

THE HOOT OWL

January / February 2013
Issue 1, Volume 51

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

PROGRAMS

The meeting location is at Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue (across from UOP) in Stockton, and begins at 7:30 p.m. Plenty of parking and refreshments. Everyone is welcome.

There will be no general membership meeting in January, 2013.

TUESDAY, February 12

Dr. Chad Hanson

"The Importance of Fire Ecology on Wildlife, Including the Imperiled Black-backed Woodpecker"

Chad Hanson has a Ph.D. in ecology from the University of California at Davis, and focuses his research on forest and fire ecology—particularly the importance of mixed-intensity fire, and patches of high-intensity fire, for many wildlife species that depend upon such post-fire habitat, such as the rare and imperiled Black-backed Woodpecker. Dr. Hanson is the director and staff ecologist of the John Muir Project of Earth Island Institute. He is based in Cedar Ridge, California in the northern Sierra Nevada.

Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count Saturday, December 29

The 113th Christmas Bird Count season is here! Since the Christmas Bird Count started over a century ago, it has relied on the dedication and commitment of volunteer citizen scientists. In other words, it all starts with you!

Join us for this all day long bird-counting extravaganza in the fabulous foothills. Don't miss out on the premier birding activity of the year! Seasoned birders and beginners are welcome on this fun-filled journey that contributes to the scientific knowledge of bird distribution. Oh yeah, the food is good too! See you there. Contact Kasey at kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net or (209) 473-3904.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 5—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Dale Smith at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m. for a leisurely stroll on the trails of the Lodi Lake Wilderness Area. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SATURDAY, January 12—*Cosumnes River Preserve*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648 or rowoth@sbcglobal.net) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates. Double check with Jim for start time.

SATURDAY, January 19—*Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648) for the monthly census of this delightful little park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet Jim at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in the town of Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 20—*Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Join leader Liz West for our monthly census of this lovely little riparian area below Comanche Dam. Meet Liz in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 2—*Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (956-2648) at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi at 8:00 a.m. for a leisurely stroll on the trails of the Lodi Lake Wilderness Area. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. Extra binoculars and field guides will be available.

SATURDAY, February 9—*Cosumnes River Preserve*

See entry for Saturday, January 12. Meet leader Jim Rowoth. Double check with Jim for start time.

SATURDAY, February 16—*Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Kurt Mize (915-6264) for the monthly census of this delightful little park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet Kurt at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in the town of Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, February 17—*Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

See entry for Sunday, January 20. Meet Liz in the fish hatchery parking lot at 8:00 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 23—*Sacramento NWR & Colusa NWR*

There should still be significant numbers of waterfowl at these two refuges. The Falcated Duck might even still be present at Colusa. Meet leader Dave Wagner behind the McDonald's on Trinity Parkway (off Eight Mile Rd. and I-5 in north Stockton) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. For more info, contact Dave at 943-6997 or dajwagner@aol.com

INVESTIGATING LOCAL BIRDS

Recently I was surprised to hear from one of my Delta College students from 20 years ago. It was nice to get an e-mail from Phil Kahler who thanked me for the great times that he had back when he was a Delta College biology student. He had joined us on two Christmas Bird Counts and still remembered the first Phainopepla and Lewis's Woodpecker that I had pointed out to him all those years ago. I helped him to get San Joaquin (Stockton) Audubon support for his participation in the Audubon Expedition Institute. Students and instructors traveled all over the United States in a yellow school bus for a college year. When he returned he presented a program to Audubon about his experiences. He has been teaching high school biology in Hillsboro Oregon now for 20 years. His parents still live in Tracy and belong to San Joaquin Audubon. San Joaquin Audubon gave Phil my contact information.

Phil has a bird blind and feeding station on his campus where students conduct their own bird research studies. They participate in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology "Bird Sleuth Program." Many of his students have had their research papers published in "Classroom Birdscope." To get his 10th grade biology students engaged in relevant community science, he introduced them to local birds. Now his students annually study local birds. They have done many studies including analysis of fluctuations in the number of species and the number of individuals per species as they vary from year to year. Other students in Virginia have studied annual arrival and departure dates. Data can also be compared to that from other areas.

Check out student work at <http://tvja.org/sciencestudentreports.htm> Read about their feeding station at <http://tvja.org/science/birdblind.htm> Learn about BirdSleuth at www.birds.cornell.edu/birdsleuth Project FeederWatch can be found at www.feederwatch.org and eBird at <http://ebird.org> These last two data bases make it possible for students to connect with people around the world as they make observations, pose questions, conduct investigations, and build deeper connections with the natural world. Also see an article in the December 2012 issue of "The Science Teacher" which Phil helped to write. It includes a section entitled "Local Bird Study" about the work of his students.

May I make a suggestion for a New Year's Resolution? Remember a teacher or other person from your past who did something to get you started birding (or something else which you have enjoyed) and persuaded you to continue or develop your interests). Then get in touch with them and tell them what you have been doing. It is appreciated.

Steve Stocking, Education Chair and Wallace -Bellota Christmas Bird Count compiler, snlsox@earthlink.net



Galt Winter Bird Festival

Mark your calendars for the 6th annual Galt Winter Bird Festival, to be held Saturday, January 26, 2013, at McCaffrey Middle School, 997 Park Terrace Dr., in Galt.

Many migratory and resident birds call Galt their winter home. This year's festival features a youth art show, guided tours, presentations, guest speakers, and free family fun! The Winter Bird Festival steering committee and volunteers hope that you will find this festival to be an exciting and educational opportunity to celebrate the winter birds and habitats we all call home. For more information or to register, call 209-366-7115.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

San Joaquin Audubon will have elected positions opening up on our board. If you would like to be considered for one of the positions please email Lorna Elness at sjbirdermark@yahoo.com.



January 18-21, 2013

Join Morro Coast Audubon Society (MCAS) for its 17th annual bird festival. Morro Bay is one of the country's preeminent birding spots. At last year's festival, over 200 species of birds were identified! Registration began October 1, 2012 and ends January 6, 2013. For more info, see www.morrobaybirdfestival.org or call toll-free at 866-464-5105.

Come to the 14th Annual Snow Goose Festival of the Pacific Flyway! January 24–27, 2013, Chico, California

The Snow Goose Festival celebrates the abundant local and migratory waterfowl of the Northern Sacramento Valley, and is one of the premier winter birding festivals in California. Over 60 field trips, workshops, presentations, and free activities cater to bird and nature enthusiasts of all ages and levels of interest. This exciting 4–day event kicks off with a full Field Trip schedule for Thursday and Friday. Sign up to hike the Sutter Buttes, scope a nearby refuge for waterfowl, or participate in a "Big Day" to identify as many bird species as you can from dawn to dusk! Field trips will continue on through the weekend.

Festival Headquarters opens at 6:30am Saturday morning at the Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Avenue in Chico, and admission is free to the exhibit hall and various events. Workshops, presentations and a variety of free activities for kids and families will be held at the Masonic Center while field trips continue to explore the natural wonders of Butte and the surrounding 6 counties. FREE ACTIVITIES include Junior Naturalist Activities, "All About Bats," special film showings on Sandhill Cranes, and much, much more! Sign up for informative workshops on Sandhill Cranes, Snow Geese and Wood Ducks, learn how to photograph your favorite bird, or take an armchair tour of the Sutter Buttes.

Don't miss the annual Pacific Flyway Art Exhibit which starts January 18 at Avenue 9 Gallery & Art Guild in Chico. This stunning collection of artwork depicting wildlife and habitat along the Pacific Flyway is impressive and inspiring! A special evening that proves to be a favorite of festival goers each year is the Pacific Flyway Art & Welcome Reception which will be held on Friday, January 25 from 5 – 8 pm and is free to the public. Saturday night hosts our "Gathering of Wings" Banquet & Silent Auction at Chico State's Bell Memorial Union (BMU). We are so pleased to bring you two very special guests...Chico's own, Roger Lederer and Carol Burr, retired Chico State Professors, author and illustrator of "Birds of Bidwell Park". Their keynote presentation will be "The Amazing in the Familiar: Surprising Facts about Common Birds." This fun and friendly evening gives you the opportunity to visit with attendees, field trip leaders and presenters and relax after a full day of birding!

Online registration OPENS SOON for all events including field trips, workshops and the Gathering of Wings Banquet.

If you have any questions about our festival or registration, please email info@snowgoosefestival.org or call the Snow Goose Festival office at (530) 345–1865.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 17, 2012 - December 10, 2012
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)
Submitted by Liz West

The **Red-naped Sapsucker** is still visiting the elm tree at Joanne Katanic's house

During the monthly field trip to Woodbridge Wilderness Area, on October 20 Jim Rowoth and Liz West saw a **Cassin's Vireo**.

David Yee found a **Chestnut-backed Chickadee** in the pine trees in front of the fire station on Corral Hollow Rd. on October 27th.

Daryl Coldren heard at least one **Chestnut-collared Longspur** flying over Woodbridge Rd. at the Isenberg Crane Preserve November 7th.

While scouting for a Central Valley Bird Club field trip on November 12th, Jim Rowoth saw a **Northern Saw-whet Owl** at Stockton Rural Cemetery. During the field trip to the cemetery on November 17th, Jon Dunn found a **Long-eared Owl**.

During a November 18th Central Valley Bird Symposium field trip Ed Harper and Jim Danzenbaker saw a **Sage Sparrow** feeding along the edge of Waverly road just south of Flood Rd.

December 2nd, John Whisler photographed a red-shafted/yellow-shafted **Northern Flicker intergrade** in his backyard in north Stockton.

San Joaquin Audubon Society
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New website: www.sanjoaquinaudubon.org

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San Joaquin Audubon C2ZC220Z
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

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Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
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