

THE HOOT OWL



March / April 2018
Issue 2, Volume 56

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 13

Karrie Reid, Susan Schneider, James Rexroth
"The Eco-friendly Yard: Easy Ways to Save Water, Welcome Birds, and Help the Planet"

Incorporating eco-friendly native and Mediterranean-region plants into our gardens can save water, bring beauty, and benefit local birds, butterflies, and beneficial bugs— and it doesn't have to be difficult or expensive.

In this workshop-style format, the panel of three will run through how-to's, sharing failures as well as successes. (We've all had our share of both.) We'll allow ample time for audience examples as well as questions. Let's start a local movement! Limited amounts of free wildflower seeds will be available.

Karrie Reid is the UC Cooperative Extension Environmental Horticulture Advisor for San Joaquin County. She holds an M.S. in Horticulture from UC Davis and is (as you'd expect) an avid gardener.

Susan Schneider, current SJAS President, and James Rexroth, board member, will share the ups and downs of years of experience developing their own native/waterwise yards in Stockton.

TUESDAY, April 10

Lee Christianson

"Mammals (and Birds) or Dude! You're a homeothermic endotherm? You've got BIG problems!"

Please join us to hear Lee Christianson's presentation on Mammals and the thermal environment. From Kangaroo-rats in the west to mice in Minnesota's winter.

A Minnesota native, Lee taught ecology, evolution, and vertebrate biology at UOP until his retirement in 2006. Since that time Lee has been able to stand on all of the continents and finally see many of the areas that he talked about in his classes.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, March 3— *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.

SUNDAY, March 4— *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. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

SATURDAY, March 10 - *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 David at: dfries.audubon@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, March 17 - *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 18— *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 25— *Swenson Golf Course and Park*

Join leaders Dave Fries and Dale Smith as they explore the flora and fauna of the Swenson Golf Course and adjoining park. Meet in the golf course parking lot at 8:00 a.m. **The trip is limited to 12 people. Please send your reservation to dale.smith2@comcast.net.**

SATURDAY, April 7— *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.

SUNDAY, April 8— *Stockton Rural Cemetery*

Meet leader Jim Rowoth at 8:00 a.m. at the Cemetery office for

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FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

a stroll through this historic cemetery which hosts an interesting variety of wintering and migrating thrushes, warblers, sparrows, and woodpeckers. Even when the birding is slow, visitors can enjoy a relaxing stroll through California history.

SUNDAY, April 8 — Lodi Lake Nature Area – Trees and Shrubs

Join leader Pat Paternostro as he introduces you to the native and non-native species of trees and shrubs in the nature area. The walk, hosted by the **Lodi Lake Docents**, will be leisurely and attendees are encouraged to ask questions. The goal of this walk is to introduce the public to this unique natural space in an urban setting. And for those who are familiar with the area to perhaps see something new and exciting!

The group will meet in the Nature Area at the amphitheater (just inside the entrance) at 1 p.m. For further information contact Julie Giometti-Wahl at jwahl@lodi.gov or 559-240-5612.

TUESDAY, April 10— Kiln Canyon Hummingbird Hike

Join leader John Blades for our annual 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.

SATURDAY, April 14— 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. **Note: A new CRP policy requires that all participants must RSVP through the EventBrite link on the web-site.**

SUNDAY, April 15— 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.

WEDNESDAY, April 18— Ripon Oak Grove Park & Wastewater Treatment Plant

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a stroll through this 55-acre remnant of riparian forest and riparian oak grove on the north bank of the Stanislaus River, at the southern edge of San Joaquin County. If there is time/interest, Jim will also visit the adjacent wastewater treatment ponds. Meet Jim at Toot Sweet's at 7:00 a.m., or 7:30 a.m. in the Oak Grove parking lot. Expect a 3-4 hour visit.

SATURDAY, April 21— 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 22 — 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). **Earth Day** is a call to action for the global community to address climate change, foster a sustainable, healthy environment and protect our planet for future generations. 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 28—Del Puerto Canyon

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264) for this visit to scenic Del Puerto Canyon. We will be on the lookout for spring migrants and local specialties. Bring hats and sunscreen, and lunch and drinks, as we will be picnicking at Frank Raines Park. Time permitting, we may continue on to the summit for some Santa Clara County birds. Meet in the parking lot at Toot Sweets (corner of March Lane and Quail Lakes Dr. in Stockton) at 7:00 a.m. to carpool, or at the start of Del Puerto Canyon Rd. (just west of I-5 at the Diablo Grande Parkway/Patterson exit) at 7:45 a.m.

SUNDAY, April 29 — University of the Pacific Native Plant Gardens

Join leaders Amy and Doug Weiser as they explore the Bon Appetit Native Plant Garden, established on the Stockton campus in 2015. Seventy varieties of California native plants were selected by Pacific faculty members in the Biological Sciences department, such as Sticky Monkey Flower, Coyote Brush, and several varieties of Manzanita. The garden is enhanced by several specimen boulders carefully selected by faculty of the Geological and Environmental Sciences department, such as Sierra Granite, Rhyolite, Basalt, Blue Schist, Andesite, and Flat Lava. Meet the leaders at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot by the Burns Tower for an hour of birding, or at 9:00 a.m. at the Native Plant Garden, which is embedded with the Abigail Robb Plaza located adjacent to the Robb Garden on University of the Pacific Stockton's south campus.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

OK, it may be trite to admit this, but Spring is my favorite time of year. I know I'm not alone in appreciating the palette of new greens, the flowers, and the return of migrant and summering birds and butterflies. Above all for me is the splendor of birdsong everywhere. Moving here from Florida 9 years ago, I enjoyed the challenge of learning many new melodies. (OK, there were a few frustrations along the way – as with the endlessly variable Spotted Towhees and Bewick's Wrens.) Now I'm trying to work more on my wildflower identification skills. I just tracked down a copy of Blackwell's *Wildflowers of the Sierra Nevada and the Central Valley*, and I wish I'd discovered it years ago. Relatedly, our chapter will be offering a tour of the University of the Pacific native plant gardens on April 29 (see the description under Field Trips).

What a pleasant diversion from the work I've been focused on for several years now: fighting climate change. National Audubon has studied the anticipated effects on our birds, and is running several climate initiatives. Local chapters have been helping out with their own efforts. At Stockton's Earth Day celebration on April 22, Audubon will set up its usual table, and I hope you'll stop by and see what we have to offer. But I'll also be helping to staff the table of the new San Joaquin County Climate Action Coalition, for which our Audubon chapter is one of a number of founding organizations. We're already working on a vehicle idling campaign, with a tree planting initiative also planned. What better way to celebrate spring than by doing what we can to ensure it stays beautiful for generations to come.

Susan Schneider
President, San Joaquin Audubon Society

BIRD SIGHTINGS

December 16, 2017 - February 18, 2018
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Xavier Sandoval showed Sal Salerno an out of season **Wilson's Warbler** at Caswell State Park, December 17th.

Ian Souza-Cole found a **Brant** in among some Cackling Geese in newly flooded cornfield on Staten Island, December 19th.

On January 11th, Terry Ronneberg saw the **Lesser Black-backed Gull** David Yee found at the Koster Road quarry pond on November 25th.

There have been **Blue-winged Teal** reported in a couple of different places. Lucas Stephenson and Douglas Hall saw two pair off Woodbridge Rd. January 14th. On January 27th, Dave Fries saw a male on Staten Island. He also saw a **Eurasian Wigeon** the same day on Staten Island.

Sal Salerno found a pair of **Cassin's Finches** at Caswell State Park on January 26th. Sal was not able to relocate them.

On February 2nd, Kurt Mize found a **Swamp Sparrow** along Bear Creek/Pixley Creek bike trail. It was not seen after the second.

On February 18th, David Yee found a very good candidate for an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** at the Koster Rd gravel pit area in the south county near the STA border. The bird was initially observed sitting in the field just east of the canal with thousands of gulls. It then flew to the gravel pit pond, but wasn't refound. There also was a first cycle **Glaucous Gull** present (probably the same bird that's been present since Dec).

Ian Souza-Cole has changed his identification of Red-necked Grebe found in Mokelumne River along Staten Island on November 28th to **Horned Grebe**.

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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

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