

# THE HOOT OWL



May / June 2008  
Issue 3, Volume 46

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
Affiliated with the National Audubon Society-California

## Meetings

There will be no general membership meetings during our regular summer hiatus (May through August). The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 11.

## Birds on the Dole

"People dish out 500,000 metric tons of birdseed each year in the United States and the United Kingdom, enough to support millions of songbirds." Probably you are one of the many watchers of birds who add to this scatter in your attempt to bring the birds in closer for your enjoyment. Cornell even has a "Project Feeder Watch" for this well established human behavior. At least one recent study has attempted to put this practice into perspective.

Gillian Robb, an ecologist at Queen's University Belfast in the U.K., and her colleagues gathered as much information as they could about supplemental feeding for species from sparrows to owls. It was found that most birds that got extra food survived the winter better, bred earlier and had more offspring. One experiment done in Northern Ireland, where they gave peanuts to dozens of blue tits at five woodland sites and let the birds fend for themselves at the other five sites, confirmed the other studies. The birds that nibbled peanuts all winter fledged more chicks in the spring.

Other studies reviewed did expose some problems such as the Florida scrub jays which ate too much in winter and had eggs hatch before natural food sources were available for the young. A rarely studied potential problem would be that year-round resident birds could deplete the natural food supplies and so get a head-start on breeding by eating the extra food in the winter. Returning migrants could be at a disadvantage. This possibility needs more study.

Another worry is that the practice could have adverse human impacts if the birdseed is grown in regions where farmers and other residents need more human food. The environmental effects of growing the food (fertilizer etc) and transporting the bird food great distances has not been studied. Most of those doing the research do not call for an end to bird feeding but do call for more experimental research

The original article entitled "Birds on the Dole" by Elsa Youngsteadt can be found in the April 4 "Science NOW Daily News" ([science.now.sciencemag.org](http://science.now.sciencemag.org)) and this was edited by Education Chair Steve Stocking

## Field Trips

### **SATURDAY, May 3—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

Join leader Jim Rowoth for a leisurely stroll on the trails of the Lodi Lake "wilderness" area. Meet at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (east of Lodi Lake Park off of Turner Road). Birders of all skill levels are welcome but the focus will be on birding basics.

### **SUNDAY, May 4—White Slough**

Meet Jim Rowoth (956-2648, [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) at 7 am at Park 'n Ride at I-5 and Hwy 12. Bring water, snack, sunscreen & hat. We'll hike at least as far as the third pond (Pond 11) and perhaps beyond searching for spring migrants. For more info, review chapter 3 in *Birding In and Around San Joaquin Co.*

### **SATURDAY, May 17—Stillman Magee County Park**

Contact lead counter Jim Rowoth (956-2648, [rowoth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rowoth@sbcglobal.net)) for meeting time and place. This visit should be good for spring migrants and nesters. Want to know more? See chapter 21 in *Birding In and Around San Joaquin Co.*

### **SUNDAY, May 18—Annual Chapter Picnic**

At the Mokelumne River Day Use Area/Fish Hatchery. 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. After you go in the unmanned entrance gate on your left, turn right and follow the gravel road to the end and park. We will start our walk from here.

### **SATURDAY, June 7—Introductory Birding Field Trip**

Meet leader Walt McInnis at 8 a.m. on Laurel Ave. next to Lodi Lake (see above for more details).

### **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, June 13-15—Sierra Valley**

Join leaders Dave Wagner and Walt McInnis for this 2 or 3 night camping/motel outing to the magnificent Sierra Valley. Expect to see breeding Greater Sandhill Cranes, Yellow-headed blackbirds, White-faced Ibis, and many other water & marsh birds. The nearby Yuba Pass area has some fairly rare nesting sapsuckers, woodpeckers.

Camping is available in a number of places along Hwy 89 from Truckee. The one Dave recommends is Cottonwood Creek Campground, only about 5 minutes drive from Sierra Valley. It's very clean, well-maintained, and *quiet*. The 3a map Sierra Nevada-Lake Tahoe area one shows the area and route best.

For information on Sierra Valley motels, call Dave Wagner at 943-6997, ([dajwagner@aol.com](mailto:dajwagner@aol.com)). If you plan to go, please call either Dave or Walt McInnis 834-8165 ([walt@inreach.com](mailto:walt@inreach.com)), as we would like to know how many are going and also to arrange possible car-pooling.

(Continued on Page 3)

The Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy\*  
Presents:

Bring  
lawn chairs and blankets!

THE 1ST ANNUAL

# WALDO MUSIC FEST



SATURDAY • MAY 31 • 2008  
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- wine, art and MORE -

CALAVERAS RIVER BANK • 3536 RAINIER AVE.  
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Tickets \$25 at these Stockton locations:

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**Java Aroma/Empire Theatre,** 1825 Pacific Ave.  
**Simply Charming,** 2113 Pacific Ave.  
**Blackwater Annex,** 13 S. San Joaquin St.

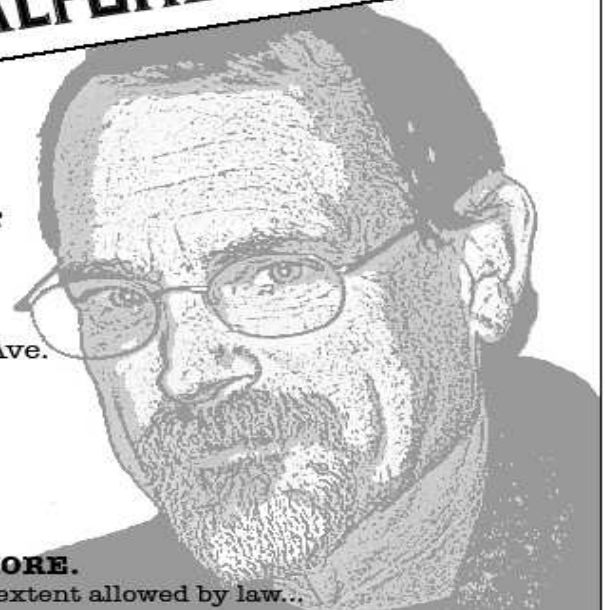
**INFO: Eric at (209) 462-4808 or**  
email [friends@waldoconservancy.org](mailto:friends@waldoconservancy.org)

**DONATION AT THE DOOR \$25, or MUCH MORE.**

Donations to this fund are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law...

\*a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation legacy of Waldo Holt through the purchase of wildlife habitat. Go to <http://www.waldoconservancy.org> for more information.

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment has set up a special fund to help the Waldo Holt Conservancy raise tax-deductible contributions to preserve sensitive habitat in San Joaquin County. Donations to this fund are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Make your check payable to: **Rose Foundation/Waldo Holt Fund**. For more information about the **Rose Foundation** and its programs, please visit [www.rosefdn.org](http://www.rosefdn.org).





**RIVER WALK** (formerly Willow Slough)  
SAT., May 10, at 5:30 a.m., and SAT.,  
June 14, at 5:15 a.m. Meet at the  
Visitor's Center.

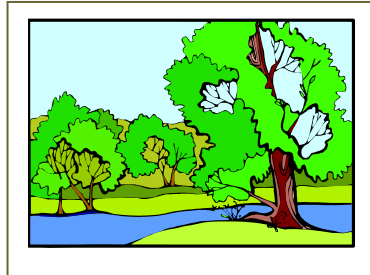
With John Schick (209)464-8304

**TALL FOREST**

SAT., May 17, at 5:30 a.m., and SAT.,  
June 21, at 5:15 a.m. Meet at the Farm  
Center.

With John Trochet (916)684-2816, ext. 5

*Please call as schedules often change*



**MOKELUMNE  
RIVER  
MONTHLY BIRD  
CENSUS**

**LODI LAKE**

May and June dates uncertain at time of printing.

Contact Kurt Mize, 957-0676, for more information.

**MOKELUMNE RIVER DAY USE AREA**

May and June dates uncertain at time of printing.

Contact Liz West, 744-0218, for more information.

**STILLMAN MAGEE COUNTY PARK**

May and June dates uncertain at time of printing.

Contact Jim Rowoth, 956-2648, for more information.

*Please call as schedules often change*



**Field Trips**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

**SATURDAY, June 21—Calaveras Big Trees State Park**

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264, [k1mize@aol.com](mailto:k1mize@aol.com)) for this visit to one of California's oldest and most beautiful state parks. We'll be on the lookout for local specialties and breeding migrants. Bring drinks, a picnic lunch, mosquito repellent, and sunscreen. We'll picnic by the river. Meet at the park in the North Grove parking lot at 8:30 a.m., or at the Country Café in Lockeford at 7:00 a.m. if you wish to carpool.



**San Joaquin County Annual Summer Butterfly Count**  
**Saturday, June 21**

This family-friendly field trip is a cooperative project of the San Joaquin Audubon Society, the University of California Cooperative Extension, and the North American Butterfly Association.

We begin at 8 a.m. at the Nature Center in Oak Grove Regional Park. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes (bring hats, sunscreen, water and lunch). No experience is necessary, however, we encourage experienced butterfly counters to bring their nets and field guides. We normally finish at around 4 p.m. or earlier in very hot weather. Visit the NABA website at <http://www.naba.org/counts.html> to learn more about all the counts. Ours is one of the original counts, which were set up 33 years ago, the very first year butterfly counts were held. There is a \$3.00 charge to NABA for each butterfly count participant.

The Cosumnes River Butterfly Count (Cosponsored by The Nature Conservancy) will be held on the following Saturday, June 28. These two count areas border on each other and all volunteers are welcome to help at either.

For more information, please contact Kathy Schick at (209)464-8304 or [kaschick@berkeley.edu](mailto:kaschick@berkeley.edu) if you plan to attend or if you have questions about these events.

# San Joaquin Audubon Society

Jerre Murphy                    President  
Alan England                    Secretary  
Dennis Smith                    Treasurer  
Walt McInnis                    Conservation/President-elect  
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Dave Wagner                     Director at Large

Kasey Foley                      Membership, Website  
Steve Stocking                    Education  
Sandi Schoeppe                    Hospitality  
Cheri Pillsbury                    Listserve Moderator

*New website:* [www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org](http://www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org)

## Calif. Bird Alerts

Central Valley                    916-783-2331  
No. California                    415-681-7422  
Monterey                         831-626-6605  
Morro Bay                         805-528-7182  
So. California                    818-952-5502  
Santa Barbara                    805-964-8240  
Los Angeles                      323-874-1318  
San Diego                         619-688-2473

Joint membership in National Audubon and San Joaquin chapter includes a subscription to both *Audubon* magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to:

San Joaquin Audubon  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

*(Renewals should be mailed directly to National Audubon per renewal notice.)*

Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
Basic Family;	\$35	Lifetime (ind.):	\$1000
Newsletter only: (non-member)	\$10	Lifetime (fam.):	\$1500

Notice: "Newsletter only" yearly dues have increased

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

San Joaquin Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 7755  
Stockton, CA 95267

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