

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2022
Issue 1, Volume 60

San Joaquin Audubon Society
San Joaquin Audubon Society

PROGRAMS

There will be NO general membership meeting in January, 2022.

TUESDAY, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Presentation

Chris Conard

“Changes in local bird populations over 25 years (and it's not all depressing)”

If you've been birding for two decades or more, many things you took for granted about where and when certain birds were found have changed--some subtly and some quite profound. Chris began seriously birding and learning about local bird populations 25 years ago. That is a relatively short time, but long enough to notice significant changes, both in bird distribution and the habitat they depend on. There are as many stories of surprising resilience as there are of depressing loss. Working with Ed Pandolfino, Lily Douglas, and Tim Manolis on *Sacramento County Breeding Birds: A Tale of Two Atlases and Three Decades of Change*, brought much of this into focus. Since the book's publication earlier this year, Chris has been thinking about changes he's observed throughout the seasons. Why are geese so much more numerous, Swainson's Hawks holding their own, Say's Phoebes and Western Bluebirds breeding where they hadn't before? At the same time, Burrowing Owls and Loggerhead Shrikes are much harder to find. These changes are driven by human impacts, and some are not fully understood. There have been impressive restoration efforts, habitat loss, changes in winter temperatures, fog, and agricultural practices. Bird populations reflect these changes.

Chris Conard is a natural resource specialist at the Sacramento County Bufferlands and a longtime volunteer with Sacramento Audubon and the Central Valley Bird Club.

FIELD TRIPS

SUNDAY, January 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.

SATURDAY, January 15— 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, January 16— Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery

Join leader 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, February 5— Introductory Birding Field Trip

Join leader Jim Rowoth 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, February 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 7:00 a.m. at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates.

SATURDAY, February 19— 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, February 20— 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.

New Lodi Lake Signage

The San Joaquin Audubon Society has created a new introductory birding sign at Lodi Lake featuring color pictures of many of the birds found within the nature area. Next time you are at the nature area, stop and take a look.



15th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival

Saturday, February 5, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A CELEBRATION OF BIRDS

Free Admission
Free Childrens Activities All Day
Educational Vendors
Live Wild Animal Presentation
Photography Exhibit
Youth Art Contest

NEW BIRD PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT

Celebrate the beauty of birds while sharing your photography. Submit your artwork to be showcased in the Bird Photography Exhibit.

NEW VIRTUAL EXPERIENCES

Receive virtual instruction from artist John Muir Laws and create a drawing masterpiece.

Enjoy a "Behind Locked Gates" tour by Consumnes River Preserve.

PRESENTATIONS

Conservation Ambassador, Gabriel Kerschner
Cal-Waste, Leesa Klotz
Hawks, Honkers and Hoots, Kelli Moulden
Going Batty, Corky Quirk
Keynote Speaker, John Ehrenfeld

ENGAGING TOURS

Tall Forest, Dr. John Trochet
Delta Birding Tour, Chris Conard
Staten Island Sunset Tour, Emily Wells
Cal Waste Recovery Systems Materials Tour
Guided Photography Walk, Cosumnes River Preserve
Tracks and Scat Walk, Cosumnes River Preserve



Tundra Swan

Chabolla Community Center

610 Chabolla Avenue
Galt, CA 95632

Space is limited, sign up for tours now at
www.ci.galt.ca.us/WBF or for more
information call: 209.366.7180



Stockton Christmas Bird Count 2021 Results

San Joaquin Audubon Society tallied at least 140 species on Sun, Dec 19, 2021. "Big misses" include Western Sandpiper, Cattle Egret, Cinnamon Teal, Tricolored Blackbird, American Avocet. These are all species that are known to be out there; they just didn't check in with us on count day. The one big surprise was the relatively large number of reports of Lewis's Woodpecker, which normally does not visit the central valley floor. Birders first started noticing their presence over a month ago. This "irruption" is apparently related to poor acorn production in their normal foothill range and the bonus year for acorns at locations along the Mokelumne River.

The Stockton CBC has been held annually since 1968, with the sole exception of 2020 (due to COVID restrictions). For much of the 1990s, we averaged 150 species or more. Since 2000, our numbers have dropped to the 140s. There are various factors for the decline in species diversity—habitat loss/degradation due to development and agriculture, chronic drought due to climate change, West Nile virus, etc. This long-running citizen science project is conducted throughout North America and in recent years has spread into South America as well. The data base is used for a variety of research purposes.

Gardening for wildlife enhances bird diversity beyond your own backyard

Across the United States, bird populations are declining due to decreases in availability of habitat. Recently, a team of scientists explored the value of the biggest chunk of green space found in cities -- residential yards -- as wildlife habitat. The research was co-lead by USDA Forest Service Research Ecologist Susannah Lerman and Post-Doctoral Researcher Desirée L. Narango from City University of New York and University of Massachusetts. Together with partners they conducted bird diversity observations in four residential yard types and in natural parks in six cities with distinctly different climate conditions: Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Los Angeles, CA; Miami, FL; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN; and Phoenix, AZ.

The researchers found similar patterns in all six cities; although urban parks support more species of conservation concern compared with yards, yards certified as wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation's certification program support a wider variety of bird species compared with more traditional yard landscaping (e.g., lawn-dominated yards.) This suggests that landscape management for wildlife can contribute to region-wide bird diversity. The study also considered public interest levels based on Google searches and bird sightings and found that yards supported more popular species compared with parks.

"This study shows that when people landscape with wildlife in mind, householders can contribute to conservation right in their own back yards," said Lerman, who is with the Forest Service's Northern Research Station. "And our yards often support some of our most beloved backyard birds."

USDA Forest Service - Northern Research Station. "Gardening for wildlife enhances bird diversity beyond your own backyard." ScienceDaily. ScienceDaily, 26 October 2021.
<www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/10/211026094324.htm>.

Birds of San Joaquin County Laminated Brochure

The San Joaquin Audubon Society is excited to announce the creation of a new laminated brochure, Birds of San Joaquin County and Surrounding Areas with beautiful artwork by Rene Reyes and funding provided by the Webster Foundation. This is an educational, photo identification brochure which depicts many of the common bird species you may find in your own backyard, also many pictures depict both male and female birds to illustrate differences in markings. The goal of the San Joaquin Audubon Society is to make the brochure available for anyone interested in learning more about birds living around us, especially to educate school aged children within our community. Thank you to all members who worked on this project.

Great Backyard Bird Count

February 18-21, 2022

Each February, for four days, the world comes together for the love of birds. Over these four days people are invited to spend time in their favorite places watching and counting as many birds as they can find and reporting them. These observations help scientists better understand global bird populations before one of their annual migrations.

Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) was the first online citizen science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real time. In 2013, we became a global project when we began entering data into eBird, the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science (community science) project.

Visit our website (www.birdcount.org) to help make your 4-day count easy, clear, and inspiring! No matter what corner of the world you live-in or visit, you can share in your joy of birdwatching.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an inter-organizational effort between the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**, **National Audubon Society**, and **Birds Canada**. We work together to bring the joys of bird watching to our members.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 21, 2021 - December 15, 2021
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Lucas Stephenson, Marc Stephenson, and Lucas Corneliussen reported at least three **Lapland Longspurs** and at least two **Chestnut-collared Longspurs** at the intersection of Flood and Waverly Roads on October 31. A single **Lapland Longspur** and a single Chestnut-collared Longspur were reported on November 27th.

Suga Moriwaki photographed a **Surf Scoter** at the Gerardot Stables Pond on November 12th.

Pat Paternostro, Jim Rowoth, and Kasey Foley alerted by a different chip located a **Pacific Wren** during the beginning bird walk on December 4th. Everyone on the field trip was able to see the wren.

Lewis's Woodpeckers continue in good numbers in the east part of the county. David Yee during his CBC talk for San Joaquin Audubon mentioned that he saw some on Viaggio Winery grounds along with a **Chipping Sparrow**.

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Donna Marciano	President
Pat Paternostro	Past President/Listserve Moderator
Alan England	Secretary/Membership
Liz West	Treasurer
Srini Raman	Field Trips
Amy Weiser	Director at Large
Jim Rowoth	Director at Large
Rebecca Severin	Director at Large
Ernie Maier	Director at Large
Kasey Foley	Website, Programs
Kurt Mize	Newsletter Editor
Dave Fries	Conservation Chair
Susan Schneider	Education 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

Attn: Membership (Local)

P.O. Box 7755

Stockton, CA 95267

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

The Hoot Owl is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.