

THE HOOT OWL

July - August 2015
Issue 4, Volume 53

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

PROGRAMS

There will be no general membership meetings during our regular summer hiatus (May through August). The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 9.

FLAMMULATED OWLS PLUMAS COUNTY Friday–Sunday, July 24–26

David Arsenault, Executive Director of Plumas Audubon, has kindly agreed to lead a field trip on **Friday, July 24th** to observe and possibly band Flammulated Owls at their Lake Davis nesting sites. We will meet at **Eagle Point for a picnic dinner at 5PM** followed by a visit to a nest site where the group can observe and band the owls.

On Saturday we will bird Plumas–Eureka State Park, Lakes Basin trails, or Antelope Lake and head home on Sunday, stopping at the Donner Camp Picnic Area for possible Williamson's Sapsucker and Pygmy Nuthatches.

The group will be limited to a maximum of 15 people, therefore, if you are interested in going, please send an email to Dale Smith as soon as possible. There are limited motel and camping sites in the area and reservations will need to be made soon!

Send response to: dale.smith2@comcast.net

eBird Mobile

The new eBird Mobile app makes it possible to collect and submit observations directly to eBird from the field. iOS and Android users who were accustomed to entering eBird data using the BirdLog app are encouraged to switch to eBird Mobile, the new and official app for entering data to eBird.

FIELD TRIPS

THURSDAY, July 2— *Moonlight Madness, White Slough Wildlife Refuge*

Join leader Jim Rowoth on this full moon night for a walk along the ponds and hedgerows of White Slough. Meet Jim in the McDonald's parking lot at Flag City (Highway 12 and I-5) at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 11— *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. Check with Jim for start time. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. for this all morning visit. Bring sunscreen, water and snack. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates.

SUNDAY, July 12— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Susan Schneider 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, July 18— *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Susan Schneider 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, July 19— *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.

FRI–SUN, July 24–26— *Flammulated Owls/Plumas County*

See announcement, this page.

SATURDAY, August 1— *Introductory Birding Field Trip*

Join leader Pat Paternoster 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, August 8— *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. Check with Jim for start time. Meet Jim at the visitor center on Franklin Rd. for this all morning visit. Bring sunscreen, water and snack. Check website www.cosumnes.org for last minute updates.

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California Fish and Game Commission decision brings Tricolored Blackbird one step closer to extinction

On June 11, the California Fish and Game Commission voted 2-1 to deny candidacy of the Tricolored Blackbird under the California Endangered Species Act. The Commission, which in December voted to grant the species emergency protections under the Act, rejected the recommendation of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to proceed with listing.

"The Fish and Game Commission betrayed its mandate," said Brigid McCormack, executive director of Audubon California. "The Commission's stated mission is to ensure the long term sustainability of California's wildlife, but today two of its members chose politics over sound policy and rejected the science-based recommendations of its own staff in order to deny protection to one of California's most imperiled birds."

The Tricolored Blackbird, which once numbered in the millions, has declined by 44 percent since 2011. The loss of 90 percent of its historic habitat is likely the main cause of its decline. A recent survey conducted by UC Davis with the support of Audubon California and the California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife counted 145,000 Tricolored Blackbirds remaining in California, down from 260,000 in 2011.

In recent years, Audubon California has supported efforts by the Natural Resources Conservation Service to create agreements with dairy farmers to delay harvests to allow the young birds to fledge. These agreements with farmers have saved many thousands of Tricolored Blackbirds.

Because of the loss of their traditional wetland habitat, Tricolored Blackbirds often create their huge colonies on dairy farm wheat fields. This puts them at risk when the farmer needs to harvest the field before the young birds have fledged.

"While we are displeased the Tricolored Blackbird won't be listed this year, this set back will not hinder our commitment to its recovery," McCormack said. "We are committed to working closely with our partners at government agencies like the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, as well as agricultural groups like Western United Dairywomen, to save this iconic species from extinction."

Global Warming and California birds

Global warming is a serious threat to California birds. A seven-year study from the National Audubon Society released in September 2014 finds that global warming threatens the survival of 170 California species in the coming decades. This includes iconic California birds such as the Brown Pelican, Allen's Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Magpie, and many others. These are birds that all of us know well from our backyards and from our own experiences in California's beautiful outdoors.

Audubon California is addressing this challenge by protecting the habitats that we know birds will need now and into the future, and doing what we can to lessen the severity of global warming. We'll do this work with a variety of partners on the ground and in the halls of the State Capitol and Washington, D.C.

But we won't be able to rise to this challenge without the involvement of California residents who care about birds. We need people not only to join us in this important work, but to also raise their voices to call for meaningful policy and legislative action on global warming.

More about the Audubon study.

Audubon analyzed more than 40 years of historical North American climate data and millions of historical bird records from the U.S. Geological Survey's North American Breeding Bird Survey and the Audubon Christmas Bird Count to understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them. Of 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 species are considered at-risk. Hundreds of species not previously considered at risk will be challenged to survive in a climate-changed future. Understanding those links then allows scientists to project where birds are likely to be able to survive - and not survive - in the future.

FIELD TRIPS

(continued from page 1)

SUNDAY, August 16– *Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery*

Join leader 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.

SUNDAY, August 16– *Woodbridge Wilderness Area*

Join leader Kasey Foley 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, August 23— *Night Trip to Lodi Lake*

To see what critters are out at dusk, join leaders Pat & Dave Croft at the north end of Laurel Ave. in Lodi (on the east side of Lodi Lake Park, off of Turner Rd.) at 6:30 p.m. for an evening stroll through the Lodi Lake Nature Area.

SATURDAY, August 29—*Plasse's Resort, Silver Lake*

Join leader Joanne Katanic for a trip to this beautiful area in the Sierra Nevada mountains. The resort is on the west end of Silver Lake. It is a good site for post-breeding warblers and last year Pine Grosbeaks stole the show! Bring a lunch. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the Park 'n Ride at Highway 12 & Highway 99 (Victor Road exit), Lodi.

MERLIN BIRD IDENTIFICATION TOOL

In a breakthrough for computer vision and for bird watching, researchers and bird enthusiasts have enabled computers to achieve a task that stumps most humans—identifying hundreds of bird species pictured in photos. Build in concert with the exceedingly popular Merlin app, the Merlin Bird ID tool lets you upload an image of a bird that you've photographed, and if the photo shows one of the supported species, it returns the correct species in the top 3 results, 90% of the time. It currently supports 400 species in North America, but will eventually be expanding to more species in North America, and worldwide. Give it a try.

BIRD SIGHTINGS

April 15, 2014 - June 3, 2014

(All sightings pertain to San Joaquin County)

Submitted by Liz West

The April 19th San Joaquin Audubon Society field trip to Woodbridge Wilderness Area, led by Mark Elness had a flock of eight **Band-tailed Pigeons** fly over.

The **Steller's Jay** is still present at Lodi Lake as of April 25th. Jim Rowoth reports that it was very noisy and obvious.

On an April 25th outing to Heritage Oaks winery Mark and Lorna Elness saw a male **Costa's Hummingbird** and **Hammond's Flycatcher**. David Yee also found a **Dusky Flycatcher** and a **Gray Flycatcher**. On May 2nd, Kurt Mize saw a **Dusky Flycatcher** at Dentoni Park.

On May 12th, Ralph Baker found a **Gray Flycatcher** at Jacob Meyers Recreation Area.

Pat and Dave Croft saw a male **Baltimore Oriole** at Westgate Landing Park on May 15th. There is a good possibility of Bullock's Oriole parentage a couple generations back based on amount of white in the wings and other field marks visible in photos examined by James Rising, an expert on Bullock's/Baltimore hybrids. The oriole has been seen through June 1st.

While at Westgate Landing Park on May 16th, Pat Bacchetti found a **Calliope Hummingbird** and Gil Ewing saw a **Dusky Flycatcher**.

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

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Introductory rate:	\$20	Student/Senior:	\$15
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The Hoot Owl is published six times a year by the San Joaquin Audubon Society.