



THE HOOT OWL

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY FEBRUARY 1991

VOL 29 #1

SAT. JAN 27. MICKIES GROVE BIRD WALK. Meet leader James Rexroth at 8am at Burns Tower, U.O.P. to car pool. Look for Varied Thrush, Winter Wren, Hutton's Vireo and others seen there recently. 951- 6260 for information.

SAT. FEB. 9. Cosumnes River Monthly Census. Call J. Schick 464-7083.

TUE. FEB. 12. BIRDS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC: MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM.

A special program to be presented by Don Roberson who recently spent four months in the South Pacific on a research trip. Don is both an excellent photographer and an author of bird books. Bring a friend. 7:30 at United Methodist Church, just across Pacific Avenue from U.O.P. Good parking, refreshments and associates.

SAT. FEB. 16. SALT SPRINGS RESERVOIR RAPTOR TRIP. A great location for Bald Eagles, Mt. Bluebirds and others. Meet at 7:30 am at the Schicks, 940 North Argonaut in Stockton. bring a lunch. 464-7083.

FEB 15-17. 12th Annual Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference. Conference coincides with the presence of wintering waterfowl and eagles as well as the largest snow storm of the winter. Register early: Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference, Charlotte Opp, Registration 5873 Estate Drive, Klamath Falls, OR. 97603.

SAT. MAR. 9. Cosumnes River Monthly Census. Call John Schick 464-7083.

TUE. MAR. 12. BIRDS OF MONTANA: MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM. Another special program for our members and guests to be presented by Ed Harper who is well known in the Sacramento area for his photography and naturalist skills. He is a native of Montana who returns there often to bird and photograph nature. 7:30pm at United Methodist Church. Turn off the TV and turn out.

SAT. MAR. 16. KNIGHTS FERRY BIRD AND FLOWER TRIP. We will walk up the river trail east from the old covered bridge. We will also check out some of the area reservoirs should they hold any water.. Meet at Burn's Tower U.O.P. Call leader Steve Stocking 465-2729 for information.

HISTORY REPEATS AT OAK GROVE PARK

Some of you may recall that we had to go to the San Joaquin County Supervisors back in 1975 when inappropriate plans were made for the development of the then new Oak Grove Regional Park. The Supervisors then decided that the south half of the Park would be kept in a natural condition. Recently an extensive experimental planting of seedling oaks was made in this area with very little public participation. This was not an attempt at revegetation, but an experiment to see how seedlings would grow with various treatments. (Others have been doing revegetation.) Recently many persons have expressed serious concerns about the health of many of the large trees in the grove. Some trees are dead and others in poor health, possibly due to the conditions of drought. But, as far as we can discern, nothing is being done about this. We believe that there has been poor communication with the public on these issues and that a Committee should be formed by the Park Department to discuss such issues before they become contentious. Steve Stocking for the "Oak Alliance"



Trip leader George Welch was joined by a small group early Oct. 21 to check out White Slough wildlife area. We got good, but fleeting looks as several Marsh wrens among the reeds. Other sightings included an American bittern, a barn owl, a pair of pied-billed grebes, a common Yellowthroat, a common moorhen, Kites, harriers, and Savannah sparrows. The true highlight was when George coaxed both sora and Virginia rails to respond to a tape of their calls. Lucky Waldo got a look at a Virginia, but the whole group got an extended, clear view of a sora parading back and forth through the reeds.

Our October Lewellen Ranch trip provided a good variety of birds for those birders who came out. Species of note were Black-crowned night heron, Ruby-crowned kinglets, Or-crowned warbler, W. blue birds, a Ca towhee, fox and white crowned sparrows, and a hermit thrush. However the two species of greatest interest proved to be the Sharp-shinned hawks and Golden eagles. Rarely do you get such good looks at these magnificent raptors.

MOUNTAIN LIONS UNCAGED!

An exciting new project has begun at Micke Grove Zoo. They are in the process of re-locating their mountain lions to a free-roaming, naturalist wildlife enclosure. This will provide both a more aesthetically pleasing view of the animals for visitors to the Zoo and an environment more conducive to natural behavior among these large cats. In order to provide this enclosure, friends of the Micke Grove Zoological Society need to raise \$150,00 in tax-deductible donations. If you can help with this much needed project, make your check payable to the Micke Grove Zoological Society and send it to 11793 N. Micke Grove Road, Lodi, Ca. 95240.

Botany 12

INSTRUCTOR: S. STOCKING



Spring Semester
Delta College

3 Units 2 Field Trips

COSUMNES PRESERVE

The Friends of the Cosumnes River Preserve is a volunteer group whose goals are to support the Preserve and the organizations which maintain and manage the preserve. (These include Ducks Unlimited). This is accomplished by providing support, labor, and funds through members of the Friends group. If you would like to become a member of the group and receive the quarterly newsletter and regular announcements of preserve activities, write FCRP, Cosumnes River Preserve, 6500 Desmond Road, Galt, Ca. 95632 for an application form.

A docent group to provide occasional weekend tours is now forming at the Preserve. Docents will be trained on three consecutive Saturday mornings in March from 9 to 1 at the preserve just north of Thornton. On March 9, March 16, and March 23, those interested will learn the natural history of this beautiful riparian area. If you are interested in being a docent or attending the training sessions, call Terre Sadosky at the Preserve, (916) 684-2816.

OAK GROVE CLASSES

This spring Oak Grove Docents will hold their annual spring docent training on three consecutive Sunday afternoons in March. The training consists of in-depth orientation to the natural history of the area and proves fun and exciting for anyone enjoying the out-of-doors. San Joaquin Audubon and its members have long been helpful and supportive of preserving the native vegetation here, and we enjoy the many birds which flock to the grove.

The first afternoon, March 3, will be an informal session featuring a tour of the trail. The following meetings, March 10 and March 17 will be more structured with lectures, slides and field studies. Pre-registration is recommended. Call Dennis Mayugba at the Oak Grove Nature Center (953-8814) for details.



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BIRDS

10-16, 16 Chipping Sparrows, Acampo. 10-19, 3 L. G-Plovers, & a Sh-b Dowitcher, LSP. 10-20 at LL 1 Hutton's Vireo & 3 Purple Finch. 10-21 a Wh-th Sparrow in Stockton, 10-22 5 G-cr Kinglet & a R-Br Nuthatch at Louis Park. 10-24 a Surf Scoter, a Gr.Scaup & 3 Bufflehead at SSP. 10-25 a Wood Stork on Twitchell I by David and Waldo & on the 27th a Horned Grebe, 15 Swainson's Hawks and a Tropical Kingbird on Bouldin I by Waldo & David. 10-28 a Hooded Oriole at Linclon Village 10-30 a Peregrine Falcon & a Merlin at Bouldin Is. 11-2, 4 Barn Swallows at SSP, Nov 3 8 Wh-f Ibis on Victoria I, 11-8 3 Townsend's Warber at Louis Park 11-9 a "Bewick's Swan at Terminous 11-10 a Prairie Falcon eating a Meadowlark at Cosumnes Preserve by J. Schick, 11-10 a Red-breasted Sapsucker at Japanese Garden, M.G. by Jim Rowth & James Rexroth.... 11-11 both a Spotted Owl & a Peregrine Falcon etc etc at Calaveras Big Trees State Park by J.R and J.R 11-13 a Bald Eagle at Salt Springs Res by Russ Chambers. 11-21 a Cliff Swallow at Louis Park 11-22 a Pine Siskin at Comanche, 11-25, Mt Blue Birds at Valley Springs, R. Chambers, 11-25, 1000 Tricolored B.Bd. & 450 Yellow-h Blackbird at Bouldin I. 11-28 a Ferruginous Hawk near Tracy, R. Chambers. 12-1, 90 Cattle Egret & 28 Swainson's Hawk on Bouldin Island (David & Waldo), 12-2 a Thayer's Gull & a Prairie Falcon on Bouldin Is (David & Waldo) 12-7 a Costa's Hummer in N. Stockton, 12-8, 4 Common Mergansers in N.Lake, 12-8 a Rusty Blackbird at Cosumnes by J. Schick. 12--19 a Tufted Duck at SSP, 12-20 a Coopers Hawk on the Delta Campus, but many fewer Waxwings & Robins this winter: S.Stocking. 12-20, 6 Gr.Scaup & 1 Gl-winged Gull at SSP, 12-30 a Red-th Loon, 20 Horned Grebe, a Ross's Goose & 2 Red-br Merganser at Camanche Red. 1-3 4 L.Yellowlegs at SSP 1-7 a Caspian Tern at SSP by Waldo Holt, 1-8 1000 D-cr. Cormorants at SSP (top that!) 1-12 a Eur Wigeon on Woodbridge Rd & a Phainopepla on Jahant Rd. 1-12 3 Yellow-headed Blackbirds at Cosumnes by J.Schick. 1-13, 2 mature & 4 Immature Bald Eagles at Salt Springs and 3 at the new Milton Dump Site by R. Chambers. From Nov-Feb., In and around Micke Grove Park & Zoo, J. Rowth & James Rexroth observed 57 species including Winter Wrein, Hutton's Vireo, Lincoln's Sparrow Varied Thrush & White Throated Sparrow.

SSP is Stockton Sewage Ponds, LL is Lodi Lake & LSP is Lodi Sewage Ponds. All observations are by our American Birder, David Yee except as noted. Send your sightings to the editor to share with others, rarity not required.

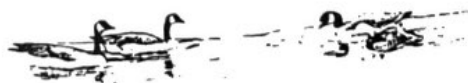
TRIP TO EUROPE ANNOUNCED BY MEMBER

If you would be interested in a trip to Europe with a June 20 starting date, contact Rosalie Perfler at 274-2594. There will be stays' in London, Paris, Swiss Alps and Rome. Hikes sightseeing, gardens, and alpine flowers. \$2,900 includes airfare, hotels, dinners and breakfasts..

BIRD COUNT REPORTS

On December 15, Stockton received its first rains of the month. It was also the day of the 21st Stockton Christmas Bird Count. It had not rained on a Stockton CBC in about 8 years. With all these timely forces in play, something had to give. The legendary 150 species mark was broken this year as almost 60 hardy but well rewarded souls went out on a wet (.25in is WET during a 5 year drought) day and scored big time. Nearly every group added their own special bird to the list; some of the highlights being Tufted Duck, Tropical Kingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Mountain Plover, Lesser Golden-Plover, Short-billed Dowitcher, the ever-present Bendire's Thrasher, Long-eared and Screech Owls, Glaucous-winged Gull, Townsend's Warbler, 50,000 Tundra Swans, 30,000Gr.White-fronted geese and a fire with nice warm soup at the end of the day. It was magic! The species total and bird highlights are right out of the pages of the top counts along the coast, and in truth, very few inland counts have ever broken 149. Last year less than 5% of the 1548 CBC held in N. America had totals over 150. We should be very proud of our achievement and I would like to again thank all who participated on the count. I'm already looking forward to next year--perhaps when we can beat Sacramento(they , too had their all-time high- 151). by David Yee

Our Wallace-Bellota count was held just at the end of our record breaking sub-freezing weather, but about 30 rugged birders ventured out. We set a count record of 130 species and David Yee saw a Rednaped sapsucker which was his first for the county. Thanks to leader George Welch.



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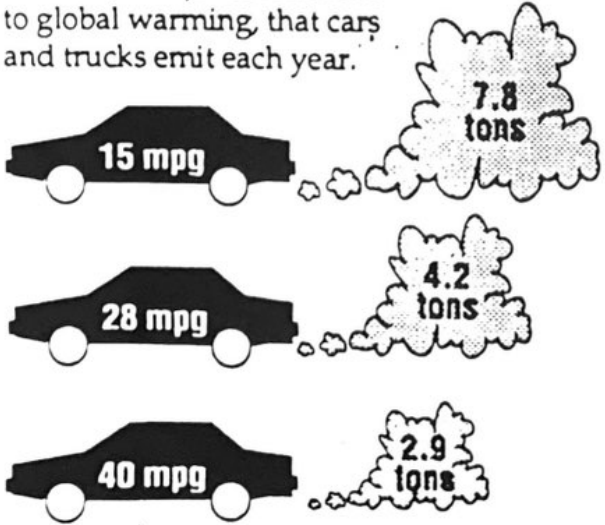
Joint membership in the National Audubon Society and the Stockton Audubon Society includes a subscription to both Audubon magazine and *The Hoot Owl*. Make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to Stockton Audubon Society c/o John Schick, 940 N. Argonaut, Stockton, CA. 95203. Send renewals directly to the National Audubon Society.

---\$30 individual ---\$38 family ---\$18 student ---\$21 senior \$23 senior, family ---\$50 sustaining
---\$250 contributing ---\$500 donor ---\$1,500 life ---\$5 newsletter only (not member)

Name: _____ Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Gas Mileage and Air Pollution

Improving motor vehicle gas mileage standards can lower the amount of carbon dioxide, a major contributor to global warming, that cars and trucks emit each year.



Source: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy
All figures are for yearly emissions
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FORM 540 California Tax Form

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TAX YOURSELF FOR WILDLIFE

When you do your California State Tax remember Line 45 under Step 10, Voluntary Contributions. Even the small contributions will add up to help protect and preserve habitat for our 254 native species of plant and animal which are listed as rare, endangered, and threatened.

Don't forget the Kit Fox, Greater Sandhill Crane, Swainson's Hawk, Gray Whale, Desert Tortoise and the Pismo Clarkia!