

THE HOOT OWL



March / April 2019
Issue 1, Volume 57

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 12

Catherine Portman

"Burrowing Owls in the Central Valley"

Catherine will talk about the beloved Burrowing Owls, their ecology, and their entertaining personalities. She will also discuss the many conservation issues and interventions being implemented to keep these birds around for future generations.

With a background in Occupational Nursing and pesticide illness, Catherine is the Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Burrowing Owl Preservation Society since 2003. She contracted with the Institute for Bird Populations to conduct a Burrowing Owl census for Yolo County in 2014.

TUESDAY, April 9

Khara Strum

"Alfalfa is a Key Ingredient for Birding Habitat in the Central Valley"

Khara will speak with us about the benefits of alfalfa to birds in the Central Valley. Alfalfa is a conservation target for bird habitat in the San Joaquin Valley. Specifically, alfalfa provides foraging habitat during the spring, summer and fall for several focal species in the waterbird and at-risk bird groups of the Central Valley Joint Venture. In addition, alfalfa is suitable for groundwater recharge in winter. Given these and other multiple benefits, alfalfa is one component of maintaining a vibrant agro-ecosystem in the Central Valley and maintaining alfalfa on the landscape is necessary and important.

Khara Strum is a Conservation Project Manager for Audubon California. For the last decade, Khara has worked with agricultural industry groups, private landowners, and government agencies to increase the habitat value of farmland for birds and other wildlife in the Central Valley of California.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, March 2— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Susan Schneider 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 2— *Black Hole Duck Club*

We are pleased that Dino Cortopassi has invited the San Joaquin Audubon Society to tour the Black Hole Duck Club Habitat. Mr. Cortopassi has also established the Wetlands Preservation Foundation (WPF). The Black Hole contains exceptional created habitat that you don't want to miss! The WPF Events Center, at the Black Hole, is north off of Woodbridge Rd, approximately ½ mile from the west dead-end. The Black Hole entrance is well signed. To carpool, meet at the Flag City McDonalds near the intersection of I-5 and Hwy. 12 at 7:30 a.m.

This tour is limited to the first 20 persons to sign up. Please sign up by email at dfries.audubon@gmail.com or dale.smith2@comcast.net by Tuesday, February 26th. Please note that the WPF is graciously providing lunch for us at the end of the tour. As with all SJ Audubon Field trips, there is no charge for participation.

SUNDAY, March 3— *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 9— *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.

SATURDAY, March 16— *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 dfries.audubon@gmail.com.

SUNDAY, March 17— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

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FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, April 6— *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 13— *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.

SUNDAY, April 14 — *Earth Day*

Join Kasey Foley and other SJAS volunteers as we celebrate the 49th 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 20— *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 21 — *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 24 — *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.

FRIDAY, April 27 – MONDAY, April 29 — *City Nature Challenge 2019: Sacramento Region*

The City Nature Challenge is an international effort for people to find and document plants and wildlife in cities across the globe. It's a bioblitz-style competition where cities are in a contest against each other to see who can make the most observations of nature, who can find the most species, and who can engage the most people. Help the Sacramento Region (of which San Joaquin County is considered part of) participate in the Challenge by making observations in iNaturalist April 26th–29th, 2019. For more information, check out their website (cncsacramento.home.blog) or follow them on Facebook and Twitter!

Volunteer Opportunity!

For anyone who enjoys our monthly Tuesday evening programs, do we have the opportunity for you! Get to know more nature-loving people in our community by serving as our official Greeter. The Greeter simply makes sure everyone at a program gets a name tag and a welcome. If you can't make a few programs, no problem – one of the Board members will fill in. Contact any of them if you're interested, or email our president at susanschneider7@gmail.com. Thanks! – and see you at the programs.

Merlin Bird ID App

If you haven't already, you should consider downloading the FREE Merlin Bird ID App, from the Cornell Institute of Ornithology. Get ID help with over 3,000 species of North American, South American, and European bird species. Answer five simple questions about a bird you are trying to identify, or download a photo, and Merlin will come up with a list of possible matches, based upon your location and time of year. Merlin offers quick identification help for all levels of bird watchers to learn about North America and Europe's common and rare birds! Browse more than 8,000 stunning images taken by top photographers. Merlin also includes more than 3,000 audio recordings from the Macaulay Library, identification tips from experts, and range maps from the Birds of North America Online and Neotropical Birds.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In my penultimate column as chapter president, I'd like to take a look back. Our San Joaquin Audubon Society began in recognizable form during World War II – 1941, to be precise. That means we now have a history of over 75 years of contributing to our community. A 40-year anniversary record notes that one of our first recorded field trips was to "Smith Ranch." Thanks in part to the efforts of our leaders, it's now Oak Grove Regional Park, preserving magnificent Valley Oak habitat and offering environmental education (plus an appreciation for Native American life) to our county's schoolchildren. Going back further, before its creation, Junior Audubon was a similar early program. Environmental education continues to be one of our priorities.

The 1970s were a growth period, and on one occasion we combined forces with the new local Sierra Club and outlying Audubon members to host a talk by a distinguished naturalist – given to nearly 250. Maybe it's just as well that we don't attract crowds like that anymore – we couldn't fit them in the Fireside Room! A lot has stayed constant over the years despite the changes in our county. And that includes those who have stepped up to volunteer for the organization. Skimming through old issues of our newsletter, what a pleasure to begin to see familiar names. Those whose history with the chapter go back quite a ways include Dave Wagner, Terres Ronneberg, Dennis Smith, and others who continue to be active chapter leaders. Thank you all . . . Successive generations pass along the torch, as I will be doing when my presidential term concludes at the end of June.

Susan

BIRD SIGHTINGS

December 11, 2018 - February 17, 2019
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

The **Brown Thrasher** was last reported on February 4th. The **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was last seen December 16th.

On the December 15th Mokelumne Fish Hatchery bird count, Joanne Katanic, Virginia and Kathy Bonham, and I saw a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** within a group of Common Goldeneyes. On December 18th, in addition to the female a male was found. On the 19th only the male was present.

Dave Fries found five **Eurasian Wigeon** and a **Blue-winged Teal** along Woodbridge Road on December 16th. There were additional sightings of a couple of Blue-winged Teal on Bouldin Island (February 3rd Jane Medley) and Staten Island (January 22nd Virginia Bonham).

December 29th, Robert Shields saw a **yellow shafted Northern Flicker** on Buena Vista Road.

Frances Oliver saw an out of season **Hooded Oriole** at her backyard hummingbird feeder in Lodi, January 18th.

On February 3rd at the Koster Road quarry ponds, David Yee identified a probable first cycle **Slaty-backed Gull**. He said of all the Slaty-backed Gulls approved by California Bird Records Committee only one was a first cycle gull due to the difficulties of separating them from hybrid gulls.

On Sunday, February 17th, David Yee again visited the Koster Road quarry ponds, where he had an adult **Slaty-backed Gull**. Among the gulls roosting on the levee of the adjacent canal were two immature **Glaucous Gulls**. Additionally, there were at least three apparent first cycle **Kumlien's Iceland Gulls** in the area.

San Joaquin Audubon Society
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San Joaquin Audubon Society

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Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/sjbirds/>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserves

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

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central_valley_birds/

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

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/central-sierra-birds/>

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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
- Chapter Newsletter—electronic copy \$10

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