the Sacramento Valley and it's estimated that 70 percent of the food needed to support the more than 5 million waterfowl wintering in the Central Valley every year is produced by private agricultural land.

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FIELD TRIPS

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SATURDAY, April 16— *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, April 17— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, April 23— *Round Valley Regional Preserve*

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264) for a springtime visit to this 1900 acre preserve in the inner coast range near Brentwood. Meet in the parking lot at Toot Sweets, near the northwest corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Drive in Stockton, at 7:00 a.m. to carpool. We will be on the lookout for local specialties and neotropical migrants. Bring lunch and something to drink, as we will be picnicking in the park.

SUNDAY, April 24— *Earth Day*

Join Kasey Foley and other SJAS volunteers as we celebrate the 28th Earth Day Festival from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Victory Park (behind the Haggin Museum). Please come by the San Joaquin Audubon Society booth and say "Hi" and maybe buy a T-shirt! It's always a fun time with fun people!

SATURDAY, April 30— *North Shore Fishing Access for New Hogan Reservoir*

Join leader Joanne Katanic for a trip to this seldom visited birding and fishing spot. We should see some lovely early migrants, as well as Lawrence's Goldfinch and Canyon Wren. Plan for about a 3 hour walk. We should be over by noon. There are some nice places for lunch in Valley Springs if that's your choice. Meet leader Joanne Katanic at the Park& Ride off of Victor Rd. Highway 12 east exit, at 7:15 a.m.

PROGRAMS

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TUESDAY, April 12

Chris Conard

"A Visit to Borneo"

There is a wonderful array of birds, with 8 species of hornbill, endemic broadbills, pheasants, trogons, and the Bornean Bristlehead, the sole member of its endemic family. Then there are the mammals, including monkeys, gibbons, orangutans, wild cats, mouse-deer, and pygmy elephants. Borneo has the world's most diverse assortment of gliding animals, from the bizarre colugo, several large gliding squirrels, to gliding snakes, frogs, and lizards. Add to this an amazing display of butterflies, moths, and other invertebrates, plus an amazing diversity of plants, habitats and human environments.

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 is the current president of the Central Valley Bird Club.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

December 6, 2015 - February 16, 2016

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

David Yee found an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** on the Gaffery Rd. levee in Stanislaus County, December 6th. It later moved back and forth between the gravel pond on Koster Rd. in San Joaquin County and the Gaffery Rd. location through January 7th.

On December 6th there was still one **Cassin's Kingbird** at the Koster Rd. gravel pit.

Terry Ronneberg saw a **Western Kingbird** at the Tracy sewage ponds, December 8th, one of very few winter records for the Central Valley.

On December 13th, Logan Kahle had a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** at the Kelso Road pond.

There has been an irruption of **Red Crossbills** in the Central Valley. Ralph Baker saw two females at Jacob Meyer County Park on December 15th. On December 18th, Gaylan Queirolo saw a group of **Red Crossbills** at his birdbath in Stockton. There were also some that passed through the Ripon Sewage Ponds and surrounding area December 22nd.

On December 16th, Nan Ballot reported that the **Blue Grosbeak** has returned to the same place on the Calaveras River levee as last year. She has reported it through February 4th. Blue Grosbeak is accidental in winter in our area.

David Yee found a couple of **Evening Grosbeaks** at Hutchin's Street Square December 19th. They continued at that location through January 1st.

During the December 20th Stockton Christmas Bird count David Yee saw a **Black-and-white Warbler** at Lodi Lake. It was probably present during the Central Valley Bird Symposium since Mary Shiedt reported a probable Black-and-white Warbler from Lodi Lake on November 22nd. It stayed through January 12th. Also spotted by Linda Pittman during the Stockton CBC was a **Marbled Godwit** at Staten Island, which was present through December 22nd.

David Yee saw a **Steller's Jay** at the entrance to Pixie Woods in Louis Park January 3rd.

On February 7th, Jean and Terry Ronneberg saw a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Pig's Lake. The **Eurasian Wigeon** at Woodbridge Rd. continues as of February 10th.

On February 13th, David Yee found an adult male **Rusty Blackbird** on private property east of Lodi, and was able to take diagnostic photographs. This is just the third record of this species for San Joaquin County.

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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
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