

THE HOOT OWL



May / June 2010
Issue 3, Volume 48

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 14.

CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK ASSOCIATION – SEMINARS FOR THE 2010 SEASON

All of these are on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon. There is a Park Entrance fee for each car, but no fee for the seminars which are in Jack Knight Hall near the Visitor Center.

Saturday, May 1: Dr. Tom Hofstra from the Biology Department at Columbia College will present a program on the Fungi of the area. Last year his program about the lichens was immensely popular!

Saturday, May 22: Dr. Paul Ustach of Delta College Science Division will present on the Reptiles and Amphibians of the Sierra. He has been bringing his biology students to Big Trees for several years and is a reptile specialist.

Saturday, September 25: Michael Wurtz, Archivist of the John Muir Papers at U.O.P. will present a program on John Muir and the Big Trees. John made two visits to Calaveras Big Trees. A new book on the history of the Calaveras Grove will soon be out.

Saturday, October 2: Dr. Harry Sharp, retired from Cal Poly and a docent in the coastal redwood parks will present his program on "Exploring Life at the Top". This program is about the findings of the scientist climbers who have been studying "what is up, up there".

For More information contact Stave Stocking, Calaveras Big Trees Association board chair for seminars at snlsox@earthlink.net

Field Trips

SATURDAY, May 1—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Susan Schneider 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.

SUNDAY, May 2—*Stockton Rural Cemetery*

We'll seek out the spring birds at this peaceful urban oasis. Meet leader Jim Rowoth at the entrance at the N end of Cemetery Lane at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, May 11—*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, May 29—*Calaveras Big Trees State Park*

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264, k1mize@aol.com) for our annual 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.

SATURDAY, June 5—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

See May 1 announcement, above. Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648, rowoth@sbcglobal.net) at the north end of Laurel Ave. in at 8:00 a.m.

FRI-SUN, June 18-20—*Sierra Valley/Yuba Pass Field Trip*

The Sierra Valley and Yuba Pass areas offer great habitat for birds with many lakes, meadows, marshes, streams, rivers and trees. Call Dave Wagner (209-943-6997) or Walt McInnis (209-835-8165) for details and to RSVP. We will actually meet at the The Round-up Café (530-994-3704), Hwy 89 & 49. in the town of Sierraville on *Saturday* morning, June 19, at 7:30 a.m. Restaurant phone # 530-994-3704.

Recommended driving route to the area: Interstate 80 to Truckee, and north on Hwy 89 to the Sierra Valley area. Recommended campground: Cottonwood Creek Campground, about 5 miles from Sierraville on Hwy 89 from Truckee. This campground is quiet, no reservations necessary, and has excellent birding habitat. For information on other lodging in Sierraville, call Dave.

The Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy Presents:

the 3RD ANNUAL
WALDO • MUSIC • FEST

3536 RAINIER AVE., STOCKTON
ON THE BANKS of the CALAVERAS RIVER

JUNE 5, 2010

NOON 'til 6 PM

SILENT AUCTION



MUSIC



FOOD, ART



MORE!

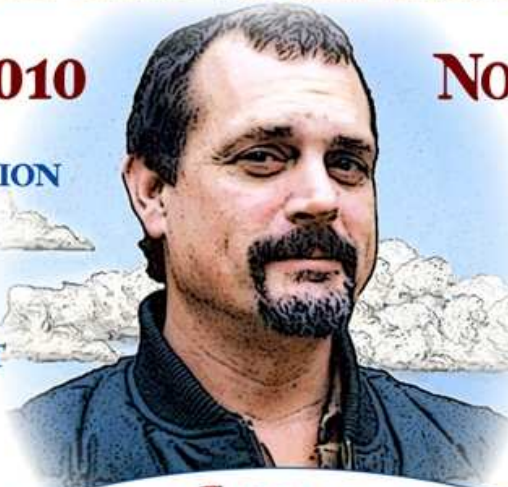
TICKETS \$25



KIDS FREE!



BRING
YOUR LAWN
CHAIRS!



FEATURING LOCAL FAVORITES

DAVE HALFORD



SNAP JACKSON

and
the

KNOCK ON WOOD PLAYERS



WATER BROS.



DIRK HAMILTON



for more information, visit:
www.waldoconservancy.org



Proceeds benefit the Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy
- dedicated to preserving riparian habitat in San Joaquin County -

ALIENS IN PARADISE

It is difficult to visualize how small seeds could get to Hawai'i until we remember how long they had to accomplish the feat and how much help they had. The earliest plants to arrive did so in a haphazard manner through long distance dispersal with the help of wind, water, and most importantly birds. Most recently the process has been speeded up by us humans who have brought many more plants which now compete with the early arrivals.

Endemics are those species found in one geographical area and nowhere else. There are lots of these in areas which are called "hotspots" such as the Hawaiian Islands and the rest of Polynesia. This area also has a human population which is growing more rapidly than the world rate. Many areas have been cleared of their endemic plant communities through conversion to cattle grazing, agricultural crops such as sugar cane (in the past) macadamia nuts, mangos, papayas and now the golf courses and other tourism-related development. We have all heard of what has happened to many of the native birds of Hawai'i when introduced birds brought avian malaria to which the native species had evolved no resistance. We have not heard as much about the native flora.

Of the 950 species of flowering plants in Hawai'i, almost 90% are endemic. Many extinctions have already occurred and other species are endangered. We don't often think about the fact that so many of the plants which we see in Hawai'i such as plumerias, anthuriums, palms, gingers, and orchids are all introduced by humans. In Hawai'i Volcanos National Park there is an active program to try to remove the ginger plants which grow so rampantly that they crowd out the seedlings of the native forest trees.

Heroic efforts are being made to protect the silverswords and their relatives (28 species in three genera, all believed to have descended from a California tarweed that colonized the islands millions of years ago). The Mauna Kea Silversword, Argyroxiphium sandwicense is found only on that one volcanic peak in Haleakala Crater on the island of Maui. These have now been protected from feral goats which had been eating the plants. Another is the yucca-like Wilkesia gymnoxiphium which grows only in dry scrub areas on the edge of Waimea Canyon on the island of Kauai. The 28 species have taken many shapes and forms as they adapted to very different habitats on the islands. These species are all unique genetically and have value esthetically, biologically and possibly even economically. They are worth protecting.

Mahalo,
Steve Stocking – Education Chair

BIRD SIGHTINGS

Mid-February, 2010 - April 18, 2010
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

Steve Huckabone saw an early Western Kingbird at W. Vernalis Rd. on February 15.

On February 21, Matthew Dodder and his Palo Alto birding class found a Purple Finch at the Mokelumne river fish hatchery. They also saw a Slate-colored Junco.

February 25: Pat and Dave Croft were at the Mokelumne river fish hatchery and saw "lots" of Violet-green Swallows moving through.

David Yee found the continuing Harlan's Hawk at Thornton Rd. on February 28.

On the last day of February, Chris Conard and his Sacramento Audubon field trip to the Mokelumne river fish hatchery re-found the White-throated Sparrow that he had seen in January.

At the intersection of Flood and Waverly roads, Cherry Pillsbury counted 1500 Long-billed Curlews on March 7.

At the end of the Mokelumne River fish hatchery count on March 13, Lynette Buckman re-found a Townsend's Solitaire working the grassy area next to the asphalt parking lot. Liz West, Joanne Katanic, and Virginia and Kathy Bonham also saw it. According to David Yee this is probably the same one found in the cottonwoods north of the river in November. It was last seen by Jean and Terry Ronneburg March 16.

On March 30 Dan Williams found two Pacific Golden-plovers and a Whimbrel at Lodi Sewage Ponds. On April 1, Linda Pittman saw the Whimbrel but not the plovers.

On April 11, Sal Salerno found a Sage Sparrow, which is a rare bird for the valley floor, at Caswell Memorial State Park.

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

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Stockton, CA
Permit #450

Address Service Requested

San Joaquin Audubon Society

Walt McInnis	President
Alan England	Secretary
Dennis Smith	Treasurer
Jerre Murphy	Director at Large
Susan Schneider	Director at Large
Jim Rowoth	Director at Large
Lorna Elness	Director at Large
Liz West	Director at Large
Dave Wagner	Director at Large
Kasey Foley	Membership, Website
Steve Stocking	Education
Kurt Mize	Newsletter Editor
Cheri Pillsbury	Listserve Moderator

New website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

Calif. Bird Alerts

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

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