

THE HOOT OWL



March / April 2017
Issue 2, Volume 55

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 14
James Rexroth
"Fossil FUN!"

Join us at the March meeting where member James Rexroth will lead us on a scavenger hunt of sorts through the fascinating world of fossils. There will be 10 stations to investigate and some questions to answer at each one from the information provided. There will be prizes and some fossils given away to those that participate. Please join us for an entertaining evening.

James Rexroth has worked for Micke Grove Zoo and Oak Grove Regional Park as the Nature Center Director for many years. His interests include birding, fossil hunting, photography, and teaching children about nature, including his grandkids!

TUESDAY, April 11
Dr. Kathy Schick
"Common Butterflies of San Joaquin County"

Don't miss Dr. Kathy Schick's primer for the Annual San Joaquin Audubon Society Butterfly Count that will take place on Saturday, June 17, 2017. Dr. Schick will discuss the common butterflies that occur in San Joaquin County, a bit about their host plants and nectar sources and what marks to look for to help identify them.

In addition to leading the Annual San Joaquin Audubon Society Butterfly Count, Dr. Schick has her PhD in Entomology, her specialty being tiny, stingless parasitoid wasps. Until this year, she was an adjunct biology professor at San Joaquin Delta College and a part-time curatorial associate at Essig Museum of Entomology at the University of California at Berkeley. She has recently been appointed as a Research Associate at U.C. Berkeley's Essig Museum and the California Academy of Sciences at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, March 4— *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 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 the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SATURDAY, March 18— *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 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 the leaders in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, March 26— *Cruising the Delta*

Join leader David Fries on his 42' sail boat for a cruise through the Delta. Plan for 5-7 hours on the water, leaving at 8:00 a.m. from the Stockton Sailing Club, 4980 Buckley Cove Way. Due to boat size and safety reasons, the trip is limited to the first 8 people to register. Send your reservation to dale.smith2@comcast.net.

SATURDAY, April 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.

SATURDAY, April 8— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

See entry for Saturday, March 11.

SUNDAY, April 9 - *The Flora and Fauna of the UOP Campus*

Join leader Pat Paternostro for a walking tour of the University of the Pacific campus. We will look for early spring migrants and also learn basic Dendrology skills by identifying many common tree species that are found throughout the Central Valley and its foothills. Meet near the base of Burns Tower at 8:00 a.m.

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FIELD TRIPS

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WEDNESDAY, April 12 – *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 SVTA at 8:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Due to park restrictions, this trip may be canceled. Please check the website, www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org, or call Dale at (209) 481-1782 before you go.

SATURDAY, April 15— *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.

SUNDAY, April 16— *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 22 — *Bear Creek Bike Path*

Join leader Susan Schneider for this easy walk that features riparian and marsh habitat. Many interesting species have been encountered on previous trips including Sora and Peregrine Falcon. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking lot of Michael Faklis Park which is off Cosumnes Dr. near Mokelumne Circle, SW of I5/Eight Mile Road interchange.

SUNDAY, April 23 — *Earth Day*

Join Kasey Foley and other SJAS volunteers as we celebrate the 47th Earth Day Festival from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Victory Park (behind the Haggin Museum). This year's campaign is, appropriately, "Environment and Climate Literacy". 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 29 — *iNaturalist Workshop at Oak Grove Regional Park*

Join Kenichi Ueda for this introduction to the citizen science project, iNaturalist, which he co-founded, and is now sponsored by the California Academy of Sciences. Have you ever wanted to know the name of a weird bug or flower but didn't know whom to ask? Do you take tons of pictures of plants and animals but don't know what to do with them? Do you want to contribute to a global database of scientifically useful biodiversity data? Then try iNaturalist! iNaturalist is a global online social network of people who share observations from the natural world and help each other identify organisms. In this workshop we'll go through the basics of taking identifiable photos, uploading your first observations, and helping other people out with identifications. Meet Kenichi at the Nature Center at 9:00 a.m. To have the entrance fee waived, mention that you are attending the iNaturalist program. The workshop will wrap up around noon.

World's Oldest Wild Bird Just Became a Mom for the 40th Time

By Laura Geggel, Senior Writer/ LiveScience | February 12, 2016

The world's oldest known wild bird just added a new chick to the family — her 40th one, experts say. The Laysan albatross (*Phoebastria immutabilis*), named Wisdom, is at least 65 years old but shows no signs of slowing down. Wildlife officials at the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in Hawaii saw her lay an egg on Nov. 28, 2015, and incubate it for several weeks.

A fuzzy, gray chick cracked out of its shell on Feb. 1. But Wisdom wasn't there when the baby chick hatched: She had headed out to sea on Jan. 20, leaving her mate on nest duty. She returned just after Super Bowl Sunday (Feb. 7) with a full belly and settled down on the nest, allowing her mate to fly off to sea in search of food, officials said.

Wildlife officials wasted no time in naming the chick, dubbing it Kūkini, which means "messenger" in Hawaiian.

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A wild, banded bird named Wisdom, the world's oldest animal to give birth, greets her new chick, named Kūkini, the Hawaiian word for "messenger."
Credit: Kiah Walker | USFWS Volunteer

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"Wisdom is an iconic symbol of inspiration and hope," refuge manager Robert Peyton said in a statement. "From a scientific perspective, albatrosses are a critical indicator species for the world's oceans that sustain millions of human beings as well."

When researchers first tagged Wisdom in 1956, she was already a breeding adult. The iconic bird has raised at least eight chicks since 2006, and even survived the 2011 tsunami in Japan. "She is breaking longevity records of previously banded birds by at least a decade," Peyton said. "With over a million albatross on Midway Atoll alone, this shows just how much is left to learn about the natural world around us."

Since her banding on Midway Atoll, Wisdom has likely flown more than 3 million miles (4.8 million kilometers) around the Pacific. "That is up to six trips from the Earth to the moon and back again," said Bruce Peterjohn, chief of the Patuxent Wildlife

Research Center's National Bird Banding Laboratory. "What is also miraculous is that biologist Chandler Robbins, who banded her as a breeding adult in 1956 on Midway Atoll, sighted her 46 years later near the same nesting location."

These days, Robbins is 97, and still occasionally comes to work to check on the birds. However, Wisdom and Kūkini aren't the only birds he follows. There are about 470,000 albatross nests on the entire atoll, and each nest represents two adults, bringing the total breeding population to 940,000. These birds arrive at Midway in late November to lay eggs, search for a mate, rest or practice their mating dance skills, wildlife experts said.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

December 16, 2016 - February 14, 2017
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

During the December 17th Stockton Christmas Bird Count, Sue Murphy and Liz West found an out of season **Bullock's Oriole** along Acampo Road.

Gil Ewing identified a young male **Blue-winged Teal** on Staten Island, December 18th.

Steve Huckabone saw a male **Eurasian Wigeon** at the Kelso Rd. pond on January 2nd. On January 25th, multiple **Eurasian Wigeons** were reported in eBird by Ian Souza-Cole, Ben Sandstrom, and David Hollie.

David Yee found a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** on the Vine St. storm pond behind the Lodi Toyota dealership, January 11th.

Terry Ronneberg saw an out of season **Western Kingbird** on Bird Rd., January 17th.

During a visit to Staten Island on January 21st, David Sibley picked out an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull**.

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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
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

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