

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2015
Issue 1, Volume 53

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, 2015.

TUESDAY, February 10

Lee Christianson

"Bats Are NOT Flying Mice!"

Please join us for this fascinating program on what makes a bat, well, a bat, also how they work, and how they differ from other mammals and birds. There will be bat specimens and slides of local bats and not so local (exotic) bats.

Lee came to Stockton from North Dakota and Minnesota by way of Illinois and Arizona in 1967. He was an ecology, evolution, and vertebrate biology professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at UOP until his retirement in 2006. Since his retirement, Lee has traveled to all of the continents and visited many of the areas he talked about in his classes.

SIALIA

If you're interested in finding out what rare and unusual birds are being seen in California (or anywhere in the US, for that matter), you should check out Sialia, aka The Birding Lists Digest. Sialia (<http://digest.sialia.com>) was created to help birders find out "what's going on lately" in various regions of the U.S. with a minimum of hassle. The Digest automatically compiles all posts to dozens of birding email lists and organizes them by region, by day, and by list. Birders can view the current day's messages, or browse messages from the last 30 days. This system allows birders to find information about rare bird sightings and other goings-on around the country in a timely and efficient manner. Check it out!

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 3— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Susan Schneider or Dale Smith 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.

SUNDAY, January 4— *Wallace-Bellota Christmas Bird Count*

Need a sure cure for "cabin fever" or the winter blahs? Join in the fun of the Wallace-Bellota CBC, the foothill counterpart to the Stockton count. Get out in the country for some fresh air and great birds in the company of some great people! To sign up for this once-a-year adventure, please contact Kasey Foley (639-6501), kaseyfoley@sbcglobal.net.

SATURDAY, January 10— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

Join leader Jim Rowoth (487-3489 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.

SUNDAY, January 11— *Colusa & Sacramento NWR*

Join leader Dave Wagner (988-6898) for a visit to these premier Sacramento Valley wildlife refuges. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Toot Sweets (northwest corner of March Ln. and Quail Lakes Dr.) for carpooling. Expect to see a wide variety of wintering ducks, geese, and other waterfowl. The Falcated Duck may again be viewable. Bring a lunch.

SATURDAY, January 17— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Liz West for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, January 18— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, January 24— *Pardee Reservoir Eagle Boat Trip*

Seating is limited so **advanced registration is required!** Refer to <http://www.ebmud.com/recreation/volunteer> for registration and tour details. This field trip features a three-hour (9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) EBMUD-sponsored boat tour of the lake. Eagles, Ospreys, and winter waterfowl are expected. Join leader Kurt Mize at the Park N Ride at Highway 99 and Highway 12 (Victor Rd.) in Lodi at 8:00 a.m. to carpool. It can be cold, wet, and windy on Pardee in winter, so dress appropriately. Bring a lunch.

(continued on page 3)



Steve Stocking

(January 4, 1938 - November 9, 2014)

One of our great San Joaquin Audubon Society members has left us. Steve was a huge contributor to our club for decades, leading bird and wildflower field trips, serving as our President, Director at Large, Education Chair, Hoot Owl Newsletter Editor, Historian, and Christmas Bird Count Compiler. Never one to be idle, Steve also served as Conservation Chair for our local Sierra Club, Delta-Sierra Group, the California Native Plant Society, the Nature Conservancy, the Sequoia Natural History Association, the League of Women Voters, Calaveras Big Trees Association and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Steve loved to observe nature and talk to people about it, to share his knowledge and thoughts about the birds, the plants, and the environment. Steve was not afraid to share his views on unchecked development, destruction of the environment, or unsustainable habitat. He was an active contributor to the "Letters to the Editor" column in the Stockton Record where he shared his views on the environment and other topics. But he didn't just talk, Steve made things happen. He believed in helping shape the world to be a better place. He played a major role in crafting the San Joaquin Habitat Conservation Plan with Waldo Holt and the Council of Governments to guarantee habitat would exist in the future for threatened and endangered plants and animals. He was instrumental in establishing Oak Grove Regional Park with Verna Johnston and others, ensuring there was a natural area in the park available for wildlife.

Although Steve retired after 35 years of teaching, first at Franklin High School then San Joaquin Delta College, he never stopped teaching or learning. He was always mentoring others to carry on the work he started. David Yee spoke of how Steve enthusiastically recruited him to become an active Audubon Board member in the 1970's and how Steve was still discussing the mysterious distribution of Acorn woodpeckers with him just this past October. And Kathy Hieb, recipient of the Sandhill Crane Festival's 2014 Conservation Award, talked about how Steve Stocking inspired her to be active in conservation during her acceptance speech this November.

Steve was a teacher to many, an inspiration to most, and a friend to all.

FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, January 25— *San Luis Reservoir National Wildlife Refuge*

This is a joint field trip with Stanislaus Audubon, led by Ralph Baker. Meet at Toot Sweets (northwest corner of March Ln. and Quail Lakes Dr.) in Stockton at 7:00 a.m. to carpool.

SATURDAY, February 7— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Dale Smith 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.

SATURDAY, February 14— *Cosumnes River Preserve / River Walk*

See listing for Saturday, January 10 on page 1. Double check with Jim for start time.

SUNDAY, February 15— *Flood and Waverly Road*

Join leaders Joanne Katanic and Mark Elness for this trip to San Joaquin County's premiere area for wintering raptors. Meet at Toot Sweets (northwest corner of March Ln. and Quail Lakes Dr.) in Stockton at 7:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, February 21— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Liz West for our monthly census of this small riparian park on the banks of the Mokelumne River. Meet at the north end of Meadowlark Lane in Woodbridge at 8:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, February 22— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

WEDNESDAY, February 25— *Panoche Valley / Mercy Hot Springs Resort*

Join leader Terry Ronneberg (835-7847) for a mid-week trip to this Important Bird Area. Meet Terry at 7:00 a.m. at Toot Sweets (northwest corner of March Ln. and Quail Lakes Dr.) in Stockton to carpool. There is a \$5 per person admission fee at MHS to view the Long-eared Owls. Please call Terry if you have any questions.

SUNDAY, February 28— *Family Thanksgiving Walk / Bear Creek Bike Trail*

Meet leader Susan Schneider at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot for Michael Faklis Park, which is off Cosumnes Dr. near Mokelumne Circle, southwest of the 15/Eight Mile Rd. interchange. Riparian and marsh habitat is the attraction here at the edge of the Delta.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 15, 2014 - December 14, 2014
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

A San Joaquin Audubon Society Field trip led by Mark Elness to Lodi Lake saw a fly over **Band-tailed Pigeon** on November 1st. Mark Rauzon found a **Band-tailed pigeon** near the Isenberg Crane preserve on Woodbridge Rd. November 27th. The next day Greg Shore photographed a **Band-tailed Pigeon** at the west end of Woodbridge Road.

On November 2nd, Anne Hoff and Megan Kierstead found five **Marbled Godwits** and a **Red-necked Phalarope** on Staten Island.

During a November 6th lunch time visit to Laughlin Park in Stockton Kurt Mize encountered a late **Hammond's Flycatcher**.

Pat and Dave Croft saw a **Eurasian Wigeon** at the North Unit of Woodbridge Ecological Preserve on November 17th. On November 20th it was spotted at Isenberg Crane Preserve and last reported November 26th

On a Central Valley Bird Symposium field trip November 21st, Mark Elness and Cliff Hawley found three **Blue-winged Teal** at the Ripon Sewage Ponds. A female **Blue-winged Teal** was also seen by a CVBS field trip, led by Mark Elness, on November 23rd to the Stockton Sewage ponds.

On November 22nd, Alison Sheehy found a **Franklin's Gull** at the dairy at the west end of Turner Rd. The next day two were located in addition to a few **Mew gulls** in a field south of the dairy. One was last seen November 29th.

Charles Connelly found a female **Barrow's Goldeneye** at a lake in the River Lakes development in Lathrop, November 24th. It was last reported December 9th.

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San Joaquin Audubon C5ZC220Z
Attn: Membership
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

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