

THE HOOT OWL



May / Jun 2019
Issue 3, Volume 57

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 10.

Annual Chapter Picnic Saturday, May 18

Save the date! On Saturday, May 18, 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, including officer elections. 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 15, 2019, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

This field trip is cosponsored by San Joaquin Audubon, San Joaquin County University of California Cooperative Extension and the North American Butterfly Association. San Joaquin Audubon joined in 1986, so this is our 33rd year of participation.

The count area includes Oak Grove Regional Park, Woodbridge Regional Park, Lodi Lake Wilderness Area and White Slough. (So we see many birds and other wildlife in the process of counting butterflies.)

All participants receive a free Summer Butterfly Guide, no previous experience required. For more information contact Kathy Schick 209-612-5130 or kschick2@gmail.com

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 4— *Medford Island*

Join leaders Peter Ottesen and Liz West on a tour of this 1,200-acre, private tract in the Delta, which has been converted from row crop farming to wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Once on Medford, we'll do a briefing, explain converting a flat tract to a riparian zone with more than 8,000 trees and ponds and discuss a little about how critters have responded. Snacks, beverages, clubhouse and restrooms provided, but bringing a lunch is suggested. Meet leaders at Panera Bread (10718 Trinity Pkwy, Stockton, near I-5 and Eight Mile RD) at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to the boat ramp for transport to the island. Please Phone or email trip leader Liz West to RSVP before by May 1st at (209) 351-1232, or email: elizwest@sbcglobal.net.

SATURDAY, May 4— *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 5— *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 10:00 a.m. at the Native Plant Garden, which is adjacent to the Robb Garden on University of the Pacific Stockton's south campus. The trip will last about 2 hours.

SATURDAY, May 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, May 18— *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, including officer elections. All are welcome to attend. (See announcement this page). Meet Joanne in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

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FIELD TRIPS

(Continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, May 19— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leaders Kathy and Virginia Bonham 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.

THURSDAY, May 23 — *Electra Road, Amador County*

Join leader Joanne Katanic to explore Electra Road, near Jackson off Highway 49. This will be an opportunity to see how the area is rejuvenating after recent year's fire. In the past this has been great spot to view newly arriving and breeding birds, including Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Yellow Warblers, Bullock's Orioles and Yellow-breasted Chat. For carpooling meet in the parking lot of Juli's Village Coffee Shop (Old U-J's), 700 E Victor Road (Hwy. 12), Lodi, at 7AM. Joanne Katanic - (209) 483-2578 (cell).

SATURDAY, June 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.

THURSDAY, 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 8 - SUNDAY, June 9 — *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 (<http://www.sierrahotsprings.org/>). Saturday, we will meet for breakfast at 7am at the Fork & Horn in Sierraville (530) 994-1070. We will leave promptly at 8am. Please phone or email trip leader Liz West to RSVP. (Liz's phone #: (209) 351-1232; email: elizwest@sbcglobal.net).

SATURDAY, June 8— *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, June 15— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leaders Kathy and Virginia Bonham 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 16— *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.

GLOBAL BIG DAY

Last May, more than 30,000 people took to fields and forests around the world, noting **more than 7,000 species in a single day—Global Big Day**. In only 3 weeks, birding's biggest day is coming back. Wherever you are in the world, you can be a part of birding's next world record!

On **4 May**, will you join more than 30,000 others and become a part of Global Big Day? You don't have to commit to birding for 24 hours—an hour or even 10 minutes of watching birds makes you part of the team. Visit your favorite spot or search out someplace new; enjoy a solo walk or get some friends to join in the Global Big Day fun.

How to participate:

Get an eBird account: eBird is a worldwide bird checklist program used by millions of birders. It's what allows us to compile everyone's sightings into a single massive Global Big Day list—while at the same time collecting the data for scientists to use to better understand birds. It's 100% free.

Watch the sightings roll in: During the day, keep an eye on how the lists are growing in different parts of the world. Follow along with sightings from more than 150 countries, including the Cornell Lab's Team Sapsucker in Florida, Alabama, and Texas. Stats will be updated in real-time on Ebird's Global Big Day Page.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Greetings, everyone. This will be my last column as President . . . I've enjoyed writing these musings, and hope you've enjoyed reading them. My last topic, however, is sobering: According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we humans have only about 10 years to cut global greenhouse gas emissions in half. We need to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. For a hopeful future for all people and all living things on the planet – birds included – let's do our best to meet this immense challenge.

As a scientist, engineer, and environmental activist, I've been following developments for decades, and have devoted most of my life for several years to assisting in the worldwide effort toward sustainability. We already have the science and technology we need; we just need to use them. I co-founded our county Climate Action Coalition, and San Joaquin Audubon is one of the affiliated organizations.

What can you do to help? Becoming well-informed is a good start. Among many great books, let me recommend *Cooler & Smarter: Practical Steps for Low-Carbon Living* (Union of Concerned Scientists) and *The Parents' Guide to Climate Revolution*, which is not just for parents. The website SkepticalScience.com answers any and all questions on climate change, covering every detail. For weekly e-newsletters, sharing good news as well as bad, Yale Climate Connections and the World Resources Institute are my favorites. Deep breath . . . onward.

Thanks, Susan

Feather mites may help clean birds' plumage, study shows

Feather mites help to remove bacteria and fungi from the feathers of birds, according to a new study by University of Alberta biologists. In fact, the relationship between these mites and their hosts could be considered mutualism, with bird feathers collecting food for mites to eat and mites providing the birds with healthier plumage.

Researchers analyzed the stomach contents of feather mites, and only found DNA associated with bacteria and fungi, not with bird feathers, suggesting that the mites may provide a service by removing pathogenic fungi and bacteria from feathers. Researchers said this may explain why birds observed to have the heaviest infestations of feather mites often have plumage which is in excellent condition.

Science News
March 28, 2019

BIRD SIGHTINGS

February 14, 2019 - April 12, 2019
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

David Yee found a **Pacific Golden-Plover** among some Black-bellied Plovers at the west end of Woodbridge Road on February 15th.

On a February 17th visit to the Koster Road quarry pond David Yee found an adult **Slaty-backed Gull** and two immature **Glaucous Gulls**. The **Slaty-backed Gull** continued at the pond or the Recology plant in Stanislaus County through February 23rd. At least one of the Glaucous gulls was present March 17th. On February 25th, Todd Easterle found a first cycle going into second cycle **Slaty-backed Gull** at the quarry pond.

On February 22nd while looking for the Slaty-backed Gull, Guy McCaskie, Paul Lehman, and Barbara Carlson saw a first cycle **Lesser Black-backed Gull** at the Koster Rd. quarry pond.

Also on February 22nd, Dave DeSante saw an adult **Black-headed Gull** near Highway 12 at the northeast corner of Bouldin Island.

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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/

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<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
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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
- Chapter Newsletter—electronic copy \$10

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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