**Fall**

While diminished from historical levels, the county still hosts some salmon runs. The Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery at the base of Camanche Dam offers excellent viewing. The fall run is often good.

Dapper Cedar Waxwings arrive, flocking across the county all winter, making attractive high-pitched trilling sounds. Often heard before they’re seen, they’re worth a look. They love berries, and can be found enjoying the Chinese Pistache and other berry trees common in our cities.

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And before you know it, the cranes arrive again as the cycle begins anew!
**Winter**

Wintering raptors - Our own Flood & Waverly region on the east side of the county is one of the best spots in the Central Valley for hawks and other birds of prey. Highlights often include Golden Eagles, Ferruginous Hawks, and Prairie Falcons, and some are usually easy to find and admire. San Joaquin Audubon runs field trips here.

National Audubon’s Christmas Bird Count - the longest-running citizen science project in the world. San Joaquin Audubon has sponsored two count circles since the 1960s. Over 140 species of birds are found each year at both locations - in just one day. Come join us! Watch our website for the dates.

**Spring**

Throughout the county, Anna’s Hummingbirds nest in winter and do a dive display year-round. Males climb over 100 feet and swoop down, producing a chirping sound at the bottom with their tail feathers. They may repeat the show over ten times in a row.

Our native California Buckeye is one of many flowering plants that make our springtime special. Oak Grove Regional Park’s native plant garden is a good place to enjoy them.

Swallowtail Butterflies are a graceful and colorful sign of spring. Western Tiger Swallowtails are common even in Stockton, and Pipevine Swallowtails aren’t too much harder to find.

**Summer**

Swainson’s Hawks migrate north in early spring each year, and you can often view them soaring overhead throughout the county. If you’re lucky, you’ll see a “kettle,” a loose concentration of just a few to over 100 riding a rising thermal wind pattern together to gain height. Some breed locally; then the large flocks return south in late summer.

View Mexican Free-tailed Bats at the Cosumnes River Preserve bridge south of the Nature Center just over the county line. About 30,000 breed there, a spectacular sight emerging at dusk. While it’s still light, you might see hawks in pursuit. August is best.