



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1996 VOL. 34 #1

Thurs. Jan 11. Craning for Sandhills. Join a Fish & Game naturalist. 3:30-6pm. Space limited and fills quickly. Call 916-358-2885 after 5 for req. reservations. (Other dates: Feb 1, Feb 4, Feb, 18, Mar. 3)

Saturday Jan. 13. **Field Trip: The Tall Forest at Cosumnes River Preserve** Join leader John Trochet (916)736-3560 for this exciting visit to a less known part of this popular preserve. Meet at 7am at the gates to Nicholas Farms. From I-5 go east on Twin Cities Rd. to Bruceville Rd. turn S and go 1/2 mile; gates on the left.

Saturday Jan 14. Cosumnes Preserve **Bird Census**. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 8:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Saturday Jan. 27. **Field Trip: Micke Grove Park**. Leader James Rexroth (951-6260) will show us the birds of this popular county park. Past winters have produced Varied Thrush & Wh-throated Sparrow. And if it gets cold enough, we might still see them this winter. Meet at 7:30am at Burns Tower, U.O.P. R.C.*

Saturday, Feb. 3: **Field Trip: Palo Alto Baylands**. We will meet at the visitor's center at the end of Embarcadero Rd & hike the trails for good looks at the areas seasonal and permanent residents. Call leader Jim Rowoth (462-7512) for info.

SUNDAY JAN 21. Open Touring Day at **North Stone Lake** Refuge. 10 am to 2pm.

Visitors are welcome to hike and explore portions of Sacramento County's North Stone Lake Refuge at their own pace. Elk Grove Blvd. West of I-5. 916 979-2085

SATURDAY FEB 10. Cosumnes Preserve **Bird Census**. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 8:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Saturday Feb 10. **Field Trip: Bodega Bay** with Rich and Kasey. Come along as we explore the diverse avi-fauna of Bodega Bay. Expect the unexpected to be here! Call Kasey at 473-3904 for meeting place, time and other details. R.C.*

TUESDAY FEB 13. General Meeting: BIRDS OF VENEZUELA. Bill Grenfel Nature-Journalist of Scaramento Audubon will present his slides. 7:30 Central United Methodist Church. Across from U.O.P. refreshments/parking

Weekend of Feb 16-19. California Duck Days. Festival featuring field trips, workshops, family programs and exhibits. Davis Ca. Information 916 758-1286.

Saturday Feb 24. **Field Trip: Grey Lodge** Dave Wagner will show us around this winter hot spot for water birds. Dave will meet us at 9am at the main entrance, but please call him at 943-6997 to discuss carpooling and directions. R.C. & H.F.C.*

Saturday, Mar 2. **Lodi Lake Field Trip**. Meet at 8am on Laurel Ave on the east edge of the park in Lodi. Call 462-4438 for further information. R.C.*

*RC= Rain Cancels

"It's a magical world.....let's go exploring".....calvin *H.F.C.=heavy fog cancels

POSSIBLE PHONE TREE AND LOCAL BIRDING BIRDING 'HOTLINE'

Would you like to know when rare birds are sighted in the area?
Would you like to be informed when issues of local environmental concerns are pending? Would you like to help with disseminating this information (if number of persons to phone were limited)? If your answer is a resounding "YES", send your name and phone # to volunteer coordinator Cheri Pillsbury 2351 E. Anita St. Stockton '05

Rock Creek/Salt Springs FIELD TRIP

Led by "Scotty" Valley on 11-18, 7 birders arrived at Salt Springs Reservoir. We took a moment to remove a frightened deer which was tangled in a barbed wire fence. Then we drove slowly around the reservoir hoping to see bald eagles that were predicted in the "Hoot Owl".

Suddenly, Scotty said, "Bald Eagle in the top of the tree." Seven pairs of binoculars did an abrupt about face and saw not one, but three bald eagles. Two were in a tree and a third was perched on a dead snag.

After ohing and aahing, we turned our eyes to the reservoir where we saw cormorants, buffleheads, mergansers, cm golden eyes and others among the 1000's of birds on the reservoir.

We walked into the dry and rocky canyon where we spotted a lot of good birds, one of which was a rufous crowned sparrow. By the time we stopped in Copperopolis on the way home, we had become birds of a feather, bound by freeing the deer, the thrill of the bald eagles, and the laughter of good fellowship.
by Suga Moriwaki

FOR COLD WEATHER BIRDING:

Combine equal parts of beef bouillon and tomatoe juice, add 1 tsp of lemon juice per 8oz of the mixture. Lightly pepper. Heat and take it with you when winter birding.
by Margaret Williams

Klamath Basin Bald Eagle Conference

A celebration of the largest gathering of Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states. 16-18 February at Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Field trips and workshops plus speakers from around the U.S. presenting a variety of programs on Bald Eagles and related topics. For more information call your editor or Charlotte Opp at (503) 882-8488 evenings.

**BLUEBIRD RECOVERY PROGRAM**

Do we really need a program to set up nesting boxes for the Western Bluebird? They seem to be common in the foothills, how bad off are they? Breeding Bird Surveys have been done in California since 1968. Information from this source shows that the Western Bluebird has declined 36.4% in the last 28 years and 28.5% in the last 15. This information is accurate at the 95% confidence level.

One thing which can be done is to help with nesting boxes, we have put up 4 in the Oak Grove Park and more are needed. To learn more about what you can do contact the County Coordinator Thomas C. Hoffman, 10122 E. Woodbridge Road, Acampo Ca. 95220.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

9-19-95 at Mammoth Lakes Vic Wykoff ob Cassins Finch, Water Ouzel, Prairie Falcon, Chuckar and others. 11-3, Bonnie Harper ob 2 dozen Mt Quail at Pacific Valley. 11-15 Jim Rowoth & James Rexroth ob Osprey, Spotted Sandpiper & Wild Turkeys at Van Assen Park. 11-19 Jim R. ob Blk-th Grey Warbler at Stockton Rural Cemetary. On 11-25 he ob Am. Wigeon, Redheads, Canvasbacks, Cin. & GrW Teal at Palo Alto Baylands and Town. Warbler & RedBr Merganser at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. 12-8 he located RedNaped Sapsucker, Gold cr. Kinglets & Hermit Thrush at SRC. 12-23 he saw Wild Turkeys, Cm Moorhen & W. Bluebirds at the South Shore of Camanche. 12-24 at Smith Nevada the Stockings observed Golden Eagles, Ca. Quail, a Prairie Falcon & many House Finch & House Sparrow. 1-2-96 David Flynn and son report Bald Eagles at Milton.

RAILS ON THE REBOUND

Since wildlife managers identified the primary cause of their recent precipitous decline as the red fox and began trapping and removing these and other predators from South Bay marshes rails are on the rebound.

The South Bay's endangered California clapper rail population dropped from 1,000 in 1981 to about 240 a decade later, but grew to 600 this year as a result of the aggressive fox-removal program. The rail population's long-term health, however, also revolves around the health and extent of the Bay's remaining tidal marsh habitats. Estuary 4(5):Oct 1995

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REQUIREMENTS DO NOT HINDER ECONOMIC GROWTH.

An MIT study found that states with the strongest regs had the strongest economies, that pollution control requirements often lead to reevaluations of production processes-and thus to more efficient manufacturing operations, that most corporate executives haven't the foggiest idea what complying with regulations actually costs them, and that 99% of layoffs are caused by factors other than environmentalism. Estuary 4(1): Feb 1995.

HORMONAL HAVOC IN THE BAY-DELTA ECOSYSTEM:

For the first time scientists have begun to look for the pollutants in the estuary which are those that can cause endocrine disruption. A researcher at UC Davis has now done a baseline study of the levels of dioxin-like compounds in double-crested cormorants. He found that the median concentration of these compounds is near the threshold for toxicity and that some are way above the threshold. Cormorants feed almost exclusively on fish. A recent S.F. Bay Regional Board study found high levels of DDT, PCBs dioxin/furans, dieldrin and chordanes in Bay-caught fish. These are all documented endocrine disruptors. Cormorants are very good bioindicators. People should be concerned if they eat the same fish.

Congress Action to Come Soon

Contact your U.S. Senator soon if you have not yet done so in support of strong endangered species protection. The two main bills now being considered provide much needed protection to landowners, but are so bad that it would be difficult to protect any species from extinction.

Wild Turkeys in Oak Woodlands

Many of you have noticed the increase in the number of wild turkeys in the last few years. The best place to see them near Stockton in & around the Commanche Reservoir.

Turkeys are diurnal and are active throughout the year. They usually roost above ground in large oaks or foothill pines. Their dependence on free water requires them to roost relatively near a permanent source. Turkeys are polygynous, with males gathering and defending harems of five or more females.

Adults, young and eggs are susceptible to predation by ravens, crows, skunks, bobcats, foxes, domestic dogs and feral hogs. Roost trees are a critical component of the habitat if turkeys are to be successful in an area.

The effect (if any) of the introduction of this exotic species on native plants and animals in California has not been evaluated.

U.C. Oaks & Folks. 10(2)dec 95.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION?

The beat goes on; SB 131 sponsored by the Wilson Administration, has been introduced to greatly weaken the California Endangered Species Act. The bill was defeated last year, but the situation is getting worse at the State level.

The logging, water, auto, and other industry special interest groups are working to repeal or weaken all environmental laws even tho the public gives them support. A Time/CNN poll showed 63% support for endangered species law, And 59% support for the present controls of logging, mining and ranching on public lands.

One of the worst aspects of SB 131, the Maddy bill is that it creates a system which is almost entirely voluntary!

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: Do you make New Year's Resolutions that are soon forgotten? This year invite a friend to ride with you to the next Audubon meeting, February 13, or to the next outing. I encourage you to find a pair of binoculars, call a friend, then join one of the bird walks for good company, fresh air, moderate exercise, and the sighting of many different birds.

The recent Christmas bird count for the eastern part of this county had a tally of 131 species. You will be helping the environment by recruiting new friends to share ideas and there will be little additional carbon dioxide polluting the air or traffic added to the roadways as you share the ride.

As advocates of birds and other wildlife, help to overcome well meaning but misinformed neighbors who stop feeding hummingbirds each Fall to encourage them to migrate. During the Christmas Bird Count, Kasey, Rich, and I found an entire neighborhood was sadly misinformed.

Every neighbor had carefully cleaned out the feeders. After a summer of being well fed, those unfortunate birds were left to forage on their own at a time when there are few flowers and insects. Anna's humming birds are resident the year round in this area of California. Keep cleaning the feeders and afterwards refill them for a new banquet.

I would like to thank all the members and friends of San Joaquin Audubon who participated in the Christmas Bird Counts. Each year at this busy season you willingly volunteer your time for this important event. Thank you! To the organizers, David, Jim, Kasey, and Waldo may you see a new "life" bird! Thank you! Nancy Ballot; President

Stockton
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