



# THE HOOT OWL

SAN JOAQUIN AUDUBON SOCIETY

JULY-AUGUST 1996 VOL. 34 #4

Sunday JULY 14. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Cnsus. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 7:00 at Willow Slough trailhead.

Sat-Mon. July 13-15. **Mono Lake and Mono Pass Field Trip.** Join us in this quest for Rosy Finches, Pinyon Jays, and other high Sierra and western slope residents. By overnighing two nights, we should have time to get acquainted with the area. As details are not certain. call leader Jim Rowoth (462-7512) if interested.  
"It's a magical world.....let's go exploring".....calvin

Sat. July 20. **Lodi Sewage Ponds & Woodbridge Road Field Trip** Kasey Foley will lead the group to flooded areas to look for returning shore birds including the Ibis, Curlew and others. Meet at the Park and Ride at 12 and I-5 at 7:30 am or call Kasey at 473-3904

Friday July 26. Water, weed, and prune our adopted valley oak seedlings at Oak Grove Park. 8-10 am If you could better do this the 27th let us know as we are also trying to set the dates for August and September. Call Karl Kothe to discuss, carpool 464-1004

Saturday July 27. **Lake Alpine area Field Trip.** Meet leader Steve Stocking at 10:30am at Lake Alpine picnic area on Hiway 4 at east end of the lake. He will be checking out the birds and the flowers of the area all weekend so you must arrange your own transport . Call him if you want to see who else might be going so you can make up a carpool. His number is 465-2729. Bring a lunch and be ready for several short hikes. "Every day a fieldtrip...every meal a picnic."

Thursday Aug. 8. Farmer's Market on the Miracle Mile. Theme: "Earth Night" Call Nancy Ballot 476-11926 if you can help at the booth.

Saturday, August 10. Cosumnes Preserve Bird Census. Call John Schick for details at 464-8304. 7:00 at Willow Slough Trailhead.

Saturday August 24. **Field Trip to wetlands at Elmwood Tract Mitigation Area.** Get the tour of a "new" wetland from he who is charge of making it work. The area should draw the birds in August when there is little water around. Meet Waldo Holt at "Toot Sweet" at the NE corner of I-5 and March Lane at 7am. 462-4438

Tuesday Sept. 10. **OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE 1996-1997 SEASON.** Jesse Grantham of the National Audubon Society will present: **Developing Habitat for your Backyard Birding.** Jesse is famous for his lists of Western Shrubs for Birds and Western Humingbird Plants. He presented a very interesting and informative program at the recent Western Regional Audubon Society which was a favorite of those of us who attended. 7:30 at Central United Methodist, Stockton.

**NOTICE:** ALWAYS CALL YOUR LEADER, AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS BEFORE THE OUTING, THERE MAY BE CHANGES IN DATES, TIMES OR DESTINATIONS.

## BIRD OBSERVATIONS(May-June)

Russ and Magie Lawson report many birds from a trip to Arizona in Ap-May including; Grey & Zone-tailed Hawks. Broad-billed, Blk-crowned and Magnificent Hummers, Painted and American Redstarts Lucy's Warbler and much more.

April 27 Many Lewis Woodpeckers and Tule Elk were observed by M.O. at the Connolly Ranch Picnic.

4-29 Cheri Pillsbury ob. Olive-sided Flycatchers,

Pacific-slope Flycatchers, Cedar Waxwings, Great-horned Owl & others at Half Moon Bay. Flock of Semi-palmated Plovers at Pescadero and Warbling vireos and Gray Whales at Gazas Creek.

5-4 Jim R. reported Vaux' Swift at SRC & Bl-chin Hummer at Lodi Lake. 5-5 he and Margaret W. ob Rock & Canyon Wrens, Costa's Hummer, Solitary Vireos & Phainopepla at Del Puerto Canyon and a Golden Eagle on Mines Rd. Purple Martin, 5-5, Old Town Sacramento by Linda and Steve Stocking. 5-6 a Raven's nest, Townsends Warbler & Pileolated Woodpecker at Calaveras Big Trees S.P. Tri-colored Blackbirds at Copperopolis and W. Greebes doing "dance" on Salt Springs Res. all by Steve S. 5-6 Jim R. reports W. Tanager, BH Grosbeak, Swain. Hawk, WT Kite and AT Flycatcher from Durman Ferry Park.

Jim Vallely reports Lesser Night Hawks from Milton Cemetary May 17, Wh.-faced Ibis on Milton Road 5-28, and 2 Bald Eagles at Lake Alpine on 5-26. He also observed 50! Swainson Hawks in the agricultural area east of Stockton. The following are just some of his list from his 13 trips to Rock Creek Road between 5 17 and June 8. Yellow-br. Chat, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Osprey, Swainson's Thrush, Luzuli Bunt, Rufus Crowned Sparrow, Goshawk, Townsends War, Phainopepla, and more.

5-18 At our Oak Grove Park picnic and meeting those of us who went on the walk got to see the following: Bl.Headed Grosbeak, W. Tanager, W. Bluebirds, W.H.Nuthatch, Swainson Hawk, R.T. Hawk, Cliff and Barn Swallow and more. 5-20 Linda Stocking observed Lewis Woodpecker at San Andreas. 5-23 Cheri Pillsberry and Gene Udwin report Blk-h Grosbeak nesting, West. Tanager, a Solitary Vireo, & Nashville Warblers Also a Least Tern from the Lodi Sewage Ponds on 5-27. 6-1 Dorothy Angemeier confirmed a Swainson's Thrush (late date) at her feeder.

### NORTH AMERICAN MIGRANT COUNT; 5-11

Thanks to all participants, Nancy B., Cindi H., Cheri P. Suga M., Kasey F., Margaret W. & Jim V. for all their efforts. Despite the hot weather, our county received much wider coverage than last year, and we achieved a much higher individual bird count. Our species total (108) was down by only two from last year. Jim R.: organizer.



two

### (MORE! SUMMER SIGHTINGS!)

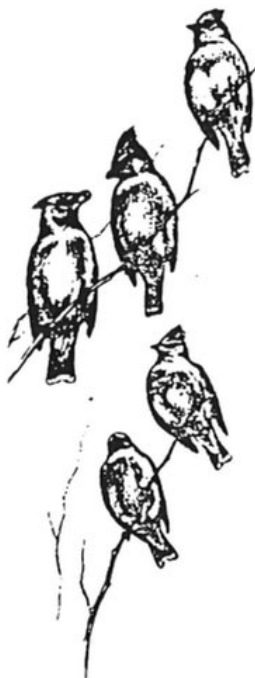
Those 12 of us who got out for our Calaveras Big Trees State Park fieldtrip on 6-2 saw much including the following highlights; W.H.Woodpecker nesting, Pileolated Woodpecker performing up close, Townsend's Warbler and several Golden Crowned Kinglets having a very active territorial squabble. (Vic Wykoff also saw a Pileolated at Big Trees, North Grove this summer 8 ft up a Ponderosa Pine. 6-13 Jim R saw a Bl-headed Woodpecker, Hermit Thrush and Dusky Flycatcher at Porcupine Creek in Yosemite, also 1,000's of Eared Grebes & Ca Gulls as well as a Bl-headed Magpie & Yellow Warbler at Mono Lake, all on 6-13. 6-15 we have a report of a Wood Thrush seen by John Trochet at Cosumnes Preserve. Jim R., Margaret and Clinton Williams report Winter Wren, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo, Swainsons Thrush Rufous Hummer and Pine Siskin at Pt. Reyes. Also seen at Cosumnes by Dave Wagner and others were Indigo Bunting and Lazuli Bunting..Indigo Bunting hybrid. 6-16. Jim Rowoth reports a Red-neck Grebe in breeding plumage at Bodega Bay, also Common and Pacific Loons. Jim R also reports adult and young Banded Kingfishers at Bodega Bay and male Red Phalarope in breeding plumage at Bolinas Bay. 6-17 Rufous-Crowned Sparrows, Lazuli Bunting, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ca Thrasher, pr Coopers Hawks and more at Mt Diablo by Cheri P. 6-24 she saw a Bald Eagle at Del Valle Park. 6-30 A. Whipple observed a pair of Burrowing Owl near Van Buskirk Park. These owls are getting scarce around Stockton. 7-6, Williamson's Sapsuckers nesting at Pacific Valley. (Stocking's)

### GRANT GROVE WILDFLOWER SEMINAR; 6'28-

30. With the help of 4 other S.J. Audubon members Terry Ronneburg made sure that we spent some of our time looking up. This kept us well balanced and protected us from "birders" and "flowers" neck. Highlights included Red-br sapsuckers, Wh-thr. Swift, N. Goshawk, Hammonds Flycatcher, YI-breasted Chat, Chipping, Fox & Lincolns Sparrow all by Terry and Jean, Winter Wren by Nancy B and Staci and Dipper and Gr-Tailed Towhee by Steve. Nancy led the group in a great sighting of Red Crossbills. There were too many beautiful wildflowers to list...so you come next June!

**North American Butterfly Count**  
San Joaquin Audubon Society/ Xerxes 4th of July Butterfly Count was held on Sat., June 15. Eight participants counted a total of 290 individuals belonging to 23 species of butterflies. The highlights of the day were an abundance of Mourning Cloaks and Swallowtails including Pipevine, Tiger and Anise. As usual, the survey was conducted at Oak Grove, White Slough, Woodbridge Regional Parks & Lodi Lake. Historically, San Joaquin County was one of the charter counts for this annual census which uses Woodbridge Post Office as its central point. The 15 mi. diameter area was surveyed by Kirby Brown from the SJC Agricultural Department who also helped organize the nationwide event. In the first survey, participants counted more than 450 individuals which were of 27 species. The most species counted was 30 in 1978. Counts started in 1975 and became the American Butterfly Assn-SJ. Audubon Society/Xerxes Count in 1986. For more information contact Kathy Schick at 464-8304 evenings and weekends.

THREE



#### **ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK; 6-22-23**

We set off for the ocean, birding along the way. With little effort, we found House Wrens, Lazuli Buntings, Chickadees, both towhees, Ol-sided Flycatchers, quail, wrentits, Wilson's Warbler, Cassin's Solitary Vireo, and thanks to Esther M., Vaux' Swift. Those at the back of the pack heard a rather loud, muscial chattering -- a Cal. Thrasher.

At the beach, there were dozens of Brants, "guarded" by a lone W Grebe. From the Head, we saw all three cormorants, a noisy pair of oystercatchers, a Red-throated Loon in breeding plumage, and a sea otter. Brown pelicans did a close-up fly-by. On the sea stack just off shore, we espied several gray bipedal balls of lint being watched over by adult Western Gulls.

On our hike back, we added Hairy Woodpecker, and voice ID's of yellowthroat and Hutton's Vireo.

In the approaching twilight, we were startled by a sudden, piercing call. "Whipporwill!" cried those of us who had heard the call back east. After just four calls, it fell silent again, leaving us scratching our heads in wonder.

The answer came early next morning. Shortly after 5 am, it began calling again, some 200 times. We reported the bird to the Ornithological Lab bird banding station which set off a flurry of excitement since there are very few records of this bird outside of southern California.

Before we left, we saw N. Parula, Yellow Warbler, Purple Martin, and great views of Coastal Garter Snakes. Jim Rowth, Field trip leader.

#### **AIR-QUALITY INFORMATION;**

San Joaquin County residents who want to find out about controlled agricultural burns or complain about air pollution can call the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District.

The district's Northern Region office can be reached at 545-7000. The district has a toll-free hot line that provides information on current air-quality conditions, pollution forecasts and permissive-burn days. That number is (800) 766-4463.

#### **LAND USE.....PLANNING?**

You may not know, that a then city council member from Clovis has pleaded guilty to a charge of extorting the Kaufman & Broad home building organization for \$10,000 to assure his vote on rezoning in Clovis. That makes 7 developers & councilmen guilty and 3 more on trial... for now.

Closer to home, serious questions are being raised about political donations made to candidates who voted for the Mt. House new town which was approved for the area north-west of Tracy.

Also locally, along with the Farm Bureau and others the Sierra Club is suing Lathrop for violations of the California Environmental Quality Act in its preparation of impact reports for the mammoth Gold Rush City Development. In a letter, which was rejected by the Lathrop City Council as being late, the Sierra Club objected to what was seen as inadequate consideration of sewage, water, traffic and other major issues. Next we see that the State Court of Appeals has ruled that a suit against the New Jerusalem and Riverbrook planned new towns should be considered further after having been thrown out by the local Superior Court.

Finally, those who have proposed the Brovelli-Woods, Buckeye Ranch Development have given up and have begun to convert that beautiful and unique area into more vineyards. That after professing to have great concern for its natural values. If that was true why didn't they offer to sell it to the State Wildlife Conservation Board rather than to plant grapes? Shouldn't there be something that can be learned from all of this? Perhaps with better land use planning and less hubris on the part of some developers and politicians there would not be the need for all of this expensive legal activity.

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Let the members of the Board know how this chapter can better serve your interests and needs. If you have ideas for speakers or outings, let us hear from you! If you have never joined an outing, plan to come this September when the fall migration is under way.

Chapter meetings are held at 7:30 on the second Tuesday of each month except for Jan, May, Ju, July & Aug. at the Central Methodist Church across Pacific Avenue from U.O.P.. For the first program in September, Jesse Grantham will present ideals for landscaping with native plants to promote habitat friendly to birds and butterflies. I was fortunate to learn of these ideals at the conference in Asilomar this past April. After listening to his approach to gardening, my views of landscaping will never be the same. I encourage every member to invite a guest for September 10. Nancy B.

### CRANING FOR DOCENTS:

The California Dept of Fish & Game is recruiting volunteers to co-lead sandhill crane viewing trips at Woodbridge Ecological Reserve north of Stockton. A four session volunteer training is scheduled for Sept.19 (7 to 9:15 in Sacramento)and Sept 22,26 & 29 at Woodbridge Preserve, and Oct 3 or 6 from 5:30 to 8pm at Woodbridge. Public trips will be offered October-February, from approximately 3:30 to 6:30 pm. Trips will be free, yet public donations are encouraged. Trips are a part of the Department's Watchable Wildlife services to promote wildlife appreciation. While cranes are the focus, docents help participants in viewing and learning about other local wildlife, wildlife management of the sites, and the Pacific Flyway. A minimum commitment of one tour per month is required Information?, call docent coordinator Bob Johnson at 791-7258

### Stockton

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