

THE HOOT OWL



November / December 2021
Issue 6, Volume 59

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.



Scenic southern Ecuador, photo by Kurt Mize

TUESDAY, November 9, 7:00 p.m.
VIRTUAL PROGRAM Via Zoom

Jim Rowoth

"Birding Southern Ecuador During the Pandemic"

In August, seven California birders headed to Ecuador for an 18-day adventure looking for southern Ecuador specialty birds. Led by John Sterling, three SJAS birders went along: Frances Oliver, Kurt Mize, and Jim Rowoth. Jim will take us along on this recent South American adventure.

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FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, November 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, November 20— Woodbridge Wilderness

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, November 21— Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery

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

SATURDAY, December 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.

SATURDAY, December 11— Flood and Waverly Roads

Join leader Pat Paternostro as we look for wintering raptors and other birds in the grasslands of eastern San Joaquin County. We will meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Rinaldi's Market, 4625 N. Duncan Rd., Linden. There will be limited walking, with most birding taking place car-side. Roads may be muddy so be prepared for that possibility. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY, December 12— 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 Liz and Joanne in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, December 18— Woodbridge Wilderness

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, December 19— Stockton Christmas Bird Count

Due to continuing pandemic safety concerns, we are not soliciting participation from our general membership this year. Instead, compilers will be reaching out to previous area leaders to firm up their participation so that all areas can receive at least basic coverage. We expect to have our post-count compilations via Zoom, which all will be able to tune into. More on this at our December Zoom meeting with David Yee.

PROGRAMS

(Continued from Page 1)

Flying from Quito to Cuenca, the group drove counter-clockwise, exploring both dry and wet cloud forests south to Loja and the Peruvian border and back to Loja, while also visiting alpine areas and inter-Andean valleys. From Loja, they flew back to Quito, then home to Sacramento. They stayed in a variety of lodges, encountered all types of weather, and observed well over 500 species of birds, from tinamous to puffbirds to bush-tyrants to chlorospinguses to saltators.

The avifauna of the Andes is fascinating in its variety. Species composition varies widely based on elevation, perhaps even more so than on latitude as in North America. In addition, there are many micro-biomes which are home to numerous range-restricted species of plants and animals.

Jim Rowoth has been a long-time active member of SJAS and world birder, especially since retirement at the end of 2014. He is a frequent field trip leader for SJAS, and has compiled the Stockton CBC for over 20 years. He also serves as eBird reviewer for San Joaquin Co., among other activities.

TUESDAY, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM Via Zoom

David Yee

"Christmas Bird Counts for the Central Valley and Adjacent Foothills"

Please join us for our annual presentation by David Yee, regarding the upcoming Stockton and Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Counts (CBC)—see Field Trips for dates. We will learn what to expect this winter and on this year's counts. This presentation is for beginning birders and advanced birders alike—we can all learn something from David's long-term birding experience and lifelong knowledge of our local birds and their trends, especially important during this time of climate change.

No need to sign up in advance.

The Zoom link will be on the sanjoaquinaudubon.org website prior to the meeting.

170,000 Tricolored Blackbirds Saved in 2021!



Tricolored Blackbird, photo by Matt Elyash

California Audubon is thrilled to report that 100% of the thirteen Tricolored Blackbird colonies located on agricultural fields across the San Joaquin Valley in California were protected this year!

The trill and white flash of the Tricolored Blackbird is an indelible part of landscapes across California, and especially in the Central Valley. Working closely with dairy producers, Audubon California has protected more than 170,000 birds in 2021.

Historically, Tricolored Blackbird colonies have hosted hundreds of thousands of birds. However, due to continued habitat loss, colonies have declined over the past decades. Audubon's 2019 report, [Survival by Degrees](#) found that Tricolored Blackbirds could lose up to a third of their current range even under the least severe climate change scenario. In years of drought, the Tricolored Blackbird's native habitat becomes even more limited, making the success of our program essential to the species' survival. This year, the largest colony detected was estimated to host around 30,000 birds.

Each spring and summer, Audubon California works with landowners and community partners to protect this species across the state. The initiative is a collaboration between farmers, agricultural associations, government agencies, researchers, and conservation organizations that recognize the importance of a multi-faceted and cooperative approach to promote the long-term survival of the Tricolored Blackbird. This program demonstrates the effectiveness of partnerships between conservation groups and agricultural interests to support farmers and protect birds.

We are grateful to our agricultural partners Western United Dairies, Farm Bureau, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and our Audubon community. Together, we've been able to protect 100% of the nesting Tricolored Blackbird colonies.

25TH ANNUAL CENTRAL VALLEY BIRDING SYMPOSIUM

November 19-20, 2021

You are welcome to join us for the 2021 Virtual 25th Central Valley Birding Symposium! This year, we are hosting an abbreviated virtual version of the symposium with many of your favorite speakers. Presentations include: Ed Pandolfino on changes in the status and distribution of breeding birds in Sacramento County, John Dunn on current issues in taxonomy, and Kimball Garrett on a half-century of change in birds, birding, and ornithology in California, as well as the always-popular bird identification panel, moderated by Ed Harper. In addition to having access to the program during and after the event, registration will renew your membership in the Central Valley Bird Club (CVBC). Registration is per family; a couple only has to register once to view the symposium on a single screen. Below is the link to the schedule and registration button.

<https://cvbirds-symposium.netlify.app/>

2022 Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival – January 13–17

On Martin Luther King Jr. weekend, more than 500 birders will visit Morro Bay, California (a Globally Important Bird Area), to see, photograph, and learn about birds. Morro Bay offers panoramic views of the Pacific Ocean, a federally protected estuary, plenty of beaches, parks and museums, and best of all, thousands of birds. Approximately 200 species are sighted each festival.

The 2022 Festival features 160 events over 5 days, including master classes, pelagic cruises, birding by boat and kayak, bus and car trips throughout San Luis Obispo County, day hikes, and many informative workshops. Birders of all levels are welcome. Young adults and teens are encouraged to participate. Registration fee is waived for attendees aged 17 and under.

Online registration begins Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 8:00 am Pacific Time. For newcomers, practice registration opens on October 30 at 8:00 am Pacific Time. Some events fill up fast, so have a list of your top choices.

Here's just a taste of what we will be offering in the 2022 festival.

- Field trips by bus
- Meet-you-there field trips
- Pelagic trips
- Boat trips
- Kayaking
- Meet the Raptors
- **NEW:** Master Classes

Follow us on Facebook and other social media at <https://www.facebook.com/MBWBF>. We'll keep you informed of updates, changes and new events as they occur.

Thank you for your continued support of the Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival. We look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Morro Bay Winter Bird Festival Board

BIRD SIGHTINGS

August 14, 2021 - October 20, 2021
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Fifteen members of San Joaquin and Stanislaus Audubon found two **Solitary Sandpipers** at Ripon Sewage Ponds on August 14. On August 17, Kathy and Virginia Bonham found one at Lodi Sewage Ponds.

Rosemarie Richardson saw a **Marbled Godwit** at Staten Island on September 3. On September 7, Konshau Duman had three **Marbled Godwits** in a flooded field at Staten Island. Konshau also found a **Semipalmated Sandpiper** on Staten Island on September 8. The **Semipalmated Sandpiper** was last reported on September 10.

Dan Lehman saw a female **Hooded Merganser** at the Ripon Sewage Ponds on September 11.

Konshau Duman reported an **American Golden-Plover** in the closed portion of Staten Island on September 22.

David Yee found an immature **Baltimore Oriole**, September 22, at Lodi Lake. It was feeding in the vicinity of Pigs Lake.

On September 27, Jim Rowoth saw a **Hammond's Flycatcher** at Lodi Lake. Jim R. and Rondine Mandrum reported a Hammond's to eBird on October 13, possibly the same individual.

John Harris photographed a Sage Thrasher on Waverly Rd. north of Highway 4 on October 20.

It looks like this winter is going to be an irruption year for **Lewis's Woodpeckers**, several groups of 4 or 5 birds were present at Mokelumne Day Use area during the San Joaquin Audubon field trip.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

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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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P.O. Box 7755

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