

THE HOOT OWL



May / June 2018
Issue 3, Volume 56

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 11.

Annual Chapter Picnic

Saturday, May 19

Save the date! On Saturday, May 19, San Joaquin Audubon will hold its Annual Chapter Picnic at the Mokelumne River Day Use Area/Fish Hatchery. All are welcome. We will start off birding at 8:00 a.m., combining our bird walk with the monthly bird census of this delightful park. The pot luck brunch will follow at approx. 10:00 a.m., so bring a dish to share. We'll also have a short Annual Business Meeting. Meet leader Joanne Katanic in the fish hatchery parking lot (below the dam) at 8:00 a.m.

San Joaquin County Annual Summer Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 16, 2018, we will hold the annual San Joaquin County Summer Butterfly Count. This family-friendly field trip is a cooperative project of the San Joaquin Audubon Society, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the North American Butterfly Association.

We will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Regional Park. No experience or expertise is required. All participants should bring a hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch or a snack (and field guides, binoculars, and nets if you have them). Call Dr. Kathy Schick (209) 612-5130 for more information.

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. She is 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, May 5— *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, May 6— *Electra Road, Amador County*

Join leader Joanne Katanic (209-483-2578) to explore Electra Road, near Jackson off of Highway 49. This will be an opportunity to see how the area is rejuvenating after last year's fire. In the past this has been a great spot to view newly arriving and breeding birds, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak, Yellow Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, and Yellow-breasted Chat. For carpooling, meet in the parking lot of Robinson Feed, 1150 East Victor Rd. (Hwy. 12), Lodi, at 7:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, May 12— *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, May 19— *ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC*

Join leader Joanne Katanic for our monthly census of this lovely riparian area on the Mokelumne River below Camanche Dam, to be followed by our annual chapter picnic and a short general membership meeting. All are welcome to attend. (See announcement this page). Meet Joanne in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, May 20 – *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Pat Paternostro 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.

FRI-SUN, May 25-27— *Annual Sierra Valley Campout*

The Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass areas offer great habitat for birds with many lakes, meadows, marshes, streams, rivers and trees. As usual, we will be camping at the Cottonwood Creek Campground on Hwy 89 north of Truckee or, you can chose to stay at the Globe Hotel in Sierraville. For those who only wish to come up for Saturday, we will meet for breakfast at 8am at the Fork & Horn in Sierraville (530) 994-1070. Please phone or email trip leader Dave Wagner (209-943-6997, dajwagner@aol.com) to RSVP.

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FIELD TRIPS

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SATURDAY, June 2 — *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.

WEDNESDAY, June 6— *Cruising the Delta*

Join leader David Fries on his 43' 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.

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

SATURDAY, June 16— *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, June 17— *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.

SATURDAY, June 23— *Calaveras Big Trees State Park*

Join leaders Kurt Mize (915-6264, k1mize@aol.com) and Sal Salerno (985-1232) for this joint San Joaquin/Stanislaus Audubon field trip to one of California's oldest and most beautiful state parks. We'll be on the lookout for breeding specialties like White-headed Woodpecker and the wildflower species of the mixed coniferous forest. Bring drinks, a picnic lunch, mosquito repellent, and sunscreen. Meet at the Country Café in Lockeford at 7:00 a.m. if you wish to carpool, or at the park in the North Grove parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Day use fee required.

Tricolored Blackbird listed as “Threatened”

In a victory for Audubon California and other conservation groups, on Thursday, April 19, the California Fish and Game commission voted 4–0 to list the Tricolored Blackbird as Threatened under the state's Endangered Species Act.

Tricolored Blackbirds live almost entirely in California and once numbered in the millions, but their population has declined to a fraction of what it once was. The latest survey of the birds found only about 178,000 remaining.

The reasons for this decline are many, but the loss of marsh and nearby feeding habitats along the coast and in southern California and the Central Valley is the main issue. With the loss of native habitat, the species has become dependent on agricultural lands, with most of the largest colonies nesting in grain fields. A real dilemma develops because Tricolored young typically have not yet left the nest before the time farmers harvest their crop, and harvesting destroys Tricolored Blackbird nests and young. Thousands of chicks can be lost in a few minutes.

In recent years, Audubon California has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the dairy industry to strike agreements with farmers to delay harvests to allow the young birds to fledge. These agreements with farmers have saved many thousands of Tricolored Blackbirds.

And Tricolored Blackbirds are already making their nests. Four sites have been identified in Merced County, along with two in Tulare County, and one in Kern County. Some of these already have chicks in nests.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife recommended listing based on its review of the best available science.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

"Having dealt with family health problems over the past few weeks, what a comfort it is to enjoy nature's spring bounty. As I write, the transition from wintering birds is in full swing: Colorful, tuneful songbird migrants are everywhere.

Thanks to those who are reporting them on our San Joaquin County birdwatching listserv, sjbirds@yahogroups.com, as well as on the international bird-reporting website eBird.org, coordinated by the Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon. While eBird is more useful as a scientific archive, our sjbirds listserv lets you be more creative and informal. If you like, you can just write a quick line about a sighting – or you can spin a longer tale of your birding adventure. I well remember the posts of the late Cheri Pillsbury, who made me feel I was out there with her, raptor-watching at Flood & Waverly Roads. Sjbirds helps to create a real birding community spirit in our county. I'd love to see more posts, even if just brief comments with links to eBird checklists.

As a historical note, that sort of community spirit thrived at one of the first birding listservs, the mainly-US Birdchat. I've been a member almost since its inception in 1991. Commentary on bird evolution, conservation, birding gear, and much more related to wild birds supplemented trip reports to birding hotspots and bird migration highlights. Traffic on that listserv has been dramatically reduced, with so many more local and state choices plus eBird and Facebook, but some of the same contributors still offer memorable posts. And while I'm on this topic, let me mention your chapter's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sanjoaquinaudubon/. Take a look, enjoy the field trip photos, and join the conversation!"

Susan Schneider
President, San Joaquin Audubon Society

BIRD SIGHTINGS

February 15, 2018 - April 15, 2018

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Joanne Katanic found two male and one female **Barrow's Goldeneyes** on the monthly count at the Mokelumne Fish Hatchery on February 18th. One male was seen the day after. During the Wallace-Bellota Christmas bird count David Yee had seen **Barrow's Goldeneye** at the Fish Hatchery.

David Yee found a possible adult **Slaty-backed Gull** at the Koster Road Quarry Pond, February 18th.

After the February 24th, San Joaquin Audubon field trip to Medford Island, Ralph Baker and Chris Magana saw a **Eurasian Widgeon** along 8 Mile Road. It was still present February 25th. As of March 20th a **Eurasian Widgeon** was still present at the Isenberg Crane Preserve.

The **Blue-winged Teal** Dave Fries found February 27th was still present at Staten Island on March 5th.

On March 26th, David Yee picked out a **Pacific Golden-Plover**, in with about 100 Black-bellied Plovers at the Lodi Waste Treatment Plant. He saw it again on April 14th.

David Yee found a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at the Lodi Lake Wilderness area on March 31st, the appropriate time for them to migrate according to David.

David Yee saw an **Allen's Hummingbird** at his feeders, east of Lodi on April 4th. He also had a male **Calliope Hummingbird** at his feeders April 12th and 13th.

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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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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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Attn: Membership (Local)
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