

THE HOOT OWL



January / February 2017
Issue 1, Volume 55

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.

TUESDAY, January 10

Chris Conard

"Tanzania – From Forest to Serengeti"

In March of 2016, five of us from the Central Valley Bird Club joined a trip organized by Ed Harper and Susan Scott to northern Tanzania. We visited a wonderful diversity of habitats, from dense forest, to desert, to seemingly endless plains; including Serengeti National Park, Olduvai Gorge, and Ngorongoro Crater. The mammals alone would have made the trip worthwhile, but we also had some 400 species of birds, from Lilac-breasted Rollers, to African Crowned Eagles. Expect to see photos and short videos of many of the species and landscapes we were fortunate to experience.

Chris Conard is a Natural Resource Specialist at the Bufferlands of the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District. He regularly leads field trips for Sacramento Audubon, serves as the Sacramento County editor for *North American Birds* and *eBird*, and is the current president of the Central Valley Bird Club.

TUESDAY, February 14

David Rice

"Why We Bird"

In 2013, Golden Gate Audubon Society published *Why We Bird*, a book that talks about the various reasons we go birding, by describing David's forty years of birding all over California. It also references other books about birding and has blurbs from Ted Floyd (editor of *Birding Magazine*), John Sterling, and the late Rich Stallcup. During this interactive presentation, the audience will be asked to share why they bird. You are encouraged (but not obligated) to share your reasons.

David Rice lives in Berkeley, California and works as a clinical psychologist. A birder since his mid-20's, he is a co-author of the Alameda County Breeding Bird Atlas.

FIELD TRIPS

SATURDAY, January 7— *Introductory Birding*

Join leader Pat Paternostro 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.

SATURDAY, January 14— *Cosumnes River Preserve*

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 15— *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

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

SATURDAY, January 21— *10th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival*

This year's keynote speaker is David Sibley! See announcement on Page 3.

SUNDAY, January 22— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leaders Virginia and Kathy Bonham 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 29— *Bear Creek Bike Path*

Join leader Susan Schneider for this easy walk that features riparian and marsh habitat. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Michael Faklis Park which is off Cosumnes Dr. near Mokelumne Circle, SW of I5/Eight Mile Road interchange, in Stockton.

SATURDAY, February 4— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternostro 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, February 5— *Staten Island/Delta Meadows State Park*

Join leaders Alan England and Dale Smith for a visit to Staten Island where the flooded fields provide critical winter habitat for Sandhill Cranes, Tundra Swans, and other waterfowl. We'll also walk the trails of Delta Meadows SP to search for riparian species. Meet in the parking lot of the Flag City McDonald's (south of Highway 12 at I-5) at 8:00 a.m. to carpool.

(Continued on Page 2)

FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SATURDAY, February 11— *Cosumnes River Preserve/River Walk*

Join leader (TBD) for the monthly River Walk bird count through the varied habitats of the CRP. Meet at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. Check website www.cosumnes.org for start time and last minute updates.

SATURDAY, February 18— *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 19— *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, February 25— *Stockton Rural Cemetery*

Meet leader Jim Rowoth at 8:00 a.m. at the cemetery office for a stroll through this historic cemetery which hosts an interesting variety of wintering thrushes, warblers, sparrows, and woodpeckers.

Working Lands

Audubon California is increasingly working with the owners and operators of working lands throughout the state to increase the value of these properties for birds and wildlife. We do this by working with landowners to modify land management practices and encouraging restoration of native habitats in these landscapes.

One of the biggest transformations in California over the last 150 years was the conversion of millions of acres of natural wetlands, grasslands, and stream-side forest to create one of the world's most productive agricultural landscapes. While this resulted in the irreparable loss of habitat for birds and wildlife, the reality is that we must find ways for conservation and agriculture to coincide. Private agricultural lands encompass 25 million acres of open space in California – fully one-quarter of the state. Fortunately, we are learning that farms and ranches can be effective surrogates for natural habitats that have been lost and, when appropriately managed, can support wildlife diversity approaching that found on natural lands.

Private lands are vital for a diversity of wildlife, including 60 percent of the threatened and endangered species in the U.S. The importance of private lands for birds is particularly evident. Over 200 bird species in California depend on agricultural habitats for at least part of their annual life cycle. In the Central Valley during migration and over the winter, as many as 100,000 Snow Geese have gathered in a single field. Millions of waterbirds rest and feed in wetlands provided by winter flooded rice fields in the Sacramento Valley and it's estimated that 70 percent of the food needed to support the more than 5 million waterfowl wintering in the Central Valley every year is produced by private agricultural land.

Over the past decade Audubon California has built up its private lands work, partnering with farmers and ranchers through a number of its programs, especially our Landowner Stewardship Program based in the Sacramento Valley. Through our work with over 75 farming and ranching families in the Central Valley, Audubon has developed a reputation as a reliable partner able to help deliver habitat restoration projects on working farms and ranches.

Other examples of Audubon California's private lands work includes:

- Leading the Tricolored Blackbird Working Group and working with farmers to voluntarily protect this rare bird as an alternative to it being listed as an endangered species;

- Working with private landowners surrounding Audubon's Kern River Preserve to eradicate invasive weeds and manage riparian habitat;

- Partnering with the Sycamore Family Trust under a five year agreement to develop a conservation vision and implement restoration projects on their 5,000 acre Davis Home Ranch in the Sacramento Valley;

- Deepening our collaboration with the California Rice Commission through our work with the Migratory Bird Conservation Partnership and working with individual rice growers to identify and implement field management practices that enhance the habitat value of rice farms for birds; and

- Partnering with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to permanently protect and implement habitat enhancement projects on private ranches in northeastern California.

10th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival

Saturday, January 21, 2017

Festival & Tours
McCaffrey Middle School
997 Park Terrace Drive, Galt, CA 95632

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: David Allen Sibley, Ornithologist/Illustrator
*Author of **The Sibley Guide to Birds***

Mark your calendars for the 10th Annual Galt Winter Bird Festival. The City of Galt, in collaboration with the Cosumnes River Preserve and Galt Joint Union Elementary and High School Districts, is pleased to bring you the 10th Annual Winter Bird Festival. Festival guests will enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cosumnes River Preserve and take advantage of the incredible opportunity to catch sightings of waterfowl, shorebirds and wildlife in their winter habitat. Festival headquarters provide a starting point for exclusive preserve tours, educational presentations, wildlife shows, art displays, wine walk, hometown history and hands-on activities. This is a family-friendly winter wildlife celebration you'll always remember!

Questions! Call 209-366-7115
jcannell@ci.galt.ca.us

Or, visit the website at: <http://www.ci.galt.ca.us/index.aspx?page=495>

BIRD SIGHTINGS

October 16, 2016 - December 15, 2016
(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)
Submitted by Liz West

On October 22nd, David Yee heard a **Chestnut-collared Longspur** calling in flight with some Horned Larks along Lamb Rd. He wasn't able to locate it on the ground. On October 31st, Kurt Mize and Jim Rowoth found and photographed a silent **Chestnut-collared Longspur** (possibly the same bird) foraging on the ground in a field west of Lamb Rd. It was subsequently seen the same day by Frances Oliver and Linda Pittman.

While doing a survey on Camanche Lake off of Cord Rd, October 26th David Yee found a probable **Arctic Loon**. He returned to Camanche Lake on the 29th to look for it (without luck) and found a **Pacific Loon**.

On Staten Island, November 4th, David Yee saw a possible **Bean Goose** near the broken water tower. It had white at the base of the bill, but a dark instead of colored bill.

Pat and Dave Croft found a **Eurasian Wigeon** at Isenberg Crane Preserve on November 13th.

Ben Sandstorm picked out a **Brant** from amongst thousands of Cackling Geese, November 22nd on Staten Island.

On November 25th, while looking for the reported Staten Island Brant, David Yee photographed a probable **Richardson's Cackling Goose**, a subspecies that normally winters east of the Rockies.

On November 27th, David Yee saw an adult **Lesser Black-backed Gull** and possibly a juvenile at the Koster Rd. gravel pond.

Ben Sandstorm, Ian Souza-Cole and David Hollie saw a **Red Phalarope** at Staten Island November 29th.

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Membership

National Membership

By joining the National Audubon Society you are also a member of the San Joaquin Chapter. This includes subscriptions to the award-winning *Audubon Magazine* and to the chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. Both publications are bimonthly. For *national membership*, send check payable to the **National Audubon Society** to the address below.

- National Audubon Membership Rate: \$20

San Joaquin Audubon Society
Attn: Membership (National)
P.O. Box 7755
Stockton, CA 95267

Local-Only Membership

This includes a subscription to the bimonthly chapter newsletter, *The Hoot Owl*. For *local membership*, send check payable to **San Joaquin Audubon Society** to the address below.

- Chapter Newsletter—mailed paper copy \$15
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