

THE HOOT OWL



May / June 2021
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San Joaquin Audubon Society
San Joaquin Audubon Society

PROGRAMS

There will be no in-person general membership meetings until Covid-19 pandemic conditions allow. In the interim, we will do our best to offer programs via Zoom or other media.

TUESDAY, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

John Sterling

“Changes in Bird Distribution and Population in the Central Valley over the last 80 Years-PART 2”
VIRTUAL MEETING

For those of you who joined the Zoom program in April you will understand why we had to have a Part II, it was just not enough time to get through all of the birds and discussion. So, we decided to add a meeting in the month of May, which is traditionally a non-program meeting month, to finish this excellent presentation of John's. If you missed *Changes in Bird Distribution and Population in the Central Valley over the last 80 Years – Part I*, you can view it before watching Part II. You will find Part I at this link JohnSterlingPresentationMar2021.mp4

John will discuss the changes in our knowledge of bird distribution and population in the Central Valley since the publication of Grinnell and Miller's book on California birds in the 1940s. Loss of habitats, creation of new habitats, reduction of ranges, invasions of new species and other topics will be explored as we reconcile the fact that more species are detected now than prior to the book's publication.

John has birded extensively in California and is an authority on the state's avifauna. John has also traveled internationally as a guide and ornithologist for many institutions including projects as a Smithsonian ornithologist to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, The Philippines, Sumatra, Canada and Russia. John currently has his own company, Sterling Wildlife Biology (www.sterlingbirds.com), specializing in international birding tours, birding classes, research and environmental consulting for The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon's International Alliance Program, CA Dept. of Water Resources among other organizations.

FIELD TRIPS

All: Due to the ongoing pandemic, all regularly scheduled San Joaquin Audubon Society field trips will remain cancelled. We hope to resume as soon as Covid-19 pandemic conditions allow. Meanwhile, we hope you are all able to bird in the county and beyond, keeping your safety, and the safety of others in mind. As conditions continue to improve, we may announce a small number of limited outings. These will be for small groups and will follow COVID protocols of mask wearing and social distancing for everyone's safety. Please check for announcements in your email and on our website.

San Joaquin County Annual Summer Butterfly Count

Saturday, June 19, 2021, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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, and I have led the count in mid-June every year since then.

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.)

This field trip visits the same localities each year, surveying butterfly populations; we add to it by training (and retraining) all volunteers each year, so it is educational for participants. We provide all participants with our years of data as well as a local life-sized butterfly field guide. **See some of Kasey Foley's excellent photos of local butterflies on Page 3.**

We will do this year's trip on Saturday, June 19, 2021. Participants should plan to dress comfortably for walking and bring water and snacks. Bring Butterfly nets, books and binoculars if you have them. Anyone interested in participating in our Butterfly Count should contact me at kschick2@gmail.com. Thank you.

Kathy Schick

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 less than two 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 May 8, 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 birds on 8 May: It's that simple. You don't need to be a bird expert or go out all day long, even 10 minutes of birding from home counts. Global Big Day runs from midnight to midnight in your local time zone. You can report what you find from anywhere in the world.
- Enter what you see and hear in eBird: You can enter your sightings via our website or download the free eBird Mobile app to make submitting lists even easier. Please enter your checklists before 11 May to be included in our initial results announcement.
- 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.

ANNUAL CHAPTER PICNIC

Saturday, May 15

Join us for our General Membership Meeting and Picnic, this year we will be having elections to place a new president. We will do our monthly bird survey at 8:00 am and the picnic will start around 11:00 am. This will be our second sanctioned event since the pandemic. Although it will be outdoors, we will still want to socially distance ourselves and wear masks when appropriate. Please plan to bring your own food. If you want to bring food to share, please bring items which are individually wrapped. If the hatchery is open we will utilize the picnic tables there but plan to bring your own chairs to be sure we can remain a safe distance from each other. If the hatchery is still closed we will picnic in the northern-most parking lot (parking lot #3) which requires everyone to bring your own chairs so you will have somewhere to sit while eating and listening to the Board meeting. The actual survey itself, will begin at 8:00 am at the first parking lot (just inside the entrance). We will then drive to the location for the picnic and to conduct a few business items, including elections. Hope to see you there!

BIRD SIGHTINGS

February 15, 2021 - April 17, 2021
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Pat Paternostro photographed a **Barrow's X Common Goldeneye** at the Lodi Waste Treatment Plant on March 18th.

The **Yellow-billed Loon** continued in the Mokelumne River through March 2nd, but no longer publicly viewable from land.

On April 7th, Jim Rowoth saw a female **Costa's Hummingbird** at Kiln Canyon in Carnegie ORV park.

Kasey Foley found a **Clay-colored Sparrow** at the cemetery on Mackville Road, April 15th. See photo on Page 3. After a short time, it flew out of a brush pile never to be seen again.

Dorian Anderson saw a **Northern Shoveler X Blue-winged Teal** cross at the Tracy Sewage Ponds on April 17th. It is probably the same individual that was seen earlier in the month on Lost Slough at the Cosumnes River Preserve, in Sacramento County.

A few San Joaquin County butterflies, and one bird!



Anise Swallowtail, photo by Kasey Foley



Clay-colored Sparrow, photo by Kasey Foley



Lorquin's Admiral, photo by Kasey Foley



Large Marble butterfly, photo by Kasey Foley

Volunteers needed for Burrowing Owl Survey

The San Joaquin Audubon Society is organizing a countywide survey of breeding pairs of Burrowing Owl populations in the spring and summer of 2021. To accomplish this project, a number of volunteer birders will be needed. Burrowing Owls are a species of special concern in California. Their decline is due primarily to the loss of suitable habitat for breeding.

SJ County was last surveyed as part of a statewide survey done in 2006–07 and results published in 2010 as reported in the following link:

https://birdpop.org/docs/pubs/Wilkerson_and_Siegel_2010_Assessing_Changes_in_Dist_and_Abundance_of_B_UOW_in_CA.pdf.

The survey is done by dividing the county map into 5 km square blocks. It is estimated that the number of blocks in the county is about 150, not all of which have suitable habitat for the owls. All blocks where breeding pairs of owls were found in previous surveys or reported on eBird will be resurveyed. In addition, as many of the remaining blocks which have habitat deemed suitable for burrowing owl breeding will be investigated. Historically, the owl preferred grasslands but has adapted to other environments.

You don't have to be an expert birder to help with the project as some training will be made available to volunteers. Dates of the survey will extend from May 15 through June of 2021. Persons interested in participating in the project should contact David Fries, Conservation Chair of the SJ Audubon Society at dfries.audubon@gmail.com.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Pat Paternostro	President/Listserve Moderator
Vacant	President–elect
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Liz West	Treasurer
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Kasey Foley	Website, Programs
Kurt Mize	Newsletter Editor
Dave Fries	Conservation Chair

Website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Listserve: <http://groups.io/g/SJBirds>

Other California Birding E-mail Listserve

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

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

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

https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CSAS_Birds/info

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 quarterly *Audubon Magazine* and to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. 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—electronic copy \$15

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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